PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Complete Answer Key | Key 08

Board Examination 2027

Maximum Marks: 80 Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Marking Guidance

This complete key answers all alternatives; candidates attempt only the choices specified in the paper. Accept relevant, accurate equivalent responses. Retain the better-scoring response when an extra answer is attempted. Award no mark for an MCQ with multiple options selected.

For 2-mark responses, award 1 mark for each of the two distinct ideas indicated. For Q8–9: content 2, expression 1; deduct up to 1 overall for language inaccuracies without double deduction. For Q10–11: content 3, expression 2, accuracy 1. Model answers illustrate acceptable responses, not compulsory wording.

Section A Reading Skills — 20 Marks

1. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. There is no opportunity to apply the advice through revision and another attempt. [1]

II. A. To test whether the instructions worked independently. [1]

III. B. order of stages. [1]

IV. Specific comments identified the exact stage and missing information causing confusion, giving writers something they could revise and test. A general negative judgement offered no comparable direction and could easily be experienced as blame rather than practical guidance. [2]

V. audience / purpose. [1]

VI. B. The effects of revisions were checked. [1]

VII. False. [1]

VIII. Feedback becomes useful when learners can interpret it, make a purposeful change and examine the result. Time for revision connects comments with improvement, allowing students to understand why a later attempt works better rather than merely receiving a judgement. [2]

2. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. 30 kg. [1]

II. B. 50 g (50 kg ÷ 1,000 meals). [1]

III. The menu / price / weighing method / scales. Accept one. [1]

IV. Lower leftovers show a change in tray waste, but not whether students received enough food or unserved waste increased. A successful policy must combine reduced waste with adequate meals and confidence in requesting an additional helping when needed. [2]

V. without payment / free of charge. [1]

VI. A. Unserved food. [1]

VII. They may not know that they can request extra helpings. [1]

VIII. Anonymous responses could reveal hunger, embarrassment about asking for more or satisfaction with portion choices. These experiences cannot be inferred from leftover weights, so feedback would help connect the numerical reduction with the quality and adequacy of students' meals. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar Answers — 10 Marks

I. B. displayed [1]

II. Diya said that she was checking the bills then. [1]

III. B. little [1]

IV. Error: follow; correction: follows. [1]

V. B. must [1]

VI. The manager instructed/told the helpers to wash the trays. [1]

VII. have been recording [1]

VIII. Error: have; correction: has. [1]

IX. Ali asked Noor how much rice she had ordered. Accept he/they if Noor's pronoun is specified consistently. [1]

X. A. Each [1]

XI. were preparing [1]

XII. A. might [1]

4. Formal Letter Models — 5 Marks

Format 1; content 2; organisation 1; accuracy 1.

4A Model Response

8 Learning Lane
Chandigarh
16 January 2027
The Principal
Central School
Chandigarh
Subject: Time for feedback and project revision
Madam/Sir,
I propose adding a short feedback-and-revision period before project instructions receive their final assessment. Students often understand a teacher's comment only after attempting to improve the work. A planned second trial would make feedback part of learning rather than the last word on a finished page.
Groups could exchange drafts with classmates unfamiliar with their models. Readers would identify specific points of confusion, and writers would revise those parts before testing the instructions again. A teacher could guide respectful comments and check that changes serve the intended audience.
Kindly consider a trial during the next project. The class could compare results and report whether the additional stage improves clarity and understanding.
Yours faithfully
Diya Sharma

The body of the model letter follows the 100–120-word limit; address and closing conventions are shown in full.

4B Model Response

29 Canteen Road
Chandigarh
16 January 2027
The Canteen Manager
Central School
Chandigarh
Subject: A fuller review of the portion-choice trial
Madam/Sir,
I welcome the effort to reduce edible leftovers and request a broader review of the portion-choice trial. Tray weights alone cannot tell us whether students receive enough food or whether waste remains in serving containers instead.
Please consider a separate record of unserved food and a confidential feedback form about meal satisfaction. Students, especially younger children, should clearly understand that additional helpings are available without payment. A simple notice and a friendly reminder could make this easier.
Kindly include these measures before deciding on a permanent arrangement. A successful policy should reduce waste while ensuring adequate meals and allowing every student to request the amount of food they need comfortably.
Yours faithfully
Ali Noor

The body of the model letter follows the 100–120-word limit; address and closing conventions are shown in full.

5. Analytical Paragraph Models — 5 Marks

Content 2; organisation 2; accuracy 1. Write one connected paragraph without a title.

5A Model Response

The revised instructions were associated with a marked improvement in independent completion. Thirty-two of forty readers finished without help, compared with eighteen using the original version. The success rate therefore rose from forty-five to eighty per cent, a gain of thirty-five percentage points. Readers needing assistance fell from twenty-two to eight, suggesting that the revision addressed important difficulties. However, different readers tested the versions, so the figures do not isolate the effect of the instructions from differences in experience or ability. A further trial with comparable groups would strengthen the conclusion. The writers should also examine the eight remaining difficulties, since improvement does not mean that every instruction is now clear.

5B Model Response

Plan B is the strongest option because it measures both major waste streams and gathers information about whether meals meet students' needs. Tray and unserved weights show where edible food remains, while anonymous satisfaction forms can reveal hunger or difficulty requesting more. At twelve hundred rupees, the plan stays three hundred below the budget. Tray weights alone are cheaper but provide an incomplete picture of waste and no direct evidence about adequate meals. Photographs may record appearance, yet cannot reliably establish either quantities or students' experience. The evaluation should therefore combine relevant numerical measures with confidential feedback. Plan B offers the clearest basis for judging the policy against its actual goals.

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract Answers — 5 Marks

6A The Proposal

I. Lomov. [1]

II. B. central purpose. [1]

III. Chubukov, Natalya's father. [1]

IV. The audience knows that Lomov has come to arrange marriage, yet arguments about land and dogs repeatedly displace that aim. The contrast between the serious proposal and trivial rivalries exposes how pride makes the characters obstruct their own intentions. [2]

6B The Making of a Scientist

I. Richard Ebright. [1]

II. A. Display and investigation. [1]

III. experiment. [1]

IV. Ebright identifies the reason his entry was weaker instead of treating defeat as a final judgement of ability. Recognising the need for experiments directs his next effort towards testing questions, making the setback a guide to better scientific work. [2]

7. Poetry Extract Answers — 5 Marks

7A The Ball Poem

I. The boy's ball. [1]

II. A. grief. [1]

III. The exclamation mark. Accept the dash as marking the sudden turn if explained. [1]

IV. The ball's lively movement appears carefree, while its disappearance leaves the boy rigid with grief. This contrast separates the object's physical motion from the personal meaning attached to it, preparing the reader to understand why replacement is inadequate. [2]

7B Amanda

I. Rapunzel. [1]

II. B. peaceful. [1]

III. Welcome solitude / freedom from interference. [1]

IV. Although a tower might ordinarily suggest confinement, Amanda imagines it as a place beyond constant commands. Its distance from other people promises peace and control over her attention, so solitude becomes a form of freedom within her private fantasy. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

I. The signature God allows Lencho to understand the money as a direct divine response rather than a collection organised by people. It preserves his faith but hides the real helpers. Consequently, the shortfall becomes evidence of supposed theft instead of the limits of their generosity. [3]

II. His siblings have already flown despite having shorter wings, so his inability is not shown as physical weakness. The comparison highlights a failure of confidence. He possesses the necessary capacity but cannot believe that it will support him until hunger draws him into action. [3]

III. Bread is connected with marriage gifts, engagements and festivals, so the baker helps sustain social rituals as well as daily meals. His work belongs to the community's shared occasions. The chapter therefore presents an occupation as part of cultural continuity rather than a purely commercial exchange. [3]

IV. The moon appears broken because its light is seen through the moving branches, transforming a single image into scattered flashes. This change accompanies the trees' release. The ending makes liberation visually disruptive and vivid, suggesting a world reorganised by the movement of what was previously confined. [3]

V. Anne can alter her hair colour, but the conversation questions whether a different surface would secure recognition of her inner self. Changing an attractive feature does not automatically change the basis of another person's love. The poem therefore distinguishes physical alteration from deeper understanding. [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

I. Tricki first lies motionless and is ignored, showing how far overfeeding and inactivity have weakened him. His later interest, participation and competition at meals make improvement visible through behaviour. The sequence demonstrates recovery as a gradual return to energy and ordinary social activity. [3]

II. Fowler expects glamorous danger and is disappointed by Ausable's appearance and routine. The confrontation then reveals that calm invention and psychological control can be more decisive than glamour. His experience revises a literary stereotype of the secret agent through an actual demonstration of resourcefulness. [3]

III. The low value exposes the unnecessary scale of the couple's sacrifice and connects their hardship with earlier secrecy and assumptions. The revelation makes readers reconsider the meaning of wealth, appearance and pride throughout the story. It therefore reorganises judgement of the entire plot, rather than merely adding information. [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. The Proposal shows that polite forms of address do not guarantee respectful conduct. Lomov arrives with formal language and an intention to marry Natalya, while Chubukov initially responds warmly. Yet small disagreements over Oxen Meadows and the dogs quickly become personal insults. The characters care more about property, pride and being right than about hearing one another or remembering the visit's purpose. Their language changes as soon as an interest is challenged. A discussion should therefore distinguish ceremonial courtesy from the habits that sustain cooperation. Politeness becomes meaningful when people listen, recognise proportion and control their reactions. Without these habits, impressive greetings can collapse into conflict over matters that should not defeat a shared intention. [6]

B. In Dust of Snow, a small movement by a crow disturbs snow and changes the speaker's gloomy mood. What seemed a regretted day becomes partly recoverable. The Trees presents a larger, sustained movement as roots, leaves and branches work to leave the house and restore the forest. Both poems disturb a condition that initially appears fixed, but their scale and emotional effect differ. Frost's incident is accidental and quietly restorative, while Rich's release requires effort and creates dramatic disruption. Together, they suggest that change may arrive through a brief encounter or a prolonged struggle. Movement gives visible form to new possibilities where sadness or confinement had seemed to define the situation. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Ebright and Matilda both face an unwelcome event, but they use it differently. Ebright's unsuccessful display leads him to recognise the need for real experiments. He seeks guidance and changes his methods, so disappointment becomes part of intellectual progress. Matilda and Loisel respond to the lost necklace by hiding the loss and purchasing a costly replacement without clarifying its value. Their decision creates years of debt that a truthful conversation might have avoided. Both later work hard, but effort alone does not make the initial judgement sound. The comparison shows why a setback should prompt accurate inquiry before action: improvement depends on understanding the problem rather than merely reacting to shame or disappointment. [6]

B. Anil's kindness challenges Hari because it offers a relationship and future that theft threatens to destroy. He provides shelter and education, and his trust makes Hari's betrayal emotionally significant. After Hari returns the money, the damp note suggests that Anil knows, yet he avoids an accusation. This preserves dignity and offers another opportunity to learn. However, kindness does not act alone: Hari chooses to return when he could escape, recognising the value of what he would lose. The story therefore supports compassionate reform without removing responsibility from the wrongdoer. Humiliation might produce fear or flight, while Anil's response encourages an honest identity that Hari must continue to build through his own conduct. [6]