# PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
# ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
# SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 5

**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.)*

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**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 beginning with the following sentence:

***"I pressed 'Send' and immediately knew I had made a terrible mistake..."***

(ii) Describe the scene inside a hospital waiting room at midnight. Portray the flickering fluorescent lights, the muffled hum of medical monitors, the anxious expressions of relatives waiting for news, the steady movement of nurses, and the tense atmosphere when an emergency ambulance arrives.

(iii) "A completely cashless society will widen economic inequality rather than foster financial inclusion." Express your views either for or against this statement.

(iv) Relate an experience when a habitual tendency toward overthinking and indecision had to be overcome by immediate, mindful action in an urgent situation. Explain what happened and how it changed your outlook.

(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 pen friend living abroad describing a unique traditional regional festival celebrated in your state. Explain the cultural rituals, the special festive delicacies prepared, and how the festival fosters community harmony and family bonding.

(ii) Write a letter to the Executive Engineer of the State Electricity Distribution Corporation drawing urgent attention to the frequent and unscheduled evening power outages in your locality during board examination preparation. Explain the disruption caused to students and urge immediate grid maintenance.

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**Question 3**

(i) Your school is organising an Inter-School Web Development Hackathon on the theme 'Technology for Ecological Sustainability'. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing students of Classes 9 and 10 and inviting them to register in teams of three. [5]

(ii) Write an email to a distinguished software architect and cybersecurity expert inviting him/her to deliver the keynote address on ethical web architecture and act as a guest judge at the Inter-School Web Development Hackathon. [5]

**Question 4**

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

Rain lashed against the tall arched windows of the agricultural biotechnology laboratory, but inside, Dr. Maya Sen noticed only the rhythmic hum of the refrigerated centrifuge. For seven grueling months, Maya had persevered in isolation, pursuing a radical scientific hypothesis that senior colleagues had dismissed as futile. Across three agricultural states, recurring severe droughts had devastated seasonal pulses and grain crops, plunging thousands of farming families into acute distress. Maya believed that the secret to crop drought resilience lay hidden not in genetically modified seeds, but within resilient extremophile microbes indigenous to the scorching Thar Desert.

Her working conditions were far from ideal. Operating within a modest university laboratory plagued by frequent power fluctuations and aging glassware, she had endured sixty-three consecutive experimental failures. Each prior batch of microbial protein had denatured, precipitating into worthless milky sediment whenever moisture levels dropped below threshold tolerances. Yet Maya methodically refined her extraction protocols, patiently culturing a unique bacterial strain--Bacillus xerophilus--which she had painstakingly isolated from sun-baked saline soil collected beneath desert shrubs.

On this stormy October midnight, she prepared sample batch sixty-four. Her hands moved with practiced precision as she harvested the cellular broth, centrifuging the mixture at high speed to pellet the dense bacterial debris. Carefully decanting the golden supernatant, she filtered the liquid extract through microscopic cellulose membranes to eliminate cellular fragments. Next came the crucial stage: adding concentrated ammonium sulfate solution drop by drop to precipitate the target enzyme without disrupting its fragile molecular folding.

Maya then transferred the purified protein solution into dialysis tubing, immersing it in an osmotic stress bath that replicated extreme agricultural drought. If the enzyme denatured, the solution would remain a lifeless, murky grey. With her heart pounding against her ribs, she added the final chemical reagent. For thirty breathless seconds, nothing happened. Then, swirling upward from the bottom of the quartz cuvette, an intense, luminous sapphire blue bloomed through the solution. The spectrophotometer needle leaped across the digital scale, locking onto an unprecedented absorbance rating.

It was the definitive breakthrough she had sought for nearly a year. The extremophile enzyme had not merely survived the severe osmotic dehydration; it had activated protective metabolic pathways capable of shielding plant cells from fatal moisture loss. Tears of relief welled in Maya's tired eyes as she carefully printed the spectrometer charts. Outside, the autumn rain subsided, and the first golden rays of dawn crested the eastern horizon, heralding new hope for parched agrarian fields across the nation.

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

**1. persevered**

(a) continued steadfastly despite difficulties (b) argued loudly with colleagues

(c) worked hastily without care (d) surrendered after failure

**2. breakthrough**

(a) sudden physical damage (b) major and significant discovery

(c) complete experimental failure (d) temporary power surge

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

(a) saline (b) severe

(c) definitive (d) fragile

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

(a) What agricultural crisis inspired Dr. Sen's research, and what was her central scientific hypothesis? [2]

(b) Mention two adverse laboratory conditions that Dr. Sen had to contend with during her experiments. [2]

(c) Where did Dr. Sen obtain the soil samples from which the bacterium Bacillus xerophilus was cultured? [2]

(d) Describe the chemical and visual change in the cuvette that signaled the success of the experiment. [2]

(e) What potential agricultural benefit did this discovery offer to farmers across drought-prone regions? [1]

**(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise the laboratory protocols and experimental procedure followed by Dr. Sen to isolate and confirm the drought-resistant enzyme. 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]**

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## 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) undertook
[4]

In 1898, in a dilapidated wooden shed in Paris, Polish-French physicist Marie Curie and her husband Pierre (0) _____ (undertake) research that transformed atomic physics. Working under damp and freezing conditions, Marie ...(1)... (process) tons of pitchblende ore to isolate previously unknown radioactive elements, having already announced the theoretical existence of radium. Despite ...(2)... (suffer) from exhaustion and chemical burns, she stubbornly ...(3)... (refuse) to abandon the arduous task. After years of painstaking fractional crystallization, the couple ...(4)... (succeed) in preparing a minute sample of pure radium chloride, which ...(5)... (confirm) the existence of the new element beyond all doubt. Marie ...(6)... (award) two Nobel Prizes for her pioneering discoveries, ...(7)... (become) the first person in history to achieve this distinction. Her ground-breaking research permanently ...(8)... (reshape) modern oncology and nuclear science.

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

(a) The director readily agreed _____ the committee's formal proposal.

(b) Genuine antique coins of this rare caliber are extremely difficult to come _____ nowadays.

(c) Ill health compelled the promising athlete to drop _____ of the national championship.

(d) The hermit monks in the forest sanctuary choose to live _____ wild roots and berries.

(e) The excited schoolchildren eagerly look forward _____ visiting the space observatory next week.

(f) An extra evening coaching session was scheduled to make up _____ the lost class time.

(g) The tense public demonstration passed _____ peacefully without any outbreak of violence.

(h) After his retirement from civil service, my grandfather decided to take _____ landscape gardening.

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

**1. The young chess prodigy lost her opening queen. She persevered to win the championship match.**

(a) Because the prodigy lost her queen, she persevered to win the championship match.

(b) In spite of the prodigy lost her opening queen, she won the championship match.

(c) Though the young chess prodigy lost her opening queen, she persevered to win the championship match.

(d) Losing her opening queen, so the prodigy won the championship match.

**2. This is the historic astronomical observatory. Galileo made his monumental discoveries here.**

(a) This is the historic astronomical observatory which Galileo made his discoveries here.

(b) This is the historic astronomical observatory where Galileo made his monumental discoveries.

(c) Galileo made his monumental discoveries here because this is the observatory.

(d) Being the historic observatory, Galileo made monumental discoveries here.

**3. The security guard did not lock the perimeter gate. The stray cattle entered the botanical garden.**

(a) If the security guard had locked the perimeter gate, the stray cattle would not have entered the botanical garden.

(b) If the security guard locked the perimeter gate, the stray cattle will not enter the botanical garden.

(c) The stray cattle entered the botanical garden unless the security guard had locked the gate.

(d) Unless the security guard did not lock the gate, the stray cattle entered the botanical garden.

**4. The environmentalists planted three thousand saplings. They wanted to prevent soil erosion along the riverbank.**

(a) The environmentalists planted saplings so that they will prevent soil erosion.

(b) To preventing soil erosion along the bank, environmentalists planted saplings.

(c) The environmentalists planted saplings because they prevent soil erosion.

(d) The environmentalists planted three thousand saplings in order to prevent soil erosion along the riverbank.

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

**1. As soon as the surgeon entered the operating theater, the surgical team stood at attention. (Begin: No sooner had...)**

(a) No sooner had the surgeon entered the operating theater when the surgical team stood at attention.

(b) No sooner did the surgeon entered the theater than the surgical team stood at attention.

(c) No sooner the surgeon had entered the operating theater than the team stood at attention.

(d) No sooner had the surgeon entered the operating theater than the surgical team stood at attention.

**2. No other mammal on land is as massive as the African elephant. (Begin: The African elephant...)**

(a) The African elephant is more massive than all mammals on land.

(b) The African elephant is more massive than any other mammal on land.

(c) The African elephant is most massive than any other mammal on land.

(d) The African elephant is as more massive as any other mammal on land.

**3. The tourist said, "What a magnificent view of the snow peaks!" (Begin: The tourist exclaimed that...)**

(a) The tourist exclaimed that it was a truly magnificent view of the snow peaks.

(b) The tourist exclaimed that what a magnificent view it was of the snow peaks.

(c) The tourist exclaimed that the view of the snow peaks had been magnificent today.

(d) The tourist exclaimed whether the view of the snow peaks was magnificent.

**4. Can any responsible government ignore the urgent demands of climate justice? (Begin: Can the urgent demands...)**

(a) Can the urgent demands of climate justice are ignored by any responsible government?

(b) Can the urgent demands of climate justice been ignored by any responsible government?

(c) Can the urgent demands of climate justice be ignored by any responsible government?

(d) Could the urgent demands of climate justice be ignored by any responsible government?

**5. The flood water was too deep for the rescue tractor to cross safely. (Use: so... that)**

(a) The flood water was so deep that the rescue tractor could not cross safely.

(b) The flood water was so deep that the rescue tractor cannot cross safely.

(c) The flood water was so deep for the tractor that it crossed safely.

(d) The flood water was too deep that the rescue tractor could not cross safely.

**6. The chief scientist commended the researcher's rigorous methodology and praised her perseverance. (Begin: Not only...)**

(a) Not only the chief scientist commended rigorous methodology, but she also praised perseverance.

(b) Not only did the chief scientist commended rigorous methodology, but she also praised perseverance.

(c) Not only did the chief scientist commend the researcher's rigorous methodology, but she also praised her perseverance.

(d) Not only the chief scientist did commend rigorous methodology but also praised perseverance.

**7. Unless the drought breaks soon, the farmers will lose their seasonal harvest. (Begin: If...)**

(a) If the drought breaks soon, the farmers will lose their seasonal harvest.

(b) If the drought does not break soon, the farmers will lose their seasonal harvest.

(c) If the drought will not break soon, the farmers will lose their seasonal harvest.

(d) If the drought did not break soon, the farmers will lose their seasonal harvest.

**8. Everyone found the scientific documentary thoroughly absorbing. (Begin: There was no one...)**

(a) There was no one who found the scientific documentary thoroughly absorbing.

(b) There was no one but found the scientific documentary uninteresting.

(c) There was no one without finding the scientific documentary thoroughly absorbing.

(d) There was no one who did not find the scientific documentary thoroughly absorbing.