

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS X**

**MODEL EXAMINATION PAPER 2020**

**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	(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 7. 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 and a half 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 passage tells about reading efficiency and speed.

Source: Adapted from [www.readingsoft.com](http://www.readingsoft.com)

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

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1. The speaker introduces the heard passage by
  - A. drawing comparisons between different reading speed.
  - B. expressing concern regarding recent reading practices.
  - C. appreciating the reading efficiency of top readers.
  - D. describing the significance of reading.
2. According to the speaker, top readers read at an average speed of 1000 words per minute (wpm) whereas average readers can read up to
  - A. 200 wpm.
  - B. 150 wpm.
  - C. 80 wpm.
  - D. 60 wpm.
3. The speaker in the heard text gives the example of an athlete to emphasise the
  - A. efficiency of the athlete.
  - B. achievement of targeted goals.
  - C. importance of regular practice.
  - D. enhancement of athlete's speed.
4. According to the speaker, reading seminars often fade with time because of the lack of
  - A. evaluation of reading progress.
  - B. availability of reading material.
  - C. motivational instructors.
  - D. interested students.

5. The speaker observes that there are computer users who are also slow typists. The information given IMMEDIATELY after this is about
- A. joining a typing course.
  - B. improving the reading speed.
  - C. developing skimming abilities.
  - D. enhancing reading comprehension.
6. In the heard text, the speaker aims to
- A. guide top readers.
  - B. evaluate reading practices.
  - C. inform about types of reading.
  - D. highlight ways to improve reading.
7. The LAST information given by the speaker in the heard text is about the
- A. seminars on speed reading.
  - B. speed of average readers.
  - C. speed reading software.
  - D. books on speed reading.

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

Listen carefully to the first passage and then read questions 8 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 and a half minutes to pencil in your answers.

### Listening Passage II

In this passage, the speaker narrates a strange event that involves a dog.

Source: Adapted from, '*Watch Dog*' published on blogspot.com

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

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8. The FIRST information presented by the speaker is about the
- A. introduction to the dog.
  - B. location of Mujtabas' house.
  - C. description of Mujtabas' backyard.
  - D. departure of Mujtabas' to their daughter's place.
9. According to the heard passage, the local police arrived
- A. in the middle of the night.
  - B. when the villagers gave up.
  - C. when the dog was most brutal.
  - D. after the animal rescuer had arrived.
10. The speaker mentions that a huge Alsatian was brought. The MOST likely reason for bringing the Alsatian was to
- A. kill the Mujtabas' dog.
  - B. attack the Mujtabas' dog.
  - C. challenge the Mujtabas' dog.
  - D. calm down the Mujtabas' dog.
11. The information presented in the heard passage is MAINLY through
- A. humorous phrases.
  - B. chronological events.
  - C. argumentative dialogues.
  - D. metaphorical representation.

12. At the end of the heard text, Mr Mujtaba said, “The new owners must be prepared to stay indoors for a few days”.

The reason for this is that the dog could

- A. harm the villagers.
  - B. be scared of people.
  - C. harm the new owners.
  - D. be suffering from a disease.
13. The MAIN theme of the heard story is
- A. taming animals.
  - B. sympathy for animals.
  - C. injustice towards animals.
  - D. different breeds of animals.

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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 minutes on each of the given passages.

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

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### Reading Passage I

Russia is the largest country in the world and spans Europe and Asia, where about 160 ethnic groups can be found. Those who live in Russia are called 'Russians'. Russian is the official language, though over 100 languages are spoken by its people. Majority of Russians identify with the Eastern Orthodox (Christian) religion, but Judaism, Islam and Buddhism are also  
5 practiced.

Russia's capital city is Moscow, though St. Petersburg once held that title and now serves as a 'second capital'. Moscow is home to many important symbols of Russian culture, such as the Kremlin, St. Basil's Cathedral and more. The Russian language practices the Cyrillic alphabet using 33 letters. If you are travelling in Russia, it helps to know which letters in the Cyrillic  
10 alphabet are similar to Latin letters. This makes reading signs and maps easier, even if you cannot speak the language.

Russia has one of the greatest literary cultures and languages. Most people are familiar with Tolstoy, who wrote the formidable *War and Peace* and Dostoevsky, who wrote another weighty book, *Crime and Punishment*. Theatre-goers still laugh at Chekhov's plays and poetry enthusiasts  
15 swoon over the verses of Pushkin. Russians take their literature very seriously and when you travel, visit the former houses of Russian authors; many are preserved as museums.

Russian food and drink is a central part of life in this vast country. Russians are avid tea drinkers, due to which the tea culture is strong. Special holiday foods in Russia, grace tables seasonally and their preparation and consumption is surrounded by rituals. Russian handcrafted  
20 souvenirs make wonderful gifts and home decorations. The most well-known Russian craft is the *matryoshka* doll or painted nesting doll.

Russian families do not differ drastically from families around the world. Both the mother and father typically work and children go to school (where they typically learn English and other languages) to prepare them for university. The *babushka*, the Russian grandmother, fills the role  
25 of the wise woman, curator of memories and traditions and baker of favourite comfort foods. Russian culture is often tradition-driven. Learning about Russian traditions will enrich your experience in Russia because you will be able to navigate social situations more confidently.

Source: Adapted from, '*Russian Culture Facts for Heritage and Traditions: Cheat Sheet for Navigating Russia's Traditions and Customs*' by Kerry Kubilius.

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

14. The passage states that Russia is the largest country in the world. Another word in the passage used to describe the geographical size of the country is
- A. vast.
  - B. navigate.
  - C. formidable.
  - D. well-known.
15. According to line 6, St. Petersburg held the title of being the capital of Russia. The word CLOSEST to the word 'title' in this context would be
- A. brand.
  - B. subject.
  - C. heading.
  - D. designation.
16. Paragraph 3 MAINLY focuses on Russian
- A. museums.
  - B. playwrights.
  - C. drama-lovers.
  - D. literary traditions.
17. The MOST suitable title for paragraph 5 is
- A. Russian Families.
  - B. Russian Heritage.
  - C. Russian Experiences.
  - D. Russian Curators of Culture.
18. An opinion presented by the author in the passage is that
- A. Russians love tea.
  - B. Russia has various racial groups.
  - C. Russian literature is one of the best.
  - D. Russian children learn multiple languages in school.
19. The pronoun, 'they', in line 23 refers to
- A. Russian families.
  - B. school-going children.
  - C. families around the world.
  - D. both parents of Russian children.
20. The MAIN purpose of the article is to
- A. promote tourism in Russia.
  - B. create nostalgia about Russia.
  - C. impart Russian values to the world.
  - D. inform about various aspects of Russia.

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

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### Reading Passage II

Climate is the long-term pattern of weather in a particular area. Weather can change from hour to hour, day to day, month to month or even from year to year. Because climates are mostly constant, living things can adapt to them. Polar bears have adapted to stay warm in polar climates, while cacti have evolved to hold onto water in dry climates. The enormous variety of life on Earth results in large part from the variety of climates that exist.

Climates do change, however — they just change very slowly, over hundreds or even thousands of years. As climates change, organisms that live in the area must adapt, relocate, or risk going extinct.

Earth's climate has changed many times. Earth has also experienced several major ice ages — at least four in the past 500,000 years. During these periods, Earth's temperature decreased, causing an expansion of ice sheets and glaciers. The most recent Ice Age began about 2 million years ago and peaked about 20,000 years ago.

Some human activities also affect the climate change by releasing greenhouse gases — burning fossil fuels for transportation and electricity, or using agricultural technology that increases production, for instance. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, so cutting down forests for timber or development contributes to the greenhouse effect. So do factories that emit pollutants into the atmosphere.

Many scientists are worried that these activities are causing dramatic and dangerous changes in Earth's climate. Average temperatures around the world have risen since the late 1870s, when scientists began tracking them. The seven warmest years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century occurred in the 1980s and 1990s. This warming trend may be a sign that the greenhouse effect is increasing because of human activity. This climate change is often referred to as global warming.

Pakistan makes a tiny contribution to total global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, less than 1% (among the lowest in the world), but it is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, and it has very low technical and financial capacity to adapt to its adverse impacts. The effects of climate change and global warming on Pakistan (the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas) is threatening the volumetric flow rate of many of the most important rivers of Pakistan. In Pakistan, such effects are projected to impact millions of lives.

A climate vulnerability report released by environmental think-tank, Germanwatch, counted Pakistan among the three countries most affected by extreme weather events in 2012. The extreme weather calamities like earthquakes, floods and disturbance in sea level have caused Pakistan to lose many precious lives, food sources and property.

Source: Adapted from National Geographic and The Express Tribune

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

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21. According to the passage, the MAIN difference between weather and climate is that
- A. climate change is more frequent than change in weather.
  - B. some plants can adapt to certain mild climates and all kinds of weather.
  - C. climate does not change frequently whereas weather keeps changing.
  - D. some animals can survive in extreme weather but not in extreme climate.
22. In the event of climate change, all species, for survival, have to
- A. adapt.
  - B. revive.
  - C. take risks.
  - D. live in isolation.
23. Which of the following describes Ice Age MOST ACCURATELY?
- A. Earth's temperature constantly remains extreme.
  - B. Glaciers melt and freeze over a short period of time.
  - C. Earth's temperature decreases and snow accumulates.
  - D. For 20,000 years, temperature constantly remains very low.
24. The purpose of paragraph 4 is to
- A. describe how greenhouse gases affect climate.
  - B. highlight how species survive in extreme conditions.
  - C. describe how agricultural activities negatively impact crops.
  - D. highlight the destructive impact of human activities on the environment.
25. Paragraphs 4 and 5 are organised to show
- A. chronology.
  - B. general details.
  - C. cause and effect.
  - D. order of importance.
26. Paragraphs 6 and 7 MAINLY focus on the
- A. loss of life in Pakistan.
  - B. research conducted by Germanwatch.
  - C. impact of climate change on Pakistan.
  - D. Pakistan's ineffective strategies to combat global warming.

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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.

Ibn-e-Insha, born Sher Muhammad Khan, was a Pakistani Urdu poet, humourist, travelogue writer and newspaper columnist. Along with his poetry, he was (1) regard as one of the best humourists of Urdu. Insha is considered to be one of the best poets and writers of his generation. Ibn-e-Insha (2) \_\_\_\_\_ written several travelogues, (3) showcases his sense of humour and his work has been appreciated by both Urdu writers and critics. He also translated a collection of Chinese poems (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Urdu in 1960.

Source: Adapted from the article, '*Ibn-e-Insha*' as published on <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn-e-Insha>

27. Which of the following should BEST replace the **underlined word labelled as (1)**?

- A. regards
- B. regarded
- C. regarding
- D. highly regarded

28. The word BEST suited to fill **blank (2)** is

- A. has.
- B. had.
- C. has had.
- D. had had.

29. The **underlined word labelled as (3)** should be replaced with

- A. showcase.
- B. showcasing.
- C. has showcased.
- D. had showcased.

30. The word BEST suited to fill **blank (4)** is

- A. by.
- B. into.
- C. from.
- D. within.

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