PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 3
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 (A stitch in time saves nine):

- Theme: Procrastination versus timely preventive action.

- Plotline: A small, neglected initial defect (e.g. slight crack in a water tank, frayed wire, minor bicycle brake issue) overlooked due to haste or laziness. Compounding consequences leading to a major crisis. Protagonist takes decisive corrective action just in time or learns an enduring lesson from the resulting disaster.

(ii) Descriptive Composition (Crowded Railway Platform):

- Sensory richness: Screech of metal brakes, aroma of fried samosas and chicory tea, shouting porters in red tunics.

- Human drama: Anxious families checking berth charts, emotional tearful farewells, frantic last-minute packing.

- Climax: Electric ringing of the station gong, green flag wave, the shuddering lurch of the giant engine as the train pulls out.

(iii) Argumentative Composition (Social Media Influencers Harm Adolescents):

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

- For: Fosters unrealistic beauty and lifestyle benchmarks, fuels digital addiction, commodifies youth culture, undermines authentic self-worth.

- Against: Democratizes creative expression, promotes educational tutorials and career guidance, fosters supportive communities for marginalized youth.

(iv) Reflective Composition (Appreciating a Dismissed Family Heirloom):

- Conflict: Modern adolescent skepticism toward an ancestral object, ritual, or customary practice viewed as old-fashioned.

- Turning point: An unexpected crisis (e.g. family hardship, loss of electrical power, emergency) where the heirloom's true utility or historical memory rescues the family.

- Epiphany: Deep respect for lineage, heritage, and timeless ancestral values.

(v) Picture-Based Composition (Master Potter with Digital Tablet):

- Mandatory connection: Clear, organic link to the embedded picture (artisan shaping wet clay on traditional kick-wheel while referencing glaze formulas on a digital tablet).

- Interpretative approaches:

  * Narrative: A young artisan modernizing his ancestral ceramic pottery through digital marketing and geometric designs.

  * Descriptive: The sensory juxtaposition of wet terracotta clay, spinning wheel, and sleek digital technology.

  * Reflective: The harmonious marriage between ancient cultural craft and contemporary digital innovation.

QUESTION 2: LETTER WRITING [10 MARKS]

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

2(i) Model Informal Letter (Gratitude to Uncle for Farm Stay & Lessons Learned):

Flat 5C, Silver Palms Apartments

Station Road

Pune - 411001

14th April 2027

Dear Uncle Vikram,

I reached home safely yesterday evening after a comfortable train journey. I am writing this letter to thank you and Aunt Meera from the bottom of my heart for making my winter vacation at your organic farm in Mahabaleshwar both unforgettable and deeply enriching.

Working beside you in the orchard gave me a firsthand appreciation of sustainable agriculture that textbooks could never convey. Learning to prepare compost pits, prune fruit trees, and manage drip irrigation systems showed me the immense patience required to work in harmony with nature. Those crisp mornings spent weeding the strawberry patches taught me the value of quiet discipline.

Inspired by your practices, I plan to start an organic kitchen garden club at our school with the help of our biology teacher. I have already preserved the heirloom tomato seeds you gifted me and cannot wait to sow them.

Please convey my warmest regards to Aunt Meera and love to little Kabir.

Yours affectionately,

Rohan

2(ii) Model Formal Letter (Urgent Preservation of Neglected Monument):

House No. 42, Civil Lines

Heritage Avenue

Aurangabad - 431001

14th April 2027

The Editor

The National Chronicle

Fort Commercial Complex, Mumbai - 400001

Sir,

Subject: Urgent need for conservation and protection of neglected Daulatabad historical stepwell

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw the urgent attention of the Archaeological Survey of India and the Ministry of Culture to the alarming neglect of the historic sixteenth-century stepwell situated near Daulatabad Fort.

This exquisite example of medieval water engineering is currently languishing in acute disrepair. The intricate basalt stone arches are choked with wild vegetative growth, while litter and plastic debris float in the stagnant waters. Unchecked vandalism, including unsightly graffiti etched into ancient carved masonry, has severely defaced this architectural marvel.

To avert irrevocable structural loss, I urge the archaeological authorities to clear the vegetation, install security fencing with round-the-clock wardens, and initiate comprehensive scientific masonry restoration. Involving local student volunteer groups could further foster community stewardship.

I hope your publication will spur the authorities into immediate protective action.

Yours faithfully,

Ananya Deshmukh

(Convenor, Youth Heritage Action Forum)

QUESTION 3: NOTICE AND LINKED EMAIL [10 MARKS]

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

3(i) Model Notice (Inter-School Historical Quiz Competition):

PAST FORWARD

Inter-School Historical Quiz Competition

Date: Wednesday, 21st April 2027

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Venue: Centenary Hall, St. Jude's High School

Students of Classes 9 and 10 are invited to participate in the annual Inter-School Historical Quiz Competition. The competition will test knowledge across ancient civilizations, medieval architecture, the Indian freedom struggle, and major world events. Each participating school may field one team comprising two students.

Interested teams must register their names with Mr. Rajiv Sen, Head of the Department of History, in Room 8, on or before Thursday, 15th April 2027.

3(ii) Model Linked Email:

To: dr.anuradha.sharma@nationalheritage.org

Subject: Invitation to Preside as Quizmaster and Deliver Keynote Address at Historical Quiz

Dear Dr. Sharma,

I am writing on behalf of the History Society of St. Jude's High School to request the honour of your presence as our Quizmaster and Keynote Speaker at our upcoming Inter-School Historical Quiz Competition, entitled 'Past Forward'.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, 21st April 2027, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Centenary Hall of St. Jude's High School. Teams of two students from Classes 9 and 10 representing prominent schools across the city will compete across rounds covering ancient civilizations, medieval architecture, and national history, having registered with Mr. Rajiv Sen (Room 8, by 15th April 2027).

Given your distinguished contributions to archaeological research and heritage education, we would be deeply privileged if you could conduct the final four rounds as Quizmaster and deliver a fifteen-minute keynote address on the importance of monument conservation among the youth.

We kindly request you to confirm your availability by Monday, 12th April 2027.

Yours faithfully,

Rohan Dasgupta

Secretary, The History Society

St. Jude's High School

QUESTION 4: COMPREHENSION [20 MARKS]

(i) Vocabulary [2 Marks]:

1. intricate -> (a) highly complicated and detailed [1 Mark]
2. meticulous -> (b) showing great attention to detail [1 Mark]

(ii) Antonym [1 Mark]:

Opposite of 'crude' -> (c) intricate [1 Mark]

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

(a) The workshop was located in a narrow attic above a cobblestone alley, filled with scents of mineral oil, dry cedarwood, and aged brass, with a symphony of a hundred ticking pendulums. [Award 1 mark each for two distinct text details - 2 Marks]

(b) Master Thorne believed a timepiece preserves the heartbeat of craftsmen who lived centuries ago, demanding reverent treatment rather than rough mechanical manipulation. [2 Marks]

(c) Hardened, dried whale oil from an old servicing had coagulated into microscopic black resin between the escape pinion teeth, immobilizing the entire gear train. [2 Marks]

(d) Dev submerged the brass wheels in benzine, scraped the resin tooth by tooth with sharpened pegwood and elder pith, and dried each part on lint-free paper. [2 Marks]

(e) Master Thorne smiled warmly, placed a reassuring hand on Dev's shoulder, and declared that he was now a true guardian of time. [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. Dev inspected the movement using a loupe and tweezers.
2. He identified dried whale oil coagulated on escape wheel teeth.
3. He soaked delicate brass gears in a benzine solvent.
4. He scraped resin using sharpened pegwood and dried components.
5. He applied microscopic oil to jewel pivot cups.
6. He reassembled the balance arbor and wound the arbor key.

[Teacher-Developed Guidance: Indicative Rough Draft]

Dev examined the movement with a loupe and identified hardened oil jamming the escape wheel. He soaked the wheels in benzine, scraped resin using sharpened pegwood, and dried each part. He oiled jewel pivot cups, reassembled the balance bridge, and wound the arbor, reviving the rhythmic escapement.

Final Fair Draft Grid (Exactly 50 Words):

Wearing	a	jeweler's	loupe,	Dev
disassembled	the	antique	timepiece,	discovering
hardened	grime	jamming	the	escape
wheel.	He	cleaned	delicate	brass
gears	in	benzine,	scraped	stubborn
deposits	with	pegwood,	and	dried
parts	on	pith.	Applying	microscopic
oil	to	jewel	bearings,	he
reassembled	the	balance	bridge.	Finally,
winding	the	arbor	restored	cadence.

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) invented

(1) copied / had copied / had been copying

(2) restricted / had restricted

(3) developed

(4) combining

(5) succeeded

(6) were praised

(7) spread / had spread

(8) igniting

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

(a) about [bring about = cause something to happen]

(b) out [carry out = execute or conduct an instruction or experiment]

(c) of [dispose of = get rid of / safely discard waste]

(d) along / on [get along with = maintain friendly relations]

(e) up [keep up with = remain pace with modern developments]

(f) up [set up = establish an institution or clinic]

(g) upon / on [look down upon = regard with disdain or contempt]

(h) from [refrain from = deliberately avoid doing an action]

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

1. (b) In spite of the unusually torrential monsoon rains, the construction crew completed the railway bridge on time.

[Explanation: (b) correctly uses the prepositional phrase 'In spite of' to express concession without altering meaning. (a) creates an awkward ungrammatical purpose phrase 'for completing'. (c) misplaces 'although' causing contradictory logic. (d) has ungrammatical 'Despite of' (correct is 'Despite').]

2. (d) We met a distinguished ornithologist whose lifelong research has preserved the endangered hornbill.

[Explanation: (d) correctly uses the possessive relative pronoun 'whose' referring to the ornithologist's research. (a) incorrectly uses subjective pronoun 'who'. (b) uses objective pronoun 'whom'. (c) contains faulty clause connection.]

3. (a) Realizing that the hull was taking in water, the captain immediately ordered the crew to man the emergency pumps.

[Explanation: (a) correctly uses the present participle clause 'Realizing' to show contemporaneous perception and immediate resultant action. (b) ungrammatical base form 'On realize'. (c) distorts original chronological relationship. (d) erroneous passive participle 'Realized'.]

4. (c) Provided you submit your project report by Friday, your marks will be considered for the scholarship.

[Explanation: (c) correctly expresses condition using 'Provided' with affirmative consequence. (a) contains an erroneous double negative 'Unless you do not'. (b) introduces an opposite condition contrary to text. (d) misuses archaic subjunctive conjunction 'lest'.]

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

1. (a) No sooner had the whistle blown than the sprinters surged forward from the blocks.

[Structure: Correlative inversion 'No sooner had' + past participle 'blown' + correlative 'than'. (b) incorrect past form 'blew' after auxiliary 'had'. (c) ungrammatical pairing of 'No sooner' with 'when'. (d) missing auxiliary inversion.]

2. (c) The cheetah is faster than any other terrestrial animal on Earth.

[Structure: Comparative degree with 'faster than any other' correctly excluding the subject from the compared group. (a) illogical comparison omitting 'other'. (b) ungrammatical comparative blend 'as faster as'. (d) erroneous double comparative 'more faster'.]

3. (b) The physician advised the patient to drink plenty of water and rest adequately.

[Structure: Indirect speech of an imperative advice using infinitive complement 'to drink... and rest'. (a) ungrammatical clause 'that drink'. (c) erroneous past tense 'to drank'. (d) awkward participial structure.]

4. (d) The anonymous allegations could not be verified by the disciplinary committee.

[Structure: Passive voice of modal construction ('could not be' + past participle 'verified'). (a) unauthorized tense shift from 'could' to 'cannot'. (b) erroneous active modal perfect 'could not have verified'. (c) agreement error 'allegations was'.]

5. (d) The wooden barrel was so heavy that the young apprentice could not lift it.

[Structure: Transformation from 'too... to' to 'so... that' with modal 'could not' preserving past tense 'was'. (a) tense mismatch with present modal 'cannot'. (b) affirmative meaning reversal. (c) ungrammatical construction 'too heavy that'.]

6. (a) Hardly had the ferry crossed the harbour channel when the dense fog descended.

[Structure: Negative adverbial inversion 'Hardly had' + subject + past participle 'crossed' + correlative 'when'. (b) incorrect correlative 'than' (required with 'No sooner', not 'Hardly'). (c) lacks inversion. (d) ungrammatical auxiliary combination 'did... crossed'.]

7. (c) Unless the municipal authorities desilt the canals, the low-lying areas will flood.

[Structure: Replacement of conditional 'If... not' with 'Unless' + affirmative verb 'desilt'. (a) ungrammatical double negative 'Unless... do not'. (b) reverses the apodosis logic. (d) future auxiliary 'will' forbidden in conditional protasis.]

8. (b) No other watchmaker in the entire workshop is as dedicated as Dev.

[Structure: Superlative to positive degree transformation ('No other...' + singular noun + 'as... as'). (a) ungrammatical comparative blend 'more dedicated as'. (c) ungrammatical comparative 'so dedicated than'. (d) unwarranted past tense shift 'was'.]