PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Practice Sample Paper | Paper 09

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) An old street can become familiar in two different ways. We may know how to move through it without looking, or we may know enough about it to notice what changes. The first familiarity saves time. The second asks for attention. A faded sign, a shop threshold or a tree beside a crossing may carry a history that is invisible to someone concerned only with reaching the next destination.

(2) A group of students began a neighbourhood walk expecting to record important buildings. Their guide instead stopped beside an ordinary doorway. A retired carpenter explained how its wooden frame had been repaired repeatedly rather than replaced. Nearby, a shopkeeper showed a mark indicating the height reached by water during a flood. Neither place appeared in the town's tourist leaflet, but each connected a physical detail with skill, memory and survival.

(3) The students soon realised that remembering a place was not the same as refusing every alteration. The carpenter welcomed a new ramp because it made the shop easier to enter. A resident supported improved lighting while asking that an old inscription remain visible. Their concern was not that the street should freeze at a chosen

moment. They wanted changes to recognise what was already valuable and avoid erasing it without thought.

(4) Memory could also be selective. One person recalled the street as peaceful, while another remembered being excluded from its best-known meeting place. The students learnt to record both accounts with their context rather than smoothing them into a single comforting story. Respect for the past did not require pretending that everyone had experienced it equally. A fuller history could include affection, difficulty and disagreement without becoming a failure of community pride.

(5) The walk raised practical questions about visitors. Photographs should not block doorways, and private conversations should not be treated as public performances. The group asked permission before recording personal accounts and avoided publishing details that residents wished to keep private. Curiosity became more responsible when students recognised that a living street was also someone's workplace or home. Interest did not give them unlimited rights over other people's time or experience.

(6) By the end, the students had fewer grand descriptions and more precise questions. Who maintained a feature? Whose memory was absent? Could an improvement preserve access and history together? The street had not changed during their walk, but their relationship with it had. Paying attention made familiar surroundings less ordinary and more demanding. They could now see that caring for a place involves both remembering what has shaped it and making thoughtful room for the people who use it today.

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

I. What distinction does paragraph 1 make between two kinds of familiarity? [1]

II. What did the flood mark connect with the street? A. A decorative colour scheme B. A remembered event and survival C. A new bus fare D. A private shopping list [1]

III. In paragraph 3, "erasing" is used to suggest: A. carefully measuring B. removing traces of what matters C. improving access D. writing a new date [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain why preserving memory need not mean resisting every improvement. [2]

V. Complete: Recording differing memories avoids creating a history that is falsely _____. [1]

VI. Which behaviour demonstrates responsible curiosity? A. Recording without permission B. Blocking entrances for photographs C. Asking before sharing personal accounts D. Publishing every private detail [1]

VII. State True or False: The writer presents community pride as incompatible with acknowledging exclusion. [1]

VIII. Explain in 30–40 words how the students' relationship with the street changed. [2]

2. Case-based Factual Passage — 10 Marks

(1) A fictional heritage group reviewed volunteer participation over four weekend walks. The table records the number registered, the number who attended and the number attending for the first time. First-time volunteers are included within the attendance total, not added to it. Each walk offered the same number of places and used the same meeting point.

(2) Registrations rose across the four weeks, but attendance did not follow a continuous upward pattern. The third walk had more registrations than the second yet fewer people present. The group did not assume that missing volunteers had lost interest. Weather, travel, changing responsibilities or unclear reminders might have affected attendance, and the table contained no reasons for absence.

(3) The coordinator proposed a short optional message asking absent registrants what had prevented them from coming. A clear reminder and an easy cancellation method would also help estimate numbers. The group wanted to retain new volunteers without overlooking those returning regularly. It therefore planned to ask both groups about task clarity, welcome and the length of the walk. Since the review covered only four events, it could identify questions for improvement but not establish a long-term trend. The figures are invented for assessment, and the suggested explanations are possibilities to investigate rather than findings established by the data.

Walk	Registered	Attended / first-time
1	30	24 / 10
2	40	32 / 12
3	50	30 / 15
4	60	48 / 18

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

I. How many returning volunteers attended Walk 4? [1]

II. Which walk had the lowest attendance as a share of registrations? A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 [1]

III. How many registered volunteers were absent from Walk 2? [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain why the third walk prevents a simple claim of continuously rising attendance. [2]

V. Complete: First-time volunteers are a _____ of those attending. [1]

VI. Which proposed action could identify reasons for absence? A. Optional messages to absent registrants B. Counting only first-timers C. Removing all reminders D. Assuming disinterest [1]

VII. Name one experience the coordinator plans to ask both new and returning volunteers about. [1]

VIII. Explain in 30–40 words why four walks cannot establish a long-term participation trend. [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. The heritage walk _____ at the clock tower every Sunday. A. start B. starts C. starting D. have started [1]

II. Report Dev's statement: "I visited this street last year." [1]

III. Choose: We saw _____ unusual sign above the doorway. A. a B. an C. many D. few [1]

IV. Correct the error: The photographs in the album shows the old bridge. [1]

V. Choose the modal indicating prohibition: Visitors _____ lean on the fragile railing. A. must not B. might C. could D. would [1]

VI. Report the request: The resident said to the group, "Please keep the doorway clear." [1]

VII. Use the past perfect: The rain _____ (stop) before the walk began. [1]

VIII. Correct the error: One of the volunteers have misplaced the route map. [1]

IX. Report the question: Rupa asked Amit, "Is the old post office open?" [1]

X. Choose: We have _____ time, so let us examine the inscription carefully. A. a few B. many C. enough D. every [1]

XI. Use the correct form: The guide _____ (explain) the carving when the bell rang. [1]

XII. Choose the modal expressing ability: Even at ten, my grandmother _____ read this old script. A. could B. must C. ought D. may to [1]

4. Formal Letter — 5 Marks

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

A. You are Dev Anand, 16 Clock Tower Road, Kolkata. Write in 100–120 words to the Municipal Heritage Officer, Kolkata, requesting that a proposed footpath improvement preserve a visible historic inscription while providing step-free access. Propose consultation and documentation. [5]

OR

B. You are Rupa Das, 5 Volunteer Lane, Kolkata. Write a letter in 100–120 words to the Coordinator, City Heritage Walks, Kolkata, proposing better volunteer reminders, an easy cancellation method and feedback from absent registrants. Keep the tone constructive. [5]

5. Analytical Paragraph — 5 Marks

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

A. In 100–120 words analyse fictional walk feedback from 80 visitors: route information clear 64; local stories useful 72; resting opportunities adequate 40. Each visitor rated all three. Identify strengths, a priority and a limit. [5]

OR

B. Recommend a fictional archive method in 100–120 words. Need: residents control naming, and access without internet. A: public website with compulsory names, Rs 1,000. B: printed booklet with consent choices and public library copies, Rs 2,500. C: private digital folder only, Rs 500. Budget Rs 3,000. [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 His First Flight

He was no longer afraid. He just felt a bit dizzy.

I. What has he just discovered he can do? [1]

II. The contrast between fear and dizziness suggests: A. complete loss of ability B. emotional change during a new physical experience C. return to the ledge D. permanent illness [1]

III. Complete: His new confidence follows actual _____. [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the brief sentences mark a turning point. [2]

OR

B The Book that Saved the Earth

Think-Tank is never wrong. Who is never wrong?

I. Who claims infallibility here? [1]

II. The question chiefly demands: A. independent investigation B. agreement with authority C. a dictionary meaning D. an account of Earth's weather [1]

III. Give one word describing Think-Tank's refusal to admit error. [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why the repeated claim is ironic. [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 The Trees

long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients

I. What are “boughs”? [1]

II. Identify the device using “like”. A. Simile B. Pun C. Refrain D. Hyperbole only [1]

III. What earlier condition is suggested by “long-cramped”? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the patient comparison affects the image of release. [2]

OR

B Fog

It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

I. What two places does the fog overlook? [1]

II. “Haunches” continues the image of: A. a cat B. a train C. a flame D. a book [1]

III. What does the final line indicate about the fog’s stay? [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain how the poem combines stillness and movement. [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’s discussion of the oppressor complicate a simple division between free and unfree people? [3]

II. What is the effect of the control-room woman’s reply at the end of The Black Aeroplane? [3]

III. How do the children’s explanations for not brushing before meeting the baker add humour? [3]

IV. What does the Buddha’s comparison of human lives with earthen vessels emphasise? [3]

V. How does Custard's return to wanting a cage affect the poem's judgement of courage? [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

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

I. Why does Ausable's irritation sound more convincing to Max than an obvious attempt to persuade him would? [3]

II. How does Matilda's changed appearance after ten years reinforce the story's central irony? [3]

III. Why is Bholi's offer to teach significant beyond securing employment? [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

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

A. Compare how His First Flight and The Ball Poem present experiences adults cannot complete on a child's behalf. [6]

OR

B. Explain how memory gives emotional meaning to ordinary objects or routines in A Baker from Goa and The Ball Poem. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

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

A. A club wants a motto about wise leadership. Use Ausable and Think-Tank to propose and justify one. [6]

OR

B. Discuss how personal dignity shapes Hari's return of the money and Bholi's rejection of Bishamber, while distinguishing their situations. [6]

End of Question Paper