PAUL ACADEMY

English Mines™ | Prepared by Paul Masih

CBSE Class 10 English Language and Literature (184)

Complete Answer Key | Key 02

Board Examination 2027

Maximum Marks: 80 Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Marking Guidance

This complete key answers all alternatives; candidates attempt only the choices specified in the paper. Accept relevant, accurate equivalent responses. Retain the better-scoring response when an extra answer is attempted. Award no mark for an MCQ with multiple options selected.

For 2-mark responses, award 1 mark for each of the two distinct ideas indicated. For Q8–9: content 2, expression 1; deduct up to 1 overall for language inaccuracies without double deduction. For Q10–11: content 3, expression 2, accuracy 1. Model answers illustrate acceptable responses, not compulsory wording.

Section A Reading Skills — 20 Marks

1. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. Agreeing how the space will operate, for example who may use it or how water will be shared. [1]

II. B. residents had different abilities and available time. [1]

III. precisely [1]

IV. Residents differed in available time, mobility and willingness to accept a fixed obligation. Identical plots could therefore exclude some people in practice, whereas varied spaces and roles allowed contributions suited to different circumstances and abilities. [2]

V. physical gardening / digging or planting. [1]

VI. C. Different outcomes could support a shared purpose. [1]

VII. Rejects it. [1]

VIII. Clear records reduce disputes caused by selective memory and help residents understand their responsibilities. Allowing people to question and revise rules also prevents decisions from becoming unchallengeable, encouraging confidence that arrangements serve the community fairly. [2]

2. Reading Answers — 10 Marks

I. Two hundred. [1]

II. B. Block B. [1]

III. One half (4 of 8). [1]

IV. Block B had only five installed taps, but all worked and its queue averaged eight students. Block C had eight installed taps, yet only four worked and sixteen students waited, showing why functional provision matters more than installation totals. [2]

V. repair faulty taps. [1]

VI. D. Water drunk by each student. [1]

VII. It may not represent demand during hotter weather. [1]

VIII. After repairs, volunteers should repeat queue observations using the same timing and counting method. Comparing these results with the original figures, while noting weather and water supply, would provide a more reliable indication of improved access. [2]

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing — 20 Marks

3. Grammar Answers — 10 Marks

I. B. prepared [1]

II. Neel said that he was planting beans that day. [1]

III. C. a little [1]

IV. Error: are; correction: is. [1]

V. A. must not [1]

VI. The supervisor ordered/told the workers to close the gate. [1]

VII. have grown / have been growing [1]

VIII. Error: are; correction: is. [1]

IX. Tara asked Dev where he kept the tools. [1]

X. B. Which [1]

XI. was watering [1]

XII. B. May [1]

4. Formal Letter Models — 5 Marks

Format 1; content 2; organisation 1; accuracy 1.

4A Model Response

24 Park Lane
Mysuru
16 January 2027
The Secretary
Park Lane Residents' Association
Mysuru
Subject: Accessible shared garden beds
Madam/Sir,
I propose adding raised shared beds to our colony garden so that residents who cannot bend comfortably can also participate. At present, nearly all planting takes place at ground level, limiting their involvement despite their interest and experience.
Please consider two raised beds beside the main path, with sufficient space around them for easy movement. Volunteers could agree on a watering schedule and keep simple records of expenses and harvests. A small trial would allow residents to assess the arrangement before further construction. Kindly invite suggestions at the next meeting and assign a coordinator. The project could make gardening a shared activity for a wider group of neighbours.
Yours faithfully
Neel Rao

The body of the model letter follows the 100–120-word limit; address and closing conventions are shown in full.

4B Model Response

7 Temple Road
Mysuru
16 January 2027
The Manager
ClearDrop Supplies
Mysuru
Subject: Leaking taps supplied to our school
Madam/Sir,
I am writing on behalf of our school eco-club about six water taps recently supplied by your firm. Three leak continuously even when closed, wasting water and leaving the surrounding floor wet. Our caretaker has checked that the problem is with the taps rather than the connecting pipes.
Please arrange an inspection and replace the defective units promptly. The work should be scheduled outside the main school breaks so that drinking water remains available to students.
Kindly provide written confirmation of the visit and explain the maintenance support available for the remaining taps. We would appreciate a clear service schedule to prevent this difficulty from recurring during the term.
Yours faithfully
Tara Jain

The body of the model letter follows the 100–120-word limit; address and closing conventions are shown in full.

5. Analytical Paragraph Models — 5 Marks

Content 2; organisation 2; accuracy 1. Write one connected paragraph without a title.

5A Model Response

The water-saving trial recorded a substantial fall in weekly use after repairs. Consumption declined from eight thousand litres to six thousand litres, a reduction of two thousand litres or twenty-five per cent. Since attendance remained unchanged, the decrease cannot be explained simply by fewer students being present. The result supports investigating the value of repairing leaks before expanding water provision. However, a single week before and after repairs does not establish a lasting pattern or rule out changes in weather and activities. The school should continue recording use under comparable conditions and check that access to drinking water remains adequate. Lower consumption is useful only if essential needs are still met.

5B Model Response

Plan B best meets the garden's stated needs because it combines raised beds with a level approach and stays within both limits. Its four hours of weekly work match the maximum volunteer commitment, while the cost of thirty-five hundred rupees leaves five hundred rupees available. Plan A is cheaper and needs less work, but ground beds do not provide the same accessible participation for residents unable to bend. Plan C includes raised beds, yet steps restrict access and its five-hour requirement exceeds available time. Therefore, the decision should rest on usable access and manageable responsibilities, rather than cost alone. Plan B offers the most complete fit for the proposed community project.

Section C Literature Textbook — 40 Marks

6. Prose or Drama Extract Answers — 5 Marks

6A Nelson Mandela Long Walk to Freedom

I. Fear. [1]

II. B. victory. [1]

III. Yes. [1]

IV. Courage does not depend on never experiencing fear. It lies in refusing to let fear determine one's conduct, so a person can acknowledge danger and still act for a worthy purpose instead of surrendering to it. [2]

6B A Triumph of Surgery

I. Tricki. [1]

II. B. Playing with other dogs. [1]

III. Playful rough-and-tumble encounters / friendly tussles. [1]

IV. Tricki's improvement comes from a healthier routine rather than medicine. Exercise and companionship address the effects of overfeeding and inactivity, showing that responsible care depends on meeting an animal's actual needs rather than providing expensive or excessive comforts. [2]

7. Poetry Extract Answers — 5 Marks

7A A Tiger in the Zoo

I. vivid [1]

II. B. restricted movement. [1]

III. quiet rage [1]

IV. The tiger's stalking movement and vivid stripes suggest strength and dignity, but the cage allows only a few steps. His silent feet and contained anger reveal power that remains present while being denied a natural outlet. [2]

7B How to Tell Wild Animals

I. The Asian Lion. [1]

II. B. too late to help the victim. [1]

III. To create the comic rhyme with "Lion" / maintain sound and rhythm. [1]

IV. The confident promise of identifying the animal resembles a practical guide. However, the reader learns its identity while dying from the encounter, making the advice useless and turning the apparent lesson into deliberately exaggerated, darkly comic instruction. [2]

8. First Flight Short Answers — 12 Marks

I. Mijbil's delight in plunging, rolling and splashing reveals that water is central to his behaviour. Maxwell learns by observing rather than assuming an otter behaves like a dog. Successful care therefore requires attention to the animal's particular instincts and opportunities to express them. [3]

II. Valli wants to manage the journey using her own carefully saved money. Refusing the conductor's offer protects her sense of being an independent passenger rather than a child receiving favours. Her pride is part of her desire to be treated with dignity and adult seriousness. [3]

III. The condition sends Kisa Gotami to households where she discovers that everyone has experienced bereavement. Learning through these encounters makes the universality of death personal and undeniable. Instead of merely hearing a rule, she recognises shared suffering and begins to move beyond isolated grief. [3]

IV. The marriage discussion is displaced by an argument over a small piece of land. Lomov, Natalya and Chubukov defend property and family pride with excessive anger. Their inability to remain courteous exposes how possessiveness and status can overpower the practical purpose of their meeting. [3]

V. The ball carries memories of the boy's earlier life, so its loss cannot be repaired merely by buying another. The speaker recognises that money replaces an object but cannot restore its personal history. The boy must confront a loss whose emotional value exceeds its price. [3]

9. Footprints Without Feet Short Answers — 6 Marks

I. The defeat teaches Ebright that a neat display is different from an investigation. Seeing that winners have performed experiments helps him recognise what scientific work requires. He responds by seeking research ideas and testing questions, turning disappointment into a more disciplined approach to learning. [3]

II. Her family assumes that her appearance and stammer leave her little choice in marriage. By rejecting Bishamber after his dowry demand, Bholi shows judgement and self-respect. Education has enabled her to speak decisively and resist the humiliation they are prepared to accept for her. [3]

III. Loisel gives Matilda the money he has saved for a gun so that she can buy a suitable dress. He puts her pleasure before his own planned enjoyment. His generosity contrasts with her dissatisfaction, showing that material insecurity can obscure appreciation of an already caring relationship. [3]

10. First Flight Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Maxwell's relationship with Mijbil develops through attention to the otter's particular habits, whereas the tiger's cage reveals what happens when human arrangements restrict natural behaviour. Maxwell observes Mijbil's love of water and play, gradually learning that care involves understanding rather than simple possession. The tiger, however, can only pace a few steps while his strength remains behind bars. His imagined freedom highlights what confinement denies him. A student should therefore judge animal care by the creature's needs and opportunities, rather than by human convenience alone. Affection has value when it produces informed responsibility. The texts encourage observation, respect and environments that allow animals to express their characteristic behaviour. [6]

B. Both texts show that loss requires an inner response which an external replacement cannot provide. Kisa Gotami seeks medicine to restore her dead son, but the mustard-seed search teaches her that death belongs to every household. Understanding this common condition begins to change her grief. In The Ball Poem, another ball cannot recover the boy's memories or undo the original loss. He must learn how to stand up in a world where possessions disappear. Neither text treats suffering as trivial. Instead, each recognises its emotional force while directing attention towards understanding. Acceptance means learning to continue with knowledge of loss, rather than pretending that an equivalent object can erase it. [6]

11. Footprints Without Feet Long Answer — 6 Marks

A. Bholi and Ebright show that education becomes enabling when encouragement helps learners develop their own powers. Bholi's teacher responds patiently to her fear and stammer, creating the confidence that later allows her to reject a humiliating marriage. Ebright's mother encourages curiosity through books, equipment and companionship, while scientific guidance helps him move from collecting to experiments. Their circumstances and achievements differ, but neither succeeds through information alone. Emotional support and opportunities to practise matter equally. Both also act for themselves: Bholi makes a moral decision, and Ebright pursues difficult questions. A teacher could therefore present education as a process that combines care, intellectual challenge and increasing independence rather than passive obedience. [6]

B. Honest communication could have prevented much of the suffering in The Necklace. After losing the borrowed necklace, Matilda and Loisel conceal the truth and buy an expensive replacement without checking the original's value. Their fear of shame becomes more influential than practical judgement. The later revelation that the necklace was imitation exposes the avoidable nature of their debt. However, the couple's subsequent effort deserves recognition: they work for ten years to repay what they owe. The story does not make them incapable of responsibility. Instead, it shows responsibility trapped by an earlier decision to protect appearances. Courage in admitting the loss might have been less costly than endurance in maintaining the deception. [6]