

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS IX EXAMINATION**

**APRIL/ MAY 2017**

**English Compulsory Paper II**

**Time: 2 hours 10 minutes    Marks: 50**

**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**

2. RUBRIC. There are THREE questions. Answer ALL questions. Question 2 offers TWO choices and Question 3 offers THREE choices. Attempt any ONE choice from 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.

Use a black pencil for diagrams. DO NOT use coloured pencils.

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 18 Marks)

Read the passage carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

I made my way to the hall. Some children sitting in rows on canvas chairs. An elementary class from a city school, under the control of an elderly teacher. A museum attendant holding a basket, and all eyes gazing at the basket.

5 “Oh,” I said, “is this a private lesson? Is it all right for me to be here?” The attendant was brisk. “Surely. We’re having a lesson in snake handling,” he said. “It’s something new. Get the children young and teach them that every snake they meet is not to be killed. People seem to think that every snake has to be knocked on the head. So we’re getting them young and teaching them.”

“May I watch?” I asked.

10 “Surely. This is a common grass snake. No harm, no harm at all. Teach the children to learn the feel of them to lose their fear.”

He turned to the teacher. “Now, Miss — Mrs —” he said. “Miss Mehek” responded the teacher.

He lowered his voice. “The best way to get through to the children is to start with the teacher,” he said to Miss Mehek. “If they see you’re not afraid, then they won’t be.”

15 She must be near retiring age, I thought. A city woman. Never handled a snake in her life. Her face was pale. She just managed to drag the fear from her eyes to some place in their depths, where it lurked like a dark stain. Surely the attendant and the children noticed?

“It’s harmless,” the attendant said. He had worked with snakes for years.

20 Miss Mehek, I thought again. A city woman born and bred. All snakes were creatures to kill, to be protected from alike; the rattler, the copperhead, king snake, grass snake. Were there not places in the city where you couldn’t go into the streets for fear of the rattlesnakes?

25 Her eyes faced the lighted exit. I saw her fear. The exit light blinked, hooded. The children, none of whom had ever touched a live snake, were sitting hushed, waiting for the drama to begin; one or two looked afraid as the attendant withdrew a green snake about three feet long from the basket and with a swift movement, before the teacher could protest, draped it around her neck and stepped back, admiring and satisfied. “There,” he said to the class. “Your teacher has a snake around her neck and she’s not afraid.”

Miss Mehek stood rigid; she seemed to be holding her breath.

30 “Teacher’s not afraid, are you?” the attendant persisted. He leaned forward, pronouncing judgment on her, while she suddenly jerked her head and lifted her hands in panic to get rid of the snake. Then, seeing the children watching her, she whispered, “No, I’m not afraid. Of course not.” She looked around her.

“Of course not,” she repeated sharply.

**Source: Adapted from *You are Now Entering the Human Heart* by Janet Frame**

- a. Describe any **THREE** personality traits of Miss Mehek. Give **TWO** textual evidences to support your answer. (5 Marks)

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- b.
- i. Discuss the reasons given by the author to justify Miss Mehek's fear. (2 Marks)
- ii. If you were in her place, would you be equally afraid? Give a reason for your answer. (2 Marks)

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c. Why was a lesson in snake-handling important for the children? Explain in detail. (3 Marks)

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d. Give any TWO textual evidences that have been used to indicate Ms Mehek's fear. (2 Marks)

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e. Summarise the passage in no more than 100 words.

(4 Marks)

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Q.2.

(Total 14 Marks)

Compose a response of about 200-250 words on any **ONE** of the options **a or b**.

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**EITHER**

a. Write an email to a friend of yours who is visiting your city for the first time. Mention the following in your email:

- Which places should be visited and why (at least two places)
- Where he/ she should stay
- What the total cost of the visit should be

**OR**

b. A friend of yours is very afraid of animals. You want to invite your friend to visit your home after exams for a party that you are throwing for all your friends. However, she/ he is reluctant to visit your home because you keep many pets, including dogs and cats.

Write a letter to your friend inviting her/ him to your party. In your letter:

- Explain that her/ his fear is irrational
- Suggest how to befriend or handle all the pets

*Make your notes below. Write your final draft on pages 7 and 8.*

Option \_\_\_\_\_

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Q.3.

(Total 18 Marks)

Write a composition of about 200-300 words on any **ONE** of the options **a, b or c**.  
Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

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**EITHER**

- a. “Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you will feed him for a lifetime.”

How does this quote relate to your life? Narrate an incident from your life (real or imaginary) describing the relevance and accuracy of the quote given above.

**OR**

- b. As I gazed out of my bedroom window I could not neglect the scenery all around my brown and green garden. It was the season of autumn and temperatures had begun to fall after a hectic summer. Clouds drifted across the sky leisurely and looked like a huge mass of cotton...

Write a narrative story on the given situation. Include the following:

- Details of autumn season
- What you did and how the season affects you?

**OR**

- c. You have recently been invited by your friend to attend the wedding of his/ her sibling. Describe the wedding ceremony in detail. Include the following:

- Sights and sounds
- Description of your feelings at the occasion
- An account of the interesting moments of the ceremony

*Make your notes on the page given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 10 and 11.*

Option \_\_\_\_\_

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END OF PAPER

Please use this page for rough work

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