

**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****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.

5 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.

15 '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?'

20 '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!'

25 '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.

30 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  
35 '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.







(ATTEMPT ANY ONE PART FROM SECTION I)

**Part B**

**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.

5 “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 -”

10 “Hold your peace!” screamed the priestess, her voice terrible as it echoed through the dark void. “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.”

15 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  
20 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.

25 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.









**Section II: Short Stories**

**(Total 25 Marks)**

Q.5.

**(Total 10 Marks)**

Answer the following questions from the recommended short stories.

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a. Read the excerpt given below.

“In the public square of Goderville there was a crowd, a throng of human beings and animals mixed together. The horns of the cattle, the tall hats, with long nap, of the rich peasant and the headgear of the peasant women rose above the surface of the assembly. And the clamorous, shrill, screaming voices made a continuous and savage din which sometimes was dominated by the robust lungs of some countryman’s laugh or the long lowing of a cow tied to the wall of a house.”

Explain any ONE social issue highlighted in the given lines from *Piece of String* by Maupassant. (3 Marks)

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b.

i. Describe the moral of the story *Lumber-Room* by Saki. (2 Marks)

ii. Explain the significance of creativity in the *Lumber-Room* by Saki. (2 Marks)

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- c. Aloo in *Leaving* 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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