

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS IX**

**ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2024**

**English Compulsory Paper II**

**Time: 2 hours      Marks: 45**

**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 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.  
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 17 Marks)

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

When I woke up, there was only one thing on my mind: what to wear. A billion thoughts raced through my brain as wooden hangers shuffled back and forth in the cramped hotel closet...Not only was it my first day of high school, but it was my first day of school in a new state; first impressions are everything, and it was imperative for me to impress the people who I would spend the next four years with. For the first time in my life, I thought about how convenient it would be to wear the horrendous matching plaid skirts that private schools enforce...

This was my third time [changing schools]. Moving so many times does something to a child's development...I struggled finding friends that I could trust would be there for me if I picked up and left again. But this time was different because my dad's company ensured that I would start and finish high school in the same place...This time mattered, and that made me nervous.

After raiding my closet, I emerged proudly in a patterned dress...The soft cotton was comfortable...Yes, this outfit was the one. An hour later, I felt just as powerful as I stepped off the bus and headed towards [my classroom]. But as I turned the corner into my first class, my jaw dropped to the floor.

Sitting at her desk was Mrs Hutfilz, my English teacher, sporting the exact same dress as I. I kept my head down and tiptoed to my seat, but the first day meant introductions in front of the whole class, and soon enough it was my turn. I made it through my speech unscathed, until Mrs Hutfilz stood up, jokingly adding that she liked my style. Although this was the moment, I had been dreading from the moment I walked in, all the anxiety that had accumulated throughout the morning surprisingly melted away...My smile grew as I giggled with my peers, ending my speech with "and I am very stylish, much like my first period teacher." After class, I stayed behind and talked to Mrs Hutfilz...

This incident reminded me that it's only high school; these are the times to have fun, work hard, and make memories, not stress about the trivial details. Looking back four years later, the ten minutes I spent dreading my speech were really not worth it...

Source: Taken from '*First Impressions*' by Isabel Hui, a student in an American high school

**Note:** Certain edits have been made for ease of students.

a.

i. Describe the theme of the given passage.

(2 Marks)

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ii. Discuss how the theme in part (i) is relevant to your life as a student. Give THREE points to support your answer.

(3 Marks)

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b. The author's life before her current school can be described as challenging.

Provide THREE textual references from the given passage to support the given statement.

(3 Marks)

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- c. The author wore a dress to her class.

Describe the significance of this dress in TWO points.

(4 Marks)

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- d. Summarise the given passage in no more than 100 words.

**Note:** Use your OWN words in the summary. Copying entire sentences/ lines from the passage will lead to a deduction of ONE mark.

(5 Marks)

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Q.2.

(Total 10 Marks)

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

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**EITHER**

- a. You want to arrange a superhero-themed party for your younger sibling's birthday. For this purpose, write an e-mail to your sibling's best friend(s) asking for his/ her/ their help in organising the party.

In your e-mail,

- describe the venue of the party.
- discuss the arrangements according to the theme of the party.

**OR**

- b. Imagine you are in a boarding school or hostel. Your school is arranging a summer camp in another city and you want to be a part of it.

Write a letter to your parent/ guardian requesting to attend the camp. In your letter, discuss ONE

- activity in the camp that you would like to learn.
- impact that the learned skill would have on your personality and/ or academic year.

*Make your notes below or on the pages given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 6 and 7.*

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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**.

**EITHER**

- a. 'Rags to riches' refers to any situation in which a person rises from poverty to extreme wealth. For example, the author of Harry Potter, J. K. Rowling was struggling to find work and make a living. After publishing her 'Harry Potter' series, she became a wealthy woman.

Compose a story on the theme of rags to riches. In your story,

- describe the pitiful condition of the protagonist.
- explain the moment of crisis that makes the protagonist determined to bring about a change.
- elaborate the moment of realisation by the protagonist that victory has been achieved.

**OR**

- b. Suppose that you are living in a time when other planets in the universe are found to be inhabited by people and travelling between the planets has become a reality.

Compose a story about the time you had gone to another planet for holidays from the Earth.

Discuss the following points in your story:

- Feature(s) of the planet
- Any TWO differences observed between the planet and the Earth
- Your experience on the planet

**OR**

- c. Write an essay about your favourite teacher. In your essay, describe

- the appearance or personality of the teacher.
- any ONE reason why the teacher is your favourite.
- a situation with your teacher that left a lasting impact on your life.

*Make your notes below or on the pages given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 9 and 10.*



Option \_\_\_\_\_

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