

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XII

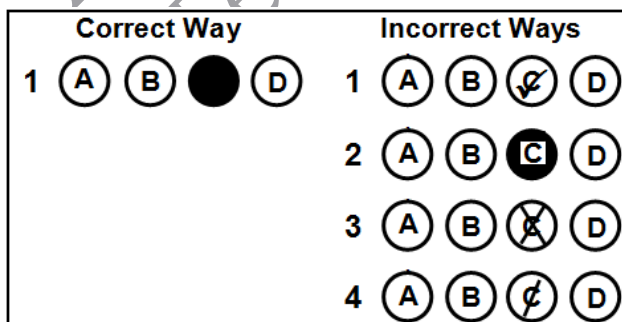
ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2023

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 be played one more time. 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 record 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

The speaker talks about banning plastic.

Source: Adapted from the article, 'Why Plastic Bags Should Be Banned' by Anonymous

Note: The figures mentioned in the heard passage may have changed as it was written in 2019.

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

1. The speaker begins the heard passage by
 - A. emphasising on threats to human life.
 - B. defining the term, 'global warming'.
 - C. providing recommendations to dispose off plastic.
 - D. stating the harmful effects of plastic.
2. The speaker states that the, 'production of plastic is growing at 4 percent per annum'. This is **PRIMARILY** done in order to
 - A. providing alternatives to plastic products.
 - B. highlight the importance of plastic in our daily lives.
 - C. inform about the efficiency of plastic producing companies.
 - D. raise concerns regarding the production of plastic.
3. According to the speaker, plastic becomes hazardous for the environment due to the addition of
 - I. inorganic chemicals
 - II. adhesives
 - III. colours
 - A. I only.
 - B. II only.
 - C. I and III.
 - D. II and III.
4. 'The European Commission proposes to cut the number of plastic bags...'

The underlined phrase in the given sentence from the heard passage means that

 - A. the quantity of plastic products will decrease.
 - B. plastic bags will be torn into pieces.
 - C. plastic bags will be banned completely.
 - D. the quantity of all bags will decrease.

5. The speaker mentions all of the following properties of plastic EXCEPT its
- A. chemical composition.
 - B. chemical resistance.
 - C. flexibility.
 - D. solubility.
6. The speaker mentions that plastic bags 'make their way to the sewerage system...'
- The information given IMMEDIATELY after this is about the
- A. blockage of drains.
 - B. effect on marine life.
 - C. rise in toxicity levels of the soil.
 - D. use of recycled plastic.
7. According to the heard passage, which country was the FIRST to ban plastic products?
- A. France
 - B. India
 - C. Italy
 - D. Pakistan
8. The information in the heard passage is given MAINLY through
- A. cause and effect.
 - B. differences.
 - C. figurative expressions.
 - D. experimentation.
9. An alternative title for the heard passage could be
- A. 'How Plastic is Made'.
 - B. 'Importance of Recycling'.
 - C. 'Plastic: A Biohazard'.
 - D. 'Ways to Reduce the Use of Plastic'.
10. The tone of the heard passage is
- A. condescending.
 - B. sad.
 - C. objective.
 - D. funny.

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

Listen carefully to the first playing, and then read questions 11 to 20. You will have two minutes' reading time.

The passage will be played one more time. 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 record your answers.

Listening Passage II

In this passage, the speaker mentions about diversity.

Source: Adapted from the article, 'Why Is Diversity Important?' by Christopher S Penn

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

11. The tone at the beginning of the heard passage is
- A. demeaning.
 - B. dispassionate.
 - C. egoistic.
 - D. reflective.
12. 'People...are the raw ingredients for our businesses.'
- The underlined term in the given sentence from the heard passage is used in the context of
- A. assets.
 - B. liabilities.
 - C. marketers.
 - D. products.
13. All of the following businesses have been mentioned in the heard passage EXCEPT
- A. book writing.
 - B. construction company.
 - C. consulting firm.
 - D. restaurant.
14. '...can you imagine having only one product that comes in only one size, one colour, one price, with only one feature?'
- The speaker poses the given question in order to
- A. define the importance of uniformity.
 - B. discuss manufacturing of a product.
 - C. elaborate on the implication of discrimination.
 - D. highlight the significance of diversity.
15. According to the speaker, competitors would MOST likely crush us if we are
- A. incompetent.
 - B. monotonous.
 - C. rigid.
 - D. unplanned.
16. The speaker LEAST mentions the
- A. demands of the customers.
 - B. description of a monoculture.
 - C. tools of diversity.
 - D. ways to improve the economy.

17. The speaker concludes the heard passage by
- A. exemplifying business leaders.
 - B. highlighting the importance of ideas.
 - C. mentioning ways to improve marketing.
 - D. reiterating her opinion on pluralism.
18. The tone of the heard passage is
- A. condescending.
 - B. indifferent.
 - C. pessimistic.
 - D. suggestive.
19. The information in the heard passage is given MAINLY through
- A. metaphors.
 - B. descriptions.
 - C. experiments.
 - D. statistical data.
20. The text type of the heard passage is
- A. comparative.
 - B. argumentative.
 - C. analytical.
 - D. personal narrative.

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Reading Comprehension Section

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

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

Reading Passage I

Language offers infinite capacity for distinction and individuality. Its multidimensional nature contributes to a rich canvas of linguistic possibility where meaning can shift and emotions can be derived from a single word. Furthermore, words can be interpreted differently by different people or at different times. New words emerge every year, while older words return to common use
5 (usually among the young) under the guise of another definition or association. All of what I've mentioned and more is the glorious possibility of language.

Football too has a capacity for remarkable variation. The rules of the game itself facilitate this. Unlike many other sports, the ball can move freely sideways, backwards, forwards, and at any angle diagonally. It can travel great distances or no distance at all depending on the player. There
10 are no limits, no particular way of playing, only trends and counter-trends, ideas and counter-ideas. Each touch of the ball adds another stroke to an imperfect masterpiece, not always dissimilar from what has come before it or what may follow in the future, but always different and always changing.

Language and football also suffer from similar age-old crises of identity and purpose. Surely
15 language is not merely and exclusively a means of communication. Surely it serves more than a functional, communicative role. Words make us feel. Language, like football, can entertain, amuse, sadden, cheer, provoke, delight and enrage. Words, or touches of the ball in football, create patterns, each one altering what follows. They are significant.

To me, both language and football can give sensory pleasure to the senses. When I hear a well-
20 composed sentence, it evokes an appreciation of something far beyond the successful exchange of information, a strange experience. Football is also full of peculiarities. To compare, the deflected shot is a hastily scribbled shopping list on the back of a receipt, while the arrowing drive into the top corner represents elegant prose scribed with a quill on the finest writing paper.

From the celebrated coffee house discussions of 'the beautiful game' to the online fan forums of
25 the present day, football has always been discussed liberally and in terms often entirely pertaining to that sport. It has its own linguistic identity, its own dialect. Language, and in particular, the English language (since that is the one I know best) is flexible and evolutionary. Football shares all of these qualities. Perhaps that's why I'm so fond of them both.

Source: Adapted from the article, '*Language and Football*' by Alex Ford on talkingsoup.com

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

21. In line 2, the word 'canvas' is used in the context of a
- A. painting.
 - B. parade.
 - C. prospect.
 - D. trend.
22. Paragraphs 2 and 3 are organised to show
- A. cause and effect.
 - B. comparison.
 - C. facts.
 - D. problem and solution.
23. In line 17, the author has paired the terms 'words' and 'touches' in order to
- A. define sport terminology.
 - B. differentiate between them.
 - C. draw an analogy.
 - D. give new meaning to them.
24. According to the author, language is
- I. sensual
 - II. outdated
 - III. challenging
 - IV. communicative
- A. I and II.
 - B. I and IV.
 - C. II and III.
 - D. III and IV.
25. According to the author, the essence of football is
- A. controversial.
 - B. evolving.
 - C. technical.
 - D. trivial.
26. In line 26, the word 'pertaining' is CLOSEST in meaning to
- A. affecting.
 - B. relating.
 - C. restricting.
 - D. transforming.

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27. The PRIMARY purpose of the author in the given passage is to discuss the

- A. significance of playing football.
- B. similarities between football and language.
- C. use of language and football in professional life.
- D. uses of football in communication.

28. The tone of the author in the given passage is MAINLY

- A. assertive.
- B. passionate.
- C. provocative.
- D. speculative.

29. The narration type of the given passage is

- I. First person
- II. Second person
- III. Third person

- A. I only.
- B. III only.
- C. I and II.
- D. II and III.

30. The text type of the given passage is

- A. analytical.
- B. communicative.
- C. expressive.
- D. persuasive.

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

Reading Passage II

I'm the worst person to go on a road trip with since I am prone to severe motion sickness, but a road trip across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) isn't something you say 'no' to. The open sky, the gushing Kunhar underneath, the lush green mountains, all do wonders to wash away the stresses of life. In the most scenic valley of the country, Kaghan Valley, is a small town called Naran.

5 I've been to Naran twice and the comparison between the two experiences is stark.

In 2011, the drive to Naran from Islamabad was nine hours and we all know how scenic it is but the joy was cut short by the unforgiving journey on a terrible road; the experience was borderline scary. There was only one road for the two-way traffic; on one side was a mountain and the other side was a dead drop into the mighty Kunhar river. I, being an adrenaline junkie, 10 thought it was adventurous, but I'd be lying if I told you I wasn't a little concerned.

Snow covered peaks welcome you to Naran, in mid-November as the tourist season was almost off and the place resembled a ghost town...Such a popular and rich natural tourist spot is expected to have decent hotels but it was quite a disappointment.

If that wasn't enough, how wrong I packed was laughable. Having zero tolerance for the cold, I 15 ended up packing one sweater but thanking my lucky stars, I was able to find layers to keep myself from freezing...

In 2017...I thought the mountains are calling. It was not without a little bit of reluctance that I planned a short trip to Naran. Fighting motion sickness, I finally hit the road and was I surprised? The answer is yes. I had no idea how fast the infrastructure is changing and how 20 attention was finally being paid to KPK's natural heritage. The road that I was abundantly dreading was constructed into one smooth road and pertinent to accommodate two-way traffic. Getting to Naran, I was taken aback by how crowded it was.

No more ghost-town-vibes, this was a hustling bustling town full with large scale *dhabas* sporting *charpais*, road side stalls catering to those hot beverage needs as demanded by the 25 dropping temperatures and an open market...Moreover, the accommodation scene had essentially improved, with new constructions springing up all around town. Naran is now proudly THE place to go on a small budget to get a big dose of nature. The one thing you have to try during your visit is the famous *Pathan kay chapli kebab* and to give your taste buds the best experience of this Pakhtun delicacy, go to *dhabas*, not restaurants...

30 Being a nature buff, my favourite place to travel across Pakistan is Naran...

Source: Adapted from the article, 'Naran Valley' by Eman Saleem

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

31. The author says, 'I'm the worst person to go on a road trip...'

This is done MAINLY in order to

- A. discuss her fear of travelling.
- B. highlight her motion sickness.
- C. inform the reader about her personality.
- D. mention her dislike of travelling to mountainous regions.

32. Another term similar to 'adrenaline junkie' (line 9) in the given passage is

- A. dose of nature.
- B. hit the road.
- C. motion sickness.
- D. nature buff.

33. Which statement FIRST indicates that Naran Valley had changed for the author?

- A. '...taken aback by how crowded it was.'
- B. '...attention was finally paid to KPK's natural heritage.'
- C. 'The answer is yes.'
- D. 'No more ghost-town-vibes...'

34. 'Naran is now proudly THE place to go on a small budget to get a big dose of nature.'

In the given sentence from the passage (line 27), the author uses the word 'THE' to

- A. emphasise.
- B. compare.
- C. propose.
- D. relate.

35. Based on the information in the given passage, the author can be viewed as

- A. childlike.
- B. adventurous.
- C. noisy.
- D. organised.

36. The author does NOT discuss information about Naran Valley's

- A. climate.
- B. cuisine.
- C. infrastructure.
- D. people.

37. Based on the author's experience, the BEST time to visit Naran Valley is during the

- A. summers.
- B. tourist season.
- C. weekend.
- D. winters.

38. The progression in the author's personal views on her two visits to Naran Valley, can be identified as

	2011	2017
A	rural	urban
B	cynical	astonished
C	evolutionary	revolutionary
D	unbiased	biased

39. The tone of the author is BEST described as

- A. analytical.
- B. complaining.
- C. reflective.
- D. speculative.

40. The given passage is an example of a

- A. biography.
- B. brochure.
- C. commentary.
- D. travelogue.

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