PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Practice Sample Paper | Paper 06

Board Examination 2027

Maximum Marks: 80 Time Allowed: 3 Hours

General Instructions

This paper contains 11 compulsory questions in three sections. Follow each question's internal choice instructions.

Section A: Reading Skills (20); Section B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills (20); Section C: Literature Textbook (40).

Write answers in the prescribed word limits. Figures and situations in reading and writing tasks are original and fictional unless stated otherwise.

This PAUL ACADEMY practice paper follows the CBSE 2026–27 syllabus and sample-paper pattern.

Section A Reading Skills — 20 Marks

1. Discursive Passage — 10 Marks

(1) Owning a useful object can feel like a guarantee of independence. A ladder waits for the day it is needed, and a drill promises that a repair will not depend on somebody else. Yet many household tools spend most of their lives unused. When every family buys the same rarely needed item, independence may come with crowded cupboards and repeated expense. Sharing offers a different possibility, provided that it is organised with care.

(2) A neighbourhood tool bank began with a cupboard in a community room. Residents donated objects they no longer used and wrote their names in a borrowing notebook. During the first month, enthusiasm concealed several weaknesses. A missing part made one tool unusable, a late return delayed another borrower and nobody knew who should replace a worn cable. Good intentions had created access, but had not yet created a dependable service.

(3) The volunteers revised the system. Every item received a simple condition record, instructions and a return date. Damaged equipment was removed until a trained person could inspect it. Borrowers were shown how to report a problem without being immediately blamed for

causing it. This mattered because fear of accusation could encourage someone to hide a defect. A service becomes safer when honest information travels quickly, even when that information is inconvenient.

(4) Sharing also changed the meaning of expertise. One resident knew how to choose the correct drill bit, another could translate instructions and a third designed a clearer booking sheet. The bank did not expect every borrower to become a skilled repairer. It helped people recognise when a small task was manageable and when professional help was necessary. Knowing a limit was treated as useful knowledge rather than as a reason for embarrassment.

(5) There were costs that enthusiasm alone could not cover. Equipment required storage, inspection and eventual replacement. The committee published a modest fee and explained how it would be used. Residents could suggest changes, and a reduced-fee arrangement protected access for those who could not comfortably pay. A transparent charge proved more trustworthy than pretending that a shared service would remain free of all expense forever.

(6) The tool bank's strongest achievement was not simply fewer purchases. It showed that independence can include reliable ways of cooperating. Borrowers gained access without owning everything, while volunteers learnt that generosity needs records, boundaries and continuing attention. The project worked when people could depend on both the objects and the arrangements around them. Sharing became more than passing a tool from one hand to another; it became a practical commitment to one another's ability to use it well.

Answer all the following questions. Use 30–40 words for each 2-mark answer.

I. What two disadvantages can arise when every household owns rarely used tools? [1]

II. Which early problem showed uncertainty about maintenance? A. A worn cable without a responsible replacement person B. Too many trained inspectors C. Empty cupboards D. A lack of names [1]

III. In paragraph 6, "boundaries" refers to: A. property fences only B. limits and responsibilities C. decorative borders D. distant places [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why reporting a defect should not automatically result in blame. [2]

V. Complete: The bank treated knowing when to seek professional help as _____. [1]

VI. Which arrangement protected access for residents unable to pay the full fee? [1]

VII. State True or False: The committee claimed that sharing would eliminate every cost forever. [1]

VIII. In 30–40 words, explain how the passage redefines independence. [2]

2. Case-based Factual Passage — 10 Marks

(1) A fictional neighbourhood seed exchange recorded participation during its first three monthly sessions. Organisers counted the households attending, the seed packets offered and the packets taken home. A packet was counted once when offered and once if collected. Any packets left at the end were stored separately and were not offered again during this three-month trial.

(2) Attendance increased each month, while the proportion of offered packets taken home also rose. However, more packets distributed did not necessarily mean more plants successfully grown. The records contained no information about germination, suitability for local conditions or whether instructions were understood. The organisers therefore avoided treating distribution totals as proof of gardening success.

(3) They proposed adding clear planting notes and asking participants to report results after several weeks. People would be able to respond on paper or through a message, so the review would not depend entirely on internet access. The organisers also wanted to hear from households that attended but collected nothing. Such responses might reveal unfamiliar plant names, unsuitable varieties or uncertainty about available space. The next session would include a volunteer who could explain the notes, while any uncertain seed identification would be referred for expert advice. The table is an invented teaching dataset and describes no actual community project.

Month	Households	Offered / taken packets
August	20	100 / 60
September	30	120 / 84
October	40	150 / 120

Answer all the following questions. Use 30–40 words for each 2-mark answer.

I. How much did household attendance increase from August to October? [1]

II. What percentage of October's offered packets were taken? A. 60% B. 70% C. 80% D. 90% [1]

III. How many September packets remained uncollected? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why distribution figures cannot establish growing success. [2]

V. Complete: Leftover packets were _____ for a later session. [1]

VI. Which review method widens access? A. Online responses only B. Paper or message responses C. No feedback D. Counting only new households [1]

VII. Why ask attendees who collected nothing for feedback? [1]

VIII. In 30–40 words, explain the purpose of adding planting notes and a volunteer's explanation. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar — 10 Marks

Attempt any TEN of the following TWELVE tasks. Each carries 1 mark.

I. The tool bank _____ twice a week. A. open B. opens C. opening D. have opened [1]

II. Report Farah's statement: "We borrowed the ladder yesterday." [1]

III. Choose: We have _____ spare screws, so we cannot complete the repair. A. little B. few C. much D. a [1]

IV. Correct the error: The set of screwdrivers belong to the club. [1]

V. Choose the modal for a binding rule: Borrowers _____ return tools by five. A. must B. might C. could D. would [1]

VI. Report the command: The instructor said to Vijay, "Unplug the drill." [1]

VII. Use the correct form: By next Monday, the workshop _____ (open). Use the simple future. [1]

VIII. Correct the error: These instructions needs a clearer diagram. [1]

IX. Report the question: Sana asked Mohan, "When will the repair session begin?" [1]

X. Choose: _____ handle on this hammer is loose. A. These B. Those C. The D. Many [1]

XI. Use the correct form: I _____ (wait) for the mechanic when you called. [1]

XII. Choose the modal for uncertain prediction: We _____ need a larger cupboard if membership grows. A. might B. must to C. ought D. shall to [1]

4. Formal Letter — 5 Marks

Attempt either A or B. All situations and data are fictional.

A. You are Farah Ali, 11 Workshop Lane, Lucknow. Write in 100–120 words to the Secretary, Community Tool Bank, Lucknow, proposing a condition register and clear reporting procedure. Explain late returns, missing parts, inspection and fair treatment. [5]

OR

B. You are Vijay Rao, 30 Garden Street, Lucknow. Write a letter in 100–120 words to the Coordinator, Neighbourhood Seed Exchange, Lucknow, requesting clear planting notes, reliable seed names and feedback arrangements for new gardeners. [5]

5. Analytical Paragraph — 5 Marks

Attempt either A or B. All situations and data are fictional.

A. Analyse fictional tool-bank borrowing in 100–120 words: January 30 loans, February 45, March 60; late returns 6, 9, 12 respectively. Compare totals and rates, and identify a practical implication without assuming a cause. [5]

OR

B. Recommend a fictional seed-exchange information plan in 100–120 words. Needs: access without internet and scope for follow-up. A: online guide only, Rs 400. B: printed planting cards and paper feedback, Rs 900. C: decorative packet labels without instructions, Rs 700. Budget Rs 1,000. [5]

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract — 5 Marks

Attempt either extract A or extract B. Answer all four parts of the chosen extract. Use 30–40 words for its 2-mark part.

A Madam Rides the Bus

“Never mind,” she said, “I can get on by myself. You don’t have to help me.”

I. Who is speaking? [1]

II. What does the refusal chiefly express? A. Desire for independence B. Fear of buses C. Dislike of travel D. Lack of money [1]

III. Who had offered help? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the line supports Valli’s wish to be treated seriously. [2]

OR

B A Question of Trust

He gets very angry when anyone talks about ‘honour among thieves’.

I. Who becomes angry? [1]

II. Why does the phrase anger him? A. He dislikes books. B. Another thief deceived him. C. He has lost a dog. D. He never entered the house. [1]

III. Complete: The young woman was in the same _____ as Horace. [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the ending challenges the idea expressed by the phrase. [2]

7. Poetry Extract — 5 Marks

Attempt either extract A or extract B. Answer all four parts of the chosen extract. Use 30–40 words for its 2-mark part.

A Dust of Snow

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

I. What has changed? [1]

II. "Rued" means: A. celebrated B. regretted C. planned D. measured [1]

III. Does the speaker claim that the entire past has been repaired? [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain why the limited claim makes the change convincing. [2]

OR

B Fire and Ice

To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

I. Which destructive force is being considered? [1]

II. "Suffice" means: A. be enough B. disappear C. forgive D. grow slowly [1]

III. Complete: The ending accepts that destruction can arise from more than _____. [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain the effect of the calm, brief ending on the serious idea. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

Answer any FOUR of FIVE questions. Write 40–50 words for each answer.

I. How does the young seagull's mother use food to change his behaviour? [3]

II. Why does Anne's defence of talking rely partly on her mother's example? [3]

III. What does Mijbil's invented game with a ball reveal about his behaviour? [3]

IV. How does Kisa Gotami's attention to city lights support her changing understanding? [3]

V. What makes the argument over Guess and Squeezer comic in The Proposal? [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

Answer any TWO of THREE questions. Write 40–50 words for each answer.

I. How does Herriot's account of the gifts sent for Tricki introduce gentle humour? [3]

II. Why does Anil's damp banknote matter more than an explicit accusation would? [3]

III. How does Ebright's competitive spirit differ from wanting success at another person's expense? [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

Answer any ONE of TWO questions. Write 100–120 words for each answer.

A. A student says small incidents cannot carry important lessons. Respond using Dust of Snow and Valli's encounter with the cow. [6]

OR

B. Compare the forms of confinement in Amanda and The Trees. Explain how imagination gives each text a way to express a desire for release. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

Answer any ONE of TWO questions. Write 100–120 words for each answer.

A. Discuss how honest and dishonest uses of trust are contrasted through Anil and Horace's encounter with the young woman. [6]

OR

B. Explain why recognising a limitation can be more valuable than maintaining an appearance of expertise. Compare Ebright's learning with Think-Tank's behaviour. [6]

End of Question Paper