PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 8

Maximum Marks: 80 **Time Allowed: Two Hours**

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2.

(Note: This practice paper is independently prepared by Paul Academy and English Mines for examination preparation and is strictly modeled upon the official CISCE pattern.)

Question 1

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

(i) Narrate an account of an underdog sports team that triumphed against overwhelming odds. Describe the initial setbacks, the grueling training, the tactical adjustments, and the decisive match where collective belief led to victory.

(ii) Describe a deserted sports stadium immediately following a fiercely contested championship final. Portray the sudden deafening silence, the littered terraces, the flickering floodlights, the trampled pitch, and the poignant residue of triumph and defeat.

(iii) "Competitive sports cultivate hostility and aggression rather than true international or social unity." Express your views either for or against the statement.

(iv) Relate an experience where you had to make a difficult choice between personal convenience and moral duty. Describe the internal conflict you faced, the decision you arrived at, and the lasting lessons in personal integrity it provided.

(v) Study the picture given below. Write a story, a description or an account of what the scene suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Question 2

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

Select any one of the following:

[10]

(i) Write a letter to your mother thanking her for her steadfast emotional support and encouragement when you suffered a discouraging setback in your studies or athletics, explaining how her wise counsel restored your confidence.

(ii) Write a letter to the Branch Manager of your bank drawing urgent attention to several unauthorized automated debit transactions alerted on your student savings account. State the transaction details, request the immediate freezing of the compromised card, and pray for an investigation and reimbursement.

Question 3

(i) Your school is organising an Inter-School 5-a-Side Football Tournament titled 'Golden Goal'. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing students of Classes 9 and 10 and inviting them to register their house teams for selection trials. [5]

(ii) Write an email to the District Sports Officer requesting permission and official booking for the municipal sports arena grounds, goal nets, and corner flags for the 'Golden Goal' Inter-School 5-a-Side Football Tournament. [5]

Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [20]

At the twentieth mile of the Nilgiri Mountain Ultra-Marathon, thirty-year-old Maya collided head-on with what endurance athletes grimly refer to as 'the wall.' The asphalt road wound relentlessly upward beneath a scorching afternoon sun, snaking through steep tea plantations toward the six-thousand-foot summit. Her quadriceps seized in violent spasms, and her lungs heaved frantically for oxygen in the thinning mountain air. Every carbohydrate reserve in her muscles had been utterly exhausted; her body was running on pure biological starvation.

Worse than the physical agony was the insidious paralysis in her mind. A traitorous inner voice whispered with hypnotic persistence: 'Stop running. Step into the cool grass by the roadside. No shame attaches to dropping out after twenty brutal miles.' Several rival runners had already collapsed onto gravel verges, clutching cramped hamstrings while medical crews applied ice packs. Maya felt her knees buckle, her vision blurring at the edges with dark gray speckles of imminent heat exhaustion.

In that critical second of impending surrender, Maya remembered her coach's cardinal principle: 'When the body breaks, shrink the horizon.' She deliberately banished all thoughts of the distant summit and the remaining six punishing miles. Instead, she fixed her gaze upon an arbitrary target thirty paces ahead--a weathered concrete milestone painted with yellow stripes. 'Just reach the stone,' she commanded herself. Reaching it, she selected an overhanging silver oak branch fifty yards further, and then a red gravel hairpin bend.

By segmenting the ordeal into micro-objectives, Maya disarmed the panic overwhelming her brain. She synchronized her ragged breathing to a four-count cadence, inhaling deeply through her nose and expelling carbon dioxide with forceful rhythm. Shortening her stride from long bounds to rapid, economical shuffles, she reduced the jarring impact on her inflamed kneecaps. Step by agonizing step, the rhythm reasserted control over biological chaos.

As she rounded the final mountain ridge, a crisp highland breeze cooled her salt-encrusted forehead. Far down the mist-shrouded valley, the stadium grandstand came into view, its flags fluttering vibrantly in the afternoon sun. The thunderous roar of the waiting crowd rolled across the pine groves like a tidal wave. Maya did not sprint; she maintained her resolute, rhythmic shuffle right across the timing mats, collapsing into the arms of volunteer marshals. She had not merely completed a marathon; she had explored the outer perimeter of human resilience and returned whole.

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided:
[2]

1. exhaustion

(a) state of total physical depletion (b) lively enthusiasm
(c) mild disappointment (d) temporary distraction

2. resilience

(a) physical stiffness (b) capacity to recover and persevere
(c) extreme muscle pain (d) stubborn refusal to learn

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of 'wavering'?
[1]

(a) insidious (b) arbitrary
(c) ragged (d) resolute

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

(a) Describe two physical symptoms that showed Maya had hit 'the wall' at mile 20. [2]

(b) What demoralizing internal thoughts attempted to make her abandon the race? [2]

(c) How did Maya apply her coach's advice to 'shrink the horizon'? [2]

(d) What physical adjustments did Maya make to her breathing and stride? [2]

(e) What deeper victory did Maya achieve upon crossing the finish line? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise the physical distress, psychological reframing, and physical adjustments used by Maya to conquer exhaustion as described in the passage. You will be penalized for exceeding 50 words. Write the rough draft first and then write the final summary in the grid format provided.
[8]

Question 5

[20]

(i) Fill in each numbered blank with the correct form of the word given in brackets after it. Do not copy the passage. Write the numbers in the correct serial order, and against each, the word/s appropriate to the blank it stands for.

Example: (0) revolutionized
[4]

In the mid-twentieth century, agricultural scientist Norman Borlaug (0) _____ (revolutionize) global grain production. Working tirelessly in Mexican research fields, Borlaug ...(1)... (breed) semi-dwarf, disease-resistant wheat varieties that ...(2)... (produce) astonishing yields under intensive cultivation. When devastating famines ...(3)... (threaten) South Asia during the 1960s, these revolutionary miracle seeds ...(4)... (introduce) across India and Pakistan. Local farmers, swiftly ...(5)... (adopt) modern irrigation and fertilizers, ...(6)... (quadruple) their harvests within a few seasons. Borlaug, who ...(7)... (award) the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970, is celebrated for ...(8)... (save) more than one billion human lives from catastrophic starvation.

(ii) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word. You are required to write only one word: [4]

(a) The newly renovated municipal library aims to cater _____ the educational needs of all age groups.

(b) After intense debate, the municipal councillors decided to fall _____ with the master urban redevelopment plan.

(c) Despite intimidation and threats from corrupt officials, the principled auditor steadfastly refused to give _____.

(d) The honest witness solemnly promised the magistrate that he would not keep _____ any crucial evidence.

(e) Young athletes across the country look _____ to the Olympic medal winner as an inspirational mentor.

(f) The masked burglars managed to make _____ with antique silverware before the security alarm sounded.

(g) The panel of senior doctors did not rule _____ the possibility of an adverse reaction to the antibiotic.

(h) During his summer vacation in the coastal town, Nikhil quickly took _____ sea kayaking.

(iii) Choose the correct option to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so: [4]

1. The ascent was perilously steep. The rescue mountaineers reached the stranded climbers before nightfall.

(a) The ascent was perilously steep but the rescue mountaineers reached the climbers before nightfall.

(b) Despite of the perilously steep ascent, the rescue mountaineers reached the climbers before nightfall.

(c) Although the ascent was perilously steep, the rescue mountaineers reached the stranded climbers before nightfall.

(d) Although the ascent was perilously steep yet the rescue mountaineers reached the climbers.

2. The author completed the final revisions of her historical manuscript. She forwarded it to the publisher.

(a) Having completed the final revisions of her historical manuscript, the author forwarded it to the publisher.

(b) The author completed the revisions of her manuscript so she forwarded it to the publisher.

(c) On completing the revisions of her manuscript, the publisher received it from the author.

(d) Having completing the final revisions of her manuscript, the author forwarded it.

3. Ramesh did not complain about the extreme cold. He did not ask for special privileges.

(a) Ramesh neither complained about the extreme cold or asked for special privileges.

(b) Ramesh neither complained about the extreme cold nor asked for special privileges.

(c) Ramesh did not complain about cold nor he asked for special privileges.

(d) Ramesh neither complained about cold and nor asked for privileges.

4. We visited the ancient archaeological quarry. The granite blocks for the monumental temple were carved there.

(a) We visited the ancient archaeological quarry which the granite blocks were carved there.

(b) We visited the ancient quarry so the granite blocks for the temple were carved there.

(c) The ancient archaeological quarry was visited by us where granite blocks were carved there.

(d) We visited the ancient archaeological quarry where the granite blocks for the monumental temple were carved.

(iv) Choose the correct option and rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given after each: [8]

1. No sooner had the umpire raised his finger than the fielding team erupted in celebration. (Begin: As soon as...)

(a) As soon as the umpire raised his finger, the fielding team erupted in celebration.

(b) As soon as the umpire had raised his finger than the fielding team erupted in celebration.

(c) As soon as the umpire raises his finger, the fielding team erupted in celebration.

(d) As soon as the umpire raised his finger when the fielding team erupted in celebration.

2. Mount Everest is higher than any other peak on Earth. (Begin: Mount Everest is the...)

(a) Mount Everest is the higher peak on Earth.

(b) Mount Everest is the most high peak on Earth.

(c) Mount Everest is the highest of all other peaks on Earth.

(d) Mount Everest is the highest peak on Earth.

3. The conductor said to the passenger, "You have boarded the express train by mistake." (Begin: The conductor informed...)

(a) The conductor informed the passenger that you have boarded the express train by mistake.

(b) The conductor informed the passenger that he has boarded the express train by mistake.

(c) The conductor informed the passenger that he had boarded the express train by mistake.

(d) The conductor informed the passenger if he had boarded the express train by mistake.

4. The municipal engineering team has restored the broken aqueduct. (Begin: The broken aqueduct...)

(a) The broken aqueduct had been restored by the municipal engineering team.

(b) The broken aqueduct has been restored by the municipal engineering team.

(c) The broken aqueduct was restored by the municipal engineering team.

(d) The broken aqueduct is being restored by the municipal engineering team.

5. The oak timber was so heavy that the carpenter could not lift it onto the workbench. (Use: too... to)

(a) The oak timber was too heavy for the carpenter to lift onto the workbench.

(b) The oak timber was too heavy that the carpenter could not lift it onto the workbench.

(c) The oak timber was too heavy for lifting by the carpenter onto the workbench.

(d) The oak timber was so heavy too lift onto the workbench.

6. The factory supervisor had scarcely sounded the whistle when the shift workers gathered at the gates. (Begin: Scarcely had...)

(a) Scarcely had the factory supervisor sounded the whistle than the shift workers gathered at the gates.

(b) Scarcely the factory supervisor had sounded the whistle when the shift workers gathered at the gates.

(c) Scarcely had the factory supervisor sounded the whistle when the shift workers gathered at the gates.

(d) Scarcely did the factory supervisor sound the whistle than the shift workers gathered at the gates.

7. Unless the laboratory maintains strict sterile conditions, the biological samples will be contaminated. (Begin: If...)

(a) If the laboratory maintains strict sterile conditions, the biological samples will be contaminated.

(b) If the laboratory does not maintain strict sterile conditions, the biological samples will be contaminated.

(c) If the laboratory did not maintain sterile conditions, the biological samples will be contaminated.

(d) If the laboratory will not maintain sterile conditions, the samples will contaminate.

8. You have submitted the final registration dossier, _____? (Choose the correct question tag)

(a) don't you?

(b) isn't it?

(c) hadn't you?

(d) haven't you?