

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS IX EXAMINATION

MAY 2012

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 circle for your choice with a pencil as shown below.

Correct Way					Incorrect Ways				
1	(A)	(B)	●	(D)	1	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
					2	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
					3	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
					4	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)

Candidate's Signature

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

Listening Comprehension Section

In this section you will hear two recordings. Each one will be played twice.

Listen carefully to the first recording then read the 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, record your answers on your separate answer sheet. You will have three and a half minutes to pencil in your answers.

Follow the instruction 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

This passage is about the importance of water in our lives.

Source: www.esl-lab.com

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

1. Which of the following is the most essential for the survival of human beings?
 - A. Nutritious food
 - B. Remaining clean and healthy
 - C. A supply of clean water
 - D. A constant supply of food and water
2. The consumption of water is greater when
 - A. taps are in the house.
 - B. taps are at a short distance from each other.
 - C. taps do not have a running supply of water.
 - D. standpipes are used instead of taps.
3. We can infer from the passage that people use water carefully when they
 - A. get the supply of water from standpipes.
 - B. have to walk miles to take a bath.
 - C. do not get a ready supply of water.
 - D. live in a village.
4. Which of the following is MISMATCHED about the consumption of water?
 - A. Brushing teeth → 27 litres water
 - B. Flushing a toilet → 22 litres water
 - C. Taking a shower → 110 litres water
 - D. Cooking → 5 litres water
5. We can infer from the passage that a 'standpipe' cannot be
 - A. used for cooking and washing.
 - B. moved from place to place.
 - C. a ready source of water.
 - D. found in villages.
6. Which of the following is an OPINION?
 - A. About 5 litres of water is needed daily for a person.
 - B. The amount of water consumed in washing your face is about 4 litres.
 - C. A standpipe is a better source for water supply.
 - D. A village woman has to travel miles to get water.

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, and then read the questions. 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 write your answers.

Listening Passage II

This passage is a conversation between two friends about a picnic they are planning to have.

Source: www.esl-lab.com

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

7. What is the topic of the conversation?
- A. Going to a picnic
 - B. Visit to a supermarket
 - C. Having a barbecue by the river
 - D. Buying food and drinks for the picnic
8. Where are Sara and Sana going for the picnic?
- A. A river
 - B. A beach
 - C. A park
 - D. A desert
9. Which of the following would they use as an extra seasoning with French fries and burgers?
- A. Chilli sauce
 - B. Barbecue sauce
 - C. Ketchup
 - D. Pepper
10. What is Sara's suggestion about the drinks?
- A. Some soft drinks should not be taken to the picnic.
 - B. Twenty litres of soft drinks should be taken to the picnic.
 - C. Dessert should be taken together with a variety of soft drinks.
 - D. Different types of soft drinks should be taken to the picnic.
11. Sana did not want to ask Alina to make chocolate pastries because she
- A. made good chocolate pastries last time.
 - B. is not coming to the picnic.
 - C. is busy because of her work.
 - D. hates chocolate pastries.
12. Which of the following is an OPINION?
- A. I should better write this down.
 - B. We will go to the picnic on Saturday.
 - C. Be sure to buy a variety of drinks.
 - D. She is working two jobs.

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Reading Comprehension Section

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

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

Reading Passage I

Sara had been taught the significance of charity and sharing since childhood. Belonging to an average family, Sara didn't possess all the luxuries of life. Her family didn't own an LCD television, a computer, or any such high-tech gadgets. She didn't even have a telephone to communicate with friends. However, this never got in the way of her happiness. She was indeed a cheerful child and very optimistic about life.

At school most of her class-mates belonged to average families. However, she had a few rich, bratty kids as classmates too. They would always tell exaggerated stories and boast how and where they celebrated their birthdays, had family lunches, dinners, etc. She tried to keep away from them but like every child, soon fell prey to jealousy.

- 10 She recalled a lecture her teacher once gave during class. Her teacher had told them, "When you give someone something, fate rewards you with twice as much!" Sara contemplated this phrase. She decided to collect her pocket money and help people more frequently, in the hope to be rewarded with double as much. However, she didn't receive much in return. She began to question herself and wonder if what her teacher had said was untrue. So she decided to put this
- 15 question forward to her teacher.

The next day as usual, the richer kids' self-importance and arrogance got the better of Sara. Sara waited anxiously for the day to end. The last lesson seemed to go on for hours. But as soon as the bell rang, Sara quickly put her books away and was about to approach her teacher with the question when she heard someone crying. She recognised the voice; it was Anum, her close

20 friend.

Sara hurried to see what the matter was. Anum told her that a classmate who shared her lunch with Anum was demanding money in return. Sara knew Anum's parents would be angry if she asked them for money, so she conciliated her and offered to pay the money for her. Anum hugged her saying she was indeed her best friend. Sara felt proud of being able to help a friend in need.

- 25 As Sara walked away from Anum, she suddenly realised that she had found the answer to all her questions. She wouldn't want Anum to pay her back double; she wouldn't want her to pay her back at all, for she had helped her because she cared. And then Anum's genuine appreciation meant the world; Sara didn't need anything else.

Source: The Daily DAWN

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

13. What important lesson was taught to Sara from infancy?
- Sara was taught to be
- A. helpful.
 - B. cheerful.
 - C. friendly.
 - D. attentive.
14. All of the following words describe Sara's personality EXCEPT
- A. friendly.
 - B. anxious.
 - C. positive.
 - D. selfish.
15. The rich friends of Sara used to tell exaggerated stories and boast how they had fun. What does 'boast' mean here?
- A. Describe
 - B. Recall
 - C. Brag
 - D. Emphasise
16. Sara started doubting her teacher's words due to the fact that she
- A. was influenced by the pride of her rich friends.
 - B. had started envying others.
 - C. could not understand the meaning of those words.
 - D. had never got much in return for her good deeds.
17. Sara started saving her pocket money in order to
- A. buy high-tech gadgets.
 - B. celebrate her birthday.
 - C. help needy people.
 - D. share with her friends.
18. At the end of the day, Sara wanted to ask her teacher a question but she could not ask because her
- A. rich friends started telling her stories.
 - B. close friend was weeping.
 - C. teacher was not found anywhere.
 - D. classmate was demanding money.

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Now read the following passage carefully and answer the multiple choice questions which follow.

Reading Passage II

Snails tend to be classified more as pests than as the wild creatures they actually are. These slow moving molluscs have been around for over 60 million years and it is thought that there are well over 200,000 different species but no one knows for sure. One of the slowest moving life forms on the planet, snails are largely nocturnal but can be seen in the early morning, around sunset and
5 on cloudy days. They need to keep their bodies damp so they cover themselves with a protective coating of mucus and avoid strong sunshine. In periods of drought, they search out a secure spot in which to hibernate until the weather is more to their liking. Some snail species hibernate during the cold of winter, living off stored up fat until the temperatures rise.

Different species of snails have different life spans but they generally live from five to twenty
10 five years and begin laying eggs when they are two years old. Some snails lay hundreds of eggs at a time, to be fertile. Only a very small percentage of baby snails survive to reach maturity as they are eaten by all sorts of other creatures — birds especially adore snacking on snails of all sizes. These interesting — if destructive, molluscs — can be anything from a mere 30 centimetres up to a massive 15 inches in length but most are no larger than six inches.

15 As everyone knows, snails carry their houses on their backs and these shells come in an assortment of colours, often with toning markings. Sea snails often have more attractive shells than land snails but all are interesting in their own way. Snails have extremely bad eyesight and are completely deaf so they generally rely on their enhanced sense of smell to get around. In moving from one spot to another, they leave behind them a trail of shiny slime.

20 This strange slime gives them suction which is why they can climb up and down smooth surfaces and even cross things like a window glass. This slime allows them to stick to leaves and blades of grass while they eat them. They are incredibly strong and can lift weights which are as much as 10 times heavier than themselves.

25 Salt and sugar are poisonous to snails and they die if they eat either of these. The population of snails is on the decline as their natural habitats are being destroyed by human activity. They are also being killed off by the herbicides and pesticides used by gardeners and farmers, and are being drastically weakened by atmospheric pollution.

Source: www.buzzle.com

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

19. According to the article, the misconception regarding snails is that they are
- A. wild creatures.
 - B. molluscs.
 - C. nocturnal.
 - D. pests.
20. Which of the following is TRUE about snails?
- A. They live on stored fats all year round.
 - B. They are destructive creatures.
 - C. Sea snails are slower than wild snails.
 - D. Many baby snails do not survive till maturity.
21. One of the distinguishing characteristics of snails is that they
- A. live in sunshine.
 - B. like snacking on birds.
 - C. avoid rough weather.
 - D. lay eggs when two years old.
22. Which of the following indicates physical strength of snails?
- A. They lay thousands of eggs.
 - B. They climb on uneven surfaces.
 - C. They lift weights heavier than themselves.
 - D. They are active in the hibernating season.
23. Which of the following is TRUE about the sight and sense of smell of snails?
- A. Snails have sharp eyesight but a bad sense of smell.
 - B. Snails see and smell through their shells.
 - C. Snails do not hibernate because of sight and smell.
 - D. Snails have weak eyesight and a sharp sense of smell.
24. Which of the following has caused a decrease in the number of snails?
- A. Destruction of their habitat
 - B. Water pollution
 - C. Eating sugar and salt
 - D. Lifting heavy loads
25. Only 10 percent of baby snails grow up because
- A. other animals eat most of the small snails.
 - B. molluscs destroy the eggs.
 - C. the shiny trail of slime kills the eggs.
 - D. gardeners kill the small snails.

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