PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

Class 10 English Communicative (101)

Sample Question Paper 16

Academic Session 2026–27 | Board Examination 2027

Time allowed: 3 hours Maximum marks: 80

General Instructions

1. This paper has 12 main questions in FOUR sections. All main questions are compulsory; follow the internal choices.

2. Write the question number and subpart clearly. Attempt only the required number of alternatives.

3. Follow the word limits. Reading short answers and literature short answers require 30–40 words; literature long answers require about 150 words.

4. Writing limits are maxima: application 50, factual description 100, formal letter 120 and article 150 words.

5. All unseen texts and datasets are original practice material. Names, addresses and survey data are fictional. No external knowledge is needed for reading answers.

Section A Reading Skills 22 marks

1 Read the passage and answer all parts 12 marks

A character on trial

1. In the book club's invented story, Renu locked the community music room after noticing water dripping near its instruments. She took the key to find the caretaker. A group arriving to rehearse could not enter and accused her of spoiling their preparation. The club's first discussion divided quickly into people defending Renu and people defending the musicians.

2. Their teacher assigned each group the position it had opposed. The task was not to pretend that every action was equally good. It was to produce the strongest account of the other side using details actually supplied by the story. Renu's group had to admit the musicians had received no warning. The musicians' group had to recognise that leaving instruments beneath a leak was not a harmless alternative.

3. One student invented a telephone call to make Renu's behaviour easier to defend. Another objected: the story had mentioned no call. They placed that idea in a separate column headed possible improvement. This distinguished explaining what happened from proposing what could have happened. Both tasks mattered, but they could not be combined without changing the evidence.

4. The final discussion offered a more specific judgement. Renu had reason to protect the instruments, yet should have considered how to inform expected users while finding help. The club no longer needed to describe one side as entirely selfish. Nor did understanding the reason for an action remove its consequences. The exercise had turned argument from choosing a favourite person into examining a decision, its constraints and its effects.

i. Why does Renu lock the room? [1]

ii. What does the teacher ask groups to do?
A. Change every story detail
B. Argue the position they first opposed
C. Stop using evidence
D. Decide who is most popular [1]

iii. What do the opposing groups each have to acknowledge? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. Why is the imagined telephone call excluded from the account of events? [1]

v. Where can the telephone-call idea still be useful? [1]

vi. “Constraints” in the final sentence means:
A. practical limits affecting a choice
B. prizes for a performance
C. musical instruments
D. private friendships [1]

vii. Explain the final distinction between understanding a reason and excusing an effect. Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. True or false: The teacher demands that all actions be judged equally good. [1]

ix. Complete: The discussion shifts from choosing a favourite _____ to examining a decision. [1]

x. Which revision would preserve the story’s facts while adding an evaluation?
A. Renu phoned everyone beforehand.
B. There was never a leak.
C. Renu had a protective reason but gave the musicians no warning.
D. The caretaker had already repaired the roof. [1]

2 Read the text and data and answer all parts 10 marks

Booklet print-room order

Each folded body sheet produces four numbered booklet pages. Every copy also requires one separate cover sheet. All page totals in the table exclude covers and are divisible by four. Calculate paper needs using body sheets plus covers, multiplied by the number of copies.

The room has 420 sheets available for these orders. The plan allows no spare copies or spoiled sheets. Any later allowance for errors must therefore be added separately before printing. Stapling and ink are outside this paper-count exercise.

Booklet	Body pages	Copies
A	12	24
B	16	30
C	20	18

Fictional print order. A cover uses one whole sheet, irrespective of its printed sides.

i. How many body sheets does one copy of C need? [1]

ii. How many sheets does the entire A order require including covers?
A. 72
B. 84
C. 96
D. 120 [1]

iii. Explain why dividing pages by four is not the final order calculation. Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

iv. Which order uses the most sheets altogether? [1]

v. How many sheets remain from 420 after all three orders? [1]

vi. What does the body-page column exclude? [1]

vii. Why should the operator not treat the remaining 66 sheets as an unconditional surplus? Answer in 30–40 words. [2]

viii. True or false: Stapling charges are included in this exercise’s paper count. [1]

Section B Writing Skills 22 marks

3 Application 3 marks

Write in a maximum of 50 words.

You are Mehul Das, X B, PAUL ACADEMY. Request that your grandmother be authorised to collect you on 10–12 December while your parents travel. Offer her identity and contact details.

4 Factual description 4 marks

Write in a maximum of 100 words.

Describe instrument repairer Ms Dipa: about forty-five; short curly hair; blue apron; magnifying lens on a stand; padded workbench; checks violin strings; turns tuning pegs; keeps small tools in labelled trays.

5 Formal letter 7 marks

Attempt either A or B. Write in a maximum of 120 words.

A. You are Mehul Das, 11 Birch Road, Surat. Ask the Community Sports Club Secretary to stop public jokes about players' bodies. Describe the effect on participation and request respectful coaching and a reporting contact. MCB Unit 1 Health and Medicine.

OR

B. You are Tara Bose, 3 Grove Street, Surat. Complain to Sunrise Tours that a promised craft demonstration became an unannounced sales stop. Request an explanation, transparent itineraries and a suitable remedy. MCB Unit 5 Travel and Tourism.

6 Article 8 marks

Attempt either A or B. Write in a maximum of 150 words.

A. As Mehul Das, write "Coach the skill not the body". Cues: hurtful labels; specific feedback; beginners; private concerns; participation. MCB Unit 1 Health and Medicine.

OR

B. As Tara Bose, write "A souvenir needs an honest story". Cues: claimed origin; makers; demonstration versus sales; questions; informed purchase. MCB Unit 5 Travel and Tourism.

Section C Grammar 10 marks

7 Gap filling 3 marks

Choose the correct option for each gap. Each part carries 1 mark.

The musicians usually (i) _____ on Thursdays. Each player brings (ii) _____ instrument from home. They (iii) _____ use the locked room tonight; the caretaker has explicitly refused permission.

i. (i) A. rehearsing B. rehearsed yesterday C. rehearse D. has rehearse [1]

ii. (ii) A. an B. a C. many D. few [1]

iii. (iii) A. may B. must not C. should D. ought to [1]

8 Editing 4 marks

Each numbered sentence has exactly one incorrect word. Write the error and its correction. Each part carries 1 mark.

No.	Sentence	Error	Correction
i	The instruments in the locked room needs protection.		
ii	Only a little students noticed the leak.		
iii	This is the caretaker who keys were missing.		
iv	We know where the two spare keys belongs.		

9 Transformation and reordering 3 marks

Do as directed. Each part carries 1 mark.

i. Report later: Tara said, “I have sent the revised itinerary.” Begin: Tara said ... [1]

ii. Combine using unless: Inform the musicians. Otherwise, they will arrive unaware. [1]

iii. Reply to “What must we find out?” Reorder: who / holds / we must find out / the spare key [1]

Section D Literature Textbook 26 marks

10 Reference to context 8 marks

Attempt ANY TWO of extracts A, B and C. Answer all four parts of each chosen extract briefly. Each extract carries 4 × 1 = 4 marks.

A Mrs Packletide's Tiger

She was not actually nervous about the wild beast, but she had a morbid dread of performing an atom more service than she had been paid for.

i. Whose fear is being described? [1]

ii. What does she fear more than the tiger? [1]

iii. What effect does "an atom" give to her calculation? [1]

iv. Why is "morbid dread" comic in this setting? [1]

B Virtually True

Sirens wailed, guard dogs howled, heavy boots came tramping. Behind us, steel-barred doors slammed shut.

i. Which game provides this setting? [1]

ii. How do the sounds change the pace of the escape? [1]

iii. What do "heavy boots" let Michael know without describing faces? [1]

iv. What does the closing of doors behind the boys suggest? [1]

C The Frog and the Nightingale

Owl of Sandwich, Duck of Kent,

Mallard and Milady Trent,

Martin Cardinal Mephisto,

And the Coot of Monte Cristo,

i. Which two words explicitly imitate human ranks or titles? [1]

ii. What comic combination is produced by these names? [1]

iii. What does this guest list suggest about the nightingale's fame? [1]

iv. How do the paired rhymes support the tone? [1]

11 Short answers 10 marks

Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 30–40 words each. Each answer carries 2 marks.

i. Why does the narrator drive the boys himself on Luigi's day off? (Two Gentlemen of Verona) [2]

ii. What is ironic about comparing the clerk with a worshipper reciting names? (The Letter) [2]

iii. Why can Lavinia settle Gladolia's complaint quickly? (A Shady Plot) [2]

iv. What duty does the fruit metaphor assign to an actor? (Patol Babu, Film Star) [2]

v. What change is signalled when the sun rises on the ship's right? (The Rime of the Ancient Mariner) [2]

vi. How do Henry and Mrs Jordan talk at cross-purposes about Abel's boots? (The Dear Departed) [2]

12 Long answer 8 marks

Answer EITHER A OR B in about 150 words.

A. Write an editor's note distinguishing imaginative inspiration from historical evidence. Use Lavinia's proposed Ouija research and John's eventual ghost-story idea. (A Shady Plot)

OR

B. Does public approval reliably measure moral worth? Compare the disliked frog with the photographed Mrs Packletide, using the opening reactions to their performances. (The Frog and the Nightingale; Mrs Packletide's Tiger)

End of Question Paper 16