

## Aga Khan University Examination Board

### Notes from E-Marking Centre on HSSC-II English Compulsory Examination May 2017

#### Introduction

This document has been produced for the teachers and candidates of Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC-II) English Compulsory. It contains comments on candidates' responses to the 2017 HSSC-II Examination indicating the quality of the responses and highlighting their relative strengths and weaknesses.

#### E-Marking Notes

This report includes overall comments on candidates' performance on every question and *some* specific examples of candidates' responses which support the mentioned comments. Please note that the descriptive comments represent an overall perception of the better and weaker responses as gathered from the e-marking session. However, the candidates' responses shared (where deemed necessary) in this document represent some specific example(s) of the mentioned comments.

The following is a description of the tasks and skills required for fulfillment of those tasks.

Question No	Question Type	Skills Assessed
1 (a,b,c,d)	CRQs on a reading passage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ability to understand a reading text on a literal level (main/ sub ideas)</li><li>- Ability to understand a reading text on inferential level (opinions, evidence, reasoning, cause and effect, reading between the lines)</li></ul>
2	Cloze Passage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ability to read and understand the given text</li><li>- Ability to provide missing information as per the context of a passage</li></ul>
3 and 4 (a,b,c)	Letter and Essay Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ability to develop a formal piece of writing with appropriate focus, organisation and purpose</li><li>- Ability to persuade, argue, reflect and analyse familiar topics/ situations</li><li>- Ability to use accurate sentence structure, connective devices, spellings, etc.</li></ul>

Teachers and candidates should be aware that examiners may ask questions that address the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) in a manner that requires candidates to respond by integrating knowledge, understanding and application skills they have developed by studying the course.

Candidates also need to know that the marks allocated to the question and the answer space (which is provided on the examination paper), are a guide to the length of the required response. A longer response will not in itself lead to higher marks. Writing far beyond the indicated space may reduce the time available for answering other questions.

Candidates need to be familiar with the command words which contain some terms commonly used in examination questions. However, candidates should also be aware that not all questions will start with, or contain, any key word from the glossary. Questions such as ‘how?’, ‘why?’ or ‘what?’ may be asked, and verbs which are not included in the list may be used, such as ‘elaborate’, ‘analyse’ or ‘state’.

**Note: Student responses reproduced in this report have not been corrected for grammar, spelling or factual information.**

### **Detailed Comments:**

#### **Question 1:**

Question 1 was based on a reading passage. It had four sub-parts. Candidates were required to understand the reading passage and accordingly answer the questions asked on various aspects of the passage. The reading passage was an article, *A Problem of Perception* by The Daily DAWN. The article highlighted the discrimination faced by individuals who have dwarfism elaborated its adverse effects. The author attempted to persuade his readers to abandon that behaviour.

#### **Part a:**

What is the author’s purpose in writing this article? Give TWO examples from the passage to support your answer.

The question aimed to assess candidate’s comprehension and evaluation skills.

In *better responses* candidates identified and explained the author’s purpose reasonably well. Many candidates identified the author’s purpose as ‘persuasion’, i.e. ‘to treat people with dwarfism and by extension people with any physical deformity/ handicap/ problem with empathy/ sympathy/ care’. Such candidates mentioned that the entire argument is built in persuasive style. Some candidates identified the purpose as ‘to create awareness’/ ‘to inform’ and supported this by explaining that the purpose is to mention the problems faced by people who have dwarfism. The author says that equal opportunities and acceptance should be given to all because everyone has the potential to do good/ achieve success in life given the right opportunities/ chances. Some candidates did not write the terms ‘to persuade/ inform’ and yet they gave descriptive comments which presented similar ideas. Most candidates mentioned two of the following examples, i.e. of Chief Justice Nasim Hasan Shah, Ali Arsalan and Mohammad Rizwan to support their answer.

**Example:**

Author's purpose for writing this article was to make readers aware about the problems faced by the dwarf people. Authors want to teach us that dwarf people should be treated with reverence and benevolence. Also, they should get equal opportunities like others. One of the example mentioned in text is about Ali Arsalan's family. Their father was dwarf while mother was not. However, their paternal grandfather never treated his father absurdly. He saw him as a human and even their mother didn't complain about it. Second example is about Munni Baiji who had dwarfism. But apart from that, she was praised by all her listeners, particularly children. This shows that people respected her talent rather than concerning about her height and appearance. Thus, each individual has right to be treated with due respect and equal opportunities rather than laughing and making fun of someone.

In weaker responses candidates seemed confused about the purpose of the entire text. Though most candidates were able to give examples which demonstrate their understanding, yet they lost marks in describing the author's purpose. Occasionally, candidates rephrased or copied the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph where a reference to Gulliver's Travels has been made. However, connection was not made to explain the author's purpose. In some other cases, candidates mentioned that educated individuals are deprived of jobs; they did not mention about dwarfism.

**Example:**

The Purpose of writing is letter is that the most educated Person cannot get Job if he doesn't have a good dance back Source

Example

A Person with a degree with Bcom drives Rickshaw like a best dancer known as a little Michael Jackson which is amongst all the good dancer when he performs he doesn't get as much money as the other dancers get.

**Part b:**

Discuss TWO economic and TWO social problems faced by people who have dwarfism.

The question attempted to assess the skill of close-reading and tracking of textual details.

In most of the *better responses*, candidates mentioned any two economic: low income, lack of job opportunities, and any two social problems: disrespectful behaviour/ social harassment/ considered to be jokers/ not given any importance.

However, it must be noted that the command word 'discuss' which occurs in the question was largely ignored by most candidates. Candidates merely mentioned and in some cases described the problems. Hence, teachers should make students aware of the requirement of command words.

**Example:**

ECONOMIC: ① Dwarf people are often denied the <sup>two</sup> ~~one~~ percent job quota reserved for them, which leaves them jobless and unable to support themselves. ② When these people are offered jobs, they are either of low import or their payment is less than <sup>of</sup> those, who are without physical disabilities on the same post. SOCIAL: ① People with dwarfism are often looked down upon, with pity and sympathy, and not treated equally. ② They are often made objects of hilarity & mockery among individuals, specially kids, of society. Both these things leave people with dwarfism with low self esteem <sup>and depression.</sup>

*Weaker responses* displayed problems faced by people with dwarfism in a generalised way. Most candidates wrote about poverty, or mentioned Ali Arsalan's example of not acquiring many jobs. At times, candidates mentioned that government is responsible for discrimination against people who have dwarfism. The approach lacked precision and exhibited superficiality.

**Example:**

~~They~~ There is very less demand of dwarfs  
So economically they faced so many problem  
lack of money, people can't do anything.  
Social problem is every one not like this  
Day by day people are changing, and there  
minds are also changing so ~~they~~ <sup>faced</sup>  
so much who dwarfism.

**Part c:**

You must have read or heard a few stories where dwarfs were presented as characters. What is the difference between the way dwarfs are treated in fairy tales/ stories and real life?

The question aimed to assess the overall comprehension and probed thinking skills. The question discriminated well between those who understood the author's perspective and can think and create content on similar lines and those who struggled with it.

Candidates had to analyse the ways dwarfs are presented in fairy tales/ stories and how they are in real-life situations (as witnessed through the passage). Most candidates gave a generalised comparison without mentioning any specific fairy tale/ story. Most common answers were on the lines that in fairy tales dwarfs are significant and in real-life situations they face a lot of discrimination. Marks were awarded for viewpoint, analysis and freshness of insight. Some responses highlighted that in theatres/ television people with dwarfism are shown as clowns and they are rarely given any significant roles.

**Example:**

The way dwarfs are treated in fairy tales or stories is far different from the real life. We had come across many stories/fairy tales in which dwarfs are regarded as the scariest in appearance moreover they are given many roles as a body guards who are brave enough to do anything, they are loveable and good mannered as in "snow white" but if we look around we will very rarely find someone who is given a good role in any stage performances etc despite being a dwarf. In real life their rights are violated and are never treated in a good manner.

In weaker responses, most candidates followed a superficial approach. At times, there was a generalised comment about bad treatment faced by dwarfs. Occasionally, they copied a random paragraph/ few sentences. Both of the cases show that candidates have not understood the question.

**Example:**

Dwarfs are presented as role model in the stories as a good character that they are helpful and equal to normal height people. In some stories they are also presented as funny characters because of their height and presented as a scared, hurt person in some novels.

**Part d:**

Summarise the passage in no more than 100 words

In better responses, candidates made use of statements like 'The text states that.../ In the given passage, the author...' which clearly helped in establishing the fact that they are summarising someone else's writing in an objective manner. Such candidates showed the much-needed skill of a) extracting the focal point/ main idea of the given text, and b) extracting/ selecting the important points whilst recognising and eliminating the less important textual details. The language used was precise and candidates were conscious of the word limit.

**Example:**

In the given passage author is trying to make people understand that every people in this world is born with different features, talents and equal rights. Writer is saying that bad behavior towards people with different appearance for example dwarfs can severely affect their moral values, social and economic lives. They can also get hurt and isolate themselves from other world. He also mentions some example which proves that greatness comes with talents and capabilities not with looks. So in order to make our society success we need to give chance to each and every person and respect them instead of insulting or making fun of them.

In weaker responses, candidates mentioned incorrect views, personal judgements, details and examples, rather than objectively summarising what the author says, and hence exceeded the word limit. Occasionally, only one example was elaborated. Hence, the mechanics of summarising were ignored.

**Example:**

Arsalan is a good person no one is big then each other every one is similar for God & God have make every one special & Every one have there different point of view by which they thing in different way that make every person special & we have to support every person who have any kind of problem.

**Part e:**

Add TWO details from your personal experiences which support the message of this passage.

In *better responses*, candidates added two valid and relevant points to the passage. Those points reflected the understanding of the candidates about the issues and problems faced by people with dwarfism. The details added by candidates indicated the emotional/ psychological issues faced by the victims of this discrimination, and the socially regressive nature of the act. Many candidates linked their details with the last paragraph and some linked it with the overall idea of the passage. The language used in many high-scoring responses was formal and though there were no marks for language/ sentence structure, this aspect contributed to the logical flow of the written text and expression. Candidates paraphrased some textual ideas and added at least one example from personal experience.

**Example:**

- Usually when a dwarf person is seen people do not see them as an equal but show them empathy and make them feel that they depend on others.  
- In shows or t.v series dwarfs are always used as a comedian and it has become a mindset that they are always only able to make people laugh.

In *weaker responses*, candidates wrote textual details without adding any point/ detail/ example or experience. In a few cases, candidates mentioned irrelevant points like 'they worked hard and everyone else should do the same/ honesty is the best policy' etc. These points had no relevance to the question. Occasionally, candidates mentioned a very general idea about why discrimination is bad.

**Example:**

1. we should not make fun of dwarfs and give them opportunities because they are part of our society  
2. Government should provide them facilities and safeguard for their right and also government should give them quota in jobs

**Question 2:**

This question was a cloze passage. Candidates had to read the passage carefully and fill in the missing words with respect to the situation, grammar and context.

Most candidates found this question challenging. Very few candidates scored full marks. It should be communicated that whilst solving a cloze text, candidates must pay attention to the meaning the passage is trying to convey. Gauging the central idea of the passage will help in inserting appropriate words. The theme of the passage selected for cloze test was 'it is important to value heritage represented by the Indus Valley Civilization'; this was indicated in the first line. In this question, most responses had little bearing on the context of the passage. Though marking scheme was relaxed to accommodate partially correct words, misspelled words/ and at times two words, the performance indicates a need for focus and practice.

*Better responses* displayed appropriate use of words with respect to situation, grammar and context in each of the given blanks. Thorough understanding of the context and meaning of the passage is reflected in better responses.

### Example:

From the remote northern reaches 1 of the Hindu Kush mountains to the Indus River delta in the south, and along the vast expanses of land on both sides of the Indus and its tributaries, exist traces of a rich past going back in antiquity.

Without doubt it is the largest ancient civilisation in the world, and yet no place else on earth 2 has such amazing heritage under more threat than in Pakistan.

The earliest known 'food-producing' era (7,000 - 5,000 BC) 3 was Mehrgarh in the 'kachi plains' of Balochistan. This is the oldest known 'settled village life' habitation, 4 where crops were produced, skins tanned, copper mined and metal worked.

Life at Mehrgarh existed till 2,600 BC. It was roughly in this time period (3,300 - 2,800 BC) that the Harappan cities 5 near the Ravi came about. Mohenjodaro and other Sindh cities by then were busy trading towns.

Experts 6 state that the cities of Multan, Hyderabad, Lahore and Peshawar came about in this time period. Afterwards, numerous smaller towns like Bhera 7 established. All of them were on major trading routes.

Immensely rich that Pakistan is in its heritage, there seems to be a reluctance to accept this heritage. History in Pakistan, it seems, 8 starts from the time the Afghan king Mahmud of Ghazni attacked the areas that are Pakistan and beyond. In hundreds of years of Muslim rulers, foreign invaders cemented the mentality that their culture is superior to the local culture.

Today the ancient cities are fast disappearing. Even ancient sites like Mehrgarh, Harappa and Mohenjodaro are 9 deprived of funds to preserve, let alone conserve.

As they shrink and get damaged 10 by human intervention, Pakistan is losing its immensely rich heritage.

*Weaker responses* failed to provide appropriate words for most of the blanks. Such responses demonstrated lack of knowledge of sentence structures and parts of speech. Some candidates were inclined to supply articles and prepositions only as answers; this was unexpected. It indicated low tendency to think about verbs; the attempt to gauge the meaning/ context of the passage was also lacking.

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### Question 3:

The candidates were directed to write a résumé and letter on any of the two choices given. In their preparation for the examination, candidates should know the mechanics of writing an effective and a comprehensive résumé/ letter related to the details of the given prompt.

#### Part a:

You are interested in applying for a part-time job at a nearby library. Therefore, you have decided to send your CV along with a covering letter to the Head Librarian.

Your covering letter must include the following details:

- Why you are a suitable candidate for this job
- What changes you would like to bring about in the library to facilitate booklovers

Your CV should have the following:

- A realistic account of your education
- Any possible work experience
- Personal details (real names/ school names should not be used)
- Hobbies and extracurricular activities

In *better responses* for question 3a, the candidates

- created a résumé/ CV with complete information (personal, educational and professional), and used an appropriate format for résumé (having headings and bullets);
- wrote a covering letter mentioning reference to the advert, reasons for applying and personal/ professional summary. Required skill-set and abilities and relevant experiences were highlighted effectively;
- mentioned the educational and professional summary in descending order when writing a résumé
- used appropriate vocabulary to describe their suitability for the potential employment;
- showed command over language structures: grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.

**Example:**

Option <u>  d  </u>
CV (Resume)
Timothy Martin St. Bernard Road, Washington Street, UK 0091-750-69958-50 timothy-martin001@gmail.com
Education:- O-levels (2009-2011) Lawrence School - Westminster A-levels (2011-2013) Petersburg School - Westminster <del>BA</del> (Honors) <del>English</del> English Literature and History
Work Experience:- Teacher's Assistant at Petersburg School (2016-2017) Assistant Librarian at National Library (2015-2016)
Personal Details:- Name: Timothy Martin School: Lawrence School - Westminster and Petersburg School Height: 189 cm Home Address: St Bernard Road, Washington Street Relationship status: Single Family Members: 05
Hobbies/Extracurricular:- Reading and Researching Squash and Swimming

St. Bernard Road  
Washington Street  
United Kingdom

(Lower letter)

Date:- March 15, 2017

MNS Road  
QXY Street  
United Kingdom

Subject:-

Respected Madam


I, Timothy Martin was fortunate enough to come across the advertisement for a vacant spot at your well known Librarian. Eager to get my hands on this job and finally having an opportunity to work in MX Library is something that doesn't come often.

Library, which encapsulates history of the world or literature of the past is enough for an individual who has love for history and literature in his blood along with a degree in the respective field. I, being a fond book reader is fond of silence and find myself at my peak performance when given a silent environment to work. Furthermore, I would like to

is that previously working at a library has given me all the credentials of a junior librarian. Books and helping students and professors research on specific topics be it archaeology or architecture is something that I fully enjoy. Apart from that, being responsible and adaptable, I can fully manage and work under immense pressure.

Being just the right amount of qualified for this job, I would like to facilitate book lovers by expanding their reach by installing computers so that research can be made easy and books which are unavailable in the shelves ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> be made available. Furthermore I would change the shelving sequence so that book-lovers can get their peace with ease and indulge in their own world of words and scripts because no knowledge is greater than one read in a book. Being a book lover myself I would make the environment for them as I like for myself.

I hope that you will consider me for this job <sup>which</sup> and will help me increase my skills and knowledge and benefit the students/people of your library.

Regards  


Timothy Martin.

En. & V.

In weaker responses for question 3a, the candidates

- presented rote-learned resume'; some candidates mentioned their qualification as Masters/ Bachelors etc. They failed to address the prompt which asked for the CV of a student of intermediate;
- confused the report writing with letter writing: mostly such responses reflected lack of knowledge about the format, purpose and style of report writing;
- used informal/ internet language;
- mentioned the content in a random manner; it seemed as if mind mapping or brain storming was not done prior to writing;
- had many errors of grammar and spelling.

Option "A"

'Cover Letter'

The Librarian.

Mr. Essenger.

Highway, Road 01

New Jersey.

Respected Sir,

I hope you are fine. Some days ago, I saw an advertisement on Newspaper and some days later I saw on television you need a Investigator for your Library. I am interested in this job, I am capable for this job, because I have a required qualification which you want from new Investigator. I have many abilities to attract the book lovers and I have the ability to sale your books.

I am also book lover and I know very well how books lover attract ~~from~~<sup>to</sup> books. I have different ideas for your library to facilitate your library books to the books lover and those person who have interested in book reading.

I am qualified from New Central College

of New Jersey. and I have also a work experience of one year from this College Library. ~~The~~ <sup>My</sup> Resume for this job is attached to my cover letter.

I hope you give me best answer to this letter and very soon ~~at~~ I'll join your Lib Library.

Yours Sincerely

~~Enna~~  
Enna

"Resumé"

Name: Enna John

Address: Main market of New Jersey  
House 014.

Telephone Number: 0446-17893586

Email Address: Enna@gmail.com.

Qualification:-

Bachelors in English and Urdu literature (2017-2013)  
(New Central College) (1<sup>st</sup> Division).

F.S.C F.A (Urdu, English, Islamia) (2013-2011) (New central college) (1<sup>st</sup> Division).

Metric (Arts Group) (New Central School) (2011-2009)  
(1<sup>st</sup> Division).

Work Experience:-

I have at least one and half work experience as an Librarian of New Central College. I am very creative and have to do some better ways to improve <sup>Provide</sup> the books to book lovers.

Hobbies: Extra curricular Activities:-

I am ~~to~~ love to read the books when I am free I read the books and search out the different books.

**Part b:**

Child labour is the practice of engaging children in economic activity, on part or full-time basis. The practice deprives children of their childhood and is harmful to their physical and mental development. Poverty, lack of good schools and large family structures are considered as important causes of child labour.

Recently, an NGO, Human Rights Watch, organised a seminar in your school to highlight the issue of child labour. They also announced that they would like to engage students in awareness-raising programmes to eradicate child labour. You have decided to contribute to this programme and have been given a task to compile a report on children working near your home and school.

**Lead In:**

Compose a report on the cases of child labour that you have observed for the Programme Manager of the Human Rights Watch. The report should mention the following.

- The places/ businesses which have employed children
- The age group of the employed children
- Suggested measures to improve the situation

In *better responses* for question 3b, the candidates

- addressed the prompt adequately by highlighting the issue of child labour in their surroundings. The age group and condition of the employed children as well as the businesses that employed them were mentioned. Better responses mentioned sub-headings and tried to create a format to share findings, recommendations to improve the situation.
- presented accurate format of a report (To/ From/ sources of information/ findings or body/ recommendation or conclusion)
- showed command over language structures: grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.

**Example:**

Option   b  

To: The Manager

From: X-Y Z

Subject: Report on Child labour

Date: 12-5-2017

Respected Sir,

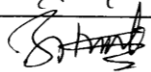
I am a ~~senior~~ student of 10-K, as a senior most student I am aware of the problems faced by childrens, especially poor who suffer from poverty and are therefore forced to work to earn for their family. As there was a seminar conducted in our school for the awareness of eradicating child labour. I was quite motivated and therefore I decided to volunteer.

First of all, in our neighbourhood, there are mechanic shops, where children as young as 8 years are ~~free~~ working. There are Bakery shops, where 2 children as young as 10 <sup>and 12</sup> are working and they are ~~also~~ sons of the owner and there are few local stores in our vicinity where ~~the~~ kids are working for carrying things for buyers. There are more than 10 mechanic shops and every shop ~~the~~ kids are working, where as they should be in schools, learning. For more details, I interviewed few childrens, one kid said, his father died and he is

only the capable of earning for his mother is ill who used to work in houses as maid, and he has take care of his younger brother and a sister. One child said, Because of family pressure he is working as they want him to learn their business to continue after his father. There were many such responses from children, either they were forced or had no choice other than to work. Moreover, they were not treated well by the shopkeepers. As one kid said, he is beaten, everytime when he makes mistake. Following are the suggestions:

- 1) I believe they should be given financial support by rich people, or by collecting money from each house in the neighbourhood for funds for their education and family finances.
- 2) Policy makers of our country should make policies against child labour.
- 3) Media should be used as a tool to spread awareness among people, and support the cause.
- 4) More organizations should be brought in to provide for these families.
- 5) Our Islam's Fourth Pillar, zakat should be made compulsory in order to decentralize the financial assets.

Yours sincerely

X Y Z  


PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE

In weaker responses for question 3b, the candidates

- presented many opinions and hence digressed from the objective format of a report;
- used incorrect language structures, spellings and grammar which made comprehension of the written response very difficult.
- used incorrect format of a report. A few students were confused between the format of a letter and report.

Example:

Examination Hall  
City: A, B, C  
Date: 12-5-17

To the manager of Human Right.

sub: I have to say about child labour and child engaging.

Dear manager of human Rights I think you will be fine I want to realise you that in pakistan there are so many cities and villages ~~are~~ where the childrens are employing such like that in my city Tando Bago there is also like that they ~~don't~~ don't know what is the education they only think that ~~we~~ we are working so our childrens are eating from us they also have to employ at some where and then we engage him with any pretty girl In that case some time happed that also they engage the childrens their old is 3 to 4 years, atleast 7 to 11 years they get start working at any shop. or

thing else after that they engage them I don't saw my any friend in school. In my class there are only 5 to 10 boys are studying there is no girl who study because they think girls only have to keep there home safe they have told that this is totally wrong you have to superwise that in different cities or villages you can be realise that.

your most obident.

Name: X, Y, Z

#### Question 4:

The candidates were directed to write an essay on any of the three choices given. Most candidates chose to use the formal structure and concise and impersonal language. In their preparation for the examination, candidates should know the mechanics of writing an effective and a comprehensive essay using thesis statements and topic sentences. They should also be taught the significance of having an introduction, body and conclusion within the essay.

In the examination, the candidates need to understand what has been directed and asked in the prompt whether it is to describe or narrate, etc. Here the candidates were expected to use their imagination and assume a situation, write a narrative that is detailed, showing insight and originality of thoughts. In the essays, paragraphing should be focused and built around the development of a contestable argument. If paragraphs are overly long and reach to well over a page, it may well be that the line of reasoning is not as controlled as it could be in producing a response that is clear and convincing.

#### Part a:

“Open merit allows universities to identify the best candidates and acknowledge their extra efforts by preferring them over other candidates. Therefore, admission in colleges and universities should be based exclusively on merit, not on quotas.”

Support OR negate the given statement with reasons and examples.

Most candidates chose to attempt this question and wrote relevant content.

In *better responses* for question 4 a, the candidates

- wrote purposeful content, which had just the right tone and register. High scoring answers were mature, sensible and had a range of interesting ideas about supporting or negating the prompt. Most candidates supported the open-merit system by citing evidences such as prevalence of meritocracy, quality enhancement, production of better skill-set, desirable workforce. Such responses (though few) reflected the defining ability of the high-scoring candidates to relate the prompt with everyday life examples - a much desirable skill. A few candidates negated the statement and analysed how quota system is needed for the underprivileged populace which has been at a disadvantage due to unequal opportunities; candidates asserted (at times, very persuasively and through real-life examples) that in the prevalent unequal socioeconomic conditions, open-merit system may further deny hope/opportunity for the underprivileged class – a significant majority. Such an insight into the socioeconomic conditions and the effort of connecting those insights with the prompt is highly desirable, not only in exams but in real-life situations.
- organised information in paragraphs by the use of specific connectors;
- used appropriate sentence structure, tenses and subject-verb agreement;
- used simple but relevant vocabulary and correct spellings.

Example:

Option 'a'

"Knowledge and hard work is the key to the door of Success"

We believe merit based universities and merit base preferences would be the most appropriate ways in all aspects. If universities were based on merit it would have a positive impact on our society and also the economy of our country. Merit based admissions give proper right to the individuals regardless of their power and wealth.

Merit based admissions have many benefits, as reasons to why open merit system should be followed.

Firstly all the students either ~~studying~~ studying in private or government school will be given equal standards of studies and equal opportunities.

There will be no ~~pre-existing~~ differences between them. None of the students from the private institutions will be given an precedence over the students studying in the Government college or institutions.

Selections between both these students from government or Private institutions will be based purely on merit base and their skills.

Secondly there will be a high level of competition between students for the seats in the universities knowing that they have no other

option rather than work hard for been eligible to be selected on merit base. Students will stop wasting their time on useless things and get more serious about their careers and life with the fear of being left out from the merit list having left with no other options.

Thirdly All the students will work hard and there will be no discrimination between those students who belong to ~~rich~~ wealthy family. There will be fair means of admissions between those belonging to either wealthy or poor family. Because due to quota system. The rights of many students are snatched from them. Those students who do not work hard the whole year and at the use their power of money to get good grades of admissions in good universities, snatching the place or seat of maybe some poor student you had worked hard and did not have enough money. A student who would have worked hard thinking that their merit will help them get into ~~brighter~~ good universities and get themselves a bright future, would be unfairly treated.

~~Infact~~

Fourthly, This quota system would led to economic down-fall, illegal degrees. uneducated and non eligible people sitting on higher posts and higher seats. ~~and~~ Not being worthy of that post or even capable of making it upto those place. causing damage to the system or unproper unfair managment of the system. where as those students ~~for~~ who have worked hard and had good merit are left behind

and their talent is ignored. Because they are snatched from their rights and the opportunities they deserved after all their hard work.

Example for this can be one of the universities that is the Iraqat medical university in past used to pick up students not on their merit bases but on their strong background bases which led to the downfall of the universities standards and grades.

Looking at one of the most renowned and highly expensive institution that is the IBA. Here also merit is kept on the top of the list. and even though many students from the merit list cannot fulfill the demand of their few structure and policies, but still based on open merit system these students are given financial aids so that merit can be given preference over those being financially strong to fulfill the demand but not have good percentage. The university also offers government based seats to facilitate merit based admissions.

Therefore I would firmly believe and suggest the open merit system should be followed in the today society where competition, hardworking and have a bright future should be the key idea ~~is~~ neglected quota system because quota systems donot give us talented hardworking individuals.

In weaker responses for question 4 a, the candidates

- mentioned reasons in support of the prompt but the ideas failed to make an impression due to randomness of ideas, lack of organisation, repetition of ideas and run-on sentences.
- mentioned incomplete answers with serious and persistent errors.
- showed lack of knowledge of grammar: tenses and subject-verb agreement, spelling and word choice.

Example:

Option a.

"Open merit" means that every one can participate and show his ability. On the other hand there exist quota based system in which child of rich can study by ~~for~~ giving financial aids to colleges, universities or institutes and majority of these students is weak or worst and the students having good grades are neglected by good and a bit expensive institutes and the reason stated is "they cannot afford fees". According to my opinion the quota based system had to be neglected ~~as~~ and "open merit" should be preferred and the seats should be given to the deserver, the one with good grades. Now I will give some examples of these kind of situations.

Every year the institutions conduct entry test based on open merit, while ~~on~~ which is shown to people but the actual situation is that there are auctions held by different institutes

and the deserver won't get seat and majority left education after intermediate on the reason that they cannot afford education anymore. and the rich ~~strong~~ financially strong students gets the seats and deserver won't get.

The government should give fund to insti

**Part b:**

Dairy farms breed cows and sell their milk. It has been observed that calves of dairy cows are separated from their mothers within the first 24 hours of their birth. Thus, all the milk produced by the cows enters the food market. The young calves are deprived of this milk and fed on sub-standard products and growth-enhancing hormones which artificially accelerate their growth. Similarly, when these calves become adults, their babies are separated from them in order to maximise the extraction of milk. This results in maximum profits for the farms because of increased sale of milk.

Write an analytical essay highlighting the mentioned issue. In your essay:

- Mention why separating young calves from their mothers is unethical
- Reasons of this practice
- How human beings are responsible for this situation
- What should be done to improve this situation

Most candidates chose to attempt this question. In *better responses* for question 4b, the candidates

- presented a well-articulated and well-reasoned stance stressing ethical standards and criticising inhumane treatment of cows and calves, consumerism and commercialisation were presented as lead causes behind greed; population control and organic means of farming were suggested.
- used accurate sentence structure, tenses and subject-verb agreement. Whilst sentence demarcation and issues with agreement or Standard English can be a problem for some, the majority of candidates who scored high marks were able to use varied sentences;
- presented original ideas in a systematic manner.

Example:

Option      b.     

The need of milk has always been there in the society. Even in primitive time when properly processed food was not available, milk was ~~a major food~~ <sup>consumed in</sup> great amounts. Today when the population has increased, demand has increased and milk is needed in various products such as production of processed cheese and butter and many other foods, new methods have been developed to produce milk.

The new methods of milk production although produce milk in large quantities are not always beneficial to all. Today milk is produced ~~and~~ <sup>in</sup> dairy farms where young calves are separated from their mothers within a few hours of their birth. Use of growth-enhancing hormones has also increased to maximize milk production.

Firstly, separating young calves from their mothers is completely inhuman and unethical. Can we as humans think of separating a human baby from his mother. We would never accept this. The very first thought that arises is that how the baby will be looked after? Have we forgotten the teachings of Islam. There are so many instances when Holy Prophet cared for animals. He even scolded the man who had adopted harsh behavior to his camel. He

throughout his life encouraged people to treat animals with care. After all, they too are living creatures that have feelings and needs to be fulfilled. God has given the responsibility of caring for them.

In addition to this, we also need to find solutions to the problems that are leading to this problem. The major causes include the increase in the population. With increasing population, the demand for food has increased. The demand today is more than the supply. Besides this, there is no check on the process of milk production. People are using illegal and unethical ways to earn money that is harming the animals. This is not cross-checked by the government. The government officials do not take any action against this ~~and~~ because either they are too lazy or are bribed by farmers. Furthermore, people have forgotten their values, ethics that were taught to them since childhood. They have moved away from their religion and have eventually started walking on wrong path.

Moreover, we human are leading to this problem. Harsh behavior with animals ~~is~~ should be ~~totally~~ totally unacceptable. Greed and the Love for ~~more~~ more money

In humans are are leading causes of this problem. Further in some cases the poor life style of farmers and poor facilities given to them and continuously rising prices of basic necessities is also eventually leading to this problem.

Now is the time when we need to change this attitude towards cows just to ensure milk produced is sufficient. We need to encourage people to stop wasting milk ~~in~~ and use it carefully. Less wasting can ~~be~~ help to reduce pressure. ~~Farmers~~ We should keep the cows and their babies together and milk the mature cows. Furthermore, use of growth enhancing hormones should be banned. Natural development of ~~cows~~ calves should take place. We need to encourage natural produced of cows. Further the government should provide incentives to farmers so that they don't have to follow illegal and such behavior towards cows for their basic necessities. In the end, ~~we~~ the government and we as responsible citizens of our country should also try to control population growth to control demand by creating awarness. We need to pull stings ~~of~~ on farmers as well, to adopt a more ~~sweet~~ <sup>encourage</sup> soft and kind attitude & towards cows.

In *weaker responses* for question 4b, the candidates:

- wrote generalised details about the importance of ethical treatment of animals/ cows but did not give adequate reasons/ examples. Occasionally, the low-scoring answers reflected a complete lack of understanding of the prompt; candidates wrote about why eating cows may be unhealthy. This indicates a reliance on general knowledge and a lack of attempt to understand the prompt.
- showed serious errors of spellings. The issue of technical accuracy is vital for writing and, unfortunately, it was not uncommon to see scripts, littered with technical errors (many of which were very basic - for example, their/there, too/to, where/were, etc.). Such errors were surprising as some misspelled words were too basic;
- used informal or semi-formal style and incorrect word choice;
- showed lack of knowledge of grammar: tenses, sentence structure and subject-verb agreement.

**Example:**

Option B.

Now a days our population is increasing at very rapid rate, because of the betterments done in basic need and resources, but increasing population aris so many different problems one of those problems is shortage of food, because we have limited food resources. One of the basic and most important food item is a milk, a first need of a human being.

As milk is necessary for all human being regarding of their age, we should have a huge ~~milk~~ and countinuous milk resources due to this reasons, know a days we are ~~using~~ using many different unfair way for the increase production of milk.

Most prominent and widly use way is seperating child of cow soon after their birth (within 24 hours after their birth) so that their is no hurdle between milk production, the body that are seperated from their mothers are give artifical growth promoting hormone and synthetic food containing those nutrient that

help them to grow well in short period of time, so that they become milk producing in short period of time.

This is such an unfair mean to get increase or maximum milk production every living organism need his mother during his early life, these cows ~~are~~ or body cows are unhealthy because they do not feed on the maternal milk they have deficiency of some nutrients, and this thing also lower their average life time. We human beings are too much selfish we just think about our benefit so that's ~~why~~ we use other animals just like machines ~~or~~ without thinking that they ~~also~~ have emotion they also have needs.

This is such an unfair mean so government should have to ban this practice there are many different ways to increase milk production we can give those type of food to cows which contain those nutrient that help them to increase.

production of milk.

We can increase number of cow by the help of Bioengineering ~~and also~~ ~~with~~ with the help of Bioengineering we can artificially produce new cows and also apply those methods that ~~are~~ increase breeding season of cow so that more new individuals are produce, but the method of separating child from their mother should be abolished.

**Part c:**

Many educationists believe that testing children who are younger than 7 years is unethical. It puts unnecessary pressure on children and makes their childhood devoid of fun. They believe that formal tests should only be taken by those students who are more than 7 years of age. On the other hand, many educationists think that tests make children more responsible and attentive to learning from a young age.

Discuss your opinion regarding this issue. Support your opinion with appropriate reasons and examples.

Question 4c appeared to be the second most popular choice after 4a. Whilst there was evidence that some candidates selected words, phrases and language features appropriately and in context, there were many who produced generalised responses.

In *better responses* for question 4c, the candidates

- mentioned their viewpoint (which was against testing before 7 years in most cases); increased stress, negativity, competitiveness instead of camaraderie between peers, race for marks, lack of joy/ love for learning were some commonly cited reasons;
- presented a well-formed conclusion where all main points were summarised or a memorable expression was given;
- organised information in paragraphs and mentioned one idea in each paragraph;
- used grammar: tenses and subject-verb agreement appropriately.

Example:

Option C

~~My~~

The growing culture of taking tests is growing at a very high speed. I strongly believe that the formal tests should be taken after the children are seven years old. I would like to justify my ~~argument~~ <sup>stance</sup> by putting forth the following arguments:

My father would always ~~said~~ <sup>say</sup> to me 'being literate and being educated are different'. As I grew up, I finally understood what he meant. ~~If~~ If the education doesn't give you a character then you are by no means educated. I believe taking tests from the ages smaller than seven ~~greatly~~ greatly reduce the feelings of apathy, empathy and care from children towards each other and competition takes its place where children are forced to do better than others. The unnecessary ~~pressure~~ pressure of performing better fuel the feelings of hatred and envy in their later lives.

'we must tell our children, about this world and its adversities but should develop them into a person that don't add up to the adversities <sup>for others</sup> but the one who subtracts them'. This quote leads to my second argument. This world needs people who care and love. Tests take away that values. The best age to develop a child's character and attitude towards life is the age till five and six. I have seen people amongst me who realize the fact that only if their teachers and parents would've worked on their character and perspectives, they

My third argument is 'you cannot judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree'. This quote of Albert Einstein sums up the system of formal tests where the child is pulled out of its comfort zone and is pressured to compete with others. The child grows up <sup>is</sup> believing as a confused individual and donot get an opportunity to work on his own talent. Formal tests shuts other horizons ~~and~~ for children. The same sets of ~~an~~ examination cannot ~~and~~ judge the diversity in talents and skills each child posses. Therefore each child, in his early age should be given an opportunity to work for his own intrests to later contribute ~~to~~ his role ~~for~~ to make this world a better place.

Some educationists believe that formal test more responsible and attentive to learning. What they fail to understand is, that learning ~~is~~ is a process, a life long process. Moreover instead of taking formal tests, if the teachers indulge children into activities which include rational approaches or a culture where each student shares his knowledge with others ~~then~~ also then also the students can become attentive to learning. ~~Therefore~~ <sup>The question that</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> how children learn is very important. Some children are kinesthetic learners, some are artistic, some are ~~visual~~ visual learners, some learn through creating stories. Formal test do not appreciate the diversity in learning, or the ways of learning. Therefore I believe that children less than ~~or~~ seven years of age should not be pulled into a cycle of formal tests.

I'd like to summarise my essays. We began with the difference between ~~of~~ being literate and being educated then we discussed how formal test threaten the values and <sup>how</sup> competition takes ~~its~~ their place. ~~Then~~ We Then we discussed that the same standard question donot judge the diversity ~~of~~ in intelligence of children; that each child is a different kind of learner and everyone should get appreciated for their individuality.

In weaker responses for question 4c, the candidates

- highlighted the role of tests in a young child's life but did not discuss the impact in detail;
- showed lack of knowledge of spellings and grammar: tenses and subject-verb agreement.

**Example:**

Option C

"Education is a key of Success". Every children and parent have some dreams or aim. that they became an educated person in the future. But not all students are high achiever So what we have to do lets see. frist trying to understand the children ~~is~~ ~~or~~ that she or he will need more attention towards study or not. Intrested in Studing. If the Childern is weak (weak in sence that not ~~catching~~ learning ~~is~~ fast then other. Or may be he or she will not have intrest on Studing. So remedies is that you have to make your self as a mother nata teacher, and ~~do~~ planing with some activities, fun and video's. I have Exprienced that in simple learning making student boor. and student get interest in movies, project's. Competitive. group working. from this student mind became fresh a student <sup>start</sup> learning with intrest. Then they get high mark's. Just for this two things you have to do which is very simple and teacher will also enjoy with children. Two things are - Teaching with love and care.

- Teaching with Co-Criculum activities and fun

And other main important message is to Children have to more attentive and respon get responsibility of their learning this work is for student's only if they have to acheive good marks. and became able or prepare f them for the future Problems.

Don't waste your time because . when the time is gone then neaver Come again.

"Time is money"

EJ  
"Education is a key of Sucess"

Thank you.