



آغا خان یونیورسٹی ایگزامینیشن بورڈ

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

**Rationalised Exam Specifications
for HSSC Part I
Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021**

FOR THE EXAMINATION SESSION OF 2021 ONLY

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Introduction:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government directives, schools across the country are opening late, resulting in a short academic year 2020-21.

The Aga Khan University Examination Board (AKU-EB) has been proactively responding to the pandemic situation. Following international best practices, AKU-EB has Rationalised the exam specifications for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021 and engaged with school leadership and teachers of affiliated school to validate the same.

Finalised after thorough consultation with experts and teachers, this document provides the exam specifications for all subjects offered for HSSC I.

FOR THE EXAMINATION SESSION OF 2021 ONLY

Compulsory Subjects

FOR THE EXAMINATION SESSION OF 2021 ONLY

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021

English Compulsory HSSC Part I

The English Compulsory Exam for HSSC Part I will consist of two papers of 100 marks in total. Paper I will have 40 multiple choice questions to be answered in 55 minutes. Paper II will consist of two constructed response and two extended response questions worth 60 marks to be done in 125 minutes (2 hours and 05 minutes).

Paper I **40 marks**

Paper I will have two separate sections:

- Listening comprehension section will be of 20 marks. It will be of 25 minutes duration which includes the time for listening to the recorded passages. This part will have two listening passages; each passage will be followed by 10 MCQs.
- Reading comprehension section will be of 20 marks and 30 minutes long. This part will consist of two reading passages. 10 MCQs will be asked on each passage. These MCQs will test the use of scanning, skimming, top-down and bottom up techniques.

Paper II **60 marks**

This paper will be of 60 marks with the following tasks and marks allocation:

- A text-based passage paired with a visual text/ comic strip OR two comparative paired texts followed by literal and inference-based questions which require skills to synthesise and interpret information 21 marks
- Formal letter writing OR personal statement 18 marks
- Essay writing (a choice of any ONE from narrative, expository (factual) and expressive essays) 21 marks

The students will be asked to give an elaborate response to the essay question. Their responses to the writing composition questions will be marked against the given tasks. Rote memorization and reproduction of irrelevant details will be discouraged. Responses will be marked for their content relevance, vocabulary, structure, expression and overall impression.

(Students should **NOT** mention their names, names of their schools or any other form of identification anywhere in the examination paper)

Note: The cloze passage and business letter/ memo writing will NOT be assessed in the exam but may be taught as classroom activity.

تخصیص پرچہ برائے امتحان گیارہویں جماعت

اُردو لازمی کا امتحان دو پرچوں پر مشتمل ہو گا جن کے کل نمبر 100 ہوں گے۔ پرچہ اول میں 40 نمبر کے کثیر الانتخابی سوالات ہوں گے جن کے جوابات 55 منٹ میں دینے ہوں گے۔ پرچہ دوم 4 موضوعی و تحریری 'مجموعہ نظم و نثر' اردو ادب' (نصابی کتاب): مختصر اُردو و ضاحتی جواب، تخلیقی تحریر: کہانی نویسی اور خطبہ نام مدیر سے متعلق سوالات پر مشتمل ہو گا اور جن کے نمبر 60 ہوں گے ان سوالات کے جوابات 125 منٹ میں دینے ہوں گے۔ اس طرح مجموعی طور پر یہ امتحان 180 منٹ پر مشتمل ہو گا۔

تفصیل پرچہ اول:

درج ذیل حصوں اور نمبروں کی تخصیص کے ساتھ یہ پرچہ 40 نمبر اور 55 منٹ کا ہو گا۔

سننے کی مہارت	☆ سمعی تفہیم کا امتحان 20 نمبر کا ہو گا۔ اس کا دورانیہ 25 منٹ ہو گا جس میں محفوظ شدہ (Recorded) اقتباسات (آواز) کو سننے کا وقت شامل ہے۔ اس حصے میں دو سمعی اقتباسات ہوں گے جو کہ مجموعہ نظم و نثر سے نہیں لیے گئے ہوں گے۔ اس حصے میں 20 کثیر الانتخابی سوالات ہوں گے۔ ہر اقتباس 10 کثیر الانتخابی سوالات پر مبنی ہو گا۔ (20 نمبر)
پڑھنے کی مہارت	☆ تفہیمی خواندگی کا امتحان 20 نمبر کا ہو گا۔ اس کا دورانیہ 30 منٹ ہو گا جس میں دو خوانی اقتباسات 'نثر' برائے تفہیم ہوں گے جو مجموعہ نظم و نثر میں شامل ادب و شعرا کی ان تخلیقات پر مشتمل ہوں گے جو کہ مجموعہ نظم و نثر کا حصہ نہیں ہیں۔ منتخب کردہ اقتباسات سے 20 کثیر الانتخابی سوالات پوچھیں جائیں گے۔ ہر تفہیمی اقتباس 10 کثیر الانتخابی سوالات پر مبنی ہو گا۔ (20 نمبر)

تفصیل پرچہ دوم:

درج ذیل حصوں اور نمبروں کی تخصیص کے ساتھ یہ پرچہ 60 نمبر اور 125 منٹ کا ہو گا۔

پڑھنے کی مہارت از مجموعہ نظم و نثر	☆ حصہ نثر: (15 نمبر) ☆ حصہ غزل: (20 نمبر) (یاد رہے! اس حصے میں حاصلاتِ تعلم کے تناظر میں سوالات ترتیب دیے جائیں گے۔) (توجہ فرمائیے! اس حصے میں 'مجموعہ نظم و نثر' کے جن اسباق کو امتحان میں شامل نہیں کیا جائے گا وہ یہ ہیں: ۱۔ سون گڑیا از الطاف فاطمہ، ۲۔ غلیل جبران کے دیس میں از جمیل الدین عالی، ۳۔ یوسف مرزا کے نام از مرزا غالب، ۴۔ مولانا گرامی کے نام از علامہ اقبال، ۵۔ غزل: ہستی اپنی حباب کی سی ہے از میر تقی میر، ۶۔ غزل: وہ فراق اور وہ وصال کہاں از مرزا غالب، ۷۔ غزل: یہ جو سر پہ سب کے چمکتا ہے آسمان از ظفر اقبال۔)
لکھنے کی مہارت	☆ تخلیقی تحریر: کہانی نویسی (توجہ فرمائیے! اس سوال میں دیگر اصناف کا انتخاب ختم کر دیا گیا ہے۔) (15 نمبر) ☆ مکتوب نگاری: خطبہ نام مدیر (توجہ فرمائیے! اس سوال میں درخواست اور رسمی خط کے انتخاب کو ختم کر دیا گیا ہے۔) (10 نمبر)

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Pakistan Culture HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Culture	11
2.	The Land and People	CA ^a
3.	The Making of Pakistan	30
4.	Pakistan Culture	24
5.	Emerging Trends	CA
Total		MCQs 65^b
Total Time		130 min

^a CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^b The marks obtained on the 65 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 100 for the theory examination results.

Science Elective Subjects

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Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Physics HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs	
		Theory	ATP ^a
1.	Measurement	4	3
2.	Vectors and Equilibrium	8	2
3.	Motion and Force	6	2
4.	Work, Power and Energy	CA ^b	
5.	Circular Motion	CA	
6.	Fluid Dynamics	6	
7.	Oscillations	6	2
8.	Waves	9	3
9.	Physical Optics	CA	
10.	Thermodynamics	11	3
Total		MCQs 50^c	ATP 15
Total Time		130 min	

^a Practical examination will be replaced with Alternate to Practical (ATP) using MCQs based on the practical objectives in the AKU-EB syllabus. This will be conducted with the theory examination.

^b CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^c The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 85 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Biology HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs	
		Theory	ATP ^a
1.	Introduction to Biology	CA ^b	
2.	Biological Molecules	CA	
3.	Enzymes	4	1
4.	The Cell	CA	
10.	Kingdom Animalia	8	2
5.	Classification and Acellular Life	CA	
6.	Kingdom Prokaryotae	2	2
7.	Kingdom Protoctista	6	1
8.	Kingdom Fungi		1
9.	Kingdom Plantae	6	3
11.	Bioenergetics	10	2
12.	Nutrition		
13.	Gaseous Exchange	14	1
14.	Transport		2
Total		MCQs 50^c	ATP 15
Total Time		130 min	

^a Practical examination will be replaced with Alternate to Practical (ATP) using MCQs based on the practical objectives in the AKU-EB syllabus. This will be conducted with the theory examination.

^b CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^c The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 85 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Chemistry HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs	
		Theory	ATP ^a
1.	Stoichiometry	6	1
2.	Atomic Structure	6	
3.	Theories of Covalent Bonding and Shapes of Molecules	6	
4.	States of Matter I: Gases	CA ^b	
5.	States of Matter II: Liquids	4	1
6.	States of Matter III: Solids	4	
7.	Chemical Equilibrium	6	2
8.	Acids, Bases and Salts	6	6
9.	Chemical Kinetics	CA	
10.	Solutions and Colloids	CA	
11.	Thermochemistry	4	1
12.	Electrochemistry	8	4
Total		MCQs 50^c	ATP 15
Total Time		130 min	

^a Practical examination will be replaced with Alternate to Practical (ATP) using MCQs based on the practical objectives in the AKU-EB syllabus. This will be conducted with the theory examination.

^b CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^c The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 85 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Mathematics HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Complex Number	CA ^a
2.	Matrices and Determinants	11
3.	Sequence and Series	11
4.	Miscellaneous Series	CA
5.	Permutation Combination and Probability	9
6.	Mathematical Induction and Binomial Theorem	CA
7.	Quadratic Equations	12
8.	Introduction to Trigonometry and their Identities	14
9.	Application of Trigonometry	
10.	Graph of Trigonometric and Inverse Trigonometric Functions and Solution of Trigonometric Equations	8
Total		MCQs 65^b
Total Time		130 min

^a CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^b The marks obtained on the 65 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 100 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Computer Science HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs	
		Theory	ATP ^a
1.	Basic Concepts of a Computer System	14	
2.	Computer Memory and Storage Devices	12	
3.	Architecture of CPU	CA ^b	
4.	System Unit	CA	
5.	Network Communications and Protocols	12	
6.	Wireless Communications	CA	
7.	Database Fundamentals	12	
8.	Database Development (MS Access 2007 or above)		15
Total		MCQs 50^c	ATP 15
Total Time		130 min	

^a Practical examination will be replaced with Alternate to Practical (ATP) using MCQs based on the practical objectives in the AKU-EB syllabus. This will be conducted with the theory examination.

^b CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^c The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 85 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Statistics HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs	
		Theory	ATP ^a
1.	Introduction to Statistics	7	
2.	Presentation of Statistical Data	10	4
3.	Measures of Location	10	4
4.	Measure of Dispersion, Skewness and Kurtosis	10	3
5.	Index Numbers	7	2
6.	Regression and Correlation	6	2
7.	Time Series Analysis	CA ^b	
8.	Vital Statistics	CA	
9.	Interpolation	CA	
Total		MCQs 50^c	ATP 15
Total Time		130 min	

^a Practical examination will be replaced with Alternate to Practical (ATP) using MCQs based on the practical objectives in the AKU-EB syllabus. This will be conducted with the theory examination.

^b CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^c The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 85 for the theory examination results.

Note: This subject is offered in both Science and Humanities group.

Humanities

Elective Subjects

FOR THE EXAMINATION SESSION OF 2021 ONLY

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Civics HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Introduction to Civics	16
2.	Civics and Individual ¹	20
3.	Citizen and Citizenship	29
Total		MCQs 65^a
Total Time		130 min

^a The marks obtained on the 65 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 100 for the theory examination results.

Note: These sub-topics will be considered as class activity and will not be assessed in exams.

¹ Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

2.1 State

2.3 Constitution

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Education HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Education	5
2.	Aims of Education	7
3.	Foundation of Education	10
4.	Human Development	13
5.	Learning	10
6.	Society, Community and Education	10
7.	Guidance and Counselling	CA ^a
8.	Curriculum, Syllabus and Textbooks	10
Total		MCQs 65^b
Total Time		130 min

^a CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^b The marks obtained on the 65 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 100 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Sociology HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Introduction to Sociology ¹	19
2.	Society, Culture and Civilisation	13
3.	Social Groups, Processes and Social Stratification	20
4.	Social Norms, Values and Belief ²	13
Total		MCQs 65^a
Total Time		130 min

^a The marks obtained on the 65 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 100 for the theory examination results.

Note: These sub-topics will be considered as class activity and will not be assessed in exams.

¹ Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

1.4: Branches of Sociology.

1.5: Sociology and other social science.

² Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

4.2 Social Values.

4.3 Belief.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Psychology HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs	
		Theory	ATP ^a
1.	Introduction to Psychology	7	
2.	Methods of Research	CA ^b	
3.	Nervous System and Behaviour	CA	
4.	Sensation and Perception	5	5
5.	Learning and Remembering	9	3
6.	Motivational Behaviour	CA	
7.	Personality	9	4
8.	Emotional Behaviour	7	
9.	Higher Cognitive Process	13	3
Total		MCQs 50^c	ATP 15
Total Time		100 min	30 min

^a Practical examination will be replaced with Alternate to Practical (ATP) using MCQs based on the practical objectives in the AKU-EB syllabus. This will be conducted with the theory examination.

^b CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^c The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 85 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Islamic Studies HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	القرآن	22
2.	الحديث	15
3.	تاريخ اسلام، عهد رسالت	17
4.	خلافت راشدہ	11
Total		MCQs 65^a
Total Time		130 min

^a The marks obtained on the 65 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 100 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Islamic History HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	قبل از اسلام عالمی حالات	8
2.	قبل از اسلام عرب کے حالات	10
3.	رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وآلہ وسلم کی حیات طیبہ	16
4.	سیرت طیبہ	15
5.	خلافت راشدہ	16
Total		MCQs 65^a
Total Time		130 min

^a The marks obtained on the 65 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 100 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Geography HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs	
		Theory**	ATP ^a
1	Understanding Geography	8	15
2	Rocks and Soils	CA ^b	
3	The Earth's Structure	CA	
4	The World of Water	20	
5	The Atmosphere	11	
6	Physical Environment and Man	11	
Total		MCQs 50^c	ATP 15
Total Time		130 min	

^a Practical examination will be replaced with Alternate to Practical (ATP) using MCQs based on the practical objectives in the AKU-EB syllabus. This will be conducted with the theory examination.

^b CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^c The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 85 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Statistics HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs	
		Theory	ATP ^a
1.	Introduction to Statistics	7	
2.	Presentation of Statistical Data	10	4
3.	Measures of Location	10	4
4.	Measure of Dispersion, Skewness and Kurtosis	10	3
5.	Index Numbers	7	2
6.	Regression and Correlation	6	2
7.	Time Series Analysis	CA ^b	
8.	Vital Statistics	CA	
9.	Interpolation	CA	
Total		MCQs 50^c	ATP 15
Total Time		130 min	

^a Practical examination will be replaced with Alternate to Practical (ATP) using MCQs based on the practical objectives in the AKU-EB syllabus. This will be conducted with the theory examination.

^b CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^c The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 85 for the theory examination results.

Note: This subject is offered in both Science and Humanities group.

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English Literature HSSC Part I

The Literature in English Exam for HSSC Part I will consist of one paper of 100 marks in total.

This paper will comprise three sections; novels, stories and poetry. Each section will consist of constructed response questions and two extended response questions (a choice will be given between the extended response questions). This paper will be of 3 hours.

Section I: (Novels)

Section I will have two parts A and B, representing the two recommended novels. Students will attempt one of the novels. This section will be of 35 marks with the following tasks and marks allocation:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| A reading passage from the novel followed by constructed response questions. | 20 Marks |
| Two questions based on theme, plot, setting or characters which imply an extended response. | 15 Marks |
| Students will have to attempt any one question. | |

Section II: (Short Stories/ Essays)

Section II will be of 30 marks with the following tasks and marks allocation:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| Constructed response questions from the recommended stories/ essays. | 15 Marks |
| Two questions based on theme, plot, setting, symbolism or characters which imply an extended response. | 15 Marks |
| Students will have to attempt any one question. | |

Note: The following story and essay will NOT be assessed for the examination session of Annual and Re-sit 2021. This story and essay can be taught as a classroom activity on the discretion of the school and teachers.

- Destructors
- A Preface to Lyrical Ballads

Section III: (Poetry)

Section III will have 35 marks with the following tasks and marks allocation:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| Reference to context questions from the recommended poems. | 20 Marks |
| Two questions based on theme, setting, symbolism, figurative language or author's viewpoint which imply an extended response. | 15 Marks |
| Students will have to attempt any one question. | |

Note: The following poems will NOT be assessed for the examination session of Annual and Re-sit 2021. These poems can be taught as a classroom activity on the discretion of the school and teachers.

- Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds
- The Road Not Taken

- To a Skylark
- All the Hemispheres

Schools will select one of the two novels in class XI and one of the two plays in class XII for assessment purposes. Questions will be set on all the plays and novels to allow students the option of answering questions on the texts they have studied.

Questions will be in a structured question format involving short answers and longer essay-type responses.

Candidates will be required to respond to these questions by writing on the question paper, which is also the answer book.

FOR THE EXAMINATION SESSION OF 2021 ONLY

Commerce Elective Subjects

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Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Principles of Accounting HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Introduction to Accounting	18
2.	Books of Prime Entry/ Books of Original Entry	24
3.	Banking Transactions	CA ^a
4.	Rectification of Error, Adjustment, Financial Statement, Reversing, Opening and Closing Entries	23
5.	Depreciation (IAS 16)	CA
Total		MCQs 65^b
Total Time		130 min

^a CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^b The marks obtained on the 65 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 100 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Principles of Economics HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Nature and Scope of Economics	20
2.	Consumer Behaviour	
3.	Demand	
4.	Supply	
5.	Market Equilibrium and Price Determination	
6.	Production and Laws of Return	16
7.	Cost and Revenue of a Firm	
8.	Market Structure	
9.	Resource Pricing	CA ^a
10.	Macro Economics and National Income	14
11.	Money	
12.	Business Cycle	CA
13.	International Trade	CA
14.	Public Finance	CA
Total		MCQs 50^b
Total Time		100 min

^a CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^b The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 75 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Principles of Commerce HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Introduction to Commerce	7
2.	Types of Commercial Organisations	13
3.	Office Organisation	CA ^a
4.	Trade and Channel of Distribution	CA
5.	Marketing and Advertising	9
6.	Auxiliaries to Trade	13
7.	Commercial Correspondence	8
Total		MCQs 50^b
Total Time		100 min

^a CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^b The marks obtained on the 50 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 75 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Economics HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Nature and Scope of Economics	35
2.	Consumer Behaviour and its Analysis	
4.	Demand	
5.	Supply	
6.	Market Equilibrium and Price Determination	
3.	Basic Tools of Statistics and Mathematics in Economics	CA ^a
7.	Theory of Production and Factors of Production	CA
8.	Cost of Production	30
9.	Scale of Production and Laws of Returns	
10.	Revenue Analysis	
11.	Market	
12.	Factor Pricing	CA
Total		MCQs 65^b
Total Time		130 min

^a CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^b The marks obtained on the 65 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 100 for the theory examination results.

Rationalised Exam Specification for Annual and Re-sit Examinations 2021
Business Mathematics HSSC Part I

No.	Topic	Number of MCQs
		Theory
1.	Business Arithmetic	7
2.	Interest and Annuities	6
3.	Linear Equations, Functions and their Graphs	7
4.	Quadratic Equations, Quadratic Functions and their Graphs	7
5.	Simultaneous Solutions Equations and Linear Inequalities	6
6.	Matrices and Determinants	7
7.	Derivative of Algebraic Functions	CA ^a
8.	Sequence and Series	CA
Total		MCQs 40^b
Total Time		80 min

^a CA = Classroom Activity, not to be assessed under examination conditions.

^b The marks obtained on the 40 MCQs will be equated to the total marks of 50 for the theory examination results.