

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS IX EXAMINATION

MAY 2016

English Compulsory Paper I

Time: 50 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 passages. Each one will be played two times.

Listen carefully to the first passage, and then read questions 1 to 6. You will have two minutes' reading time.

The passage will then be played again. You can make notes on your question paper.

When the passage 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 describes the importance of sunlight.

Source: Adapted from 'Light Up Your Health' by Nancy Kalish

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

1. The speaker begins her speech by referring to the ancient civilisations in order to
 - A. emphasise how time has changed the habits of people.
 - B. emphasise the significance of sunlight for people of all times.
 - C. highlight that the younger generations are less accomplished.
 - D. highlight that the downfall of those civilizations was linked to their dependence on nature.

2. According to the speaker, after waking up, we should spend some time in a spot where there is
 - A. bluish-white light.
 - B. maximum exposure to light.
 - C. sufficient amount of artificial light.
 - D. minimum amount of intense sunlight.

3. According to the speaker, sitting by the windows in school will help boost
 - A. memory and math skills.
 - B. production of serotonin.
 - C. short and long term memory.
 - D. alertness and diminish fatigue.

4. Which information is heard **FIRST**?
 - A. Millions of years of evolution have programmed our bodies to respond to light.
 - B. The first rays of sunlight suppress the production of melatonin.
 - C. Every morning, light absorbed by your eyes helps set a master clock in your brain.
 - D. For extra alertness do not wear sunglasses during your morning travels.

5. According to the speaker, serotonin can be helpful in avoiding
 - A. fatigue.
 - B. mood swings.
 - C. loss of eyesight.
 - D. hormonal imbalance.

6. The speaker concludes her speech by saying that
 - A. electricity is important for us.
 - B. evolution supports the habit of waking up early.
 - C. our biological clock is based on years of evolution.
 - D. electricity has enabled us to alter our natural routine.

PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD

Now we will play the second passage. It will also be played two times.

Listen carefully to the passage and then read questions 7 to 12. You will have two minutes reading time.

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

When the passage has finished, enter your answers on the separate answer sheet provided to you.

You will have three and a half minutes to pencil in your answers.

Listening Passage II

This passage describes the characteristics of chimpanzees.

Source: Taken from National Geographic Kids

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

7. The speaker states that 'Chimpanzees are omnivores'. The reason given by the speaker for this at the beginning of her speech is that they
- A. eat both plants and animals.
 - B. have eating habits which are similar to humans.
 - C. learn which foods are safe to eat from their mothers and other elders.
 - D. are generally fruit and plant eaters, but they also consume milk.
8. According to the speaker, a young chimpanzee spends many years with its mother so that it may
- A. learn how to walk.
 - B. cling to its mother.
 - C. learn different skills.
 - D. be protected from other animals.
9. According to the speaker, who is the 'alpha' male chimpanzee?
- A. The strongest male chimpanzee
 - B. The leader of the community of chimpanzees
 - C. The best fighter in a group of chimpanzees
 - D. The oldest member of a family of chimpanzees
10. The speaker mentions that 'Chimpanzees are quadrupedal.'
- This means that chimpanzees
- A. have four legs.
 - B. walk on four limbs.
 - C. have flexible limbs.
 - D. walk upright for short distances.
11. Regarding the gender difference in chimpanzees, the speaker **IMPLIES** that
- A. male chimpanzees age earlier than females.
 - B. female chimpanzees are more violent than the males.
 - C. female chimpanzees are able to reproduce at a younger age than males.
 - D. male chimpanzees are able to move more freely between communities.
12. By referring to similarity in DNA of chimpanzees and human beings, the speaker is bringing our attention to the fact that
- A. all mammals have the same basic structure of DNA.
 - B. despite having similarities, humans are a danger to chimpanzees.
 - C. social communities are common in both humans and chimpanzees.
 - D. chimpanzees should be trained to use tools and human sign language.

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Reading Comprehension Section

You have 25 minutes for the reading comprehension section. This section has two passages, each followed by multiple choice questions. You are advised to spend approximately 12 minutes on each of the given passages.

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

Reading Passage I

Ndume School was backward in every sense. Mr Obi put his whole life into the work, and his wife hers too. He had two aims. A high standard of teaching was insisted upon, and the school compound was to be turned into a place of beauty. Nancy's dream-gardens came to life with the coming of the rains, and blossomed. Beautiful hibiscus and allamanda hedges in brilliant red and yellow marked out the carefully tended school compound from the rank neighbourhood bushes.

One evening as Obi was admiring his work he was scandalized to see an old woman from the village walk right across the compound, through a marigold flowerbed and the hedges. On going up there he found faint signs of an almost disused path from the village across the school compound to the bush on the other side.

10 "It amazes me," said Obi to one of his teacher, who had been three years in school, "that you people allowed the villagers to make use of this footpath. It is simply incredible." he shook his head.

"The path," said the teacher apologetically, "appears to be very important to them. Although it is hardly used, it connects the village shrine with their place of burial."

15 "And what has that got to do with the school?" asked the headmaster.

"Well, I don't know," replied the other with a shrug of the shoulders. "But I remember there was a big row some time ago when we attempted to close it."

20 "That was some time ago. But it will not be used now," said Obi as he walked away. "What will the Government Education Officer think of this when he comes to inspect the school next week? The villagers might, for all I know, decide to use the schoolroom for a pagan ritual during the inspection."

Heavy sticks were planted closely across the path at the two places where it entered and left the school premises.

These were further strengthened with barbed wire.

25 Three days later, the village priest of Ani called on the headmaster. He was an old man and walked with a slight stoop. He carried a stout walking stick which he usually tapped on the floor, by way of emphasis, each time he made a new point in his argument.

“I have heard,” he said after the usual exchange of cordialities, “that our ancestral footpath has recently been closed...”

30 “Yes,” replied Mr Obi. “We cannot allow people to make a highway of our school compound.”

Source: Adapted from “Dead Men’s Path” by Chinua Achebe

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

13. Mr Obi tried to improve the standard of Ndume School by focussing on
- A. planting red and yellow flowers in the compound.
 - B. appointing new staff and changing their workspace.
 - C. ensuring good appearance and quality of education.
 - D. stopping outsiders from interfering with their work policies.
14. Mr Obi found 'faint signs of an almost disused path' (line 8). The phrase **MOST CLOSELY** refers to the fact that the path was
- A. not clearly visible.
 - B. often used by travellers.
 - C. made for villagers recently.
 - D. used by religious people only.
15. The path was important for the villagers. What reason is given by the school teacher for that?
- A. It was built near a very old shrine.
 - B. It linked two burial grounds of the village.
 - C. It linked their place of worship with graveyard.
 - D. It was used in the ancient times by their ancestors.
16. Which event happened **FIRST**?
- A. The villagers were not allowed to use the path.
 - B. Mr Obi saw a woman crossing the school compound.
 - C. Ndume School revived its glory and was visited by Government officials.
 - D. Mr Obi had a conversation with a fellow teacher about villagers using the path.
17. The path was protected by planting heavy sticks and barbed wires. The author **MOST LIKELY** mentions this in order to emphasise that
- A. the path was secured firmly with available resources.
 - B. Mr Obi wants to keep village children away from his school.
 - C. villagers should be allowed to perform their religious rituals.
 - D. wood and wires should be used to secure the entrances everywhere.
18. Which of the following **BEST** describes Mr Obi's personality?
- A. He was lenient and open-minded.
 - B. He was highly educated and compassionate.
 - C. He was backward, weak and superstitious.
 - D. He was educated, strict and strong-willed.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Reading Passage II

Little Chandler's thoughts ever since lunch-time had been of his meeting with Gallaher, of Gallaher's invitation, and of the great city London where Gallaher lived. He was called Little Chandler 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
5 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
10 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
15 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,
20 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 Chandler 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 main topic of the first paragraph is
- A. the average stature of Chandler.
 - B. the physical description of Chandler.
 - C. Little Chandler's thoughts about London.
 - D. the description of Gallaher's meeting with Chandler.
20. Which of the following indicates Chandler's personality **MOST ACCURATELY**?
- A. He was short and strong.
 - B. He was well-mannered and sophisticated.
 - C. He was not very conscious of his appearance.
 - D. He was called 'Little Chandler' because he was young.
21. The phrase, 'the half-moons of his nails' in line 6 refers to the
- A. shape of nails.
 - B. colour of nails.
 - C. smoothness of nails.
 - D. sharp edges of nails.
22. We can infer from paragraph 2 that Little Chandler's profession is related to
- A. writing.
 - B. health care.
 - C. minding children.
 - D. tending gravel paths.
23. Which of the following **BEST** describes the location in which the story is set?
- A. An urban, middle class commercial area
 - B. A little town with no commercial activity
 - C. A city with motels and no commercial activity
 - D. An area surrounded by populated expensive houses
24. The phrase, 'his hour had struck' in line 18 means
- A. the office break time was over.
 - B. his watch showed a particular time.
 - C. the time he was waiting for had come.
 - D. the person he was waiting for had come.
25. In the last paragraph, it is said that 'A horde of grimy children populated the street'. It indicates that
- A. Chandler was a modest figure.
 - B. the children were not groomed.
 - C. Chandler was unmindful of them.
 - D. the children were noble and serious.

END OF PAPER

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