PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

Class 10 English Communicative (101)

Sample Question Paper 04

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 seed envelope

1. The seed library occupied one drawer in the public library. Each envelope carried a plant's name, the season of collection and a few handwritten notes. Borrowers were invited to grow the seeds and return some from their harvest. The librarian made no promise that every seed would sprout. This was a living collection, and living collections carried uncertainty.

2. A student named Tara wanted to replace the untidy notes with a uniform chart. An experienced gardener agreed that clear labels mattered, but asked her to read the margins first. One grower had written that seedlings survived better behind a low wall. Another had recorded a failed crop after unusually heavy rain. The apparently messy details held knowledge that a simple success percentage would lose.

3. Tara designed a new envelope with space for both standard details and personal observations. She included a place to record failure without embarrassment. Within weeks, borrowers began comparing methods rather than competing over the largest harvest. People with small balconies contributed observations alongside those with larger gardens.

4. The project did not make the neighbourhood self-sufficient in food. Its value was quieter. It helped residents notice seasonal changes, practise patience and recognise that useful knowledge could come from many households. The drawer held seeds, but the growing resource was a community able to learn from one another's careful attention.

i. Why does the librarian avoid guaranteeing germination?
A. Seeds are not living things.
B. The collection involves natural uncertainty.
C. Borrowers are forbidden to grow plants.
D. All envelopes are empty. [1]

ii. What were borrowers invited to return? [1]

iii. Why should the marginal notes be preserved? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. “Uniform” in paragraph 2 most nearly means _____.
A. identical in format
B. belonging to the army
C. completely secret
D. unusually expensive [1]

v. Which two kinds of information did Tara’s redesigned envelope allow? [1]

vi. True or false: The project’s main achievement was complete food independence. [1]

vii. How did the redesigned records change relationships? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. Find the word in paragraph 4 meaning “able to meet its own needs”. [1]

ix. Which title best fits the wider meaning of the passage?
A. The largest harvest wins
B. A drawer that grows shared knowledge
C. Why libraries should stop lending books
D. The end of seasonal change [1]

x. What does “quieter” suggest about the project’s value? [1]

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

Garden watering log

The school garden club compared two similar beds for one week. Each bed contained ten plants of the same type. Bed A had a mulch covering; Bed B had bare soil. Both received measured water whenever the club’s agreed soil check indicated a need. Rainfall was not recorded.

The table lists total water added and the number of visibly wilted plants at the final observation. The club plans a longer trial, with repeated observations and rainfall records. It will not assume that a single week represents every season.

Bed	Water added	Wilted plants at end
A: mulched	28 litres	1
B: bare soil	40 litres	3

Classroom trial data are fictional. Wilt counts are observations, not a diagnosis.

i. How much less water was added to Bed A? [1]

ii. What percentage reduction is 12 litres relative to Bed B’s 40 litres?
A. 12%
B. 20%
C. 30%
D. 40% [1]

iii. Why is a longer trial needed? Explain two reasons in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. How many plants in Bed B were not visibly wilted at the final check? [1]

v. Complete: Both beds contained ten plants of _____. [1]

vi. Which statement is supported by the table?
A. Bed A used less added water during the recorded week.
B. Mulch always prevents wilting.
C. Bed B had no living plants.
D. Rainfall was identical. [1]

vii. Suggest a balanced recommendation based on this evidence, in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. True or false: The club watered both beds automatically with the same quantity each day. [1]

Section B Writing Skills 22 marks

3 Application 3 marks

Write in a maximum of 50 words.

You are Tara Bose, X B, PAUL ACADEMY. Apply for permission to use the school garden for a supervised seed observation project during the activity period. Mention a teacher's supervision and care of the space.

4 Factual description 4 marks

Write in a maximum of 100 words.

Describe a seed storage box: rectangular wooden box; hinged lid; six compartments; paper envelopes arranged upright; labels on dividers; brass latch; carrying handle; stored on a dry shelf. Do not add unprovided claims about seed quality.

5 Formal letter 7 marks

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

A. You are Tara Bose, 24 Banyan Road, Mysuru. Write to the Municipal Horticulture Officer requesting guidance and native saplings for a supervised school planting project. Ask about site suitability and follow-up care. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

OR

B. You are Imran Shah, 9 Market Lane, Mysuru. Write to the Editor of People's Post urging recognition of vocational skills in school education. Give examples and recommend a practical school initiative. MCB Unit 2 Education.

6 Article 8 marks

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

A. As Tara Bose, write "Planting is only the beginning". Cues: ceremony versus care; suitable species; water plan; holidays; survival records. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

OR

B. As Imran Shah, write "Practical skill is thoughtful work". Cues: precision; problem solving; dignity of labour; school workshops; safe supervision. MCB Unit 2 Education.

Section C Grammar 10 marks

7 Gap filling 3 marks

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

If the weather stays dry, the club (i) _____ the beds tomorrow. It has collected (ii) _____ seeds from each plant. Members (iii) _____ label every envelope; otherwise the collection will be confusing.

i. (i) A. watered B. will water C. watering D. had watered [1]

ii. (ii) A. a few B. much C. little D. an [1]

iii. (iii) A. might B. would C. must 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.

i. Neither Tara nor her classmates was absent yesterday. [1]

ii. The gardener which advised us knows this soil. [1]

iii. We do not know where the spare labels is. [1]

iv. After the rain stopped, the club begin work yesterday. [1]

9 Transformation and reordering 3 marks

Do as directed. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Report: Tara said to Imran, “Where have you kept the seeds?” Begin: Tara asked Imran ... [1]

ii. Report: The gardener said to us, “Please water these pots.” Begin: The gardener requested us ... [1]

iii. Reorder the answer to “What matters?”: what / is / we record / important [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 Patol Babu, Film Star

A play involves the work of many and it is the combined effort of many that makes a success of the play.

i. Whose remembered advice includes these words? [1]

ii. What mistaken measure of importance does the advice challenge? [1]

iii. How does Patol Babu apply this principle? [1]

iv. What broader value does “combined effort” promote? [1]

B Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments

Not marble, nor the gilded monuments

Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme;

i. What is compared with the poem? [1]

ii. What does “outlive” mean here? [1]

iii. What does the word “powerful” imply about verse? [1]

iv. Identify the speaker’s attitude towards poetry’s durability. [1]

C The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

The ice was here, the ice was there,

The ice was all around:

It cracked and growled, and roared and howled,

Like noises in a swound!

i. How does repeated reference to ice shape the setting? [1]

ii. Name the device in “cracked and growled, and roared and howled”. [1]

iii. What feeling is conveyed by the comparison with a “swound”? [1]

iv. Why does this setting make the albatross’s later arrival significant? [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 Nicola's discomfort at Jacopo's request for a lift suggest? (Two Gentlemen of Verona) [2]

ii. How does the goat's death expose the artificial nature of Mrs Packletide's triumph? (Mrs Packletide's Tiger) [2]

iii. Why is the post office a place of pilgrimage for Ali? (The Letter) [2]

iv. How does the newspaper photograph alter Michael's interpretation of the games? (Virtually True) [2]

v. How does the frog's final criticism reveal hypocrisy? (The Frog and the Nightingale) [2]

vi. Why does Brutus's appeal to reason initially persuade the crowd? (Julius Caesar) [2]

12 Long answer 8 marks

Answer EITHER A OR B in about 150 words.

A. Compare the treatment of dependence in Two Gentlemen of Verona and The Frog and the Nightingale. How can support preserve dignity, and how can it become exploitation?

OR

B. Can a work of art reveal more about a person than that person's own claims? Discuss Ozymandias and Julius Caesar, considering the sculptor's portrait and Antony's presentation of Caesar.

End of Question Paper 04