

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XII

MODEL EXAMINATION PAPER 2020

English Compulsory Paper II

Time: 2 hours 05 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.

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 then answer all the questions that follow:

Text A:

Children naturally want to learn to read, just like they want to learn to ride a bike or tie their shoes. It is the job of educators to engage and instruct them in the most effective manner. Most successful young readers have support both at home and at school. The educators should emphasise the importance of establishing good reading habits with the children's parents from an early age.

They should relay this message and the value of family literacy throughout the school communities. This communication should take place every single year, initiated by the teacher. This is especially important throughout elementary school, when we are building the foundations of reading.

It's also important not to assume that all parents know how to work with their children at home. Instead, the educators should try to encourage parents to complete a variety of exercises at home and to simply nurture a love of reading in their homes.

Research shows that children who read at least twenty minutes a night most often perform on or above grade level in language arts. Author Rosemary Wells (of Max and Ruby series fame) created her Read to Your Bunny programme and book based on this research – and the idea that this type of reading nurtures the “growth of the [child's] mind and spirit”. Those twenty minutes, she says, are the most valuable gift you can ever give your child.

Of course, educators know how important it is for parents to read aloud to children; parents are a child's very first teacher. By simply reading a story aloud, parents expose their children to new vocabulary while modelling oral language. They are showing a young child how expression and tone in their voice can effectively deliver reactions and understanding of the text to the reader. It is fine to read aloud the same story over and over again as many children may request to hear the same book; children love repetition. It is also good to increase the level of difficulty of the text, one reads aloud to children as they grow older and become readers themselves.

It is a good idea to reinforce with parents that reading is a developmental process, which differs from one child to the next. It is not fair to compare a child to his or her siblings or friends, as learning to read varies across the board. Instead, we should observe the child's strengths and weaknesses in reading within a classroom and share them with their parents. Provide them with suggestions to focus on both factors at home.

Finally, teachers should consider creating a ‘sacred’ time for reading on a daily basis in the classroom – and invite parents to do the same in their homes. As Rosemary Wells says, “Read to your child often, and your child will read to you”.

Source: Adapted from ‘*Practice Makes Perfect, Especially in Reading*’ by Kathryn Starke

Text B:



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- a. Describe, in your own words, any TWO important roles of educators mentioned in Text A. (3 Marks)

- b. Briefly discuss any ONE use each of pathos and logos by the author in Text A to support her opinion on reading from an early age. (4 Marks)

- c. With reference to the information given in Text B, describe how children would develop reading habits even though their parents do not enjoy reading? (2 Marks)

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- d. To what degree is the information given in Text B aligned to your own observation of children's reading habits? Elaborate. (2 Marks)

- e. With reference to the information given in Text A and Text B, suggest at least FOUR ways educators in Pakistan can help increase the literacy in the country? (6 Marks)

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Q.2.

(Total 10 Marks)

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

The first significant 1) _____ towards legally protecting the high seas are to take place 2) _____ the United Nations (UN) in New York. These waters, defined as the open ocean, far from coastlines, are threatened by deep-sea mining, over-fishing and the patenting of marine genetic resources.

Over the next two years, government representatives aim to hammer out a binding agreement to protect them against over-exploitation. But 3) _____ nations, including the United States, are lukewarm towards the proposal.

Experts 4) _____ that the oceans of the world are vital for a number of reasons. Scientists say that they capture around 90% of the extra heat and about 26% of the excess carbon dioxide created by humans through the burning of fossil fuels 5) _____ other activities.

“The half of our planet which is high seas is protecting terrestrial life from the worst impacts of climate change,” said Prof Alex Rogers from Oxford University, United Kingdom, who 6) _____ provided evidence to inform the UN treaty process getting under way on Tuesday.

The high seas are defined as the oceans 7) _____ lie beyond exclusive economic zones. These zones are usually within 370 km of a country’s coastline. These waters cover one and a half times the total land area of the planet and are home 8) _____ some of the rarest and most charismatic species – but all countries have the right to navigate, fly over, carryout scientific research and fish on the high seas without restriction.

Some whale-hunting countries, such as Japan, Iceland and Norway, are said to be cautious about the idea because they fear it will restrict 9) _____ fishing operations. Russia is also said to be dragging its feet.

Campaigners, though, are optimistic that eventually 10) _____ deal will be reached.

Q.3.

(Total 15 Marks)

Compose a formal piece of writing of around 250-300 words on any **ONE** of the options **a** or **b**.

EITHER

- a. Imagine you are interested in the job advertised, in the given image, and you have the necessary qualification(s) and/ or skillset(s) required for it.

Write a covering letter and develop a suitable résumé to apply for the given position. Include the following in your covering letter:

- Why are you a suitable candidate?
- How would this job help you in developing your career?



Source: <http://pointedpixel.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/job-ad.jpg>

OR

- b. A prestigious university – considered to be one of the best institutions for interdisciplinary studies – is offering courses in various academic disciplines for their Fall 2020 programme.

Compose a personal statement to the university. In your statement, mention

- a reason for applying to the university.
- any **THREE** personality traits and/ or achievements that makes you stand out from other candidates.

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

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Option _____

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Q.4.

(Total 18 Marks)

Write a composition of about 350-400 words on any **ONE** of the options **a, b** or **c**.
Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

EITHER

- a. Carbonated drinks, commonly known as soft drinks, are heavily marketed on various media, including posters and television commercials. However, research has shown that regular consumption of carbonated drinks leads to many health issues, including calcium deficiency.

Write a persuasive essay expressing your views about the marketing of carbonated drinks. In your essay, mention

- your opinion regarding such marketing practices.
- at least **THREE** reasons to support your stance.
- at least **ONE** effect of marketing of carbonated drinks on a person's health.

OR

- b. "I woke up to the sounds of sirens on the street. I panicked and got out of bed to investigate the reason for such chaos..."

Narrate a story starting with the given sentences.

OR

- c. According to James Clear, "The basic idea is that the beliefs you have about yourself can drive your long-term behaviour. Maybe you can trick yourself into going to the gym or eating healthy once or twice, but if you don't shift your underlying identity, then it's hard to stick with long-term changes."

Hence, many people are hesitant to change their habits.

Narrate about a time when you tried to change a bad habit. In your narration, include:

- what prompted you to change your habit.
- what steps did you take.
- what was the outcome.

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

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END OF PAPER

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