

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS IX**

**MODEL EXAMINATION PAPER 2018**

**English Compulsory Paper I**

**Listening Passage I**

Good morning! I am a wildlife photographer and just recently I have once again travelled the high roads of the snow leopard's country. I saw no snow leopards but sensed their presence, feeling lucky and thrilled to be under the distant gaze of this magnificent cat. Today, I will introduce you to this magnificent creature.

The elegant snow leopard is one of the world's most isolated and mysterious cats. Sparsely distributed across 12 countries in Central Asia, it is usually found in high, rugged mountain landscapes at elevations of 3,000 to 4,500 metres.

Snow leopards also known as 'the ghost-cat' are solitary creatures. They usually hunt at dawn and dusk. They are successful hunters, able to kill prey up to three times their own weight. Their beautiful spotted coats change with the seasons — from a thick, white fur to keep them warm in winter to a fine yellow-grey coat in the summer. The fur also helps them while hunting; as due to the colour of their coat, they can easily remain hidden in their surroundings. The pattern of spots on the fur is unique to each individual snow leopard.

Poaching, conflict with people and loss of prey are persistent threats to this rare cat. Over the past 20 years, the population of snow leopards has declined by at least 20% — though exact numbers are uncertain because these cats are so elusive.

Snow leopards' favoured prey is the mountain sheep or goats that share their habitat. These herbivores, that is, the mountain sheep and goats, graze on the sparse alpine plants of the region. Without the snow leopard, there would be too many herbivores, which would overgraze and degrade the natural habitat, leaving no food for other wildlife and hence disrupting the balance of the ecosystem.

The snow leopard's habitat also provides important resources for many people who live there — from food and medicine to wood for shelter, heat and fuel. So by helping to protect the snow leopard, we are helping to conserve its environment for the benefit of people and nature. The conservation of snow leopards may also be commercially beneficial because it can attract many tourists.

**Source: Adapted from *Snow Leopards* published in National Geographic Magazine and incorporates information from *Stories from the Roof of the World***

## Listening Passage II

How do you get the most out of revision time, and end up with the best grades you can? Or, if you are a different sort of student, how can you get the same grades you are getting now, but spend less time revising?

Scientists think that analysing the way people play computer games is a great way to study learning because people spend many hours practicing computer games, and those games automatically record every action people take as they practice. Players even finish the game with a score that tells them how good they are.

Here are a few suggestions to help you revise for exams.

**The first suggestion is to space your practice:** Analysis showed that people who leave longer gaps between practice attempts go on to score higher. In fact, the longer the gaps, the higher the scores.

**The second suggestion is to practice the thing you will be tested on:** The big mistake many students make is not practicing the thing they will be tested on. If your exam involves writing an essay, you need to practice essay writing. Merely memorising the material is not enough.

**The third suggestion is to structure information:** Trying to remember something has been shown to have almost no effect on whether you do remember it. The implication for revision is clear: just looking at your notes won't help you learn them.

Instead, you need to reorganise the information in some way — whether by making notes of your notes, drawing a sequence to organise information, forming abbreviations, making flowcharts and thinking about how what you are reading relates to other material, or practicing writing answers. This approach, called 'depth of processing', is the way to ensure material gets lodged in your memory.

**The fourth suggestion is to rest and sleep:** New research shows that a brief rest after learning something can help you remember it a week later. This is great news for those of us who like to nap during the day, and is a signal to all of us that staying up all night to revise probably is not a good idea.

**Source:** Adapted from *Secrets to Revision that Can Improve Your Grades* published in The Guardian