PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 7

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 story that ends with the following sentence:

"It was then that I realised words once spoken could never be recalled."

(ii) Describe your visit to a vibrant regional craft fair or artisan mela. Portray the bustling sights, the rhythmic hum of folk music, the aromas of traditional delicacies, the displays of intricate handloom and terracotta pottery, and the interactions between master artisans and enthusiastic visitors.

(iii) "In the digital era, printed physical books will soon become obsolete relics of the past." Express your views either for or against the statement.

(iv) Reflect on how learning a classical art form or musical instrument shaped your character. Describe the challenges of demanding discipline, moments of frustration, the patience learned through repetitive practice, and the deeper sense of humility and joy it brought to your everyday life.

(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 younger brother who is studying in a boarding school, advising him on how to overcome digital screen distractions, organise his study hours methodically, and prioritize regular physical sports and outdoor recreation for balanced well-being.

(ii) Write a letter to the District Collector drawing urgent attention to the precarious condition of the dilapidated footbridge connecting two rural blocks across the swollen river. Highlight the daily peril faced by school children and farm workers, and request immediate structural repairs or alternative boat transit.

Question 3

(i) Your school is organising an Inter-School One-Act Play Competition titled 'Stagecraft'. Write a notice to be put up on your school notice board informing students of Classes 9 and 10 and inviting them to audition for the school dramatics team. [5]

(ii) Write an email to a distinguished local theatre director requesting them to preside as Chief Judge for 'Stagecraft', the Inter-School One-Act Play Competition, and to deliver an inspiring address to aspiring student actors. [5]

Question 4

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

In the dim, cavernous music room of the ancestral haveli in Varanasi, the morning chill clung stubbornly to the stone floor. Fifteen-year-old Kabir sat cross-legged upon a worn jute rug, his fingers trembling with exhaustion. Before him sat Pandit Harihar Shastri, a maestro whose austere countenance and uncompromising standards were legendary across North India. For six months, Kabir had been subjected to an unsparing regimen of musical apprenticeship. Every morning began at four o'clock with two unbroken hours of deep-breathing vocal exercises to calibrate his ear to the fundamental tonic note, followed by three hours of rigorous scale practice on the sitar before breakfast was even served.

The physical toll of this apprenticeship was brutal. Kabir's left fingertips were split and swollen, cross-hatched with calluses cut deep by the taut steel and brass strings. The brass mizrab, a wire plectrum bound tightly around his right index finger, had worn a raw ring into his flesh that stung continuously. Whenever Kabir's posture slouched or his wrist angled incorrectly, the Pandit's cane would tap sharply against his shoulder blade. 'The instrument is not a wooden toy to be manipulated,' Panditji would sternly reprimand. 'It is a living body of seasoned teak and gourd. If you approach it with arrogance or impatience, it will yield only noise.'

On this particular winter dawn, Kabir had been tasked with rendering a complex phrase in Raga Bhairav, an ancient morning melody requiring delicate microtones that leaned subtly between sorrow and awakening. For forty minutes, Kabir executed the finger-pulls across the frets with mechanical precision. He hit every note accurately according to the metronome, yet the maestro sat with closed eyes, his brow furrowed in evident displeasure. 'You are playing notes from memory, boy,' Panditji said coldly, opening his eyes. 'Your fingers are obedient clerks, but your soul is asleep. Music does not reside in the dexterity of fingers; it lives in the space between breaths.'

Panditji reached across, picked up his own antique sitar, and stroked a single note. The acoustic resonance filled the stone chamber, lingering like incense smoke in still air. It was not merely loud; it vibrated with such warmth and profound stillness that Kabir felt a lump rise in his throat. The maestro motioned for him to try once more. Kabir closed his eyes, inhaled the damp fragrance of morning mist, and banished all thoughts of speed and technical perfection. He surrendered himself completely to the silence that preceded sound.

When Kabir pulled the main melody string this time, gliding gently across the brass fret, the timbre was entirely transformed. The harsh buzzing vanished, replaced by a pure, luminous tone that resonated through the haveli's arched corridors. When the final note dissolved into silence, Kabir opened his eyes to see Panditji nodding slowly, a rare, faint smile touching his austere lips. In that transcendent dawn, Kabir understood that mastery was not the conquest of an instrument, but the patient surrender of self to a higher harmony.

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

1. rigorous

(a) demanding, thorough and uncompromising (b) careless and superficial

(c) gentle and easygoing (d) brief and irregular

2. resonance

(a) a brief, shrill whistle (b) rich, deep echoing acoustic vibration

(c) complete absolute silence (d) harsh mechanical friction

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

(a) dexterity (b) harmony

(c) resonance (d) precision

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

(a) What demanding morning routine did Pandit Harihar Shastri establish for Kabir? [2]

(b) Describe two physical injuries Kabir endured from playing the sitar. [2]

(c) Why was the maestro dissatisfied even though Kabir played all the notes accurately? [2]

(d) What effect did Panditji's single played note have upon Kabir and the music chamber? [2]

(e) What vital realization about musical mastery did Kabir reach at the end of the passage? [1]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, summarise the physical discipline, practice regimen, and musical hurdles overcome by the apprentice as described in the passage. 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) arrived
[4]

In November 1922, British archaeologist Howard Carter (0) _____ (arrive) in Egypt's Valley of the Kings, determined to make one final attempt to find the lost tomb of Tutankhamun. For six fruitless seasons, his expedition ...(1)... (search) the barren sands, enduring blistering heat and public skepticism. On 4 November, water boys ...(2)... (discover) a carved limestone step beneath the rubble of ancient worker huts. After Carter's workers ...(3)... (clear) sixteen stone stairs, a sealed plaster doorway ...(4)... (pierce) with a small aperture. Carter ...(5)... (widen) the opening and ...(6)... (hold) a flickering candle through the darkness. The subterranean chamber, which ...(7)... (remain) undisturbed for more than three thousand years, ...(8)... (reveal) astonishing treasures of solid gold, ebony, and alabaster.

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

(a) The meritorious student decided to avail herself _____ the state higher education scholarship scheme.

(b) The dedicated aunt took great pains to bring _____ the orphaned twins with immense affection.

(c) The honest shopkeeper worked overtime to clear _____ all his outstanding business debts before Diwali.

(d) All chemical industrial effluents must conform _____ strict environmental pollution standards.

(e) Before entering the examination hall, Priya took a moment to glance _____ her summary formula sheets.

(f) Due to the sudden demise of the chairman, the urgent board meeting was held _____ until next week.

(g) Prudent households always lay _____ a portion of their monthly earnings for unexpected emergencies.

(h) The experienced detective was quick to see _____ the suspect's elaborate and contradictory alibi.

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

1. Rohan won the first prize in the national essay competition. He was also awarded the prestigious leadership medal.

(a) Not only Rohan won the first prize in the national essay competition, but he was also awarded the prestigious leadership medal.

(b) Not only did Rohan win the first prize in the national essay competition, but he was also awarded the prestigious leadership medal.

(c) Rohan won the first prize in the national essay competition and also awarded the prestigious leadership medal.

(d) Rohan winning the first prize in the national essay competition so he was awarded the prestigious leadership medal.

2. The dedicated surgeon performed a complex eight-hour procedure. She was commended by the hospital trustees.

(a) The dedicated surgeon who performed a complex eight-hour procedure was commended by the hospital trustees.

(b) The dedicated surgeon which performed a complex eight-hour procedure was commended by the hospital trustees.

(c) The dedicated surgeon performed a complex eight-hour procedure whom was commended by the trustees.

(d) The dedicated surgeon was commended by the trustees who performing a complex eight-hour procedure.

3. The conservationist planted five hundred mangrove saplings along the coast. She also conducted awareness workshops for fishermen.

(a) Beside planting five hundred mangrove saplings along the coast, the conservationist conducted awareness workshops for fishermen.

(b) The conservationist planted five hundred mangrove saplings along the coast besides she conducted workshops.

(c) Planting five hundred mangrove saplings along the coast so the conservationist conducted awareness workshops.

(d) Besides planting five hundred mangrove saplings along the coast, the conservationist conducted awareness workshops for fishermen.

4. The farmer installed drip irrigation throughout his orchard. He wished to conserve groundwater during the severe drought.

(a) The farmer installed drip irrigation throughout his orchard so he conserved groundwater during the severe drought.

(b) The farmer installed drip irrigation throughout his orchard in order that conserving groundwater during the severe drought.

(c) The farmer installed drip irrigation throughout his orchard so that he could conserve groundwater during the severe drought.

(d) The farmer installed drip irrigation throughout his orchard because of conserve groundwater during the drought.

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

1. As soon as the judge entered the courtroom, everyone rose in respectful silence. (Begin: No sooner did...)

(a) No sooner did the judge entered the courtroom than everyone rose in respectful silence.

(b) No sooner did the judge enter the courtroom when everyone rose in respectful silence.

(c) No sooner did the judge enter the courtroom than everyone rose in respectful silence.

(d) No sooner the judge entered the courtroom than everyone rose in respectful silence.

2. The violin's tone is more melodious than that of any other instrument in the ensemble. (Begin: No other instrument...)

(a) No other instrument in the ensemble has a tone as melodious as that of the violin.

(b) No other instrument in the ensemble has a tone more melodious as that of the violin.

(c) No other instrument in the ensemble has as melodious tone than that of the violin.

(d) No other instrument in the ensemble had a tone as melodious as that of the violin.

3. The archaeologist said to the visitors, "This stone inscription dates back to the third century BCE." (Begin: The archaeologist informed...)

(a) The archaeologist informed the visitors that this stone inscription dates back to the third century BCE.

(b) The archaeologist informed the visitors that that stone inscription had dated back to the third century BCE.

(c) The archaeologist informed the visitors whether that stone inscription dated back to the third century BCE.

(d) The archaeologist informed the visitors that that stone inscription dated back to the third century BCE.

4. The senior actors were rehearsing the dramatic climax throughout the afternoon. (Begin: The dramatic climax...)

(a) The dramatic climax had been rehearsed by the senior actors throughout the afternoon.

(b) The dramatic climax was being rehearsed by the senior actors throughout the afternoon.

(c) The dramatic climax was rehearsed by the senior actors throughout the afternoon.

(d) The dramatic climax is being rehearsed by the senior actors throughout the afternoon.

5. The cliff trail was so slippery that the coastal patrol could not descend without safety harnesses. (Use: too... to)

(a) The cliff trail was too slippery for the coastal patrol to descend without safety harnesses.

(b) The cliff trail was too slippery that the coastal patrol could not descend without harnesses.

(c) The cliff trail was too slippery to the coastal patrol descending without safety harnesses.

(d) The cliff trail was so slippery too descend without safety harnesses.

6. The sun had barely risen over the horizon when the fishermen hauled in their heavy nets. (Begin: Barely had...)

(a) Barely had the sun risen over the horizon than the fishermen hauled in their heavy nets.

(b) Barely the sun had risen over the horizon when the fishermen hauled in their heavy nets.

(c) Barely did the sun rise over the horizon than the fishermen hauled in their heavy nets.

(d) Barely had the sun risen over the horizon when the fishermen hauled in their heavy nets.

7. If the fortress garrison does not surrender immediately, the besieging army will launch an assault. (Begin: Unless...)

(a) Unless the fortress garrison does not surrender immediately, the besieging army will launch an assault.

(b) Unless the fortress garrison surrenders immediately, the besieging army will launch an assault.

(c) Unless the fortress garrison surrendered immediately, the besieging army would launch an assault.

(d) Unless the fortress garrison will surrender immediately, the besieging army launches an assault.

8. Anurag lives near the botanical gardens, _____? (Choose the correct question tag)

(a) don't he?

(b) isn't he?

(c) doesn't he?

(d) didn't he?