PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Complete Answer Key | Key 10

Board Examination 2027

Maximum Marks: 80 Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Marking Guidance

This complete key answers all alternatives; candidates attempt only the choices specified in the paper. Accept relevant, accurate equivalent responses. Retain the better-scoring response when an extra answer is attempted. Award no mark for an MCQ with multiple options selected.

For 2-mark responses, award 1 mark for each of the two distinct ideas indicated. For Q8–9: content 2, expression 1; deduct up to 1 overall for language inaccuracies without double deduction. For Q10–11: content 3, expression 2, accuracy 1. Model answers illustrate acceptable responses, not compulsory wording.

Section A Reading Skills — 20 Marks

1. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. The measurement may not address the question or purpose that actually matters. [1]

II. C. Visual preference. [1]

III. A. range or limits of relevance. [1]

IV. The vote accurately indicated which design students found attractive, so it remained evidence about visual preference. It did not test comfort, stability or ease of use, and therefore could not by itself establish which bench best served the courtyard's needs. [2]

V. criterion. [1]

VI. B. Students with temporary injuries. [1]

VII. False. [1]

VIII. The team showed how experience exposed gaps in the plan and guided a relevant investigation. Explaining the revision, tests and remaining uncertainty made the decision transparent, rather than asking the audience to accept a defence of the first idea. [2]

2. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. Model B: 27 of 30. [1]

II. C. Model C. [1]

III. 9 (30 minus 21). [1]

IV. A combined total would assume that comfort, standing and stability deserve equal weight, which the school has not agreed. Different priorities could favour different models, so a decision requires explicit criteria as well as the recorded satisfaction figures. [2]

V. cost. [1]

VI. B. Model B led on stability. [1]

VII. All participants were regular courtyard users. [1]

VIII. A rating identifies satisfaction or dissatisfaction but does not explain its cause. Descriptions could reveal problems with height, space or movement, helping the team understand what needs changing and assess whether a design adjustment addresses the actual difficulty. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar Answers — 10 Marks

I. B. tested [1]

II. Hina said that she would bring her notes the following/next day. [1]

III. C. a few [1]

IV. Error: have; correction: has. [1]

V. A. should [1]

VI. The examiner ordered/told the candidates to put down their pens. [1]

VII. has revised [1]

VIII. Error: was; correction: were. [1]

IX. Jay asked Rina why she had changed the handle. [1]

X. A. more [1]

XI. were comparing [1]

XII. A. might [1]

4. Formal Letter Models — 5 Marks

Format 1; content 2; organisation 1; accuracy 1.

4A Model Response

10 Courtyard Lane
Patna
16 January 2027
The Principal
Horizon School
Patna
Subject: A wider trial before selecting courtyard benches
Madam/Sir,
I request a wider user trial before the school purchases new courtyard benches. The present feedback is useful, but regular users alone may not represent students who avoid the space or have difficulty sitting and standing.
Please include students with different needs and agree on clear criteria for comfort, stability and ease of use. Participants could explain any difficulty as well as give a rating. Cost and weather resistance should be checked separately before a final choice is made.
Kindly allow the design team to present the revised findings and remaining limitations. A short additional trial would help the school select a bench for its practical purpose, alongside its appearance.
Yours faithfully
Hina Roy

The body of the model letter follows the 100–120-word limit; address and closing conventions are shown in full.

4B Model Response

21 Design Road
Patna
16 January 2027
The Manager
Courtyard Furniture Supplies
Patna
Subject: Specifications and demonstration of school benches
Madam/Sir,
Our school is comparing two bench models for its courtyard and requests detailed specifications before considering a purchase. Please provide dimensions, seat height, material information and the method used to secure each bench against movement.
We would also appreciate evidence about weather resistance, maintenance requirements and the service available if a component fails. Kindly state the complete cost, including delivery and installation, so that our comparison uses the same basis for both models.
If possible, arrange a demonstration at which students can try sitting and standing. Please suggest suitable dates and any conditions for the trial. This information will help the school make a decision based on usability and continuing care.
Yours faithfully
Jay Sen

The body of the model letter follows the 100–120-word limit; address and closing conventions are shown in full.

5. Analytical Paragraph Models — 5 Marks

Content 2; organisation 2; accuracy 1. Write one connected paragraph without a title.

5A Model Response

The bench trial was followed by a substantial change in preference among the same thirty students. Model A initially received twenty votes, or two-thirds of the total, but fell to five afterwards. Model B rose from six to fifteen and became the leading choice, while Model C increased from four to ten. The pattern suggests that direct experience changed how participants evaluated the designs, rather than merely confirming their first impressions. However, preference after a short trial does not establish long-term comfort, durability or suitability for every user. The school should combine this feedback with practical checks and a wider sample. The figures support reconsidering the original favourite, not abandoning further evaluation.

5B Model Response

Model A is the only bench that satisfies both essential requirements within the budget. It has a stable base and the specified seat height of forty-five centimetres, while its price of seventy-five hundred rupees leaves five hundred available. Its weatherproof construction also suits the proposed outdoor setting. Model B costs less and has the correct height, but an unstable base fails a compulsory condition. Model C is stable and affordable, yet its fifty-five-centimetre seat does not meet the required height. Since all models are weatherproof, that feature does not distinguish them. The school should therefore choose Model A on the stated evidence, while confirming installation and service arrangements before purchase.

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract Answers — 5 Marks

6A A Letter to God

I. Physical strength and capacity for hard work. [1]

II. A. Metaphor. [1]

III. His ability to write. [1]

IV. The description establishes Lencho as a hardworking farmer whose livelihood depends on physical labour. His literacy then provides an unexpected means of seeking help, allowing him to turn religious confidence into a written appeal after the crop is destroyed. [2]

6B A Triumph of Surgery

I. Mrs Pumphrey. [1]

II. B. indulgence mistaken for care. [1]

III. Tricki. [1]

IV. Mrs Pumphrey wants to please Tricki, but giving rich food ignores his actual health needs. Her inability to refuse him allows affection to reinforce a harmful habit, showing why care requires informed judgement and restraint as well as loving intention. [2]

7. Poetry Extract Answers — 5 Marks

7A The Tale of Custard the Dragon

I. Custard / Belinda's dragon. [1]

II. A. an open-mouthed stare. [1]

III. dragon / flagon. [1]

IV. The pirate initially frightens the household, but his startled stare at Custard shows that he now confronts an unexpected danger himself. The reaction prepares the reversal in which the supposedly cowardly dragon becomes the effective defender against the intruder. [2]

7B For Anne Gregory

I. God's. [1]

II. A. inner self and outward beauty. [1]

III. Anne's yellow hair. [1]

IV. The ending suggests that changing a feature cannot guarantee love directed towards the inner person. By invoking divine love, the poem raises a wider question about the limits of human perception and the difficulty of separating identity from appearance. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

I. Lencho requests a hundred pesos, which the postmaster cannot supply through goodwill alone. He contributes part of his salary and seeks donations from employees and friends. His compassionate intention becomes practical assistance through shared effort, although the collection still falls short of the requested amount. [3]

II. Inside the storm, the pilot has lost reliable instruments and cannot navigate safely by himself. As fuel runs low, delay becomes dangerous and his options narrow. Following the other aeroplane offers a possible route out, making the unexplained guidance crucial to his eventual landing. [3]

III. Anne does not simply accuse other people of failing to understand her. She considers whether her own inability to move beyond ordinary conversation contributes to the distance. This self-questioning makes her loneliness more thoughtful and reveals a willingness to examine herself as well as her relationships. [3]

IV. The account presents Coorgi homes as ready to recount stories of courage, making hospitality a route into local memory and identity. Visitors encounter more than scenery or coffee estates. Personal welcome connects the landscape with the traditions and qualities through which its inhabitants understand themselves. [3]

V. The speaker recognises that the boy's grief is not childish foolishness that a purchase can dismiss. The lost ball carries personal history, and the experience requires understanding. Respect means allowing that process rather than imposing a quick solution which ignores what has actually been lost. [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

I. Anil's money is not presented as an inexhaustible fortune; he earns irregularly and still offers Hari food and teaching. Stealing from him therefore betrays a generous relationship rather than merely taking surplus wealth. This context strengthens Hari's later recognition of the trust he has endangered. [3]

II. The young woman deceives Horace, but he has already chosen burglary and then abandons caution to satisfy her. Opening the safe without gloves leaves fingerprints that support his arrest. Her manipulation matters, yet the outcome also grows from his dishonest purpose and decisions under pressure. [3]

III. Noodle's intelligence and openness to useful information contrast with Think-Tank's vanity and refusal to admit mistakes. His eventual position suggests a more constructive basis for leadership. The friendly later contact with Earth also replaces the earlier attempt at domination with learning and cooperation between the two societies. [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. A shared future cannot rest only on possession, status or the wish to win an argument. You have allowed disputes over land and dogs to obscure the purpose that brought you together. Respect requires hearing another person without immediately treating disagreement as an attack on dignity. My experience taught me that freedom is incomplete when relationships are governed by domination and prejudice. Your situation is smaller, but responsibility still matters. Consider whether your words help create the life you claim to want. A marriage needs more than a formal agreement between families: it needs habits of cooperation, proportion and mutual regard. Begin by valuing the people before you more than the victory of the moment. [6]

B. The Tale of Custard the Dragon questions judging courage by confident claims, while For Anne Gregory questions love dominated by physical beauty. Custard's anxious wish for safety makes him appear cowardly, but his action against the pirate reveals the courage that boasting fails to prove. Anne's yellow hair attracts admiration so strongly that the conversation doubts whether young men see her inner self. Both poems expose a gap between a visible or audible sign and a person's fuller character. Their tones differ, but each invites more careful judgement. People should be understood through sustained attention to conduct and identity, rather than reduced to an attractive feature or a convincing performance of confidence. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Herriot and Bholi's teacher both respond through informed attention rather than accepting the assumptions surrounding a vulnerable individual. Mrs Pumphrey believes rich food and comfort help Tricki, but Herriot recognises the need for controlled feeding, exercise and companionship. Bholi's family sees her as limited by appearance and speech, while the teacher recognises a learner who needs safety, encouragement and opportunity. Neither response is merely sentimental. Each creates practical conditions in which improvement can occur. Tricki regains health, and Bholi develops the confidence to make an independent moral decision. Their examples show that responsibility requires understanding actual needs and changing harmful expectations, rather than repeating familiar forms of affection or judgement. [6]

B. Matilda and Horace both act on assumptions that make an apparent success dangerously misleading. Matilda believes the borrowed necklace is precious and treats admiration at the ball as a social victory. After its loss, the untested belief in its value leads to an expensive replacement and years of debt. Horace believes the confident young woman owns the house and imagines that opening the safe will secure his escape. In fact, his work benefits another thief and leaves evidence against him. Both stories expose the cost of allowing appearance and desire to stand in for verification. A convincing impression may guide action, but it becomes disastrous when its consequences are accepted without questioning the underlying belief. [6]