

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS XI**

**ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2024**

**English Compulsory Paper II**

**Time: 2 hours 5 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**

**RUBRIC**

2. 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.

**TEXT A**

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 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...

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...

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 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 click on and it 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 and that is a computer science major...

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

TEXT B



Source: Taken from Cervantes Institute as published on [myspanishconnect.com](http://myspanishconnect.com)

- a. Text A can be used to guide students in their lives.

Justify the given statement in THREE points.

(3 Marks)

---

---

---

---

---

---

- b. With reference to the information in Text A, identify whether the protagonist (author) is a round or flat character? Provide TWO reasons to support your answer. (3 Marks)

---

---

---

---

---

---

- c. Suppose you are the author of Text A.

Which TWO aspects of the text would you have elaborated upon? Give a reason for choosing each aspect. (4 Marks)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- d. With reference to Text B, infer any FOUR benefits of learning another language. (4 Marks)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- e. Draw any THREE dissimilarities between Texts A and B. (3 Marks)

---

---

---

---

---

---

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Q.2. (Total 10 Marks)

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

Disaster management aims to reduce, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ avoid, the potential losses from hazards, assure prompt and appropriate assistance to victims of disaster, and achieve rapid and effective recovery. The disaster management cycle (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the ongoing process (3) \_\_\_\_\_ which governments, businesses, and civil society plan for and reduce the impact of disasters, react during and immediately following a disaster, and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ steps to recover after a disaster has occurred.

Developmental considerations contribute to all aspects of the disaster management cycle. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of the main goals of disaster management, and one of its strongest links with development, is the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ protection and recovery during disasters and emergencies.

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ a disaster, humanitarian agencies are often called upon to deal with immediate response and recovery. (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the necessary preparations have not been made, the humanitarian agencies will not be able to meet the immediate needs of the people.

As the emergency (9) \_\_\_\_\_ brought under control, the affected population is capable of undertaking a growing number of activities aimed at restoring their lives and the infrastructure that supports (10) \_\_\_\_\_.

Source: Adapted from [https://www.gdrc.org/uem/disasters/1-dm\\_cycle.html](https://www.gdrc.org/uem/disasters/1-dm_cycle.html)

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. Assume that you are applying for an undergraduate degree programme in environmental sciences at a university.

Write a personal statement to the university's admission committee. In your statement,

- mention a time when you became interested in the subject.
- describe how the degree is in line with your future goals.
- discuss TWO skills that show your suitability for a career in environmental sciences.

**OR**

- b. Assume you work as a Human Resources (HR) officer for a prestigious organisation that has recently hired a new employee.

Write a business letter explaining the company's mission, its values, and its culture to the employee. You must include the following details:

- Provide an overview of the company
- Discuss TWO values the company possesses along with the company's culture
- Mention an incentive the company offers to employees

*Make your notes below or on the pages given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 8, 9 and 10.*

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Option \_\_\_\_\_

AKU-EB  
Annual Examinations 2024  
for Teaching & Learning only

AKU-EB  
Annual Examinations 2024  
for Teaching & Learning only

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE



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 a story (real or imagined) which includes the given sentence: 'I knew that at this point, there was no going back.'

Elaborate on the following aspects in your narration:

- The main character and at least one supporting character of the story (appearance and/ or personality)
- The conflict of the story
- How the conflict was resolved

**OR**

- b. Imagine that you were invited as a guest speaker in an event that was celebrating the outstanding work done by educators.

Write an essay about your experience of attending the event. In your essay,

- describe your emotions when you found out that you were the guest speaker.
- elaborate on the contents of your speech that you gave at the event.
- discuss your interaction with the educators.
- summarise your overall impression of the event.

**OR**

- c. Leadership is described as 'a set of behaviors used to help people align their collective direction, to execute strategic plans, and to continually renew an organization'.

(Source: McKinsey and Company)

There are many types of leadership. One type is autocratic (tight control over people), another is democratic (people are welcomed to share ideas), and there are many others.

Write an essay on the type of leadership that is best suited in today's globalised world. In your essay,

- describe the type of leadership suited for the world today.
- describe TWO personality traits and/ or skills that make good leaders as per the selected leadership type.
- discuss ONE example from real life or a fictional character who reflects the selected leadership type.

*Make your notes on the pages given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 12, 13 and 14.*

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Option \_\_\_\_\_

AKU-EB  
Annual Examinations 2024  
for Teaching & Learning only

AKU-EB  
Annual Examinations 2024  
for Teaching & Learning only

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

AKU-EB  
Annual Examinations 2024  
for Teaching & Learning only

END OF PAPER

Please use this page for rough work

AKU-EB  
Annual Examinations 2024  
for Teaching & Learning only

Please use this page for rough work

AKU-EB  
Annual Examinations 2024  
for Teaching & Learning only