PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

Class 10 English Communicative (101)

Sample Question Paper 10

Academic Session 2026–27 | Board Examination 2027

Time allowed: 3 hours Maximum marks: 80

General Instructions

1. This paper has 12 main questions in FOUR sections. All main questions are compulsory; follow the internal choices.

2. Write the question number and subpart clearly. Attempt only the required number of alternatives.

3. Follow the word limits. Reading short answers and literature short answers require 30–40 words; literature long answers require about 150 words.

4. Writing limits are maxima: application 50, factual description 100, formal letter 120 and article 150 words.

5. All unseen texts and datasets are original practice material. Names, addresses and survey data are fictional. No external knowledge is needed for reading answers.

Section A Reading Skills 22 marks

1 Read the passage and answer all parts 12 marks

The pond on the edge of the plan

1. On the school improvement plan, the pond was a blue oval beside a proposed seating area. Most students knew it only as the place beyond the fence. When the eco-club suggested observing it before construction began, a member of the planning team asked what there was to study in such a small patch of water.

2. The club arranged supervised visits from a fixed viewing point. Students sketched the waterline, recorded litter and noted sounds without trying to name every creature. A caretaker showed them an old photograph in which the pond extended farther towards the field. A gardener explained where rainwater entered. The blue oval slowly acquired a history and a set of connections.

3. The students did not conclude that no change should ever happen nearby. Instead, they asked whether the seating could be moved and whether the path would interfere with incoming water. They distinguished observations from questions needing expert advice. This made their proposal harder to dismiss as a simple refusal to improve the grounds.

4. The planning team postponed the final layout and invited further assessment. The club celebrated, but its teacher reminded members that a delay was not the same as permanent protection. They would need to keep records and follow the discussion. What had changed was the quality of attention: a feature at the edge of a drawing had become a place whose future deserved an informed decision.

i. What does the blue oval initially represent in the planning discussion? [1]

ii. Which method did the club use?
A. Unsupervised entry into the pond
B. Visits from a fixed viewing point
C. Naming every creature without evidence
D. Removing the fence immediately [1]

iii. How do the caretaker and gardener expand the students' understanding, in 30–40 words? [2]

iv. What distinguishes the proposal from an outright refusal of change? [1]

v. “Assessment” in paragraph 4 means _____.
A. an evaluation based on relevant information
B. an immediate celebration
C. an unrelated decoration
D. a promise never to build [1]

vi. True or false: The postponed layout guaranteed permanent protection. [1]

vii. Why must the club continue after the postponement? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. Find the word in paragraph 3 meaning “disrupt or get in the way of”. [1]

ix. Which statement best expresses the passage’s position?
A. Every improvement plan should be abandoned.
B. Small places need no investigation.
C. Informed decisions begin with careful attention.
D. A sketch is always complete evidence. [1]

x. How does the last sentence echo the opening? [1]

2 Read the text and data and answer all parts 10 marks

Skills fair choices

One hundred and twenty students answered a planning survey for a school skills fair. Each student could select one or two workshops. The table records selections, so a student choosing two workshops appears in two rows. It does not show which pairs were chosen.

The school will use the results to plan rooms and supervision. The most selected workshop is not automatically the cheapest or easiest to provide. Before confirming sessions, organisers will consult instructors and check equipment. Every respondent selected at least one workshop.

Workshop	Selections
Repair basics	60
Gardening	50
Storytelling	40
Weather records	30

Fictional survey. There were 120 respondents and 180 workshop selections.

i. Which workshop did half the respondents select?
A. Gardening
B. Repair basics
C. Storytelling
D. Weather records [1]

ii. Why is 180 not the number of separate respondents? [1]

iii. How many students selected two workshops? Explain in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. How many more selections did gardening receive than weather records? [1]

v. Can the number choosing both repair basics and gardening be read directly from the table? [1]

vi. Complete: Organisers must consult instructors and check _____ before confirmation. [1]

vii. Why should demand not be the only basis for planning, in 30–40 words? [2]

viii. True or false: Some respondents were allowed three selections. [1]

Section B Writing Skills 22 marks

3 Application 3 marks

Write in a maximum of 50 words.

You are Ananya Roy, X A, PAUL ACADEMY. Apply for a change of optional subject from Computer Applications to Information Technology, subject to school rules and availability. Explain your interest in the latter's practical work.

4 Factual description 4 marks

Write in a maximum of 100 words.

Describe a field notebook: A5 size; green waterproof cover; spiral binding; 100 ruled pages; date and location boxes at top; graph sheets at back; elastic pencil loop; used for eco-club observations.

5 Formal letter 7 marks

Attempt either A or B. Write in a maximum of 120 words.

A. You are Ananya Roy, 25 Garden Road, Bhubaneswar. Write to the Municipal Parks Officer requesting an expert assessment of a pond near a proposed public seating area. Explain observations and ask for consultation before the layout is finalised. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

OR

B. You are Yusuf Ali, 2 Station Lane, Bhubaneswar. Write to the Principal of PAUL ACADEMY proposing a skills fair that gives equal dignity to practical, artistic and academic abilities. Mention participation and assessment. MCB Unit 2 Education.

6 Article 8 marks

Attempt either A or B. Write in a maximum of 150 words.

A. As Ananya Roy, write "Small places deserve attention". Cues: ponds and green corners; observation; expert advice; development; continued care. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

OR

B. As Yusuf Ali, write "More than one way to contribute". Cues: varied abilities; teamwork; practical and artistic work; fair feedback; dignity. MCB Unit 2 Education.

Section C Grammar 10 marks

7 Gap filling 3 marks

Choose the correct option for each gap. Each part carries 1 mark.

The eco-club (i) _____ the pond every Friday this term; this is its regular routine. There are (ii) _____ graph sheets at the back of the notebook. For clearer records, the teacher advises that members (iii) _____ write the date first.

i. (i) A. visits B. visited yesterday C. visiting D. has visit [1]

ii. (ii) A. much B. a little C. several D. an [1]

iii. (iii) A. would B. should C. might not D. cannot [1]

8 Editing 4 marks

Each numbered sentence has exactly one incorrect word. Write the error and its correction. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Every observation in these notebooks are dated. [1]

ii. The caretaker which shared the photograph joined us. [1]

iii. Nobody knows what the two marks means. [1]

iv. When the visit ended yesterday, we returns to class. [1]

9 Transformation and reordering 3 marks

Do as directed. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Report: Ananya said, “I have recorded the waterline today.” Begin: Ananya said ... [1]

ii. Report: Yusuf said to Ananya, “Where did you put the notebook?” Begin: Yusuf asked Ananya ... [1]

iii. Report: The teacher said to us, “Please remain behind the fence.” Begin: The teacher requested us ... [1]

Section D Literature Textbook 26 marks

10 Reference to context 8 marks

Attempt ANY TWO of extracts A, B and C. Answer all four parts of each chosen extract briefly. Each extract carries 4 × 1 = 4 marks.

A Patol Babu, Film Star

True, that he needed money very badly, but what was twenty rupees when measured against the intense satisfaction of a small job done with perfection and dedication?

i. What competing values are weighed here? [1]

ii. Why is the reference to needing money important? [1]

iii. What does “small job” challenge about ordinary measures of success? [1]

iv. What action follows this feeling in the story? [1]

B Snake

For he seemed to me again like a king,

Like a king in exile, uncrowned in the underworld,

Now due to be crowned again.

i. Who is compared to a king? [1]

ii. Name the device signalled by “like”. [1]

iii. What does the comparison suggest about the creature’s worth? [1]

iv. How does “again” connect with the speaker’s changing response? [1]

C The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Ah! well-a-day! what evil looks

Had I from old and young!

Instead of the cross, the Albatross

About my neck was hung.

i. Who gives the Mariner these looks? [1]

ii. Why is the albatross hung around his neck? [1]

iii. What does the dead bird become beyond a physical object? [1]

iv. How does this treatment contrast with the bird's first welcome? [1]

11 Short answers 10 marks

Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 30–40 words each. Each answer carries 2 marks.

i. How does the nurse's account make the boys' hope credible without erasing hardship? (Two Gentlemen of Verona) [2]

ii. Why is Mrs Packletide's final explanation about hunting costs understated? (Mrs Packletide's Tiger) [2]

iii. How does the story preserve uncertainty about Ali's final appearance? (The Letter) [2]

iv. How does the idea of an inspiration bureau challenge John's pride? (A Shady Plot) [2]

v. Why is the final email important beyond confirming Sebastian's recovery? (Virtually True) [2]

vi. What makes Brutus's trust in Antony a serious misjudgement? (Julius Caesar) [2]

12 Long answer 8 marks

Answer EITHER A OR B in about 150 words.

A. Evaluate the idea that meaningful change begins when someone sees an ordinary thing differently. Discuss the letter in The Letter and the single syllable in Patol Babu, Film Star.

OR

B. A school exhibition celebrates "greatness". Use Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments and Snake to propose two ways the exhibition could question conventional ideas of greatness.