

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XI EXAMINATION

MAY 2012

English Compulsory Paper II

Time allowed: 2 hours 10 minutes Marks 60

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 FOUR questions. Answer ALL FOUR 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 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 10 Marks)

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The story seems to begin in Ethiopia, where the coffee berry grew wild. Goatherds there noted that goats which ate leaves and berries of the plant remained awake all night. The Arabs claim that they developed the plant in 675 AD. Consumed originally as a food, it would take on the character of a medicinal and eventually that of a social drink.

- 5 The coffee tree grows to a height of 14 to 20 feet, producing (along with bright green leaves and white flowers) a berry which, as it matures, goes from green to yellow to red. Harvested red, they are placed in water so that the good berries will sink and all the debris will float. The berries are then pulped to extract the beans, there being two beans per berry, the beans having a bluish-green colour.

- 10 Next they are dried and cured for several weeks, becoming hard and yellow. Roasting is next, at the high temperature of 900 degrees Fahrenheit for 17 minutes, then they are stored (aged) and eventually ground into coarse granules. One is obliged to wonder how this all came about: who was the first to decide that roasting the beans would do anything good to them?

The decaffeinated type of coffee is made by treating the green beans with chlorine-based solvents prior to the rest of the process.

- 15 There are some 30 species of the plant, the most important being: Brazilian, Mild and Robusta. Discovered by Arabs travelling in Ethiopia in the 13th century, it was taken to Arabia and flourished at Mocha in Yemen, where the Arabic name for it was "*qahwah*" and from that word to "coffee". Its popularity steadily increased. In the 1500s it arrived in Turkey and in Italy in the 1600s. About this time, establishments for preparing the drink ("coffee houses") sprang up all over Europe.
- 20 In 1714 the French succeeded in bringing a live cutting to their island of Martinique, and, from that single plant, coffee growing spread throughout Central and South America. Meanwhile, the Portuguese introduced the plant into their colony of Brazil, where it flourished. In fact, Brazil today produces 25% of the world's coffee, and Central and South America combined produce two-thirds of the world's supply. Since coffee grows in Java and Southeast Asia, an alternate name for coffee is "java".

Then Starbucks came along and showed how coffee could be jazzed up by adding other things to it.

Source: Adapted from the essay " All You Need to Know about Coffee"

a. How is the quality of berries checked?

(3 Marks)

b. Mention the steps through which coffee beans are passed after their extraction.

(4 Marks)

c. Mention any THREE uses of coffee.

(3 Marks)

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Q.2. (Total 10 Marks)

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

Jamil Ahmed is a salesman. He goes from door to door selling vacuum cleaners. On his first day of work, he decided to sell his goods by _____ (1) on the doors of a private housing area. "My first customer," he thought as he _____ (2) the doorbell of the first house. A middle aged woman with curlers in her hair opened the door. Jamil began to _____ (3) who he was and the product he was selling. The next minute, the door was slammed _____ (4). "Not interested!" Jamil heard her shout _____ (5) the closed door. She refused to open the door despite Jamil's persistent knocking. Jamil was given a similar kind of treatment from the next few houses. _____ (6) rather discouraged, he knocked at the door of the ninth household. This time, the occupants of the house _____ (7) him in. They also showed interest in his product. Encouraged by _____ (8), Jamil began to explain the merits of his vacuum cleaner. When the family _____ (9) him for a demonstration, he vacuumed the place for them. After the demonstration, the family, however, did not _____ (10) his product. Instead, they politely but firmly told him that they would give him a call if they wanted to buy a vacuum cleaner later.

Q.3.

Write a letter of 120-130 words on any ONE of the topics given below. (Total 15 Marks)

EITHER

- a. Some of the students at your school have started a campaign to limit the homework that teachers can assign to students. Teachers at your schools have argued that the homework is necessary. Write a letter to the principal of your school and state what you feel about this issue. Support your point of view with at least **THREE** reasons.

OR

- b. Write a letter to your school authorities and ask for permission to organize an event to raise funds for the flood victims in the affected areas. Include the day, timings, venue and activities that are planned for the day.

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

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Q.4. Write a composition of about 250 words on any ONE of the options a, b or c. (Total 25 Marks)
Remember to compose the final draft in complete sentences.

EITHER

- a. Inventions and technology have always been an important part of changing the way one lives. Things that did not exist when your parents or grandparents were young have now changed the way most people live. Think about an invention and describe how that invention has changed the lives of people.

OR

- b. Imagine that you had no television, computer, or video games for one week. Explain what you would do to keep yourself occupied during that week.

OR

- c. “In about the same degree as you are helpful, you will be happy.” Karl Reiland

Write a story about a time when you helped someone in distress which made you feel happy and contented. Describe who that person was, what you did, how he/ she felt.

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

END OF PAPER

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