PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

Class 10 English Communicative (101)

Sample Question Paper 11

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 bakery's last tray

1. At half past six, baker Meena used to put a final tray of rolls into the oven. She disliked turning away customers on their way home. Yet on rainy evenings, several rolls remained unsold. Her assistant proposed baking fewer every day. Meena hesitated: yesterday's leftovers did not tell her who might arrive tomorrow.

2. For a fortnight, she recorded the time of each purchase, the weather and requests she could not fulfil. She discovered that Friday demand usually came later than Monday demand. More importantly, the register counted disappointed visitors as well as sales. A sold-out shelf could conceal a failure to serve people, just as a full shelf could conceal unnecessary production.

3. Meena introduced a reservation card for the final tray. Customers could reserve rolls before five without paying in advance. She kept a few unreserved portions because not everyone could visit earlier. One customer worried that reservations would favour office workers with predictable routines. In response, Meena accepted telephone requests and displayed the same rules beside the till.

4. The change did not eliminate uncertainty. A sudden downpour once left reserved rolls uncollected. Meena refused to describe the system as a guarantee. Instead, she adjusted the final tray after examining the records and asked customers to cancel if their plans changed. Her assistant now saw the register as a conversation between a business and its customers, not an instruction to repeat yesterday. The aim was neither a permanently empty shelf nor endless abundance, but a reasonable chance of meeting a need without producing blindly.

i. Why does Meena resist baking fewer rolls every day?
A. She never keeps records.
B. Yesterday's surplus cannot predict every later demand.
C. All customers order on Mondays.
D. Her oven works only in rain. [1]

ii. Which day usually brought later demand than Monday? [1]

iii. Explain why an empty shelf is an incomplete measure of success. Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. What concern prompts telephone reservations? [1]

v. In paragraph 2, “conceal” means:
A. reveal openly
B. hide from view
C. price cheaply
D. bake again [1]

vi. True or false: Every roll in the last tray must be reserved. [1]

vii. How does the rainy evening test the new system? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. Find the word in paragraph 4 meaning “a plentiful supply”. [1]

ix. Which title best captures the register’s purpose?
A. Copy yesterday exactly
B. Count only money
C. Listen before deciding
D. Stop accepting orders [1]

x. What practical responsibility does the passage give customers after reservation? [1]

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

Uniform alteration counter

A school-approved tailoring counter charges separately for each alteration. The table gives charges per garment; a student requesting both services pays both charges. A same-day surcharge of Rs 20 applies once per order, regardless of the number of garments. Standard orders are ready after three working days. Garments must be clean and labelled with the student’s name. No new uniform is sold at this counter.

Example order card: two skirts need shortening and one shirt needs a button repair. The student requests standard service. An adult must approve the marked length before cutting. Once cutting begins, the original length cannot be restored by simply removing the stitches.

Service	Charge per garment
Shortening	Rs 45
Button repair	Rs 15
Seam repair	Rs 30

Fictional price notice and order card; charges include materials.

i. What is the standard charge for the example order?
A. Rs 60
B. Rs 90
C. Rs 105
D. Rs 125 [1]

ii. What extra amount would same-day service add to that whole order? [1]

iii. Why must the marked length be approved before cutting? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. How much does one garment needing both a button repair and a seam repair cost? [1]

v. Complete: Standard service takes three _____ days. [1]

vi. Which request is outside the counter’s stated service?
A. Shorten a skirt
B. Repair a seam
C. Repair a button
D. Buy a new uniform [1]

vii. Identify two preparations a student must make before submitting garments. Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. True or false: Every garment attracts a separate same-day surcharge. [1]

Section B Writing Skills 22 marks

3 Application 3 marks

Write in a maximum of 50 words.

You are Rhea Nair, X B, PAUL ACADEMY. Request a duplicate identity card lost on a bus. Offer the required photograph and fee; seek temporary identification.

4 Factual description 4 marks

Write in a maximum of 100 words.

Describe a mechanical timer: circular red casing; white 0–60-minute dial; black pointer; ridged outer ring; magnetic back; bell at interval's end; no digital screen. Use these facts.

5 Formal letter 7 marks

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

A. You are Rhea Nair, 17 Lotus Road, Chennai. Ask the District Education Officer for a discreet uniform exchange: clean garments, private requests and fair allocation. MCB Unit 2 Education.

OR

B. You are Ishan Rao, 9 Harbour Street, Chennai. Tell the Municipal Food Services Officer that fair stalls block handwashing points. Seek inspection, clear access and stallholder cooperation. MCB Unit 1 Health and Medicine.

6 Article 8 marks

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

A. As Rhea Nair, write "The uniform should not label the learner". Cues: costs; dignity; discreet support; common standards; belonging. MCB Unit 2 Education.

OR

B. As Ishan Rao, write "A hygienic fair needs usable facilities". Cues: handwashing access; queues; signs; stall storage; shared duties. MCB Unit 1 Health and Medicine.

Section C Grammar 10 marks

7 Gap filling 3 marks

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

The baker (i) _____ the oven when the power failed yesterday. There were hardly (ii) _____ customers left. Under the counter's rules, staff (iii) _____ leave the oven unattended while it is operating.

i. (i) A. checks B. was checking C. has checked D. is checking [1]

ii. (ii) A. some B. much C. any D. little [1]

iii. (iii) A. must not B. might C. would D. may [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 price of these repairs depend on the service.		
ii	We have received much requests for spare buttons.		
iii	This is the tailor whom shortened my trousers.		
iv	By the time we arrived yesterday, the counter has closed.		

9 Transformation and reordering 3 marks

Do as directed. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Report the command: The supervisor said to the assistant, "Keep the receipt." Begin: The supervisor instructed the assistant ... [1]

ii. Report later: Rhea said, "I cannot collect the uniform today." Begin: Rhea said ... [1]

iii. Reply to "What has the clerk confirmed?" Reorder: that / is ready / the clerk has confirmed / our order [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 Two Gentlemen of Verona

Nicola sat upright, tired. A bundle of unsold newspapers lay at his feet. Jacopo, his head resting upon his brother's shoulder was asleep. It was nearly midnight.

i. What physical contrast separates the brothers in this scene? [1]

ii. Why do unsold papers not yet mean that they have abandoned hope of selling them? [1]

iii. What immediate form of support does Nicola’s shoulder provide? [1]

iv. How does the mention of midnight intensify the scene? [1]

B A Shady Plot

It was exactly like watching one of these moving picture cartoons being put together.

i. What process is being compared to an animated cartoon? [1]

ii. Name one body part that becomes visible during this arrival. [1]

iii. What feature makes this a simile? [1]

iv. Why is the narrator’s later question about mixed-up parts comic? [1]

C The Frog and the Nightingale

Neither stones nor prayers nor sticks,

Insults or complaints or bricks

Stilled the frog's determination

To display his heart's elation.

i. What do both physical objects and spoken responses show about the other creatures? [1]

ii. What does “stilled” mean in this context? [1]

iii. Why is determination an unwelcome quality here? [1]

iv. What contrast is created between “elation” and the creatures’ responses? [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. What do Patol Babu’s shopping mistakes reveal? (Patol Babu, Film Star) [2]

ii. Why does Ben stumble over his invented brother’s name? (The Dear Departed) [2]

iii. Why does Calpurnia offer to take the blame for fear? (Julius Caesar) [2]

iv. What does the pumpkin comparison initially convey? (The Letter) [2]

v. What irony lies in Michael’s comment about printed homework? (Virtually True) [2]

vi. How does the Mariner hold the guest after releasing his hand? (The Rime of the Ancient Mariner) [2]

12 Long answer 8 marks

Answer EITHER A OR B in about 150 words.

A. An editor proposes removing minor characters. Use Nishikanto Ghosh and Lakshmi Das to argue why their small interventions matter. (Patol Babu, Film Star; The Letter)

OR

B. Write Michael’s letter proposing a Dragonquest in which Aurora helps plan the escape. Use original obstacles and explain how your changes encourage shared decisions.