

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XII

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2023

English Compulsory Paper II

Time: 2 hours 5 minutes Marks: 60

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 FOUR questions. Answer ALL questions. Question 3 offers TWO choices and Question 4 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.

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 then answer all the questions that follow:

Text A

5 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 (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.

10 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 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.

15 Language and football also suffer from similar age-old crises of identity and purpose. Surely 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.

20 To me, both language and football can give sensory pleasure to the senses. When I hear a well-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.

25 From the celebrated coffee house discussions of 'the beautiful game' to the online fan forums of 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

Text B



Note: The data in the given infographic is as per census of 2022.

Source: Adapted from an infographic on <https://www.freelancer.pk/>

- a. If you were the author of Text A, which aspect would you have included in it? Support your answer by giving TWO reasons. (3 Marks)

- b. Identify any FOUR factors in Text A that highlight the author's fondness for football. (4 Marks)

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Q.2.

(Total 10 Marks)

Read the passage carefully and fill in each of the blanks with **ONE** suitable word.

Tea culture is defined by the way tea is made and consumed; (1) _____ the way the people interact with tea and by the aesthetics surrounding tea drinking.

Tea (2) _____ an important role in some countries. It is commonly consumed at social events and many cultures have created intricate formal ceremonies (3) _____ these events. Afternoon tea is a British custom with widespread appeal. Tea ceremonies, with their roots in the Chinese tea culture, differ (4) _____ East Asian countries, such as the Japanese or Korean versions. Tea may differ widely in preparation, such as in Tibet, where the (5) _____ is commonly brewed with salt and butter. Tea may be (6) _____ in small private gatherings (tea parties) or in public (tea houses designed for social interaction).

The British Empire spread (7) _____ own interpretation of tea to its dominions and colonies, including regions that today comprise the states of Hong Kong, India, and Pakistan, which had pre-existing tea customs, as well as (8) _____ such as East Africa (modern day Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) and the Pacific (Australia and New Zealand) which did not have tea (9) _____. The tea room or teahouse is found in the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Different regions favour different varieties of tea such as black, green, or oolong and use different flavourings, such as herbs, milk, or sugar. The temperature and strength of the tea, likewise, (10) _____ widely.

Source: Adapted from the article, '*Tea culture*' as published on en.wikipedia.org

Q.3.

(Total 15 Marks)

Compose a formal piece of writing of around 250-300 words on any **ONE** of the options **a** or **b**.

EITHER

- a. You are interested in the job vacancy advertised in the given image.



Write a covering letter with a résumé for the given vacancy. In your letter, describe

- your suitability for the job.
- the value that you would add to the company.

(Note: The content of the covering letter and résumé should be reflective of your current academic qualification i.e., Grade XII.)

OR

- b. You are a researcher who has conducted a research on the ways in which waste is disposed off in your area. Your research further tests eco-friendly ways of improving disposal of waste products.

Write a report about the findings of your research to the local governing body of your area. In your report,

- describe TWO key findings of your research regarding the current waste disposal methods.
- suggest TWO eco-friendly ways of improving the disposal of waste in your area.

(Note: You may use real or imaginary findings and data.)

Make your notes on the pages given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 8, 9 and 10.

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Option _____

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Q.4.

(Total 18 Marks)

Write a composition of about 350-400 words on any **ONE** of the options **a, b** or **c**.
Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

EITHER

- a. Different people aspire to pursue different careers. Some people want to pursue conventional careers like doctor, engineer or teacher while others would like to choose less common careers such as psychologist, musician or designer.

Compose an essay. In your essay, describe

- your dream career.
- TWO reasons for choosing this career.
- TWO steps that you can take at this stage of your life to prepare for this career.

OR

- b. Stress can motivate you to finish your school work on time or meet deadlines at work. But if you let your stress overpower you, it can seriously interfere with your family life, social life and health.

Compose an essay. In your essay,

- discuss any TWO effects of stress on the body and/ or mind.
- suggest THREE ways to combat the harmful effects of stress on the body and/ or mind.

OR

- c. Different people strongly support different causes, such as protecting the environment, changing the culture of bullying in educational institutions or even enhancing youth development programmes.

Write an essay about a cause that you feel strongly about. In your essay,

- describe the cause.
- discuss any THREE reasons due to which you support the cause.

(**Note:** You may write about a cause other than the ones mentioned in the question.)

Make your notes on the pages given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 12, 13 and 14.

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END OF PAPER

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