PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 9

Maximum Marks: 80 **Time Allowed: Two Hours**

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

(Note: This practice paper is independently prepared by Paul Academy and English Mines for examination preparation and is strictly modeled upon the official CISCE pattern.)

Question 1

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

(i) Write an original story that begins with the following sentence:
"The knock on the door came at two in the morning, sharp and persistent, shattering the stillness of the house."

(ii) Describe an ancient, labyrinthine bazaar bookshop specializing in rare, out-of-print manuscripts and antique cartography. Portray the narrow aisles towering with vellum-bound volumes, the scent of dried paper and leather, the dust motes suspended in sunbeams, and the enigmatic antiquarian scholar who presides over it.

(iii) "Failure is a far more effective teacher of lifelong wisdom than immediate success." Express your views either for or against the statement.

(iv) Reflect on the quiet power of silence and attentive listening over impulsive speech. Describe a situation where choosing to listen calmly rather than reacting immediately prevented a grave misunderstanding and deepened your relationships.

(v) Study the picture given below. Write a story, a description or an account of what the scene suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Question 2

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

Select any one of the following:

[10]

(i) Write a letter to your close friend sharing your moving experiences and lessons learned while volunteering at an elder care home during your mid-term break, and encouraging your friend to join you for the upcoming holiday session.

(ii) Write a letter to the Postmaster General of your postal circle drawing urgent attention to repeated misdirection and chronic delays in the delivery of registered educational parcels and examination hall tickets in your sector. Highlight the severe anxiety caused to candidates and urge immediate corrective sorting measures.

Question 3

(i) Your school is organising a Mental Health and Well-being Workshop titled 'Mind Over Matter'. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing students of Classes 9 and 10 and inviting them to register for the interactive counseling sessions.
[5]

(ii) Write an email to an eminent adolescent psychologist requesting them to conduct the 'Mind Over Matter' Workshop as keynote facilitator, lead interactive stress-management exercises, and address students on handling examination anxiety. [5]

Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [20]

Nestled in the azure waters of the Mediterranean, the tranquil island of Isla del Silencio stood as a living testament to an audacious human experiment. Fifty years ago, alarmed by rising smog, vehicular gridlock, and the erosion of community life, the island's governing council voted unanimously to enact an unprecedented statute: an absolute, permanent ban on all internal combustion motor vehicles. Visitors arriving by the daily wooden passenger ferry were greeted not by the screech of brakes or smelling exhaust fumes, but by the crisp whisper of sea pines and the melodic lapping of waves against limestone jetties.

Daily existence on the island was organized around gentle, human-scale rhythms. Cobblestone lanes wound through whitewashed villages where bicycles, wooden handcarts, and sure-footed pack donkeys were the sole instruments of commerce. Doctors made house calls on pedal-cycles equipped with medical panniers, while goods from the fishing harbor were transported on sturdy horse-drawn drays. The absence of automotive roar produced an astonishing auditory transformation; residents could converse effortlessly across balconies, and the delicate birdsong of rare migratory warblers echoed through village squares once drowned by engine revs.

Environmental sustainability was woven seamlessly into the communal ethos. Terraced hillsides were cultivated with centuries-old olive groves and organic citrus orchards, fertilized exclusively with composted domestic organic waste. Rooftop rainwater harvesting cisterns supplied crystal-clear freshwater, while a shared solar and micro-wind cooperative generated clean power for the entire municipality. Rather than striving for frantic commercial expansion, the islanders prioritized self-reliance, bartering heirloom produce, hand-pressed olive oil, and artisan goat cheese through local cooperatives.

The health and social benefits of this car-free lifestyle were profound. Medical surveys documented that island residents exhibited virtually zero respiratory illnesses, dramatically lower cardiovascular disease, and exceptional physical longevity. Children roamed freely and safely through open streets without parental anxiety over reckless drivers, transforming entire neighborhoods into vibrant, shared playgrounds of communal trust.

For the modern urban traveler stepping onto Isla del Silencio, the initial experience was often disorienting. Accustomed to the frantic urgency of mainland traffic and constant digital notifications, travelers felt an unfamiliar stillness settle over their senses. Yet within days, the absence of automotive haste restored an inward tranquility long forgotten in mainland cities. In choosing silence and self-reliance over mechanized speed, the island demonstrated that true progress is measured not by how fast society moves, but by how deeply it breathes.

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided:
[2]

1. tranquility

(a) state of peaceful calm and quiet (b) loud excitement
(c) extreme isolation (d) commercial growth

2. self-reliance

(a) dependence on external aid (b) ability to rely on one's own resources
(c) strict legal compliance (d) complete refusal to trade

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of 'depleted'?
[1]

(a) drowned (b) restored
(c) cultivated (d) transformed

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

(a) What historic statute did the governing council of Isla del Silencio enact fifty years ago? [2]

(b) Name two traditional modes of transport used for medical aid and commerce on the island. [2]

(c) How did the complete absence of traffic roar transform the island's acoustic environment? [2]

(d) State two cooperative ecological practices maintained by the residents. [2]

(e) What vital realization does a stay on the island offer to hurried urban travelers? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise the transport ban, communal sustainability practices, and ecological benefits described on Isla del Silencio. You will be penalized for exceeding 50 words. Write the rough draft first and then write the final summary in the grid format provided. [8]

Question 5

[20]

(i) Fill in each numbered blank with the correct form of the word given in brackets after it. Do not copy the passage. Write the numbers in the correct serial order, and against each, the word/s appropriate to the blank it stands for.

Example: (0) descended
[4]

On 1 September 1985, oceanographer Robert Ballard (0) _____ (descend) into the abyss of the North Atlantic, culminating a twelve-year quest to locate the RMS Titanic. Utilizing Argo, a state-of-the-art towed camera sled, the expedition ...(1)... (sweep) the ocean floor two-and-a-half miles down. Suddenly, video monitors ...(2)... (flicker), ...(3)... (reveal) massive steel boilers that ...(4)... (belong) to the doomed liner. Further exploration ...(5)... (show) the ship's bow ...(6)... (stand) upright on the sandy seabed. Ballard, who ...(7)... (oppose) commercial salvage, urged that the wreck site ...(8)... (treat) with solemn reverence as a sacred maritime memorial.

(ii) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word. You are required to write only one word: [4]

(a) The police squad was able to apprehend the culprit by acting _____ confidential intelligence.

(b) Subsequent laboratory experiments helped to bear _____ the professor's bold scientific hypothesis.

(c) While cleaning the ancestral chest, Sunita happened to come _____ her grandfather's wartime diaries.

(d) It slowly dawned _____ the young researcher that the archival manuscript was a priceless original.

(e) The clever architect devised an ingenious design to get _____ the municipal height restrictions.

(f) Despite torrential downpours, the rescue volunteers managed to keep _____ their relief operations.

(g) With the arrival of dark thunderclouds, the prolonged monsoon squall finally set _____.

(h) Although two hundred delegates were invited to the conference, barely fifty turned _____.

(iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so: [4]

1. The lightning struck the tall pine tree. It burst into roaring flames.

(a) No sooner did the lightning strike the tall pine tree when it burst into roaring flames.

(b) No sooner did the lightning strike the tall pine tree than it burst into roaring flames.

(c) No sooner the lightning struck the tall pine tree than it burst into roaring flames.

(d) No sooner did the lightning struck the tall pine tree than it burst into roaring flames.

2. The observatory installed a giant reflecting telescope. It can capture images of distant star clusters.

(a) The observatory installed a giant reflecting telescope which can capture images of distant star clusters.

(b) The observatory installed a giant reflecting telescope who can capture images of distant star clusters.

(c) The observatory installed a giant reflecting telescope so it can capture images of distant star clusters.

(d) The giant reflecting telescope was installed by the observatory which it captures distant star clusters.

3. The team faced severe budget cuts and logistical hurdles. They successfully launched the environmental satellite.

(a) In spite of severe budget cuts and logistical hurdles, but the team successfully launched the environmental satellite.

(b) Despite of severe budget cuts and logistical hurdles, the team successfully launched the environmental satellite.

(c) In spite of severe budget cuts and logistical hurdles, the team successfully launched the environmental satellite.

(d) The team faced severe budget cuts and logistical hurdles so they launched the environmental satellite.

4. You may borrow these rare historical reference books. You must promise to return them undamaged by Friday.

(a) You may borrow these rare historical reference books so you promise to return them undamaged by Friday.

(b) You may borrow these rare historical reference books but you promise to return them undamaged by Friday.

(c) As long as borrowing these rare historical reference books, you must promise to return them by Friday.

(d) You may borrow these rare historical reference books as long as you promise to return them undamaged by Friday.

(iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each: [8]

1. No sooner had the harbor bell chimed than the passenger ferry departed from the pier. (Begin: Hardly had...)

(a) Hardly had the harbor bell chimed when the passenger ferry departed from the pier.

(b) Hardly had the harbor bell chimed than the passenger ferry departed from the pier.

(c) Hardly the harbor bell had chimed when the passenger ferry departed from the pier.

(d) Hardly did the harbor bell chimed when the passenger ferry departed from the pier.

2. No other desert on Earth is as vast as the Sahara. (Begin: The Sahara is vaster...)

(a) The Sahara is vaster as any other desert on Earth.

(b) The Sahara is vaster than all desert on Earth.

(c) The Sahara is vaster from any other desert on Earth.

(d) The Sahara is vaster than any other desert on Earth.

3. The chemistry teacher said to the students, "Never pour water into concentrated sulphuric acid." (Begin: The chemistry teacher warned...)

(a) The chemistry teacher warned the students that they should never pour water into concentrated sulphuric acid.

(b) The chemistry teacher warned the students not to never pour water into concentrated sulphuric acid.

(c) The chemistry teacher warned the students never to pour water into concentrated sulphuric acid.

(d) The chemistry teacher warned the students to never poured water into concentrated sulphuric acid.

4. The municipal council ought to maintain the historical public fountains. (Begin: The historical public fountains...)

(a) The historical public fountains ought to maintain by the municipal council.

(b) The historical public fountains ought to be maintained by the municipal council.

(c) The historical public fountains ought to have maintained by the municipal council.

(d) The historical public fountains ought being maintained by the municipal council.

5. The sea breeze was so fierce that the young kitesurfer could not control the sail. (Use: too... to)

(a) The sea breeze was too fierce for the young kitesurfer to control the sail.

(b) The sea breeze was too fierce that the young kitesurfer could not control the sail.

(c) The sea breeze was too fierce to control the sail for the young kitesurfer.

(d) The sea breeze was so fierce too control the sail.

6. A true statesman seldom compromises on national welfare for petty partisan gains. (Begin: Seldom does...)

(a) Seldom does a true statesman compromises on national welfare for petty partisan gains.

(b) Seldom a true statesman does compromise on national welfare for petty partisan gains.

(c) Seldom does a true statesman compromise on national welfare for petty partisan gains.

(d) Seldom did a true statesman compromise on national welfare for petty partisan gains.

7. If the city administration does not repair the leaky pipelines, severe water rationing will follow. (Begin: Unless...)

(a) Unless the city administration does not repair the leaky pipelines, severe water rationing will follow.

(b) Unless the city administration repairs the leaky pipelines, severe water rationing will follow.

(c) Unless the city administration repaired the leaky pipelines, severe water rationing would follow.

(d) Unless the city administration will repair the leaky pipelines, water rationing follows.

8. Everyone present at the auditorium was deeply moved by the musician's final recital. (Begin: There was no one...)

(a) There was no one present at the auditorium who was deeply moved by the musician's final recital.

(b) There was no one present at the auditorium but was deeply moved by the musician's final recital.

(c) There was not anyone at the auditorium who failed to be not deeply moved by the recital.

(d) There was no one present at the auditorium who was not deeply moved by the musician's final recital.