

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS X EXAMINATION

MAY 2015

English Compulsory Paper II

Time: 2 hours 10 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 of the options in each.
3. When answering the questions:

Read each question carefully.
Use ONLY black ink.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue, correcting fluid or ink erasers.
DO NOT write outside the answer box.
Complete your answer in the allocated space only.
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:

5 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 prerequisite 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 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.

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

15 The study, from Warwick University in the UK, 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, 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, suggests the most negative outcomes were for those who had been both victims of bullying and had also 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".

25 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. All of those involved in bullying, as victims or aggressors, had outcomes that were generally worse than the average for those who had not been involved in bullying.

30 Those who had been victims of bullying, without becoming bullies themselves, were more likely to have mental health problems, more serious illnesses and had a greater likelihood of being in poverty. But compared with "bully-victims" they were more likely to have been successful in education and making friends.

There were also distinctive patterns for those who had been bullies, but who had not been bullied themselves. These "pure bullies" were more likely to have been sacked from jobs, to be in a violent relationship and to be involved in risky or illegal behaviour.

35 "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

Q.2.

(Total 14 Marks)

Compose a response of about 200-250 words to any **ONE** of the options **a or b**.

EITHER

- a. Next year your school will update the list of extra-curricular activities allowed for the students. Write a letter to your Principal and request him/ her to accommodate at least two of your favourite extra-curricular activities in that list. Try to be persuasive by portraying benefits of those activities. Suggest ways of implementation of those activities.

OR

- b. You and your classmates, along with a few teachers, occasionally stay back in school after regular school-hours to complete assignments and take extra classes. Recently, during one of these after-school stays, a few of your classmates were involved in an incident of verbal abuse and physical fight. You have witnessed the entire incident. The incident has been reported to the Principal by the involved parties. In order to have an impartial investigation, the Principal has asked you to report the incident.

Your report should include the following.

- When and what happened?
- How many people were involved?
- Who in your opinion was in the wrong and why?

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

Q.3.

(Total 18 Marks)

Write a composition of about 200-300 words on any **ONE** of the options **a, b or c**.
Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

EITHER

- a. Parents often expect too much from their children owing to which the young generation has too many worries. While striving to live up to their parents' expectations and surviving in this competitive environment, the youngsters suffer from chronic stress and develop negativism.

Explain what should be done to counter this culture of unhealthy competition which has made life stressful for children.

OR

- b. Many students think that the subjects they study in school do not prepare them for facing the challenges of their life.

Think about things you want to change about your school education. Explain what those changes are and why they are necessary in your opinion.

OR

- c. A mascot is any person, animal, object or anything used to represent a group with a common public identity, such as a school, professional sports team, society, military unit, or brand name. For example, the mascot of Pakistan Air Force is an eagle.

Think about a mascot that you think can represent your school (if your school already has a mascot think of a new one). Explain why you have chosen this mascot for your school.

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

Please use this page for rough work