PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 1

Maximum Marks: 80 **Time Allowed: Two Hours**

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

(Note: This practice paper is independently prepared by Paul Academy and English Mines for examination preparation and is strictly modeled upon the official CISCE pattern.)

Question 1

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

(i) Write an original short story that ends with the following sentence:
"As the train pulled away into the night, I realised that doing the right thing rarely feels easy at first."

(ii) Imagine you visited a bustling early-morning wholesale market at the crack of dawn. Describe the scene vividly--the awakening shadows, the sights and aromas of fresh produce, the cacophony of bargaining vendors and rumbling carts, and how the atmosphere transformed as daylight broke over the city.

(iii) "The growing reliance on Artificial Intelligence tools will undermine critical thinking and original creativity among school students." Express your views either for or against this statement.

(iv) Narrate an experience when an unexpected failure or setback in an extracurricular pursuit taught you a lesson far more valuable than an easy victory. Give details of the event, your immediate reaction, and how it permanently shaped your outlook.

(v) Study the picture given below. Write a story, a description or an account of what the scene suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Question 2

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

Select any one of the following:

[10]

(i) Your elder sister has recently moved to a distant city for higher studies. Write a letter to her describing how you managed household responsibilities and looked after your ailing grandparents during exam week, and explain what the experience taught you about maturity and resilience.

(ii) Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of your city drawing urgent attention to the uncovered manholes and choked drains in your locality ahead of the monsoon season. Explain the serious safety hazards posed to residents and schoolchildren, and suggest concrete remedial measures.

Question 3

(i) Your school is organising an Inter-School Poetry Recitation Competition for students of Classes IX and X. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing students about the event and inviting them to register for the preliminary auditions. [5]

(ii) Write an email to a renowned poet of your city requesting him/her to be the Chief Guest and Judge for the Inter-School Poetry Recitation Competition. [5]

Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [20]

The wooden ferry, christened the Meghna Queen, strained against its thick coir mooring ropes at the river ghat. The vast waters of the river stretched out like a sheet of hammered pewter beneath an ominous, charcoal sky. The older boatmen had already tied their craft securely to the wooden pilings, their weathered faces tilted upward, reading the bruised horizon with practiced caution. They muttered warnings of a sudden Kalbaishakhi--the ferocious pre-monsoon squall known to sweep across the plains without warning. But Rahim, our master steersman, was an obstinate veteran of forty seasons upon the river. He cast a stubborn glance across the three-mile expanse of muddy current and declared that we would cross before the storm broke.

There were thirty of us aboard: office clerks returning home for the weekend, farmers escorting wicker baskets of poultry, and a frail schoolteacher with an armload of books. As the heavy diesel engine sputtered and coughed into a steady throb, the boat shuddered away from the wooden pier. For the first ten minutes, the passage was deceptively smooth. The water parted quietly around the flat bow, and the distant green fringe of the eastern shore appeared temptingly within reach.

Then, with terrifying abruptness, the afternoon daylight was extinguished. A blast of icy wind tore down the river gorge, screaming like a wounded animal. The placid river transformed instantly into a tempestuous cauldron of churning, foam-crested waves. The first swell struck our starboard side with the thunderous impact of a falling log, tossing the heavy ferry upward and tilting it violently to the left. Baskets of squawking fowl overturned, umbrellas skittered across the wet deck, and terrified screams pierced the gloom.

Panic, far more dangerous than the storm itself, surged through the passengers. Several panicked commuters scrambled frantically toward the high side of the deck, their collective weight threatening to capsize the wallowing vessel. Seeing the impending disaster, Master Rahim barked a sharp command to his young assistant, Bikash, to drop the forward canvas screens and lash down the remaining cargo. Stepping onto the slippery engine hatch, Rahim raised his booming voice above the roar of the gale: 'Sit down where you are! Do not move, or the river will have us all!' His iron resolve and commanding presence arrested the stampede.

Meanwhile, Bikash scrambled across the pitching deck on all fours, securing loose crates and distributing life jackets with remarkable poise. Two sturdy farmers quickly joined him, helping him salvage the tumbling baggage and anchoring themselves against the central stanchion. Rahim fought the heavy wooden tiller with every sinew in his knotted forearms, keeping the ferry's blunt nose turned squarely into the crests of the giant rollers to avoid being broadsided.

For twenty excruciating minutes, the battle raged between human tenacity and the fury of the gale. Slowly, inch by agonizing inch, Rahim guided the listing ferry toward the leeward sanctuary of an alluvial sandbank. When the keel finally ground into soft silt beneath the shelter of a grove of wild tamarind trees, the engine was cut. A stunned silence descended over the craft, broken only by the steady drumming of rain upon the canvas roof and the quiet murmur of prayers. We had crossed not merely a river, but the perilous boundary between terror and gratitude.

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided:
[2]

1. tempestuous (paragraph 3)

(a) freezing and bleak (b) wildly turbulent and violent (c) dark and muddy (d) unusually deep

2. salvage (paragraph 5)

(a) discard as worthless (b) inspect carefully (c) rescue or protect from loss (d) sell at a reduced price

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of 'placid'? (paragraph 3) [1]

(a) tempestuous (b) ominous (c) deceptive (d) frail

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

(a) Why were the older boatmen at the ghat reluctant to venture out onto the river? [2]

(b) How did the river change when the squall struck? Give two specific details from the passage. [2]

(c) What dangerous reaction occurred among the passengers, and why was it particularly hazardous? [2]

(d) How did Master Boatman Rahim restore order and prevent the vessel from capsizing? [2]

(e) What feeling prevailed among the passengers once the ferry grounded safely at the sandbank? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise the actions taken by the crew and the passengers to safeguard the ferry and bring it safely to the bank. You will be penalized for exceeding 50 words. Write the rough draft first and then write the final summary in the grid format provided. [8]

Question 5

[20]

(i) Fill in each numbered blank with the correct form of the word given in brackets after it. Do not copy the passage. Write the numbers in the correct serial order, and against each, the word/s appropriate to the blank it stands for.

Example: (0) ordered

[4]

Following the arrival of the French expedition in Egypt in 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte (0) _____ (order) defensive fortifications to be built along the coast. In July 1799, while an observant young engineer named Pierre-Francois Bouchard was ...(1)... (strengthen) the defenses near the port city of Rashid, he ...(2)... (stumble) upon a large slab of carved granodiorite. The stone ...(3)... (inscribe) with three distinct scripts: Ancient Greek, Demotic, and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs. Scholars quickly ...(4)... (recognise) that the royal decree ...(5)... (issue) at Memphis in 196 BC on behalf of King Ptolemy V. Because Ancient Greek was well understood by linguists, researchers immediately realized that this remarkable artifact ...(6)... (hold) the elusive key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs, which had ...(7)... (remain) unread for over a thousand years. After years of meticulous study, Jean-Francois Champollion finally ...(8)... (crack) the hieroglyphic code in 1822.

(ii) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word. You are required to write only one word: [4]

(a) Please bear _____ me while the repairs are completed.

(b) The sudden monsoon cloudburst forced the committee to call _____ the sports meet.

(c) That reputable merchant deals _____ antique brass and rare copper artifacts.

(d) Due to a sudden lack of sponsor funding, their ambitious film project fell _____.

(e) A high-level commission was appointed to look _____ the public grievances.

(f) The elderly bibliophile refused to part _____ his rare first-edition volumes.

(g) A trustworthy companion will always stand _____ you in moments of acute trial.

(h) Outnumbered and exhausted, the defending garrison finally yielded _____ the enemy.

(iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so: [4]

1. The sun rose. The thick morning mist dissipated over the river valley.

(a) The sun rose so the thick morning mist dissipated over the river valley.

(b) The sun having risen, the thick morning mist dissipated over the river valley.

(c) The sun rose because the thick morning mist dissipated over the river valley.

(d) Although the sun rose, the thick morning mist dissipated over the river valley.

2. The doctor examined the patient thoroughly. He detected no symptoms of serious illness.

(a) The doctor examined the patient thoroughly because he detected no symptoms of serious illness.

(b) Since the doctor detected no symptoms of serious illness, he examined the patient thoroughly.

(c) Having examined the patient thoroughly, the doctor detected no symptoms of serious illness.

(d) The doctor examined the patient thoroughly but he detected no symptoms of serious illness.

3. He worked relentlessly day and night. His sole aim was to secure the national scholarship.

(a) He worked relentlessly day and night in order to secure the national scholarship.

(b) He worked relentlessly day and night so that he will secure the national scholarship.

(c) He worked relentlessly day and night to the purpose of securing the national scholarship.

(d) Relentlessly working day and night, his sole aim was to secure the national scholarship.

4. You must confess your mistake honestly. Otherwise, you will not receive a full pardon.

(a) If you confess your mistake honestly, you will not receive a full pardon.

(b) Unless you confess your mistake honestly, you will not receive a full pardon.

(c) Unless you do not confess your mistake honestly, you will receive a full pardon.

(d) You will receive a full pardon provided you will confess your mistake honestly.

(iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each: [8]

1. As soon as the principal stepped onto the stage, the auditorium fell silent. (Begin: No sooner...)

(a) No sooner did the principal step onto the stage than the auditorium fell silent.

(b) No sooner the principal stepped onto the stage when the auditorium fell silent.

(c) No sooner had the principal stepped onto the stage then the auditorium fell silent.

(d) No sooner did the principal stepped onto the stage than the auditorium fell silent.

2. The heavy wooden chest was so unwieldy that the porter could not carry it alone. (Use: too)

(a) The heavy wooden chest was too unwieldy for the porter to carry alone.

(b) The heavy wooden chest was too unwieldy that the porter could carry it alone.

(c) The heavy wooden chest was too unwieldy so the porter could not carry it alone.

(d) For the porter, the heavy wooden chest was too unwieldy to not carry alone.

3. No other sacred river in the peninsula is as long as the Godavari. (Begin: The Godavari is...)

(a) The Godavari is more long than any sacred river in the peninsula.

(b) The Godavari is the longest of all sacred rivers in the peninsula.

(c) The Godavari is longest sacred river in the peninsula.

(d) The Godavari is as longest as any other sacred river in the peninsula.

4. The meteorologist said to the fishermen, "Do not venture into the deep waters tomorrow." (Begin: The meteorologist warned...)

(a) The meteorologist warned the fishermen not to venture into the deep waters the following day.

(b) The meteorologist warned the fishermen that they should not venture into deep waters tomorrow.

(c) The meteorologist warned the fishermen to not venture into deep waters tomorrow.

(d) The meteorologist warned the fishermen if they ventured into deep waters the following day.

5. The municipal council rejected the development proposal, notwithstanding their earlier promises. (Begin: In spite of...)

(a) In spite of having earlier promises, the municipal council rejected the development proposal.

(b) In spite of their earlier promises, the municipal council rejected the development proposal.

(c) In spite of they made earlier promises, the municipal council rejected the development proposal.

(d) In spite that they had earlier promised, the municipal council rejected the development proposal.

6. The renowned architect has designed the modern eco-friendly auditorium. (Begin: The modern eco-friendly auditorium...)

(a) The modern eco-friendly auditorium is designed by the renowned architect.

(b) The modern eco-friendly auditorium had been designed by the renowned architect.

(c) The modern eco-friendly auditorium has been designed by the renowned architect.

(d) The modern eco-friendly auditorium was being designed by the renowned architect.

7. If you do not follow the prescribed laboratory safety protocols, you will be penalized. (Begin: Unless...)

(a) Unless you do not follow the prescribed laboratory safety protocols, you will be penalized.

(b) Unless you follow the prescribed laboratory safety protocols, you will be penalized.

(c) Unless you follow the prescribed laboratory safety protocols, you will not be penalized.

(d) Unless you will follow the prescribed laboratory safety protocols, you will be penalized.

8. The weather has turned exceptionally crisp this evening. (Rewrite the sentence adding a question tag.)

(a) The weather has turned exceptionally crisp this evening, hasn't it?

(b) The weather has turned exceptionally crisp this evening, isn't it?

(c) The weather has turned exceptionally crisp this evening, wasn't it?

(d) The weather has turned exceptionally crisp this evening, doesn't it?