PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Complete Answer Key | Key 01

Board Examination 2027

Maximum Marks: 80 Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Marking Guidance

This complete key answers all alternatives; candidates attempt only the choices specified in the paper. Accept relevant, accurate equivalent responses. Retain the better-scoring response when an extra answer is attempted. Award no mark for an MCQ with multiple options selected.

For 2-mark responses, award 1 mark for each of the two distinct ideas indicated. For Q8–9: content 2, expression 1; deduct up to 1 overall for language inaccuracies without double deduction. For Q10–11: content 3, expression 2, accuracy 1. Model answers illustrate acceptable responses, not compulsory wording.

Section A Reading Skills — 20 Marks

1. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. The comparison with a kitchen described merely as a room full of utensils. [1]

II. B. They explained decisions and acknowledged limits. [1]

III. B. able to exist together. [1]

IV. The organisers recognised that quiet readers had a legitimate need. They moved repairs to a separate room and published the timetable, allowing new activities to continue without depriving existing users of a suitable study environment. [2]

V. False. [1]

VI. recognising safety limits / responsible boundaries. [1]

VII. C. The most valuable result was not the number repaired. [1]

VIII. Attendance records show how many people entered, but not whether they felt respected or learnt something useful. Conversations and observation can reveal growing confidence, clearer understanding and willingness to return, which numbers alone cannot establish. [2]

2. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. Twelve weeks. [1]

II. C. Zones and booking. [1]

III. 21 percentage points (76 − 55). [1]

IV. The shared room received twenty-four complaints, whereas zones with booking received six. This is a reduction of eighteen complaints, or seventy-five per cent, suggesting a quieter experience during the final phase without proving booking alone caused the improvement. [2]

V. one seat occupied for one hour. [1]

VI. False. [1]

VII. B. It tests whether familiarity influenced results. [1]

VIII. Regular users may be satisfied enough to keep attending, so their responses can overlook barriers faced by others. Interviewing former visitors could identify booking difficulties, discomfort or unmet needs and make the evaluation more representative. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar Answers — 10 Marks

I. B. submitted [1]

II. Mira said that she had returned the atlas the previous day. [1]

III. C. a few [1]

IV. Error: have; correction: has. [1]

V. B. must [1]

VI. The librarian requested Rohan to lower his voice. Accept: asked Rohan politely to lower his voice. [1]

VII. meets [1]

VIII. Error: is; correction: are. [1]

IX. Sima asked Ravi if/whether he had reserved a seat. [1]

X. A. enough [1]

XI. had begun [1]

XII. B. might [1]

4. Formal Letter Models — 5 Marks

Format 1; content 2; organisation 1; accuracy 1.

4A Model Response

18 Lake Road
Bhopal
15 January 2027
The Librarian
City Library
Bhopal
Subject: Request for later library hours
Madam/Sir,
I request a trial of later opening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our school finishes at four, and the library closes before many students can reach it. Its reference books would be particularly helpful during examination preparation.
Please consider keeping the reading room open until six on these days for one month. Advance registration could help estimate demand, while a supervised study area would keep arrangements manageable. A short review of attendance and student feedback could show whether the change should continue. This would particularly support students without reference books at home. Kindly discuss the proposal with your staff and let local schools know the outcome.
Yours faithfully
Aditi Sen

The body of the model letter follows the 100–120-word limit; address and closing conventions are shown in full.

4B Model Response

9 Garden Street
Bhopal
15 January 2027
The Municipal Engineer
Municipal Office
Bhopal
Subject: Obstruction of the school footpath
Madam/Sir,
I wish to report that construction material is blocking the recently repaired footpath beside our school. Students now step onto the road, where turning vehicles make the morning entrance particularly difficult. The work has therefore brought little benefit to pedestrians. Please arrange an inspection and have the material moved to a designated storage area. A clear pedestrian route should remain available whenever construction continues. Signs and barriers could guide workers without obstructing people on foot.
Kindly inform the school of the clearance schedule and nominate an officer to receive reports of further blockage. Prompt action would restore the purpose of the repair.
Yours faithfully
Kabir Das

The body of the model letter follows the 100–120-word limit; address and closing conventions are shown in full.

5. Analytical Paragraph Models — 5 Marks

Content 2; organisation 2; accuracy 1. Write one connected paragraph without a title.

5A Model Response

The reading club's attendance generally increased between July and October, although the rise was not continuous. It grew from forty in July to fifty-five in August, before slipping to fifty in September. October then recorded seventy-five attendees, the highest figure and twenty-five more than the previous month. Overall, attendance increased by thirty-five, showing substantially greater participation at the end of the period. However, four monthly totals cannot explain whether particular activities, publicity or changing schedules produced this pattern. The club could examine attendance over a longer period and seek feedback before expanding its programme. The figures support reviewing growing demand, rather than assuming that every future month will bring another increase.

5B Model Response

The hall is the strongest venue for the proposed book exchange because it satisfies all three essential requirements within the budget. Its seventy places exceed the expected attendance of fifty, allowing some spare capacity. Step-free entry supports access, while a covered space protects books and visitors from rain. The courtyard is cheaper and larger, but its lack of shelter makes it unreliable for this event. The upstairs room is covered and affordable, yet stair-only access fails an essential condition. Although the hall costs the most at fifteen hundred rupees, it remains one hundred rupees below the limit. Its combination of accessibility, shelter and sufficient capacity justifies the additional expense.

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract Answers — 5 Marks

6A A Letter to God

I. Lencho's faith in God. [1]

II. B. Compassion. [1]

III. money to live and sow his field again. [1]

IV. The postmaster moves beyond processing mail to helping someone in distress. By organising a collection and contributing his own money, he becomes an active source of assistance, even though Lencho does not recognise the human kindness involved. [2]

6B The Thief's Story

I. Hari Singh, the narrator. [1]

II. change later / cease to be that of a thief. [1]

III. A. a skilled practitioner. [1]

IV. The confident account of repeated theft establishes Hari's starting point as a practised criminal. The word "still" looks back from a later perspective, suggesting that meeting Anil will challenge this identity and make personal change possible. [2]

7. Poetry Extract Answers — 5 Marks

7A Dust of Snow

I. A crow. [1]

II. B. fine snow particles. [1]

III. mood / state of mind. [1]

IV. The crow makes the moment seem ordinary and unexpected. Its small action nevertheless improves the speaker's mood, suggesting that renewal need not come from grand or conventionally beautiful experiences; an overlooked part of nature can also bring relief. [2]

7B Fire and Ice

I. Desire. [1]

II. B. figuratively for experience. [1]

III. two / contrasting. [1]

IV. The speaker has experienced desire and recognises its consuming force. This private knowledge makes destruction by fire seem plausible, connecting a vast possibility about the world's end with an emotion that an individual reader can readily understand. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

I. Mandela sees courage as overcoming fear rather than never feeling it. He learnt this from people who endured suffering without surrendering their ideals. Their bravery lay in acting for freedom despite danger, showing that emotional struggle can coexist with principled and determined action. [3]

II. The seagull initially fears that the sea cannot support him, just as he feared his wings would fail. When his belly touches the water, he floats safely. Experience corrects his assumptions, showing that confidence develops through testing an ability rather than endlessly imagining failure. [3]

III. Anne wants a trusted companion rather than a mere record of events. Although she has family and acquaintances, she feels unable to share her deeper thoughts with them. Naming the diary Kitty makes it an imagined friend to whom she can speak openly and personally. [3]

IV. The baker's jingling bamboo announces a familiar daily routine, but the children associate it with excitement and bread-bangles. They rush to greet him and peer into his basket. His commercial round therefore becomes part of their affectionate memory of village life and companionship. [3]

V. The tiger's quiet rage suggests powerful anger that captivity prevents him from expressing freely. His strength remains, but the cage restricts its natural use. The contrast between physical power and helpless confinement makes the reader recognise the emotional cost of denying a wild creature freedom. [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

I. Mrs Pumphrey cannot resist giving Tricki rich food and has failed to provide sufficient exercise. At the surgery, Herriot can control his intake and allow activity with other dogs. Separation breaks the harmful routine that affectionate but misguided treatment has established in the household. [3]

II. Ausable describes a balcony as if it were a familiar nuisance, adding details about the building's earlier arrangement. Max accepts the story without checking it. When the knocking increases his fear, he treats the invented balcony as an escape and acts on that mistaken belief. [3]

III. Horace prides himself on carefully planning burglaries, yet accepts the young woman's confident claim to own the house. Believing that cooperation will save him, he opens the safe for another thief. His supposed expertise therefore helps the very person who manipulates and exposes him. [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Mandela's account shows that freedom involves responsibility for other people, while the caged tiger reveals the harm of denying another being its natural life. Mandela moves beyond personal wishes to recognise the suffering of his community. His commitment requires sacrifice and the rejection of oppression. The tiger, by contrast, has no power to change his condition. His restricted movement and quiet anger expose the cruelty of confinement. Together, the texts would encourage viewers to consider both the struggle to secure freedom and the duty to respect it. A responsible society must therefore examine how its choices affect those whose liberty is limited, including creatures unable to speak for themselves. [6]

B. Having people around you does not always mean that you have someone with whom you can share your deepest thoughts. I have loving parents, a sister and many people I call friends, yet ordinary conversations do not satisfy my need to confide. That is why I began writing to Kitty. My diary gives me a patient space to explore feelings without interruption or judgement. You need not dismiss your existing relationships, but you can recognise what is missing from them. Try expressing yourself honestly and listening carefully to others. A trustworthy friendship grows through understanding, rather than through the number of names you can list as acquaintances. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Anil's trust gives Hari an opportunity to imagine a different future, but Hari must decide whether to accept it. Anil offers food, shelter and education, treating him with kindness rather than suspicion. Hari nevertheless steals the money and reaches the station. His return matters because it is a choice made when escape is possible. He begins to value the possibility of learning and the relationship he would lose. Anil's quiet response to the damp notes preserves Hari's dignity without making theft harmless. The story therefore presents reform as a meeting of compassion and responsibility: trust opens a door, while the wrongdoer must take the difficult step towards honesty. [6]

B. The title reflects Mrs Pumphrey's grateful misunderstanding of Tricki's recovery. She imagines a remarkable medical achievement, although Herriot gives the dog no medicinal treatment. Controlled feeding, water, exercise and companionship restore the health that excessive indulgence has damaged. The contrast creates humour because the simplest remedies appear extraordinary to an owner who confuses affection with luxury. Herriot's household also enjoys the rich provisions she sends, while Tricki thrives without them. The lesson is that responsible care requires judgement and restraint. Love becomes harmful when it ignores actual needs. The real triumph belongs to practical understanding, which succeeds where expensive food and anxious attention have failed to keep the dog healthy. [6]