

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XI

MODEL EXAMINATION PAPER 2018

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.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue, correcting fluid or ink erasers.
DO NOT write outside the answer box.
Complete your answer in the allocated space only.
4. The marks for the questions are shown in brackets ().

Q.1. (Total 17 Marks)
Study the given passage and illustration carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

TEXT A

The use of language can be an emotive issue. Dialects, accents, and education levels all have an impact on language. Generational differences are often highlighted in particular, usually with older speakers grumbling about the poor command of language spoken by today's youth. But, is this a new phenomenon or has the English language been in decline for some time?

- 5 In a recent article published in *The Economist*, the question of the decline of the English language is explored. Common complaints include poor writing skills, use of mixed language references and slang. Language evolves. Indeed, the English language is particularly evolutionary, readily absorbing borrowed words and expressions from everybody from conquerors to contemporary social icons. It does not take a linguistic scholar to identify words in
- 10 everyday use that are recognisably French, Norse*, German or textspeak**

- Efforts to stabilise the English language range from the creation of dictionaries and grammar books to the establishment of English language associations. Even in these places, the English language is recognised as a work in process, capturing the changes that become so commonplace that they are accepted into the mainstream. Therefore, should the English language be preserved
- 15 in its current state? Only the most extreme of traditionalists are likely to advocate such stability. Adding words and modifying grammar rules are all part of the process of enhancing the language and thus, giving speakers the tools to articulate meaning in the most accurate way. Otherwise, we might be in a position to describe the modern world in Middle English or to use a cumbersome phrase that a borrowed language word defines perfectly.
- 20 Today's English language purists may complain about the popularity of everything from textspeak to the use of emoticons***. Most people would agree that there is a time and a place for different language styles. Informal language is probably not the best option to use in court documents, for example. However, a natural change in language over time reflects the mindset of its people. Although Lynne Truss' excellent book 'Eats, Shoots & Leaves' illustrates the
- 25 importance of syntax and grammar, today's use of the English language, especially online, also illustrates how well we can communicate with one another in far flung places and across all sorts of cultural, geographical and even generational boundaries.

Source: Adapted from the article, 'The Decline of the English Language' by Pascale Chauvot

*Norse: North Germanic language that was spoken by inhabitants of Scandinavia and inhabitants of their overseas settlements from about the 9th to the 13th century.

** Textspeak: language regarded as characteristic of text messages, consisting of abbreviations, acronyms, initials, emoticons, etc

*** emoticons: symbols/ smiley faces, etc. used in a text

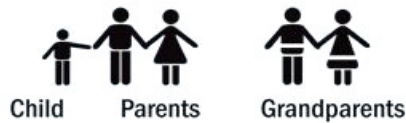
TEXT B (Infographic by UNESCO)

World's languages are dying

Experts say half of the world's 7,000 languages may be extinct by the end of this century. People lose the ability to speak their local language, as well as the cultural knowledge these languages hold, when they switch to global languages, such as English.

How languages disappear

Current status of world's languages and the path to extinction



Percent of languages		Who speaks the language	
57%	Safe		Spoken by all generations
10	Vulnerable		Most children, but only at home
11	Definitely endangered		Children no longer learn the language at home
9	Severely endangered		Grandparents; parents may understand but don't speak it to children, with each other
10	Critically endangered		Grandparents are youngest speakers; speak it infrequently
4	Extinct		Since 1950, no speakers left

Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, Ethnologue: Languages of the World, UNESCO
Graphic: Judy Treible, Melina Yingling

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a.

- i. Infer any TWO reasons due to which most languages all over the world are becoming critically endangered. Refer to text B (infographic by UNESCO) in your inference. (2 Marks)

- ii. Mr and Mrs Butt are in their 80's. They speak in Language Y with each other, but not with their son, Osman. Osman understands Language Y but prefers to respond in Language X which he speaks fluently with his wife, children and community. Most families in their community use languages X and Y in this way.

In which categories of Text B (Infographic by UNESCO) would you classify Languages X and Y? (2 Marks)

b.

(Total 6 Marks)

i. Differentiate between textspeak and academic writing.

(3 Marks)

S. No.	Textspeak	Academic Writing
1		
2		
3		

ii. In which category, i.e. safe to extinct, from Text B (infographic by UNESCO) would you place the English language? Support your answer with any TWO references from Text A.

(3 Marks)

c. Describe Chauvot's opinion about the changes made in the English language in today's world.

(2 Marks)

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d. Text A mentions that the English language is undergoing continuous changes.

Based on this information:

i. identify ONE change made in Urdu or in your native language. (1 Mark)

ii. does the change enhance or devalue it? Justify your opinion with the help of TWO reasons. (2 Marks)

e. Would you recommend using informal language in your school? Give TWO reasons with reference to Text A to support your answer. (2 Marks)

Q.2.

(Total 10 Marks)

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

When painted, they can add a girly sparkle to hands, and for some people, they can substitute as a guitar pick or even a backscratcher.

These services, though, are not the reason humans sport the keratin-rich coverings atop our fingertips. “We have fingernails because we are primates,” said John Hawks, a biological anthropologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A nail is a horn-like envelope 1_____ the tips of the fingers and toes in most primates and a few other mammals. Nails 2_____ similar to claws in other animals. Fingernails and toenails are made of a tough protective protein called alpha-keratin. This protein is also 3_____ in the hooves and horns of different animals.

Fingernails are one of the features that distinguish primates, including humans, from other mammals. They are essentially flattened forms 4_____ claws. “Most mammals 5_____ claws,” Hawks told Live Science. “They use them to grab onto things, to climb things, to scratch things, and to dig holes.”

Scientists suspect primates sort of lost their claws and fashioned broad fingertips topped with nails to 6_____ in locomotion. While claws would have provided excellent grip as our mammalian ancestors clambered up large tree trunks, they would have been a nuisance for larger-bodied primates trying to grasp smaller branches while scrambling across tree canopies for fruits. Rather, primates developed broader fingertips made for grasping.

About 2.5 million years ago, fossil evidence 7_____ that early humans first picked up stone tools, which is about the same time our ancestors also developed even broader fingertips than earlier primates. To this day, humans 8_____ broader fingertips than other primates.

Whether fingernails are an adaptation that 9_____ support broad fingertips or a side effect from the loss of claws is unclear, Hawks said.

Another reason for fingernails: They serve as a visual advertisement of a person’s health, he said. For instance, malnutrition 10_____ change the colouring of nails, while small pits in fingernails can signal the skin condition psoriasis.

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Q.3. (Total 15 Marks)

Write a formal letter of around 300-350 words on any **ONE** of the options **a** or **b**.

EITHER

- a. As the intensity of summer increases, the students of rural and sub-urban areas are facing severe trouble, as they do not have adequate transport facilities to reach their schools and colleges located in nearby cities. Most of the colleges and schools have their own buses but pick and drop facility is available to the students of cities only.

Write a letter to the Editor highlighting the issue stated above. In your letter, discuss:

- why this issue is important.
- reasons and/ or examples to support your stance.
- what should be done about the situation.

OR

- b. Pakwheels is the largest automotive classified website in Pakistan that deals with information regarding discussion of new and used cars and motorbikes, and their sale and maintenance. According to an online survey conducted by Pakwheels, 75% of the drivers on Pakistani roads are breaking the law and 24% survey participants drive without license.

Write a letter to the Editor highlighting the issue presented above. In your letter, discuss:

- why this issue is important.
- reasons and/ or examples to support your stance.
- what should be done about the situation.

Make your notes below. Write your final draft on pages 7 and 8.

Option _____

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[illegible]

Q.4.

(Total 18 Marks)

Write a composition of about 300-400 words on any **ONE** of the options **a, b** or **c**.
Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

EITHER

- a. Some people think fashion is how you carry yourself, i.e., how you come across to other people, good posture, mannerisms and the feeling of being comfortable in your chosen style. Others think the way you dress and the accessories you carry reflect your approach to life. In some cases, it affects other people's judgments about you.

Write an essay expressing your views about what fashion means to you. In your essay, discuss:

- what you understand by the term 'fashion'.
- should fashion sense affect our judgment of others. Give reasons.
- how does fashion reflect a society's norms and preferences. Give examples.

OR

- b. "Huge thunderclouds boiled into formation, but just as rapidly shifted and went. I said to the people in the room that it looked as if a storm was coming."

Write a story about the given situation.

OR

- c. Dreams are stories and images that our minds create while we sleep. They can be entertaining, fun, disturbing, frightening, and sometimes bizarre.

Describe any **ONE** dream that you clearly remember. In your essay, use descriptive details to recount:

- what happened and who was involved.
- what makes this dream unforgettable.
- what do you think your dream represents, i.e., some larger meaning or specific event. Give reasons.

Make your notes on the page given for rough work. Write your final draft on pages 10 and 11.

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Option _____

[illegible]

[illegible]

END OF PAPER

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