PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 4

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 short story about a mountain trek where taking an unplanned detour led to an unexpected discovery and tested your courage.

(ii) Describe an old school or ancestral mansion library on a quiet autumn afternoon. Capture the shafts of amber sunlight through tall arched windows, the fragrance of aged paper and polished wood, the majestic silence, and your thoughts as you browse through forgotten volumes.

(iii) "Boarding schools offer a far superior environment for the holistic character development of a child compared to day schools." Express your views either for or against this statement.

(iv) Narrate an incident when you chose to stand up against the unanimous opinion of your peer group. Explain the dilemma you faced, the immediate reaction of your friends, and what the experience taught you about moral courage and personal integrity.

(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 cousin who is also appearing for the upcoming Class 10 board examinations. Share the academic anxieties you are facing, the effective time-management and revision strategies you have adopted, and offer words of mutual encouragement.

(ii) Write a letter to the Assistant Commissioner of Traffic Police requesting the installation of speed breakers and a painted pedestrian zebra crossing outside your school gate. Explain the severe safety risks faced by students due to reckless speeding during peak hours, and suggest additional safety signage.

Question 3

(i) Your school is organising its Annual Inter-School Spelling Bee Competition for students of Classes IX and X. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing students about the event and inviting them to register in teams of four. [5]

(ii) Write an email to the Principal of a prominent neighbouring convent school inviting a four-member student delegation accompanied by a teacher escort to participate in the Annual Inter-School Spelling Bee Competition. [5]

Question 4

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

A deafening roar reverberated down the sheer granite couloir of Mount Valais as a colossal slab avalanche fractured at an altitude of three thousand meters. Thousands of tons of compacted powder snow hurtled down the mountain, snapping ancient pines like matchsticks and completely submerging a lone off-piste skier who had ventured beyond the marked perimeter. Within twenty minutes of the alarm, the alpine rescue helicopter touched down upon a wind-scoured snowy ledge, deploying veteran handler Marc and his four-year-old rescue dog, Bruno.

Marc immediately switched his digital avalanche transceiver to search mode, sweeping the antenna across the vast debris cone while swiftly assembling his segmented carbon-fiber probe pole. To his dismay, the receiver produced only the hollow hiss of atmospheric static; the victim's emergency beacon was either damaged by the violent impact or had not been activated. The window for human survival beneath compacted avalanche debris diminishes exponentially after thirty minutes. Marc knew that their solitary hope of locating the victim alive lay entirely in Bruno's extraordinary olfactory sensitivity.

Snapping the high-visibility fluorescent harness around Bruno's muscular chest, Marc issued the decisive search command: "Cherche, Bruno!" The magnificent dog dropped his muzzle to the frozen crust, immediately quartering the debris field with tenacious resolve. The avalanche runout was a perilous expanse of jagged ice boulders, splintered timber, and unstable snow fissures. Yet Bruno sprinted tirelessly across the frozen chaos, angling his sensitive nostrils into the biting mountain updraft to catch the faintest scent of human breath percolating through the snow.

Sixty meters down the eastern flank, Bruno wheeled abruptly and plunged his snout into a hollow beneath an uprooted larch trunk. His posture stiffened into rigid certainty. He began pawing furiously at the hard-packed crust, unleashing sharp, rhythmic barks that echoed off the frozen cliffs--the trained signal indicating a live human scent. Marc scrambled down the icy incline and drove his graduated probe vertically into the snow where the dog stood. On the third thrust, the steel tip met resilient resistance at a depth of 1.4 meters.

Two patrolmen rapidly joined Marc, immediately initiating a stepped conveyor shovel excavation to clear the heavy snow without triggering a secondary collapse. Working with breathless fury, their aluminum spades struck a bright yellow ski parka. Within four agonizing minutes, they gently cleared snow from the victim's face, dislodging ice from his mouth and fitting an emergency oxygen mask over his nose. The young skier drew a ragged, gasping breath of fresh air and slowly opened his dazed eyes.

Bruno stepped forward onto the excavated snow ledge, gently nuzzling the rescued skier's gloved hand with a soft whimper. Marc knelt beside his loyal canine partner, wrapping an arm around the dog's snow-dusted neck. In the unforgiving alpine wilderness, where minutes separated life from death, human technology had faltered, but an animal's devotion and unerring instinct had triumphed.

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

1. tenacious

(a) persistent and determined (b) hesitant and timid
(c) hasty and reckless (d) gentle and calm

2. submerged

(a) floating openly on the surface (b) completely buried or covered
(c) broken into small fragments (d) frozen solid

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

(a) perilous (b) decisive
(c) hollow (d) dazed

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

(a) What catastrophic event occurred on Mount Valais, and how quickly did the rescue team respond? [2]

(b) Why was handler Marc unable to locate the victim using his electronic transceiver? [2]

(c) Describe the physical conditions of the avalanche runout zone that Bruno had to navigate. [2]

(d) What specific behavioral signals did Bruno display upon detecting the live human scent? [2]

(e) How did handler Marc confirm the exact location and depth of the victim before digging? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise the equipment, search tactics, and excavation procedure used to locate and rescue the buried skier. 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) reached

[4]

On 14 December 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his four companions (0) _____ (reach) the South Pole, becoming the first humans in history to stand at the southernmost point of the globe. Amundsen ...(1)... (plan) the perilous Antarctic expedition with meticulous forethought. Unlike his British rival Robert Falcon Scott, Amundsen ...(2)... (choose) Greenland sled dogs to haul supplies, having ...(3)... (learn) survival techniques directly from indigenous Arctic Inuits. The Norwegian party ...(4)... (establish) their base camp at the Bay of Whales, which ...(5)... (be) sixty miles closer to the Pole than Scott's camp at McMurdo Sound. Sledging methodically across treacherous crevasse fields, the team ...(6)... (brave) blizzards and sub-zero gales without losing a single man. When they finally unfurled the Norwegian flag upon the barren polar ice cap, Amundsen knew that discipline and foresight ...(7)... (conquer) the most inhospitable wilderness on Earth, permanently ...(8)... (secure) their place in exploration history.

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

(a) It is tragic when lifelong friends fall _____ with each other over trivial misunderstandings.

(b) The anonymous philanthropist decided to give _____ half of his fortune to charity.

(c) The courageous whistleblower refused to hold _____ any crucial information during the inquiry.

(d) True sportsmanship means you never laugh _____ the misfortunes or mistakes of an opponent.

(e) The school management decided to put _____ the annual sports day due to the torrential monsoon downpour.

(f) The choir performed a melodious national anthem to round _____ the evening ceremony.

(g) The talented violinist had to turn _____ the prestigious scholarship due to family obligations.

(h) A devastating flash flood threatened to wipe _____ the entire low-lying riverside settlement.

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

1. The laboratory technician followed all sterilization protocols. The biological culture was contaminated.

(a) The biological culture was contaminated because the technician followed all protocols.

(b) In spite of the technician followed all protocols, the culture was contaminated.

(c) The technician followed all protocols so that the culture was contaminated.

(d) Although the laboratory technician followed all sterilization protocols, the biological culture was contaminated.

2. The astronaut completed the rigorous spacewalk. She re-entered the decompression chamber safely.

(a) Having completed the rigorous spacewalk, the astronaut re-entered the decompression chamber safely.

(b) The astronaut completed the spacewalk for re-entering the decompression chamber.

(c) On complete the rigorous spacewalk, the astronaut re-entered the chamber safely.

(d) As the astronaut was completing the spacewalk, she re-entered the chamber safely.

3. Walk carefully along the snow-covered ridge. You may slip into the crevasse.

(a) Walk carefully along the ridge lest you should not slip into the crevasse.

(b) Walk carefully along the ridge unless you slip into the crevasse.

(c) Walk carefully along the snow-covered ridge lest you should slip into the crevasse.

(d) You must walk carefully along the ridge so you slip into the crevasse.

4. The mountaineers praised the Sherpa guide. They had trusted him implicitly throughout the ascent.

(a) The mountaineers praised the Sherpa guide which they had trusted throughout the ascent.

(b) The mountaineers praised the Sherpa guide whom they had trusted implicitly throughout the ascent.

(c) The mountaineers praised the Sherpa guide who they had trusted him implicitly.

(d) Trusting the Sherpa guide implicitly, the mountaineers were praised by him.

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

1. As soon as the lightning flashed across the sky, the thunder roared deafeningly. (Begin: No sooner...)

(a) No sooner did the lightning flashed across the sky than the thunder roared deafeningly.

(b) No sooner had the lightning flashed across the sky when the thunder roared deafeningly.

(c) No sooner did the lightning flash across the sky than the thunder roared deafeningly.

(d) No sooner the lightning flashed across the sky than the thunder roared deafeningly.

2. No other river valley in the subcontinent is as fertile as the Gangetic plain. (Begin: The Gangetic plain...)

(a) The Gangetic plain is the most fertile river valley in the subcontinent.

(b) The Gangetic plain is more fertile river valley in the subcontinent.

(c) The Gangetic plain is the more fertile river valley in the subcontinent.

(d) The Gangetic plain is as fertile as all other river valleys in the subcontinent.

3. The forest warden said to the trekker, "Did you see any tiger pugmarks along the stream?" (Begin: The forest warden inquired...)

(a) The forest warden inquired that whether the trekker saw any tiger pugmarks along the stream.

(b) The forest warden inquired if the trekker has seen any tiger pugmarks along the stream.

(c) The forest warden inquired of the trekker did he see any tiger pugmarks along the stream.

(d) The forest warden inquired of the trekker whether he had seen any tiger pugmarks along the stream.

4. The volunteers are distributing relief packets to the flood victims. (Begin: Relief packets...)

(a) Relief packets are being distributed to the flood victims by the volunteers.

(b) Relief packets were being distributed to the flood victims by the volunteers.

(c) Relief packets are distributed to the flood victims by the volunteers.

(d) Relief packets have been distributed to the flood victims by the volunteers.

5. The water in the mountain stream was so freezing that the hikers could not wade through it. (Use: too)

(a) The water in the mountain stream was too freezing that the hikers could wade through it.

(b) The water in the mountain stream was too freezing for the hikers to wade through.

(c) For the hikers, the water in the mountain stream was too freezing so that they could not wade.

(d) The water in the mountain stream was too freezing to not wade through.

6. The aircraft had scarcely touched down on the runway when the engine sputtered into smoke. (Begin: Scarcely had...)

(a) Scarcely had the aircraft touched down on the runway than the engine sputtered into smoke.

(b) Scarcely did the aircraft touched down on the runway when the engine sputtered into smoke.

(c) Scarcely the aircraft had touched down on the runway when the engine sputtered into smoke.

(d) Scarcely had the aircraft touched down on the runway when the engine sputtered into smoke.

7. If the rescue team does not receive the distress coordinates, they cannot locate the expedition. (Begin: Unless...)

(a) Unless the rescue team does not receive the distress coordinates, they cannot locate the expedition.

(b) Unless the rescue team receives the distress coordinates, they cannot locate the expedition.

(c) Unless the rescue team receives the distress coordinates, they can locate the expedition.

(d) Unless the rescue team will receive the distress coordinates, they cannot locate the expedition.

8. The mountaineers have surmounted incredible obstacles during the expedition. (Rewrite adding an appropriate question tag)

(a) The mountaineers have surmounted incredible obstacles during the expedition, didn't they?

(b) The mountaineers have surmounted incredible obstacles during the expedition, isn't it?

(c) The mountaineers have surmounted incredible obstacles during the expedition, haven't they?

(d) The mountaineers have surmounted incredible obstacles during the expedition, hadn't they?