PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 10
ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME

Maximum Marks: 80 **Duration: 2 Hours**

Notice: This document is an independently authored practice resource developed by Paul Academy & English Mines. It follows the official CISCE 2027 curriculum regulations and specimen pattern but is not an official publication of the Council.

QUESTION 1: COMPOSITION [20 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Rubric: Total 20 Marks]

Under the official CISCE 2027 specimen marking scheme (Code 011), compositions are evaluated holistically out of 20 marks. The following analytical division is teacher-developed guidance to assist evaluators:

- Content & Relevance (6 Marks): Thorough treatment of prompt, logical development, mature perspective.

- Structure & Paragraphing (4 Marks): Compelling introduction, cohesive transitions, satisfying conclusion.

- Expression & Language Mechanics (10 Marks): Vocabulary range, sentence diversity, accurate grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Indicative Outlines & Key Assessment Points for Question 1
Choices:

(i) Narrative Composition (All That Glitters Is Not Gold):

- Plotline: A protagonist seduced by outward glamour, flashy wealth, or an alluring opportunity that promises instant popularity.

- Turning point: The superficial veneer cracks, exposing dishonesty, empty promises, or shallow character underneath.

- Resolution: Learning the hard way that genuine substance, loyalty, and integrity far outweigh glittering superficialities.

(ii) Descriptive Composition (Stormy Monsoon in Coastal Village):

- Sensory richness: Salty spray stinging cheeks, smell of ozone and wet brine, roaring ocean surf crashing on rocks.

- Visual elements: Inky bruising clouds, flashing forks of lightning over the sea, fishermen hauling catamarans past high-tide marks.

- Atmosphere: Ferocious elemental power outdoors contrasted with the cozy security of flickering kerosene lamps in thatched huts.

(iii) Argumentative Composition (Fast Fashion and Modern Consumerism):

- Clear stance: Definitive stance maintained throughout.

- For (Threat is irreversible): Massive textile waste landfills, toxic chemical runoff, microplastic water pollution, worker exploitation.

- Against (Industry is transforming): Emerging circular fashion models, bio-degradable fibres, second-hand thrift economies, consumer awareness.

(iv) Reflective Composition (Vulnerability in an Adult Role Model):

- Setting & Exposure: Witnessing an admired adult (parent, teacher, coach) experiencing grief, self-doubt, or tearful exhaustion.

- Insight: The realization that strength does not mean invulnerability; acknowledging emotion is a profound mark of courage.

- Enduring reflection: Shifting from naive childhood hero-worship to mature, empathetic human respect.

(v) Picture-Based Composition (Commuters on Railway Footbridge with Blind Flautist):

- Mandatory connection: Clear link to the embedded photograph (blind flautist playing bamboo flute on crowded railway bridge amid commuters).

- Interpretative approaches:

  * Narrative: A daily encounter that halts an ambitious executive in his tracks, restoring his sense of human connection.

  * Descriptive: The contrast between the hurried metallic clatter of morning trains and the pure, melancholic melody of the wooden flute.

  * Reflective: The power of art and music to pierce the numbness of modern urban routine.

QUESTION 2: LETTER WRITING [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Criteria & Layout Standards]:
- Format (Address, Date, Salutation, Subscription): 3 Marks
- Content & Development of Points: 4 Marks
- Expression & Mechanical Accuracy: 3 Marks

Total: 10 Marks. Length: ~120 to 150 words.

2(i) Model Informal Letter (Congratulating Cousin on National Scholarship):

14, Green Valley Estate
Dehradun - 248001
18th May 2027

Dearest Shreya,

I was absolutely thrilled to learn yesterday that you have been awarded the prestigious National Talent Scholarship! Please accept my heartiest congratulations on this glorious achievement.

Knowing how tirelessly you laboured over your research projects and balanced your academic preparation, this grand honour is richly deserved. Our entire extended family is bursting with pride. You have proven that consistent hard work, intellectual curiosity, and humility invariably bring exceptional success.

I am eager to know about your future plans. Which university faculties and scholarship research programs are you planning to pursue? I remember your keen interest in environmental biotechnology, and this fellowship will undoubtedly open premier institutional doors for you.

We must celebrate together when you visit Dehradun next month. Convey my warmest congratulations to Uncle and Aunt.

Yours affectionately,
Kartik

2(ii) Model Formal Letter (Establishing Public Ward Library and Reading Room):

Ward 12 Citizens' Welfare Council
Post Box 33, Ashok Nagar, Bhopal - 462003
18th May 2027

The Municipal Commissioner
Bhopal Municipal Corporation, Corporation Headquarters, Bhopal - 462001

Respected Sir/Madam,

Subject: Proposal for establishing a municipal public library and reading room in Ward 12

I write on behalf of the residents and student community of Ward 12, Ashok Nagar, to submit a constructive proposal for the establishment of a municipal public library and student reading room.

Our ward houses over four thousand school and collegiate students, many of whom reside in cramped, shared apartments that lack quiet study environments. Furthermore, students from economically disadvantaged families cannot afford expensive academic reference volumes or high-speed digital research facilities.

The vacant ground floor of the Old Community Health Center building near Shivaji Park would serve as an ideal location. Our welfare council pledges to mobilize community book donation drives and volunteer citizen librarians to assist municipal staff in daily cataloging.

I earnestly request you to sanction this educational initiative and allocate municipal funds for study furniture and basic digital amenities. This will transform the intellectual landscape of our youth.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
Sunil Kulkarni (General Secretary, Ward 12 Citizens' Council)

QUESTION 3: NOTICE AND LINKED EMAIL [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Criteria & Layout Standards]:
- Notice: Headline (1), Nature of Event (1), Date (1/2), Timings (1/2), Venue (1), Target Audience & Registration (1) = 5 Marks.
- Email: Addressee (1/2), Subject (1/2), Salutation (1/2), Event Details (1), Specific Invitation/Request (1), Courteous Closing & Signature (1/2), Layout/Expression (1) = 5 Marks.

Total: 10 Marks.

3(i) Model Notice:

Eloquentia
Annual Inter-School English Debate Competition

Date: Friday, 10th September 2027
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Venue: Rev. Fr. Mackay Memorial Auditorium, St. Paul's Academy

Students of Classes 9 and 10 who wish to represent the school in the upcoming Annual Inter-School English Debate Competition, 'Eloquentia', are invited to register for preliminary selection trials. The debate motion is: 'Artificial Intelligence poses an irreversible threat to intellectual autonomy.' Selection will evaluate argumentative rigor, rebuttal fluency, and platform demeanor. Interested speakers must register with Mr. Jeffrey Lobo (English Department, Room 14) by Monday, 30th August 2027.

Tanya Bharadwaj
Secretary, The Literary Society
St. Paul's Academy

3(ii) Model Linked Email:

To: principal@stmarysconvent.edu.in

Subject: Invitation for Debating Delegation and Teacher Escort to 'Eloquentia' Inter-School Debate Competition

Respected Sister Principal,

The Literary Society of St. Paul's Academy is privileged to organise 'Eloquentia', our Annual Inter-School English Debate Competition, on Friday, 10th September 2027, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Rev. Fr. Mackay Memorial Auditorium.

The proposition for this year's debate is: 'Artificial Intelligence poses an irreversible threat to intellectual autonomy.' We warmly invite your esteemed institution to depute a four-member student debating delegation (two speaking for the motion and two against) along with a teacher escort to participate in this prestigious contest.

A detailed competition handbook outlining evaluation rubrics and speaking regulations is attached herewith. We kindly request you to forward your school's delegate confirmation by Monday, 30th August 2027.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
Tanya Bharadwaj
Secretary, The Literary Society
St. Paul's Academy
Contact: literary@stpaulsacademy.edu.in

QUESTION 4: COMPREHENSION [20 MARKS]

(i) Vocabulary [2 Marks]:

1. vigilance -> (a) constant alert watchfulness [1 Mark]
2. turbulent -> (b) violently agitated and stormy [1 Mark]

(ii) Antonym [1 Mark]:

Opposite of 'vulnerable' -> (c) safe [1 Mark]

(iii) Short Answer Questions [9 Marks] (Strictly Grounded in Passage):

(a) The lighthouse was assaulted by Category 4 hurricane gales of 100 mph, sheets of freezing rain, and towering ocean swells detonating against granite foundations. [2 Marks]

(b) Lightning burned the auxiliary diesel circuits paralyzing the electric rotation motor, while flying ocean debris shattered an upper window pane. [2 Marks]

(c) Elias lashed a heavy canvas tarpaulin across the shattered pane with marine hemp rope to block hurricane gusts from extinguishing the flame. [2 Marks]

(d) Elias dislodged the seized counterweight cable, inserted the manual winding crank, and rotated the three-ton lens upon its mercury bath while lighting the kerosene mantle. [2 Marks]

(e) The sweeping beam allowed the lookouts on the Celtic Star to reverse engines and alter course to starboard, missing the reef by two hundred yards. [1 Mark]

(iv) Summary / Precis [8 Marks]:

Assessment Scheme [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 17]: Content: 6 marks; Expression: 2 marks

Key Text-Grounded Content Points Expected (6 x 1 = 6 Marks):

1. Lightning struck the dome, disabling auxiliary circuits and rotation motor.
2. Flying debris shattered window pane, threatening the darkened beacon.
3. Lashed canvas tarpaulin across broken window with marine hemp rope.
4. Dislodged jammed cable and engaged manual clockwork winding crank.
5. Relit kerosene mantle and turned the heavy lens assembly continuously.
6. Restored sweeping warning beam, guiding Celtic Star safely past reefs.

[Teacher-Developed Guidance: Indicative Rough Draft]

During a ferocious hurricane, lightning disabled the lighthouse generator, halting the rotating beacon. Despite howling gales and broken glass, Elias ascended the tower, manually cranking the heavy brass clockwork gears. Through steadfast vigilance, he maintained the sweeping warning light, safely steering a distressed cargo freighter away from treacherous jagged reefs.

Final Fair Draft Grid (Exactly 50 Words):

During	a	ferocious	hurricane,	lightning
disabled	the	lighthouse	generator,	halting
the	rotating	beacon.	Despite	howling
gales	and	broken	glass,	Elias
ascended	the	tower,	manually	cranking
the	heavy	brass	clockwork	gears.
Through	steadfast	vigilance,	he	maintained
the	sweeping	warning	light,	safely
steering	a	distressed	cargo	freighter
away	from	treacherous	jagged	reefs.

QUESTION 5: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

5(i) Cloze Passage (Apollo 11 Moon Landing, 1969) [4 Marks]:

[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 18: 1/2 mark for each correct answer]

Example: (0) watched

1. stepping
2. declared
3. spent
4. collecting
5. fulfilled / had fulfilled
6. proved
7. could
8. returned

5(ii) Prepositions [4 Marks]:

[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 18: 1/2 mark for each correct preposition]

(a) in [abound in = be richly filled with]

(b) down [bring down = reduce or lower levels or prices]

(c) off [carry off = win a prize or succeed triumphantly]

(d) up [draw up = prepare and write a legal document]

(e) into [fall into = become trapped or caught in]

(f) down [lay down = formulate or establish rules]

(g) out [put out = extinguish a fire or light]

(h) over [take over = assume control or leadership of]

5(iii) Sentence Synthesis [4 Marks]:

[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 18-19: 1 mark for each completely correct sentence]

1. The youth committee praised Amit for his outstanding community service. They also presented him with the citizenship medal.

Correct Option: (d) Not only did the youth committee praise Amit for his outstanding community service, but they also presented him with the citizenship medal.

[Analysis: Uses standard correlative inversion with auxiliary 'did' and retains complete meaning without using and, but, so. Option (a) uses forbidden coordinator 'and'; option (b) lacks subject-verb inversion; option (c) uses forbidden coordinator 'so'.]

2. The elderly botanist had mentored dozens of young researchers. The national academy honoured him with a lifetime award.

Correct Option: (b) The elderly botanist whom the national academy honoured with a lifetime award had mentored dozens of young researchers.

[Analysis: Correctly embeds objective relative pronoun 'whom' referring to the botanist. Option (a) incorrectly uses 'which' for a person; option (c) uses forbidden coordinator 'so'; option (d) incorrectly repeats object pronoun 'him'.]

3. Walk carefully along the frozen mountain trail. You might slip and fall into the ravine.

Correct Option: (a) Walk carefully along the frozen mountain trail lest you should slip and fall into the ravine.

[Analysis: Correctly uses negative purpose conjunction 'lest' followed by modal 'should'. Option (b) incorrectly inserts negative 'not' after 'lest'; option (c) uses forbidden coordinator 'so'; option (d) uses forbidden coordinator 'but'.]

4. The documentary film had a minimal production budget. It captivated international audiences with its powerful message.

Correct Option: (c) Although the documentary film had a minimal production budget, it captivated international audiences with its powerful message.

[Analysis: Correctly uses subordinating conjunction of concession 'Although' without coordinators. Option (a) uses forbidden coordinator 'but'; option (b) introduces ungrammatical prepositional structure 'In spite of the film had'; option (d) uses forbidden coordinator 'so'.]

5(iv) Sentence Transformations [8 Marks]:

[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 19-20: 1 mark for each completely correct sentence]

1. No sooner had the presiding judge entered the chamber than the advocates stood up. (Begin: As soon as...)

Correct Option: (b) As soon as the presiding judge entered the chamber, the advocates stood up.

[Analysis: Accurately converts 'No sooner had... than' to 'As soon as' with simple past tense and comma separator without 'than' or 'when'. Option (a) incorrectly retains 'than'; option (c) incorrectly inserts 'when'; option (d) shifts past tense to present.]

2. The Pacific Ocean is the deepest of all oceans on Earth. (Begin: No other ocean...)

Correct Option: (a) No other ocean on Earth is as deep as the Pacific Ocean.

[Analysis: Accurately converts superlative degree into positive degree using 'as deep as'. Option (b) incorrectly pairs comparative 'deeper' with 'as'; option (c) uses contradictory 'the deepest as'; option (d) shifts present tense to past tense 'was'.]

3. The captain said to the crew, "What a magnificent victory we have achieved today!" (Begin: The captain exclaimed that...)

Correct Option: (d) The captain exclaimed that they had achieved a very magnificent victory that day.

[Analysis: Correct indirect speech for exclamatory sentence, shifting first person plural to 'they', present perfect to past perfect ('had achieved'), and temporal adverb 'today' to 'that day'. Option (a) fails to shift pronouns and adverbs; option (b) leaves exclamatory structure intact; option (c) fails to shift tense.]

4. The committee will announce the national scholarship results next Monday. (Begin: The national scholarship results...)

Correct Option: (c) The national scholarship results will be announced by the committee next Monday.

[Analysis: Correct passive transformation of simple future active ('will announce' -> 'will be announced'). Option (a) omits auxiliary 'be'; option (b) shifts future modal to conditional 'would'; option (d) shifts to present continuous.]

5(iv) Sentence Transformations (Continued) [Items 5 to 8]:

5. The antique sculpture was so delicate that the museum curators could not transport it by road. (Use: too... to)

Correct Option: (d) The antique sculpture was too delicate for the museum curators to transport by road.

[Analysis: Converts 'so... that could not' to 'too... to' using prepositional phrase 'for the museum curators'. Option (a) produces a mixed contradictory structure 'too... that'; option (b) misuses participle 'transporting'; option (c) introduces ungrammatical double adverb 'too transport'.]

6. The cargo ship had barely cleared the harbour mouth when the storm warning sounded. (Begin: Barely had...)

Correct Option: (a) Barely had the cargo ship cleared the harbour mouth when the storm warning sounded.

[Analysis: Standard negative adverbial inversion: 'Barely had' placed sentence-initially, followed by subject, past participle, and correlative 'when'. Option (b) incorrectly uses 'than'; option (c) omits subject-auxiliary inversion; option (d) incorrectly pairs 'did' with 'than'.]

7. If the captain had not altered course immediately, the steamer would have collided with the iceberg. (Begin: Had the captain...)

Correct Option: (c) Had the captain not altered course immediately, the steamer would have collided with the iceberg.

[Analysis: Standard third conditional inversion replacing 'If the captain had not' with 'Had the captain not' without altering the result clause. Option (a) omits negative particle, reversing the meaning; option (b) shifts conditional result clause tense to present; option (d) awkwardly misplaces negative particle 'Had not the captain'.]

8. She has already submitted her nomination papers for the council elections, _____? (Choose the correct question tag)

Correct Option: (b) hasn't she?

[Analysis: The stem is affirmative in present perfect tense with third-person singular subject ('she'), requiring the matching negative auxiliary question tag 'hasn't she?'. Option (a) uses plural auxiliary 'haven't'; option (c) uses verb 'to be' ('isn't'); option (d) shifts auxiliary to past tense 'didn't'.]