PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 6
ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME

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

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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 (Stray Dog Uniting Neighbourhood):

- Plotline: An abandoned stray dog taking refuge in a residential lane. Initial hostility or indifference from residents.

- Turning point: The dog's loyalty in alerting residents to a burglar, gas leak, or finding a lost child.

- Resolution: The neighborhood collectively adopts the dog, bridging social distances and fostering genuine community solidarity.

(ii) Descriptive Composition (Himalayan Forest Trail in Autumn Mist):

- Sensory richness: Tactile sensation of damp pine needles underfoot; the scent of moist humus, wild mint, and wet moss.

- Visual elements: Drifting ribbons of mist obscuring oak trunks draped in hanging lichens, sudden scarlet flashes of rhododendron leaves.

- Atmosphere: Majestic silence punctuated by mountain brook and monal pheasant calls, culminating in golden morning sunlight piercing the clouds.

(iii) Argumentative Composition (Zoos and Animal Theme Parks):

- Clear stance: Definitive stance maintained throughout.

- For (Zoos have no place): Violates animal liberty, induces psychological neurosis, prioritizes human entertainment over species dignity.

- Against (Zoos are necessary): Crucial captive breeding for endangered species, public conservation education, rescue centers.

(iv) Reflective Composition (Nature's Grandeur and Human Humility):

- Setting & Exposure: Contemplating an overwhelming natural phenomenon (e.g. Rohtang Pass glacier, starry desert, roaring coastal squall).

- Insight: The realization of humanity's smallness in the cosmic scale, dispelling petty ego and arrogance.

- Enduring reflection: Quiet reverence for the Earth and a committed sense of ecological stewardship.

(v) Picture-Based Composition (Crowded Bus Stop in Rain with Shared Umbrellas):

- Mandatory connection: Clear, organic link to the embedded picture (pedestrians huddled under city bus stop awning in heavy downpour, sharing umbrellas and sheltering a soaked stray dog).

- Interpretative approaches:

  * Narrative: An unexpected monsoon friendship formed between strangers while waiting for a delayed bus.

  * Descriptive: The sensory deluge of torrential rain, steaming asphalt, splashing puddles, and warm shared humanity.

  * Reflective: How shared adversity dissolves urban aloofness and reveals genuine empathy.

QUESTION 2: LETTER WRITING [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Guidance: Format 3 M + Content 2 M + Expression 5 M]

2(i) Model Informal Letter (Describing New Hobby to Grandmother):

House No. 18, Rosewood Villa

Mall Road

Shimla - 171001

20th April 2027

My dear Grandmother,

I hope you are keeping well and enjoying the pleasant spring sunshine in Dehradun. I am writing this letter to share an exciting new passion that has brought immense peace and joy into my life over the past two months--terrace vegetable gardening.

With board examination revisions growing increasingly hectic, I found myself feeling restless and mentally exhausted by late afternoon. Remembering how you always tended your marigolds, I decided to transform our sunny rooftop into an organic kitchen garden. I started with six earthen planters, sowing coriander, cherry tomatoes, and spinach.

Working with soil, watering the seedlings at dawn, and watching the first tender green shoots emerge has taught me the quiet beauty of patience. When our cherry tomato plants produced their first cluster of sweet red fruit last Sunday, Mother used them in our family salad with immense pride. Tending this rooftop sanctuary has become my greatest stress-reliever.

I look forward to showing you my garden when you visit us next month. Please take good care of your health.

Yours affectionately,

Aniket

2(ii) Model Formal Letter (Deplorable Sanitation in Hospital OPD):

House No. 72, Civil Lines

Hospital Road

Ranchi - 834001

20th April 2027

The Chief Medical Officer

Sadar District Government Hospital

Purulia Road, Ranchi - 834008

Sir,

Subject: Urgent redressal required for deplorable sanitation and lack of amenities in the outpatient department

I am writing as a concerned citizen to bring to your immediate attention the distressing unhygienic conditions prevailing in the outpatient department (OPD) of Sadar District Hospital.

During a recent visit accompanying an elderly relative, I observed that the waiting corridors were littered with uncollected biological waste and discarded bandages. The waste disposal bins were overflowing, emitting a nauseating stench that poses a severe infection hazard to vulnerable patients. Furthermore, the public water coolers were non-functional, forcing thirsty patients to wait for hours in stifling corridors without drinking water.

To safeguard public health, I earnestly urge your administration to institute thrice-daily sanitation rosters, replace damaged biohazard bins with pedal-operated lids, and install functional water filtration units throughout the OPD.

I trust your office will take swift and decisive measures to restore dignity and hygiene to this vital healthcare institution.

Yours faithfully,

Sunita Murmu

(Secretary, Public Health Oversight Committee)

QUESTION 3: NOTICE AND LINKED EMAIL [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Guidance: Notice 5 Marks; Email 5 Marks]

3(i) Model Notice (Annual Wildlife Photography Exhibition):

NATURE TRAIL

Annual Wildlife Photography Exhibition

Date: Saturday, 8th May 2027

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Venue: Exhibition Gallery, St. Xavier's High School

Students of Classes 8 to 10 are invited to submit high-resolution photographs for our Annual Wildlife Photography Exhibition on the theme 'Guardians of the Wild'. Selected entries featuring birds, mammals, insects, or landscapes will be displayed and judged by professional wildlife photographers.

Interested participants must submit framed prints (12x8 inches) to Mr. Alok Bannerjee, Coordinator of the Nature Club, in Room 18, on or before Monday, 3rd May 2027.

3(ii) Model Linked Email:

To: curator@cityartgallery.org

Subject: Request for Gallery Space, Easels, and Display Lighting for School Wildlife Exhibition

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Nature Club of St. Xavier's High School to request exhibition gallery space and equipment for our upcoming Annual Wildlife Photography Exhibition, 'Nature Trail'.

The exhibition is scheduled for Saturday, 8th May 2027, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Over fifty outstanding wildlife photographs captured by students of Classes 8 to 10 will be showcased, having been curated by Mr. Alok Bannerjee (Room 18, by 3rd May 2027).

We kindly request your gallery to allocate the West Wing display hall along with thirty wooden presentation easels and adjustable directional spotlighting from Friday afternoon, 7th May 2027, for setting up the exhibits.

We look forward to partnering with the City Art Gallery in promoting wildlife conservation awareness among young citizens.

Yours faithfully,

Kavita Sen

Secretary, The Nature Club

St. Xavier's High School

QUESTION 4: COMPREHENSION [20 MARKS]

(i) Vocabulary [2 Marks]:

1. elusive -> (a) difficult to find or observe [1 Mark]
2. stealth -> (b) cautious, quiet and secret movement [1 Mark]

(ii) Antonym [1 Mark]:

Opposite of 'conspicuous' -> (c) concealed [1 Mark]

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

(a) Tenzing and his trackers endured sub-zero winds, altitudes exceeding 4,000 meters, and camped in nylon tents beneath barren pinnacles for two freezing weeks. [Award 1 mark each for two distinct text details - 2 Marks]

(b) The snow leopard's thick smoky-grey coat with rosettes blends into scree, while wide fur-padded paws act as natural snowshoes and its long tail maintains balance. [2 Marks]

(c) The tracking team found fresh rounded pugmarks in the fresh snow accompanied by recent claw scrapes against an overhanging juniper trunk. [2 Marks]

(d) The leopard moved with deliberate liquid stealth, pressing its belly against the stone and pausing motionlessly whenever the sentry ewe looked up. [2 Marks]

(e) Denied an ambush when the wind carried its scent, the leopard did not waste energy in pursuit, but leaped calmly onto a granite ledge with regal indifference. [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. Rosetted coat conceals the snow leopard against scree cliffs.
2. Wide furry paws act as snowshoes, and long tail aids balance.
3. Trackers identified fresh rounded pugmarks and juniper claw scrapes.
4. The leopard descended sheer rock faces with fluid grace.
5. It stalked grazing blue sheep by flattening its body stealthily.
6. After prey fled, it calmly rested upon a flat granite ledge.

[Teacher-Developed Guidance: Indicative Rough Draft]

The snow leopard possesses rosetted fur blending with scree, snowshoe paws, and a balancing tail. Trackers followed fresh pugmarks and rock scrapes across high ridges. Navigating sheer limestone crags effortlessly, the predator stalked blue sheep with silent stealth, exemplifying supreme evolutionary adaptation to harsh Himalayan alpine wilderness.

Final Fair Draft Grid (Exactly 50 Words):

The	snow	leopard	possesses	rosetted
fur	blending	into	slate	scree,
wide	snowshoe	paws,	and	a
balancing	tail.	Trackers	followed	fresh
pugmarks	and	territorial	rock	scrapes
across	high	ridges.	Navigating	sheer
limestone	crags	effortlessly,	the	predator
stalked	blue	sheep	with	silent
stealth,	exemplifying	supreme	evolutionary	adaptation
to	harsh	Himalayan	alpine	wilderness.

QUESTION 5: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

5(i) Cloze Passage -- Tenses & Verb Forms [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 17-18] (8 x 1/2 = 4 Marks):

Example: (0) achieved

(1) had conducted / conducted

(2) calculating

(3) recognized / recognised

(4) needed

(5) designed

(6) enabled

(7) remaining

(8) launched

5(ii) Prepositions & Phrasal Verbs [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 18] (8 x 1/2 = 4 Marks):

(a) down [break down = fail mechanically or collapse]

(b) up [catch up with = reach the same standard or level]

(c) away [do away with = abolish or eliminate]

(d) back [fall back on = resort to in times of need]

(e) over [get over = recover from an illness, shock, or defeat]

(f) into [look into = investigate thoroughly]

(g) out [run out of = exhaust the supply of something]

(h) for [stand for = represent or symbolize values]

5(iii) Sentence Synthesis [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 18-19] (4 x 1 = 4 Marks):

1. (a) In spite of the rugged terrain and scarcity of water, the geological team completed the mineral survey.

[Explanation: (a) correctly uses the prepositional phrase 'In spite of' followed by noun phrases expressing concession. (b) uses forbidden connective 'so'. (c) has ungrammatical 'Despite of'. (d) distorts original causal logic.]

2. (c) The ancient banyan tree, which had stood in the village square for three centuries, was uprooted by the cyclone.

[Explanation: (c) correctly uses the non-defining relative clause introduced by 'which' referring to the inanimate tree. (a) incorrectly uses personal pronoun 'who'. (b) misuses relative adverb 'where'. (d) contains an unattached dangling participle modifier.]

3. (b) Upon touching the ocean floor, the young diver immediately signaled to her diving partner.

[Explanation: (b) correctly uses the prepositional gerund phrase 'Upon touching' denoting immediate succession of actions. (a) contains ungrammatical base form 'On touch'. (c) distorts action into intentional purpose. (d) ungrammatical passive participle 'Touched'.]

4. (d) As soon as the conductor sounded the departure gong, the passengers boarded the river ferry.

[Explanation: (d) correctly uses the subordinating conjunction 'As soon as' denoting immediate sequence. (a) uses forbidden connective 'so'. (b) tense mismatch with present 'sounds'. (c) uses forbidden connective 'but'.]

5(iv) Sentence Transformations [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 19-20] (8 x 1 = 8 Marks):

1. (a) No sooner had the curtain risen than the dancers took their opening positions.

[Structure: Inverted auxiliary 'had' + past participle 'risen' + correlative 'than'. (b) incorrect past tense 'rose' with 'had'. (c) ungrammatical pairing of 'No sooner' with 'when'. (d) lacks auxiliary inversion.]

2. (d) No other animal ever known to inhabit the earth is as large as the blue whale.

[Structure: Positive degree transformation ('No other...' + singular noun + 'as... as'). (a) ungrammatical comparative blend 'larger as'. (b) ungrammatical 'as larger as'. (c) unauthorized past tense shift 'was'.]

3. (c) The librarian requested the noisy students to maintain absolute silence in the reading hall.

[Structure: Indirect speech of polite imperative using 'requested... to maintain'. (a) awkward clause 'that they should please'. (b) ungrammatical participial phrasing. (d) redundant retained 'please'.]

4. (b) The historic town hall has been renovated by the municipal council.

[Structure: Passive voice of present perfect ('has been' + past participle 'renovated'). (a) past perfect shift 'had been'. (c) simple past shift 'was'. (d) continuous shift 'is being'.]

5. (d) The old timber bridge was so frail that it could not bear the weight of heavy trucks.

[Structure: Transformation of 'too... to' into 'so... that' with past modal 'could not'. (a) tense mismatch with present modal 'cannot'. (b) affirmative meaning reversal. (c) ungrammatical blend 'too... that'.]

6. (a) Seldom does a mountaineer encounter such perfect summit conditions.

[Structure: Negative adverbial inversion 'Seldom' + auxiliary 'does' + subject + base verb 'encounter'. (b) lacks required auxiliary inversion. (c) past tense shift 'did'. (d) double third-person inflection 'does... encounters'.]

7. (b) Had the navigator not checked the compass, the vessel would have run aground.

[Structure: Third conditional inversion ('Had the navigator not checked' = 'If the navigator had not checked') + modal perfect 'would have run aground'. (a) reverses conditional sense. (c) tense mismatch with modal 'would run'. (d) awkward negation placement.]

8. (c) Rajiv is never late for his morning training session.

[Structure: Affirmative to negative transformation using negative adverb 'never' + antonym 'late' ('always punctual' = 'never late'). (a) opposite meaning. (b) changes vocabulary to 'absent'. (d) unwarranted past tense shift 'was'.]