

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS X**

**ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS 2022**

**English Compulsory Paper II**

**Time: 2 hours      Marks: 45**

**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**

**RUBRIC**

2. 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 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 17 Marks)

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

Animals may not be able to form words, but they can certainly communicate. Birds use songs and calls, and other animals use a combination of sounds and movements to communicate. Primates have an advanced system of communication that includes vocalisation, hand gestures and body language. But even primates stop short of what man has been able to achieve – spoken language.

5 Our ability to form a limitless number of thoughts into spoken word is one of the things that separates us from our less evolved cousins. While we know that language first appeared among *Homo sapiens* somewhere between 30,000 and 100,000 years ago, the secret to how language evolved is still unknown, and mainstream theories fall into two distinctly different camps.

10 One widely held theory is that language came about as an evolutionary adaptation, which is when a population undergoes a change in process over time to better survive. That is where the idea of natural selection comes into play, which is the notion that the specific physical traits of a population make that population more likely to survive its environment – think about the turtle and its shell. The idea here is that language was created to help humans survive. Why? One, humans needed to communicate with each other in order to hunt, farm and defend themselves  
15 successfully from the surrounding harsh environment. Being able to communicate using language gave the human species a distinct survival advantage. And two, language was needed for social interaction, according to those who subscribe to the adaptation theory.

In their paper '*Natural Language and Natural Selection*', researchers Steven Pinker and Paul Bloom theorise that a series of calls or gestures evolved over time into combinations, giving us  
20 complex communication, or language. As things became more complicated around them, humans needed a more complex system to convey information to one another. Think of it like this: Early man sees a group of deer he wants to hunt. He grunts a sound to his hunting partner that means "deer are nearby." One day, a storm comes in and the hunter notices that thunder scares the deer away. As a result, the hunter goes hungry until the storm passes. Over time, the same hunter also  
25 learns to recognise the warning signs for bad weather – dark skies and increased wind. Early man realises that when the sky darkens and the wind picks up, he needs to tell his hunting partner to speed up the pursuit of the deer. Therefore, he comes up with a series of grunts that reference both the deer and the bad weather. That series of grunts was the beginning of an evolutionary adaptation that eventually became language. As humans learned more about how to best survive,  
30 they developed a need to communicate these survival methods to their population. And that is the adaptation theory in a nutshell.

Source: Adapted from '*How did language evolve?*' by Charles W. Bryant





Q.2.

(Total 10 Marks)

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

**EITHER**

- a. You have noticed that the quality of your favourite brand of clothes has been going down since the past few months. After a recent shopping trip, you were particularly shocked.

Write a letter of complaint to the company that produces this brand of clothes. Include the following points in your letter:

- Deteriorating quality of the brand over several months
- What you expect the company to do

**OR**

- b. A school clinic is a medical facility situated within the school premises that offers medical aid to students and faculty. Imagine you are studying in a school that lacks a school clinic.

Write an email to your school principal. In your email, discuss

- an accident/ event at school that led you to believe having a clinic in your school is essential.
- the importance of a school clinic.

*Make your notes below or on the page given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 6 and 7.*

Annual Examinations 2022  
Teaching & Learning Only

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Option \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Examinations 2022  
Teaching & Learning Only



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. Museums are important institutions that work to preserve artefacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance. However, in recent times, the future of museums is in doubt. Some museums have gone online and many others will not reopen.

Compose an essay. In your essay,

- state your opinion on the issue.
- discuss TWO reasons to justify your opinion.
- mention a counterargument against your opinion.
- answer the counterargument with one example to support your stance.

**OR**

- b. Over the recent years, technology has been used to support both teaching and learning in classrooms with digital learning tools, such as computers and hand-held devices, to build 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in students.

Write an essay. In your essay,

- discuss your stance on the use of technology in classrooms.
- justify your stance by discussing THREE reasons and/or examples.

**OR**

- c. Compose an essay about a real-life figure or imaginary character you met and learned from.

In your essay, describe

- the person (character traits and appearance).
- what happened during the meeting.
- what you learned from the person.

*Make your notes on the page given for rough work. Write the final draft on pages 9, 10, and 11.*





Annual Examinations 2022  
Teaching & Learning Only

Annual Examinations 2022  
Teaching & Learning Only

END OF PAPER

Please use this page for rough work

Annual Examinations 2022  
Teaching & Learning Only