PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

Class 10 English Communicative (101)

Sample Question Paper 14

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

How large is a handful

1. For a family recipe booklet, Noor asked her grandmother how much flour a dish required. Two handfuls, came the answer. Noor measured two of her own handfuls and produced a mixture too wet to shape. Her grandmother's hands were larger. The instruction had seemed precise only because the family had usually watched the same person cook.

2. They tried weighing the ingredients. Noor expected the scales to settle every difficulty, but the cook still paused to feel the mixture before adding the last spoonful of water. The flour did not always behave identically, she explained. A written quantity could provide a starting point; a description of the required texture could help someone decide what to do next.

3. Noor photographed a small portion at the shaping stage and described how it held together without sticking heavily to the fingers. A cousin who had never made the dish tested the instructions. He understood the photograph but could not tell whether the mixture should rest before shaping. His question exposed a step that experienced family cooks performed without thinking to mention it.

4. The finished recipe gave measured quantities, a texture description and a resting instruction. It also named the family member who had taught each version. Noor no longer regarded writing as merely putting spoken words on paper. It required imagining what an absent beginner could not see. The grandmother kept her familiar handfuls, while the booklet offered a different route into the same practical knowledge. Neither method had to erase the other.

i. Why do Noor's two handfuls fail to match her grandmother's? [1]

ii. What assumption underlies the original instruction?
A. Every cook has watched the usual preparation.
B. All flour is weighed.
C. Everyone dislikes the dish.
D. The booklet contains no recipe. [1]

iii. Why are both a quantity and a texture description useful? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. Which unmentioned step does the cousin's question reveal? [1]

v. “Exposed” in paragraph 3 most nearly means:
A. revealed
B. heated
C. photographed
D. protected [1]

vi. True or false: Noor’s grandmother abandons her handful method. [1]

vii. What does the beginner’s trial show about writing instructions? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. What additional contribution is acknowledged by naming each version’s teacher? [1]

ix. Find the word in paragraph 4 meaning “someone who is not present”. [1]

x. Which conclusion best fits the ending?
A. Only weighing is legitimate knowledge.
B. Clear written guidance can coexist with familiar practice.
C. Spoken instructions should never be tested.
D. Recipes must have identical authors. [1]

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

Bus arrival audit

For this school audit, a bus is counted as within its arrival window if it reaches the gate no more than one minute early and no more than three minutes late. The limits are inclusive. The table lists four observed journeys. It records gate arrival, not the time at which each student reached a classroom.

The transport office will investigate journeys outside the window. It will also ask how long unloading took. A bus arriving within the window can still leave a student late for class if unloading is delayed. These observations cover only the four journeys shown, not all routes or days.

Journey	Scheduled	Actual
A	7:50 a.m.	7:52 a.m.
B	8:00 a.m.	7:58 a.m.
C	8:05 a.m.	8:08 a.m.
D	8:10 a.m.	8:15 a.m.

Fictional audit. Apply only the arrival-window definition given above.

i. Which journeys fall within the defined window?
A. A and B
B. A and C
C. B and D
D. C and D [1]

ii. How many minutes early is Journey B? [1]

iii. Why is Journey C accepted while Journey B is not? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. How far beyond the latest permitted arrival is Journey D? [1]

v. What proportion of these four journeys are within the window? [1]

vi. What extra process will the office investigate apart from gate arrival? [1]

vii. Why cannot the office conclude that students on A and C reached class on time? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. True or false: The figures describe the reliability of every school route throughout the year. [1]

Section B Writing Skills 22 marks

3 Application 3 marks

Write in a maximum of 50 words.

You are Noor Ali, X B, PAUL ACADEMY. Ask the Principal to review a library fine: the return date fell during an announced library closure. Offer the issue slip as evidence.

4 Factual description 4 marks

Write in a maximum of 100 words.

Describe cook Ms Saira: about fifty-five; medium height; silver hair in a bun; green apron over cream kurta; steel spoon; weighs flour; feels mixture; writes quantities on a card.

5 Formal letter 7 marks

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

A. You are Noor Ali, 15 Canal Road, Patna. Ask the District Education Officer to investigate girls leaving school after Class VIII because of household duties and travel barriers. Propose family meetings and practical support. MCB Unit 2 Education.

OR

B. You are Raghav Das, 8 Court Lane, Patna. Complain to the Municipal Works Officer about construction rubble in a storm drain. Request removal and a supervised disposal point before rain. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

6 Article 8 marks

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

A. As Noor Ali, write “A girl’s timetable must include school”. Cues: household duties; travel; listening to learners; shared work; continuing education. MCB Unit 2 Education.

OR

B. As Raghav Das, write “A drain is not a dumping space”. Cues: rubble; water flow; designated disposal; contractors; reporting blockages. 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.

Noor (i) _____ the recipe twice before she printed it last week. There was (ii) _____ flour in the first mixture than in the corrected version. Beginners (iii) _____ read the whole method first; this is advice, not a rule.

i. (i) A. has tested B. had tested C. tests D. testing [1]

ii. (ii) A. fewer B. many C. less D. a few [1]

iii. (iii) A. must not B. cannot C. had to D. should [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	Bread and butter are my usual breakfast.		
ii	There were a little cards beside the scales.		
iii	The cousin which tested the method asked a question.		
iv	If the mixture sticks, Noor add flour.		

9 Transformation and reordering 3 marks

Do as directed. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Report: Noor asked her cousin, “Have you weighed the flour?” Begin: Noor asked her cousin … [1]

ii. Combine using although: The recipe was familiar. Noor checked every step. [1]

iii. Reply to “What should the label say?” Reorder: how long / it / to rest / should state / the mixture needs [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 The Letter

Even when the dogs failed to see the creature cunningly hidden in the yellow brown scrub, Ali's eyes would catch the sight of his ears; and in another moment it was dead.

i. Which creature is being described in this part of the hunting account? [1]

ii. How is Ali’s sight compared with the dogs’ ability? [1]

iii. How does the scrub help the creature remain hidden? [1]

iv. What does “in another moment” emphasise about the hunt? [1]

B A Shady Plot

You wouldn't have to wear your eyes out over those musty old books in the public library.

i. Who speaks these words? [1]

ii. What device does she propose as a substitute for this effort? [1]

iii. Why does she think it could help with a historical novel? [1]

iv. What attitude towards conventional research is suggested by “musty old”? [1]

C Snake

He lifted his head from his drinking, as cattle do,

And looked at me vaguely, as drinking cattle do,

And flickered his two-forked tongue from his lips, and mused a moment,

And stooped and drank a little more,

i. Which familiar animals are used to describe the snake's action? [1]

ii. What effect does this familiar comparison have? [1]

iii. What does "vaguely" suggest about the look towards the speaker? [1]

iv. Which action follows the moment of apparent musing? [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 does the family's cultured past add to the account of wartime loss? (Two Gentlemen of Verona) [2]

ii. What does the wife's unhatched-chickens remark reveal? (Patol Babu, Film Star) [2]

iii. What does Bog Trumpet add to the frog's claim to own the tree? (The Frog and the Nightingale) [2]

iv. What does repeated "Below" suggest as the ship leaves harbour? (The Rime of the Ancient Mariner) [2]

v. Why is Mrs Jordan's defence of second-hand art comic? (The Dear Departed) [2]

vi. Why does Antony describe himself as a plain blunt man? (Julius Caesar) [2]

12 Long answer 8 marks

Answer EITHER A OR B in about 150 words.

A. Imagine Lucia later addresses students about retaining a future beyond illness. Write her speech using her musical training, wartime losses and the hospital's cautious hope. Keep invented developments clearly prospective. (Two Gentlemen of Verona)

OR

B. Compare freedom to leave in the Wedding-Guest's encounter with the Mariner and the speaker's encounter with the snake. Does wanting an encounter necessarily mean respecting the other's freedom?