PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 8
ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME

Maximum Marks: 80 **Duration: 2 Hours**

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QUESTION 1: COMPOSITION [20 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Rubric: Total 20 Marks]

Under the official CISCE 2027 specimen marking scheme (Code 011), compositions are evaluated holistically out of 20 marks. The following analytical division is teacher-developed guidance to assist evaluators:

- Content & Relevance (6 Marks): Thorough treatment of prompt, logical development, mature perspective.

- Structure & Paragraphing (4 Marks): Compelling introduction, cohesive transitions, satisfying conclusion.

- Expression & Language Mechanics (10 Marks): Vocabulary range, sentence diversity, accurate grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Indicative Outlines & Key Assessment Points for Question 1
Choices:

(i) Narrative Composition (Underdog Team Triumph):

- Plotline: A poorly funded or unheralded school sports team facing a prestigious, dominant opponent.

- Developing tension: Early mistakes and conceding points, followed by inspiring half-time strategy and renewed collective determination.

- Resolution: A breathtaking, tactically disciplined comeback culminating in a triumphant, hard-fought victory.

(ii) Descriptive Composition (Deserted Sports Stadium After Championship):

- Sensory contrast: The stark transition from roaring eighty-thousand-seat crowd to ghostly echoes and wind whistling through empty stands.

- Visual elements: Trampled grass, discarded ribbons, empty paper cups tumbling across concrete steps, towering floodlights cooling down.

- Mood & Atmosphere: Lingering aura of intense competition, poignant silence reflecting fleeting earthly glory.

(iii) Argumentative Composition (Competitive Sports and Social Hostility):

- Clear stance: Definitive stance maintained throughout.

- For (Sports create hostility): Aggressive fan tribalism, toxic nationalism, cheating, doping scandals, commercial greed.

- Against (Sports foster unity): Cultural diplomacy, mutual respect between fierce rivals, grassroots integration, shared human joy.

(iv) Reflective Composition (Personal Convenience vs. Moral Duty):

- Setting & Dilemma: A specific situation where taking an easy shortcut would compromise someone else or violate honesty.

- Internal struggle: The pull of convenience versus the quiet call of conscience.

- Resolution & Growth: Choosing the harder ethical path, realizing that self-respect outweighs temporary comfort.

(v) Picture-Based Composition (Street Cricket in Narrow Alley):

- Mandatory connection: Clear link to the embedded photograph (schoolboys playing street cricket in narrow lane with wooden plank and cardboard box wickets).

- Interpretative approaches:

  * Narrative: A thrilling local neighborhood tournament where spontaneous rules resolve disputes.

  * Descriptive: The vibrant sensory sights and sounds of the alley: whirring scooters, chalk boundaries, shouts of joy.

  * Reflective: The unvarnished magic of childhood resourcefulness and street camaraderie over expensive gaming consoles.

QUESTION 2: LETTER WRITING [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Criteria & Layout Standards]:
- Format (Address, Date, Salutation, Subscription): 3 Marks
- Content & Development of Points: 4 Marks
- Expression & Mechanical Accuracy: 3 Marks

Total: 10 Marks. Length: ~120 to 150 words.

2(i) Model Informal Letter (Thanking Mother for Steadfast Support):

Hostel Room 12, Block C
Bishop Cotton School, Shimla
18th May 2027

Dearest Ma,

I am writing this letter with a heart full of deep gratitude. When the midterm results were announced last Friday and I found that I had failed to qualify for the district swimming team and scored poorly in mathematics, I was thoroughly shattered and ready to give up.

Your comforting words during our Sunday call completely changed my outlook. Instead of expressing disappointment, you reminded me that setbacks are merely stepping stones toward resilience. Your calm confidence in my abilities helped me banish self-pity and view my mistakes objectively.

Following your advice, I met my mathematics teacher for extra guidance and revised my morning training schedule with renewed vigour. Thank you for being my constant anchor, Ma. Your unconditional love inspires me to strive harder every day.

Please convey my warmest regards to Papa and give little Mira a big hug.

Yours affectionately,
Neeraj

2(ii) Model Formal Letter (Unauthorized Debit Alerts on Student Savings Account):

45, Mall Avenue, Civil Lines
Lucknow - 226001
18th May 2027

The Branch Manager
State Bank of India, Hazratganj Branch
Lucknow - 226001

Respected Sir/Madam,

Subject: Urgent notification of unauthorized debit transactions on Savings Account No. 38472910543

I hold a Student Savings Account (No. 38472910543) at your branch. I am writing to report with extreme urgency three fraudulent debit transactions made on my account without my knowledge or authorisation.

On 17th May 2027, between 11:30 p.m. and midnight, I received consecutive SMS alerts for automated online point-of-sale debits totaling fifteen thousand rupees (INR 15,000). The transactions originated from an unfamiliar merchant domain titled 'Global Pay Direct'. The debit card has remained continuously in my physical possession.

Upon receiving the alerts, I immediately phoned the customer helpline and blocked the card. I now formally submit this written complaint and request that my account be flagged for fraud, a thorough technical investigation be initiated, and the disputed amount be reversed and reimbursed to my account at the earliest.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
Aditya Narayan
Student Account Holder

QUESTION 3: NOTICE AND LINKED EMAIL [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Criteria & Layout Standards]:
- Notice: Headline (1), Nature of Event (1), Date (1/2), Timings (1/2), Venue (1), Target Audience & Registration (1) = 5 Marks.
- Email: Addressee (1/2), Subject (1/2), Salutation (1/2), Event Details (1), Specific Invitation/Request (1), Courteous Closing & Signature (1/2), Layout/Expression (1) = 5 Marks.

Total: 10 Marks.

3(i) Model Notice:

Golden Goal
Inter-School 5-a-Side Football Tournament

Date: Saturday, 14th August 2027
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Venue: Municipal Sports Arena Grounds, MG Road

Students of Classes 9 and 10 who wish to represent the school in the upcoming Inter-School 5-a-Side Football Tournament are invited to attend selection trials. Selection will be based on ball control, stamina, and team coordination. Interested candidates must submit their registration forms to Mr. Rajesh Thapa (Physical Education Department, Room 15) by Monday, 2nd August 2027.

Kunal Verma
Sports Secretary
Don Bosco High School

3(ii) Model Linked Email:

To: dso.sports@municipalcouncil.gov.in

Subject: Request for Official Booking of Municipal Sports Arena Grounds for 'Golden Goal' Football Tournament

Respected Sir,

The Sports Council of Don Bosco High School is organizing 'Golden Goal', an Inter-School 5-a-Side Football Tournament, on Saturday, 14th August 2027, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sixteen prestigious secondary school teams from across the district will participate in this fast-paced sporting event. To ensure professional playing conditions, we kindly request the official allocation and booking of the Municipal Sports Arena grounds, including access to regulation goal nets, corner flags, and the pavilion changing rooms for the entire day.

Our sports department undertakes full responsibility for maintaining discipline and ensuring the cleanliness of the venue throughout the event. We shall promptly deposit all prescribed municipal security and maintenance fees upon receiving your approval.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
Kunal Verma
Sports Secretary
Don Bosco High School
Contact: sports@donboscoschool.edu.in

QUESTION 4: COMPREHENSION [20 MARKS]

(i) Vocabulary [2 Marks]:

1. exhaustion -> (a) state of total physical depletion [1 Mark]
2. resilience -> (b) capacity to recover and persevere [1 Mark]

(ii) Antonym [1 Mark]:

Opposite of 'wavering' -> (d) resolute [1 Mark]

(iii) Short Answer Questions [9 Marks] (Strictly Grounded in Passage):

(a) At mile 20, Maya's quadriceps seized in violent spasms, and her lungs heaved frantically for oxygen in the thin mountain air under the scorching sun. [2 Marks]

(b) A defeatist inner voice whispered with hypnotic persistence urging her to quit and step into the cool grass, reminding her that dropping out after twenty brutal miles carried no shame. [2 Marks]

(c) Maya applied her coach's advice by banishing thoughts of the distant summit and focusing strictly on immediate landmarks--a painted milestone, an oak branch, and a road bend. [2 Marks]

(d) She synchronized her breathing into a rhythmic four-count cadence and shortened her stride from long bounds into rapid, economical shuffles to ease joint impact. [2 Marks]

(e) Crossing the finish line represented exploring the outer perimeter of human resilience and discovering that she could transcend physical exhaustion. [1 Mark]

(iv) Summary / Precis [8 Marks]:

Assessment Scheme [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 17]: Content: 6 marks; Expression: 2 marks

Key Text-Grounded Content Points Expected (6 x 1 = 6 Marks):

1. Suffered muscle spasms, frantic breathing, and total carbohydrate exhaustion.
2. Resisted insidious defeatist urges to quit beside fallen competitors.
3. Applied coach's principle to shrink the horizon into micro-targets.
4. Focused sequentially on milestone, tree branch, and hairpin bend.
5. Regulated four-count breathing and shortened strides to reduce impact.
6. Maintained resilient rhythmic pace until crossing the finish line.

[Teacher-Developed Guidance: Indicative Rough Draft]

At mile twenty, Maya endured agonizing calf cramps, burning lungs, and intense physical depletion. Overcoming defeatist thoughts, she segmented the remaining distance into short visual checkpoints. Synchronizing rhythmic breathing with steady, shortened strides, she banished despair, marshaled deep resilience, and conquered the grueling mountain course through supreme, unwavering personal grit.

Final Fair Draft Grid (Exactly 50 Words):

At	mile	twenty,	Maya	endured
agonizing	calf	cramps,	burning	lungs,
and	intense	physical	depletion.	Overcoming
defeatist	thoughts,	she	segmented	the
remaining	distance	into	short	visual
checkpoints.	Synchronizing	rhythmic	breathing	with
steady,	shortened	strides,	she	banished
despair,	marshaled	deep	resilience,	and
conquered	the	grueling	mountain	course
through	supreme,	unwavering	personal	grit.

QUESTION 5: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

5(i) Cloze Passage (Norman Borlaug and Green Revolution) [4 Marks]:

[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 18: 1/2 mark for each correct answer]

Example: (0) revolutionized

1. bred
2. produced
3. threatened
4. were introduced
5. adopting
6. quadrupled
7. was awarded
8. saving

5(ii) Prepositions [4 Marks]:

[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 18: 1/2 mark for each correct preposition]

(a) to [cater to = provide what is needed or desired]

(b) in [fall in with = agree to or cooperate with a plan]

(c) in [give in = surrender or succumb to pressure]

(d) back [keep back = withhold or suppress information]

(e) up [look up to = admire and respect someone]

(f) away [make away with = steal and escape with]

(g) out [rule out = exclude from consideration]

(h) to [take to = develop a liking or habit for]

5(iii) Sentence Synthesis [4 Marks]:
[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 18-19: 1 mark for each completely correct sentence]

1. The ascent was perilously steep. The rescue mountaineers reached the stranded climbers before nightfall.
Correct Option: (c) Although the ascent was perilously steep, the rescue mountaineers reached the stranded climbers before nightfall.
[Analysis: Uses subordinating conjunction of concession 'Although' without coordinators and, but, so. Option (a) uses forbidden coordinator 'but'; option (b) uses incorrect prepositional form 'Despite of'; option (d) introduces ungrammatical correlative 'yet'.]

2. The author completed the final revisions of her historical manuscript. She forwarded it to the publisher.
Correct Option: (a) Having completed the final revisions of her historical manuscript, the author forwarded it to the publisher.
[Analysis: Correctly uses perfect participle phrase 'Having completed' indicating prior completed action. Option (b) uses forbidden coordinator 'so'; option (c) creates dangling modifier; option (d) has ungrammatical syntax 'Having completing'.]

3. Ramesh did not complain about the extreme cold. He did not ask for special privileges.
Correct Option: (b) Ramesh neither complained about the extreme cold nor asked for special privileges.
[Analysis: Uses balanced correlative pair 'neither... nor' joining parallel past tense verbs. Option (a) incorrectly pairs 'neither' with 'or'; option (c) introduces fragmented syntax; option (d) introduces forbidden coordinator 'and'.]

4. We visited the ancient archaeological quarry. The granite blocks for the monumental temple were carved there.
Correct Option: (d) We visited the ancient archaeological quarry where the granite blocks for the monumental temple were carved.
[Analysis: Uses relative adverb 'where' designating place and eliminates redundant adverb 'there'. Option (a) retains redundant 'there'; option (b) uses forbidden coordinator 'so'; option (c) has clumsy passive syntax retaining redundant 'there'.]

5(iv) Sentence Transformations [8 Marks]:
[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 19-20: 1 mark for each completely correct sentence]

1. No sooner had the umpire raised his finger than the fielding team erupted in celebration. (Begin: As soon as...)
Correct Option: (a) As soon as the umpire raised his finger, the fielding team erupted in celebration.
[Analysis: Accurately converts 'No sooner had... than' to 'As soon as' with simple past tense and comma separator without 'than' or 'when'. Option (b) incorrectly retains 'than'; option (c) shifts past tense to present; option (d) incorrectly inserts 'when'.]

2. Mount Everest is higher than any other peak on Earth. (Begin: Mount Everest is the...)
Correct Option: (d) Mount Everest is the highest peak on Earth.
[Analysis: Correctly converts comparative degree into superlative degree using 'the highest'. Option (a) incorrectly retains comparative 'higher'; option (b) uses incorrect double superlative 'most high'; option (c) retains redundant comparative element 'of all other'.]

3. The conductor said to the passenger, "You have boarded the express train by mistake." (Begin: The conductor informed...)
Correct Option: (c) The conductor informed the passenger that he had boarded the express train by mistake.
[Analysis: Correct reported speech: second person 'You' becomes 'he', and present perfect 'have boarded' becomes past perfect 'had boarded'. Option (a) fails to shift pronoun and tense; option (b) fails to shift tense; option (d) incorrectly uses interrogative marker 'if'.]

4. The municipal engineering team has restored the broken aqueduct. (Begin: The broken aqueduct...)
Correct Option: (b) The broken aqueduct has been restored by the municipal engineering team.
[Analysis: Correct passive conversion of present perfect active ('has restored' -> 'has been restored'). Option (a) shifts tense to past perfect; option (c) shifts to simple past; option (d) shifts to present continuous.]

5(iv) Sentence Transformations (Continued) [Items 5 to 8]:

5. The oak timber was so heavy that the carpenter could not lift it onto the workbench. (Use: too... to)

Correct Option: (a) The oak timber was too heavy for the carpenter to lift onto the workbench.

[Analysis: Correctly converts 'so... that could not' to 'too... to' using prepositional phrase 'for the carpenter'. Option (b) incorrectly creates mixed construction 'too... that'; option (c) introduces awkward gerund phrasing; option (d) introduces ungrammatical blend 'too lift'.]

6. The factory supervisor had scarcely sounded the whistle when the shift workers gathered at the gates. (Begin: Scarcely had...)

Correct Option: (c) Scarcely had the factory supervisor sounded the whistle when the shift workers gathered at the gates.

[Analysis: Standard negative adverbial inversion: 'Scarcely had' placed sentence-initially, followed by subject, past participle, and correlative 'when'. Option (a) incorrectly uses 'than'; option (b) fails to invert subject and auxiliary; option (d) incorrectly pairs 'did' with 'than'.]

7. Unless the laboratory maintains strict sterile conditions, the biological samples will be contaminated. (Begin: If...)

Correct Option: (b) If the laboratory does not maintain strict sterile conditions, the biological samples will be contaminated.

[Analysis: Accurately converts 'Unless' into negative conditional 'If... does not maintain' while preserving the principal clause intact. Option (a) removes negation, reversing the meaning; option (c) changes present tense to past subjunctive; option (d) introduces future modal 'will' inside conditional clause.]

8. You have submitted the final registration dossier, _____? (Choose the correct question tag)

Correct Option: (d) haven't you?

[Analysis: The sentence is affirmative in present perfect tense with subject pronoun 'you', requiring the matching negative auxiliary question tag 'haven't you?'. Option (a) uses simple present auxiliary 'don't'; option (b) uses incorrect impersonal tag 'isn't it'; option (c) shifts auxiliary to past tense 'hadn't'.]