

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS X EXAMINATION





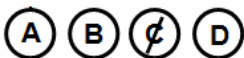
MAY 2015

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		1	
		2	
		3	
		4	

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 1-6. 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 your separate answer sheet. You will have three and a half minutes to pencil in your answers.

Follow the instruction 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 characteristics of diamonds are described in this passage.

Source: Adapted from English Alive II

Now listen to the recording.

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

1. Which of the following is the FIRST information given by the author?
 - A. The attraction of diamonds is difficult to eclipse.
 - B. Diamond is the hardest of all gems.
 - C. Diamonds are an enduring symbol of love and tradition.
 - D. Diamond is the world's most popular gemstone.

2. Which of the following is NOT a legend about Koh-i-Noor?
 - I. It will bring the power to rule the world.
 - II. It will make men and women lucky.
 - III. It will make men unlucky.
 - A. I only
 - B. II only
 - C. III only
 - D. I and II

3. It is indicated in the passage that Koh-i-Noor was originally from
 - A. Australia.
 - B. South Africa.
 - C. Britain.
 - D. India.

4. If some miner discovers a diamond in a mine, it will MOST LIKELY be
 - A. attractive but rough.
 - B. very big.
 - C. rough and unrefined.
 - D. refined and shiny.

5. Which of the following indicates that the process of mining diamonds is incredibly hard?
 - A. Diamonds are durable and of simple composition.
 - B. Diamonds are found in remote places with extreme climate.
 - C. All diamonds are not of gem quality.
 - D. Mostly wasted diamonds are used in industries.

6. Which of the following is the main purpose of the passage?
 - A. To highlight the difficulties in mining diamonds
 - B. To justify the price of diamonds and other gemstones
 - C. To highlight the importance of diamond as a gemstone
 - D. To campaign against the usage of diamonds

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 playing then open paper one booklet and read questions 7-12. 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

The passage is about the description of the characteristics of giant pandas.

Source: Adapted from The National Geographic Magazine

Now listen to the recording.

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

7. This year in July, Tai Shan would be
- A. two years old.
 - B. three years old.
 - C. four years old.
 - D. ten years old.
8. Pandas are special because of their
- A. grin.
 - B. naps.
 - C. colour.
 - D. charisma.
9. The speaker mentions the popularity of Tai Shan by saying that he
- A. became a movie star.
 - B. was visited by crowds.
 - C. got a red carpet.
 - D. visited many places in a month.
10. Another reason behind the popularity of giant pandas is that they are
- A. found in China.
 - B. very rare.
 - C. famous for their fur.
 - D. very expensive.
11. Which of the following endangered animals is referred to in the passage?
- A. Blue whale
 - B. Kangaroo
 - C. Polar bear
 - D. Black rhino
12. Which of the following efforts does the zoo management make to meet the cost of pandas' living?
- A. They give ads in newspaper.
 - B. They sell panda-themed products.
 - C. They collect donations from the visitors.
 - D. They take gifts from the visitors.

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Reading Comprehension Section

You have 25 minutes for this section. This section has two reading passages. 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 that follow:

Reading Passage I

A bully is a person who uses force, threat, or violence to abuse, intimidate, or aggressively dominate others. The behavior is often repeated and habitual. One essential condition for bullying is the perception, by the bully or by others, of an imbalance of social or physical power. Bullying can take many shapes — it can either be verbal or physical. Many children
5 face the problem of bullying in their schools due to the presence of undisciplined, rowdy or violent classmates or senior students. Threats, isolating and making fun of others, name calling, hitting and slapping are all different forms of bullying.

Bullying in childhood ‘throws a long shadow’ into victims’ adult lives, suggests research indicating long-term negative effects on health, job prospects and relationships. A study
10 tracked more than 1,400 people between the ages of 9 and 26. School bullies were also more likely to grow up into adult criminals.

The study, from Warwick University in the United Kingdom concludes that bullying should not be seen as ‘a harmless rite of passage’. The long-term impact of bullying in childhood was examined through the experiences of three different groups — those who had been bullied,
15 those who had carried out the bullying and those who had been both victims of bullying and had also carried out bullying themselves.

The research, published in Psychological Science Journal, suggests that the most negative outcomes were for those who had been both victims of bullying and had carried out bullying themselves, such individuals are described in the study as ‘bully-victims’.

20 Described as ‘easily **provoked**, low in self-esteem, poor at understanding social cues, and unpopular with peers’, these children grew into adults six times more likely to have a ‘serious illness, smoke regularly or develop a psychiatric disorder’.

By their mid-20s, these former ‘bully-victims’ were more likely to be obese, to have left school without qualifications, to have drifted through jobs and less likely to have friends.
25 "We cannot continue to dismiss bullying as a harmless, almost inevitable, part of growing up. We need to change this mindset and acknowledge this as a serious problem for both the individual and the country as a whole; the effects are long-lasting and significant," said Prof Dieter Wolke of the University of Warwick.

**Source: Adapted from “Childhood Bullying Damages Adult Life” by Sean Coughlan
BBC News education correspondent**

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

13. The sentence “Bullying in childhood ‘throws a long shadow’ into victims' adult lives” (line 8) means that bullying
- A. makes childhood difficult.
 - B. influences a child later in his life too.
 - C. influences victim’s associates.
 - D. can influence specific people.
14. The aim of the research (referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3) was to
- A. study the damage done to the abused.
 - B. make observations about bullies.
 - C. follow and observe bullies and their victims at various stages in their lives.
 - D. find out about the outcomes of bullying during school and college life only.
15. The word, ‘provoked’ in line 20 means
- A. energised.
 - B. belittled.
 - C. bullied.
 - D. enraged.
16. According to the last two paragraphs, which of the following would suffer the most in their adult life?
- A. Those who were bullied
 - B. Those who were bullied and have bullied others
 - C. Those who were bullies in their childhood and later
 - D. Those who were exposed to least bullying
17. Which of the following is TRUE about the participants of the research described in the passage?
- A. They were all teenagers.
 - B. They were all less than 30 years old.
 - C. They were all bullies in their school-life.
 - D. They were all smokers.
18. In which of the following sentences from the passage, does the author **challenge** the present attitude of people about bullying?
- A. We cannot continue to dismiss bullying as a harmless, almost inevitable, part of growing up.
 - B. School bullies were also more likely to grow up into adult criminals.
 - C. Bullying in childhood ‘throws a long shadow’ into victims' adult lives.
 - D. The long-term impact of bullying in childhood was examined through the experiences of three different groups.
19. Which of the following is the basic purpose of this article?
- A. To argue that bullies can become a part of the society after counselling
 - B. To inform that bullying was a prominent issue in 1920s but not anymore
 - C. To call attention to the issue of bullying which must be properly addressed
 - D. To advise that victims of bullying should be counseled so that they revive

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Read the passage carefully and then answer the multiple choice questions that follow:

Reading Passage II

Without ants, the world would be a mess. Soil would be unable to sustain much life. Dead leaves, insects and small animals would litter the Earth's surface. Invertebrate pests would bloom, killing many of the food plants we need to survive. Thousands of species of flowering plants would disappear into extinction, robbed of a vehicle for their pollen.

- 5 Those mobile dots that can suddenly appear in sugar bowls, crawl in neat lines over shoes or ruin an otherwise perfect picnic are a silent, if annoying, pointer to one of the most successful forms of life on Earth. Here is a set of 14,000 species (with probably an equal number yet to be found) whose combined weight is equal to that of the world's entire population of humans. They have perfected life that is more sophisticated than anything achieved by humans, and had
- 10 developed architecture and built farms millions of years before our ancestors had even considered such possibilities.

- Ants have fascinated philosophers, writers and naturalists for thousands of years. But the last decade has seen a flurry of detail emerge about the natural history of the insects. Scientists have filled in huge amounts of detail on how these insects survive, communicate and, most
- 15 importantly, how the thousands (sometimes millions) of ants make collective decisions without any central leadership. That study has put ants at the centre of what many leading biologists say is a new phase of biology — understanding how groups of individuals can behave as a single ‘super organism’.

- Since the first ants emerged more than 150 million years ago, the insects have made it to every
- 20 continent except Antarctica, filling every ecological niche as hunters, scavengers or farmers, and evolving into thousands of shapes and sizes.

To a greater or lesser extent, ants eat the same resources as other solitary insects but they have been far more successful. Why? ‘That's easy,’ says a researcher named Wilson. ‘They live in groups.’

Source: Adapted from the article ‘Six Legs Good’ from The Guardian

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

20. According to the information given in paragraph 1, why would the plants die if there are no ants?
- A. Insects and pests will litter the earth making soil fertile.
 - B. There will be many smaller pests who will feed on plants.
 - C. There will be no organic matter left in soil.
 - D. The transfer of minerals to soil will not happen.
21. The information in paragraph 1 is organised to show
- A. cause and effect.
 - B. chronology.
 - C. comparison and contrast.
 - D. exposition.
22. The phrase 'mobile dots', in line 5, has been used for
- A. insects.
 - B. ants.
 - C. invertebrate pests.
 - D. crawling species.
23. Which of the following is TRUE about the evolution of ants and human beings (paragraph 2)?
- A. Human beings have evolved in a better way as compared to ants.
 - B. Human beings are annoyed by the constant presence of ants around them.
 - C. Ants have evolved faster, and in many ways better, than human beings.
 - D. After millions of years of evolution, human beings should not envy ants.
24. What is surprising about the decision-making ability of ants (paragraph 3)?
- A. They make mutual decisions without having a leader.
 - B. They exist only due to their fast decision making ability.
 - C. Biologists have programmed them for better decision making.
 - D. They are super organisms; hence, they have better decision making ability.
25. The life cycle and way of living of ants supports which well-known saying?
- A. Unity is strength
 - B. Too many cooks spoil the broth
 - C. Might is right
 - D. The early bird catches the worm

END OF PAPER

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