PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Complete Answer Key | Key 05

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. Photographs may overlook the needs and daily lives of people using the surrounding space. [1]

II. B. To keep delivery signs visible. [1]

III. A. the design's unity. [1]

IV. Comments revealed practical needs that the artist could incorporate through clear sign areas, suitable paint and recognisable images. These constraints gave the design a stronger relationship with its setting while leaving the artist responsible for a coherent composition. [2]

V. exclude recent arrivals / deny the wider community's place in the market. [1]

VI. B. Inspecting and maintaining the wall. [1]

VII. False. [1]

VIII. A mural affects people who share its setting, so its value includes how decisions respect them and how responsibility continues afterwards. Appearance is only one element; consultation, fair access and maintenance connect the work with everyday community life. [2]

2. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. Signs: 88 out of 100. [1]

II. B. 55. [1]

III. 43 percentage points. [1]

IV. Signs already receive the strongest satisfaction rating, whereas resting places have the weakest support. Expanding the most visible feature would overlook the clearest reported difficulty, so the centre should investigate rest provision before deciding where additional resources would help most. [2]

V. Every visitor rated every feature, so responses overlap. [1]

VI. turned back or did not enter the trail. [1]

VII. A. Asking where difficulty occurred. [1]

VIII. Entrance interviews could include people who avoid or abandon the trail, whose barriers are absent from the completed-walk sample. Their accounts may reveal inaccessible surfaces, insufficient rest opportunities or other difficulties that the current respondents successfully managed. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar Answers — 10 Marks

I. B. completed [1]

II. Zara said that she could not attend the meeting that night. [1]

III. C. several [1]

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

V. A. should [1]

VI. Rafi requested/asked the artist to explain that symbol. [1]

VII. was sketching [1]

VIII. Error: is; correction: are. [1]

IX. Mina asked Arif if/whether he could bring the brushes. [1]

X. B. enough [1]

XI. had left [1]

XII. A. may [1]

4. Formal Letter Models — 5 Marks

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

4A Model Response

14 Market Road
Jaipur
16 January 2027
The Secretary
Market Welfare Committee
Jaipur
Subject: Consultation for the proposed market mural
Madam/Sir,
I welcome the proposal to paint the market wall and request a consultation before the design is finalised. Shopkeepers, residents and regular visitors use this space differently, so their practical needs should be considered alongside the appearance of the artwork. Please display a design preview and invite brief comments about delivery signs, glare and access. A small paint test would help residents judge the finish. The artist could then explain which suggestions can be incorporated without weakening the composition. Kindly also identify who will inspect and maintain the wall after completion. A clear arrangement would turn initial enthusiasm into continuing care and help the mural remain useful to the neighbourhood.
Yours faithfully
Zara Khan

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

4B Model Response

42 Hill Street
Jaipur
16 January 2027
The Manager
Green Ridge Nature Centre
Jaipur
Subject: Resting places and trail access information
Madam/Sir,
I request a review of resting places and access information on your nature trail. Visitors who need frequent pauses may find planning difficult without knowing the distances between seats or the condition of the route before entering. Clear information would help families choose a suitable visit.
Please consider marking resting points on the entrance map and checking whether the spaces between them are manageable. Information about slopes, steps and surface changes should also be available in a readable printed form.
You could invite comments from people who turn back as well as those completing the walk. Kindly let visitors know what improvements are planned and when the information will be updated.
Yours faithfully
Mina Sethi

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 fifteen-thousand-rupee mural budget gives the largest share to materials, at six thousand rupees or forty per cent. Design receives four thousand, while preparation takes three thousand and the maintenance reserve two thousand. Together, materials and preparation account for sixty per cent, showing that the project depends heavily on practical execution as well as the image itself. The reserve is the smallest allocation, but its purpose extends beyond completion: it supports continued care when the surface fades or needs attention. The figures do not establish whether each estimate is sufficient. Before approval, the committee should compare quotations and maintenance needs rather than judge the budget only by the most visible expense.

5B Model Response

Option B best satisfies the trail's information needs because replaceable panels allow updates while remaining readable without a smartphone. Its cost of three thousand rupees stays five hundred below the budget, giving the centre a practical way to keep route information current. The engraved board is accessible without a device, but cannot be updated as specified and exceeds the budget by five hundred rupees. The QR code is inexpensive and flexible, yet excludes visitors unable to use a smartphone or connection. The decision should therefore prioritise usable access and maintenance of accurate information together. A weatherproof board with replaceable panels offers the most complete fit among the three proposals.

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract Answers — 5 Marks

6A Mijbil the Otter

I. The first day / initial adjustment. [1]

II. B. emotional distance. [1]

III. No; it explicitly says he was neither hostile nor friendly. [1]

IV. Mijbil's initial distance is neither aggression nor affection, so it leaves room for adjustment. The description encourages patience and observation rather than demanding immediate attachment, which becomes important as his later behaviour reveals growing trust and curiosity. [2]

6B The Necklace

I. Matilda / Mme Loisel. [1]

II. B. Social admiration. [1]

III. overwhelms her judgement / absorbs her completely. [1]

IV. The ball gives Matilda a brief experience of the admiration and luxury she desires. Its apparent victory contrasts sharply with the hardship following the necklace's loss, exposing how a short-lived social triumph can conceal serious and lasting consequences. [2]

7. Poetry Extract Answers — 5 Marks

7A The Tale of Custard the Dragon

I. A safe cage. [1]

II. A. anxious about danger. [1]

III. He confronts and defeats / eats the pirate. [1]

IV. The wish for safety establishes the impression that Custard is cowardly. His later defence of the household overturns that judgement, allowing the poem to distinguish fearful language from brave conduct when an actual threat demands immediate action. [2]

7B For Anne Gregory

I. Anne Gregory. [1]

II. B. outward appearance. [1]

III. A colour / reddish orange. [1]

IV. Anne treats the attraction of her yellow hair as something she can alter. By proposing different colours, she challenges the claim that appearance must dominate love and hopes that changing the feature will allow her inner self to be valued. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

I. The unusual address first amuses the postmaster, but Lencho's faith then moves him to admiration and action. He decides to answer through a collection. This change prevents the story from remaining a joke about ignorance and makes human compassion central to its development. [3]

II. Mandela values the courage, generosity and resilience formed through struggle above material resources. People who sacrifice for justice give the new nation its moral strength. The comparison shifts attention from what can be extracted from the land to the human qualities needed to build a free society. [3]

III. The legends place tea within imaginative cultural traditions rather than treating it only as a product grown and sold. They suggest that ordinary daily habits can have rich stories attached to them. Rajvir's interest encourages the reader to see familiar consumption as an opportunity for curiosity. [3]

IV. The cow that earlier amused Valli is later lying dead, changing the meaning of the same road. Her excitement gives way to sadness and she loses interest in looking outside. The experience reveals that discovery can include painful knowledge as well as delightful new sights. [3]

V. The crow and hemlock are not conventional symbols of beauty or comfort, yet their accidental interaction improves the speaker's mood. Frost therefore locates renewal in an unexpected scene. The poem suggests that a helpful change can arise from overlooked or apparently unpromising elements of ordinary life. [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

I. Ebright's achievement grows through collecting, reading, guidance, failed attempts and increasingly purposeful experiments. The title directs attention to the habits and support behind his success, rather than presenting brilliance as a sudden event. Curiosity becomes scientific ability through sustained effort and a willingness to improve methods. [3]

II. Bholi refuses humiliation without abandoning affection or responsibility towards her parents. Her plan to support them and teach at the school shows that independence need not mean selfishness. She offers a different future based on useful work and dignity rather than accepting the only marriage offered. [3]

III. Think-Tank notices the resemblance between the picture and his own head, then interprets the rhyme through fear and vanity. He assumes the Earthlings know and threaten him. His reaction replaces contextual reading with self-centred imagination, turning a harmless nursery rhyme into a supposed military warning. [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. The claim confuses public display with the ability to act under pressure. Custard asks for safety and is mocked, while the other pets boast about courage. When the pirate appears, however, Custard acts and the boasters hide. Mandela likewise defines courage as overcoming fear rather than lacking it. His account values people who endure danger for a larger purpose, even when fear is present. The poem uses comedy and the memoir uses political experience, but both challenge judgement based on outward confidence. A person may speak anxiously and still act bravely. Courage becomes meaningful through conduct when something important is at stake, rather than through claims made while danger is absent. [6]

B. Valli's journey begins in curiosity, but its significance extends beyond entertainment. She listens carefully, gathers information about fares and timings, saves money and resists temptations. These preparations show determination and practical independence. On the bus, she insists on managing herself and being treated as a paying passenger, revealing her desire for dignity. The death of the cow then interrupts the pleasure of discovery. An animal that delighted her on the outward trip becomes a painful reminder that life can change suddenly. The return journey therefore carries a different emotional meaning. Valli does enjoy new sights, but she also encounters limits, responsibility and mortality, making the trip an early experience of growing understanding. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Mrs Pumphrey and Matilda both allow an attractive idea to distort practical judgement. Mrs Pumphrey associates generous feeding and luxurious comforts with love, although these habits damage Tricki's health. Matilda associates expensive appearance with happiness and social worth, leading her to borrow a necklace she cannot afford to replace. Their motives differ, but each overlooks actual needs while pursuing an admired image. Herriot's simple routine restores Tricki, exposing the limits of indulgence. Matilda's ten years of labour and the final revelation expose the emptiness of the luxury she imagined. The stories encourage judgement based on consequences and real value rather than on possessions, appearances or the amount of money spent. [6]

B. Think-Tank approaches unfamiliar objects with certainty based on his own assumptions, while Noodle introduces observations that could correct those assumptions. Books become sandwiches and nursery rhymes become military intelligence because the ruler refuses to admit that he does not understand them. Noodle's tact partly limits the errors, but the hierarchy forces him to disguise useful knowledge as a modest suggestion. The play therefore shows that intelligence requires more than a confident title or an impressive head. Effective understanding depends on evidence, context and willingness to revise a conclusion. Think-Tank's panic demonstrates the cost of refusing these habits, while Noodle's eventual leadership suggests a more thoughtful alternative grounded in learning. [6]