## AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

## SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

### **CLASS IX EXAMINATION**

APRIL/MAY 2019

Literature in English

Time: 3 hours Marks: 75

### **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 sections. Attempt ALL sections. Section I addresses 'Novels'. It has two parts. Attempt any ONE part from Section I. Section II addresses 'Short Stories' and Section III addresses 'Poetry'. In each section there are Constructed Response Questions and a choice in Extended Response Questions.
- 3. When answering the questions:

Read each question carefully.

Use black pointer for writing 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 ().

Section I: Novels (Total 25 Marks)

## (ATTEMPT ANY ONE PART FROM SECTION I)

Part A

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Louisa M Alcott: Little Women

Q.1. (Total 10 Marks)

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

When the sun peeped into the girls' room early next morning to promise them a fine day, he saw a comical sight. Each had made such preparation for the fete as seemed necessary and proper. Meg had an extra row of little curlpapers across her forehead, Jo had copiously anointed her afflicted face with cold cream, Beth had taken Joanna to bed with her to atone for the approaching separation, and Amy had capped the climax by putting a clothespin on her nose to uplift the offending feature. It was one of the kind artists use to hold the paper on their drawing boards, therefore quite appropriate and effective for the purpose it was now being put. This funny spectacle appeared to amuse the sun, for he burst out with such radiance that Jo woke up and roused her sisters by a hearty laugh at Amy's ornament.

- Sunshine and laughter were good omens for a pleasure party, and soon a lively bustle began in both houses. Beth, who was ready first, kept reporting what went on next door, and enlivened her sisters' toilets by frequent telegrams from the window.
  - 'There goes the man with the tent! I see Mrs Barker doing up the lunch in a hamper and a great basket. Now Mr Laurence is looking up at the sky and the weathercock. I wish he would go too.
- There's Laurie, looking like a sailor, nice boy! Oh, mercy me! Here's a carriage full of people, a tall lady, a little girl, and two dreadful boys. One is lame, poor thing, he's got a crutch. Laurie didn't tell us that. Be quick, girls! It's getting late. Why, there is Ned Moffat, I do declare. Meg, isn't that the man who bowed to you one day when we were shopping?'
- 'So it is. How queer that he should come. I thought he was at the mountains. There is Sallie. I'm glad she got back in time. Am I all right, Jo?' cried Meg in a flutter.
  - 'A regular daisy. Hold up your dress and put your hat on straight, it looks sentimental tipped that way and will fly off at the first puff. Now then, come on!'
- 'Oh, Jo, you are not going to wear that awful hat? It's too absurd! You shall not make a guy of yourself,' remonstrated Meg, as Jo tied down with a red ribbon the broad-brimmed, old-fashioned leghorn Laurie had sent for a joke.
  - 'I just will, though, for its capital, so shady, light, and big. It will make fun, and I don't mind being a guy if I'm comfortable.' With that Jo marched straight away and the rest followed, a bright little band of sisters, all looking their best in summer suits, with happy faces under the jaunty hatbrims.
- Laurie ran to meet and present them to his friends in the most cordial manner. The lawn was the reception room, and for several minutes a lively scene was enacted there. Meg was grateful to see that Miss Kate, though twenty, was dressed with a simplicity which American girls would do well to imitate, and who was much flattered by Mr Ned's assurances that he came especially to see her. Jo understood why Laurie 'primmed up his mouth' when speaking of Kate, for that young lady had a standoff-don't-touch-me air, which contrasted strongly with the free and easy demeanor of the other girls. Beth took an observation of the new boys and decided that the lame one was not 'dreadful', but gentle and feeble, and she would be kind to him on that account. Amy found Grace a well-mannered, merry, little person, and after staring dumbly at one another for a few minutes, they suddenly became very good friends.

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| Tents, lunch, and croquet utensils having been sent on beforehand, the party was soon embarked, and the two boats pushed off together, leaving Mr Laurence waving his hat on the shore. Laurie and Jo rowed one boat, Mr Brooke and Ned the other, while Fred Vaughn, the riotous twin, did his best to upset both by paddling about in a wherry like a disturbed water bug. Jo's funny hat deserved a vote of thanks, for it was of general utility. It broke the ice in |     |  |
| the beginning by producing a laugh, it created quite a refreshing breeze, flapping to and fro as she rowed, and would make an excellent umbrella for the whole party, if a shower came up she said. Miss Kate decided that she was 'odd', but rather clever, and smiled upon her from afar.   | ,   |  |
| a. Comment on the setting and atmosphere depicted in the given excerpt from <i>Little Women</i> by Louisa May Alcott. (5 Mar)   | ks) |  |
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| b. Describe the character of Jo as depicted in the given excerpt. (5 Mar.   | ks) |  |
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| Q.2. (Total 15 Marks)  Compose a response of about 150 words to any <b>ONE</b> of the options <b>a</b> or <b>b</b> .  |
| EITHER  |
| a. Discuss the status of American women as depicted in <i>Little Women</i> by Louis May Alcott. Compare it with the status of women in contemporary Pakistan. |
| OR  |
| b. How does the character of Jo March portray the themes that are relevant to the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century? Support your answer with reasons and examples.    |
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## (ATTEMPT ANY ONE PART FROM SECTION I)

#### Part B

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Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart

Q.3. (Total 10 Marks)

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Many years ago when Okonkwo was still a boy; his father, Unoka, had gone to consult Agbala. The priestess in those days was a woman called Chika. She was full of the power of her god, and she was greatly feared. Unoka stood before her and began his story.

"Every year," he said sadly, "before I put any crop in the earth, I sacrifice a cock to Ani, the owner of all land. It is the law of our fathers. I also kill a cock at the shrine of Ifejioku, the god of yams. I clear the bush and set fire to it when it is dry. I sow the yams when the first rain has fallen, and stake them when the young tendrils appear. I weed -"

"You have offended neither the gods nor your fathers. And when a man is at peace with his gods and his ancestors, his harvest will be good or bad according to the strength of his arm. You, Unoka, are known in all the clan for the weakness of your machete and your hoe. When your neighbors go out with their axe to cut down virgin forests, you sow your yams on exhausted farms that take no labour to clear. They cross seven rivers to make their farms, you stay at home and offer sacrifices to a reluctant soil. Go home and work like a man."

- Unoka was an ill-fated man. He had a bad *chi* or personal god, and evil fortune followed him to the grave, or rather to his death, for he had no grave. He died of the swelling which was an abomination to the earth goddess. When a man was afflicted with swelling in the stomach and the limbs he was not allowed to die in the house. He was carried to the Evil Forest and left there to die. There was the story of a very stubborn man who staggered back to his house and had to be carried again to the forest and tied to a tree. The sickness was an abomination to the earth, and so the victim could not be buried in her bowels. He died and rotted away above the earth, and was not given the first or the second burial. Such was Unoka's fate. When they carried him away, he took with him his flute.
- With a father like Unoka, Okonkwo did not have the start in life which many young men had. He neither inherited a barn nor a title, nor even a young wife. But in spite of these disadvantages, he had begun even in his father's lifetime to lay the foundations of a prosperous future. It was slow and painful. But he threw himself into it like one possessed. And indeed he was possessed by the fear of his father's contemptible life and shameful death.

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| a. Compare Okonkwo with his father in THREE points. Cite ONE textual evidence from the given passage and ONE from any part of the novel. (5 Marks) |
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| b. With reference to the given excerpt, compare Okonkwo's society with yours in THREE points. (5 Marks)  |
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| Q.4.         | (Total 15 Marks) apose a response of about 150 words to any <b>ONE</b> of the options <b>a</b> or <b>b</b> .   |  |  |
| _            | EITHER   |  |  |
| a.           | Towards the end of the novel, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe, we read about the Commissioner writing a book on Africa.  |  |  |
|              | Evaluate this act of the Commissioner with reference to Achebe's views on Western Literature about Africa.   |  |  |
|              | OR   |  |  |
| b.           | Chinua Achebe is a Nigerian author whose book, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> , symbolises a story of cultural disparities. His decision to write the novel in English, rather than his native tongue, has caused controversy. |  |  |
|              | Analyse the author's choice for this stylistic technique. Justify your stance with textual references.   |  |  |
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| Sec  | etion II: Short Stories  | (Total 25 Marks)                                      |
| Q.5  | ).   | (Total 10 Marks)                                      |
| Ans  | swer the following questions from the recommended short stories.   |   |
| a.   | Read the excerpt given below.  |   |
|      | "In the public square of Goderville there was a crowd, a throng of human being mixed together. The horns of the cattle, the tall hats, with long nap, of the rich the headgear of the peasant women rose above the surface of the assembly. shrill, screaming voices made a continuous and savage din which sometimes the robust lungs of some countryman's laugh or the long lowing of a cow thouse." | peasant and<br>And the clamorous,<br>was dominated by |
|      | Explain any ONE social issue highlighted in the given lines from <i>Piece of Strin</i>   | g by Maupassant. (3 Marks)                            |
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| b.   | 20   |   |
|      | i. Describe the moral of the story <i>Lumber-Room</i> by Saki.   | (2 Marks)   |
|      | ii. Explain the significance of creativity in the <i>Lumber-Room</i> by Saki.  | (2 Marks)   |
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| c.            | Aloo in <i>Leaving</i> by M. G. Vassangi hopes to go abroad for higher education despite the financial struggles of his family. |  |
|               | Imagine you are Aloo. What decision would you have taken and why? (3 Marks)   |  |
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| Q.6. (Total 15 Marks) Compose a response of about 150 words to any <b>ONE</b> of the options <b>a</b> or <b>b</b> .   |
| EITHER  |
| a. Discuss how the short story, <i>The Gold Cadillac</i> by Mildred D. Taylor, is a criticism on racism Support your answer using evidences from the story.   |
| OR  |
| b. Analyse the symbolic representation of the cat in <i>If Only Cats Could Talk</i> by Bina Shah by givin textual evidences. In what ways does the story relate to your own society's belief in the supernatural? |
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| Section       | III: Poetry   | (Total 25 Marks) |
| Q.7.          |   | (Total 10 Marks) |
| Answei        | the following questions from the recommended poems.   |                  |
| a. E          | xplain the given lines with reference to its context.   | (5 Marks)        |
| If            | If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch, I neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you, If all men count with you, but none too much; I you can fill the unforgiving minute With sixty seconds' worth of distance run, I ours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!' |                  |
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| b. Explain the given lines with reference to its context.  'Is someone there, oh weeping heart? No, no one there. Perhaps a traveller, but he will be on his way. The night is spent, the dust of stars begins to scatter. In the assembly halls dream-filled lamps begin to waver. Small streets sleep waiting by the thoroughfare. Strange earth beclouds footprints of yesterday. Snuff out the candles, put away wine-cup and flask. Then lock your eyelids in this morning dusk. For now there's no one, no one who will come here.' | (5 Marks) |  |
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| Q.8. Compos   | (Total 15 Marks) e a response of about 150 words to any <b>ONE</b> of the options <b>a</b> or <b>b</b> .   |
| EITHER        |  |
|               | When we realise and accept that we are merely passengers in the world and our destination is ath, then it helps us understand and value the opportunities in front of us." |
| Ву            | referencing Emily Dickinson's poem, Because I Could Not Stop for Death,  |
| i.            | analyse the given statement.   |
| ii.           | discuss the stylistic elements of the poem which enhance the theme represented in the given statement.   |
|               | OR O   |
|               | valuate how the stages of a man's life are depicted in the poem, <i>Before the Sun</i> by Charles ingoshi. Support your answer with references from the poem.              |
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