PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 2
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 (The Locked Wooden Box):

- Compulsory opening: Must start strictly with the provided sentence.

- Plotline: Circumstances leading to opening the box (e.g. cleaning, shifting). Revelation of contents (e.g. ancestral letters, navigational logbook, antique jewelry). Resolution connects past discovery with protagonist's present perspective.

(ii) Descriptive Composition (Village Power Outage):

- Sensory richness: Sudden immersion into absolute darkness; chorus of crickets, murmuring neighbors.

- Human responses: Children gathering on verandahs; elders fanning themselves; storytelling by lantern light.

- Visual transformation: Brilliance of the unpolluted night sky, fireflies near hedgerows, and the sudden restored illumination.

(iii) Argumentative Composition (Compulsory Co-curricular Activities):

- Clear stance: Must adopt a definitive affirmative or negative position throughout.

- For: Prevents academic burnout, builds emotional resilience, instills teamwork, creates well-rounded individuals.

- Against: Adds crushing pressure during crucial board prep, infringes on student choice, causes scheduling overload.

(iv) Reflective Composition (Encounter with a Stranger):

- Setting & Encounter: Believable scenario (e.g. rain shelter, bus stop, hospital corridor) with an unassuming stranger.

- Conflict & Insight: Initial bias or hasty judgment dispelled by a quiet act of kindness or unexpected wisdom.

- Reflection: Lasting transformation in protagonist's worldview regarding empathy and human dignity.

(v) Picture-Based Composition (Solar Lantern Installation):

- Mandatory connection: Clear, organic link to the embedded picture (women and schoolgirl installing solar lamp outside primary school).

- Interpretative approaches:

* Narrative: A village girl's excitement as evening study becomes possible through community solar energy.

* Descriptive: Community self-reliance, women spearheading sustainable grassroots technology.

* Reflective: The transition from rural darkness to scientific empowerment.

QUESTION 2: LETTER WRITING [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Guidance: Format 3 M + Content 2 M + Expression 5 M]

2(i) Model Informal Letter (Apology to Friend regarding Project Misunderstanding):

Flat 4B, Harmony Heights
Park View Road
Bengaluru - 560025
12th April 2027

Dear Rohan,

I am writing this letter with a heavy heart to apologize sincerely for the argument we had during our physics project meeting yesterday afternoon. Looking back on my sharp words and impatience, I realize that I was completely out of line.

Under the intense pressure of our approaching board trial examinations, I let my frustration get the better of me. When you suggested redesigning the circuit diagram, I viewed it defensively as unnecessary delay rather than constructive feedback. My dismissive attitude was unfair to your dedication and hurtful to our long friendship.

I value our friendship far too much to let a project disagreement create lasting bitterness. As a compromise, I suggest we review both our designs this Saturday morning at my house and combine your improved safety circuit with my automated sensor code. Let us finish this project as the united team we have always been.

Please forgive my thoughtless behavior. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours affectionately,
Aditya

2(ii) Model Formal Letter (Illegal Tree Felling in Woodland):

House No. 128, Green Valley Enclave
Forest Edge Road
Dehradun - 248001
12th April 2027

The Divisional Forest Officer
Territorial Forest Division
Rajpur Road, Dehradun - 248009

Sir,

Subject: Urgent intervention required to stop illegal tree felling and encroachment in municipal woodland

I am writing as a concerned resident of Green Valley Enclave to draw your immediate attention to extensive illegal tree felling and land encroachment occurring along the eastern boundary of our municipal reserve woodland.

Over the past three weeks, local residents have observed unauthorized commercial logging during night hours. Several mature sal and teak trees have been felled, causing grave destruction to the natural canopy. This unchecked devastation has severely disrupted nesting habitats for hornbills, parakeets, and other endemic wildlife.

To curb this environmental destruction, I earnestly urge your department to initiate nighttime patrols along the woodland boundary, install warning signboards, and construct secure boundary fencing along the vulnerable access roads.

I trust your office will take swift and decisive action to preserve this vital ecological haven.

Yours faithfully,
Sneha Sharma
(Secretary, Resident Welfare Environmental Committee)

QUESTION 3: NOTICE AND LINKED EMAIL [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Guidance: Notice 5 Marks; Email 5 Marks]

3(i) Model Notice (E-Waste Collection Drive):

Eco-Warriors

School E-Waste Collection Drive

Date: Friday, 16th April 2027

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Venue: Junior Science Laboratory, St. Paul's Academy

Students of Classes 6 to 10 are invited to participate in our annual E-Waste Collection Drive to promote scientific recycling. Discarded electronic items such as non-functional calculators, obsolete mobile chargers, old batteries, headphones, and electronic toys may be deposited.

All participating students must register and hand over their items to Mr. Arvind Mehta, Teacher-in-Charge of the Environmental Club, in Room 14, on or before Wednesday, 14th April 2027.

3(ii) Model Linked Email:

To: operations@greenearthrecycling.in

Subject: Request for E-Waste Collection Bins and Transportation for School Drive

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of St. Paul's Academy to request collection bins and transportation support for our upcoming School E-Waste Collection Drive, scheduled for Friday, 16th April 2027, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

As part of this environmental initiative, students of Classes 6 to 10 have registered their contributions with Mr. Arvind Mehta (Room 14, by 14th April 2027). We anticipate gathering approximately 150 kilograms of domestic e-waste, including obsolete calculators, battery packs, mobile accessories, and electronic toys.

We kindly request your firm to supply four secure, color-coded collection bins to our Junior Science Laboratory by Thursday, 15th April 2027, and dispatch a logistics transport van on Friday, 16th April 2027 at 1:30 p.m. to collect the materials for certified scientific recycling.

We look forward to partnering with GreenEarth Electronics Recycling in fostering ecological responsibility among our students.

Yours faithfully,

Karan Varma

Secretary, Environmental Club

St. Paul's Academy

QUESTION 4: COMPREHENSION [20 MARKS]

(i) Vocabulary [2 Marks]:

1. convalesced -> (c) gradually recovered health and strength [1 Mark]
2. indomitable -> (b) impossible to defeat or subdue [1 Mark]

(ii) Antonym [1 Mark]:

Opposite of 'mildly' -> (b) fiercely [1 Mark]

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

(a) The falcon was entangled in rusted barbed wire along the windswept ridge; her left wing hung at an unnatural angle matted with dried blood, while her talons gripped the barbs in desperate defiance. [Award 1 mark each for two distinct text details - 2 Marks]

(b) She reacted with fierce resistance by hissing, snapping her hooked beak, and spreading her uninjured right wing defensively, treating every gesture as an imminent assault. [2 Marks]

(c) Dr. Ray sutured the torn skin over the carpal joint, immobilized the fractured wing in a lightweight fiberglass cast, and patiently hand-fed her strips of vitamin-enriched quail meat. [2 Marks]

(d) Tethered to a 50-meter creance line, she surveyed the sky with longing, launched effortlessly at a flick of Kabir's wrist, and achieved rhythmic, graceful gliding across the meadow without faltering. [2 Marks]

(e) Astra locked eyes with Dr. Ray in an instant of profound recognition before powering off into the thermals. [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. Dr. Ray covered Astra's head to calm her and snipped tangled wire.
2. He sutured torn skin and immobilized fractured wing in fiberglass.
3. He patiently hand-fed her vitamin-enriched quail meat to restore strength.
4. He fitted leather jesses and attached a nylon creance line for flight training.
5. He tested and rebuilt flight muscles across an upland meadow.
6. He removed restraints at an overlook, releasing her into mountain thermals.

[Teacher-Developed Guidance: Indicative Rough Draft]

Dr. Ray carefully snipped the wire entangling Astra, sutured her torn skin, and immobilized her fractured wing in a fiberglass cast. He patiently hand-fed her quail meat, fitted leather jesses, and rebuilt flight muscles on a creance line across an upland meadow before releasing her into mountain thermals.

Final Fair Draft Grid (Exactly 50 Words):

Ray	snipped	the	barbed	wire,
calming	Astra	and	treating	injuries.
He	sutured	torn	flesh,	immobilized
the	broken	wing	in	fiberglass,
and	patiently	fed	quail	meat.
Later,	he	fitted	leather	jesses,
conducting	practice	flights	across	meadows
on	a	creance	line.	Finally,
he	removed	all	restraints,	releasing
her	into	high	mountain	thermals.

QUESTION 5: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

5(i) Cloze Passage -- Tenses & Verb Forms [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 17-18] (8 x 1/2 = 4 Marks):

Example: (0) returned

(1) noticed

(2) had contaminated

(3) dissolving

(4) was surrounded

(5) published

(6) isolating

(7) succeeded

(8) transformed

5(ii) Prepositions & Phrasal Verbs [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 18] (8 x 1/2 = 4 Marks):

(a) by [abide by = adhere strictly to rules/laws]

(b) with [cope with = manage successfully under difficulties]

(c) at [jump at = eagerly accept an opportunity]

(d) upon [prevail upon = persuade someone successfully]

(e) out [break out = start suddenly and violently]

(f) into [run into = meet someone by chance]

(g) up [put up with = tolerate an unpleasant situation]

(h) after [take after = resemble an older family member in traits]

5(iii) Sentence Synthesis [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 18-19] (4 x 1 = 4 Marks):

1. (c) As soon as the inspector arrived unexpectedly, the factory workers stopped their agitation.

[Explanation: (c) correctly uses the subordinating conjunction 'As soon as' to denote immediate sequence without changing tense or meaning. (a) incorrectly uses 'than' with 'Hardly' (which requires 'when'). (b) has an ungrammatical verb form 'arrives'. (d) incorrectly combines 'No sooner' with 'when' (requires 'than').]

2. (a) Although the detective searched the abandoned cabin thoroughly, he found no incriminating evidence.

[Explanation: (a) accurately expresses concession using 'Although'. (b) falsely introduces cause ('Because'). (c) has ungrammatical 'Despite of' (correct idiom is 'Despite' or 'In spite of') and dangling modifier. (d) distorts original meaning.]

3. (d) Having reached the treacherous ridge, the mountaineer secured the safety harness firmly.

[Explanation: (d) correctly uses the perfect participle phrase 'Having reached' to show chronological completion before the next action. (a) distorts purpose. (b) contains faulty participle syntax. (c) uses incorrect form 'On reach' instead of 'On reaching'.]

4. (b) Unless you complete the safety inspection today, you cannot operate the machinery tomorrow.

[Explanation: (b) correctly uses conditional 'Unless' (equivalent to 'if you do not'). (a) reverses the condition. (c) misuse of 'lest'. (d) contradicts the original logic.]

5(iv) Sentence Transformations [CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 19-20] (8 x 1 = 8 Marks):

1. (b) No sooner did the curtain fall than the audience burst into thunderous applause.

[Structure: Inverted auxiliary 'did' + base verb 'fall' + correlative 'than'. (a) uses past participle 'fell' with 'had' and 'when'. (c) omits auxiliary verb. (d) uses temporal 'then' instead of comparative 'than'.]

2. (d) Mount Everest is higher than any other mountain peak in the world.

[Structure: Comparative degree with 'higher than any other'. (a) illogical comparison without 'other'. (b) incorrect 'as higher as'. (c) double comparative 'more higher'.]

3. (c) The captain commanded the soldiers not to fire until he gave the command.

[Structure: Indirect command using reporting verb 'commanded' + infinitive 'not to fire' with correct past tense backshift 'gave'. (a) ungrammatical conjunction 'that do not'. (b) incorrect future tense 'will give'. (d) split infinitive and incorrect present tense 'gives'.]

4. (a) Was your building permit approved by the municipal commissioner?

[Structure: Passive voice of Simple Past interrogative ('Was' + subject + past participle 'approved'). (b) continuous aspect unsupported. (c) ungrammatical base form 'approve'. (d) superfluous past perfect auxiliary.]

b
d
c
a

5. (c) The ancient manuscript was so fragile that the researchers could not handle it without gloves.

[Structure: Transformation of 'too... to' into 'so... that' with modal 'could not' matching past tense 'was'. (a) incorrect present tense 'cannot'. (b) affirmative meaning reversal. (d) ungrammatical blend 'too... that'.]

6. (b) Seldom does a leader display such profound humility.

[Structure: Negative adverbial inversion 'Seldom' + auxiliary 'does' + subject + base verb 'display'. (a) lacks inversion. (c) incorrect past tense 'displayed'. (d) double third-person inflection 'does... displays'.]

7. (d) There was no student who did not admire the teacher's unwavering patience.

[Structure: Affirmative to negative transformation using double negation ('no student... did not admire') preserving the exact meaning. (a) opposite meaning. (b) ungrammatical 'but did not'. (c) awkward prepositional phrasing.]

8. (a) Had he not intervened promptly, the dispute would have escalated.

[Structure: Third conditional inversion ('Had he not intervened' = 'If he had not intervened') followed by modal perfect 'would have escalated'. (b) contradicts condition. (c) mismatched conditional tense. (d) erroneous passive construction.]

c b d a