PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Practice Sample Paper | Paper 01

Board Examination 2027

Maximum Marks: 80 Time Allowed: 3 Hours

General Instructions

This paper contains 11 compulsory questions in three sections. Follow each question's internal choice instructions.

Section A: Reading Skills (20); Section B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills (20); Section C: Literature Textbook (40).

Write answers in the prescribed word limits. Figures and situations in reading and writing tasks are original and fictional unless stated otherwise.

This PAUL ACADEMY practice paper follows the CBSE 2026–27 syllabus and sample-paper pattern.

Section A Reading Skills — 20 Marks

1. Discursive Passage — 10 Marks

(1) A public library is often described as a building full of books. That description is accurate in the same way that calling a kitchen a room full of utensils is accurate: it names the objects but misses the activity. A library becomes useful when people discover that they can ask questions there without first proving how much they know. Its shelves matter, but so does the welcome offered beside them.

(2) Consider a neighbourhood library that began a monthly repair afternoon. Residents brought torn book covers, broken bag straps and bicycles with loose bells. Volunteers did not promise to fix everything. Instead, they explained each decision, invited owners to try simple steps and admitted when an object needed professional attention. The library had not abandoned reading. People consulted manuals, compared instructions and wrote clear labels for tools. Knowledge moved between a printed page and a practical problem.

(3) Some visitors initially objected that repair work would disturb readers. Their concern deserved a response rather than a lecture about community spirit. The organisers moved the activity to a separate room and displayed its timetable. Quiet study remained

possible, while people who had never borrowed a book found a reason to enter. Protecting one use of a public space need not require excluding every other use. Good arrangements can make different needs compatible.

(4) The most valuable result was not the number of objects repaired. A teenager who understood bicycle brakes learnt how to explain a process patiently. An older resident who struggled with an online form discovered that she could teach careful stitching. Expertise stopped looking like a possession held by a few confident speakers. It became something people could offer in one situation and seek in another. Asking for help no longer meant having nothing to contribute.

(5) Such projects have limits. Volunteers should not undertake dangerous electrical repairs simply to demonstrate enthusiasm. Nor should unpaid effort replace the trained staff a library needs. A successful programme makes its boundaries visible and reviews them when conditions change. Counting visitors alone cannot show whether those visitors felt respected, understood an explanation or returned with greater confidence. These quieter outcomes require conversation and attentive observation.

(6) The lesson extends beyond libraries. Shared spaces work best when their purpose is clear but their possibilities remain open. Before buying another impressive piece of equipment, a committee might ask whose knowledge is being overlooked and who feels unable to walk through the door. A useful institution does more than store resources. It creates fair opportunities for people to use them together.

Answer all the following questions. Use 30–40 words for each 2-mark answer.

I. Which comparison in paragraph 1 shows why a collection of objects is an incomplete definition of a library? [1]

II. Choose the best description of the volunteers' approach. A. They guaranteed every repair. B. They explained decisions and acknowledged limits. C. They discouraged owners from participating. D. They replaced all professional services. [1]

III. In paragraph 3, "compatible" means: A. expensive B. able to exist together C. identical D. temporary. [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the organisers responded constructively to the readers' objection. [2]

V. State True or False: The older resident's difficulty with a form meant that she had no useful expertise. [1]

VI. Complete the sentence: Refusing dangerous electrical repairs demonstrates the importance of _____. [1]

VII. Which is an evaluative judgement rather than a recorded event? A. Residents brought torn covers. B. Organisers displayed a timetable. C. The most valuable result was not the number repaired. D. A resident taught stitching. [1]

VIII. In 30–40 words, explain why counting visitors alone would be an inadequate measure of success. [2]

2. Case-based Factual Passage — 10 Marks

(1) A school library tested three arrangements for its afternoon study space over twelve weeks. For four weeks it kept its usual shared room. During the next four weeks it created separate quiet and discussion zones. In the final four weeks it kept those zones and added a simple booking system for group tables. The same opening hours and number of seats were maintained throughout the trial.

(2) At the end of each phase, the librarian asked one hundred regular users to select the arrangement's most helpful feature. The table records a different measure: the number of noise complaints received and the percentage of available seat-hours actually used. A seat-hour means one seat occupied for one hour. These measures describe the operation of the room; they do not measure examination performance or the quality of every discussion.

(3) The combined arrangement recorded the fewest complaints and the highest use of seats. However, it was introduced last, when students may already have become familiar with the new zones. The librarian therefore recommended repeating the comparison in a different order before making a permanent decision. She also planned interviews with students who stopped visiting. Their absence could reveal difficulties that a survey of regular users would miss. All figures are fictional and were created for this assessment.

Arrangement	Noise complaints	Seat-hours used
Shared room	24	55%
Separate zones	12	68%
Zones and booking	6	76%

Answer all the following questions. Use 30–40 words for each 2-mark answer.

I. What was the total duration of the trial? [1]

II. Which arrangement had the highest seat use? A. Shared room B. Separate zones C. Zones and booking D. All were equal. [1]

III. By how many percentage points did seat use rise between the first and final phases? [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, compare the noise results for the shared room and the combined arrangement. [2]

V. Complete the statement: A seat-hour measures _____. [1]

VI. State True or False: The trial proves that booking improves examination scores. [1]

VII. Why would changing the order of arrangements help? A. It removes all costs. B. It tests whether familiarity influenced results. C. It doubles the seats. D. It replaces interviews. [1]

VIII. Explain in 30–40 words why interviewing students who stopped visiting would improve the evaluation. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar — 10 Marks

Attempt any TEN of the following TWELVE tasks. Each carries 1 mark.

I. Fill the gap: The library committee _____ its report yesterday. A. submits B. submitted C. has submitted D. submitting [1]

II. Report Mira's statement to the librarian: "I returned the atlas yesterday." Begin: Mira said that … [1]

III. Choose the determiner: We have only _____ minutes before the reading room closes. A. a little B. much C. a few D. any [1]

IV. Identify the error and correction: Each of the borrowed books have a new protective cover. [1]

V. Choose the modal expressing a rule: Visitors _____ keep the emergency exit clear. A. might B. must C. could D. would [1]

VI. Report the request: The librarian said to Rohan, "Please lower your voice." [1]

VII. Complete with the correct verb form: The reading club _____ (meet) every Saturday. [1]

VIII. Correct the error: There is many useful diagrams in this manual. [1]

IX. Report the question: Sima asked Ravi, "Have you reserved a seat?" [1]

X. Select the correct determiner: There is _____ information in this short note to solve the problem. A. enough B. many C. few D. an [1]

XI. Use the past perfect: By the time we arrived, the workshop _____ (begin). [1]

XII. Choose the modal indicating possibility: The next session _____ be postponed if it rains. A. must B. might C. ought D. shall to [1]

4. Formal Letter — 5 Marks

Attempt either A or B. All situations and data are fictional.

A. You are Aditi Sen of 18 Lake Road, Bhopal. Your public library has useful books but closes before many school students arrive. Write a formal letter in 100–120 words to the Librarian, City Library, Bhopal, requesting a trial of later opening on two weekdays. Explain the problem, suggest practical arrangements and request a review. [5]

OR

B. You are Kabir Das of 9 Garden Street, Bhopal. A repaired footpath beside your school has been blocked by stored construction material. Write a letter in 100–120 words to the Municipal Engineer, Bhopal, describing the difficulty and requesting clearance and a lasting arrangement. [5]

5. Analytical Paragraph — 5 Marks

Attempt either A or B. All situations and data are fictional.

A. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words comparing attendance at a fictional school reading club. Monthly attendance: July 40; August 55; September 50; October 75. Identify the main trend, a fluctuation and a cautious implication. Do not invent causes. [5]

OR

B. Write an analytical paragraph in 100–120 words recommending one venue for a fictional student book exchange. Needs: capacity for 50, step-free entry and protection from rain. Hall: 70 places, step-free, covered, Rs 1,500. Courtyard: 90 places, step-free, uncovered, Rs 500. Upstairs room: 55 places, stairs only, covered, Rs 800. Budget: Rs 1,600. [5]

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract — 5 Marks

Attempt either extract A or extract B. Answer all four parts of the chosen extract. Use 30–40 words for its 2-mark part.

A A Letter to God

So, in order not to shake the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter.

I. What does the postmaster want to preserve? [1]

II. Which quality drives the decision? A. Vanity B. Compassion C. Suspicion D. Indifference [1]

III. Complete: Answering the letter requires more than words because Lencho needs _____. [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the decision changes the postmaster's role. [2]

OR

B The Thief's Story

I was still a thief when I met Anil. And though only 15, I was an experienced and fairly successful hand.

I. Who speaks these lines? [1]

II. The word "still" hints that the narrator's identity may _____. [1]

III. "An experienced … hand" means: A. a skilled practitioner B. an injured finger C. a written message D. an elderly man [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain how the opening prepares the reader for a story of change. [2]

7. Poetry Extract — 5 Marks

Attempt either extract A or extract B. Answer all four parts of the chosen extract. Use 30–40 words for its 2-mark part.

A Dust of Snow

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

I. Name the bird in the extract. [1]

II. The phrase "dust of snow" suggests: A. a heavy avalanche B. fine snow particles C. dry soil D. smoke [1]

III. Complete: The incident is significant because it changes the speaker's _____. [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain the effect of choosing an ordinary crow rather than a conventionally beautiful bird. [2]

OR

B Fire and Ice

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

I. Which emotion is associated with fire? [1]

II. "Tasted" is used: A. literally for food B. figuratively for experience C. to describe weather D. to name a colour [1]

III. Complete: The opening presents _____ views about the world's end. [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain how personal experience supports the speaker's initial judgement. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

Answer any FOUR of FIVE questions. Write 40–50 words for each answer.

I. How does Mandela distinguish courage from freedom from fear? [3]

II. What does the young seagull's first landing on the sea reveal about learning through action? [3]

III. Why does Anne give her diary the name Kitty? [3]

IV. How does the baker's daily arrival connect work with childhood pleasure in A Baker from Goa? [3]

V. What is the effect of the tiger's quiet rage in A Tiger in the Zoo? [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

Answer any TWO of THREE questions. Write 40–50 words for each answer.

I. Why is removing Tricki from Mrs Pumphrey's house essential to his recovery? [3]

II. How does Ausable exploit Max's assumptions about the hotel room? [3]

III. What makes Horace Danby's trust in the young woman particularly ironic? [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

Answer any ONE of TWO questions. Write 100–120 words for each answer.

A. A school display is titled Freedom Requires Responsibility. Explain how Mandela's understanding of freedom and the tiger's confinement could contribute different perspectives to it. Use Nelson Mandela and A Tiger in the Zoo. [6]

OR

B. Imagine Anne Frank advises a student who feels that having many acquaintances should prevent loneliness. Write her response, using the distinction between companionship and confidence in the prescribed diary extract. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

Answer any ONE of TWO questions. Write 100–120 words for each answer.

A. Trust can create an opportunity for reform without removing a person's responsibility to choose. Discuss this idea through Anil and Hari Singh in The Thief's Story. [6]

OR

B. Evaluate the title A Triumph of Surgery. How does the difference between Mrs Pumphrey's belief and Herriot's treatment create humour and communicate a lesson? [6]

End of Question Paper