PA/SQP/3

Do section C only answers

PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Practice Sample Paper | Paper 03

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) A map usually appears to tell us where things are. A dot marks a building, a line follows a road and a coloured patch indicates a park. Yet maps also contain decisions about what deserves attention. A narrow lane used by hundreds of pedestrians may be less visible than a broad road used by a few cars. Accuracy involves more than placing objects in their correct positions; it also involves asking whose experience the map represents.

(2) A student group discovered this while making a walking map of its town. The first draft showed monuments, shops and bus stops. When the students invited comments, an older resident pointed out benches where she could rest. A wheelchair user marked a short route that became impossible because of a single step. A street vendor explained which crossing remained crowded after sunset. None of these details had appeared in the students' original plan.

(3) Adding information did not mean accepting every statement without checking it. Residents sometimes remembered a path that had recently been closed, or described a place by a name absent from official records. Students visited the routes, compared accounts and

dated their observations. Where two descriptions differed, they recorded the uncertainty rather than choosing the most confident speaker. A useful community map needed both local knowledge and careful verification.

(4) The group also collected short accounts of how public spaces had changed. A former cinema became a warehouse; a meeting place disappeared when a road widened. These stories helped explain why a place mattered even when its former building no longer existed. However, interviewees could decide whether their names would appear. The students understood that an interesting memory was not permission to publish someone's personal experience without asking.

(5) The finished map was deliberately modest. It could not contain every memory, barrier or useful corner. Instead of claiming completeness, the students printed a contact address for corrections and a date for the next review. They also produced a clear paper version for residents who did not use smartphones. A digital link could make information convenient, but it should not become another gate that some people were unable to pass.

(6) Mapping, in this sense, is a continuing conversation rather than a final declaration. The goal is not to make every user follow the same route. It is to help different people make informed choices while recognising that a town can be experienced in many ways. The best question may therefore be not simply whether a map looks detailed, but whether it helps someone notice a possibility or obstacle that would otherwise have remained invisible.

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

I. What overlooked contrast does paragraph 1 draw between a pedestrian lane and a broad road? [1]

II. Which detail came from the wheelchair user? A. A cinema's history B. A route blocked by one step C. A bench location D. A crowded evening crossing [1]

III. In paragraph 3, "verification" means: A. decoration B. confirmation of accuracy C. rapid publication D. private ownership [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain why the students combined local accounts with site visits. [2]

V. Complete: Asking interviewees about using their names protects their _____. [1]

VI. Identify the feature that keeps the map open to improvement. [1]

VII. Which claim would the writer reject? A. Maps involve choices. B. Paper versions can widen access. C. A smartphone link serves every resident equally. D. Uncertainty can be recorded. [1]

VIII. Explain in 30–40 words how the final paragraph changes the reader's idea of a successful map. [2]

2. Case-based Factual Passage — 10 Marks

(1) A fictional school transport committee surveyed two hundred students about their usual journey to school. Each student selected one main mode of travel. The table presents the number choosing each mode and the average journey time reported by that group. The school wished to understand travel patterns before discussing changes to its entrance area.

(2) Walking was the most common mode, followed by the school bus. Private cars carried the fewest respondents, although the committee noted that a small number of cars could still occupy considerable space near the gate. Average journey times also differed: cyclists reported the shortest trip, while bus users reported the longest. These averages do not show the full range within each group. A student living nearby and one living far away may report very different experiences.

(3) The committee avoided declaring one mode best for everyone. Distance, physical access, road conditions and family arrangements could affect choices. It proposed counting vehicles and observing the gate at arrival time before recommending a layout. It also planned to ask students whether their usual route changed during rain. Since the survey recorded only one main mode, it did not capture mixed journeys involving both walking and public transport. Further questions would help the committee understand needs hidden behind the four simple categories. All figures are invented for assessment.

Main mode	Students	Average minutes
Walking	80	18
Bicycle	40	15
School bus	60	35
Private car	20	25

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

I. What percentage of respondents usually walked? [1]

II. Which group reported the longest average journey? A. Walkers B. Cyclists C. School bus users D. Car users [1]

III. How many more students used the bus than a private car? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why twenty car users do not necessarily imply little pressure at the gate. [2]

V. State True or False: Every bus user’s journey took exactly thirty-five minutes. [1]

VI. Complete: Recording only one main mode fails to capture _____. [1]

VII. Which additional question addresses changing weather? A. Favourite subject B. Route during rain C. Preferred lunch D. Club membership [1]

VIII. In 30–40 words, explain why the committee avoided naming one travel mode best for everyone. [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 museum _____ at ten every morning. A. open B. opens C. opening D. have opened [1]

II. Report Ritu's statement: "I have recorded three interviews." [1]

III. We could not find _____ evidence for that date. A. many B. few C. any D. an [1]

IV. Correct the error: Every one of these old maps show the river. [1]

V. Choose the modal for ability: When I was six, I _____ read this script. A. could B. must C. ought D. may to [1]

VI. Report the request: The guide said to the visitors, "Please wait outside." [1]

VII. Use the correct form: They _____ (finish) the display before the guests arrived. [1]

VIII. Correct the error: The labels on this cabinet is faded. [1]

IX. Report the question: Aman asked Leela, "Did you save the recording?" [1]

X. Choose: _____ visitor received a printed map. A. Each B. Many C. All D. Both [1]

XI. Use the present continuous: Listen! The curator _____ (explain) the exhibit. [1]

XII. Choose the modal for advice: You _____ check the source before adding a date. A. should B. might C. can to D. would to [1]

4. Formal Letter — 5 Marks

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

A. You are Ritu Roy, 12 Museum Road, Pune. Write a letter in 100–120 words to the Curator, Town Museum, Pune, requesting permission for supervised student interviews about the history of the museum neighbourhood. Include purpose, consent, recording and sharing arrangements. [5]

OR

B. You are Aman Verma, 35 Station Road, Pune. Write in 100–120 words to the Traffic Inspector, Central Traffic Office, Pune, requesting observation of congestion at your school entrance and practical pedestrian arrangements. Avoid unsupported allegations. [5]

5. Analytical Paragraph — 5 Marks

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

A. Analyse fictional museum visitor feedback in 100–120 words: clear labels 70%; helpful staff 85%; easy physical access 55%; readable online information 60%. Each of 100 visitors rated every feature. Identify priorities without adding the percentages together. [5]

OR

B. Recommend a route for a fictional school heritage walk in 100–120 words. Group includes a wheelchair user; maximum walking distance 2 km. Route A: 1.5 km, steps, three sites. B: 1.8 km, level paved path, four sites. C: 2.6 km, level path, six sites. Use the stated criteria. [5]

Do this section only Answers

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 From the Diary of Anne Frank

I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest.

I. Who expresses this need? [1]

II. "Get … off my chest" means: A. lift a box B. express troubling or personal feelings C. exercise D. memorise a lesson [1]

III. Complete: The line presents writing as a means of emotional _____. [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why this need is different from merely listing daily events. [2]

OR

B Bholi

She had such a soothing voice; she would not laugh at her.

I. Whose voice is described? [1]

II. Which expectation gives Bholi reassurance? A. She will win money. B. She will not be mocked. C. She will leave school. D. She will avoid learning. [1]

III. Give one suitable synonym for "soothing". [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the teacher's manner changes the conditions for Bholi's learning. [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 Ball Poem

I would not intrude on him;
A dime, another ball, is worthless.

I. Who is "him"? [1]

II. "Intrude" here means: A. interfere uninvited B. purchase C. celebrate D. rescue from water [1]

III. Is "worthless" a claim that all balls have no market price? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why the speaker chooses restraint rather than immediate consolation. [2]

OR

B Amanda

(I am an orphan, roaming the street.
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

I. Is Amanda literally presented as an orphan in her everyday life? [1]

II. The brackets signal: A. another spoken command B. Amanda's private fantasy C. a stage announcement D. a factual biography [1]

III. Which word describes the imagined footsteps as quiet? [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain the attraction of this apparently lonely imagined life. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

Answer any FOUR of FIVE questions. Write 40–50 words for each answer.

I. Why does Lencho's description of rain as coins reveal both hope and vulnerability? [3]

II. What does the pilot's decision to enter the storm reveal about desire and judgement in The Black Aeroplane? [3]

III. How does Pranjol's response to the tea landscape differ from Rajvir's, and why? [3]

IV. How does the image of fog sitting over the harbour make stillness seem temporary? [3]

V. Why does Custard's wish for a safe cage become ironic during the pirate's arrival? [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

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

I. How do the muddy footprints reveal a limit of Griffin's invisibility? [3]

II. Why does Matilda's distress over her appearance prevent her from enjoying the invitation at first? [3]

III. How does Noodle protect Think-Tank's pride while correcting his mistakes? [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

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

A. Prepare the argument for a discussion titled Listening Is Part of Understanding. Compare Anne's need for a confidant with the controlling voice in Amanda. [6]

OR

B. Compare the role of uncertainty in The Black Aeroplane with the clear personal change in His First Flight. How do their endings affect readers differently? [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

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

A. Write a reasoned judgement on whether Griffin's scientific brilliance makes him admirable. Use Footprints Without Feet to distinguish achievement from conduct. [6]

OR

B. Compare how Bholi and Matilda respond to social judgements about appearance. What different kinds of change emerge in their stories? [6]

End of Question Paper