PAUL ACADEMY & ENGLISH MINES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENGLISH PAPER - 1)
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER 5
ANSWER KEY & MARKING SCHEME

Maximum Marks: 80 **Duration: 2 Hours**

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QUESTION 1: COMPOSITION [20 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Rubric: Total 20 Marks]

Under the official CISCE 2027 specimen marking scheme (Code 011), compositions are evaluated holistically out of 20 marks. The following analytical division is teacher-developed guidance to assist evaluators:

- Content & Relevance (6 Marks): Thorough treatment of prompt, logical development, mature perspective.

- Structure & Paragraphing (4 Marks): Compelling introduction, cohesive transitions, satisfying conclusion.

- Expression & Language Mechanics (10 Marks): Vocabulary range, sentence diversity, accurate grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Indicative Outlines & Key Assessment Points for Question 1
Choices:

(i) Narrative Composition (The Regrettable 'Send' Button):

- Compulsory opening: Must open strictly with the provided sentence.

- Plotline: An impulsive message, email, or digital transfer sent in anger, haste, or confusion. The immediate sinking realization of consequences. The frantic efforts to recall the message or rectify the damage. Resolution brings mature personal accountability and an enduring lesson in digital mindfulness.

(ii) Descriptive Composition (Hospital Waiting Room at Midnight):

- Sensory details: Harsh fluorescent glare, smell of antiseptic and stale coffee, low hum of life-support monitors, quiet sobbing or murmured prayers.

- Human elements: Exhausted relatives huddled on vinyl benches, weary nurses updating charts, the sudden adrenaline burst when the emergency siren wails outside.

- Atmosphere: Tense suspense caught between despair and fragile hope.

(iii) Argumentative Composition (Cashless Society and Inequality):

- Clear stance: Definitive position maintained throughout.

- For: Excludes unbanked marginalized populations, street vendors, rural elders without smartphones; vulnerability to digital fraud and system outages.

- Against: Enhances transparency, curtails black money, reduces transaction costs, accelerates credit access for micro-enterprises.

(iv) Reflective Composition (Overcoming Overthinking Through Action):

- Psychological dilemma: A chronic habit of overanalyzing risks leading to paralysis of action.

- Crisis: An urgent emergency (e.g. medical first-aid incident, sudden fire outbreak, rescuing an animal) leaving zero room for hesitation.

- Insight: The realization that purposeful, intuitive action grounds the mind far better than perpetual mental speculation.

(v) Picture-Based Composition (Pond with Cattle Juxtaposed Against Factory):

- Mandatory connection: Clear, organic link to the embedded picture (pastoral village pond with cattle drinking peacefully while colossal factory chimneys billow smoke in the background).

- Interpretative approaches:

* Reflective: The irreconcilable friction between unchecked industrialization and rural ecological harmony.

* Narrative: A farmer's struggle to protect ancestral grazing land and groundwater from chemical effluents.

* Descriptive: The sensory clash between pastoral serenity and mechanical pollution.

QUESTION 2: LETTER WRITING [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Guidance: Format 3 M + Content 2 M + Expression 5 M]

2(i) Model Informal Letter (Describing Traditional Regional Festival to Pen Friend):

Flat 8B, Sea Breeze Apartments

Marine Promenade

Kochi - 682001

15th September 2027

Dear Lucas,

I hope you are doing well in Melbourne. In your previous letter, you asked me about the most vibrant cultural celebration in my state. I am writing to tell you all about Onam, our ten-day harvest festival, which we celebrated with immense joy last week.

The festival commemorates the mythical Golden Age of King Mahabali. Every morning, our courtyard was decorated with 'Pookkalam'--intricate floral carpets made from fresh marigold and jasmine petals. The visual highlight was watching the snake boat races along the backwaters, where a hundred oarsmen rowed in electrifying rhythm to traditional boat songs.

The culinary centerpiece is the 'Onasadya', an elaborate nine-course vegetarian feast served on fresh banana leaves. Sharing this meal with neighbors of all backgrounds truly embodies the spirit of equality and harmony. I wish you could visit Kerala during Onam to experience the music, warmth, and hospitality firsthand.

Write back soon and let me know how your autumn term is progressing.

Yours affectionately,

Madhav

2(ii) Model Formal Letter (Frequent Evening Power Outages during Exams):

House No. 56, Anand Nagar

Station Link Road

Bhopal - 462001

18th April 2027

The Executive Engineer

Madhya Pradesh Central Discom

Govindpura Division, Bhopal - 462023

Sir,

Subject: Urgent redressal required for frequent unscheduled evening power outages in Anand Nagar

I am writing as a resident and student representative of Anand Nagar to draw your urgent attention to the persistent and erratic power outages plaguing our locality over the past three weeks.

Every evening between 7:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., the electricity supply trips repeatedly for durations ranging from forty minutes to two hours. With Class 10 board trial and final examinations currently underway, hundreds of students are severely hampered in their nightly revision schedules. Frequent voltage surges have also damaged domestic inverters and electronic appliances.

When contacted, local substation staff cited overloaded feeder transformers. I earnestly request your office to conduct an immediate inspection of our distribution grid, overhaul faulty transformers, and announce a predictable load schedule if maintenance is required, avoiding prime evening study hours.

I trust your department will act promptly to restore an uninterrupted power supply.

Yours faithfully,

Pooja Verma

(Student Representative, Anand Nagar Residents' Association)

QUESTION 3: NOTICE AND LINKED EMAIL [10 MARKS]

[Teacher-Developed Assessment Guidance: Notice 5 Marks; Email 5 Marks]

3(i) Model Notice (Inter-School Web Development Hackathon):

CODE CANVAS

Inter-School Web Development Hackathon

Date: Friday, 30th April 2027

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Venue: Computer Science Laboratory, St. Augustine's High School

Students of Classes 9 and 10 are invited to participate in the Inter-School Web Development Hackathon on the theme 'Technology for Ecological Sustainability'. Participating teams of three students will develop functional web applications addressing clean energy, waste management, or carbon tracking.

Interested teams must register their names and project abstracts with Mrs. Deepa Nambiar, Head of the Computer Science Department, in Room 11, on or before Monday, 26th April 2027.

3(ii) Model Linked Email:

To: karthik.ramesh@cyberguardinnovations.com

Subject: Invitation to Deliver Keynote Address and Judge School Hackathon 'Code Canvas'

Dear Mr. Ramesh,

I am writing on behalf of the Computer Club of St. Augustine's High School to cordially invite you to be our Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker at our upcoming Inter-School Web Development Hackathon, 'Code Canvas'.

The hackathon is scheduled for Friday, 30th April 2027, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Computer Science Laboratory of St. Augustine's High School. Student teams of three from Classes 9 and 10 will develop prototype web applications promoting ecological sustainability, having registered with Mrs. Deepa Nambiar (Room 11, by 26th April 2027).

Given your pioneering work in ethical software architecture and green computing, we would be deeply honored if you could deliver a thirty-minute keynote address at 9:00 a.m. and preside over the final project evaluation at 3:30 p.m.

We kindly request you to confirm your availability by Monday, 26th April 2027.

Yours faithfully,

Aditya Nair

Secretary, Computer Club

St. Augustine's High School

QUESTION 4: COMPREHENSION [20 MARKS]

(i) Vocabulary [2 Marks]:

1. persevered -> (a) continued steadfastly despite difficulties [1 Mark]
2. breakthrough -> (b) major and significant discovery [1 Mark]

(ii) Antonym [1 Mark]:

Opposite of 'inconclusive' -> (c) definitive [1 Mark]

(iii) Short Answer Questions [9 Marks] (Strictly Grounded in Passage):

(a) Severe recurring droughts had devastated seasonal pulse and grain crops across three states; Dr. Sen hypothesized that desert extremophile microbes held the key to crop resilience. [Award 1 mark each for two distinct text details - 2 Marks]

(b) Dr. Sen contended with frequent university power fluctuations, aging glassware, and sixty-three consecutive experimental failures where proteins denatured into milky sediment. [2 Marks]

(c) She obtained the soil samples from sun-baked, saline desert soil collected directly beneath desert shrubs in the Thar Desert. [2 Marks]

(d) Upon adding the final reagent, the quartz cuvette solution transformed from murky grey into an intense, luminous sapphire blue, with the spectrophotometer needle registering peak absorbance. [2 Marks]

(e) The discovery proved that the enzyme activated metabolic pathways that shield plant cells from fatal dehydration, offering new hope for parched crops across the nation. [1 Mark]

(iv) Summary / Precis [8 Marks]:

Assessment Scheme [Teacher-Developed Guidance based on CISCE Specimen Pattern: Content: 6 marks; Expression: 2 marks]

Key Text-Grounded Content Points Expected (6 x 1 = 6 Marks):

1. Cultured desert bacteria isolated from arid saline soil.
2. Centrifuged cellular broth and decanted liquid supernatant.
3. Filtered extract through microscopic cellulose membranes.
4. Precipitated target enzyme with dropwise ammonium sulfate.
5. Subjected protein in dialysis tubing to osmotic drought stress.
6. Added reagent, developing sapphire blue confirmed by spectrometer.

[Teacher-Developed Guidance: Indicative Rough Draft]

Dr. Sen cultured desert bacteria, centrifuged the cellular broth, and filtered the extract through cellulose membranes. She precipitated target enzymes using dropwise ammonium sulfate, then subjected purified protein in dialysis tubing to osmotic drought stress. Upon adding reagents, intense sapphire blue developed, and spectrometer tests confirmed active, resilient protective enzymes.

Final Fair Draft Grid (Exactly 50 Words):

Dr.	Sen	cultured	desert	bacteria,
centrifuged	the	cellular	broth,	and
filtered	the	extract	through	cellulose
membranes.	She	precipitated	target	enzymes
using	dropwise	ammonium	sulfate,	then
subjected	purified	protein	in	dialysis
tubing	to	osmotic	drought	stress.
Upon	adding	reagents,	intense	sapphire
blue	developed,	and	spectrometer	tests
confirmed	active,	resilient	protective	enzymes.

QUESTION 5: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

5(i) Cloze Passage -- Tenses & Verb Forms [Teacher-Developed Indicative Key; CISCE Specimen Pattern] (8 x 1/2 = 4 Marks):

Example: (0) undertook

(1) processed / had processed

(2) suffering

(3) refused

(4) succeeded

(5) confirmed

(6) was awarded

(7) becoming

(8) reshaped

5(ii) Prepositions & Phrasal Verbs [Teacher-Developed Indicative Key; CISCE Specimen Pattern] (8 x 1/2 = 4 Marks):

(a) to / on [agree to = consent to a proposal; agree on = reach agreement regarding terms]

(b) by [come by = acquire or find something rare]

(c) out [drop out of = withdraw from an event or course]

(d) on [live on = subsist or survive on specific food]

(e) to [look forward to = anticipate eagerly]

(f) for [make up for = compensate for lost time/deficiency]

(g) off [pass off = take place and conclude peacefully]

(h) up [take up = adopt a hobby or activity]

5(iii) Sentence Synthesis [Teacher-Developed Solutions & Analysis; CISCE Specimen Pattern] (4 x 1 = 4 Marks):

1. (c) Though the young chess prodigy lost her opening queen, she persevered to win the championship match.

[Explanation: (c) correctly uses the concessive conjunction 'Though' to contrast setback with triumph without altering meaning. (a) introduces false causality ('Because'). (b) has ungrammatical 'In spite of' with a finite clause. (d) uses forbidden connective 'so'.]

2. (b) This is the historic astronomical observatory where Galileo made his monumental discoveries.

[Explanation: (b) correctly uses the relative adverb of place 'where'. (a) contains a redundant adverb 'here' with 'which'. (c) falsely distorts original reason. (d) contains an unattached dangling participle modifier.]

3. (a) If the security guard had locked the perimeter gate, the stray cattle would not have entered the botanical garden.

[Explanation: (a) correctly uses the third conditional counterfactual structure ('If... had locked... would not have entered') to express the direct causal relationship. Option (b) has mismatched tenses ('locked... will not enter'). Option (c) distorts the past causal sequence with 'unless'. Option (d) contains an erroneous double negative ('Unless... did not').]

4. (d) The environmentalists planted three thousand saplings in order to prevent soil erosion along the riverbank.

[Explanation: (d) correctly uses the infinitive clause of purpose 'in order to prevent'. (a) uses forbidden connective 'so that'. (b) contains ungrammatical 'To preventing'. (c) alters original intention.]

5(iv) Sentence Transformations [Teacher-Developed Solutions & Analysis; CISCE Specimen Pattern] (8 x 1 = 8 Marks):

1. (d) No sooner had the surgeon entered the operating theater than the surgical team stood at attention.

[Structure: Inverted auxiliary 'had' + subject + past participle 'entered' + correlative 'than'. (a) ungrammatical correlative 'when'. (b) ungrammatical 'did... entered'. (c) lacks auxiliary inversion.]

2. (b) The African elephant is more massive than any other mammal on land.

[Structure: Comparative degree with 'more massive than any other' properly excluding subject. (a) illogical omission of 'other'. (c) ungrammatical comparative blend 'most massive than'. (d) ungrammatical 'as more massive as'.]

3. (a) The tourist exclaimed that it was a truly magnificent view of the snow peaks.

[Structure: Standard indirect speech for an exclamatory sentence ('exclaimed that it was a truly magnificent...'). Option (b) ungrammatically retains the exclamatory marker 'what a' after the subordinator 'that'. Option (c) introduces an unprompted tense shift ('had been') while retaining temporal distortion. Option (d) erroneously uses the interrogative conjunction 'whether' for an exclamation.]

4. (c) Can the urgent demands of climate justice be ignored by any responsible government?

[Structure: Passive voice of modal interrogative ('Can' + subject + 'be' + past participle 'ignored'). (a) ungrammatical 'are ignored'. (b) ungrammatical 'been ignored'. (d) unauthorized modal shift to 'Could'.]

5. (a) The flood water was so deep that the rescue tractor could not cross safely.

[Structure: Transformation of 'too... to' into 'so... that' with past modal 'could not'. (b) tense mismatch with present modal 'cannot'. (c) affirmative meaning reversal. (d) ungrammatical construction 'too deep that'.]

6. (c) Not only did the chief scientist commend the researcher's rigorous methodology, but she also praised her perseverance.

[Structure: Negative correlative inversion ('Not only did' + subject + base verb 'commend'... 'but she also praised'). (a) lacks required auxiliary inversion. (b) ungrammatical 'did... commended'. (d) awkward word order.]

7. (b) If the drought does not break soon, the farmers will lose their seasonal harvest.

[Structure: Replacement of conditional 'Unless' with 'If... does not' + base verb. (a) meaning reversal. (c) ungrammatical future modal 'will not' in conditional protasis. (d) tense mismatch with past 'did not'.]

8. (d) There was no one who did not find the scientific documentary thoroughly absorbing.

[Structure: Affirmative to negative transformation utilizing double negation ('no one who did not find') preserving original sense. (a) opposite meaning. (b) alters vocabulary to 'uninteresting'. (c) awkward prepositional construction.]