PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Practice Sample Paper | Paper 02

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 community garden can look wonderfully simple from outside its fence: empty ground becomes green, neighbours meet and vegetables appear. Yet the most difficult work often begins before anyone plants a seed. People must decide who may use the space, how water will be shared and what happens when enthusiastic volunteers stop coming. A garden is therefore an agreement about living together as much as an arrangement of plants.

(2) In one housing colony, the first proposal offered equal plots to every household. This seemed fair until residents discussed their circumstances. Some had time to work daily, while others travelled frequently or could not bend easily. Several tenants feared that a plot would become another obligation they could not manage. Equal portions of land did not automatically create equal opportunities to participate. The plan needed to recognise differences without treating them as failures.

(3) The revised garden included individual beds, raised shared beds and a small herb patch beside an accessible path. Residents could contribute through planting, keeping records, translating notices or

checking the water schedule. A person who could not dig might still know when a plant needed attention. Making these roles visible helped prevent the strongest voices from defining useful work too narrowly. Participation became possible in more than one form.

(4) Disagreements did not disappear. One group wanted neat rows of vegetables; another preferred flowering plants for insects. Instead of declaring a winner, the committee reserved different areas and reviewed the results after a season. The vegetable beds supplied food, while the flowers brought colour and attracted visitors who had previously ignored the project. A shared purpose did not require every participant to value precisely the same outcome.

(5) However, cooperation should not be romanticised. A neglected watering rota can destroy weeks of effort, and an unclear rule about harvesting can produce resentment. Written arrangements are useful because memory becomes selective when a dispute begins. Records should remain brief and understandable, and rules should be open to revision. A document that nobody can read or question is unlikely to build lasting confidence among neighbours.

(6) The garden's success was eventually judged through several questions. Were plants surviving? Were responsibilities shared? Could a newcomer ask for a role without needing a personal connection? These questions revealed more than a photograph of healthy vegetables could. Attractive results matter, but so do the processes that make them possible. A garden becomes a community achievement when people can enter, contribute, disagree respectfully and trust that the rules apply to everyone, even when the original organisers are no longer present.

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

I. What does the opening paragraph identify as work that must precede planting? Give one example. [1]

II. The original equal-plot plan was revised because: A. nobody wanted vegetables B. residents had different abilities and available time C. the soil was unusable D. tenants demanded larger plots. [1]

III. Find the word in paragraph 4 that means "exactly". [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words why equal plots did not necessarily mean equal opportunity. [2]

V. Complete: Translating notices illustrates a contribution that does not involve _____. [1]

VI. Which statement about the garden is supported? A. Disagreement ended completely. B. Flowers replaced every vegetable bed. C. Different outcomes could support a shared purpose. D. Written rules prevented all mistakes. [1]

VII. State whether the writer supports or rejects the claim that an attractive photograph alone proves community success. [1]

VIII. In 30–40 words, explain how readable and revisable rules can support trust. [2]

2. Case-based Factual Passage — 10 Marks

(1) A fictional school eco-club examined drinking-water provision in three blocks during one week. Volunteers counted working taps before classes each day and recorded the average number of students waiting at the busiest break. Each block served two hundred students. The table gives the number of installed taps, the number consistently working and the average peak queue.

(2) Block C had the largest number of installed taps but only half were working throughout the week. Its queue was also the longest. Block B had fewer installed taps, yet all were functional and its queue was the shortest. These observations suggest that counting installed equipment alone can conceal problems in daily service. They do not establish how much water each student drank or whether students used taps in another block.

(3) The club proposed repairing faulty taps before purchasing additional units. It also recommended checking water availability at different times, since a working tap might still have little supply during a crowded break. The survey lasted only five school days and included no unusually hot day. A longer check during warmer weather would help the school estimate demand more reliably. The club would then compare waiting times again, using the same method, to see whether repairs actually improved access. The data were created solely for this assessment.

Block	Installed / working taps	Average peak queue
A	6 / 4	12 students
B	5 / 5	8 students
C	8 / 4	16 students

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

I. How many students did each surveyed block serve? [1]

II. Which block had the smallest peak queue? A. A B. B C. C D. A and C equally [1]

III. What fraction of Block C's installed taps consistently worked? [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain the contrast between Blocks B and C. [2]

V. Complete: The proposed first action is to _____ rather than buy more units. [1]

VI. Which information was NOT established? A. Installed taps B. Functional taps C. Average queue D. Water drunk by each student [1]

VII. Why does the absence of a hot day limit the survey? [1]

VIII. Explain in 30–40 words how the club could assess the effect of repairs. [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 gardening team _____ the beds last Monday. A. prepare B. prepared C. has prepared D. preparing [1]

II. Report Neel's statement: "I am planting beans today." [1]

III. There is _____ soil in this small pot. A. many B. few C. a little D. an [1]

IV. Correct the error: Neither of the two watering cans are leaking. [1]

V. Choose the modal for prohibition: You _____ enter the locked pump room. A. must not B. might C. could D. would [1]

VI. Report the command: The supervisor said to the workers, "Close the gate." [1]

VII. Use the correct form: The seedlings _____ (grow) steadily since August. [1]

VIII. Correct the error: The quality of these seeds are excellent. [1]

IX. Report Tara's question to Dev: "Where do you keep the tools?" [1]

X. Choose: _____ of the two paths leads to the gate? A. Much B. Which C. Many D. Some [1]

XI. Use the past continuous: At six yesterday evening, I _____ (water) the plants. [1]

XII. Choose the modal for polite permission: _____ I borrow your spade, please? A. Must B. May C. Need D. Ought [1]

4. Formal Letter — 5 Marks

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

A. You are Neel Rao, 24 Park Lane, Mysuru. Write to the Secretary, Park Lane Residents' Association, Mysuru, in 100–120 words, proposing raised shared garden beds so that residents with restricted mobility can participate. Explain arrangements, responsibilities and a review. [5]

OR

B. You are Tara Jain, 7 Temple Road, Mysuru. Write a 100–120-word complaint to the Manager, ClearDrop Supplies, Mysuru: three of six recently supplied school water taps leak. Request inspection, replacement and a written service schedule. Do not invent an invoice number. [5]

5. Analytical Paragraph — 5 Marks

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

A. In 100–120 words, analyse this fictional water-saving trial: weekly water used before repairs 8,000 litres; after repairs 6,000 litres; school attendance unchanged. Identify the change, its scale and one limitation of a one-week comparison. [5]

OR

B. Write 100–120 words recommending a fictional garden plan. Needs: accessible participation and no more than 4 volunteer hours weekly. Plan A: ground beds, 3 hours, Rs 2,000. B: raised shared beds beside level path, 4 hours, Rs 3,500. C: raised beds beyond steps, 5 hours, Rs 3,000. Budget Rs 4,000. [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 Nelson Mandela Long Walk to Freedom

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

I. What must a courageous person overcome? [1]

II. "Triumph" here means: A. defeat B. victory C. delay D. forgetfulness [1]

III. Does the statement suggest that brave people can feel afraid? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how this definition makes courage a matter of action. [2]

OR

B A Triumph of Surgery

He had no medicinal treatment of any kind but all day he ran about with the dogs, joining in their friendly scrimmages.

I. Who does "he" refer to? [1]

II. Which activity supports recovery? A. Constant rich meals B. Playing with other dogs C. Remaining on cushions D. Wearing coats indoors [1]

III. Give the meaning of "scrimmages" in this context. [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words what the contrast with medicinal treatment reveals. [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 A Tiger in the Zoo

He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.

I. Which word describes the stripes as bright? [1]

II. The "few steps" emphasise: A. vast freedom B. restricted movement C. poor memory D. playful training [1]

III. What two words create a contrast between outward silence and inner anger? [1]

IV. In 30–40 words, explain how the stanza makes the tiger's power and restriction visible together. [2]

OR

B How to Tell Wild Animals

If he roars at you as you're dyin'
You'll know it is the Asian Lion...

I. Which animal is identified? [1]

II. The advice is comic because recognition comes: A. before any danger B. too late to help the victim C. from a safe photograph D. through a guidebook [1]

III. Why is "dying" shortened to "dyin'"? [1]

IV. Explain in 30–40 words how the extract imitates useful advice while undermining it. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

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

I. What does Mijbil's interest in the bathroom show about the importance of understanding an animal's nature? [3]

II. How does Valli's refusal of the conductor's offer of a drink connect pride with independence? [3]

III. How does the mustard-seed condition help Kisa Gotami learn something a direct instruction might not have taught? [3]

IV. What does the dispute over Oxen Meadows reveal about the characters' priorities in The Proposal? [3]

V. How does the boy's attachment to his ball challenge a purely monetary understanding of value? [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

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

I. Why is Ebright's unsuccessful first science-fair entry still important to his development? [3]

II. How does Bholi's rejection of Bishamber challenge her family's assumptions about her? [3]

III. What does Loisel's sacrifice of his savings reveal about his response to Matilda's unhappiness? [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

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

A. Compare Maxwell's care for Mijbil with the loss of freedom represented in A Tiger in the Zoo. What should a student learn about responsibility towards animals? [6]

OR

B. Explain how The Sermon at Benares and The Ball Poem both distinguish acceptance of loss from the replacement of what was lost. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

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

A. Imagine a teacher uses Bholi and The Making of a Scientist to explain enabling education. Compare the kinds of support the two learners receive and what they achieve through it. [6]

OR

B. Could honest communication have changed the outcome of The Necklace? Evaluate the couple's conduct without ignoring their eventual hard work. [6]

End of Question Paper