COUNCIL FOR THE INDIAN SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

ICSE CLASS 10 ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPLETE PAPER 1 MASTER GUIDE

Official Examination Blueprint & Rubrics: Composition (20 Marks), Formal & Informal Letters (10 Marks), Notice & Email Writing (10 Marks), Unseen Comprehension & 50-Word Précis Grid (20 Marks), Functional Grammar & Sentence Transformation (20 Marks)

Board: CISCE (ICSE Class 10 Board Examination)	**Paper:** English Paper 1 (English Language - 80 Marks)
Time Allowed: Two Hours (+15 Mins Reading)	**Target Year:** ICSE 2026 Examination & Beyond

QUESTION 1: COMPOSITION (20 MARKS • 300–350 WORDS)

Candidates must select one of five topics. The CISCE board awards marks based on clarity of thought, linguistic maturity, paragraph transitions, and avoidance of clichés.

• **Narrative:** Build logical chronological progression with personal sensory details. Maintain consistent past tense voice.
• **Descriptive:** Create a vivid word-picture of a scene or person without rushing through a plot line.
• **Argumentative:** Present a clear, unambiguous thesis. Take one side firmly (either for or against). Support each point with concrete real-world evidence.
• **Short Story:** Original storyline with character development, rising tension, climax, and satisfying resolution.
• **Picture Composition:** Direct connection with the visual prompt. You may describe the scene, narrate an account, or interpret its symbolic essence.

QUESTION 2: LETTER WRITING (10 MARKS • OFFICIAL CISCE LAYOUT)

Formal Letter (e.g. To Municipal Commissioner / Editor)	Informal Letter (e.g. To Friend / Family)
Sender's Address: 3 lines, no commas **Date:** 20th October 2026 **Receiver's Designation & Office:** The Municipal Commissioner, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata - 700013 **Salutation:** Dear Sir / Sir, **Subject:** Menace of stray cattle on Diamond Harbour Road **Body (3 paragraphs):** Problem, impact, civic request **Subscription:** Yours faithfully / Yours truly, **Full Signature:** Vikramaditya Sen	**Sender's Address:** 2-3 lines **Date:** 20th October 2026 **Salutation:** Dear Rohan, / My dear Mother, **Opening:** Warm inquiry about health & spirits **Body (2-3 paragraphs):** Natural personal narration, detailed sharing of experiences and emotions **Closing:** Regards to elders, love to younger ones **Subscription:** Yours affectionately / Yours lovingly, **First Name Only:** Vikram

QUESTION 3: NOTICE & E-MAIL WRITING (10 MARKS DUAL PATTERN)

Notice Layout (5 Marks • Word Limit: 50)	E-mail Layout (5 Marks • Formal Invitation)
1. **Catchy Heading:** (1 Mark) e.g. *RHYTHM & REVELRY* 2. **Event Name:** (1 Mark) Inter-School Western Dance Contest 3. **Date:** (½ Mark) 15th November 2026 4. **Time:** (½ Mark) 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 5. **Venue:** (1 Mark) Centenary Auditorium, St. Jude's School 6. **Target Audience & Instructions:** (1 Mark) Classes 9 & 10; register with Mrs. Sen by 31st October.	1. **To:** principal@stxavierschool.org 2. **Subject:** Invitation to Inter-School Western Dance Contest 3. **Salutation:** Dear Sir / Madam, 4. **Body:** Formal statement of event, date, venue, request to depute team of 6 students accompanied by a teacher. 5. **Subscription:** Yours faithfully, / Yours sincerely, 6. **Full Name & Designation:** Rohan Das, President, Cultural Club

QUESTION 4: UNSEEN COMPREHENSION & 50-WORD PRÉCIS (20 MARKS)

The 50-Word Grid Summary Method: Question 4(c) requires summarizing a specific aspect of the passage in not more than 50 words. Draw a 5-column by 10-row grid. Place exactly one word in each box. Punctuation marks (commas, periods) are written alongside the word in the same box without counting as extra words. Stick strictly to the specific question asked; extraneous introductory remarks forfeit marks.

QUESTION 5: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR & SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION (20 MARKS)

Concept / Transformation	Official Board Rule	Solved Model Transformation
No sooner... than	Auxiliary inversion: Had + V3 or Did + V1 immediately follows 'No sooner'.	*As soon as the teacher entered, the boys stood up.* ➔ *No sooner had the teacher entered than the boys stood up.*
Hardly / Scarcely... when	Follows inversion with 'had'; takes 'when' (NEVER 'than').	*Scarcely had the train arrived when the passengers rushed in.*
Too... to / So... that	'Too + adj + to + verb' transforms to 'so + adj + that + cannot/could not'.	*He was too exhausted to speak.* ➔ *He was so exhausted that he could not speak.*
Unless / If not	'Unless' contains negative meaning. Do not use 'not' in the unless-clause.	*If you do not hurry, you will miss the flight.* ➔ *Unless you hurry, you will miss the flight.*
Direct & Reported Speech	Change reporting verb, shift tenses back, transform adverbs of time/place.	*He said, 'Why did you break this vase?'* ➔ *He asked me why I had broken that vase.*
Prepositions in Context	ICSE Question 5(b) tests standard prepositions and phrasal verbs.	*Abide by (rules), Agree with (person), Agree to (proposal), Part with (thing), Part from (person).*