PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 2

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) Write an original short story beginning with the following sentence:

"The old wooden box had remained locked in the attic for as long as anyone could remember, until yesterday..."

(ii) Describe a quiet village during a sudden, prolonged power outage on a warm summer night. Mention the visual changes as darkness fell, the sounds of nature and human voices, how residents adapted to the heat, and the atmosphere when the stars emerged clearly overhead.

(iii) "Co-curricular activities should be made compulsory for all students appearing for board examinations." Express your views either for or against this statement.

(iv) Relate an unexpected encounter with a stranger that fundamentally altered your perspective on empathy and taught you not to judge people by outward appearances or first impressions.

(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 close friend apologizing sincerely for a misunderstanding that occurred during a collaborative school science project. Explain your perspective calmly, acknowledge where you were at fault, and propose a fair compromise to resume your joint preparation and restore your friendship.

(ii) Write a letter to the Divisional Forest Officer drawing urgent attention to rampant illegal tree felling and land encroachment in the municipal woodland bordering your residential sector. Highlight the severe threat to local bird species and wildlife, and propose immediate surveillance and boundary protection measures.

Question 3

(i) Your school is organizing an E-Waste Collection Drive to collect and safely dispose of discarded electronic gadgets. Write a notice to be put up on the school notice board inviting students of Classes 6 to 10 to participate and contribute discarded items. [5]

(ii) Write an e-mail to the Operations Manager of a certified electronics recycling firm requesting specialized collection bins and transportation for the discarded electronic items collected during the school's E-Waste Collection Drive. [5]

Question 4

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

Dr. Kabir Ray found the peregrine falcon entangled in rusted barbed wire along the windswept northern ridge of the valley. The bird had evidently been trapped for hours; its left wing hung at an unnatural angle, matted with dried blood, while its yellow talons gripped the cruel barbs in desperate defiance. As Dr. Ray cautiously stepped closer, the raptor hissed fiercely, snapping its hooked beak and spreading its uninjured right wing in an instinctive posture of indomitable courage. It refused to surrender to exhaustion, viewing every human gesture as an imminent assault.

Covering the bird's head with a thick woolen cloth to calm its terror, Dr. Ray carefully snipped the wire with wire-cutters and carried the trembling creature to his hillside sanctuary. An examination in the clinic revealed torn skin across the carpal joint, three sheared primary flight feathers, and severe dehydration. Over the ensuing fortnight, the falcon--whom Dr. Ray named Astra--slowly convalesced under meticulous care. The torn skin was sutured, the fractured wing immobilized in a light fiberglass cast, and fresh strips of vitamin-enriched quail meat were patiently offered from gloved fingertips.

At first, Astra resisted feeding, snapping her beak angrily and glaring with dark, watchful eyes. Yet Kabir's quiet persistence gradually broke through her wild fear. By the third week, she took food willingly and allowed the splint to be removed without protest. Then began the arduous process of rebuilding her weakened flight muscles. In the vast circular flight barn, Dr. Ray fitted soft leather jesses to her legs and attached a light nylon cord known as a creance line.

The breakthrough occurred on a crisp November morning. Dr. Ray took Astra out to the wide upland meadow where mountain thermals rose steadily against the granite crags. Tethered to the fifty-meter creance, Astra surveyed the open skies with unmistakable longing. With a sharp flick of Kabir's gloved wrist, the falcon launched into the air. Her wings beat rhythmically, pumping with renewed vigor until she achieved graceful, effortless gliding. There was no hesitation or faltering; the wild instinct of a supreme predator had survived intact.

A week later, fully certified as fit for survival, Astra was transported to the highest valley overlook. As Dr. Ray gently removed the leather hood and jesses, the falcon turned her head once, locking eyes with her rescuer in what seemed an instant of profound recognition. Then, with explosive power, she propelled herself off the cliff face, spiraling into a colossal thermal updraft until she was merely a triumphant speck against the boundless blue.

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

1. convalesced

(a) worsened steadily (b) became agitated
(c) gradually recovered health (d) slept deeply

2. indomitable

(a) easily frightened (b) impossible to defeat or subdue
(c) extremely fatigued (d) completely indifferent

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

(a) desperately (b) fiercely
(c) rhythmically (d) patiently

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

(a) What condition was the falcon in when Dr. Ray first found her on the ridge? Give two details. [2]

(b) How did the falcon react when Dr. Ray initially approached to rescue her? [2]

(c) What medical treatment and initial care did Dr. Ray administer in his clinic? [2]

(d) Describe the falcon's behavior during her breakthrough flight on the creance line in the upland meadow. [2]

(e) How did Astra react just before she flew away into the mountain thermal updraft upon release? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise the steps taken by Dr. Ray to rehabilitate the injured falcon and restore her flight. 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) returned
[4]

In September 1928, when Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming (0) _____ (return) to his laboratory at St. Mary's Hospital, London, after a vacation, he ...(1)... (notice) something unusual on an unattended culture plate. A curious mold ...(2)... (contaminate) the staphylococcus culture while he was away. Upon inspecting the petri dish under a microscope, Fleming was astonished to find that the mold appeared to be ...(3)... (dissolve) the surrounding bacterial colonies. The active fungal growth ...(4)... (surround) by a completely transparent, sterile ring where no microbes could survive. Fleming ...(5)... (publish) his remarkable findings the following year, naming the mysterious antibacterial substance 'penicillin'. Although he faced immense technical difficulties in ...(6)... (isolate) pure, stable quantities of the drug, subsequent research by Howard Florey and Ernst Chain ...(7)... (succeed) in mass-producing the antibiotic, which permanently ...(8)... (transform) modern medicine.

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

(a) Every citizen is expected to abide _____ the constitutional laws of the country.

(b) The small medical clinic struggled to cope _____ the sudden influx of patients.

(c) She did not hesitate to jump _____ the chance to study abroad.

(d) We finally prevailed _____ the village elders to support the literacy campaign.

(e) Health authorities feared that cholera might break _____ after the severe floods.

(f) While browsing in the library, I happened to run _____ an old school friend.

(g) I cannot put _____ with such intolerable insolence any longer.

(h) In his remarkable musical talent, the boy seems to take _____ his grandfather.

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

1. The inspector arrived unexpectedly. The factory workers immediately stopped their agitation.

(a) Hardly had the inspector arrived unexpectedly than the workers stopped agitation.

(b) The factory workers stopped their agitation because of the inspector arrives.

(c) As soon as the inspector arrived unexpectedly, the factory workers stopped their agitation.

(d) No sooner did the inspector arrive unexpectedly when the workers stopped agitation.

2. The detective searched the abandoned cabin thoroughly. He found no incriminating evidence.

(a) Although the detective searched the abandoned cabin thoroughly, he found no incriminating evidence.

(b) Because the detective searched the cabin thoroughly, he found no evidence.

(c) Despite of searching the abandoned cabin thoroughly, no evidence was found.

(d) The detective found no evidence since he searched the abandoned cabin.

3. The mountaineer reached the treacherous ridge. He secured the safety harness firmly.

(a) The mountaineer reached the treacherous ridge for securing the safety harness.

(b) The safety harness was secured firmly as the mountaineer reaching the ridge.

(c) On reach the treacherous ridge, the mountaineer secured the safety harness.

(d) Having reached the treacherous ridge, the mountaineer secured the safety harness firmly.

4. You must complete the safety inspection today. You cannot operate the machinery tomorrow.

(a) If you complete the safety inspection today, you cannot operate the machinery tomorrow.

(b) Unless you complete the safety inspection today, you cannot operate the machinery tomorrow.

(c) You cannot operate the machinery tomorrow lest you complete the inspection.

(d) Provided you do not complete the safety inspection today, you can operate the machinery.

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

1. As soon as the curtain fell, the audience burst into thunderous applause. (Begin: No sooner...)

(a) No sooner had the curtain fell when the audience burst into applause.

(b) No sooner did the curtain fall than the audience burst into thunderous applause.

(c) No sooner the curtain fell than the audience burst into thunderous applause.

(d) No sooner did the curtain fall then the audience burst into applause.

2. Mount Everest is the highest mountain peak in the world. (Use: higher)

(a) Mount Everest is higher than all mountain peaks in the world.

(b) No other peak in the world is as higher as Mount Everest.

(c) Mount Everest is more higher than any peak in the world.

(d) Mount Everest is higher than any other mountain peak in the world.

3. The captain said to the soldiers, "Do not fire until I give the command." (Begin: The captain commanded...)

(a) The captain commanded the soldiers that do not fire until I give the command.

(b) The captain commanded the soldiers not to fire until he will give the command.

(c) The captain commanded the soldiers not to fire until he gave the command.

(d) The captain commanded the soldiers to not fire until he gives the command.

4. Did the municipal commissioner approve your building permit? (Begin: Was your building permit...)

(a) Was your building permit approved by the municipal commissioner?

(b) Was your building permit being approved by the municipal commissioner?

(c) Was your building permit approve by the municipal commissioner?

(d) Was your building permit had been approved by the municipal commissioner?

5. The ancient manuscript was too fragile for the researchers to handle without gloves. (Use: so... that)

(a) The ancient manuscript was so fragile that the researchers cannot handle it without gloves.

(b) The ancient manuscript was so fragile for the researchers that they handle it without gloves.

(c) The ancient manuscript was so fragile that the researchers could not handle it without gloves.

(d) The ancient manuscript was too fragile that the researchers could not handle it without gloves.

6. A leader rarely displays such profound humility. (Begin: Seldom...)

(a) Seldom a leader displays such profound humility.

(b) Seldom does a leader display such profound humility.

(c) Seldom did a leader displayed such profound humility.

(d) Seldom does a leader displays such profound humility.

7. Every student admired the teacher's unwavering patience. (Begin: There was no student...)

(a) There was no student who admired the teacher's unwavering patience.

(b) There was no student but did not admire the teacher's patience.

(c) There was no student without admiring the teacher's unwavering patience.

(d) There was no student who did not admire the teacher's unwavering patience.

8. If he had not intervened promptly, the dispute would have escalated. (Begin: Had he...)

(a) Had he not intervened promptly, the dispute would have escalated.

(b) Had he intervened promptly, the dispute would have escalated.

(c) Had he not intervened promptly, the dispute would escalate.

(d) Had he not been intervened promptly, the dispute would have escalated.