

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XI






ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2024

English Compulsory Paper I

Time: 55 minutes Marks: 40

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 40 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	A	B		D	1	A	B		D
					2	A	B		D
					3	A	B		D
					4	A	B		D

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 10. 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

This recording talks about peaches.

Source: Taken from Images, Dawn Newspaper.

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

1. According to the heard passage, the earliest known peaches are from
 - A. China.
 - B. Japan.
 - C. Persia.
 - D. Greece.
2. Which of the following information is given FIRST in the heard passage?
 - A. A Greek philosopher thought that the fruit came from Persia.
 - B. The peel of a ripe peach has at least 10 active substances.
 - C. Today, peach is grown in at least 64 countries.
 - D. Doctors recommend eating peaches.
3. According to the heard passage, peaches in Japan are associated with
 - A. folktales.
 - B. paintings.
 - C. philosophy.
 - D. skin products.
4. In the heard passage, peaches in Pakistan are cultivated in all of the following areas EXCEPT
 - A. Swat Valley.
 - B. Faisalabad.
 - C. Quetta.
 - D. Kalat.

5. According to the heard passage, peaches are the most popular fruit after
- A. plums.
 - B. apples.
 - C. cherries.
 - D. strawberries.
6. Based on the heard passage, the reason why peach is used in skin products is that it
- A. is easily available in the market.
 - B. contains vitamin C.
 - C. contains vitamin A.
 - D. is very affordable.
7. The speaker mentions that the part of a peach that destroys fat layers is its
- A. juice.
 - B. peel.
 - C. pulp.
 - D. seed.
8. According to the heard passage, peaches are recommended as a part of the diet because they
- A. are easily available.
 - B. are very popular.
 - C. can be easily preserved.
 - D. help in reducing weight.
9. According to the speaker, juices and jams are a good way to
- A. avoid infections.
 - B. make herbal tea.
 - C. consume peaches.
 - D. preserve peaches.
10. The MAIN purpose of the author is to
- A. suggest ways to cultivate peaches in different climates.
 - B. emphasise on the dietary benefits of peaches.
 - C. show the market value of peaches.
 - D. trace the origin of peaches.

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

Listen carefully to the second passage, and then read questions 11 to 20. You will have two minutes' reading time. The passage will then be played again.

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

Listening Passage II

In this recording, the speaker talks about heat wave.

Source: Adapted from the writings of Jerilyn Watson

Note: The passage was written in mid-2010s.

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

11. At the beginning of the speech, the speaker states that severe health problems may result from heat. Which evidence does she cite to support her view?
 - A. More than a thousand people died in Karachi due to heat.
 - B. Hot weather results in heat waves, heat stress and heat stroke.
 - C. High night-time temperature results in many health problems.
 - D. Hot weather is a common problem in many parts of the world.
12. According to the speaker, heat wave is when
 - A. the daytime temperature is higher as compared to night-time.
 - B. the weather is dry at night as compared to day.
 - C. heart and diabetic patients become very ill.
 - D. temperature remains high for many days.
13. Which information is heard FIRST?
 - A. This causes great stress on the human body.
 - B. The pain is a warning that the body is becoming too hot.
 - C. If you suspect that someone has heatstroke, call emergency medical services immediately.
 - D. Countless others have died over a period of time in many cities and villages.
14. If temperature at night-time does not drop much as compared to daytime, it will cause
 - A. heat stress.
 - B. high fever.
 - C. dizziness.
 - D. choking.

15. The least severe and most common problem related to extremely hot weather is
- A. heat paralysis.
 - B. heat stress.
 - C. heatstroke.
 - D. heat wave.
16. People who experience the MOST danger from heat stress are
- A. heart patients.
 - B. obese children.
 - C. young athletes.
 - D. middle aged people.
17. If a person has a severe headache, rapid heartbeat, he/ she does not sweat and feels dizzy, chances are that he/ she may be suffering from
- A. heat stress.
 - B. heatstroke.
 - C. brain damage.
 - D. muscle cramps.
18. The speaker advises to revive a patient suffering from heatstroke by cooling them down at certain areas. The reason for this is because
- A. people are warm blooded and cool down slowly.
 - B. of the concentration of arteries and veins in them.
 - C. the skin of the patient would be hot, dry and scaly.
 - D. an unconscious person can only feel sensation at those spots.
19. According to the speaker, the FIRST step that should be taken when providing first aid to a heatstroke victim is to
- A. remove excessive clothing.
 - B. move the patient away from heat.
 - C. rub ice packs on the neck and underarms.
 - D. raise the person's feet about thirty centimetres.
20. The MAIN purpose of the text that you have heard is to
- A. give an account of first aid tips for heat stroke patients.
 - B. create awareness about health problems related to heat.
 - C. prevent the conditions that may cause problems for patients.
 - D. explain various kinds of medical emergencies and their symptoms.

Reading Comprehension Section

You have 30 minutes' time for the reading comprehension section. This section has two reading passages; each followed by 10 multiple choice questions. You are advised to spend approximately 15 minutes on each of the given passages.

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

Reading Passage I

I was in my second year of high school not knowing what I was going to do after...Then one assignment in my computer programming class helped me choose what I wanted to be. I woke up to a very sunny day and clear sky to get ready for school...When class had started, the teacher gave us an assignment to make a program for a calculator. I was very excited because

5 that was our first program that could be used by everyone...

After that day, I would work at home and during school on the program. When I worked on it at home my mom would not believe that I was doing homework. She thought I was on the computer playing a game because I never used the computer for homework...I remember sometimes staying up till 1 am on a Friday working on the program...

10 I had three days of work on the program, and I thought I had finished it. I was so excited to run it for the first time and try it out. I was proud of it until I tried to run it. The program popped up a black window that was empty and only had a blinking white dash on the top left. One second later, the window vanished...Knowing that the program did not work put me in such bad mood that I did not want to do anything else, but finish the project...

15 The next day, I got to class and was anxious to ask [Mr McGinnis] what was wrong with the program...Mr McGinnis looked at the code and responded with "on my computer it says that you have a three-syntax error so try looking for three missing commas."

I finally found the commas and was feeling that it was going to function this time. I looked for common mistakes and could not find something else that would not make it work...It made me

20 think that maybe programming is not for everyone...

The deadline was getting closer. In total, it took two weeks to write the program, working on it at home and at school...I was at home checking for syntax errors like crazy. Rereading every single line like if I was reading an article...I was shaking while holding the mouse hovering over the execute button on the program like if my life depended on it. I finally had the guts to

25 click on it and the computer froze. I was staring at my computer screen waiting...Then finally, the program came up with the black windowed screen...I dialled on my computer 3 x 4, then the program gave me 12. I knew that the program was working perfectly and I had made a calculator. After I had finished this program, I realised how hard it was just to write a simple program like a calculator...Computer programming class helped me pick what I wanted to be

30 and that is a computer science major...

Source: Adapted from 'My First Experience in Programming' by Anonymous

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

21. The rising action of the given passage is when the author
- A. began his/ her second year of school.
 - B. was working at home after school.
 - C. woke up from his/ her sleep.
 - D. was given an assignment.
22. The author mentions that ‘my mom would not believe that I was doing homework’. This is because the author
- A. never did homework before.
 - B. was using the computer for homework.
 - C. was working for long hours on a Friday.
 - D. used to be non-serious about the homework.
23. In line 11, the underlined word ‘until’ is used in the context of
- A. miscommunication.
 - B. disappointment.
 - C. imagination.
 - D. excitement.
24. Mr McGinnis can be described as
- A. indifferent.
 - B. observant.
 - C. amusing.
 - D. strict.
25. Which KEY message can a student infer from paragraphs 4 and 5?
- A. Programming always causes anxiety
 - B. Always be in your comfort zone
 - C. Reflect on how to solve issues
 - D. Teachers should be feared
26. Which of the following literary devices is used in the underlined phrase (line 22)?
- A. Personification
 - B. Metaphor
 - C. Simile
 - D. Irony

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

27. At the beginning of the last paragraph, the author's PRIMARY emotion is

- A. relaxed.
- B. amused.
- C. isolated.
- D. stressed.

28. The author's journey can be BEST described as

- A. transformative.
- B. adventurous.
- C. monotonous.
- D. physical.

29. The moral of the given passage is that one should

- A. listen to one's parents.
- B. never give up.
- C. not be selfish.
- D. be truthful.

30. The text type of the given passage is a/ an

- A. biography.
- B. commentary.
- C. journal entry.
- D. autobiography.

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Now read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Reading Passage II

Mangroves provide natural infrastructure to help protect nearby populated areas by reducing erosion and absorbing storm surge impacts during extreme weather events such as hurricanes.

They are also important to the ecosystem too. Their dense roots help bind and build soils. Their above-ground roots slow down water flows and encourage sediment deposits that reduce coastal erosion. The complex mangrove root systems filter nitrates, phosphates and other pollutants from the water, improving the water quality flowing from rivers and streams into the estuarine* and ocean environment. Mangrove forests capture massive amounts of carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and then trap and store them in their carbon-rich flooded soils for millennia. This is an important ecosystem service as we face climate change. This buried carbon is known as ‘blue carbon’ because it is stored underwater in coastal ecosystems like mangrove forests, seagrass beds and salt marshes...

Mangrove forests also provide habitat and refuge to a wide array of wildlife such as birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals and plants. Estuarine habitats with coastal mangrove shorelines and tree roots are often important spawning and nursery territory for juvenile marine species including shrimp, crabs, and many sport and commercial fish species such as redfish, snook and tarpons.

Mangrove forests provide nature experiences for people such as birding, fishing, paddle boarding, and the therapeutic calm and relaxation that comes from enjoying peaceful time in nature. They also provide economic benefits to communities as a nursery for commercial fish stocks.

Unfortunately, there are many challenges that place mangrove forests under threat. Human impact such as dredging, filling, water pollution from herbicides and development can lead to mangrove erosion and habitat destruction. When mangrove forests are cleared and destroyed, they release massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.

An important part of our ongoing efforts to restore natural habitat at Blowing Rocks Preserve is the restoration of red mangroves to the shoreline. The importance of mangrove planting at our preserves cannot be understated, to help protect and restore this vital Florida treasure...The Nature Conservancy (TNC) continues protection and restoration efforts of our important forests...on behalf of people and nature. TNC has published several reports that demonstrate the benefits of mangroves in Florida, The Bahamas and Mexico...Studies like these are important to demonstrate the value of natural climate solutions to encourage investment in nature along our shorelines.

*estuarine: relating to an estuary or the wide part of a river at the place where it joins the sea.

Source: Adapted from an article on mangroves as published on <https://www.nature.org/>

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

31. The pronoun 'they' in line 3 refers to the
- A. populated areas.
 - B. mangroves.
 - C. ecosystem.
 - D. hurricanes.
32. According to the information in the given passage, blue carbon is
- A. a quality indicator of water bodies.
 - B. a blue coloured molecular structure.
 - C. the stored carbon in marine habitats.
 - D. the term used for gases that threaten ecosystems.
33. All of the following species of commercial fish are mentioned in the passage EXCEPT
- A. bonefish.
 - B. tarpons.
 - C. redfish.
 - D. snook.
34. With reference to the context, the underlined terms in line 16 are categorised as
- A. substances.
 - B. activities.
 - C. projects.
 - D. studies.
35. Paragraph 5 focuses on the
- A. effects of climate change on various ecosystems.
 - B. economic activities near mangrove forests.
 - C. dangers to mangrove plantation.
 - D. significance of herbicides.
36. Another word similar to the term 'reports' in the given passage is
- A. amounts.
 - B. studies.
 - C. efforts.
 - D. stocks.

37. The purpose of the given passage is to
- A. describe the importance of water bodies.
 - B. discuss various activities of animal species in the wild.
 - C. suggest travelling to various tourist destinations of the world.
 - D. illustrate the work of TNC for conservation of mangrove forests.
38. A suitable title for the given passage could be
- A. *'Importance of Fish'.*
 - B. *'The Environmental Impact of Carbon'.*
 - C. *'The Commercialism of Mangrove Forests'.*
 - D. *'Saving the Environment through Mangroves'.*
39. The information in the given passage is provided through
- A. statistical data.
 - B. factual evidence.
 - C. personal opinion.
 - D. figurative expressions.
40. The text type of the given passage is a
- A. news report.
 - B. journal entry.
 - C. memorandum.
 - D. magazine article.

Please use this page for rough work

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