

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS X**

**ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2024**

**English Compulsory Paper I**

**Time: 1 hour    Marks: 30**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Read each question carefully.
2. Answer the questions on the separate answer sheet provided. DO NOT write your answers on the question paper.
3. There are 100 answer numbers on the answer sheet. Use answer numbers 1 to 30 only.
4. In each question, there are four choices A, B, C, D. Choose ONE. On the answer grid, black out the circle for your choice with a pencil as shown below.

Correct Way		Incorrect Ways	
1		1	
		2	
		3	
		4	

**Candidate's Signature**

5. If you want to change your answer, ERASE the first answer completely with a rubber, before blacking out a new circle.
6. DO NOT write anything in the answer grid. The computer only records what is in the circles.

### **Listening Comprehension Section**

In this section, you will hear two passages. Each one will be played two times.

Listen carefully to the first passage, and then read questions 1 to 6. You will have two minutes' reading time.

The passage will then be played again. You can make notes on your question paper.

When the passage has finished, enter your answers on your separate answer sheet. You will have three minutes to pencil in your answers.

Follow the instructions on the front page of Paper I to show which of the options, A, B, C or D, you have selected for each question.

### **Listening Passage I**

The speaker talks about life on planet Mars.

Source: Adapted from '*Life on Mars*' by Anonymous

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Mark your responses to these questions on your multiple choice answer sheet.

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1. The speaker begins the heard passage by
  - A. describing the Earth.
  - B. defining the solar system.
  - C. mentioning one of Mars's oceans.
  - D. stating the position of Mars in the solar system.
2. The speaker mentions that previously, Mars resembled
  - A. the Sun.
  - B. the Earth.
  - C. Antarctica.
  - D. a huge ocean.
3. Based on the information by the speaker, life on Mars can be BEST described as
  - A. boring.
  - B. peaceful.
  - C. appealing.
  - D. horrifying.
4. The speaker does NOT mention Mars's
  - A. temperature.
  - B. surface.
  - C. gravity.
  - D. moons.
5. The speaker provides information MAINLY through
  - A. figurative expressions.
  - B. explanations.
  - C. suggestions.
  - D. reflections.
6. The text type of the heard passage is
  - A. reflective.
  - B. persuasive.
  - C. informative.
  - D. communicative.

PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD

Now we will play the second passage. It will also be played two times.

Listen carefully to the first passage and then read questions 7 to 13. You will have two minutes' reading time.

The passage will then be played again. You can make notes on your question paper.

When the passage has finished, enter your answers on the separate answer sheet provided to you. You will have three minutes to pencil in your answers.

### **Listening Passage II**

The speaker provides information about an event.

Source: Adapted from an essay written by Andrew Duffy.

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Mark your responses to these questions on your multiple choice answer sheet.

7. The speaker begins the passage by
  - A. discussing her various activities in class.
  - B. stating the importance of college.
  - C. stating the name of her college.
  - D. describing her writing skills.
8. The advertisement analysis assignment helped the speaker in
  - A. developing advertisements.
  - B. discussing various authors' writings.
  - C. gaining confidence through advertising.
  - D. understanding the effects of writings on readers.
9. It can be inferred from the heard passage that mentioning sources in research assignment is
  - A. optional.
  - B. essential.
  - C. worthless.
  - D. not required.
10. The speaker mentions about a practice that helped her become a good writer. This practice is
  - A. journal writing.
  - B. academic writing.
  - C. advertisement writing.
  - D. genre-specific writing.
11. Based on the information in the heard passage, which of the following adjectives BEST describes the speaker's personality?
  - A. Incompetent
  - B. Determined
  - C. Social
  - D. Lazy
12. The speaker provides information through
  - A. comparisons.
  - B. descriptions.
  - C. arguments.
  - D. dialogues.
13. The tone of the passage is
  - A. bitter.
  - B. cynical.
  - C. neutral.
  - D. reflective.

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## Reading Comprehension Section

You have 25 minutes for the reading comprehension section. This section has two passages, each followed by multiple choice questions. You are advised to spend approximately 12.5 minutes on each of the given passages.

Read the following passage carefully and then answer the multiple choice questions which follow.

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### Reading Passage I

Animals may not be able to form words, but they can certainly communicate. Birds use songs and calls, and other animals use a combination of sounds and movements to communicate. Primates have an advanced system of communication that includes vocalisation, hand gestures and body language. But even primates stop short of what man has been able to achieve – spoken language. Our ability to form a limitless number of thoughts into spoken word is one of the things that separates us from our less evolved cousins. While we know that language first appeared among Homo sapiens somewhere between 30,000 and 100,000 years ago, the secret to how language evolved is still unknown, and mainstream theories fall into two distinctly different camps.

- 5      spoken language. Our ability to form a limitless number of thoughts into spoken word is one of the things that separates us from our less evolved cousins. While we know that language first appeared among Homo sapiens somewhere between 30,000 and 100,000 years ago, the secret to how language evolved is still unknown, and mainstream theories fall into two distinctly different camps.
- 10    One widely held theory is that language came about as an evolutionary adaptation, which is when a population undergoes a change in process over time to better survive. That is where the idea of natural selection comes into play, which is the notion that the specific physical traits of a population make that population more likely to survive its environment – think about the turtle and its shell. The idea here is that language was created to help humans survive. Why?
- 15    ...Humans needed to communicate with each other in order to hunt, farm and defend themselves successfully from the surrounding harsh environment...

- As things became more complicated around them, humans needed a more complex system to convey information to one another. Think of it like this: Early man sees a group of deer he wants to hunt. He grunts a sound to his hunting partner that means “deer are nearby.” One day, a storm comes in and the hunter notices that thunder scares the deer away. As a result, the hunter goes hungry until the storm passes. Over time, the same hunter also learns to recognise the warning signs for bad weather...Early man realises that when the sky darkens and the wind picks up, he needs to tell his hunting partner to speed up the pursuit of the deer. Therefore, he comes up with a series of grunts that reference both the deer and the bad weather. That series
- 20    a storm comes in and the hunter notices that thunder scares the deer away. As a result, the hunter goes hungry until the storm passes. Over time, the same hunter also learns to recognise the warning signs for bad weather...Early man realises that when the sky darkens and the wind picks up, he needs to tell his hunting partner to speed up the pursuit of the deer. Therefore, he comes up with a series of grunts that reference both the deer and the bad weather. That series
- 25    of grunts was the beginning of an evolutionary adaptation that eventually became language.

Source: Adapted from ‘*How did language evolve?*’ by Charles W. Bryant

Mark your responses to these questions on your multiple choice answer sheet.

14. The author begins the given passage by
- A. comparing animals with birds.
  - B. mentioning a fact.
  - C. presenting an opinion.
  - D. tracing how words came to be.
15. The underlined pronoun in line 6 is used for
- I. context
  - II. content
  - III. emphasis
- A. I and II.
  - B. I and III.
  - C. II only.
  - D. III only.
16. At the end of paragraph 1, it can be concluded that the history of language is
- A. at least 100,000 years old.
  - B. immeasurable.
  - C. limited to a few systems.
  - D. still debatable.
17. It can be inferred from paragraph 2 that the function of language is that of
- A. communication.
  - B. vocal expressions only.
  - C. endurance.
  - D. physicality.
18. In paragraph 3, the author mentions the deer in order to
- A. compare it with man.
  - B. describe its hunting patterns.
  - C. highlight the process of man's adjustment.
  - D. illustrate the significance of weather.
19. The text type of the given passage is BEST described as a
- A. campaign literature.
  - B. commentary.
  - C. news report.
  - D. research article.

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Read the following passage carefully and then answer the multiple choice questions which follow.

### Reading Passage II

Often, people wonder why they should go through the four walls of the university to obtain a degree in Art History. Still, Art history is a more prominent way of preserving historical events and making our past last even with the changes that go with modernisation and civilisation, and studying the history of art is a great reflection to understand these events...

- 5 Just like history, art is almost as old as man. Art History is a feasible means of preserving the cultural heritage of any country or people, as culture is dynamic and progressive... Written words or spoken history of past events would undoubtedly give us a sense of the past, pointing out the way of life of our people in the past. [It] provides data for researchers, a background knowledge for students as well as full flare professionals in the area...
- 10 While the unprofessional people only appreciate the beauty of that piece of art, an Art History student would take time to observe the main essence and context of it. For instance, going to the museum without background knowledge of art or a tour guide might not be very interesting and engaging. This is obtainable because you might not be knowledgeable about how to interpret the works in the galleries or the cathedral in the museum...
- 15 Art History promotes our understanding of the changes in our societies and reminds us of important and strategic events in the past... As time passes by, history may be perverted, although we have the documented words to testify to the happenings that took place centuries back... A historian may explain the significant occurrences of the past, but will most likely not talk about the apparels worn by people at such accessions\*...
- 20 Furthermore, you do not need to be dexterous at any of these things before you can enroll in the art history programme. What you are primarily required to do is to have a considerably good sense of appreciation for the world in totality and view things from a unique perspective... Art History is a field that incorporates other fields like politics, anthropology, humanity, literature, sociology, economics, etc. In a nutshell... Art History is the most important part of history...

\*accessions: (noun) agreements or treaties

Source: Adapted from an article published by the Editorial Committee on <https://www.theartist.me>



Mark your responses to these questions on your multiple choice answer sheet.

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20. The underlined words in line 1 are used MAINLY in the context of
- A. consideration.
  - B. compromise.
  - C. obligation.
  - D. doubt.
21. In paragraph 2, the first sentence exemplifies the literary device
- A. simile.
  - B. metaphor.
  - C. hyperbole.
  - D. personification.
22. The author provides the example of a museum to
- A. discuss the work done by tour guides.
  - B. highlight the architecture of museums.
  - C. persuade people to work for art museums.
  - D. emphasise on the importance of studying art history.
23. With reference to the information in the last paragraph, people interested in registering in an arts history programme should
- A. have prior knowledge about history only.
  - B. have an insight into global affairs.
  - C. be appreciative of art itself.
  - D. be artists themselves.
24. The PRIMARY target audience of the given passage are
- A. literature teachers.
  - B. professional historians.
  - C. playwrights.
  - D. students.
25. The paragraphs of the given passage are organised to MAINLY show
- A. classification.
  - B. investigation.
  - C. comparison.
  - D. elaboration.
26. The text type of the given essay is BEST identified as a/ an
- A. expository essay.
  - B. persuasive essay.
  - C. analytical essay.
  - D. reflective essay.

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### Cloze Passage Section

This section has a cloze passage, followed by multiple choice questions. You are advised to spend approximately 10 minutes on this section.

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The Grand Canyon is in northern Arizona, and (1) \_\_\_\_\_ one of the great tourist attractions in the United States as well as one of the seven natural wonders of the world. The canyon is an overwhelming experience, and nothing (2) \_\_\_\_\_ prepare a visitor for the sight. The Grand Canyon is a massive canyon carved over several million years by the Colorado River. Grand Canyon National Park was founded as Grand Canyon National Monument in 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt, and became a national park in 1919. Today, the park (3) contained over 1.2 million acres and in 2018 received about 6.4 million visitors. Due (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the high altitude, snowfall is a regular occurrence during the winter months. Flash floods can occur suddenly, even in areas where there is no immediate rain.

Source: Adapted from an article on Grand Canyon

27. Which of the following words is suited to fill blank 1?

- A. is
- B. be
- C. was
- D. had

28. The word suited to fill blank 2 is

- A. can
- B. should
- C. could have
- D. should have

29. The underlined word labelled as 3 can be corrected as

- A. contain
- B. contains
- C. is contained
- D. has contained

30. The word that can fill blank 4 is

- A. to
- B. too
- C. below
- D. within

END OF PAPER

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