

AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION BOARD

SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

CLASS X

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS (THEORY) 2025

English Compulsory Paper I

Time: 1 hour Marks: 30

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 30 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.

Correct Way				Incorrect Ways					
1	(A)	(B)	●	(D)	1	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
					2	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
					3	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
					4	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)

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

In this section you will hear two passages. Each one will be played two times.

Listen carefully to the first passage, and then read questions 1 to 6. You will have two minutes' reading time.

The passage will then be played again. You can make notes on your question paper.

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

Follow the instructions 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

The speaker talks about South Korea.

Source: Adapted from <https://www.history.com/topics/asian-history/south-korea>

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

1. According to the heard passage, in the past, Koreans limited their contact with the outside world. The reason for this was because
 - A. Koreans wanted to increase their population.
 - B. Koreans by nature are an isolated community.
 - C. Korea was frequently invaded by outside forces.
 - D. Korea was surrounded by mountains making trips difficult.

2. During the Korean War, South Korea was assisted by the
 - A. Soviet Union and China.
 - B. Soviet Union and United Nations.
 - C. United States of America and China.
 - D. United States of America and United Nations.

3. The speaker concludes the passage by
 - A. comparing North and South Korea.
 - B. describing the history of the Olympic Games.
 - C. highlighting the importance of Seoul in South Korea.
 - D. stating the improved interactions between North and South Korea.

4. It can be inferred from the heard passage that South Korea today is
 - A. economically stable.
 - B. witnessing a shrinking population.
 - C. weakened because of the Korean War.
 - D. considered to be the cultural hub of Asia.

5. The heard passage is on the subject of
 - A. sociology
 - B. science
 - C. history.
 - D. sports.

6. The text type of the heard passage is a
 - A. review.
 - B. news report.
 - C. documentary.
 - D. magazine article.

PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD

Now we will play the second passage. It will also be played two times.

Listen carefully to the first passage and then read questions 7 to 13. You will have two minutes' reading time.

The passage will then be played again. You can make notes on your question paper.

When the passage has finished, enter your answers on the separate answer sheet provided to you. You will have three minutes to pencil in your answers.

Listening Passage II

The recording is about fossils.

Source: Taken from BBC Earth

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

7. The speaker begins the passage by saying that
- A. fossils are an important part of nature.
 - B. many types of fossil are found in nature.
 - C. fossils represent remains of dinosaurs only.
 - D. fossils help us to understand past experiences.
8. As per the explanation given by the speaker, which of the following BEST describes fossils?
- A. The bodies of dinosaurs and stems of plants
 - B. The preserved dead bodies of animals and plants
 - C. The decayed remains of softer tissues of animals and plants
 - D. The rocks on which many minerals are deposited over a period
9. A dead animal becomes a fossil only when its body
- A. rots over a period of time.
 - B. sinks in water after decaying.
 - C. erodes immediately after its death.
 - D. buries under soil soon after its death.
10. When an animal dies, its remains would MOST LIKELY
- A. rot away.
 - B. get fossilised.
 - C. be buried under soil.
 - D. be thrown in the sea.
11. An animal is decomposed when it is
- A. eaten by bacteria.
 - B. infused by many minerals.
 - C. buried in soil under seabed.
 - D. chemically changed after its death.
12. According to the speaker, which parts of a dead animal would MOST LIKELY become fossils?
- A. Teeth and bones
 - B. Flesh and blood
 - C. The entire body
 - D. Various internal organs
13. The information in the given passage is through the use of
- A. facts.
 - B. opinions.
 - C. comparisons.
 - D. figurative expressions.

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Reading Comprehension Section

You have 25 minutes for the reading comprehension section. This section has two passages, each followed by multiple choice questions. You are advised to spend 12.5 minutes on each of the given passages.

Read the passage carefully and then answer the multiple choice questions which follow.

Reading Passage I

Leadership skills are essential for anyone who wants to be successful in business or their career. The good news is that effective leadership is a skill that you can learn...

A wide range of skills can make someone a good leader – from delegating tasks and projects to simply being a good communicator...

- 5 Many people will first think of qualities such as confidence, decisiveness and charisma, but there is much more to being a leader than just these traits...

You can develop your strategic thinking skills to get better at setting priorities, making decisions and allocating resources. A leader must look at the wider impact and make decisions that will have a positive effect on a company's long-term success...

- 10 Delegating tasks means assigning responsibility for a specific task or project to another person or group.

This can free up a leader's time to focus on other projects, spreading out the workload and developing others' skills...

- 15 The best leaders know how to use these skills to motivate, inspire and persuade others. This can be done by understanding organisational behaviour, which is the study of how people behave in organisations.

These skills are essential for any leader who wants to create a positive work environment and inspire employees to work towards a common goal...

- 20 Organisational skills are another crucial element of successful management. This involves the ability to develop systems and procedures that keep things running smoothly. Good organisational skills are essential for keeping track of all the moving parts and ensuring that everyone is on track...

- 25 Communication skills are essential in every aspect of leadership. Motivating team members and building relationships with stakeholders rely on good communication, and leaders who can master the art of communication are more likely to be successful...

Source: Taken from an article as published on www.futurelearn.com

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

14. In the given passage, another term for the underlined words (line 5) is
- A. organisations.
 - B. projects.
 - C. leaders.
 - D. traits.
15. Based on paragraphs 1 and 9, which of the following elements of leadership is MOST effective when improving a process?
- A. Artistic skills
 - B. Delegation skills
 - C. Charismatic skills
 - D. Organisational skills
16. Suppose you are assigned a team that has to finish a new product within three days. You have a small team that already has a lot of workload. Based on the given statement and the information in the passage, the FIRST thing you would do will be to
- A. develop new strategies to market the product.
 - B. strengthen the team's communication skills.
 - C. allocate resources to finish the product.
 - D. delegate tasks equally among the team.
17. The information in the passage is given through
- A. figurative expressions
 - B. fact-based opinions.
 - C. statistical data.
 - D. comparisons.
18. A suitable title for the given passage could be
- A. *'Improving Relationships'*.
 - B. *'Developing Leadership Skills'*.
 - C. *'Ways to be a Motivational Speaker'*.
 - D. *'Learning to Deal with Work-related Problems'*.
19. The purpose of the author is to
- A. entertain.
 - B. persuade.
 - C. explain.
 - D. reflect.

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

Reading Passage II

From its stunning beaches to its historical monuments, and from its vibrant cities to its stunning natural wonders, Sindh has something to offer for everyone. As a result, it has become an increasingly popular travel destination...From stunning natural landscapes and wildlife to historic ruins and monuments, there is something for everyone to explore and experience in Sindh.

- 5 Sindh has numerous tourist sites with the most prominent being the ruins of Mohenjo-daro near the city of Larkana.

The city of Mohenjo-daro is one of Pakistan's most well-known United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites. Archaeologists have discovered that the history of Mohenjo-daro dates to the 26th century BC...Mohenjo-daro is a word borrowed from the local Sindhi language, which means 'Mound of the Dead'. Many ancient artefacts have been discovered here...These artefacts are on display at the Mohenjo-daro museum, which is around 800 metres away from the ancient city.

[Another attraction is the] Ranikot Fort located in one of the most remote areas of Jamshoro District in Sindh, and is considered one of the top places to visit in Sindh. Also known as 'The Great Wall of Sindh', it still stands tall today.

If you love seafood and want to enjoy a fresh catch, Keenjhar Lake is the place to be, as it is one of the most well-known fishing places near Karachi...In addition to fishing, other outdoor activities include swimming, boating, and jet skiing...

There are plenty of exciting and unique experiences to be had when exploring the province of Sindh...The *Sindhu Desh Mela* is an annual festival held in Hyderabad that celebrates the culture and heritage of Sindh. *Urs* is [another] annual festival held in several shrines in Sindh to commemorate the death of Sufi saints and includes music, singing, and religious sermons...

From the bustling streets of Karachi to the breathtaking forts and monuments of the desert, Sindh is a province that offers a wealth of cultural attractions...

Sources: Adapted from the following websites:

1. <https://www.sindh.gov.pk/tourist-attraction>
2. <https://www.graana.com/blog/places-to-visit-in-sindh/>
3. <https://zameenlocator.com/blog-detail/exploring-sindh-pakistan-tourist-attractions-culture-and-travel-tips/32>

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

20. Paragraphs 2 and 3 are organised to
- A. explain the significance of UNESCO.
 - B. describe a historical city of Sindh.
 - C. suggest rebuilding Mohenjo-daro.
 - D. highlight Islamic architecture.
21. Based on the information in the passage, Ranikot Fort is described to be
- A. bleak.
 - B. massive.
 - C. innovative.
 - D. commercial.
22. A suitable title for paragraph 6 would be
- A. *'Sermons of Sindh'*.
 - B. *'The Urs Experience'*.
 - C. *'Travelling through Music'*.
 - D. *'The Celebrations of Sindh'*.
23. Suppose you are rewriting the given passage. Which of the following sentences would be BEST suited to conclude the passage?
- A. No matter where you go, travelling to Sindh will always be a memorable experience.
 - B. To travel, one must always take a diary to note the landmarks of a particular place.
 - C. There is just something breathtaking about going to cultural festivals in Sindh.
 - D. We should promote travelling to places where there are deserts.
24. According to the author, Sindh is the
- A. birthplace of Sufis.
 - B. religious hub of Pakistan.
 - C. centre of civilisation in the East.
 - D. culturally significant region of Pakistan.
25. All the following aspects of Sindh are mentioned in the given passage EXCEPT its
- A. history.
 - B. culture.
 - C. climate.
 - D. seafood.
26. The given passage can be included in a
- A. summary.
 - B. diary entry.
 - C. documentary.
 - D. magazine article.

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Cloze Passage Section

This section has a cloze passage, followed by multiple choice questions. You are advised to spend 10 minutes on this section.

Superman is a fictional superhero. The character was created by writer Jerry Siegel and artist Joe Shuster. He was born on the planet Krypton and was given the name Kal-El at birth. As a baby, his parents (1) _____ him to Earth in a small spaceship moments before Krypton was destroyed in a natural cataclysm. His ship landed (2) on the American countryside near the fictional town of Smallville. He was found and adopted by farmers Jonathan and Martha Kent, (3) that named him Clark Kent. Clark developed various superhuman abilities. His foster parents advised him to use his abilities for the benefit of humanity and he decided to fight crime as a vigilante. To protect his privacy, he changes into a colourful costume and (4) using the alias 'Superman' when fighting crime.

Source: Adapted from the article, 'Superman' as published on Wikipedia.com

27. The word BEST suited to fill blank (1) is
- A. sent
 - B. send
 - C. is sent
 - D. sending
28. The underlined word labelled as (2) could be corrected as
- A. in
 - B. at
 - C. up
 - D. to
29. The underlined word labelled as (3) could be corrected as
- A. whom
 - B. which
 - C. they
 - D. who
30. The grammatical inaccuracy in the underlined word labelled as (4) can be corrected as
- A. use
 - B. uses
 - C. is using
 - D. began using

END OF PAPER

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