PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Complete Answer Key | Key 04

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. Returning to observe the same place carefully over time. [1]

II. B. She could not yet identify the material. [1]

III. assumptions [1]

IV. The student replaced an unsupported identification with a description of what she could see. Although the revised claim was narrower, it separated observation from inference and made the limits of her knowledge clear instead of disguising uncertainty as fact. [2]

V. different times / on different days. [1]

VI. A. Equal observation periods. [1]

VII. False. [1]

VIII. Precise language forces observers to state only what their evidence supports and to acknowledge uncertainty. As descriptions improve, they reveal closer attention to detail, making clear expression part of reliable inquiry rather than merely an attractive way to present results. [2]

2. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. The number of lunches served: 1,000 weekly. [1]

II. C. 60 kg. [1]

III. 50%. [1]

IV. The table measures only waste entering the mixed stream, not the destination or quality of separated material. Waste may have moved elsewhere or been sorted incorrectly, so checking the other streams and collection destinations is necessary before claiming successful recycling. [2]

V. student explanations during lunch break. [1]

VI. A. Novelty. [1]

VII. Trained staff. [1]

VIII. Several further weeks could show whether careful sorting continues after the novelty fades. Combined with checks of separated material and destinations, repeated measurement would distinguish a sustained improvement from a brief change in where waste is recorded. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar Answers — 10 Marks

I. B. installed [1]

II. Nisha said that she would check the gauge the following/next day. [1]

III. A. a few [1]

IV. Error: were; correction: was. [1]

V. B. must [1]

VI. The teacher instructed/told the class not to touch the hot beaker. [1]

VII. has collected / has been collecting [1]

VIII. Error: was; correction: were. [1]

IX. Piya asked Raj why he was repeating the test. [1]

X. A. a little [1]

XI. will begin [1]

XII. A. might [1]

4. Formal Letter Models — 5 Marks

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

4A Model Response

6 Science Lane
Kochi
16 January 2027
The Principal
Harbour School
Kochi
Subject: Proposal for a science observation corner
Madam/Sir,
I request permission for our science club to maintain a small observation corner beside the laboratory. Regular visits would help students learn to distinguish observations from guesses and record changes over time, using an ordinary patch of ground rather than expensive equipment.
We propose short supervised sessions with dated notebooks and consistent counting periods. Students would leave plants and insects undisturbed, keep the path clear and avoid collecting unfamiliar material. A teacher could review our methods and guide any necessary changes.
Please consider a six-week trial followed by a simple display of findings. We would welcome your suggestions about the site and the responsibilities needed to keep the activity organised.
Yours faithfully
Nisha Paul

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

4B Model Response

22 School Road
Kochi
16 January 2027
The Manager
GreenCycle Collection Service
Kochi
Subject: Information on separated waste collection
Madam/Sir,
Our school has begun separating paper and food waste, and the environment club is reviewing the programme. We need to understand what happens after collection so that our report measures actual handling rather than only the quantity placed in labelled bins.
Please provide written information about the destinations of these two waste streams, the collection schedule and any sorting requirements students should follow. Kindly explain how the school can confirm that collected material reaches the stated facility.
This information will help us correct mistakes and give students accurate guidance. We would appreciate a brief meeting with the responsible staff member before extending the system to other school buildings during the coming term.
Yours faithfully
Raj Menon

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 notebook review shows that dating observations is the club's strongest habit, appearing in forty-five of fifty notebooks, or ninety per cent. Separating observation from inference is less consistent, with thirty notebooks meeting that criterion. Only twenty use a consistent counting duration, making comparability the clearest area for improvement. Fifteen notebooks contain all three features, showing that complete recording practice remains limited despite the high dating rate. These categories overlap and should not be added as separate groups. The club should retain its successful dating routine while modelling how to distinguish claims and standardise observation periods. A later review could determine whether clearer guidance improves the quality of complete records.

5B Model Response

Option C offers the strongest fit because it combines a practical sorting improvement with a way to check results. Relabelling existing bins may make disposal clearer, while a staff-supported weekly audit can identify sorting errors and track outcomes. Its cost of fifteen hundred rupees also leaves five hundred within the budget. Posters alone are inexpensive, but provide no monitoring and may not change disposal practice. New labelled bins use most of the budget without establishing whether waste is handled correctly afterwards. The recommendation should therefore consider evidence of improvement as well as visible equipment. Option C makes better use of existing resources and creates a basis for reviewing whether the programme works.

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract Answers — 5 Marks

6A Glimpses of India A Baker from Goa

I. Traditional baking / bread making and selling. [1]

II. B. continuity across generations. [1]

III. pader. [1]

IV. The older generation's memories remain connected to a living practice because descendants still bake and sell bread. The narrator's nostalgia therefore concerns a tradition that continues in daily village life, rather than something entirely lost and recoverable only through recollection. [2]

6B The Midnight Visitor

I. The waiter. [1]

II. B. a deliberate invention. [1]

III. Max's. [1]

IV. Ausable uses the expected waiter's knock as apparent evidence that police are arriving. Max's fear turns an ordinary service visit into an urgent threat, prompting him to seek escape through the window and trust the invented balcony. [2]

7. Poetry Extract Answers — 5 Marks

7A The Trees

I. The cracks in the veranda floor. [1]

II. B. free or separate. [1]

III. Personification. [1]

IV. The roots must work through the night to free themselves from the floor, making release a sustained struggle rather than a simple movement. Their effort suggests that breaking confinement requires energy and persistence before visible freedom becomes possible. [2]

7B Fog

I. A cat / a cat's quiet movement. [1]

II. B. silent. [1]

III. It is a metaphor. [1]

IV. The familiar movement of a cat gives an invisible process a recognisable form. Readers can imagine the fog arriving softly and almost unnoticed, so the comparison turns a change in weather into a vivid, quiet presence moving through the scene. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

I. The officers who salute Mandela serve a democratic government, although representatives of the same forces might previously have arrested him. The contrast makes the salute more than ceremony. It demonstrates a change in political authority and the armed forces' public acceptance of the new order. [3]

II. The poem transforms punishment into a witty response that Mr Keesing can enjoy. Instead of merely defending her habit, Anne uses imagination to make her point indirectly. His laughter and changed behaviour show that humour creates an understanding that repeated argument has not achieved. [3]

III. The account links landscape and wildlife with coffee, hospitality, history and the courage of the Coorgi people. Outdoor activities add another dimension. Coorg becomes appealing through a combination of natural surroundings and cultural identity, rather than through scenery presented as separate from human life. [3]

IV. The repeated word gives the pledge force and finality, emphasising that the new nation must reject the suffering created by apartheid. It turns remembrance into a future responsibility. The insistence also makes clear that liberation should prevent oppression by anyone, rather than merely reverse its direction. [3]

V. The speaker suggests that Anne's yellow hair attracts young men so strongly that they cannot love her for herself alone. Her proposed change of hair colour tests this claim. The poem questions whether admiration recognises an entire person or remains attached to a visible feature. [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

I. Escape offers money but threatens the relationship and education Anil has made possible. Hari begins to recognise that the loss is more serious than missing a comfortable hiding place. His uneasiness reveals a conflict between his familiar habits as a thief and an emerging desire for change. [3]

II. Her confident use of the dog's name and Sherry's friendly response make her appear at home in the house. Horace treats these signs as proof of ownership instead of questioning her identity. Her performance therefore exploits ordinary social cues to support a false claim. [3]

III. The gold spots on a monarch pupa initially appear decorative, but Ebright investigates their function rather than accepting appearance as explanation. His experiments connect them with a hormone necessary for development. The episode shows how scientific progress begins when familiar details become questions requiring evidence. [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Glimpses of India suggests that a respectful local account should connect places with people, practices and ways of seeing. A Baker from Goa records daily sounds, foods and the baker's continuing role, showing how work carries cultural memory. Coorg combines landscape with hospitality, history and the qualities associated with its people. Tea from Assam adds a visitor's curiosity and stories about tea, while contrasting excitement with familiarity. Students should therefore look beyond a list of attractions. They could observe everyday activity, ask residents about meaningful traditions and distinguish verified information from legend. An account becomes richer when it recognises a locality as lived experience rather than scenery arranged only for visitors. [6]

B. The Trees imagines nature escaping the role of indoor decoration, while For Anne Gregory questions whether a person can be valued beyond an attractive feature. The trees strain against glass and floor until their movement restores a fuller forest outside. Their struggle suggests that living things exceed the confined positions assigned to them. Anne's yellow hair similarly dominates the admirer's attention, raising doubt about whether he recognises her inner self. The poems differ in subject and tone, but both unsettle a limited way of seeing. A thoughtful reader should ask what has been excluded when a living being is reduced to an appearance, a possession or a convenient place in someone else's world. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Ausable and the young woman both use confident performances to redirect a person who seems to control the situation. Max has a pistol, yet Ausable's irritated account of a balcony and calm reference to police make him react in fear. Horace has entered with expertise and tools, but the young woman behaves as the owner and makes cooperation appear his safest choice. Both performances rely on details that fit the listener's expectations. Their purposes differ: Ausable protects himself, while the woman steals through Horace's labour. The comparison shows that confidence can shape belief without proving truth, and apparent power may fail when its holder does not question a convincing story. [6]

B. Education offers more than the chance to earn money: it changes the questions you can ask and the future you can imagine. I began by collecting butterflies, but books, guidance and experiments taught me how to investigate rather than simply gather objects. Anil's offer to teach you has a similar importance. It gives you a route beyond repeated theft and the need to deceive people. You have already shown that you can choose differently by returning the money. Now you must develop that choice through patient learning. Progress will involve mistakes and effort, but knowledge can create opportunities that stolen notes cannot sustain, while helping you build an identity you can respect. [6]