PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 7
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 (Words Once Spoken):

- Plotline: An intense interpersonal conflict where impulsive, cruel words were uttered in anger.

- Turning point: The sudden, stunned silence of the listener and the visible emotional fracture.

- Resolution: Realizing that subsequent apologies cannot erase the memory of the utterance, ending strictly with the mandatory sentence: "It was then that I realised words once spoken could never be recalled."

(ii) Descriptive Composition (Regional Craft Fair / Artisan Mela):

- Sensory richness: Tactile textures of rough clay and woven silk; aromas of roasting cumin, jalebis, and earthen teacups.

- Visual elements: Stalls draped with kaleidoscopic ikat fabrics, brass lanterns casting intricate shadows, master potters shaping clay.

- Atmosphere: Rustic folk instruments mingling with lively haggling and genuine cultural reverence.

(iii) Argumentative Composition (Physical Books Becoming Obsolete Relics):

- Clear stance: Definitive stance maintained throughout.

- For (Books becoming obsolete): Portability of e-readers, environmental conservation, instant global digital access, interactive fonts.

- Against (Physical books endure): Irreplaceable tactile sensation and smell, screen fatigue, permanent ownership immune to digital paywalls.

(iv) Reflective Composition (Learning Classical Art / Music Shaping Character):

- Setting & Exposure: The daunting initial plateau of repetitive vocal scales or instrumental fingering.

- Insight: Overcoming frustrated impatience through humility and surrender to guidance.

- Enduring reflection: How disciplined practice cultivated focus, emotional depth, and lifelong resilience.

(v) Picture-Based Composition (Boy Feeding Pigeons on River Ghat):

- Mandatory connection: Clear link to the embedded photograph (young boy on ancient stone ghat at dawn scattering grain to pigeons with temple spires behind).

- Interpretative approaches:

  * Narrative: A daily dawn ritual shared between a temple orphan and the flock of river birds.

  * Descriptive: The luminous golden dawn light on the holy river, the flutter of wings, and serene stone architecture.

  * Reflective: The profound spiritual peace of selflessness in a rapidly modernizing world.

QUESTION 2: LETTER WRITING [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Criteria & Layout Standards]:
- Format (Address, Date, Salutation, Subscription): 3 Marks
- Content & Development of Points: 4 Marks
- Expression & Mechanical Accuracy: 3 Marks

Total: 10 Marks. Length: ~120 to 150 words.

2(i) Model Informal Letter (Advising Younger Brother on Digital Distractions):

Flat 4B, Gulmohar Enclave
Station Road, Bareilly
18th May 2027

Dearest Ayaan,

I hope you are in good health and adjusting well to boarding school life. Mother mentioned that you have been feeling exhausted and frequently find your study hours slipping away while browsing social media and mobile games late into the night.

I understand how tempting digital screens can be when you need relaxation. However, unchecked screen time fractures your concentration, strains your eyes, and steals restorative sleep. I urge you to establish a strict digital curfew by turning off notifications during study hours.

Draw up a structured daily timetable with forty-minute study intervals followed by short breaks. Crucially, participate actively in evening sports like football or athletics. Physical exertion will refresh your mind, eliminate stress, and restore your academic focus. You have great promise, Ayaan; cultivating self-discipline now will ensure lasting success.

Write to me soon about your sports activities. We miss you dearly.

Yours affectionately,
Rohan

2(ii) Model Formal Letter (Broken Footbridge Connecting Rural Blocks):

Pragathi Youth Welfare Association
Post Box 24, Rampur Block, Sitapur - 261001
18th May 2027

The District Collector
Collectorate Compound, Sitapur - 261001

Respected Sir/Madam,

Subject: Urgent repair of damaged pedestrian footbridge across River Sarada

I write on behalf of the residents of Rampur and Kalyanpur blocks to draw your urgent attention to the hazardous condition of the pedestrian footbridge across the River Sarada.

Recent pre-monsoon squalls severely weakened two supporting timber pillars, causing the central walkway to tilt precariously over the rushing river. This bridge is the sole daily passage for more than three thousand villagers, including primary schoolchildren and daily wage earners commuting to the district headquarters.

Presently, commuters must either risk traversing the fractured planks or undertake an exhausting twenty-kilometer detour across muddy cart tracks. With the monsoon fast approaching, a catastrophic collapse is imminent unless swift action is taken.

I earnestly request your intervention to direct the Public Works Department to undertake emergency structural repairs immediately. In the interim, please deploy administrative motorized ferry boats to ensure safe transit for schoolchildren.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
Vikramaditya Rao (General Secretary)

QUESTION 3: NOTICE AND LINKED EMAIL [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Criteria & Layout Standards]:
- Notice: Headline (1), Nature of Event (1), Date (1/2), Timings (1/2), Venue (1), Target Audience & Registration (1) = 5 Marks.
- Email: Addressee (1/2), Subject (1/2), Salutation (1/2), Event Details (1), Specific Invitation/Request (1), Courteous Closing & Signature (1/2), Layout/Expression (1) = 5 Marks.

Total: 10 Marks.

3(i) Model Notice:

Stagecraft
Inter-School One-Act Play Competition

Date: Friday, 23rd July 2027
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Venue: Dr. Homi Bhabha Memorial Auditorium, St. Jude's High School

Students of Classes 9 and 10 who wish to represent the school in the upcoming Inter-School One-Act Play Competition are invited to attend open dramatics auditions. Audition rounds will evaluate voice projection, emotional expression, and stage movement. Interested candidates must register their names with the undersigned along with their choice of monologue by Monday, 12th July 2027.

Aryan Sen
Secretary, Dramatics Club
St. Jude's High School

3(ii) Model Linked Email:

To: director.theatre@cityarts.org

Subject: Invitation to Preside as Chief Judge for 'Stagecraft' Inter-School One-Act Play Competition

Respected Sir,

The Dramatics Club of St. Jude's High School is privileged to organise 'Stagecraft', our Annual Inter-School One-Act Play Competition, on Friday, 23rd July 2027, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Dr. Homi Bhabha Memorial Auditorium.

Over twelve prominent secondary schools will perform original one-act plays addressing social, historical, and contemporary themes. Given your distinguished career as an acclaimed theatre director and playwright, we would be deeply honoured if you would kindly grace the occasion as our Chief Judge and deliver an inspiring address to our young actors.

The school dramatics committee will arrange chauffeured transportation to and from your residence according to your convenience. We earnestly hope for your gracious acceptance and look forward to your confirmation by Monday, 12th July 2027.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
Aryan Sen
Secretary, Dramatics Club
St. Jude's High School
Contact: dramatics@stjudeschool.edu.in

QUESTION 4: COMPREHENSION [20 MARKS]

(i) Vocabulary [2 Marks]:

1. rigorous -> (a) demanding, thorough and uncompromising [1 Mark]
2. resonance -> (b) rich, deep echoing acoustic vibration [1 Mark]

(ii) Antonym [1 Mark]:

Opposite of 'discord' -> (b) harmony [1 Mark]

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

(a) Every morning at four o'clock, Kabir had to do two unbroken hours of deep-breathing vocal exercises to calibrate his ear to the tonic note, followed by three hours of rigorous sitar scales before breakfast. [2 Marks]

(b) Kabir's left fingertips were split, swollen, and deeply callused by taut metal strings, while the wire mizrab on his right index finger had worn a raw, stinging ring into his flesh. [2 Marks]

(c) Panditji was dissatisfied because Kabir was merely executing notes from memory like an obedient clerk without soul or emotional depth. [2 Marks]

(d) Panditji's single note filled the stone chamber like incense smoke, vibrating with such warmth and stillness that a lump rose in Kabir's throat, inspiring him to discard technical fear. [2 Marks]

(e) Kabir realized that true mastery is not the conquest of an instrument, but the patient surrender of self to a higher harmony. [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. Woke before dawn for two hours of breathing and three hours of scales.
2. Endured split, swollen fingertips and calluses from metal strings.
3. Suffered a raw, stinging flesh ring from the wire mizrab.
4. Corrected continually for slouched posture with the maestro's cane.
5. Overcame mechanical, soulless playing after hearing the master's resonant note.
6. Surrendered ego and anxiety to produce pure, luminous musical harmony.

[Teacher-Developed Guidance: Indicative Rough Draft]

The apprentice woke before dawn to practise rigorous scales in an unheated room. Despite bleeding fingertips and aching muscles, he repeated exercises relentlessly. When mechanical accuracy failed to evoke emotional depth, he listened deeply to his guru, finally mastering delicate microtones and releasing harmonious, resonant melodies with humility and poise.

Final Fair Draft Grid (Exactly 50 Words):

The	apprentice	woke	before	dawn
to	practise	rigorous	scales	in
an	unheated	room.	Despite	bleeding
fingertips	and	aching	muscles,	he
repeated	exercises	relentlessly.	When	mechanical
accuracy	failed	to	evoke	emotional
depth,	he	listened	deeply	to
his	guru,	finally	mastering	delicate
microtones	and	releasing	harmonious,	resonant
melodies	with	humility	and	poise.

QUESTION 5: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

5(i) Cloze Passage (Howard Carter's Discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb) [4 Marks]:

[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 18: 1/2 mark for each correct answer]

Example: (0) arrived

1. had searched / searched
2. discovered
3. had cleared
4. was pierced
5. widened
6. held
7. had remained
8. revealed

5(ii) Prepositions [4 Marks]:

[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, p. 18: 1/2 mark for each correct preposition]

(a) of [avail of = take advantage of an opportunity]

(b) up [bring up = raise and educate children]

(c) off [clear off = pay or settle all debts]

(d) to [conform to = comply with established standards]

(e) through [glance through = read or examine quickly]

(f) over [hold over = postpone to a later time]

(g) by [lay by = save money for future emergencies]

(h) through [see through = detect real deceitful nature]

5(iii) Sentence Synthesis [4 Marks]:

[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 18-19: 1 mark for each completely correct sentence]

1. Rohan won the first prize in the national essay competition. He was also awarded the prestigious leadership medal.

Correct Option: (b) Not only did Rohan win the first prize in the national essay competition, but he was also awarded the prestigious leadership medal.

[Analysis: Uses standard correlative inversion with auxiliary 'did' and retains complete meaning without using and, but, so. Option (a) lacks subject-verb inversion; option (c) uses forbidden coordinator 'and'; option (d) uses forbidden coordinator 'so'.]

2. The dedicated surgeon performed a complex eight-hour procedure. She was commended by the hospital trustees.

Correct Option: (a) The dedicated surgeon who performed a complex eight-hour procedure was commended by the hospital trustees.

[Analysis: Correctly embeds defining relative pronoun 'who' referring to persons. Option (b) incorrectly uses relative pronoun 'which' for a person; option (c) incorrectly uses objective pronoun 'whom' as subject; option (d) has faulty participle syntax.]

3. The conservationist planted five hundred mangrove saplings along the coast. She also conducted awareness workshops for fishermen.

Correct Option: (d) Besides planting five hundred mangrove saplings along the coast, the conservationist conducted awareness workshops for fishermen.

[Analysis: Uses preposition 'Besides' meaning 'in addition to' followed by gerund phrase. Option (a) incorrectly uses 'Beside' meaning 'at the side of'; option (b) has awkward run-on syntax; option (c) uses forbidden coordinator 'so'.]

4. The farmer installed drip irrigation throughout his orchard. He wished to conserve groundwater during the severe drought.

Correct Option: (c) The farmer installed drip irrigation throughout his orchard so that he could conserve groundwater during the severe drought.

[Analysis: Correctly uses complex conjunction of purpose 'so that' followed by modal 'could'. Option (a) uses forbidden coordinator 'so'; option (b) introduces ungrammatical 'in order that conserving'; option (d) has ungrammatical prepositional structure 'because of conserve'.]

5(iv) Sentence Transformations [8 Marks]:
[CISCE 2027 Specimen MS, pp. 19-20: 1 mark for each completely correct sentence]

1. As soon as the judge entered the courtroom, everyone rose in respectful silence. (Begin: No sooner did...)
Correct Option: (c) No sooner did the judge enter the courtroom than everyone rose in respectful silence.
[Analysis: Correct correlative inversion 'No sooner did' requires bare base verb 'enter' followed by correlative conjunction 'than'. Option (a) incorrectly uses past tense 'entered' after auxiliary 'did'; option (b) incorrectly uses 'when' instead of 'than'; option (d) omits auxiliary inversion.]

2. The violin's tone is more melodious than that of any other instrument in the ensemble. (Begin: No other instrument...)
Correct Option: (a) No other instrument in the ensemble has a tone as melodious as that of the violin.
[Analysis: Accurately transforms comparative degree to positive degree using 'as melodious as'. Option (b) incorrectly pairs comparative 'more' with 'as'; option (c) uses corrupt syntax 'than that of'; option (d) shifts present tense 'is' to past tense 'had'.]

3. The archaeologist said to the visitors, "This stone inscription dates back to the third century BCE." (Begin: The archaeologist informed...)
Correct Option: (d) The archaeologist informed the visitors that that stone inscription dated back to the third century BCE.
[Analysis: Correct indirect speech shifting demonstrative pronoun 'this' to 'that' and simple present 'dates' to simple past 'dated'. Option (a) fails to shift demonstrative pronoun; option (b) shifts past perfect unnecessarily; option (c) incorrectly introduces interrogative marker 'whether'.]

4. The senior actors were rehearsing the dramatic climax throughout the afternoon. (Begin: The dramatic climax...)
Correct Option: (b) The dramatic climax was being rehearsed by the senior actors throughout the afternoon.
[Analysis: Correct passive transformation of past continuous tense ('were rehearsing' -> 'was being rehearsed'). Option (a) shifts to past perfect passive; option (c) shifts to simple past passive losing continuous aspect; option (d) shifts to present continuous.]

5(iv) Sentence Transformations (Continued) [Items 5 to 8]:

5. The cliff trail was so slippery that the coastal patrol could not descend without safety harnesses. (Use: too... to)

Correct Option: (a) The cliff trail was too slippery for the coastal patrol to descend without safety harnesses.

[Analysis: Correct transformation from 'so... that could not' to 'too... to' with necessary prepositional agent phrase 'for the coastal patrol'. Option (b) produces a mixed contradictory structure 'too... that'; option (c) misuses preposition 'to' followed by gerund; option (d) introduces ungrammatical blend 'too descend'.]

6. The sun had barely risen over the horizon when the fishermen hauled in their heavy nets. (Begin: Barely had...)

Correct Option: (d) Barely had the sun risen over the horizon when the fishermen hauled in their heavy nets.

[Analysis: Standard negative adverbial inversion: 'Barely had' placed at sentence head, maintaining past perfect auxiliary inversion and correct correlative conjunction 'when'. Option (a) incorrectly uses 'than'; option (b) omits required subject-auxiliary inversion; option (c) incorrectly pairs 'did' with 'than'.]

7. If the fortress garrison does not surrender immediately, the besieging army will launch an assault. (Begin: Unless...)

Correct Option: (b) Unless the fortress garrison surrenders immediately, the besieging army will launch an assault.

[Analysis: Replaces 'If... does not' with 'Unless', changing negative verb to affirmative third-person singular present 'surrenders' without altering the principal clause. Option (a) contains incorrect double negative 'Unless... does not'; option (c) alters conditional tense to past subjunctive; option (d) incorrectly inserts future modal 'will' inside conditional clause.]

8. Anurag lives near the botanical gardens, _____? (Choose the correct question tag)

Correct Option: (c) doesn't he?

[Analysis: The stem is affirmative and uses simple present third-person singular ('lives'), requiring a negative auxiliary tag with pronoun ('doesn't he?'). Option (a) uses plural auxiliary 'don't'; option (b) incorrectly uses verb 'to be' ('isn't'); option (d) incorrectly shifts to past tense ('didn't').]