

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XI EXAMINATION

APRIL/ MAY 2018

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.

A terrible scream — a prolonged yell of horror and anguish burst out of the silence of the *moor. That frightful cry turned the blood to ice in my veins.

“Oh my God!” I gasped. “What is it? What does it mean?”

5 Holmes sprang to his feet, and I saw his dark, athletic outline at the door of the hut, his shoulders stooping, his head thrust forward, his face peering into the darkness.

“Hush!” he whispered. “Hush!”

The cry had been loud on account of its intensity, but it had pealed out from somewhere far off on the shadowy plain. Now it burst upon our ears, nearer, louder, and more urgent than before.

10 “Where is it?” Holmes whispered; and I knew from the thrill of his voice that he, the man of iron, was shaken to the soul. “Where is it, Watson?”

“There I think,” I pointed into the darkness.

“No, there!”

15 Again the agonised cry swept through the silent night, louder and much nearer than ever. And a new sound mingled with it, a deep, muttered roar, musical and yet menacing, rising and falling like the low, constant murmur of the sea.

“The **hound!” cried Holmes, “Come, Watson, come! Greet heavens, if we are too late!”

He had started running swiftly over the moor, and I had followed at his heels.

20 But now from somewhere among the broken ground immediately in front of us there came one last despairing yell and then a dull, heavy thud. We halted and listened. Not another sound broke the heavy silence of the windless night.

Blindly we ran through the gloom, blundering against rocks, forcing our way through bushes, panting up hills and rushing down slopes, heading always in the direction whence those dreadful sounds had come. At every rise Holmes looked eagerly round him, but the shadows were thick upon the moor and nothing moved upon its dreary face.

25 “Can you see anything?”

“Nothing.”

“But hark, what is that?”

30 A low moan had fallen upon our ears. There it was again upon our left! On that side a ridge of rocks ended in a sheer cliff which overlooked a stone-strewn slope. On its jagged face was spread-eagled some dark, irregular object. As we ran towards it, the vague outline hardened into a definite shape. It was a prostrate man face downward upon the ground, the head doubled under him at a horrible angle, the shoulders rounded and the body hunched together as if in the act of throwing a somersault. The moan had been the passing of his soul.

Source: Adapted from *The Hounds of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

*moor: a tract of open land

**hound: a dog of a breed used for hunting

- a. Describe the contextual meaning of the FOUR underlined words in the given text. (4 Marks)

- b. Describe the personality of Holmes as revealed through this passage. Mention TWO textual evidences to support your answer. (5 Marks)

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- c. What effect is created by the following phrases, 'a deep, muttered roar, musical and yet menacing, rising and falling like the low, constant murmur of the sea', and 'Not another sound broke the heavy silence of the windless night'. Compare the two phrases with each other. (3 Marks)

- d. If you were the detective Sherlock Holmes, what would you do after making the discovery at the end of the story? Mention any FIVE points. (5 Marks)

Q.2.

(Total 10 Marks)

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

When painted, they can add a girly sparkle to hands, and for some people they can substitute as a guitar pick or even a backscratcher.

These services, though, are not the reason humans sport the keratin-rich coverings atop our fingertips. “We have fingernails because we are primates,” said John Hawks, a biological anthropologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A nail is a horn-like envelope 1 _____ the tips of the fingers and toes in most primates and a few other mammals. Nails 2 _____ similar to claws in other animals. Fingernails and toenails are made of a tough protective protein called alpha-keratin. This protein is also 3 _____ in the hooves and horns of different animals.

Fingernails are one of the features that distinguish primates, including humans, from other mammals. They are essentially flattened forms 4 _____ claws. “Most mammals 5 _____ claws,” Hawks told Live Science. “They use them to grab onto things, to climb things, to scratch things, and to dig holes.”

Scientists suspect primates sort of lost their claws and fashioned broad fingertips topped with nails to 6 _____ in locomotion. While claws would have provided excellent grip as our mammalian ancestors clambered up large tree trunks, they would have been a nuisance for larger-bodied primates trying to grasp smaller branches while scrambling across tree canopies for fruits. Rather, primates developed broader fingertips made for grasping.

About 2.5 million years ago, fossil evidence 7 _____ that early humans first picked up stone tools, which is about the same time our ancestors also developed even broader fingertips than earlier primates. To this day, humans 8 _____ broader fingertips than other primates.

Whether fingernails are an adaptation that 9 _____ support broad fingertips or a side effect from the loss of claws is unclear, Hawks said.

Another reason for fingernails: They serve as a visual advertisement of a person’s health, he said. For instance, malnutrition 10 _____ change the colouring of nails, while small pits in fingernails can signal the skin condition psoriasis.

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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. As the intensity of summer increases, the students of rural and sub-urban areas are facing severe trouble, as they do not have adequate transport facilities to reach their schools and colleges located in nearby cities. Most of the colleges and schools have their own buses but pick and drop facility is available to the students of cities only.

Write a letter to the Editor highlighting the issue stated above. In your letter discuss:

- why this issue is important.
- reasons and/ or examples to support your stance.
- what should be done about the situation.

OR

- b. Pakwheels is the largest automotive classified website in Pakistan that deals with information regarding discussion of new and used cars and motorbikes, and their sale and maintenance. According to an online survey conducted by Pakwheels, 75% of the drivers on Pakistani roads are breaking the law and 24% survey participants drive without license.

Write a letter to the Editor and highlight the issue presented above. In your letter, discuss:

- why this issue is important.
- reasons and/ or examples to support your stance.
- what should be done about the situation.

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. Some people think fashion is how you carry yourself, i.e. how you come across to other people, good posture, mannerisms and the feeling of being comfortable in your chosen style. Others think the way you dress and the accessories you carry reflect your approach to life. In some cases, it affects other people's judgments about you.

Write an essay expressing your views about what fashion means to you. In your essay, discuss:

- what you understand by the term 'fashion'.
- should fashion sense affect our judgment of others? Give reasons.
- how does fashion reflect a society's norms and preferences? Give examples.

OR

- b. "Huge thunderclouds boiled into formation, but just as rapidly shifted and went. I said to the people in the room that it looked as if a storm was coming."

Write a story about the given situation.

OR

- c. Dreams are stories and images that our minds create while we sleep. They can be entertaining, fun, disturbing, frightening, and sometimes bizarre.

Describe any ONE dream that you clearly remember. In your essay, use descriptive details to recount:

- what happened and who was involved.
- what makes this dream unforgettable.
- what do you think your dream represents, i.e., some larger meaning or specific event? Give reasons.

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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