

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS IX 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 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.

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, like the writer of this book, he would now have comprehended that work consists of  
5 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  
10 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.  
15 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?"

20 "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  
25 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. She said: "Well, I never! There's no getting round it, you can work when you're a mind to, Tom." And then she diluted the compliment by adding, "But it's powerful seldom you're a mind to, I'm bound to say. Well, go  
30 along and play; but mind you get back some time in a week, or I'll tan you."

She was so overcome by the splendor of his achievement that she took him into the closet and selected a choice apple and delivered it to him, along with an improving lecture upon the added value and flavor a treat took to itself when it came without sin through virtuous effort. And while she closed with a happy Scriptural flourish, he "hooked" a doughnut.

35 Then he skipped out, and saw Sid just starting up the outside stairway that led to the back rooms on the second floor.

**Taken from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain**

- a. Describe Tom's personality with reference to the text. (4 Marks)

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- b. Does Tom appear to be a likeable person? Why or why not? (3 Marks)

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- c. “In order to make a man or a boy covet a thing, it is only necessary to make the thing difficult to attain.” Explain the meaning of this sentence from paragraph 1. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? (4 Marks)

[illegible]

- d. According to the passage, what kind of relationship do Tom and Aunt Polly have? Explain with textual evidences. (4 Marks)

[illegible]

- e. How was Tom rewarded by Aunt Polly for finishing his work? Do you think he likes that reward? If you were in his place, would you like to have such a reward? (3 Marks)

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Q.2.

(Total 14 Marks)

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

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**EITHER**

- a. You have recently returned home after participating in a week-long summer camp with the students and representatives of different schools. You have met many students from different cities and befriended them. While unpacking your bag, you discovered that you have mistakenly brought home a book that belongs to one of your friends from a different city.

Write a letter explaining this situation to him / her. You should:

- apologize for the inconvenience caused;
- discuss how and when can you return the book.

**OR**

- b. A cousin of yours suffers from an irrational and excessive fear of heights. Your extended family is planning to visit an amusement park at the weekend. You want to convince your cousin to take various rides with you. Write an email to your cousin and give him / her a few tips to overcome that fear. Explain how the weekend could be fun if he / she would participate in the activities with everyone.

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

Option \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

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[illegible]



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.

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**EITHER**

- a. Describe an occasion when, at the request of your aunt, you agreed to baby-sit her three-year-old child for a few hours. Your composition should include the following details.
- How did the child behave?
  - How did you respond to the situation?
  - What were your feelings?

**OR**

- b. On the eve of every festival, the streets come to life as they become a hub for various activities and enjoyment. Describe the sights, sounds and details of one of the streets of your city, town or village on the night before a big event or celebration.

**OR**

- c. A noise outside your home awakened you one night. When you went out to see what happened, you found a surprising phenomenon outside your house...

Explain what you saw and how you reacted to the situation.

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

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Option \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

[illegible]

END OF PAPER

Please use this page for rough work