

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XI EXAMINATION

APRIL/ MAY 2017

English Compulsory Paper II

Time: 2 hours 05 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**

2. RUBRIC. 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.
DO NOT write outside the answer box.
Complete your answer in the allocated space only.
4. The marks for the questions are shown in brackets ().

Q.1. (Total 17 Marks)

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

“I see . . .” said the vampire* thoughtfully, and slowly he walked across the room towards the window. For a long time he stood there against the dim light from the nearby street and the passing beams of traffic. The boy could see the furnishings of the room more clearly now, the round oak table, the chairs. A wash basin hung on one wall with a mirror. He set his briefcase
5 on the table and waited.

“But how much tape do you have with you? Enough for the story of a life?” asked the vampire, turning now so the boy could see his profile. “Sure, if it's a good life. Sometimes I interview as many as three or four people a night if I'm lucky. But it has to be a good story. That's only fair, isn't it?”

10 “Admirably fair,” the vampire answered. “I would like to tell you the story of my life, then. I would like to do that very much.” “Great,” said the boy. And quickly he removed the small tape recorder from his briefcase, making a check of the cassette and the batteries. “I'm really anxious to hear why you believe this, why you... .”

“No,” said the vampire abruptly. “We can't begin that way. Is your equipment ready?” “Yes,”
15 said the boy. “Then sit down. I'm going to turn on the overhead light.”

“But I thought vampires didn't like light,” said the boy. “If you think the dark adds to the atmosphere.” But then he stopped. The vampire was watching him with his back to the window. The boy could make out nothing of his face now, and something about the still figure there distracted him. He started to say something again but he said nothing. And then he sighed with
20 relief when the vampire moved towards the table and reached for the overhead cord. At once the room was flooded with a harsh yellow light. And the boy, staring up at the vampire, could not repress a gasp.

His fingers danced backwards on the table to grasp the edge. “Dear God!” he whispered and then he gazed, speechless, at the vampire. The vampire was utterly white and smooth, as if he
25 were sculpted from bleached bone, and his face was as seemingly inanimate as a statue, except for two brilliant green eyes that looked down at the boy intently like flames in a skull. But then the vampire smiled almost wistfully and the smooth white substance of his face moved with the infinitely flexible but minimal lines of a cartoon. “Do you see?” he asked softly. The boy shuddered, lifting his hand as if to shield himself from a powerful light. His eyes moved slowly
30 over the finely tailored black coat he'd only glimpsed in the bar, the long folds of the cape, the black silk tie knotted at the throat, and the gleam of the white collar that was as white as the vampire's flesh. He stared at the vampire's full black hair, the waves that were combed back over the tips of the ears, and the curls that barely touched the edge of the white collar.

“Now, do you still want the interview?” the vampire asked. The boy's mouth was open before
35 the sound came out. He was nodding. Then he said, “Yes.”

The vampire sat down slowly opposite him and, leaning forward, said gently, confidentially, “Don't be afraid. Just start the tape.” And then he reached out over the length of the table.

The boy recoiled, sweat running down the sides of his face. The vampire clamped a hand on the boy's shoulder and said, “Believe me, I won't hurt you. I want this opportunity. It's more

40 important to me than you can realize now. I want you to begin.” “You weren't always a vampire, were you?” the boy began.

“No,” answered the vampire. “I was a twenty-five year-old man when I became a vampire and the year was seventeen ninety-one.”

Source: Adapted from *Interview with the Vampire* by Anne Rice

Vampire*: a mythical creature that is supposed to come back to life after been dead and survives by drinking the blood of the living beings.

- a. Describe briefly the atmosphere of the passage. Cite any TWO details to support your answer. (4 Marks)

- b.
- i. Describe the appearance of the vampire. (2 Marks)
- ii. What does the appearance tell you about his personality? (2 Marks)

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- c. The boy appears to be scared of the vampire in the story. Cite FOUR phrases/ sentences from the text to support this statement. (4 Marks)

- d. Instead of the boy, you are about to interview the vampire. How would you feel and what would you ask him? (5 Marks)

Q.2.

(Total 10 Marks)

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

The world is racing towards the first mass extinction of animal life since the dinosaurs were wiped out 65 million years ago, according to the most comprehensive survey of wildlife ever carried out.

By 2020, the populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and other vertebrate species are on course to have fallen by more than two-thirds over a period of just 50 years, the Living Planet report found.

The current rate of extinction is about 100 times 1_____ than is considered normal – greater than during some of the previous five mass extinctions 2_____ the Earth's history.

While the dinosaurs probably died out because a giant meteor hit the planet, just one species is the 3_____ of the current problems: humans.

Scientists 4_____ that between 1970 and 2012, the average decline in population was 58 percent. And at the current rate this figure will hit 67 percent by 2020, the year by which the world 5_____ pledged to stop the loss of wildlife.

Some of the most iconic animals are under severe pressure for multiple different reasons with one common factor.

For example, poachers have slaughtered vast numbers of African elephants with the population falling by 111,000 to 415,000 in only a decade.

Chemical pollution is affecting marine life, 6_____ orcas to polar bears. Chemicals used in paints, pesticides and flame retardants have been linked to cancer and weakening the animals' bones to the point they can snap.

And numbers of Himalayan griffons have fallen because of a drug given to cattle 7_____ gives the majestic birds kidney failure after they eat the meat of dead animals. The findings are based on long-term monitoring of some 3,700 vertebrate species 8_____ across more than 14,000 distinct populations.

Victims 9_____ gorillas and orangutans, rhinos and elephants, tigers and snow leopards, 10_____ also faceless species such as corals — a crucial cornerstone not only of marine life but also coastal human communities. Many more animals are threatened in various ways.

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Q.3. (Total 15 Marks)

Write a formal letter of around 300-350 words on any **ONE** of the options **a** or **b**.

EITHER

- a. Students of your class have noticed that litter thrown by various people in and around your school is causing different kinds of pollution and health hazards.

Write a letter to your Principal requesting him/ her to arrange a 'No Litter Week' in your school. In your letter describe the following.

- Why do you want this week to be arranged?
- How would it be beneficial?
- In what ways can it be managed?

OR

- b. Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) conducted a raid in a busy area of the city and arrested various street criminals who were allegedly involved in street crimes like mobile and car snatching. According to *The Express Tribune*, the raid was conducted after residents of the area informed police about suspicious activities in the neighbourhood.

Write a letter to the Editor of a well-known newspaper appreciating the effort of the Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC). In your letter:

- Mention the need for enhanced cooperation between citizens and police
- How such actions are helpful
- Indicate if such actions are needed elsewhere in your city/ town/ village

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

Option _____

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Q.4.

(Total 18 Marks)

Write a composition of about 300-400 words on any **ONE** of the options **a, b** or **c**.
Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

EITHER

- a. Write about a time when you tried to help someone but things did not go as per plan and you ended up looking bad. Discuss the details of the following.

- Who were you trying to help?
- What went wrong?
- How did you handle the situation?

OR

- b. Time travel is the concept of movement by humans between certain points in time, analogous to movement between different points in space, typically using a device known as a time machine. Scientists and writers have been obsessed with the idea of time travel. Many people have dreamed of visiting many different moments in history and some even dream of visiting the future.

Imagine you have found a time machine and have decided to travel to some specific time in the past or future. Write a narrative story about time travel. Your story should include:

- What time (country/ city/ year/ date/ event) you have decided to visit?
- What happened when you visited?
- Who else was there and in what ways were they different?

OR

- c. “School will never be the same now as Ms Saima has gone. I remember the first day I saw her. She was carrying a pile of exercise books to the staff room...”

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

- Her appearance in detail
- Her impact on the students elaborated by an anecdote/ example
- Her qualities as a teacher

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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