

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS IX EXAMINATION

MAY 2011

English Compulsory Paper I

Time allowed: 45 minutes Marks 25

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read each question carefully.
2. Answer the questions on the separate answer sheet provided. DO NOT write your answers on the question paper.
3. There are 100 answer numbers on the answer sheet. Use answer numbers 1 to 25 only.
4. In each question there are four choices A, B, C, D. Choose ONE. On the answer grid black out the box for your choice with a pencil as shown below.

Correct Way				Incorrect Way					
1	A	B	C	D	1	A	B	C	D
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					2	A	B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					3	A	B	X	D
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					4	A	B	C	D
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. If you want to change your answer, ERASE the first answer completely with a rubber, before blacking out a new box.
6. DO NOT write anything in the answer grid. The computer only records what is in the boxes.

Listening Comprehension Section

This section is 25 minutes long. In this section you will hear two recordings. Each one will be played twice.

Listen carefully to the first recording then read the 6 questions. You will have two minutes' reading time.

The recording will then be replayed. You can make notes on your question paper.

When the recording has finished, enter your answers on your separate answer sheet. You will have three and a half minutes to pencil in your answers.

Follow the instructions on the front page of Paper I to show which of the options; A, B, C, or D you have selected for each question.

Listening Passage I

The passage is a telephonic conversation between a caller and a travel agent. The caller is inquiring about suitable flights, their timings and the cost of a ticket to travel conveniently.

Source: www.esl-lab.com

Now listen to the recording.

Mark your responses to these questions on your multiple choice answer sheet.

1. What is the man's destination?
 - A. Dubai, UAE
 - B. New York, USA
 - C. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 - D. Johannesburg, South Africa

2. How long is the man supposed to wait between the two flights?
 - A. Less than an hour
 - B. Less than two hours
 - C. Less than three hours
 - D. More than three hours

3. According to the conversation, the man asked for
 - A. a vegetarian dinner.
 - B. an aisle seat.
 - C. local food.
 - D. a seat near the cockpit.

4. As used in the passage, the phrase '*return flight*' means a flight
 - A. with refundable ticket.
 - B. to go and come back.
 - C. to go only.
 - D. that is delayed.

5. According to the passage, the man preferred a flight ticket that would be
 - A. cheap.
 - B. exclusive.
 - C. business-class.
 - D. convenient.

6. The conversation between the two persons ended by
 - A. confirming the details.
 - B. inquiring about the caller's name.
 - C. arguing on availability of food.
 - D. clearing up all problems.

PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD

Now, we will play the second recording. It will also be played twice.

Listen carefully to the first playing, then read Questions 7 to 12. You will have two minutes' reading time. The recording will then be replayed.

When the recording has finished, enter your answers on your separate answer sheet. You will have three and a half minutes to pencil in your answers.

Listening Passage II

The passage is about one of the wonders of the world, Taj Mahal, which is known for its exquisite and symbolic beauty.

Source: Young World, Dawn

Now listen to the recording.

Mark your responses to these questions on your multiple choice answer sheet.

7. The passage mentions Mumtaz Mahal as a queen and
- A. mother of Shahjahan's children.
 - B. reliable advisor to the government.
 - C. very beautiful lady.
 - D. a submissive ruler.
8. What was the impact of Mumtaz's untimely death on the Emperor?
- A. He transformed into a religious person.
 - B. He started living in isolation.
 - C. His government suffered due to his grief.
 - D. His hair turned white with grief.
9. The Taj Mahal's construction depicts
- A. complex design.
 - B. extraordinary beauty.
 - C. a massive gateway.
 - D. the power to float.
10. The famous monument is also decorated with calligraphy that is made with
- A. precious stones.
 - B. white marble.
 - C. black marble.
 - D. dramatic shadows.
11. Which of the following is no more in the tomb due to theft?
- A. Pierced marble screens
 - B. Silver doors and gold railings
 - C. Precious stones
 - D. White marble from quarries
12. The Taj Mahal is made of
- A. precious stones.
 - B. white marble.
 - C. black marble.
 - D. silver and gold railings.

PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD

Reading Comprehension Section

This section has two reading passages. You have 20 minutes time for this section. You are advised to spend approximately 10 minutes on each of the given passages.

Read the passage carefully and then answer the multiple choice questions which follow:

Reading Passage I

Someone tucked a heavy quilt over Greg. For the first time in months, he slept indoors. When he woke up, he was alone, and the blue sky showed through the square hole in the ceiling. Haji Ali's wife, Sakina, brought him *lassi*, a flat bread called *chapatti*, and tea with lots of sugar. Greg wolfed everything down, and Sakina, laughing, brought him more. Greg didn't know at that time
5 how little sugar the bucket had and how precious they considered it. If he had, he would have said no to the second cup of sweet tea.

Sakina left Greg alone, and he looked around the room. Everything from the blackened pots and pans to the oil lanterns looked plain and well-used. But not the quilt Greg had slept under. It was made of maroon silk and decorated with tiny mirrors. All the other blankets in the room were
10 thin, worn wool, patched with scraps. Greg realised that his hosts had covered him with the most valuable thing they owned.

Greg spent the day in Korphe. Late that afternoon, he heard voices calling. He and most of the rest of the village walked to a cliff that overlooked the river. There he saw someone crossing the river but not on a bridge. A wooden box hung from a steel cable that had been strung above the
15 water. A person could sit in the box and pull himself along the cable. Crossing the river this way saved the half day of travel needed to walk to the nearest bridge. But it didn't look terribly safe and a fall would mean certain death.

Source: Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson

Mark your responses to these questions on your multiple choice answer sheet.

13. What unusual thing happened to Greg at the beginning of the passage?
- A. Sakina brought him *lassi*.
 - B. He had slept inside a house.
 - C. He woke up alone.
 - D. He wolfed everything down.
14. What does the phrase '*wolfed everything down*' (line 4) mean?
- A. Greg ate hungrily.
 - B. Greg acted like a wolf.
 - C. Greg was extremely aggressive.
 - D. Greg mashed his food.
15. What was the social status of the hosts?
- A. Middle class
 - B. Extremely poor
 - C. Extremely rich
 - D. Moderately rich
16. Greg's observation about the household items was that they all were
- A. over-used.
 - B. ordinary and of poor quality.
 - C. worn out except for the bedding items.
 - D. well-used except for one bedding item.
17. The blanket that covered Greg indicates that the hosts were
- A. rich.
 - B. caring.
 - C. tough.
 - D. dutiful.
18. What mode of travelling did the villagers take to cross the river?
- A. They walked.
 - B. They swam.
 - C. They used a cable cart.
 - D. They used a boat.
19. Greg is believed to be
- A. an alien.
 - B. a foreigner.
 - C. a pet.
 - D. a distant relative.

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Read the passage carefully and then answer the multiple choice questions which follow:

Reading Passage II

Taxila is a region that contains numerous examples of Hindu, Buddhist and Greek cultures. Taxila was the ancient capital of Eastern Punjab. It reminds us of the rich cultural heritage that is to be found in Pakistan.

5 Located only 35 kilometres away from Rawalpindi along the Grand Trunk Road, it is easily accessible from the main road. Exploring Taxila, looking at the ancient sculptures and artefacts, examining the blend of various cultures and experiencing the peace which is found in this ancient centre of art and learning, can make Taxila a memorable place for any tourist.

The whole site is spread over several kilometres, starting from a well stocked museum which houses various antiques found in and around these sites.

10 The ruins of Taxila comprise ancient monasteries and various stone-carved statues of Buddha; depicting the Buddhist culture. The city was divided up into narrow streets in the same irregular manner as in Greece, and the houses were built in such a way that if you look at them from outside they had only one storey, while if you went into one of them, you at once found subterranean chambers extending as far below the level of the earth as did the chambers above.

15 From the 5th century BC to 2nd century AD, Taxila was an important Buddhist learning centre. The different stages of Taxila were influenced by Persia, Greece, and Central Asia. In 327 BC, Alexander conquered Taxila. Later it came under the Mauryan dynasty and reached great level of development under the rule of the great Asoka.

20 The next period in Taxila's history, known as the Gandhara era was ruled by the Indo-Greek descendents of Alexander, the Great. During these 200 years, Taxila became the most renowned centre of philosophy, art, and learning. Taxila is now considered to be one of the greatest attractions for pilgrims and tourists to Pakistan from China and Greece.

Source: The Herald Magazine

Mark your responses to these questions on your multiple choice answer sheet.

20. Taxila region is known for its
- A. Buddhist culture only.
 - B. Greek culture only.
 - C. economic perspective.
 - D. multi-cultural heritage.
21. The region of Taxila is situated near Rawalpindi which is easily accessible because
- A. it is a famous place.
 - B. it is linked to the main road.
 - C. many roads are connected to it.
 - D. everyone knows where it is situated.
22. Taxila attracts tourists because of all of the following EXCEPT
- A. ancient sculptures and artefacts.
 - B. rich presence of cultures.
 - C. subterranean chambers.
 - D. stone-carved Buddha statues.
23. The Taxila city's streets are similar to those of
- A. Persia.
 - B. Central Asia.
 - C. Greece.
 - D. Rawalpindi.
24. Which of the following is an opinion?
- A. Taxila is an easily accessible place.
 - B. Taxila is a memorable place.
 - C. Taxila has ancient sculptures and artefacts.
 - D. Taxila is situated near the Grand Trunk road.
25. The passage describes Taxila as an ancient place, which was a centre of
- A. monasteries.
 - B. art and learning.
 - C. pilgrims and tourists.
 - D. streets and shops.

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