PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

Class 10 English Communicative (101)

Sample Question Paper 19

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

Whose tree was it?

1. The neem tree stood just outside our courtyard wall, and I had always called it ours. Its lowest branch shaded my study window. During the summer, our neighbour spread a mat beneath it to mend fishing nets. A tea seller rested his bicycle against the trunk each afternoon. None of these uses had required us to discuss ownership.

2. When a storm broke a branch, my father asked the municipal office who should inspect the tree. I thought he was giving away our claim. He asked me to find a document showing that the ground beyond our wall belonged to us. I could find photographs of family birthdays under the leaves, but no such document. The photographs proved a relationship with the place; they did not establish a boundary.

3. The inspector arranged for the damaged branch to be assessed and told us not to organise cutting on our own. Meanwhile, the neighbour moved his mat, and the tea seller parked farther away. Their ordinary adjustments reminded me that a place can matter to several people for different reasons. Calling the tree ours had made those other relationships disappear from my account.

4. For the school magazine, I first wrote that my family had saved the tree. My father asked what action those words described. We had reported damage and requested an inspection; other people had also kept the area clear. I rewrote the account with those actions named. I still felt affection for the shade at my window, but affection no longer needed a claim that nobody else belonged there. The tree had not moved. My description of my place beside it had.

i. What first makes the narrator call the tree “ours”? [1]

ii. What do the birthday photographs establish?
A. A legal boundary beyond the wall
B. A family relationship with the place
C. The tree’s exact age
D. A municipal cutting order [1]

iii. Why does the father ask for a document rather than accept the photographs? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. What does the inspector tell the family not to organise independently? [1]

v. Name one way another user changes behaviour after the damage. [1]

vi. “Those other relationships” refers to:
A. the inspector’s relatives
B. other people’s uses of the tree
C. branches in photographs
D. the school magazine’s staff [1]

vii. How does the rewritten magazine account become more accurate? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. Does the narrator stop valuing the shade? [1]

ix. Complete: The tree stays still, but the narrator’s _____ changes. [1]

x. Which title best captures the change?
A. From affection to exclusive possession
B. From an exclusive claim to shared recognition
C. From inspection to private cutting
D. From shade to a treeless street [1]

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

Pond gauge field notebook

Students read the same fixed gauge at 8 a.m. on five consecutive days. Higher numbers mean a higher water level. A reading is a level at that time, not the amount of water that entered during the preceding day. A daily change is found by subtracting the previous day’s reading from the current reading.

The notebook contains no rainfall measurements, inflow records or readings between 8 a.m. observations. Use it only to describe these recorded levels and their differences; do not infer an unmeasured cause.

Day	Gauge reading (cm)
Monday	42
Tuesday	47
Wednesday	44
Thursday	50
Friday	48

Fictional observations from a fixed reference point. No safety threshold is specified.

i. On which day is the highest recorded level? [1]

ii. What is the change from Wednesday to Thursday?
A. −6 cm
B. +6 cm
C. +50 cm
D. +94 cm [1]

iii. Why is 47 cm not Tuesday's amount of incoming water? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. What is the net change from Monday to Friday? [1]

v. Which two consecutive-day intervals show a fall? [1]

vi. At what time is each reading taken? [1]

vii. Can the table establish that Thursday's increase was caused by rain? Explain in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. True or false: The highest level must have occurred at the exact recorded time on Thursday. [1]

Section B Writing Skills 22 marks

3 Application 3 marks

Write in a maximum of 50 words.

You are Isha Rao, X B, PAUL ACADEMY. Request that your science project partner's name be added to the submission register after you accidentally omitted it. Accept responsibility and offer the joint work record.

4 Factual description 4 marks

Write in a maximum of 100 words.

Describe a drawing compass: two hinged metal legs; pointed tip on one leg; short pencil held in the other; round black knob at top; adjustment screw; stored in a narrow plastic case; used to draw circles.

5 Formal letter 7 marks

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

A. You are Isha Rao, 5 Canal Road, Mysuru. Ask the District Library Officer to offer a confidential way for adult beginners to enrol in reading classes instead of announcing names publicly. MCB Unit 2 Education.

OR

B. You are Kabir Sen, 29 Bridge Street, Mysuru. Complain to the Heritage Tour Manager about a guide mocking a visitor's accent. Request an apology, staff guidance and respectful treatment. MCB Unit 5 Travel and Tourism.

6 Article 8 marks

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

A. As Isha Rao, write "Beginning again deserves privacy". Cues: adult learners; hesitation; respectful enrolment; practical information; access to education. MCB Unit 2 Education.

OR

B. As Kabir Sen, write "A guide must welcome the question". Cues: unfamiliar accents; clarification; dignity; participation; quality of travel experiences. MCB Unit 5 Travel and Tourism.

Section C Grammar 10 marks

7 Gap filling 3 marks

Choose the correct option for each gap. Each part carries 1 mark.

Isha (i) _____ the gauge every morning this week, and she has just added today's entry. There are (ii) _____ gaps in the record; every day is present. We (iii) _____ invent a cause when the notebook supplies none.

i. (i) A. has read B. have read C. reading D. will reads [1]

ii. (ii) A. much B. no C. a little D. every [1]

iii. (iii) A. ought to B. should C. must not D. may [1]

8 Editing 4 marks

Each numbered sentence has exactly one incorrect word. Write the error and its correction. Each part carries 1 mark.

No.	Sentence	Error	Correction
i	The readings in this notebook is clear.		
ii	The inspector gave us many advice.		
iii	The inspector which arrived at noon examined it.		
iv	The tree has stood here since ten years.		

9 Transformation and reordering 3 marks

Do as directed. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Report: Kabir said, "I will check the entry." Begin: Kabir said ... [1]

ii. Combine using because: Isha revised the account. It ignored other people's work. [1]

iii. Reply to "What do we need to know?" Reorder: whether / belongs to the family / we need to know / the ground [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 The Letter

He laughed as he spoke the last words, looking at one of the clerks who wrote indifferent verse.

i. Who laughs here? [1]

ii. Who becomes the immediate target of the joke? [1]

iii. What does “indifferent” mean about the verse? [1]

iv. What does the laughter do to the preceding comparison of poets and mad people? [1]

B A Shady Plot

That suitcase had an air of solid finality about it, and its lock leered at me brassily.

i. Whose suitcase is this? [1]

ii. What intention makes it appear final? [1]

iii. How is the lock personified? [1]

iv. Whose anxiety colours this description? [1]

C Snake

And slowly turned his head,

And slowly, very slowly, as if thrice adream,

Proceeded to draw his slow length curving round

And climb again the broken bank of my wall-face.

i. Which repeated idea controls the pace? [1]

ii. What state is suggested by “thrice adream”? [1]

iii. How does the sentence move across the verse lines? [1]

iv. Where does the snake climb? [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. What does Caesar's comparison with two lions reveal about his view of danger? (Julius Caesar) [2]

ii. Why does Henry's reply about family hardness make him retreat? (The Dear Departed) [2]

iii. How does the opening newspaper report frame the gaming mystery? (Virtually True) [2]

iv. What double movement does the phrase "sweet and bitter" give to the frog's joy? (The Frog and the Nightingale) [2]

v. Why does the sonnet call hostile forgetting "all oblivious enmity"? (Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments) [2]

vi. How does the rifle's loud "report" link sound and consequence? (Mrs Packletide's Tiger) [2]

12 Long answer 8 marks

Answer EITHER A OR B in about 150 words.

A. Write a narrator's note on comic objects that seem to judge people. Compare John's perception of the suitcase lock with the visible stage furniture that confronts Abel's family. (A Shady Plot; The Dear Departed)

OR

B. Compare two kinds of self-description: Caesar calling himself more dangerous than danger, and the sonnet speaker declaring resistance to oblivion. Does confident language have the same purpose in both?

End of Question Paper 19