

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS IX EXAMINATION**

**MAY 2011**

**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.

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

(Total 18 Marks)

5 Someone tucked a heavy quilt over Greg. For the first time in months, he slept indoors. When he woke up, he was alone, and the blue sky showed through the square hole in the ceiling. Haji Ali's wife, Sakina, brought him *lassi*, a flat bread called *chapatti*, and tea with lots of sugar. Greg wolfed everything down, and Sakina, laughing, brought him more. Greg didn't know at that time how little sugar the bucket had and how precious they considered it. If he had, he would have said no to the second cup of sweet tea.

10 Sakina left Greg alone, and he looked around the room. Everything from the blackened pots and pans to the oil lanterns looked plain and well-used. But not the quilt Greg had slept under. It was made of maroon silk and decorated with tiny mirrors. All the other blankets in the room were thin, worn wool, patched with scraps. Greg realized that his hosts had covered him with the most valuable thing they owned.

15 Greg spent the day in Korphe. Late that afternoon, he heard voices calling. He and most of the rest of the village walked to a cliff that overlooked the river. There he saw someone crossing the river but not on a bridge. A wooden box hung from a steel cable that had been strung above the water. A person could sit in the box and pull himself along the cable. Crossing the river this way saved the half day of travel needed to walk to the nearest bridge. But it didn't look terribly safe and a fall would mean certain death.

20 When the person was halfway across, Greg recognized him- it was Mouzafer, sitting on top of Greg's pack. Once Mouzafer reached the other side, he again slapped Greg on the back, looked him up and down, and shouted, "Allah-o-Akbar!"

25 After a meal of roasted chicken at Haji Ali's house, Mouzafer and Greg left Korphe. They met up with Scott Darsney, and the two climbers made the long journey by jeep down to the city of Skardu. But Greg felt something tugging him back to Korphe and returned as soon as he could arrange for a ride. He stayed in Haji Ali's house and rested, recovering his strength. Now that he was out of danger, Greg realized just how weakened he had become. He would walk around the village for a few hours each day, with children holding his hands, and then return to Haji Ali's to sleep or simply lie down, staring at the sky.

**Source: Three Cups of Tea by *Greg Mortenson***



c. Describe Sakina and Haji Ali's role as hosts.

(4 Marks)

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d. Write a summary of the first two paragraphs of the given passage. The summary should be around 60 words.

(5 Marks)

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Q.2.

(Total 14 Marks)

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

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**EITHER**

- a. The growing trend of absenteeism of students from school has greatly affected the educational atmosphere of the institutes. Write a letter to your friend encouraging him/ her to attend school regularly.

**OR**

- b. Your cousin who lives abroad is coming next week to your house and you have to meet him/her in your parents' absence. Unfortunately you are already committed at the relevant time. Write an email to your friend describing your problem and requesting your friend to pick up your cousin on your behalf. You should mention the date and time of your cousin's arrival along with a brief description of your cousin that will help your friend to identify him/her.

*Make your notes below. Write your final draft on pages 6 and 7.*

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.

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**EITHER**

a. Your parents had to be away for a day and you were asked to take charge of the home and look after your younger brother. Describe how you spent the whole day including the following details:

- the place your parents had gone
- your responsibilities in your parents' absence
- the way you manage to discharge those duties
- your feelings being the in-charge for a day

**OR**

b. Sometimes our disappointments are temporary and we soon realize that the restrictions imposed by our elders are beneficial for us. Write a short story on such a situation in which your displeasure on your parents' constraint turned into a blessing in disguise for you.

**OR**

c. One evening, you were looking through the shelves of a bookshop to buy some books when suddenly you noticed that your younger brother, who was standing beside you, was no more there. Describe how you felt at that moment, how you overcame your emotions, what you did, how you found your brother and what you learnt from that incident.

*Make your notes below. Write your final draft on pages 9 and 10.*





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Please use this page for rough work