

**AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

**CLASS X**

**MODEL EXAMINATION PAPER 2020**

**English Compulsory Paper II**

**Time: 2 hours    Marks: 45**

**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 THREE questions. Answer ALL questions. Question 2 offers TWO choices and Question 3 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.

Use a black pencil for diagrams. DO NOT use coloured pencils.

DO NOT use staples, paper clips, glue, correcting fluid or ink erasers.

Complete your answer in the allocated space only. DO NOT write outside the answer box.

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.

5 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 practiced.

10 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 alphabet are similar to Latin letters. This makes reading signs and maps easier, even if you cannot speak the language.

15 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 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.

20 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 souvenirs make wonderful gifts and home decorations. The most well-known Russian craft is the *matryoshka* doll or painted nesting doll.

25 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 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.

- a. Explain THREE aspects of Russian culture based on the information in the given passage. (3 Marks)

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- b. Which aspect of Russia, as described by the author, did you find the MOST interesting? Give a reason for your choice. (2 Marks)

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- c. Based on the information about Russia in the given passage and your own knowledge about Pakistan, to what degree are the cultures of Russia and Pakistan similar and different? Justify your stance with FOUR points of comparison. (4 Marks)

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- d. Based on the information in the passage, what could be the author's purpose in writing the article? Justify your stance in TWO points. (3 Marks)

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- e. Summarise the passage in not more than 100 words. (5 Marks)

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Q.2.

(Total 10 Marks)

Compose a response of about 200-250 words to any **ONE** of the options **a** or **b**.

**EITHER**

- a. In your previous school, you had been the head of the Sports Club. You have recently moved to a new school where students do not take much interest in sports and exercise.

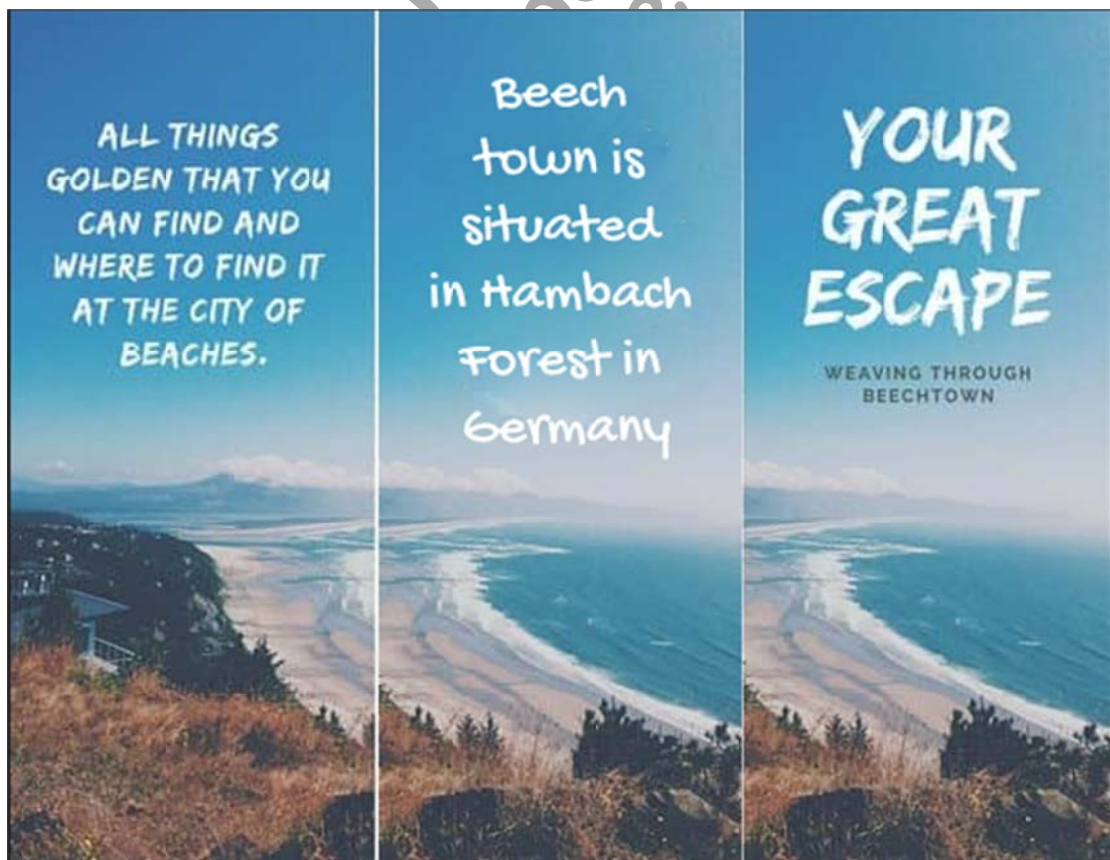
To address this issue, write a letter to your school Principal. In your letter, include

- evidence of the lack of students' interest in sports and exercise.
- TWO ways in which lack of sports and exercise impacts a person's physical and mental well-being.
- a way to encourage sports activities and exercise in your school.

**OR**

- b. A well-reputed travelling agency has published the given brochure for a summer tour. Write a formal email to the agency. In your email, inquire about the

- necessary requirements for travelling.
- any concerns you have about the luggage.
- any other information that you would like to know about the tour.



*Make your notes on the pages given for rough work. Write the final draft on pages 6 and 7.*

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Option \_\_\_\_\_

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Q.3.

(Total 18 Marks)

Write a composition of about 200-300 words on any **ONE** of the options **a, b** or **c**.  
Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

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**EITHER**

- a. A time machine is described as a machine that is capable of transporting a person backwards or forward in time.

Imagine you have a time machine. Write an essay, describing

- appearance of the time machine.
- how you came across the time machine.
- the time you would like to travel to and the reason for it.

**OR**

- b. Since the past few years, internet and social media has changed the way we communicate with one another. On one hand, it has given a platform for students to easily access websites to gain knowledge and skills. On the other hand, the excessive and unethical use of social media is affecting their academics and social life.

Compose an essay about the use of social media by students. In your essay,

- take a stance on whether the use of social media is a healthy activity.
- elaborate upon TWO impacts of social media on today's youth.
- suggest TWO ways to use social media effectively.

**OR**

- c. "One afternoon, on our way back home from school, my friend and I heard a strange noise. We did not want to investigate but..."

Narrate a story based on the given scenario. In your story, describe what

- prompted you to investigate the noise.
- did you discover.
- did you do.

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



Option \_\_\_\_\_

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END OF PAPER

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