PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

Class 10 English Communicative (101)

Sample Question Paper 09

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

Two dates on the same photograph

1. The school archive contained a photograph of a community procession. Someone had written 1988 on its back. A former student who visited the exhibition insisted it had been taken in 1990. The archive team first tried to settle the matter by choosing the more confident witness. Then a librarian asked what evidence each date rested on.

2. The visitor remembered the procession because her brother had carried a banner. The handwritten label had no named author. Another photograph of the same procession showed the banner beside a building that had opened in 1989. This did not establish the precise date, but it made the earlier label doubtful. The team changed its caption to say that the event probably took place around 1990.

3. Some students objected that uncertainty looked untidy. They wanted a single definite year for the display. The librarian replied that a caption was a promise to the reader about what the archive knew. Leaving room for doubt was more responsible than hiding it behind neat printing. The team attached a short note explaining the evidence and inviting further information.

4. By the final week, the exhibition had received several useful memories and one dated invitation that settled the year as 1990. The earlier cautious caption had not weakened the archive. It had made correction possible. The photograph now carried two stories: the event it pictured and the patient work through which people had learned to describe it accurately.

i. What unreliable shortcut did the team initially consider? [1]

ii. Which detail made 1988 doubtful?
A. A building opened in 1989 appeared in a photograph of the same banner.
B. The visitor disliked photographs.
C. The school archive was empty.
D. The banner had no colour. [1]

iii. Explain why the building evidence did not establish the exact year, in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. What does calling a caption a “promise” imply? [1]

v. “Definite” in paragraph 3 means _____.
A. certain and specific
B. badly damaged
C. visually colourful
D. privately owned [1]

vi. True or false: The visitor’s recollection was the only evidence eventually used. [1]

vii. How did the cautious caption help the archive, in 30–40 words? [2]

viii. What finally settled the date? [1]

ix. Which is the most appropriate description of the archive’s work?
A. Replacing evidence with confidence
B. Patient revision based on evidence
C. Avoiding all conclusions forever
D. Choosing the neatest caption [1]

x. What are the two stories the photograph now carries? [1]

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

Community sorting audit

A housing association weighed the material placed in its labelled recycling bins during two equal seven-day periods. Volunteers classified the contents as correctly sorted material or contamination. Contamination means items unsuitable for those bins; it is included in the total, not added afterwards.

Between the periods, residents received clearer labels and a demonstration. The audit did not measure total household waste or establish that the labels alone caused the change. The association plans another check before deciding whether further collection changes are needed.

Seven-day period	Correctly sorted	Contamination	Total
First	72 kg	28 kg	100 kg
Second	90 kg	10 kg	100 kg

Fictional audit. Correct sorting does not itself prove the material was later recycled.

i. What was the contamination percentage in the first period?
A. 10%
B. 18%
C. 28%
D. 72% [1]

ii. By how many kilograms did correctly sorted material increase? [1]

iii. Explain why total bin contents and correctly sorted contents must be distinguished, in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. What was the fall in contamination percentage, measured in percentage points? [1]

v. Name one change introduced between the two periods. [1]

vi. True or false: The audit proves that 90 kg was recycled after collection. [1]

vii. Give a cautious interpretation of the second period in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. Complete: Both observations lasted _____ days. [1]

Section B Writing Skills 22 marks

3 Application 3 marks

Write in a maximum of 50 words.

You are Priya Dutta, X B, PAUL ACADEMY. Request permission to consult the school archive during two library periods for a class history project. Promise careful handling and supervision by the librarian.

4 Factual description 4 marks

Write in a maximum of 100 words.

Describe an archival photograph folder: grey acid-free board cover; black cloth spine; elastic closure; ten transparent sleeves; captions on separate cards; school name on front label; stored flat in a cupboard. Do not claim a date for its contents.

5 Formal letter 7 marks

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

A. You are Priya Dutta, 18 College Road, Lucknow. Write to the Editor of The City Record urging readers to verify old images before attaching dates or communal claims to them. Recommend source checks and respectful corrections. MCB Unit 6 National Integration.

OR

B. You are Aman Verma, 4 Mill Lane, Lucknow. Write to the Sanitation Officer requesting clearer waste-sorting labels and a demonstration for your housing association. Explain current confusion and propose a review. MCB Unit 4 Environment.

6 Article 8 marks

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

A. As Priya Dutta, write “Memory needs evidence”. Cues: photographs; respectful questioning; dates; uncertainty; shared history. MCB Unit 6 National Integration.

OR

B. As Aman Verma, write “A clean bin is a shared lesson”. Cues: clear local instructions; sorting errors; respectful feedback; collection workers; checking outcomes. 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.

The archive team (i) _____ the date before the exhibition opened. There is not (ii) _____ evidence for the older caption. The invitation is hard to read, so the year (iii) _____ be 1990; this expresses possibility rather than certainty.

i. (i) A. had checked B. checking C. checks tomorrow D. has check [1]

ii. (ii) A. many B. enough C. a few D. an [1]

iii. (iii) A. must B. shall C. might D. need [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. Each caption in the two displays need checking. [1]

ii. The visitor which supplied the invitation returned. [1]

iii. We discovered what the faded dates means. [1]

iv. After we compared the records yesterday, we changes the caption. [1]

9 Transformation and reordering 3 marks

Do as directed. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Report: Priya said, “I found this invitation yesterday.” Begin: Priya said ... [1]

ii. Report: The librarian said to Aman, “Please handle the folder carefully.” Begin: The librarian requested Aman ... [1]

iii. Reorder the reply to “What remains uncertain?”: when / nobody knows / the first label / was written [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 A Shady Plot

I threw a protecting husbandly arm about her to catch her when she should faint. But she didn't swoon. A broad, satisfied smile spread over her face.

i. Whom does John try to protect? [1]

ii. What expectation proves wrong? [1]

iii. Why is her smile significant? [1]

iv. What comic method operates in the contrast? [1]

B Ozymandias

And on the pedestal these words appear:

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:

Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

i. Who are “ye Mighty”? [1]

ii. What does the repeated word “kings” convey? [1]

iii. What response does Ozymandias intend to provoke? [1]

iv. How does the surrounding scene change that meaning? [1]

C The Frog and the Nightingale

Trembling, terrified to fail,

Blind with tears, the nightingale

Heard him out in silence, tried,

Puffed up, burst a vein, and died.

i. What has replaced the nightingale’s earlier joy? [1]

ii. How do “trembling” and “tears” affect the reader? [1]

iii. What does her silence suggest in this situation? [1]

iv. What is exposed about the frog’s supposed guidance? [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. How does the title Two Gentlemen of Verona challenge a class-based idea of respectability? [2]

ii. How does Ali's final request differ from an ordinary demand for service? (The Letter) [2]

iii. Why does John's nervous grin worsen the Ouija-party misunderstanding? (A Shady Plot) [2]

iv. Why does the successful rescue in Warzone depend on cooperation? (Virtually True) [2]

v. How does the poem's ending overturn Ozymandias's command to despair? (Ozymandias) [2]

vi. Why does the bureau matter as a stage object? (The Dear Departed) [2]

12 Long answer 8 marks

Answer EITHER A OR B in about 150 words.

A. Compare how Mrs Packletide's Tiger and A Shady Plot make hidden information drive the plot. Evaluate the different consequences of concealment in the two households.

OR

B. A public speaker argues that emotion should replace evidence when deciding whom to trust. Respond with reference to Antony's speech in Julius Caesar and the postmaster's change in The Letter.

End of Question Paper 09