

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XI

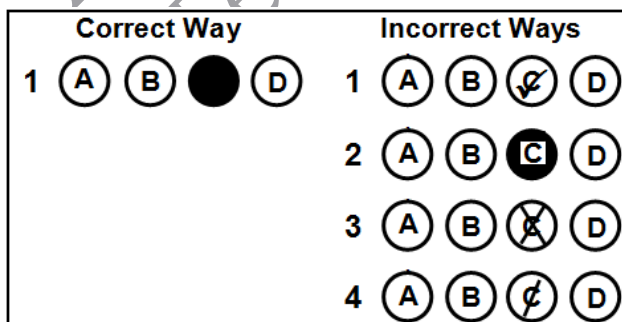
ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2023

English Compulsory Paper I

Time: 55 minutes Marks: 40

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 40 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.



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 to 10. You will have two minutes' reading time.

The passage will then be played again. 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 minutes to pencil in your answers.

Follow the instructions 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

This recording talks about astrology.

Source: Adapted from 'Astrology: Is it scientific?' as published on undsci.berkeley.edu

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

1. The speaker begins the heard passage by
 - A. comparing astrology with science.
 - B. predicting the future of science.
 - C. listing the names of planets.
 - D. stating the importance of questions.

2. "...is astrology really a scientific way to answer questions?"

The purpose of the given question by the speaker is to be

 - A. demanding.
 - B. inquisitive.
 - C. interfering.
 - D. creative.

3. According to the heard passage, zodiac signs are assumed to impact
 - I. one's researches
 - II. our personalities
 - III. one's profession
 - A. I and II.
 - B. II and III.
 - C. II only.
 - D. III only.

4. "...we might expect that if astrology really explained people's personalities..."

The purpose of the speaker in stressing the word 'really' in the given sentence was to

- A. elaborate the idea of personalities.
- B. make a sarcastic remark about people.
- C. prove the importance of science.
- D. question the assumption of astrology.

5. According to the information in the heard passage, astrologers publish articles that are

- A. not reviewed by scientists.
- B. based on misinformation only.
- C. peer-reviewed.
- D. well-researched.

6. The speaker's views on astrology can be described as

- A. baseless.
- B. sarcastic.
- C. favourable.
- D. neutral.

7. The heard passage does NOT give details about

- A. astrological research.
- B. claims by astrologers.
- C. names of zodiac signs.
- D. scientific method.

8. The speaker describes astrologers to be

- A. rational.
- B. agreeable.
- C. inspirational.
- D. problematic.

9. The information in the heard passage is given MAINLY through

- A. comparisons.
- B. examples.
- C. hypotheses.
- D. theories.

10. The text type of the heard passage is a/ an

- A. anecdote.
- B. article.
- C. journal entry.
- D. literature review.

Now, we will play the second passage. It will also be played two times.

Listen carefully to the second passage, and then read questions 11 to 20. You will have two minutes' reading time. The passage will then be played again.

When the passage has finished, enter your answers on your separate answer sheet. You will have three minutes to pencil in your answers.

Listening Passage II

In this recording, the speaker narrates about a boy named Estha.

Source: Adapted from '*The God of Small Things*' by Arundhati Roy

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

11. In the heard passage, Estha's silence is described as
- A. awkward.
 - B. depressive.
 - C. unexpressed.
 - D. intrusive.
12. The MAIN purpose of the narrator in mentioning the lungfish was to
- A. contrast it with Estha.
 - B. discuss its capabilities.
 - C. elaborate on Estha's behaviour.
 - D. state the importance of dry season.
13. The reaction of Estha's parents to his actions can be BEST described as
- A. cordial.
 - B. disapproving.
 - C. intrusive.
 - D. uncertain.
14. 'As though in his own way he was trying to earn his keep.'
- The word 'keep' in the given sentence, from the heard passage, is used in the context of
- A. money.
 - B. house.
 - C. position.
 - D. support.

15. All of the following food items are mentioned in the heard passage EXCEPT
- A. brinjals.
 - B. onions.
 - C. potatoes.
 - D. tomatoes.
16. The narrator concludes the heard passage by
- A. describing the bazaar.
 - B. elaborating on Estha's cooking.
 - C. mentioning the mode of transportation.
 - D. representing Estha metaphorically.
17. The MAIN tone of the heard passage is
- A. sarcastic.
 - B. condescending.
 - C. gloomy.
 - D. suspenseful.
18. Which type of narration is followed in the heard passage?
- A. Disjointed
 - B. First-person
 - C. Second-person
 - D. Third-person
19. Based on the information in the heard passage, Estha's personality can be BEST described as
- A. calm.
 - B. disruptive.
 - C. mediocre.
 - D. pessimistic.
20. The text type of the heard passage is
- A. analytical.
 - B. comparative.
 - C. expository.
 - D. narrative.

Reading Comprehension Section

You have 30 minutes' time for the reading comprehension section. This section has two reading passages; each followed by 10 multiple choice questions. You are advised to spend approximately 15 minutes on each of the given passages.

Read the passage carefully and then answer the multiple choice questions which follow.

Reading Passage I

A blog (shortening of 'weblog') is an online journal or informational website displaying information in the reverse chronological order, with latest posts appearing first. It is a platform where a writer or even a group of writers share their views on an individual subject.

5 There are many reasons for starting a personal blog. Blogging for business, projects, or anything else that might bring a person money has a very straightforward purpose – to rank his/her website among the most search sites on the internet in order to increase his/ her visibility. A businessperson relies on consumers' reviews to gain profit. This is through the purchase of products and services that a consumer opts for. A new business therefore, is dependent on blogging to help get to these consumers and grab their attention. Without blogging, the business
10 website would remain invisible, whereas running a blog makes a business searchable and competitive. Therefore, the main purpose of a blog is to connect people to the relevant audience. Another one is to boost traffic and send quality leads to one's blog.

15 The more frequent and better the blog posts are, the higher the chances for the blog to get discovered and visited by the target audience. This means that a blog is an effective lead generation tool. But a blog also allows people to showcase their authority and build a brand. When people use their knowledge for creating informative and engaging posts, it builds trust with the audience. Great blogging makes the business look more credible, which is especially important if the brand is still young and fairly unknown. It ensures presence and authority at the same time.

20 Blogs need frequent updates. Good examples include a food blog sharing meal recipes or a company writing about their industry news. Blogs promote perfect reader engagement. Readers get a chance to comment and voice their different concerns to the viewer. Static websites*, on the other hand, consists of the content presented on static pages... Blog owners update their site with new blog posts on a regular basis. Key elements that identify a blog post from a static page
25 include a publishing date, author reference, categories, and tags within a heading. While not all blog posts have all these elements, static website pages do not have any of these items. From a visitor's perspective, the content on a static site will not change from one visit to the next.

30 An important aspect to remember while running a blog is to rely on the topics that are relevant to the world today and to show people about one's interests whether through pictorial representations or writing high quality articles. This includes all issues such as climate change!

*Static websites: stagnant or websites on which the content remains the same.

Source: Adapted from the article, 'What is a Blog? – The Definition of Blog, Blogging and Blogger' as published on firstsiteguide.com

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

21. The author begins the given passage by
- A. defining the term, 'blog'.
 - B. describing the format of a blog.
 - C. highlighting the importance of a blog.
 - D. mentioning key features of a blog.
22. Another term similar to the word, 'relies' (line 7) in the given passage is
- A. dependent.
 - B. help.
 - C. offer.
 - D. trust.
23. In paragraph 3, an effective blog is described as
- I. expressive
 - II. informative
 - III. skeptical
- A. I only.
 - B. III only.
 - C. I and II.
 - D. II and III.
24. In line 27, the word 'visitor' is used in the context of all of the following terms EXCEPT
- A. creator.
 - B. guest.
 - C. internet user.
 - D. observer.
25. The purpose of the author in using an exclamation mark in line 30 is to
- A. describe his/ her interests in social issues.
 - B. emphasise on the relevance of blogging.
 - C. show his/ her excitement.
 - D. stress on the importance of climate change.

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

26. The author of the given passage provides LEAST information on the
- A. authenticity of a blog.
 - B. criteria of a good blog.
 - C. layout of a blog.
 - D. main features of a blog.
27. The tone of the author in the given passage is
- A. critical.
 - B. monotonous.
 - C. neutral.
 - D. passionate.
28. The information in the given passage is MAINLY given through
- A. cause and effect.
 - B. comparisons.
 - C. descriptions.
 - D. problem and solution.
29. An alternative title for the given passage could be
- A. *'A Brief Overview of Blogging'*.
 - B. *'Blogging Made Fun'*.
 - C. *'Sharing Recipes Though Blogging'*.
 - D. *'The Blogging Genius'*.
30. The text type of the given passage is
- A. expressive.
 - B. informative.
 - C. persuasive.
 - D. reflective.

Annual Examination 2023 for
Teaching and Learning only

Now read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Reading Passage II

Shuffling about his laboratory at Menlo Park, New Jersey, USA a shock of hair over one side of his forehead, sharp blue eyes sparkling, stains and chemical burns on his wrinkled clothing, Thomas Alva Edison never looked like a man whose inventions had revolutionised the world in less than his lifetime. Certainly he never acted like it. Once when a visiting dignitary asked him whether he had received many medals and awards, he said, “Oh yes, Mom’s got a couple of them up at the house.” Mom was his wife, my mother.

Yet every day, to those of us who were close to him, he demonstrated what a giant among men he was. Great as were his contributions to mankind – he patented a record 1093 inventions in his lifetime – it is not for these I remember him, but for his matchless courage, his imagination and determination, his humility and wit. At times, he was just plain mischievous.

He usually worked 18 or more hours a day. “Accomplishing something provides the only real satisfaction in life,” he told us. His widely reported ability to get by with no more than four hours’ sleep – plus an occasional catnap – was no exaggeration.

“Sleep,” he maintained, “is like a drug. Take too much at a time and it makes you dopey. You lose time, vitality and opportunities.”

His successes are well known. In the phonograph, which he invented when he was 30, he captured sound on records; his incandescent bulb lighted the world. He invented the microphone, medical fluoroscope and the nickel-iron-alkaline storage battery. He made the inventions of others – the telephone, telegraph, typewriter – commercially practical. He conceived our entire electrical distribution system.

It is sometimes asked, “Didn’t he ever fail?” The answer is yes. Thomas Edison knew failure frequently. His first project, when he was all but penniless, was for an electric vote recorder, but manoeuvre-minded legislators refused to buy it. But he never hesitated out of fear of failure...

His attitude towards money (or lack of it) was similar. He considered it as a raw material, like metal, to be used rather than amassed and so he kept using his funds for new projects. Several times he was all but bankrupt.

Thomas Edison has sometimes been represented as uneducated. Actually he had only six months of formal schooling, but under his mother’s guidance in Port Huron, Michigan, he had read such classics as ‘*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*’ at the age of eight or nine.

Source: Adapted from ‘*My Most Unforgettable Character: Thomas Edison*’ as published in Reader’s Digest

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

31. In lines 1-2, the description of Thomas Edison provides
- A. an analysis of his competence.
 - B. a contrast to his accomplishments.
 - C. a description of his luxurious lifestyle.
 - D. a description of his mid-life crisis.
32. The underlined part of paragraph 1 indicates that Thomas Edison
- A. had a good sense of humour.
 - B. did not want any reward.
 - C. had no idea about his worth.
 - D. did not want to share his feelings.
33. Paragraph 2 is organised to MAINLY show the
- A. great achievements of a scientist.
 - B. working schedule of Thomas Edison.
 - C. author's feelings about Thomas Edison.
 - D. wit and mischievous nature of Thomas Edison.
34. Which of the following features has NOT been used in paragraphs 1 and 2 to describe Thomas Edison?
- A. Matchless courage
 - B. Imagination
 - C. Determination
 - D. Dignitary
35. In lines 11-12, Thomas Edison told his son, "Accomplishing something provides the only real satisfaction in life". This sentence shows that he was
- A. ambitious.
 - B. courageous.
 - C. imaginative.
 - D. witty.
36. The most important inventions of Edison have been discussed in paragraph
- A. 1.
 - B. 2.
 - C. 5.
 - D. 6.

37. By talking about a few failures Thomas Edison faced during his life, the author is trying to
- A. criticise him.
 - B. mention his persistence.
 - C. encourage his father.
 - D. undermine all scientists.
38. “He had an understanding of investing in new endeavours.”

The given sentence would BEST fit and enhance the meaning of paragraph

- A. 4.
 - B. 6.
 - C. 7.
 - D. 8.
39. Thomas Edison’s love for new discoveries in science led to his
- A. stress.
 - B. bad fashion sense.
 - C. loneliness.
 - D. bankruptcy.
40. The tone of the author throughout the passage shows that the author is
- A. appreciative.
 - B. argumentative.
 - C. satirical.
 - D. angry.

Please use this page for rough work

AKU-EB
Annual Examination 2023 for
Teaching and Learning only