

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS XI

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2025

English Compulsory Paper II

Time: 2 hours 5 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)

Read the passage carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

TEXT A

I spent much of my childhood watching movies. I became absolutely engrossed in many different films, TV shows, and animations. From the movie theatres to the TV, I spent my hours enjoying the beauty of visual media. One place that was special to me was the car. My parents purchased a special screen that could be mounted on the back of the headrest, so that I could watch movies on trips. This benefited both parties, as I was occupied, and they had peace. Looking back, I realise this screen played a crucial role in my childhood. It was an integral part of many journeys. I remember taking a drive to Washington D.C*, with my visiting relatives from Poland, and spending my time with my eyes on the screen. I remember packing up my possessions and moving to my current home from Queens**, watching my cartoons the whole time. I can comfortably say that watching movies in the car has been a familiar anchor during times of change in my life.

I used to watch many different cartoons, nature documentaries, and other products in the car, yet there has been one movie that I have rewatched constantly. It is called ‘Kiki’s Delivery Service’ by Hayao Miyazaki. My parents picked it up at a garage sale one day, and I fell in love. The style of the animations was beautiful, and the captivating story of a thirteen-year-old witch leaving home really appealed to me. To be honest, the initial times I watched it, I didn’t fully understand the story, but the magic and beauty just made me happy. Then, the more I watched it, I began to see that it was more about independence, including the need to get away from home and establish yourself as your own person. This mirrors how I felt during that period of my life, with me having a little rebellious streak; I didn’t agree with my parents on certain topics. That is not the end of the story though. As the years passed, and I watched it a couple more times, although with less frequency than before, my view of this movie evolved yet again.

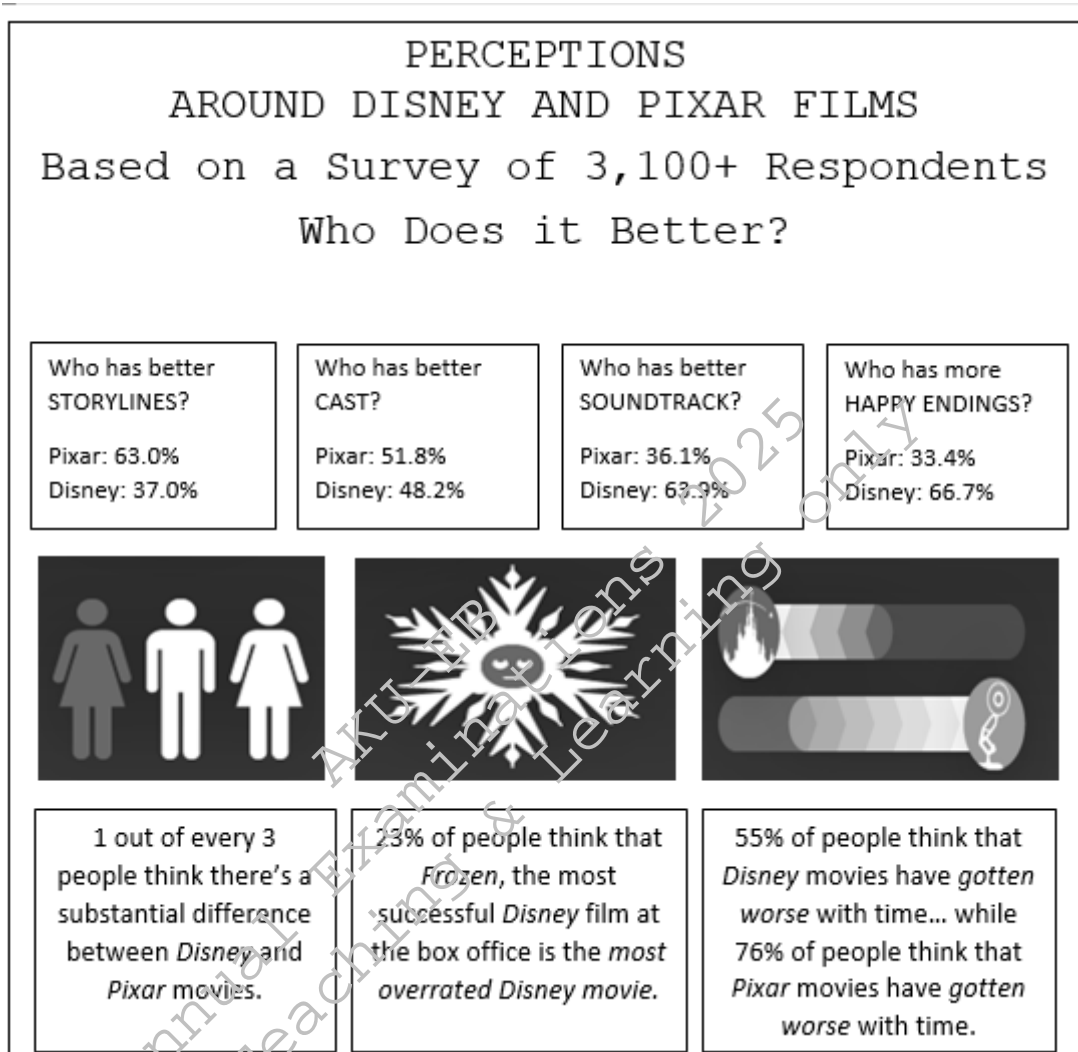
Instead of solely thinking about the need for independence, I began to think the movie was more about the balance of independence and reliance. In the movie, the girl finds herself struggling until she begins to accept help from others. Looking back, the film also follows my own philosophy during this time. As I began to mature, I began to realise the value of family, and accept all the help I can get from them. I appreciate all the hard work they had done for me, and I recognise their experience in life and take advantage of it. I passed through my rebellious phase, and this reflected in my analysis of the movie...This movie is one of the most important to me throughout my life.

*Washington D.C: capital city of United States of America

**Queens: a district/ town in New York, United States of America

Source: Taken from ‘I Spent Much of My Childhood Watching Movies’ by Anonymous

TEXT B



Note: Disney and Pixar are two US-based companies that produce film. The lamp represents Pixar, whereas the castle represents Disney.

Source: Adapted from <https://upgradedpoints.com/news/disney-vs-pixar-american-preferences/>

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

a. Identify any FOUR ways in which the author has used pathos (emotions) in Text A. (4 Marks)

b. Describe, in TWO points, the importance of family values as mentioned by the author in Text A. (4 Marks)

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- c. The film '*Kiki's Delivery Service*' inspired the author of Text A. In your opinion, how crucial is the impact of watching a film or TV series on an individual's life. Justify in TWO points. (4 Marks)

- d. With reference from Text B, identify THREE reasons behind the decline in Disney's films. (3 Marks)

- e. If you were to develop Text A in the format of Text B, what ONE strategy or designing technique would you use and why?

Note: Mention the strategy or designing technique which is not reflected in Text B. (2 Marks)

Q.2. (Total 10 Marks)

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

Ecotourism (1) _____ about more than simply visiting natural attractions or natural places; it's about doing so in a responsible and sustainable manner. The term itself refers (2) _____ traveling to natural areas with a focus on environmental conservation. The goal is to educate tourists about conservation efforts (3) _____ offering them the chance to explore nature...

Conservation is arguably the most important component of ecotourism (4) _____ it should offer long-term, sustainable solutions to enhancing (5) _____ protecting biodiversity and nature...

Increasing awareness (6) _____ environmental issues and promoting a greater understanding and appreciation (7) _____ nature is arguably just as important as conservation ...

(8) _____ ecotourism activities become too popular, it can lead to the construction of new infrastructure to accommodate more visitors. Similarly, more crowds mean more pressure (9) _____ local resources, increased pollution, and a higher chance of damaging the soil and plant quality (10) _____ erosion.

Source: Taken from 'What Is Ecotourism? Definition, Examples, and Pros and Cons' as published on <https://www.treehugger.com>

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. Assume you work for an organisation. Compose a letter to the organisation recommending your former colleague who has applied for a position that requires a recommendation letter. In your letter, describe
- your relationship with the former colleague during the time you both worked with one another.
 - describe your former colleague's contribution to the community.
 - describe TWO skills that will make your former colleague an asset to the organisation.

OR

- b. A national university is offering admissions in its 2025-26 Spring Programme for the following courses:
- Computer Science
 - English Linguistics
 - Geography

Write a personal statement to the university choosing any ONE of the offered courses. In your statement,

- reflect on your academic journey and personal growth.
- describe your proficiency in using technology for academic purposes.
- explain how the chosen course will enhance your knowledge in the subject.

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

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

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. Compose an essay by describing

- a time when someone helped you.
- **TWO** ways in which the person helped you.
- what you learnt through the experience.

OR

b. Effective communication is the key to sustaining personal and professional relationships. Compose an essay on the given stance. In your essay

- explain how active listening skills contribute to effective communication.
- discuss **TWO** reasons why effectively communicating with the other person is beneficial for sustaining relationships.
- discuss **TWO** strategies people can use to develop their communicational skills.

OR

c. Every person has a hobby or an activity they are passionate about. Write an essay on the given topic. In your essay,

- describe your passion or hobby in detail.
- explain **THREE** reasons why it is important to you.

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

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END OF PAPER

Please use this page for rough work

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