

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS IX EXAMINATION

MAY 2016

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 pointer to write your answers. **DO NOT** write your answers in pencil.

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.

5 Ndume School was backward in every sense. Mr Obi put his whole life into the work, and his wife hers too. He had two aims. A high standard of teaching was insisted upon, and the school compound was to be turned into a place of beauty. Nancy's dream-gardens came to life with the coming of the rains, and blossomed. Beautiful hibiscus and allamanda hedges in brilliant red and yellow marked out the carefully tended school compound from the rank neighborhood bushes.

One evening as Obi was admiring his work he was scandalized to see an old woman from the village walk right across the compound, through a marigold flowerbed and the hedges. On going up there he found faint signs of an almost disused path from the village across the school compound to the bush on the other side.

10 "It amazes me," said Obi to one of his teacher, who had been three years in school, "that you people allowed the villagers to make use of this footpath. It is simply incredible." he shook his head.

"The path," said the teacher apologetically, "appears to be very important to them. Although it is hardly used, it connects the village shrine with their place of burial."

15 "And what has that got to do with the school?" asked the headmaster.

"Well, I don't know," replied the other with a shrug of the shoulders. "But I remember there was a big row some time ago when we attempted to close it."

20 "That was some time ago. But it will not be used now," said Obi as he walked away. "What will the Government Education officer think of this when he comes to inspect the school next week? The villagers might, for all I know, decide to use the schoolroom for a pagan ritual during the inspection."

Heavy sticks were planted closely across the path at the two places where it entered and left the school premises.

These were further strengthened with barbed wire.

25 Three days later, the village priest of Ani called on the headmaster. He was an old man and walked with a slight stoop. He carried a stout walking stick which he usually tapped on the floor, by way of emphasis, each time he made a new point in his argument.

"I have heard," he said after the usual exchange of cordialities, "that our ancestral footpath has recently been closed..."

30 "Yes," replied Mr Obi. "We cannot allow people to make a highway of our school compound."

35 "Look here, my son," said the priest, bringing down his walking stick, "this path was here before you were born and before your father was born. The whole life of this village depends on it. Our dead relatives depart by it and our ancestors visit us by it. But most important, it is the path of children coming in to be born..."

Mr Obi listened with a satisfied smile on his face.

“The whole purpose of our school,” he said finally, “is to eradicate just such beliefs as that. Dead men do not require footpaths. The whole idea is just fantastic. Our duty is to teach your children to laugh at such ideas.”

Adapted from “Dead Men’s Path” by Chinua Achebe

- a. Describe the personality of Mr Obi with textual evidences. (5 Marks)

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Describe the personality of Mr Obi with textual evidences.

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- b. If you were the Principal of Ndume School, in place of Mr Obi, what changes would you bring to the school and why? (3 Marks)

- c. By referring to the text, describe THREE details about the society where Mr Obi lived. (3 Marks)

d.

i. Why did Mr Obi object to the villagers who used the path? (2 Marks)

ii. Why was the path important to the villagers? (2 Marks)

e. “The whole purpose of our school is to eradicate such beliefs as that.”

i. State what beliefs are referred to in the sentence? (1 Mark)

ii. Do you agree that we should not believe in such ideas? Give reason for your answer. (2 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**.

EITHER

- a. It has been observed that for average Pakistanis, wedding ceremonies demand a lot of unnecessary expenditure.

Write an email to your cousin who is about to get married. Express your views regarding how the ceremony can be organised so as to manage the expenses appropriately.

OR

- b. Write a letter to your friend commenting on the things that he or she is doing that worry you. Explain why those things are unwise or dangerous and suggest something safer that you and your friend can do together instead.

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

Option _____

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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. “Anything is better than lies and deceit!” stressed Leo Tolstoy. Despite knowing the consequences of telling a lie, sometimes people use it as a shield to safeguard themselves from possible complications.

Write a narrative account based on a situation when someone spoke a small lie that got bigger with time. You should include the following points in your story.

- What was the lie and why it was spoken.
- How the situation got worse with time.
- How the matter was resolved.

OR

- b. It was a cold night. You found a homeless person on your doorstep. Without a second thought, you invited him into your home to eat and sleep. However, you eventually regretted your decision.

Write a narrative story based on this situation and include the following points.

- How you felt when you noticed him outside your house.
- Why you regretted your decision.
- What cautions you would take next time while helping someone.

OR

- c. Various schools organise awareness seminars and activities to prepare students to face various natural calamities.

Describe an occasion when an institute conducted various disaster education activities, and soon after, an earthquake struck the region. Many people were trapped in their houses and the rescue was carried out by the students. You should include the following points in your description.

- Description of the earthquake affected region
- Ways in which the rescue took place
- Feelings of students after saving others' lives

Make your notes on the page given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 10 and 11.

Option _____

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END OF PAPER

Please use this page for rough work

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