

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS IX EXAMINATION





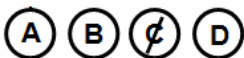
MAY 2015

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 passage is an excerpt from a story 'The Devoted Friend' by Oscar Wilde. The passage describes a conversation between some animals and birds.

Source: 'The Devoted Friend' by Oscar Wilde

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

1. The old water-rat cried that the ducklings deserved to be drowned because they
 - A. were unaffected by his presence.
 - B. were not obeying their mother.
 - C. did not know the value of society.
 - D. did not display good abilities.
2. Which of the following is TRUE about the appearance of the ducks?
 - A. All young ducks and their mother were white.
 - B. All ducks were white with red beaks.
 - C. All young ducks were white but the mother was yellow.
 - D. All young ducks were yellow but the mother was white.
3. The ducklings did not know how to
 - A. stand upside down.
 - B. swim backwards.
 - C. look like canaries.
 - D. follow the mother.
4. The young ones did not pay any attention to the mother duck because they did not know
 - A. how to swim at this age.
 - B. the value of being in a society.
 - C. how to act like their mother.
 - D. the benefits of pleasing their mother.
5. "And what, pray, is your idea of the duties of a devoted friend?" Who spoke these lines?
 - A. The water-rat
 - B. The green linnet
 - C. The mother duck
 - D. The ducklings
6. The water-rat's opinion about friendship was that
 - A. love is more important than friendship.
 - B. family is very well but friendship is not so high.
 - C. family is more important than love or friendship.
 - D. friendship is more important than love and family.

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

In this passage, a travel photographer describes the characteristics, habitat and threats faced by snow leopards.

Source: Adapted from National Geographic Magazine and Stories from the Roof of the World

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

7. The snow leopards live in
 - A. isolation.
 - B. pairs.
 - C. trio.
 - D. groups.
8. Which of the following is the evidence that snow leopards are physically very strong?
 - A. They hunt at dawn and dusk.
 - B. They hunt alone and successfully.
 - C. They kill animals bigger than them.
 - D. They live in rocky mountains.
9. The pattern of the spots is unique to each individual snow leopard; this may enable them to
 - A. recognize each other.
 - B. protect each other.
 - C. help each other in hunting.
 - D. mix easily in groups.
10. Snow leopards are successful hunters because their fur
 - A. keeps them warm.
 - B. is attractive.
 - C. disguises them.
 - D. protects them if they fall.
11. Snow leopards help in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem by
 - A. feeding on the alpine plants.
 - B. consuming the less important resources.
 - C. serving as a source of promoting tourism.
 - D. keeping the population of grazing animals in check.
12. What could be a possible commercial benefit for the local people if the snow leopard population is conserved?
 - A. It will attract income from tourism.
 - B. Environment can be preserved.
 - C. It can provide an opportunity to study nature.
 - D. Grazing animals will be in abundance.

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Reading Comprehension Section

You have 25 minutes for the reading comprehension section. This section has two passages; each followed by multiple choice questions. 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 which follow.

Reading Passage I

Tom said to himself that it was not such a hollow world, after all. He had discovered a great law of human action, without knowing it — namely, that in order to make a man or a boy **covet** a thing, it is only necessary to make the thing difficult to attain. If he had been a great and wise philosopher, he would now have comprehended that work consists of whatever a body is *obliged* to do, and that play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do. And this would help him to understand why constructing artificial flowers or performing on a tread-mill is work, while rolling ten-pins or climbing Mont Blanc is only amusement. There are wealthy gentlemen in England who drive four-horse passenger-coaches twenty or thirty miles on a daily line, in the summer, because the privilege costs them considerable money; but if they were offered wages for the service, that would turn it into work and then they would resign.

The boy mused awhile over the substantial change which had taken place in his worldly circumstances, and then headed toward headquarters to report.

Tom presented himself before Aunt Polly, who was sitting by an open window in a pleasant rearward apartment, which was bedroom, breakfast-room, dining-room, and library, combined. The balmy summer air, the restful quiet, the odour of the flowers, and the drowsing murmur of the bees had had their effect, and she was nodding over her knitting — for she had no company but the cat, and it was asleep in her lap. Her spectacles were propped up on her grey head for safety. She had thought that of course Tom had deserted long ago, and she wondered at seeing him place himself in her power again. He said: "May I go and play now, aunt?"

"What, already? How much have you done?"

"It's all done, aunt."

"Tom, don't lie to me — I can't bear it."

"I ain't, aunt; it *is* all done."

Aunt Polly placed small trust in such evidence. She went out to see for herself; and she would have been content to find twenty percent of Tom's statement true. When she found the entire fence white-washed, and not only whitewashed but elaborately coated and recoated, and even a streak added to the ground, her astonishment was almost unspeakable.

Source: Adapted from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

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

13. The great law of human action discovered by Tom (paragraph 1) is that if
- A. we find something easy, we value it more.
 - B. something is achieved with difficulty, it is valued more.
 - C. something is unnecessary and difficult, it is valued less.
 - D. we covet something initially, we value it less later on.
14. The word 'covet' in line 2 means
- A. desire.
 - B. hollow.
 - C. necessity.
 - D. difficult.
15. Which of the following is an ACCURATE interpretation of the author's view regarding work and play in paragraph 1?
- A. If we try to work very hard, we will be obliged to others.
 - B. If we enjoy something, we do it with passion and all work should be done with passion.
 - C. If we are bound to do something, it is work but work becomes fun if done at once.
 - D. If we do something by choice, it is enjoyable; if we are bound to do something, it is work.
16. Aunt Polly did not believe that Tom had actually finished his work. What does this tell about Tom?
- A. Tom usually does not complete his chores due to laziness.
 - B. Tom usually completes his work if he is supposed to.
 - C. Tom is incapable of painting a wall because of his friends.
 - D. Tom usually speaks the truth if he has finished his work.
17. Which of the following describes the relationship between Tom and Aunt Polly?
- A. Aloof
 - B. Doting
 - C. Awkward
 - D. Pleasant
18. Which of the following seems to be the MOST appropriate title for this passage?
- A. Tom and His Adventures
 - B. Annoying Aunt Polly
 - C. White-Washing the Fence
 - D. The Clever Tom Sawyer

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Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Reading Passage II

We saw no game as we walked in silence, Gai with arrows kept in a case made from a hollow root; his bow and spear in hand. At midmorning, tired and thirsty, we moved towards a forest to rest. We had almost reached the forest when Gai raised one hand. We stopped. Like a wild creature, Gai slipped off among the trees, running in a crouch so his back would look like an animal's. At my feet I saw why: the heart-shaped tracks of an *antelope.

Gai halted, motionless, silent, knees bent, like a cat waiting for the moment to spring. He raised his head slightly to see between white thorns. Something moved in a bush near us. I caught a glimpse of an oval ear outlining the blue sky. The ear flicked, then vanished.

Crouching for a handful of dust, the hunter let it slip through his fingers to tell of the wind. His hand moved to the case on his shoulder, then dropped to his waist with four arrows. He eased the two-foot shafts into the leather waistband of his loincloth—the only garment he wore. He began to move quickly in a half circle to a place downwind of the antelope, only the length of his back showing above the grass. He wore nothing that could catch or tear or make a sound. I saw him carefully aim his arrow and heard a sound as he let it fly.

The antelope produced a painful groan. Branches splintered, and the animal bolted past me. Gai ran after it. He stopped, shot again, burst forward and let still another arrow fly. His stride lengthened as he and the antelope gained speed; Gai ran lightly in wide, free leaps until both he and the antelope were gone.

Gai soon came back, picking up his arrow shafts as he walked.

Drops of blood stained the shafts. Gai's shots were successful. Each fore-shaft carried a coating of poison. The poison, for which no cure is known, will kill a giraffe in less than a week, a man or an antelope within a day. We walked back to the camp; Gai planned to let the poison take effect while he got someone to join him in tracking down his prey.

*antelope: a deer-like animal

Source: Adapted from *Stalking an Antelope* by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas

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

19. The description of Gai in paragraph 1 tells us that he is
- A. a lone hunter.
 - B. a wild and clever creature.
 - C. an agile and capable hunter.
 - D. capable of behaving like an animal.
20. "Gai slipped off among the trees running in a crouch..."(line 4) tells us that Gai was running
- A. with his back bent in an attempt to hide.
 - B. faster than many animals.
 - C. slowly but in an expert manner.
 - D. lightly in wide, free leaps to conceal himself.
21. Which of these words does NOT describe Gai?
- A. Keen
 - B. Fast
 - C. Silent
 - D. Splinter
22. Gai's hunting has been compared with a cat's hunting (paragraph 2). This tells us that Gai is
- A. fickle but strong.
 - B. noisy but fast.
 - C. subtle and fast.
 - D. well-equipped and trained.
23. In paragraph 3, it is explained that while hunting, Gai was very conscious of
- A. which way the wind is blowing.
 - B. whether his arrows are sharp or not.
 - C. dust and pollution around him.
 - D. wearing arrows in his waistband.
24. How many people were involved in hunting and tracking as described in this passage?
- A. Three
 - B. Two
 - C. One
 - D. A group
25. Which of the following was the FIRST indication that the hunt had been successful?
- A. Drops of blood stained the shaft.
 - B. Each fore-shaft carried a coating of poison.
 - C. Branches splintered.
 - D. The antelope produced a painful groan.

END OF PAPER

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