

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS IX EXAMINATION 2010

English Compulsory Paper II

Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes Marks 50

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the following instructions carefully.

1. Check your name and school information. Sign that it is correct.

**I agree that this is my name and school.
Candidate's signature**

2. RUBRIC. There are THREE questions. Answer ALL THREE questions. Questions 2 offers TWO choices and Question 3 offers THREE choices. Attempt any ONE choice from each.
3. When answering the questions:

Read each question carefully.
Use a black pencil for diagrams. DO NOT use coloured pencils.
DO NOT use staples, paper clips, glue, correcting fluid or ink erasers.
Complete your answer in the allocated space only. DO NOT write outside the answer box.
4. The marks for the questions are shown in brackets ().

Q.1.

(Total 18 Marks)

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

5 Death Valley is a land of beautiful yet dangerous extremes. There are mountains that reach more than three thousand metres into the sky. There is a place called Badwater that is the lowest area of land in the Western Hemisphere. If there were water there, it would be eighty-six metres below the level of the ocean. Death Valley can be dangerously cold during the winter months. Storms in the mountains can produce sudden flooding on the floor of the Valley.

The air temperature during the summer has been as high as fifty-seven degrees Celsius. The sun can heat the ground so that the temperature of the rocks and soil can be as high as seventy-four degrees Celsius.

10 The extreme heat of Death Valley has killed people in the past. It will continue to kill those who do not honour this extreme climate. Death Valley does not forgive those who are not careful.

15 Death Valley is a good example of the violence of nature. It contains evidence of several ancient volcanoes that caused huge explosions. Evidence of one of these explosions is called Ubehebe Crater. The explosion left a huge hole in the ground almost a kilometre and a half wide. In many areas of Death Valley it is easy to see where the ground has been pushed up violently by movement deep in the Earth. This movement has created unusual and beautiful rock formations. Some are red. Others are dark brown, gray, yellow or black.

20 Other areas of rock look as if some huge creature violently broke and twisted the Earth to create unusual, sometimes frightening shapes. In other parts of Death Valley there are lines in the rock that show clearly that this area was deep under an ocean for many thousands of years. Much of the Valley is flat and extremely dry. In fact, scientists believe it is the driest place in the United States. In some areas the ground is nothing but salt. Nothing grows in this salted ground.

However, it would be wrong to think that nothing lives in Death Valley. The Valley is full of life. Wild flowers grow very quickly after a little rain. Some desert plants can send their roots down more than eighteen metres to reach water deep in the ground.

25 Many kinds of birds live in Death Valley. So do mammals and reptiles. You might see the small dog-like animal called the coyote or wild sheep called bighorns. Other animals include the desert jackrabbit, the desert tortoise or turtle and a large reptile called a chuckwalla. Many kinds of snakes live in the Valley, including one called the sidewinder rattlesnake. It is an extremely poisonous snake with long sharp teeth called fangs.

30 Death Valley is a huge place. It extends more than two hundred twenty-five kilometres across the southern part of the state of California, and across the border with the state of Nevada. Death Valley is part of the Great Mojave Desert.

Source: www.voanews.com

a. What does the writer mean by the line, 'it kills those who do not honour the extreme climate.' (3 Marks)

b. Explain, 'Death Valley is a land of beautiful yet dangerous extremes.' (4 Marks)

c. Describe the 'explosion' that causes movement of the valley. (3 Marks)

d. Identify and discuss the misconception regarding Death Valley. (4 Marks)

e. State any THREE facts about the valley. Discuss any ONE in detail with reference to history. (4 Marks)

Q.2.

(Total 14 Marks)

Compose a response of about 125 words to any ONE of the options a or b.

EITHER

- a. Your friend is shy of performing in front of other students at the time of school assembly. Write a letter suggesting ways to overcome stage fright.

OR

- b. Your school is going to organize a project to improve the appearance of an amusement park in the locality and to make it more useful for children and their families. Write a letter to a friend asking for help in organizing the event.

Make your notes below. Write your final draft on page 6.

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Q.3.

(Total 18 Marks)

Write a composition of about 200 words on any ONE of the options a, b or c.

Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

EITHER

- a. 'The first time we try something new can be exciting, frightening, and enlightening.'
Describe an important "first" in your life and what you learned from the experience.

OR

- b. Describe a journey that you particularly enjoyed during your last vacation.

OR

- c. Imagine you have climbed to the top of a hill or a cliff. Describe the climb and the view you have at the end of it.

Make your notes here. Write your final draft on pages 8 and 9.

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