

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS IX EXAMINATION

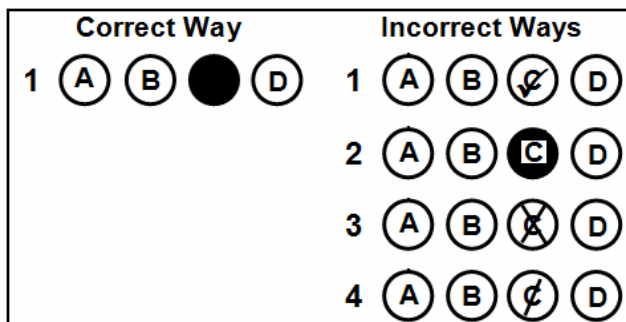
MAY 2013

English Compulsory Paper I

Time: 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.



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 and 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

The passage is an extract from a story 'The Devoted Friend'. The extract talks about a few animals and their concept of friendship.

Source: An extract from *'The Devoted Friend'* by Oscar Wilde

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

1. The old water-rat cried that the baby ducklings deserved to be drowned because they
 - A. were unaffected by his presence.
 - B. were not obeying their mother.
 - C. did not know the value of society.
 - D. did not display good abilities.

2. Which of the following is TRUE about the appearance of the ducks?
 - A. All young ducks and their mother were white.
 - B. All ducks were white with red beaks.
 - C. All young ducks were white but the mother was yellow.
 - D. All young ducks were yellow but the mother was white.

3. The young ducks did not know how to
 - A. stand on their heads.
 - B. swim backwards.
 - C. look like canaries.
 - D. follow the mother.

4. The young ones did not pay any attention to the mother duck because they did not know
 - A. how to swim at this age.
 - B. the value of being in a society.
 - C. how to act like their mother.
 - D. the benefits of pleasing their mother.

5. Which of the following did NOT believe in having a family?
 - A. Green Linnet
 - B. Water-rat
 - C. Duck
 - D. The little bird

6. The water-rat's opinion about friendship was that
 - A. love is more important than friendship.
 - B. family is very well but friendship is not so high.
 - C. family is important than love or friendship.
 - D. friendship is more important than love and family.

PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD

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

Listen carefully to the first playing then open paper one booklet and 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, enter your answers on your separate answer sheet. You will have three and a half minutes to pencil in your answers.

Listening Passage II

In this passage, a speaker talks about the four seasons that she experiences in her city.

Source: www.esl-lab.com

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

7. The passage is in the form of
- A. a dialogue.
 - B. a speech.
 - C. a formal report.
 - D. an essay.
8. The main topic of the passage is
- A. changing temperatures during various seasons.
 - B. description of characteristics of various seasons.
 - C. evaluation of extremities of many seasons.
 - D. evaluation of snowy and dry season.
9. The speaker says that during winter season there is
- A. heavy snowfall with 40 degree temperature.
 - B. 30 inches of snowfall and heavy rains.
 - C. beauty and snow everywhere.
 - D. heavy snowfall for three months.
10. The author opines that the most beautiful season is
- A. winter.
 - B. summer.
 - C. spring.
 - D. autumn.
11. Which of the following is TRUE about summers in the author's city?
- The summers in the author's city are
- A. very dry with low humidity.
 - B. rainy with high humidity.
 - C. less dry and very hot.
 - D. pleasant and rainy.
12. Which of the following describes the season of autumn?
- I. The weather is less hot.
 - II. Trees change colours.
 - III. Frost is present on the mountains.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II
 - C. II and III
 - D. I and III

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Reading Comprehension Section

You have 20 minutes for this section. This section has two reading passages; each followed by multiple choice questions. 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

Harry was glad school was over, but there was no escaping Dudley's gang, who visited the house every single day. Piers, Dennis, Malcolm, and Gordon were all big and stupid, but as Dudley was the biggest and stupidest of the lot, he was the leader. The rest of them were all quite happy to join in Dudley's favourite sport: Harry Hunting. This was why Harry spent as much time as possible out of the house, wandering around and thinking about the end of the holidays, where he could see a tiny ray of hope. When September came he would be going off to secondary school and, for the first time in his life, he wouldn't be with Dudley. Dudley had been accepted at Uncle Vernon's old private school, Smeltings. Piers Polkiss was going there too. Harry, on the other hand, was going to Stonewall High, the local public school. Dudley thought this was very funny.

5 "They stuff people's heads down the toilet the first day at Stonewall," he told Harry. "Want to come upstairs and practice?" "No, thanks," said Harry. "The poor toilet's never had anything as horrible as your head down it - it might be sick." Then he ran, before Dudley could work out what he'd said. One day in July, Aunt Petunia took Dudley to London to buy his Smeltings uniform, leaving Harry at Mrs. Figg's. Mrs. Figg wasn't as bad as usual. It turned out she'd

10 broken her leg tripping over one of her cats, and she didn't seem quite as fond of them as before. She let Harry watch television and gave him a bit of chocolate cake that tasted as though she'd had it for several years. That evening, Dudley paraded around the living room for the family in his brand-new uniform. As he looked at Dudley in his new knickerbockers, Uncle Vernon said gruffly that it was the proudest moment of his life. Aunt Petunia burst into tears and said she

15 couldn't believe it was her Ickle Dudleykins, he looked so handsome and grown-up. Harry didn't trust himself to speak. He thought two of his ribs might already have cracked from trying not to laugh.

There was a horrible smell in the kitchen the next morning when Harry went in for breakfast. It seemed to be coming from a large metal tub in the sink. He went to have a look. The tub was full

25 of what looked like dirty rags swimming in grey water. "What's this?" he asked Aunt Petunia. Her lips tightened as they always did if he dared to ask a question. "Your new school uniform," she said. Harry looked in the bowl again. "Oh," he said, "I didn't realize it had to be so wet." "Don't be stupid," snapped Aunt Petunia. "I'm dyeing some of Dudley's old things grey for you. It'll look just like everyone else's when I've finished." Harry seriously doubted this, but thought it

30 best not to argue.

Source: An extract from *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K Rowling

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

13. We can infer from the beginning of the passage that
- A. Harry was happy about Dudley's gang.
 - B. Dudley visited Harry every day.
 - C. Harry did not like his school.
 - D. Dudley was a very stupid boy.
14. The phrase, 'Harry Hunting' in line 4 implies that
- A. Harry loved hunting with Dudley.
 - B. Harry was teased by other boys.
 - C. Dudley used to play Harry's favourite sport.
 - D. Dudley wanted to keep Harry away from home.
15. Harry was looking forward to going to his secondary school because
- A. he would be away from Dudley.
 - B. his friends were waiting for him.
 - C. it was uncle Vernon's old school.
 - D. he liked Stonewall High School.
16. From the conversation between Dudley and Harry, we can infer that Harry usually escaped the clutches of his cousin because he was
- A. faster on his feet.
 - B. more sharp.
 - C. less sick.
 - D. less bright.
17. The term, 'knickerbockers' in line 18 refers to a type of
- A. clothing.
 - B. work.
 - C. parade.
 - D. brand.
18. Harry's school uniform was
- I. new but dirty.
 - II. supposed to be grey.
 - III. cracked from sides.
 - IV. old and belonged to someone else.
- A. I only
 - B. III and IV
 - C. I and IV
 - D. II and IV

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Now read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Reading Passage II

Little Sikander's thoughts ever since lunch-time had been of his meeting with Ghalib, of Ghalib's invitation, and of the great city London where Ghalib lived. He was called Little Sikander because, though he was but slightly under the average stature, he gave one the idea of being a little man. His hands were white and small, his frame was fragile, his voice was quiet and his manners were refined. He took the greatest care of his fair silken hair and moustache, and used perfume discreetly on his handkerchief. The half-moons of his nails were perfect, and when he smiled you caught a glimpse of a row of childish white teeth.

As he sat at his desk in the King's Inns he thought what changes those eight years had brought. The friend whom he had known under a shabby and necessitous guise had become a brilliant figure on the London Press. He turned often from his tiresome writing to gaze out of the office window. The glow of a late autumn sunset covered the grass plots and walks. It casts a shower of kindly golden dust on the untidy nurses and decrepit old men who drowsed on the benches; it flickered upon all the moving figures - on the children who ran screaming along the gravel paths and on everyone who passed through the gardens. He watched the scene and thought of life; and (as always happened when he thought of life) he became sad. A gentle melancholy took possession of him. He felt how useless it was to struggle against fortune, this being the burden of wisdom which the ages had bequeathed to him.

When his hour had struck he stood up and took leave of his desk and of his fellow-clerks punctiliously. He emerged from under the feudal arch of the King's Inns, a neat modest figure, and walked swiftly down Henrietta Street. The golden sunset was waning and the air had grown sharp. A horde of grimy children populated the street. They stood or ran in the roadway, or crawled up the steps before the gaping doors, or squatted like mice upon the thresholds. Little Sikander gave them no thought. No memory of the past touched him, for his mind was full of a present joy.

Source: Adapted from '*A Little Cloud*' by James Joyce

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

19. The first paragraph is about
- A. the description of Ghalib's meeting with Sikander.
 - B. the physical description of Sikander.
 - C. Little Sikander's thoughts about London.
 - D. the average stature of Sikander.
20. Which of the following is TRUE about Sikander?
- A. He was short and strong.
 - B. He was called 'Little Sikander' because he was young.
 - C. He was well-mannered and sophisticated.
 - D. He was not very conscious of his appearance.
21. The phrase, 'the half moons of his nails' in line 6 refers to the
- A. smoothness of nails.
 - B. sharp edges of nails.
 - C. shape of nails.
 - D. colour of nails.
22. We can infer from paragraph 2 that Little Sikander's profession is related to
- A. health care.
 - B. writing.
 - C. minding children.
 - D. tending gravel paths.
23. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?
- A. The story is set in autumn season.
 - B. Many children and old people surrounded the roads.
 - C. Sikander feels negatively about struggle and hardwork.
 - D. Sikander works in a newspaper office.
24. The phrase, 'his hour had struck' in line 18 means
- A. the time he was waiting for had come.
 - B. his wait was over.
 - C. his watch showed a particular time.
 - D. his office time is over.
25. In the last paragraph, it is said that 'A horde of grimy children populated the street.' It indicates that
- A. Sikander was a neat modest figure.
 - B. the children were naughty.
 - C. the children were not groomed.
 - D. Sikander was unmindful of them.

END OF PAPER

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