

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS X EXAMINATION

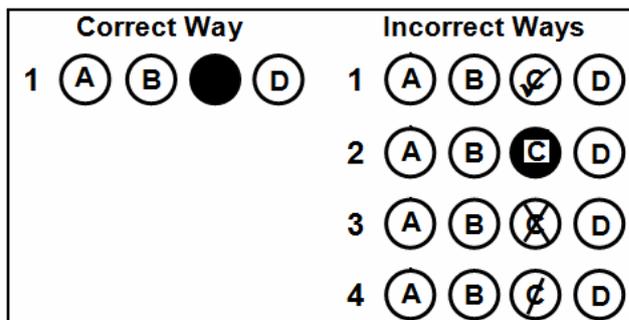
MAY 2012

English Compulsory Paper I

Time allowed: 45 minutes Marks 25

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 25 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.



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

This section is 25 minutes long. In this section you will hear two recordings. Each one will be played twice.

Listen carefully to the first recording then read the questions. You will have two minutes' reading time.

The recording will then be replayed. You can make notes on your question paper.

When the recording 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 instruction 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

This is a story about an imaginary town called 'Boring'.

Source: Extracted from 'Stories for Children by Ekta'

Now listen to the recording.

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

1. The town was called 'Boring' because
 - A. children were interested in studies.
 - B. it was situated beside a dull lake.
 - C. children used to avoid each other.
 - D. life was dull and without fun.

2. Which of the following was NOT a part of the children's schedule in 'Boring'?
 - A. Preparing for tests
 - B. Talking about marks
 - C. Deceiving each other
 - D. Visiting each other

3. The children used to lie to each other about studies because they
 - A. wanted to avoid each other.
 - B. wanted to prepare for the test.
 - C. did not want others to study.
 - D. thought life was boring.

4. The main activity of the children of 'Boring' was to
 - A. prepare for tests.
 - B. think about marks.
 - C. deceive each other.
 - D. pretend not to study.

5. Sana's grandmother was very unusual because she
 - A. thought life was boring.
 - B. pretended to be happy.
 - C. was keen on food.
 - D. used to smile and greet others.

6. People used to move away from grandmother because she
 - A. was lively and cheerful.
 - B. giggled all the time.
 - C. had silvery hair.
 - D. was new to the town.

PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD

Now, we will play the second recording. It will also be played twice.

Listen carefully to the first playing, and then read the questions. You will have two minutes' reading time. The recording will then be replayed.

When the recording has finished, enter your answers on your separate answer sheet. You will have three and a half minutes to pencil in your answers.

Listening Passage II

The passage describes various characteristics of earthworms.

Source: The Express Tribune

Now listen to the recording.

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

7. Which of the following is TRUE?
- A. Earthworms are always small in size.
 - B. Common earthworms are found in India and South America.
 - C. Giant earthworms are 1.8 to 2 metres in height.
 - D. Earthworms are usually killed along with the insects.
8. The presence of earthworms
- A. kills the insects.
 - B. improves the quality of soil.
 - C. causes farmers to use chemicals.
 - D. harms the plants.
9. The side effect of using pesticides (insect-killing chemicals) is that
- A. plants are harmed.
 - B. insects are killed.
 - C. earthworms are eliminated.
 - D. earthworms get smaller.
10. The size of an earthworm can be between
- A. 2 to 3.5 metres.
 - B. 1.8 to 3.5 metres.
 - C. a few inches to 3.5 metres.
 - D. very big to 3.5 metres.
11. According to the passage, 'earthworms are hearty eaters'. Evidence which supports this fact is that they eat
- A. small insects.
 - B. crops of farmers.
 - C. anything they can.
 - D. mostly green leaves from crops.
12. Which of the following is a PHYSICAL characteristic of an earthworm?
- A. Earthworms are affected by chemicals.
 - B. Earthworms do not have eyes or ears.
 - C. Earthworms are hearty eaters.
 - D. Earthworms help the farmers.

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Reading Comprehension Section

You have 20 minutes for this section; you are advised to spend approximately 10 minutes on each of the given passages. This section has two reading passages.

Read the passage carefully and answer the multiple choice questions which follow:

Reading Passage I

It was Maeterlinck who introduced me to the bee. I mean, in the psychical and in the poetical way. I had had a business introduction earlier. It was when I was a boy. It is strange that I should remember a formality like that so long; it must be nearly sixty years.

5 Bee scientists always speak of the bee as she. It is because all the important bees are of that sex. In the hive there is one married bee, called the queen; she has fifty thousand children; of these, about one hundred are sons; the rest are daughters. Some of the daughters are young maids, some are old maids, and all are virgins and remain so.

10 There are always a few royal heirs in stock and ready to take her place - ready and more than anxious to do it, although she is their own mother. These girls are kept by themselves, and are regally fed and tended from birth. No other bees get such fine food as they get, or live such a high and luxurious life. By consequence they are larger and longer and sleeker than their working sisters. And they have a curved sting, shaped like a scimitar, while the others have a straight one.

15 A common bee will sting any one or anybody, but a royalty stings royalties only. A common bee will sting and kill another common bee, for cause, but when it is necessary to kill the queen other ways are employed. When a queen has grown old and slack and does not lay enough eggs, one of her royal daughters is allowed to come to attack her, the rest of the bees looking on at the duel and seeing fair play. It is a duel with the curved stings. If one of the fighters gets hard pressed and gives it up and runs, she is brought back and must try again -
20 once, maybe twice; then, if she runs yet once more for her life, judicial death is her portion; her children pack themselves into a ball around her person and hold her in that compact grip for two or three days, until she starves to death or is suffocated. Meantime the victor bee is receiving royal honours and performing the one royal function - laying eggs.

25 After the queen, the personage next in importance in the hive is the virgin. The virgins are fifty thousand or one hundred thousand in number, and they are the workers, the laborers. No work is done, in the hive or out of it, save by them. The males do not work, the queen does no work, unless laying eggs is work, but it does not seem so to me.

Source: Extracted from 'The Bee' by Mark Twain

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

13. Which of the following ways is employed to kill the queen?
- A. The male stings the queen.
 - B. A common bee has a duel with the queen.
 - C. She is thrown out of the nest.
 - D. The queen is starved to death.
14. The scientists refer to bees as 'she' because
- A. there are no male bees in a beehive.
 - B. female bees live a high and luxurious life.
 - C. most bees are females.
 - D. one of them is chosen as the queen.
15. "The heirs are regally fed and tended from birth". Which of the following words can correctly replace 'regally' in this statement?
- A. Richly
 - B. Repeatedly
 - C. Rapidly
 - D. Royally
16. Which of the following bees do all the work?
- A. Virgins
 - B. Royal daughters
 - C. Males
 - D. The queen
17. All of the following are correct about royal daughters EXCEPT that they
- A. are bigger and better groomed.
 - B. can sting anybody.
 - C. do not work.
 - D. have a curved sting.
18. According to the hierarchy, virgins receive the next importance to the queen as they
- A. are in the majority.
 - B. have a straight sting.
 - C. do not lay eggs.
 - D. kill other bees.

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Read the passage carefully and answer the multiple choice questions which follow:

Reading Passage II

Isn't this true we all are fond of tasty food? Who would not agree that chicken cheese pizza is lip-smacking and *biryani* or mutton *haleem* is simply mouth-watering? Food prepared with tasty ingredients and appetising spices not only tastes good, it also looks and smells tempting. But has it ever crossed your mind what makes food finger licking and delicious? And not just the highly spiced fast food or peppery snacks but also the simple staple food your mother cooks at home. The answer is simple: spices, several of them. Of course, the motherly love which goes into food too makes it appealing but spices exclusively take the major credit for adding different flavour to it.

Spices are preferred for adding taste, colour and aroma to food. Spices (the word is a derivative of the Latin word "species") are made from various scented seeds, fruits, roots or bark. They are commonly used in dried form, as powder or as a whole seed like cumin seeds or mustard seeds. Since they are dry, they can be stored easily and the good thing is if kept carefully they would not lose their flavour for days, unlike herbs that are leafy green parts of the plants and are mainly used fresh for the same purpose.

Spices are used to enhance the taste and are added to food in a small quantity. Other than this, they also act as preservatives and prevent the growth of harmful bacteria in food. Some spices are believed to have medicinal uses as well.

It is amazing to learn that the common black pepper and other spices have a long history. It is so vast that just going through it you would feel like yawning. There are many speculations about the origin of spices and how they were used in earlier times.

However, it is believed that spices began to be used in ancient times, though not as specifically as they are used today. Their regular use actually started in the 10th century. Their multiple uses came to the knowledge of men when people in olden days used leaves from different herbs and shrubs for covering and keeping meat. The leaves would not only cover the food but also give a certain fragrance and added flavour to food. This interested them to research more about plants and seeds. And gradually they found different seeds, berries and barks, that later came to be used as spices. History tells us that Arabia was the hub of the spice trade. The Arabs were believed to be the ones who first introduced spices to European markets. The Portuguese and Spanish too were in the spice trade. The competition was tough in the spice trade and it is said that the Arabs enjoyed an edge in this trade.

Source: Young World, DAWN

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

19. All of the following represent the author's opinion about spices EXCEPT
- A. spices enhance the taste of chicken pizza.
 - B. appetizing spices smell tempting.
 - C. home made food is not good in taste.
 - D. the long history of spices is amazing.
20. According to the author, what other ingredient adds taste to food, beside spices?
- A. Scented seed
 - B. Staple food
 - C. Motherly love
 - D. Herbs and shrubs
21. Which of the following is NOT true about the spices?
- A. Spices were first introduced to Europe by the Arabs.
 - B. Spices can be used in more than one form.
 - C. Spices are derived from the word 'species'.
 - D. Spices promote the growth of bacteria.
22. Which of the following spices is NOT mentioned in the passage?
- A. Salt
 - B. Cumin seed
 - C. Mustard Seeds
 - D. Black pepper
23. The flavour of spices can be maximized and preserved through
- A. adding direct flavours.
 - B. using them in small quantities.
 - C. using dry leaves and seeds.
 - D. storing them properly.
24. Which of the following correctly indicates the discovery of spices in ancient times?
- A. Different herbs and shrubs were used to extract spices.
 - B. Common black pepper and other spices have a long history.
 - C. The leaves that were used to cover the food added flavour to it.
 - D. Spices were introduced to Europe by the Portuguese.
25. The author of the article is not sure about the
- A. commercial value of spices.
 - B. antiseptic value of spices.
 - C. use of spices for preserving things.
 - D. use of spices in past times.

END OF PAPER

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