

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS X EXAMINATION

MAY 2012

English Compulsory Paper II

Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes Marks 50

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the following instructions carefully.

1. Check your name and school information. Sign that it is correct.

**I agree that this is my name and school.
Candidate's signature**

2. RUBRIC. There are THREE questions. Answer ALL THREE 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 ONLY black ink.
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.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(Total 18 Marks)

5 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.

10 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.

15 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.

20 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.

25 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
30 enjoyed an edge in this trade.

Source: Young World, DAWN

a. Mention FOUR points about the history of spices. (4 Marks)

b. Mention FOUR uses of spices. (4 Marks)

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Q.2.

Compose a response of about 120 words to any ONE of the options a or b. (Total 14 Marks)

EITHER

- a. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper pointing out the importance of good discipline in sports. Also suggest some ways to educate sportsmen to cultivate a sporting spirit and discipline.

OR

- b. Is there a book that you feel should be required reading for everyone? Write a letter to your school authorities persuading them to make that book a part of the school's curriculum.

Make your notes below. Write the final draft on pages 6 and 7.

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

Q.3.

Write a composition of about 200 words on any ONE of the options a, b or c.

(Total 18 Marks)

Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

EITHER

- a. Every family has some important traditions which are followed from one generation to another with the same zeal and zest. Think of one family tradition which is special to you and discuss how you prepare for the event and the way it is celebrated.

OR

- b. “Teenage life is the time when one goes through many physical and emotional changes; hence, it is one of the most challenging phases of life.” Discuss the given statement by giving at least THREE examples.

OR

- c. Many of us face situations in which we are treated unfairly. Describe an occasion where you faced a similar situation. Describe what the situation was, who was involved and what you learnt in the process.

Make your notes below. Write the final draft on pages 9 and 10.

Please use this page for rough work

Please use this page for rough work