

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS IX

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2025

English Compulsory Paper I

Time: 1 hour Marks: 30

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 30 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	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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 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 about a building.

Source: Adapted from '*The Leaning Tower of Pisa Continues to Rise*' as published on DW.com

AKU-EP
Annual Examinations 2025
for Teaching & Learning only

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

1. The speaker begins the heard passage by
 - A. introducing the Italian city, Pisa.
 - B. comparing various towers of Pisa.
 - C. listing tourist attractions in the city of Pisa.
 - D. raising concerns over the Leaning Tower's structure.

2. Based on the information in the heard passage, the construction of the Tower of Pisa was
 - A. rigid.
 - B. stable.
 - C. debated upon.
 - D. cause for concern.

3. In the heard passage, stabilising the Leaning Tower of Pisa for tourism started in the
 - A. early 1990s.
 - B. late 1990s.
 - C. early 2000s.
 - D. late 2000s.

4. According to the heard passage, the future of the Tower of Pisa for the next 300 years is
 - A. questionable.
 - B. uncertain.
 - C. assured.
 - D. grave.

5. The information in the heard passage is given MAINLY through
 - A. historical references.
 - B. cause and effect.
 - C. comparisons.
 - D. arguments.

6. The text type of the heard passage is an example of a/ an
 - A. anecdote.
 - B. diary entry.
 - C. documentary.
 - D. magazine article.

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 first passage and then read questions 7 to 13. 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 the separate answer sheet provided to you. You will have three minutes to pencil in your answers.

Listening Passage II

The speaker talks about King Arthur.

Source: Taken from <http://www.caerleon.net/history/arthur/page2.html>

AKU-EB
Annual Examinations 2025
for Teaching & Learning only

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

7. The narrator begins by
 - A. describing England.
 - B. describing Merlin.
 - C. mentioning about a sword.
 - D. mentioning Arthur's birth.

8. According to the narrator, what was Merlin's biggest fear?
 - A. Being banished from England
 - B. Lack of magic
 - C. Struggle for King Uther's throne
 - D. The Saxon invasion

9. Based on the heard passage, the Knights of the Round Table can be described as
 - A. arrogant.
 - B. brave.
 - C. cunning.
 - D. romantic.

10. According to the narrator, Arthur received the Excalibur from
 - A. Merlin.
 - B. Morgan le Fey.
 - C. Queen Guinevere.
 - D. the Lady of the Lake.

11. The narrator mentions that Arthur was on the verge of death due to
 - A. drowning in a river.
 - B. old age.
 - C. the battle at Camlann.
 - D. the death of his wife.

12. The theme of the heard passage is of
 - A. being courageous in the face of adversity.
 - B. fighting for the person you love.
 - C. the quest for absolute power.
 - D. understanding one's own limitations.

13. The narrator provides information through
 - A. flashbacks and arguments.
 - B. dialogues and flashbacks.
 - C. dialogues and imagery.
 - D. imagery and arguments.

PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD

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 12.5 minutes on each of the given passages.

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

Reading Passage I

Back home once more, with absolutely no prospect of a job in sight, things looked grim indeed. I was beginning to understand what my poor father had been going through for too long. The anguish of being unable to find much needed work could soon lead to despair...

5 I had looked everywhere for work and had begun to feel hopeless, where else could I look? It was out of desperation that I had taken the job thinning apples, rather than sit at home idle, but I had been able to send part of my earnings home. Every bit helped.

10 One sunny Sunday a few weeks later, having nothing better to do, I went out to Longacres [racetrack], just to watch some beautiful animals in action...At the track I ran into some friends who had been to the 5th Avenue Theatre the night before and were raving about a new cartoon they'd seen...

Ben Sharpsteen, a director from the Disney studio, had recently visited friends in town, telling them about Disney's great need for new talent, he was planning to build up his staff and produce a feature length cartoon. My sports editor friend passed the word on to me.

15 Well now, this sounded almost fortunate to me...With no job prospects whatsoever, you can imagine how something like this would give me hope. I sat down immediately and wrote to the studio, enclosing samples of some recent work...This sudden, wonderful opportunity coming out of nowhere seemed like an improbable dream, but pinching myself, OUCH! convinced me I was not only awake, but also sensitive to pain. The first Monday after arriving, I hurried out to the east side of Hollywood, where [Disney] studios was located...

20 We had a little informal chat first, then sitting at an animation desk in his office, George flipped through an animated scene to show me how the progression of drawings gave the illusion of movement...It took me a couple of days and a lot of wasted paper to get a decent start...As the months flew swiftly by, my work began to show constant improvement and many little tricks of the animation trade were now being stored away in my eager little head-bone...Now animating
25 full time, the months flew by swiftly...

Source: Adapted from Jack Bradbury's Autobiography as published on
<https://jbrad.org/autobiog.html>

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

14. Paragraphs 1 and 2 are organised to show the author's
- A. desire to be at home.
 - B. financial condition.
 - C. father's behaviour.
 - D. family dynamics.
15. The moment the author's life changed was
- A. when he felt hopeless.
 - B. when he understood his father's condition.
 - C. during his interaction with friends at a racetrack.
 - D. after his friend asked him to apply for a job at a studio.
16. The author can be described as
- A. spontaneous.
 - B. dedicated.
 - C. annoying.
 - D. sluggish.
17. Keeping the environment in mind, which of the following advices would you give to the author based on the last paragraph?
- A. Learning animation is a piece of cake.
 - B. You should learn the art of talking to people.
 - C. When drawing, be mindful of wasting paper.
 - D. Artists must take a course on the environment.
18. The imagery used by the author is
- A. visual.
 - B. auditory.
 - C. gustatory (taste).
 - D. olfactory (smell).
19. Apart from an autobiography, the given passage can also be categorised as a/ an
- A. story.
 - B. script.
 - C. occasion.
 - D. summary.

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

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

Reading Passage II

Travelling is important for humans. We are communal creatures that are of the same species, yet our location determines societal actions based off cultured and governmental laws... Travelling to see places beyond our hometown is crucial to gain exposure to the world. Whether someone travels domestically or to a foreign country, it can be an experience for a lifetime. Foreign travels may require extra planning such as obtaining a visa... Travelling should be a happy thing, even if it is just a business trip to another state. It's important to maintain a continual pattern of learning and awareness throughout one's lifetime...

Travelling gives us exposure to other cultures. If an individual has remained in their home time for their entire life, it would make it hard to completely understand the struggles and celebrations of other regions and countries. One country can be vastly different from one side to the other. The dialects, food, and the terrain can all be different from one place to another... Exposure to these things allows us to become open-minded and understand that though we are different, it is our similarities as humans that brings us together.

One of the best things about visiting a new place is the food. Many television shows are dedicated to showing us all about other cultures and the food they eat because food displays many virtues and explains many things about a culture from the local agriculture to necessary imports... Another great benefit to travelling is the connections that are built, and the relationships made during one's stay. As humanity is often divided, learning to communicate across nations and foster a global understanding of each other is crucial to the success of all countries and people...

Source: Adapted from an article on travelling by Dispatch as published on <https://wp.nyu.edu>

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

20. The author states that travelling outside of our comfort zone is beneficial for us because it can help us
- A. gain new perspectives of the world.
 - B. develop interpersonal skills.
 - C. understand business trips.
 - D. achieve our daily targets.
21. In paragraph 2, the author gives comparison of countries to MAINLY show the
- A. dominance of some cultures over other cultures.
 - B. importance of celebrations around the world.
 - C. essence of cohesion among different people.
 - D. resilience of people in times of great stress.
22. Imagine you are a local tour guide who is responsible for providing tourists with the sights of a city. The FIRST step you will take to engage the tourists will be to
- A. show the importance of adapting to a culture.
 - B. argue on the significance of preserving values.
 - C. inform them about the history behind the sights.
 - D. create a flowchart of the food available in the city.
23. All the following features of a country's culture are explicitly mentioned in the given passage EXCEPT
- A. art.
 - B. food.
 - C. terrain.
 - D. dialects.
24. The author uses the word 'connections' (line 17). Another word used in the same context in the passage is
- A. relationships (line 18).
 - B. displays (line 15).
 - C. struggles (line 9).
 - D. actions (line 2).
25. The author's purpose in writing the given passage is to
- A. persuade.
 - B. compare.
 - C. organise.
 - D. imagine.
26. A suitable title for the given passage is
- A. *'In the Life of a Tourist'*.
 - B. *'Ways to be a Traveller'*.
 - C. *'Exploring Cultures through Food'*.
 - D. *'Enriching Experiences through Travelling'*.

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Cloze Passage Section

This section has a cloze passage, followed by multiple choice questions. You are advised to spend approximately 10 minutes on this section.

The sonnet (1) _____ a popular classical form that has compelled poets for centuries. Traditionally, the sonnet is a fourteen-line poem...The name is taken (2) _____ the Italian *sonetto*, which means “a little sound or song”. It was (3) _____ to England by Sir Thomas Wyatt and Henry Howard, earl of Surrey in the 16th century.

A sonnet sequence is a group of sonnets (4) shared the same subject matter and sometimes a dramatic situation.

Source: Adapted from articles written on poets.org and poetryfoundation.org

27. The blank labelled as (1) can be filled as
- A. is
 - B. was
 - C. were
 - D. been
28. The word suited to fill blank (2) is
- A. to
 - B. from
 - C. since
 - D. within
29. The word suited to fill blank (3) is
- A. bring
 - B. bought
 - C. brought
 - D. bringing
30. The word suited to replace the underlined term labelled as (4) is
- A. sharing
 - B. was shared
 - C. had shared
 - D. had been sharing

END OF PAPER

Please use this page for rough work

AKU-EB
Annual Examinations 2025
for Teaching & Learning only

Please use this page for rough work

AKU-EB
Annual Examinations 2025
for Teaching & Learning only