PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 3

Maximum Marks: 80 **Time Allowed: Two Hours**

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

(Note: This practice paper is independently prepared by Paul Academy and English Mines for examination preparation and is strictly modeled upon the official CISCE pattern.)

Question 1

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

(i) Write an original story illustrating the truth of the proverb: "A stitch in time saves nine."

(ii) Describe a crowded railway platform five minutes before the scheduled departure of an express train. Portray the sea of travelers, porters balancing towering loads, last-minute farewells, vendors hawking tea and snacks, and the electric tension that ripples through the crowd as the departure bell sounds.

(iii) "Social media influencers exert a harmful influence on the mental health and values of adolescents." Express your views either for or against this statement.

(iv) Relate an occasion when you initially dismissed a family heirloom, tradition, or ancestral custom as outdated, only to discover its profound significance during an unexpected crisis.

(v) Study the picture given below. Write a story, a description or an account of what the scene suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Question 2

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

Select any one of the following:

[10]

(i) Write a letter to your uncle thanking him warmly for hosting you during your winter vacation. Describe the practical skills you learned at his organic farm or workshop, how the experience broadened your understanding of sustainability, and how you plan to apply those lessons back at school.

(ii) Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing grave concern over the neglect and gradual decay of a prominent historical monument in your district. Highlight the causes of deterioration, such as vandalism and weathering, and propose concrete measures for community involvement and archaeological restoration.

Question 3

(i) Your school is organising an Inter-School Historical Quiz Competition for students of Classes IX and X. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing students about the event and inviting them to register in teams of two. [5]

(ii) Write an email to an eminent historian of your city requesting him/her to be the Quizmaster and deliver the keynote address at the Inter-School Historical Quiz Competition. [5]

Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [20]

Master Samuel Thorne's horology workshop occupied a narrow attic above an ancient cobblestone alley. It was a sanctuary saturated with the scents of mineral oil, dry cedarwood, and aged brass, where time did not merely pass--it resonated in a layered symphony of hundred ticking pendulums. At the centre bench, beneath the cold illumination of an articulated brass lamp, sat sixteen-year-old Dev. For eight months, Dev had swept the floor, polished clock cases, and sorted miniature screws into velvet-lined trays. Today, however, Master Thorne placed a faded Moroccan leather case before him. Inside lay an eighteenth-century English verge pocket watch, its enameled dial hairline-cracked and its intricate movement completely paralyzed.

"True horology is not mere mechanical tinkering, Dev," Master Thorne murmured, his voice as measured as a grandfather clock. "It is an act of historical reverence. A timepiece preserves the heartbeat of craftsmen who turned to dust two centuries ago. Approach it with quiet reverence, or do not touch it at all." Dev took a deep breath, adjusted the jeweler's loupe over his right eye, and carefully wiped his nickel-plated tweezers with a soft chamois cloth. His fingers trembled slightly as he released the casing springs, exposing the miniature brass movement within.

Through the magnifying lens, the brass wheels looked like a labyrinth of golden lace. Dev gently coaxed the balance bridge aside and extracted the escapement wheel. Here lay the mystery of the watch's silence: dried, hardened whale oil from a forgotten servicing had coagulated into microscopic black resin between the escape pinion teeth, locking the entire gear train in frozen immobility. A single hasty movement could snap a delicate pivot thinner than a swallow's quill, destroying the antique forever.

Working with meticulous concentration, Dev submerged the delicate brass wheels into a shallow dish of benzine solvent. Using a slender needle whittled from fine elder pith and sharpened pegwood points, he patiently scraped away the stubborn resin, tooth by tooth, under the glare of his loupe. He then dried each component upon lint-free paper, ensuring not a single fiber remained to foul the mechanism. Next, using the tip of an oiled wire finer than a spider's thread, he touched a microscopic droplet of synthetic horological oil to each synthetic ruby pivot cup.

Finally came the critical moment of reassembly. Holding his breath, Dev seated the balance arbor into its lower jewel, aligned the hairspring, and tightened the blued-steel bridge screw with steady, infinitesimal turns. He took the brass winding key, fitted it onto the square arbor, and turned it gently two clicks. A tense silence gripped the workbench. Then, with a sudden, joyful flutter, the balance wheel sprang into life, rocking back and forth in a crisp, rhythmic cadence that sang across the quiet attic room.

Master Thorne leaned forward over Dev's shoulder, listening intently to the silvery cadence of the ticking movement. A rare, warm smile creased the old craftsman's leathery cheeks. He placed a heavy, reassuring hand on Dev's shoulder. "The watch breathes again," Thorne said softly. "You are no longer merely an apprentice, my boy; you are now a guardian of time."

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided:
[2]

1. intricate

(a) highly complicated and detailed (b) fragile and worn out
(c) modern and expensive (d) dark and mysterious

2. meticulous

(a) showing great speed (b) showing great attention to detail
(c) hesitant and uncertain (d) forceful and energetic

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of 'crude'?
[1]

(a) measured (b) ancient
(c) intricate (d) leathery

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

(a) Describe the atmosphere and sensory impressions of Master Thorne's workshop. Give two details. [2]

(b) Why did Master Thorne consider horology to be an act of reverence rather than mechanical tinkering? [2]

(c) What was the precise fault that prevented the antique eighteenth-century watch from running? [2]

(d) Describe the procedure Dev used to clean the dried resin from the escape wheel teeth. [2]

(e) How did Master Thorne acknowledge Dev's successful restoration of the timepiece? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise the workshop procedure and sequence of steps followed by Dev to restore the antique pocket watch. You will be penalized for exceeding 50 words. Write the rough draft first and then write the final summary in the grid format provided. [8]

Question 5

[20]

(i) Fill in each numbered blank with the correct form of the word given in brackets after it. Do not copy the passage. Write the numbers in the correct serial order, and against each, the word/s appropriate to the blank it stands for.

Example: (0) invented
[4]

Around 1440, in Mainz, Germany, Johannes Gutenberg (0) _____ (invent) a movable type printing system that revolutionized the dissemination of knowledge across Europe. Before Gutenberg, scribes ...(1)... (copy) manuscripts painstakingly by hand, a laborious process that ...(2)... (restrict) book ownership exclusively to wealthy institutions. Gutenberg, who was a skilled goldsmith, ...(3)... (develop) durable metal alloy type pieces that could be cast and reused indefinitely. By ...(4)... (combine) an oil-based ink with an adapted wooden screw press, he ...(5)... (succeed) in producing printed texts with unprecedented speed. In 1455, Gutenberg completed his masterpiece, forty-two-line Bibles that ...(6)... (praise) throughout the continent for their extraordinary typographic beauty. Within decades, print shops ...(7)... (spread) to every major commercial center, permanently ...(8)... (ignite) the European Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution.

(ii) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word. You are required to write only one word: [4]

(a) The newly elected mayor promised to bring _____ significant reforms in public transport.

(b) The laboratory assistants were instructed to carry _____ the experiment with extreme precision.

(c) It is illegal to dispose _____ toxic industrial waste into municipal waterways.

(d) Despite their differing temperaments, the two roommates managed to get _____ with each other.

(e) The aging artisan found it increasingly difficult to keep _____ with modern digital trends.

(f) The philanthropic organization plans to set _____ free medical clinics in rural villages.

(g) One should never look down _____ those who earn an honest living through manual labor.

(h) All visitors are strictly requested to refrain _____ taking photographs inside the gallery.

(iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so: [4]

1. The monsoon rains were unusually torrential. The construction crew completed the railway bridge on time.

(a) The monsoon rains were unusually torrential for completing the railway bridge on time.

(b) In spite of the unusually torrential monsoon rains, the construction crew completed the railway bridge on time.

(c) The construction crew completed the bridge because the rains were torrential.

(d) Despite of unusually torrential monsoon rains, the crew completed the bridge.

2. We met a distinguished ornithologist. Her lifelong research has preserved the endangered hornbill.

(a) We met a distinguished ornithologist who lifelong research preserved the hornbill.

(b) We met a distinguished ornithologist whom lifelong research preserved the hornbill.

(c) Her lifelong research preserved the hornbill as we met the ornithologist.

(d) We met a distinguished ornithologist whose lifelong research has preserved the endangered hornbill.

3. The captain realized that the hull was taking in water. He immediately ordered the crew to man the emergency pumps.

(a) Realizing that the hull was taking in water, the captain immediately ordered the crew to man the emergency pumps.

(b) On realize that the hull was taking in water, the captain ordered the crew to man the pumps.

(c) The captain realized that the hull took in water because he ordered the crew to man the pumps.

(d) Realized that the hull was taking in water, the captain immediately ordered the crew to man the pumps.

4. You must submit your project report by Friday. Your marks will not be considered for the scholarship.

(a) Unless you do not submit your project report by Friday, your marks will be considered for the scholarship.

(b) If you submit your project report by Friday, your marks will not be considered for the scholarship.

(c) Provided you submit your project report by Friday, your marks will be considered for the scholarship.

(d) You submit your project report by Friday lest your marks will be considered for the scholarship.

(iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each: [8]

1. As soon as the whistle blew, the sprinters surged forward from the blocks. (Begin: No sooner...)

(a) No sooner had the whistle blown than the sprinters surged forward from the blocks.

(b) No sooner had the whistle blew than the sprinters surged forward from the blocks.

(c) No sooner did the whistle blow when the sprinters surged forward from the blocks.

(d) No sooner the whistle blew than the sprinters surged forward from the blocks.

2. The cheetah is the fastest terrestrial animal on Earth. (Use: faster)

(a) The cheetah is faster than all terrestrial animals on Earth.

(b) No other terrestrial animal on Earth is as faster as the cheetah.

(c) The cheetah is faster than any other terrestrial animal on Earth.

(d) The cheetah is more faster than any terrestrial animal on Earth.

3. The physician said to the patient, "Drink plenty of water and rest adequately." (Begin: The physician advised...)

(a) The physician advised the patient that drink plenty of water and rest adequately.

(b) The physician advised the patient to drink plenty of water and rest adequately.

(c) The physician advised the patient to drank plenty of water and rest adequately.

(d) The physician advised the patient drinking plenty of water and rest adequately.

4. The disciplinary committee could not verify the anonymous allegations. (Begin: The anonymous allegations...)

(a) The anonymous allegations cannot be verified by the disciplinary committee.

(b) The anonymous allegations could not have verified by the disciplinary committee.

(c) The anonymous allegations was not verified by the disciplinary committee.

(d) The anonymous allegations could not be verified by the disciplinary committee.

5. The wooden barrel was too heavy for the young apprentice to lift. (Use: so... that)

(a) The wooden barrel was so heavy that the young apprentice cannot lift it.

(b) The wooden barrel was so heavy for the young apprentice that he could lift it.

(c) The wooden barrel was too heavy that the young apprentice could not lift it.

(d) The wooden barrel was so heavy that the young apprentice could not lift it.

6. The ferry had barely crossed the harbour channel when the dense fog descended. (Begin: Hardly...)

(a) Hardly had the ferry crossed the harbour channel when the dense fog descended.

(b) Hardly had the ferry crossed the harbour channel than the dense fog descended.

(c) Hardly the ferry had crossed the harbour channel when the dense fog descended.

(d) Hardly did the ferry crossed the harbour channel when the dense fog descended.

7. If the municipal authorities do not desilt the canals, the low-lying areas will flood. (Begin: Unless...)

(a) Unless the municipal authorities do not desilt the canals, the low-lying areas will flood.

(b) Unless the municipal authorities desilt the canals, the low-lying areas will not flood.

(c) Unless the municipal authorities desilt the canals, the low-lying areas will flood.

(d) Unless the municipal authorities will desilt the canals, the low-lying areas will flood.

8. Dev is the most dedicated watchmaker in the entire workshop. (Begin: No other...)

(a) No other watchmaker in the entire workshop is more dedicated as Dev.

(b) No other watchmaker in the entire workshop is as dedicated as Dev.

(c) No other watchmaker in the entire workshop is so dedicated than Dev.

(d) No other watchmaker in the entire workshop was as dedicated as Dev.