PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Complete Answer Key | Key 09

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. Moving through a place automatically versus knowing it attentively enough to notice change and meaning. [1]

II. B. A remembered event and survival. [1]

III. B. removing traces of what matters. [1]

IV. Residents supported changes such as a ramp and better lighting while asking that valuable features remain visible. Their position recognised present needs and historical meaning together, showing that thoughtful alteration can improve a street without needlessly destroying its remembered character. [2]

V. uniform / comforting / harmonious / one-sided. [1]

VI. C. Asking before sharing personal accounts. [1]

VII. False. [1]

VIII. They moved from collecting impressive buildings to asking precise questions about maintenance, missing memories and present access. The same surroundings gained human meaning, making care for the street a responsibility towards both its history and the people living there now. [2]

2. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. 30 (48 attended minus 18 first-time). [1]

II. C. Walk 3: 60%. [1]

III. 8. [1]

IV. Registrations increased from forty to fifty between the second and third walks, but actual attendance fell from thirty-two to thirty. Interest expressed through booking therefore rose while participation declined, so the two measures cannot be treated as the same trend. [2]

V. subset / part. [1]

VI. A. Optional messages to absent registrants. [1]

VII. Task clarity / welcome / walk length. Accept one. [1]

VIII. A small number of events can be affected by temporary conditions and does not reveal whether patterns persist. Further attendance records and feedback would help distinguish sustained changes from short-term fluctuations before the group makes broader claims about volunteer participation. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar Answers — 10 Marks

I. B. starts [1]

II. Dev said that he had visited that street the previous year. [1]

III. B. an [1]

IV. Error: shows; correction: show. [1]

V. A. must not [1]

VI. The resident requested/asked the group to keep the doorway clear. [1]

VII. had stopped [1]

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

IX. Rupa asked Amit if/whether the old post office was open. [1]

X. C. enough [1]

XI. was explaining [1]

XII. A. could [1]

4. Formal Letter Models — 5 Marks

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

4A Model Response

16 Clock Tower Road
Kolkata
16 January 2027
The Municipal Heritage Officer
Municipal Office
Kolkata
Subject: Access improvements and a historic inscription
Madam/Sir,
I request that the proposed footpath improvement near the clock tower preserve the historic inscription beside the entrance while providing step-free access. Both features matter: the inscription records local history, and the path should be usable by residents with different mobility needs.
Please arrange a joint inspection with access and heritage staff before the design is approved. A photograph and accurate transcription could document the inscription, while residents and nearby users could comment on the proposed route.
Kindly display the plan and explain how the final arrangement will protect both access and historical value. Careful consultation could avoid treating necessary improvement and respect for the past as competing goals.
Yours faithfully
Dev Anand

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

4B Model Response

5 Volunteer Lane
Kolkata
16 January 2027
The Coordinator
City Heritage Walks
Kolkata
Subject: Clearer arrangements for walk volunteers
Madam/Sir,
I suggest reviewing the registration arrangements for our weekend walks. A booking expresses interest, but changing responsibilities or unclear information may prevent a volunteer from attending. Better communication would help organisers estimate numbers without assuming that every absence means loss of interest.
Please send a brief reminder stating the meeting point, time and expected tasks. An easy cancellation method would allow places to be offered to others. An optional question for absent registrants could identify difficulties that attendance totals cannot explain.
Kindly also ask returning and new volunteers about welcome and task clarity. A short trial of these measures could show whether clearer arrangements improve participation and make the walks easier to organise.
Yours faithfully
Rupa Das

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 walk's local stories receive the strongest rating, with seventy-two of eighty visitors finding them useful, equivalent to ninety per cent. Clear route information follows at eighty per cent, while only half consider resting opportunities adequate. The contrast suggests that strong educational content is not matched by equally satisfactory physical comfort. Reviewing rest provision should therefore be an early priority while retaining the stories visitors value. Since every visitor rated all three features, the response totals overlap and should not be added. The figures also do not identify where rests were needed or why existing opportunities failed. Specific location feedback would help organisers convert the weakest rating into a practical improvement plan.

5B Model Response

Method B is the only proposal that meets both requirements. A printed booklet with consent choices allows residents to decide whether their names appear, while public library copies provide access without internet use. Its cost of twenty-five hundred rupees remains five hundred below the budget. The public website is cheaper, but compulsory naming removes the stated control and online access alone excludes some readers. The private digital folder costs least, yet offers neither a clear public access route nor the specified consent arrangement. The decision should therefore consider the conditions of sharing as well as storage cost. Method B connects preservation with respectful participation and practical access to the resulting local archive.

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract Answers — 5 Marks

6A His First Flight

I. Fly / support himself in the air. [1]

II. B. emotional change during a new physical experience. [1]

III. experience / flight / action. [1]

IV. The simple statements replace the earlier intense fear with a manageable physical sensation. The seagull is now experiencing flight rather than imagining failure, so the language makes his discovery of ability feel immediate, definite and emotionally relieving. [2]

6B The Book that Saved the Earth

I. Think-Tank. [1]

II. B. agreement with authority. [1]

III. Arrogance / conceit / stubbornness. Accept an appropriate equivalent. [1]

IV. The audience has seen Think-Tank make mistaken assumptions about books, so his insistence contradicts the evidence. Demanding agreement protects his authority rather than truth, making his supposedly perfect judgement a source of comedy and a barrier to correction. [2]

7. Poetry Extract Answers — 5 Marks

7A The Trees

I. Branches. [1]

II. A. Simile. [1]

III. Prolonged restriction / confinement in insufficient space. [1]

IV. Newly discharged patients suggest weakness and uncertain movement after a long restriction. Comparing the branches with them makes release appear a gradual recovery, emphasising the lasting effects of confinement even as the trees begin moving towards freedom. [2]

7B Fog

I. The harbour and city. [1]

II. A. a cat. [1]

III. It is temporary / the fog departs. [1]

IV. The fog appears to sit quietly and watch, creating a pause over the harbour and city. Its eventual departure gives that stillness a temporary quality, so the scene resembles a living visitor resting briefly before continuing elsewhere. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

I. Mandela argues that a person who takes away another's freedom is also imprisoned by hatred and prejudice. Freedom therefore involves more than the release of victims. A humane society must free both groups from the relationships of domination that prevent them from recognising one another's humanity. [3]

II. Her statement that no other aircraft was flying contradicts the pilot's experience of being guided by a black aeroplane. The reply turns rescue into mystery. It prevents a straightforward explanation and leaves the reader considering possibilities that the story deliberately does not confirm. [3]

III. The children use the tiger's lack of toothbrushing and the supposed cleaning power of hot tea to justify their impatience. Their playful reasoning reveals the strength of their attraction to bread-bangles. The humour preserves a child's perspective rather than offering these excuses as sensible advice. [3]

IV. Earthen vessels eventually break regardless of their form, just as all human lives are subject to death. The comparison makes mortality concrete and universal. It directs attention away from the idea of a special exception and towards recognising the conditions shared by all living people. [3]

V. Custard does not permanently adopt the others' boastful manner after saving them. His renewed wish for safety separates courage in action from a lasting performance of fearlessness. The ending keeps the comic pattern while showing that one brave deed need not erase an anxious temperament. [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

I. Ausable complains about the supposed balcony as if it is an existing nuisance unrelated to Max's wishes. This ordinary irritation makes the account seem incidental and established. Max therefore accepts information that appears not to be a deliberate effort to influence his decision. [3]

II. Her labour makes her look older and rougher, replacing the elegance she briefly enjoyed at the ball. The effort to preserve an appearance of wealth has cost her youth and comfort. The later revelation that the original necklace was imitation makes that transformation painfully unnecessary. [3]

III. Teaching allows Bholi to extend the support that transformed her own life to other learners. It gives her a purposeful role based on ability and service rather than appearance or marital status. Her decision turns personal confidence into a contribution that may change other children's futures. [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. The seagull must experience flight before he can trust his wings, while the boy must confront loss before he can understand responsibility. In His First Flight, the parents encourage, threaten and finally use food to create an opportunity, but they cannot perform the young bird's first movement for him. In The Ball Poem, the speaker refuses to interrupt grief with money or a replacement because these cannot supply the boy's inner learning. Both texts recognise a limit to adult assistance. Support can create conditions or offer respectful space, but growth requires personal experience. The lessons differ, yet each emerges when a young being meets a reality that reassurance alone cannot make understood. [6]

B. The baker's arrival and the boy's ball become meaningful through their connection with lived experience. In A Baker from Goa, the sound of bamboo, the fragrance of loaves and the children's rush for bread-bangles preserve affectionate memories of village life. The routine carries companionship and cultural continuity beyond the purchase of food. In The Ball Poem, the lost ball holds the boy's young days, making its disappearance more serious than the loss of a replaceable toy. Both texts therefore distinguish physical objects from the histories attached to them. Memory gives ordinary things emotional value, and that value cannot be measured only by market price or the practical function they perform. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. A suitable motto would be: Observe carefully, think calmly and remain open to correction. Ausable demonstrates calm intelligence when Max appears with a pistol. He notices the situation, constructs a believable account and uses the expected knock to redirect the threat. Think-Tank offers the opposite example. He imposes confident interpretations on unfamiliar books, demands agreement and treats corrections as his own brilliance. His fear eventually leads to a foolish evacuation. The comparison shows that leadership depends less on an impressive appearance or title than on judgement. Confidence is useful when supported by attention to circumstances; it becomes dangerous when protecting authority matters more than understanding what the available evidence actually means. [6]

B. Hari and Bholi make different decisions, but both begin to imagine an identity they can respect. Hari has done wrong and must repair his own betrayal. Returning Anil's money preserves the relationship and education that offer a future beyond theft. Bholi, by contrast, is being wronged by a humiliating dowry demand. Rejecting Bishamber refuses the assumption that she must accept any marriage offered. Hari's dignity grows through accountability, while Bholi's grows through resistance to injustice. Both decisions require moving beyond immediate pressure: escape and money tempt Hari, while family expectations constrain Bholi. Their stories show that dignity can require either admitting one's responsibility or refusing an undeserved humiliation with clear judgement. [6]