

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS IX EXAMINATION**

**MAY 2014**

**English Compulsory Paper II**

**Time: 2 hours 15 minutes    Marks: 50**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**Please read the following instructions carefully.**

1. Check your name and school information. Sign if it is accurate.

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

2. RUBRIC. There are THREE questions. Answer ALL questions. Question 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 carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

The 'Ogre of Bellundur,' about which I am going to tell you, began its career in more or less the usual way, as a very ordinary and inoffensive tiger. It confined its attention to killing and eating spotted deer, and sambar, which swarmed everywhere in those times. Then the government began encouraging programmes of cattle rearing. As rich pasturage abounded, herds of cattle were  
5 introduced which multiplied into many thousands within a short period. They replaced wild deer and sambar that previously had grazed undisturbed.

'The Ogre,' as it came to be known later, now made its presence felt by varying its taste for wild game with a liking for prime beef, and this inclination grew rapidly to the exclusion of any other kind of meat. It killed and it ate, and it ate and it killed, till it had accounted for many herds of  
10 cattle and the villagers at last began to feel that something should be done.

The villager is a man of unbounded patience, an attribute easier to understand if one observes his complete apathy, his capacity for resignation and for accepting whatever misfortune, it may be the will of God to bestow upon him. So, when I tell you that at last the villagers had had enough of this tiger and were determined to put a stop to its depredations you will realize that the Ogre  
15 had really gone too far. They decided to set a trap, catch it and then kill it.

A deep rectangular hole was dug in the centre of a game trail used by the animals; the mouth was carefully concealed by thin interlaced bamboos covered with leaves and twigs, and the bait, in the form of the least valuable calf in the village, was tied to a stake at the farther end of the rectangular pit. A direct approach to the bait from any other direction except across the  
20 rectangular pit was made impracticable for the tiger by a vast mass of thorns packed tightly around it on both sides and beyond, leaving only the one approach open. Everything went according to plan and on the third night the tiger fell into the pit.

The following morning all the inhabitants of Bellundur village turned out, including the necromancer, to gloat over their erstwhile enemy and throw firebrands at it, before putting it to  
25 death by the simple but rather slow process of spearing it from above. Evidently nobody had a gun, and the question of cruelty, of course, did not occur to anybody. For was not this animal the tiger which had killed and devoured so many of their cattle?

Not only did the inhabitants of Bellundur have no guns, but they did not appear to be very rich in spears either. I discovered afterwards that just two people had spears, or articles that might pass  
30 as such. One was a short affair, less than four feet long and entirely blunt at the end. The description fitted more a crowbar than a spear. The second was a true spear and belonged to the local temple. It was reputed to have been used in a war two and a half centuries ago. In any case, the shafts of both weapons were too short to reach the tiger from the surface of the pit, but this mattered little, as each of their owners was confident that, with a single throw of his particular  
35 weapon, he could transfix and kill the imprisoned beast.

**Taken from Tales from the Indian Jungle by Kenneth Anderson. Rupa and Co.**





- e. What do you think might have happened after the tiger fell into the pit? Give a reason for your answer. (3 Marks)

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Q.2. (Total 14 Marks)

Compose a response of about 150 words to any ONE of the options a or b.

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**EITHER**

- a. One of your friends is fond of high speed driving. With accidents happening all around, you are a bit worried about the well-being and safety of your friend. Write an email to your friend advising him to be a bit more careful on roads. Cite information of various accidents and how dangerous they were.

**OR**

- b. A friend of yours has a habit which is potentially disastrous for him or her. Write a letter to your friend stating the problem in detail. Give suggestions about how your friend can disengage from the habit.

*Make your notes below. Write your final draft on pages 7 and 8.*





Q.3.

(Total 18 Marks)

Write a composition of about 200-250 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. Adolescents can have a contradictory response to adventure which can be very exciting and very scary at the same time, particularly when they attempt something new. Describe one such experience in detail which was new, exciting and dangerous for you.

**OR**

- b. Sadly, peer pressure, competition, boredom and bullies are all part of a typical school day. Describe your experiences at school that bother you in some way. Do you think peer pressure and competition is improving your progress or hindering it?

**OR**

- c. Websites and applications (apps) used for social networking are collectively called social media. Social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and Skype are famous all over the world. Express your views regarding your experiences of such sites. What are the benefits of using such sites?

*Make your notes below. Write your final draft on pages 10 and 11.*

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Please use this page for rough work