PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Complete Answer Key | Key 06

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. Crowded storage and repeated expense. [1]

II. A. A worn cable without a responsible replacement person. [1]

III. B. limits and responsibilities. [1]

IV. A borrower afraid of accusation may conceal a problem, leaving others exposed to faulty equipment. Encouraging honest reports helps the bank remove unsafe items promptly and distinguish the discovery of damage from responsibility for causing it. [2]

V. useful knowledge / recognition of a responsible limit. [1]

VI. A reduced-fee arrangement. [1]

VII. False. [1]

VIII. Independence becomes the ability to obtain and use what one needs through dependable cooperation, rather than owning every object personally. Clear records, shared expertise and fair arrangements allow residents to act effectively while recognising their responsibilities to other users. [2]

2. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. 20 households; it doubled from 20 to 40. [1]

II. C. 80%. [1]

III. 36 packets. [1]

IV. Packets taken home show interest and distribution, but not whether seeds germinate or plants survive. Without information about local suitability, instructions and later results, organisers cannot infer that a larger number of collected packets produced successful gardening outcomes. [2]

V. stored. [1]

VI. B. Paper or message responses. [1]

VII. They may identify barriers or unsuitable options that distribution counts do not reveal. [1]

VIII. Notes provide practical guidance beyond handing out seeds, while a volunteer can clarify unfamiliar terms and answer questions. Together, they address possible gaps in understanding and make it more likely that participants can use the packets appropriately. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar Answers — 10 Marks

I. B. opens [1]

II. Farah said that they had borrowed the ladder the previous day. [1]

III. B. few [1]

IV. Error: belong; correction: belongs. [1]

V. A. must [1]

VI. The instructor ordered/told Vijay to unplug the drill. [1]

VII. will open [1]

VIII. Error: needs; correction: need. [1]

IX. Sana asked Mohan when the repair session would begin. [1]

X. C. The [1]

XI. was waiting [1]

XII. A. might [1]

4. Formal Letter Models — 5 Marks

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

4A Model Response

11 Workshop Lane
Lucknow
16 January 2027
The Secretary
Community Tool Bank
Lucknow
Subject: Condition records and a fair reporting procedure
Madam/Sir,
I suggest introducing a condition register for the tools in our community bank. Borrowers currently have difficulty knowing whether a missing part was already absent, and a late return can disrupt another person’s planned repair. Clear records would make the service more dependable.
Each item could have a checklist, return date and simple instructions for reporting a fault. Unsafe equipment should be withdrawn until a trained person has inspected it. Reports should be received without assuming that the person discovering a problem caused it.
Please discuss the proposal with volunteers and display the agreed procedure. A short review after one month would show whether the system improves safety and confidence.
Yours faithfully
Farah Ali

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

4B Model Response

30 Garden Street
Lucknow
16 January 2027
The Coordinator
Neighbourhood Seed Exchange
Lucknow
Subject: Guidance for new seed-exchange participants
Madam/Sir,
I appreciate the seed exchange and request clearer guidance for residents beginning to garden. A packet can create interest, but unfamiliar names and missing instructions make it difficult to judge whether a plant suits a small space or local conditions.
Please include reliable seed names and brief notes on planting time, depth and basic care. A volunteer could explain these points during the exchange, while uncertain identification should be checked before distribution.
Kindly also offer a paper feedback form so that participants can report germination and difficulties after a few weeks. This would help organisers evaluate results beyond the number of packets collected and improve future sessions for new gardeners.
Yours faithfully
Vijay Rao

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 tool bank's loans doubled from thirty in January to sixty in March, with February recording forty-five. Late returns also doubled, from six to twelve. However, the proportion remained unchanged at twenty per cent in every month, so the rising number does not show a worsening return rate. It reflects growth in borrowing alongside a persistent scheduling problem. The bank should therefore plan for greater demand while reviewing how to reduce delays. Clear reminders and return arrangements could be considered, but the figures alone do not identify why borrowers were late. Monitoring both the number and percentage of late returns would give a more useful picture than treating either measure separately.

5B Model Response

Plan B provides the best fit because it offers practical information without requiring internet access and includes a way to collect later results. Printed planting cards can accompany the seeds, while paper feedback allows participants to report germination or difficulties. At nine hundred rupees, the plan remains one hundred below the budget. The online guide is cheaper and may be convenient for some users, but does not meet the access requirement. Decorative labels may make packets attractive, yet provide neither instructions nor meaningful follow-up. The exchange should therefore prioritise usable guidance and evaluation over appearance alone. Plan B supports participation at the session and creates a basis for improving future exchanges.

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract Answers — 5 Marks

6A Madam Rides the Bus

I. Valli. [1]

II. A. Desire for independence. [1]

III. The conductor. [1]

IV. Valli wants to present herself as a capable passenger who can manage the journey she has planned. Refusing assistance asserts her independence and resists the assumption that her small size makes her unable to act for herself. [2]

6B A Question of Trust

I. Horace Danby. [1]

II. B. Another thief deceived him. [1]

III. criminal profession / profession of theft. [1]

IV. Horace expects some shared understanding among criminals, but the young woman uses him and leaves him to face arrest. Her success depends on betraying that expectation, exposing the unreliability of a supposed moral code within their dishonest activity. [2]

7. Poetry Extract Answers — 5 Marks

7A Dust of Snow

I. The speaker’s mood. [1]

II. B. regretted. [1]

III. No; only some part of the day is saved. [1]

IV. The speaker does not claim that every difficulty disappears. Saving part of a regretted day describes a modest but meaningful improvement, making the incident believable and suggesting that a small change can matter without transforming an entire life. [2]

7B Fire and Ice

I. Ice, associated with hate. [1]

II. A. be enough. [1]

III. one force / desire alone / fire alone. [1]

IV. The restrained conclusion presents the destructive power of hatred without dramatic exaggeration. Its brevity makes the judgement feel certain and unsettling, suggesting that cold emotional hostility can be sufficient for ruin even when it lacks the visible intensity of desire. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

I. The mother approaches with fish but stops just beyond reach, drawing the hungry seagull away from the security of the ledge. His desire for food overcomes hesitation and triggers the first dive. Her method creates the opportunity for him to discover his own ability. [3]

II. Anne argues that talking is an inherited trait because her mother talks as much as she does. The humorous reasoning lets her defend herself without simply denying the teacher's complaint. It also shows her skill in turning a punishment into an argument with a personal, playful basis. [3]

III. Mijbil does more than respond to toys provided by Maxwell; he creates a repeated game using a sloping suitcase lid and a ball. This initiative reveals curiosity, intelligence and playfulness. His behaviour encourages the reader to recognise the animal as an active individual with preferences. [3]

IV. The lights appear and then go out, giving Kisa Gotami a visible pattern through which to think about human lives. Their brief brightness and disappearance connect her experience with a universal condition. The image helps move her thought from her private loss towards shared mortality. [3]

V. The characters defend their dogs with exaggerated seriousness while the marriage proposal remains unresolved. Their insults and intense pride turn a trivial comparison into another quarrel. The disproportion between the practical purpose of the visit and the energy spent on rivalry creates the comedy. [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

I. Mrs Pumphrey sends eggs, wine and brandy to strengthen Tricki, but Herriot and his colleagues enjoy them while the dog recovers through ordinary care. The mismatch between her intention and their benefit creates humour without changing the fact that her anxious generosity is sincere. [3]

II. The damp note shows Hari that Anil probably knows about the theft and return. Anil's silence therefore becomes a deliberate kindness rather than ignorance. It allows Hari to recognise the trust being offered again without public humiliation, making the possibility of reform emotionally stronger. [3]

III. Ebright wants to perform well and improve his work, but the account presents his competition as a drive towards doing his best. He seeks worthwhile experiments rather than merely defeating others. This distinction connects achievement with curiosity, effort and higher standards instead of hostility. [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Both texts show that the significance of an event depends on its effect rather than its size. In Dust of Snow, a crow's movement drops snow on the speaker and improves a mood that has made the day regrettable. The change is brief and modest, yet it saves part of the day. Valli's sight of the dead cow likewise transforms an ordinary bus journey. The animal that earlier delighted her now makes her confront mortality, and the return trip loses its excitement. One incident restores possibility, while the other introduces painful knowledge. Together, they demonstrate that a small encounter can change how a person understands the same surroundings and experience. [6]

B. Amanda experiences confinement through repeated instructions that regulate her body, habits and attention. Her imagined lives as a mermaid, orphan and Rapunzel create spaces of silence and independence. The Trees presents a different confinement: roots, leaves and branches strain within a house before moving towards the forest. Imagination gives plants purposeful effort and turns escape into a dramatic event. The poems differ because Amanda's release remains private fantasy, whereas the trees' movement reshapes the visible scene. Both nevertheless make restricted life perceptible through images of freer alternatives. They invite readers to recognise that guidance, ownership or decoration can become limiting when the needs of living beings are ignored. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Anil uses trust to create an opportunity for Hari to change, whereas the young woman exploits Horace's trust to make him serve her crime. Anil's generosity includes food, teaching and a quiet response after the money is returned. His conduct gives Hari a reason to value honesty beyond immediate gain. Horace, however, accepts a performance of ownership and is manipulated through fear of prison. The woman's apparent kindness is conditional on opening the safe, and it leaves him exposed to arrest. The comparison shows that trust has no automatic moral value apart from its purpose and conduct. It can support another person's growth or become a tool for calculated exploitation. [6]

B. Ebright develops because he recognises what his first science-fair entry lacks. Losing teaches him that a display is different from an experiment, and he seeks guidance to improve his work. Think-Tank follows the opposite path: he refuses to admit uncertainty and turns each correction into proof of his own supposed brilliance. His confident mistakes about books and nursery rhymes eventually produce panic and evacuation. Both characters encounter information they do not fully understand, but only Ebright treats the gap as an opportunity to learn. The texts therefore distinguish expertise from its performance. Admitting a limitation makes better inquiry possible, while protecting an image of infallibility can prevent even obvious errors from being corrected. [6]