PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Practice Sample Paper | Paper 10

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 good question does more than ask for an answer. It defines what kind of evidence would count, whose experience should be considered and what a decision is meant to achieve. If the question is poorly framed, a careful investigation may still produce an unhelpful result. We can measure something accurately and remain uncertain whether it was the thing we needed to know.

(2) A student design team learnt this while choosing a bench for its school courtyard. The first question was which design looked most attractive. Students voted for a narrow curved seat, and the team began preparing its final drawing. During a trial, however, some users found the seat difficult to rise from, while others could not place a bag beside them. The vote had answered a question about appearance, not the broader question of suitability.

(3) The team paused and listed the bench's intended uses. It needed to offer a comfortable short rest, remain stable and allow different students to sit and stand without difficulty. Appearance still mattered, but it became one criterion among several. Users tested simple models and described specific problems. A design that looked less dramatic

performed more consistently, showing that an attractive idea could improve when its purpose was examined more closely.

(4) The change did not make the original vote worthless. It provided useful information about visual preference, which the team could retain while addressing other needs. The mistake lay in treating that information as a complete answer. Evidence has a scope: a result can be valid for one question and insufficient for another. Recognising this limit allows people to use findings intelligently without either exaggerating them or throwing them away.

(5) The team also asked who had been absent from the trial. Students with temporary injuries and those who rarely used the courtyard had not participated. Their experience might identify difficulties the enthusiastic volunteers missed. Inviting them did not guarantee that every need could be met equally, but it made the final judgement better informed. Inclusion improved the investigation by widening the range of relevant evidence.

(6) At the presentation, the students displayed their revised question before showing the finished design. They explained what had been tested, what remained uncertain and why they had chosen particular features. The account was more convincing because it included the change of direction. Good inquiry does not depend on defending the first idea at every cost. It depends on asking whether the question still serves the purpose and being willing to revise it when experience reveals something important that the original plan left out.

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

I. What problem can remain even when something is measured accurately? [1]

II. What did the first vote chiefly measure? A. Stability B. Ease of standing C. Visual preference D. Weather resistance [1]

III. In paragraph 4, “scope” means: A. range or limits of relevance B. equipment price C. drawing style D. an empty seat [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why the first vote was useful but insufficient. [2]

V. Complete: The revised investigation treated appearance as one _____ among several. [1]

VI. Which missing participants could broaden the evidence? A. Only the original voters B. Students with temporary injuries C. Only the designers D. Nobody beyond volunteers [1]

VII. State True or False: The team concealed its change of direction in the final presentation. [1]

VIII. In 30–40 words, explain why acknowledging a revised question made the presentation more convincing. [2]

2. Case-based Factual Passage — 10 Marks

(1) A fictional student design team tested three courtyard bench models with thirty volunteers. Each volunteer tried every model and rated comfort, ease of standing and stability as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. The table gives the number satisfied with each feature. The results overlap because the same people rated all features and models.

(2) Model B received the highest comfort and stability ratings, while Model C received the highest rating for ease of standing. Model A was weakest on all three measures. The team did not add the ratings and call the largest total an automatic winner, because the school had not yet agreed whether the three criteria should receive equal importance.

(3) The team also noted that all participants were regular courtyard users. Students who avoided the space, including some with temporary injuries, were absent from the test. The next stage would include a wider group and ask volunteers to explain any difficulty, rather than record only a positive or negative judgement. Cost and weather resistance would be checked separately, since neither appeared in the table. The team described its results as a comparison of reported experiences in a small trial, not a guarantee that a chosen bench would suit everyone. All figures are invented and relate to no actual product or school installation.

Model	Comfort / 30	Standing / 30	Stability / 30
A	18	15	21
B	27	24	29
C	24	28	27

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

I. Which model received the highest comfort rating? [1]

II. Which model led in ease of standing? A. A B. B C. C D. All equally [1]

III. How many volunteers rated Model A’s stability unsatisfactory? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why adding the three ratings would not automatically settle the choice. [2]

V. Complete: Weather resistance and _____ were not measured in the table. [1]

VI. Which claim is supported? A. Model A led on comfort. B. Model B led on stability. C. Model C cost least. D. Every student joined the test. [1]

VII. What common feature limits the sample? [1]

VIII. In 30–40 words, explain why descriptions of difficulty would add value to yes-or-no ratings. [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 design team _____ its prototype two days ago. A. test B. tested C. has tested D. testing [1]

II. Report Hina's statement: "I will bring my notes tomorrow." [1]

III. Choose: Only _____ of the proposed features fit the budget. A. a little B. much C. a few D. an [1]

IV. Correct the error: Neither of the prototypes have a stable base. [1]

V. Choose the modal expressing advice: You _____ compare both designs before choosing. A. should B. must to C. ought D. can to [1]

VI. Report the command: The examiner said to the candidates, "Put down your pens." [1]

VII. Use the present perfect: Our team _____ (revise) the plan three times. [1]

VIII. Correct the error: The results of the second test was encouraging. [1]

IX. Report the question: Jay asked Rina, "Why did you change the handle?" [1]

X. Choose: We need _____ evidence before accepting the claim. A. more B. many C. a few D. an [1]

XI. Use the past continuous: At nine yesterday, the students _____ (compare) their designs. [1]

XII. Choose the modal expressing possibility: A wider base _____ improve stability, but we must test it. A. might B. must C. ought D. shall to [1]

4. Formal Letter — 5 Marks

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

A. You are Hina Roy, 10 Courtyard Lane, Patna. Write a letter in 100–120 words to the Principal, Horizon School, Patna, proposing a wider bench trial before purchase. Include varied users, explicit criteria, cost and durability checks. [5]

OR

B. You are Jay Sen, 21 Design Road, Patna. Write in 100–120 words to the Manager, Courtyard Furniture Supplies, Patna, requesting specifications and a demonstration of two bench models for your school. Ask about dimensions, stability, weather resistance, cost and service. [5]

5. Analytical Paragraph — 5 Marks

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

A. In 100–120 words analyse fictional bench preferences. Before trials: A 20 votes, B 6, C 4. After trials by the same 30 students: A 5, B 15, C 10. Compare the shift and distinguish preference from proof of long-term suitability. [5]

OR

B. Write 100–120 words recommending a fictional bench purchase. Essential: stable base and seat height 45 cm; budget Rs 8,000. A: stable, 45 cm, Rs 7,500, weatherproof. B: unstable, 45 cm, Rs 6,000, weatherproof. C: stable, 55 cm, Rs 7,000, weatherproof. Justify using the given conditions. [5]

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 A Letter to God

Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write.

I. Which quality does “an ox of a man” chiefly emphasise? [1]

II. Identify the device in “an ox of a man”. A. Metaphor B. Refrain C. Rhyme D. Onomatopoeia [1]

III. Which ability makes his next action possible? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the sentence prepares for Lencho’s response to the disaster. [2]

OR

B A Triumph of Surgery

He does love cream cakes and chocolates so. I can’t bear to refuse him.

I. Identify the speaker. [1]

II. Her explanation reveals: A. strict dietary discipline B. indulgence mistaken for care C. lack of affection D. professional veterinary advice [1]

III. Who receives the cream cakes and chocolates? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why the speaker’s sincere affection is not enough to ensure responsible care. [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 Tale of Custard the Dragon

The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,
And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon,

I. At whom does the pirate stare? [1]

II. "Gaped" suggests: A. an open-mouthed stare B. silent sleep C. careful sewing D. confident singing [1]

III. Which pair of end words rhymes? [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain how the pirate's reaction changes the balance of threat. [2]

OR

B For Anne Gregory

That only God, my dear,
Could love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair.

I. Whose capacity for love is presented as exceptional? [1]

II. The contrast concerns love for: A. inner self and outward beauty B. money and travel C. books and food D. youth and employment [1]

III. Which visible feature has dominated the discussion? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the ending extends the question beyond changing hair colour. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

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

I. Why does the postmaster need cooperation from others to act on his decision? [3]

II. How does the pilot's limited fuel make his dependence on the mysterious aeroplane more urgent? [3]

III. How does Anne's admission that difficulty confiding might be her own fault deepen her self-portrait? [3]

IV. How does Coorg's hospitality connect the visitor's experience with the character of its people? [3]

V. What does the speaker's decision not to offer another ball suggest about respect for a child's feelings? [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

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

I. How does Hari's account of Anil's irregular earnings affect the meaning of the theft? [3]

II. What makes Horace's arrest a consequence of both deception and his own choices? [3]

III. How does Noodle's later leadership provide a closing contrast to Think-Tank's rule? [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

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

A. Imagine Mandela advises the quarrelling characters in The Proposal about a shared future. Write a response connecting respect, freedom and responsibility with their conduct. [6]

OR

B. Compare the treatment of appearance and character in The Tale of Custard the Dragon and For Anne Gregory. What kinds of judgement do they question? [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

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

A. Compare the responsibility shown by Herriot and the teacher in Bholi. How does each respond to actual needs rather than an unhelpful social assumption? [6]

OR

B. Use The Necklace and A Question of Trust to explain how an untested assumption can turn apparent success into disaster. [6]

End of Question Paper