PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

Class 10 English Communicative (101)

Sample Question Paper 18

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 unheard entrance

1. At our first rehearsal, I played the traveller who entered a house during a power cut. The script gave me a suitcase and three lines. I practised a frightened expression before the mirror, but my younger brother, sitting at the back of the hall, said he had not realised I had entered. I was offended. I had spent an hour deciding how a frightened traveller would look.

2. Our director asked us to rehearse with the stage lights off, as the scene required. Without my face to watch, my brother heard only a door closing. My rubber-soled shoes made little sound, and the suitcase was empty. The audience could not see what I had carefully imagined. I suggested making my first speech louder. The director asked whether shouting would suit a traveller trying not to wake the house.

3. We tried a quieter solution. I let the door latch click, paused, placed the suitcase on the wooden floor and spoke as though uncertain whether anyone was there. Another actor answered from inside. The exchange gave the audience a reason to recognise both my arrival and my hesitation. It was not a recording of how every real traveller enters. It was a set of selected actions that made this particular scene understandable.

4. Afterwards my brother explained what he thought had happened, without being told the scene's intention. His account was close enough to show that the entrance now worked. I still kept the frightened expression, although few people could see it in the dark. It helped me perform, but I no longer confused the work I had done privately with what an audience had actually received. Rehearsal had taught me to listen to the scene from the back row.

i. Why does the narrator initially feel offended? [1]

ii. What does switching off the lights reveal?
A. The script has no dialogue.
B. Facial acting alone does not communicate the entrance in this scene.
C. The hall has no audience seats.
D. The traveller has lost a ticket. [1]

iii. Why is making the first speech louder questioned? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. Name one newly audible action besides speech. [1]

v. What confirms that somebody else is inside the house? [1]

vi. “Selected” actions are actions:
A. chosen for a particular purpose
B. copied without thought
C. performed by every traveller
D. forbidden in rehearsal [1]

vii. Why is the brother’s later account a useful check? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. Does the narrator abandon his facial expression? [1]

ix. True or false: The revised entrance claims to copy every real traveller. [1]

x. What does “listen … from the back row” suggest?
A. Ignore the script
B. Judge only ticket sales
C. Consider what reaches an audience
D. Stop rehearsing [1]

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

Exhibition admission card

Admission is by timed session. Each session has a separate queue and admits at most forty visitors. A ticket is valid only for its printed session. Late arrivals may enter before that session ends, but their visit is not extended. A new session requires a new ticket, if places remain.

The table lists tickets already issued. No one has cancelled. Staff may issue more tickets up to the forty-person limit for each session. The entrance closes precisely at the listed finish, including for late ticket-holders.

Session	Time	Tickets issued
A	10:00–10:45	32
B	11:00–11:45	40
C	12:00–12:45	27

Fictional exhibition. Times are morning/noon; tickets are counted separately by session.

i. How many more tickets can be issued for A? [1]

ii. Which session has no places left?
A. A
B. B
C. C
D. All three [1]

iii. A C-ticket holder arrives at 12:30. Explain the available visit in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. How many places remain in C? [1]

v. Can an A ticket be used directly for C? [1]

vi. What is the maximum total number admitted across all three sessions? [1]

vii. Why does adding all unissued places not show how many people can join B? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. True or false: A ticket-holder reaching C at 12:45 is guaranteed entry. [1]

Section B Writing Skills 22 marks

3 Application 3 marks

Write in a maximum of 50 words.

You are Reva Sen, X A, PAUL ACADEMY. Request withdrawal from a declamation entry because it overlaps with your confirmed practical assessment. Ask that the organiser be informed promptly.

4 Factual description 4 marks

Write in a maximum of 100 words.

Describe Mr Naren, a sign-language interpreter: about thirty; closely cropped hair; plain dark shirt; stands beside a speaker; faces audience; uses hands and facial expressions; pauses with the speaker.

5 Formal letter 7 marks

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

A. You are Reva Sen, 6 Palm Avenue, Kochi. Ask the Cultural Centre Director to avoid presenting one selected dish as the food of an entire state. Suggest regional variety and contributor explanations. MCB Unit 6 National Integration.

OR

B. You are Harun Das, 23 Garden Road, Kochi. Request the Municipal Parks Officer to revise lighting aimed into tree canopies at a night fair. Ask for expert assessment and lighting directed at paths. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

6 Article 8 marks

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

A. As Reva Sen, write “One example cannot contain a region”. Cues: cultural events; variety within states; contributors; curiosity; national integration. MCB Unit 6 National Integration.

OR

B. As Harun Das, write “Light where it is needed”. Cues: evening events; paths; unnecessary glare; assessment; closing times. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

Section C Grammar 10 marks

7 Gap filling 3 marks

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

During yesterday's rehearsal, Reva (i) _____ her suitcase when the latch clicked. (ii) _____ actor in the scene had a separate cue. The director has given permission: Harun (iii) _____ use the spare prop tonight.

i. (i) A. carrying B. was carrying C. has carry D. will carries [1]

ii. (ii) A. Each B. Many C. Several D. Both [1]

iii. (iii) A. must not B. cannot C. may D. need not [1]

8 Editing 4 marks

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

No.	Sentence	Error	Correction
i	The pair of stage curtains were blue.		
ii	We waited for a hour before the rehearsal.		
iii	This is the hall were the audience waited.		
iv	She did not heard the latch click.		

9 Transformation and reordering 3 marks

Do as directed. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Report: The director said to Reva, "Place the suitcase beside the door." Begin: The director told Reva ... [1]

ii. Combine using when: The latch clicked. Harun answered immediately. [1]

iii. Reply to "What surprised you?" Reorder: surprised us / that the hall / was completely dark [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 Virtually True

We went on through another door, and another,-and ended up back in the saloon.

i. Which game is being played? [1]

ii. What has happened to the escape route? [1]

iii. How does repeating “another” affect the movement? [1]

iv. What action does the second sheriff take next? [1]

B Two Gentlemen of Verona

Next morning, coming out of our hotel, we saw our friends bent over shoeshine boxes beside the fountain in the public square, doing a brisk business.

i. What posture does “bent over” convey? [1]

ii. Which landmark locates their work? [1]

iii. What does “brisk business” mean? [1]

iv. What change in relationship is suggested by “our friends”? [1]

C The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

And every tongue, through utter drought,

Was withered at the root;

We could not speak, no more than if

We had been choked with soot.

i. What physically prevents speech? [1]

ii. What comparison explains the sensation? [1]

iii. Does the passage establish that soot actually fills their mouths? [1]

iv. What shared condition is indicated by “every” and “we”? [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 second sheriff's change of clothes on the printout affect Michael? (Virtually True) [2]

ii. Why is the postmaster's first reaction to the envelope mistaken? (The Letter) [2]

iii. What contrast does the use of clay tea cups add to Patol Babu's experience? (Patol Babu, Film Star) [2]

iv. Why does Ben's insistence that Abel must live with a daughter matter? (The Dear Departed) [2]

v. What does the citizens' wish to burn benches reveal at the end? (Julius Caesar) [2]

vi. What contrast is created by the solitary loon among the applauding creatures? (The Frog and the Nightingale) [2]

12 Long answer 8 marks

Answer EITHER A OR B in about 150 words.

A. What is comic about treating literary inspiration as office casework? Use Helen's former magazine job and the Bureau's scouting, assignment and reporting procedures. (A Shady Plot)

OR

B. Write a note to a game designer distinguishing a score from an account of what matters. Use Michael's score after Wildwest and the printer's request for help. (Virtually True)

End of Question Paper 18