

2017

JC2 H1 GP

1.	Anderson Serangoon Junior College	
2.	Catholic Junior College	
3.	Dunman High School	
4.	Hwa Chong Institution	
5.	Innova Junior College	
6.	Jurong Junior College	
7.	Meridian Junior College	
8.	Millennia Institute	
9.	Nanyang Junior College	
10.	National Junior College	
11.	Pioneer Junior College	
12.	Raffles Institution	
13.	River Valley High School	
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ANDERSON JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2017

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

28 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials: Writing paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, PDG, GP tutor's name and Question Number on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

All questions carry equal marks.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

(Note that 20 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.)

This document consists of 2 printed pages.

[Turn over]

Answer **one** question

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. Should small countries be allowed to take the lead in global affairs?
2. To what extent can the Arts effect positive social change today?
3. 'Experiences are more valuable than material possessions.' Do you agree?
4. 'People in the workplace should embrace rather than fear technological advancements.' Discuss.
5. 'The news today deals with what is popular, rather than what is important.' How far do you agree with this statement?
6. Evaluate the claim that a more connected world has resulted in greater divisions.
7. 'Public figures today are overly concerned about what people think of them.' What is your view?
8. Consider the view that there is no value in slowing down in today's competitive world.
9. Discuss the appeal and value of creativity in your society.
10. Considering the increasing threat of terrorism, are governments justified in limiting people's rights?
11. To what extent is animal testing acceptable in scientific research?
12. 'Economic development is favoured at the expense of the welfare of people.' How true is this of your society?



ANDERSON JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2017

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

PAPER 2

28 August 2017

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

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Phil Todd discusses issues regarding the environment.

- 1 In his work, *Pan's Travail*, Donald Hughes examines the environmental history of the classical period and argues that the decline of ancient civilisations resulted in part from their exploitation of the natural world. Looking at the current state of the environment, one cannot help but wonder if tragedy will recur, for the catastrophic events of today seem to be harbingers of doom that befell our ancestors. Humanity seems helpless to overcome the problems created in the face of rampantly expanding populations and rapidly declining biodiversity, leading to worsening environmental conditions. Well-meaning initiatives to save the environment multiply with each passing day, but these initiatives typically flounder against the unthinkable prospect that we might actually change our fundamental behaviour. Today, our dying world is in danger, and asks us to take seriously this vision of a world in which humans and other species might live together peacefully, united by a sense of kinship and community. 5
- 2 It could be safely assumed that nobody understands the connection all living creatures have with Mother Earth better than the people who depend on nature for survival. Severing the umbilical cord humans have with Nature may lead to disastrous consequences. Since ancient times, natives of the land such as the Aboriginal peoples have seen themselves not as masters of nature, but as stewards: to practise reverence, humility and reciprocity towards nature. Everything taken from the environment – securing food through hunting, gathering and fishing – is used with the understanding that only what is needed is taken and great care is taken to ensure that future generations will not be put in peril. Sadly, today, modern people seek to subdue the environment – rich pickings for the strong – to be used at will without any thought of generations to come. 15
- 3 The Industrial Revolution, which marked a major turning point in the Earth's ecology and human's relationship with their environment, did not become an all-consuming juggernaut overnight – nor was it a uniform phenomenon in all countries – but it was essentially characterised by machinery replacing manual labour. This slow revolution affected all basic human needs. People who wished to share in the promised prosperity of work in urban centres left behind their rural lifestyles and the process of urbanisation – people clustering in specific geographical areas – began. At the time no thought was given to what the effects these colossal changes might have on the environment. Nature was thought of as robust and bountiful enough to be managed, tamed, and exploited as humans wished. There was a strong but, as would ultimately be realised, unsustainable confidence in the regenerating capacity of nature. 25
- 4 This self-healing property of nature was an assumption that would prove itself, in time, to be totally false. The Industrial Revolution brought enormous advances in productivity but at steep environmental costs. Governments pushed for the consumption of immense quantities of coal and other fossil fuels that surreptitiously gave rise to unprecedented air pollution that, in turn, brought about respiratory diseases on a scale that had never been known before. Toxins and the health effects that are now known to people abounded. Governments stood by as outbreaks of diseases, such as cholera and typhoid, spread by untreated human waste became a major environmental hazard. People, especially the poor and working class, were suffering, but for a time the authorities were 'oblivious' to these consequences of industrialisation and took no action to address them. The problems became myriad. Demand for resources such as food, energy, land for housing and public forms of transport grew exponentially as populations exploded with the economic prosperity that the Industrial Revolution brought. This laid the foundation for environmental threats lurking, ready to take hold in the future. 30
- 5 It was not until the late twentieth century that people finally came to grips with the fact that they had, indeed, waged war on their very own survival. Many explanations account for this realisation and consequent revolution into a new era of environmental awareness. It began first with people witnessing environmental degradation first-hand. These problems were published on various news platforms and others took notice. Research established by prominent conservationists like Rachel Carson further alerted the world to the widespread 45

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use of pestilent chemicals used in agriculture. Fear of what people were consuming became a prominent issue. This was the forerunner of a growing awareness of the diverse critical issues confronting the environment. In various societies, celebrities used their public prominence – from Oscar speeches to prime time interviews – to promote the message of environmental care. Activists resorted to radical actions to warn people about the perilous state of the environment. Diseases linked to environmental hazards further convinced people of the advantages of having an environment that would reduce the physical and mental health risks. People were no longer accepting of mistreatments of the environment. Even young people became an impetus for change with the introduction of environmental education to the classroom. Now, a greater variety of communication channels empowered individuals to spread environmental awareness.

- 6 However, this quest for a new approach to the environment did not come without challenges. Some denied that the environment was headed towards a crisis and some resisted change because of the inconvenience brought about by such changes. In more affluent countries, some people were blind to their waste of resources. Some had the illusion of sufficiency. People believed water running from our taps, the abundance of fossil fuels and all of the bounty of the environment that had, until now, been the foundation of their affluence was there for their infinite use. Also, strongly against environmental change were those who were addicted to a consumerist culture which demanded the products of manufacturing processes that polluted air, destroyed the ozone layer and triggered global warming. A further challenge was the misguided belief that, while the environment was suffering, we could continue our wasteful lifestyles because new innovations would be the panacea. Furthermore, corporations continued to retain the cheapest and most environmentally damaging methods of production. In addition, the media often presented the position of environment advocates as illogical. Governments pursuing goals of economic expansion ignored the signs of the damage they were causing. And, of course those wanting environmental change could also be their own worst enemy, having divisive attitudes as to how the environment should be improved.
- 7 Notwithstanding the challenges, there remains a glimmer of hope. Through recent environmental conferences, governments, private corporations and even individuals have shown a new resolve: the need to make environmental protection one of our top priorities. Countries have been nudged to upgrade their promises for cutting emissions and act beyond merely subsidising green technologies. Corporations have become the drivers of research and innovation in environmental technologies. Amongst all these positive changes, the biggest encouragement lies in the fact that there has been a discernible shift in people's opinion towards an increased acceptance of the gravity of climate change. Citizens are changing their lifestyles and are increasingly taking the initiative to protect their planet.
- 8 The challenge of the twenty-first century will be to figure out how to design a sustainable global society that maintains the benefits of industrialisation indefinitely into the future, and still preserve environmental quality and biodiversity. While it is true that over the course of their time on this planet, humans have had many significant negative effects on the environment, it is evident that humanity does possess a collective power that enables us to reverse these regrettable effects. For this to happen, we must pay more attention to our actions so we may gain a sustainable and mutually respectful relationship with the natural world and its many species. After all, for better or worse, we can be sure of one thing: we will get the nature we deserve.

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Candidate's Name	PDG	GP Tutor's Name
	/16	



ANDERSON JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2017

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

28 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

Additional Materials: Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, PDG and GP tutor's name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.
The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.
Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This document consists of **6** printed pages, **0** blank pages and **1** Insert.

[Turn over

Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words and phrases from the passage.

1 In paragraph 1, how does the author illustrate the catastrophic events of today as 'harbingers of doom' (lines 4–5)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

2 According to the author, why do the initiatives to save the environment 'flounder' (line 8)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
..... [1]

3 Explain the author's use of the word 'safely' in line 12.

.....
..... [1]

4 In paragraph 2, what contrasts does the author make between the Aboriginal peoples and modern people in their views towards nature? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

5 Explain what the author means by ‘unsustainable confidence’ (line 31). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

6 What is the author implying about the authorities by writing ‘oblivious’ (line 41) in inverted commas?

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

7 ‘...lurking, ready to take hold in the future’ (lines 45–46). What does this suggest about environmental threats?

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

8 In what ways have individuals shown ‘new resolve’ (line 82) in making environmental protection their priority? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

Prelims 2017 P2 Suggested Answers

1. In paragraph 1, how does the author illustrate the catastrophic events of today as “harbingers of doom” (lines 4-5)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text	Lift	Answer
... for the catastrophic events of today seem to be harbingers of doom that befell our ancestors. Humanity seems helpless to overcome the problems created in the face of rampantly expanding populations, rapidly declining biodiversity, leading to worsening environmental conditions.	Rampantly Expanding Populations Rapidly Declining Biodiversity Worsening Conditions 'leading to'	The author shows how the 1. Uncontrolled/ unchecked increase in the number of human beings 2. Quickly decreasing wildlife/ flora and fauna bring about 3. the deterioration in the state of nature. 1-2 points = 1m 3 points = 2m

2. According to the author, why do the initiatives to save the environment ‘flounder’ (line 8)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

Text	Lift	Answer
Well-meaning initiatives to save the environment multiply with each passing day, but these initiatives typically flounder against the unthinkable prospect that we might actually change our fundamental behaviour.	Unthinkable prospect Change Fundamental Behaviour	People find it impossible/ are reluctant incapable to alter/modify their way of living/ lifestyles

3. Explain the author’s use of the word ‘safely’ in line 12. [1]

Text	Lift	Question
It could be safely assumed that nobody understands the connection all living creatures have with Mother Earth better than the people who depend on nature for survival.		The author uses the word to establish that the assumption [about the closer connection people who depend on Mother Earth have with Nature] is <u>most likely to be true</u> . OR The author is <u>confident</u> that the assumption is true.

4. In paragraph 2, what contrasts does the author make between the Aboriginal peoples and modern people in their views towards nature? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Text	Lift	Answer
Since ancient times, natives of the land such as the First Nations and <u>Aboriginal peoples</u> have seen themselves not as masters of nature, but as stewards : to practise reverence, humility and reciprocity towards nature. Everything taken from the environment – securing food through hunting, gathering and fishing – is used with the understanding that only what is	Masters Stewards Reverence Humility Reciprocity 'only what is needed is taken ' great care ensure	1) Relationship Aboriginal peoples saw themselves as caretakers of nature whereas people of today seek to dominate nature / Aboriginal peoples were servant of nature whereas people today want to control nature 2) Usage Aboriginal peoples acquired from the land only what was necessary for survival whereas people of today take unreservedly from the land. Need a home tutor? Visit smiletutor.sg

<p>needed is taken and great care is taken to ensure that future generations will not be put in peril. Sadly, today, <u>modern people</u> seek to subdue the environment – rich pickings for the strong – to be used at will without any thought of generations to come.</p>	<p>future generations 'put in peril' 'to be used at will without any thought' Generations to come</p>	<p>3) Future Aboriginal peoples were mindful of the needs of their descendants whereas modern people do not care if their descendants will have resources to use.</p>
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5. Explain what the author means by 'unsustainable confidence' (line 31). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text	Lift	Answer
<p>At the time no thought was given to what effects these colossal changes would have on the environment. Nature was thought of as robust and bountiful enough to be managed, tamed, and exploited as humans wished. There was a strong and as would ultimately be realised unsustainable confidence in the regenerating capacity of nature.</p>	<p>Unsustainable Confidence Thought</p>	<p>Answer: The author means that (Confidence): <u>the certainty/belief/faith/optimism</u> people had in (Context): the <u>ability of our environment to heal itself</u> would (Unsustainable): eventually <u>cease to continue</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">0-1 point = 0m 2 points = 1m 3 points = 2m</p>

6. What is the author implying about the authorities by writing "oblivious" in inverted commas (line 41)? [2]

Text	Answer
<p>... Governments pushed for the consumption ... that surreptitiously gave rise to unprecedented air pollution that in turn brought about respiratory diseases on a scale.... Governments stood by as outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and typhoid spread... People, especially the poor and working class, were suffering, but for a time the authorities were "oblivious" to <u>these consequences of industrialisation</u> and took no action to address them.</p>	<p><u>Knowing:</u> Not only did governments know/ recognised the consequences of industrialisation/the suffering of the people <u>due to industrialisation</u>. [1] <u>Contribution:</u> and they (further) contributed to these consequences / they ignored / they chose not to do anything / pretended to be unaware / [1]</p>

7. "...lurking, ready to take hold in the future" (Lines 45-46). What does this suggest about environmental threats? [2]

Text	Lift	Answer
<p>This laid the foundation for environmental threats <u>lurking, ready to take hold in the future</u>.</p>	<p>The words in the quotation including 'future'</p>	<p>(Lurking) Hidden (secretly): 1. Environmental threats were hidden/ not obvious/ people were unaware of them. [1] (Ready to Take Hold) Damage: 2. In time, they would come to be very damaging/ cause harm to people [1]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Need a home tutor? Visit smiletutor.sg</p>

8. In what ways have individuals shown “new resolve” (line 82) in making environmental concern their priority? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text	Lift	Answer
...Since recent environmental conferences, governments, private corporations and even individuals have shown a <u>new resolve</u> :... Amongst all these positive changes, ... lies in the fact that there has been a discernible shift in people’s opinion towards an increased acceptance of the gravity of climate change . Citizens are changing their lifestyles and are increasingly taking the initiative to protect their planet .	Opinion Acceptance Gravity Changing Lifestyles Taking initiative Protect	1. people are acknowledging the severity of our environmental problems/global warming 2. Altering/ modifying their way of living/ daily routines 3. Taking the first step / are proactive in looking after nature/ taking care of nature/ ecosystems 1-2 points = 1m 3 points = 2m

9. What is the author implying by “for better or worse” in line 96? [2]

Text	Question
After all, for better or worse, we can be sure of one thing: we get the nature we deserve.	The author is implying that <u>If we look after the environment</u> , we will benefit from a healthy environment. [1] <u>If we neglect the environment</u> , we will suffer the consequences of a dying nature. [1] OR We will either benefit from a healthy environment or suffer the consequences of a dying nature [1] depending on our actions [1]

10. Using material from paragraphs 5-6 only, summarize what the author has to say about the reasons for an increase in environmental awareness, and the challenges to environmental awareness. [8]

Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

There has been an increase in environmental awareness because...

Paragraph 5 (Causes)			
Pt	From Passage	Lift	Suggested Answers
1	people witnessing environmental degradation first-hand	Witnessing Degradation First-hand	People / individuals [personally] experience environmental destruction/ saw environmental destruction for themselves.
2	These problems were published on various news platforms	Published	Issued/printed on many news platforms
3	Research established by prominent conservationists ... widespread use of pestilent chemicals used in agriculture	Research Established	Scientific examination / studies proved/ indicated the danger in how food is.
4	Fear of what people were consuming	Fear Consuming	People dreaded what they were eating
5	celebrities (used their public prominence to) promote the message of environmental care	Celebrities Public Prominence	Famous personalities promoted environmental awareness
6	Activists resorted to radical actions to warn	Activists Radical	Proposed a campaign/ used extreme behaviour Need a home tutor? Visit www.home-tutor.sg

7	Diseases linked to environmental hazards	Diseases Linked to hazards	Illnesses / Pandemics connected to environmental dangers
8	introduction of environmental education to the classroom	Introduction Education classroom	People/students learn about the environment in schools
9	greater variety of communication channels empowered individuals	Variety Communication channels Empowered	Larger range/array/assortment of media
Paragraph 6 (Challenges)			
10	Some denied that the environment was headed to a crisis	Denied Headed Crisis	Some challenged / disagreed with the fact that the environment was in danger of collapse.
11	some resisted change because of the inconvenience	Inconvenience	Some felt it was troublesome
12	some people were blind to their waste of resources	Blind Waste	Unaware/ ignorant that resources are consumed in an irresponsible way
13	illusion of sufficiency	Illusion Sufficiency	The false idea that there will always be adequate resources; idea that they think that there is [always] enough resources
14	addicted to a consumerist culture	Addicted Consumerist Culture	Dependent on a lifestyle where they were always buying indiscriminately
15	new innovations would be the panacea.	Innovations Panacea	Up to date technological advancements/ developments/ inventions was seen as the cure
16	corporations continued to retain the most environmentally damaging methods of production	Corporations Retain Damaging Methods	Companies [to cut cost] persist in employing production practices that destroy the environment
17	the media often presented the position of environmental advocates as illogical.	Presented Position Illogical	The media portrayed environmentalists as irrational/ unsound/ unreasonable
18	Governments pursuing goals of economic expansion ignored the signs of the damage ..	Goals Expansion	Countries/ Governments sacrifice the environment for economic growth / government prioritised economic growth over environmental concerns
19	having divisive attitudes as to how the environment should be improved.	Divisive Attitudes Improved	No united / coherent viewpoint / position as to how the environment should be ameliorated

Points	Marks
15	8
13-14	7
11-12	6
9-10	5
8	4
6-7	3
4-5	2
1-3	1

- 11 In this article, Phil Todd highlights some concerns about the environment and suggests why we might be optimistic about the future of the environment. How far would you agree with her observations, relating your arguments to you and your own society? [10]



Catholic Junior College
JC2 Preliminary Examinations
Higher 1

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

17 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name and class on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid on your work.

Answer **one** question.

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 “We are not the masters of this earth.” To what extent is this true of the environment today?
- 2 To what extent is it acceptable for religious authority to be involved in governance today?
- 3 How important is it for your society to keep the elderly in the workforce today?
- 4 ‘Technological advancements to the body have threatened our sense of self.’ Comment.
- 5 ‘Modern technology has removed the need for reading skills.’ Do you agree?
- 6 ‘Modern Art is not considered Art.’ Discuss.
- 7 ‘In today’s world, governments should prioritise domestic affairs over international ones.’ Discuss.
- 8 Consider the view that society must open spaces, even reserve them, for women to lead.
- 9 To what extent is the media responsible for the perception of truth in the world today?
- 10 How important is it for countries to possess World Heritage Site attractions?
- 11 Comment on the view that traditional businesses have no future in your society.
- 12 Is humility still desirable today?

END OF PAPER

Passage 1. *Leon F. Seltzer comments on the wisdom of spontaneity.*

- 1 Technically at least, the terms "spontaneous" and "impulsive" are synonyms, but only rarely can they be used interchangeably. Spontaneity "arises naturally rather than resulting from external constraint or stimulus", a definition infused with positive connotations. Impulsivity? Just the opposite, characterized as "a sudden urge or feeling not governed by reason". Those free to act spontaneously are "blessed" and those driven to behave impulsively are "bedevilled," "accursed," or "ill-fated". Those others, unable or unwilling to act in ways either spontaneous or impulsive, are in a class of their own – neither "blessed" nor "bedevilled," but not happy or fulfilled either. 5
- 2 Ultimately, the pivotal differences between these two terms makes obvious how each has psychological ramifications worthy of careful consideration. Although they may both have embedded in them the notion of "without conscious thought," impulsive behaviour clearly implies thoughtless behaviour in a way that spontaneous behaviour does not. There is a fairly complicated thought process underlying spontaneous behaviour that no one has ever adequately addressed. Those who oppose spontaneity often confuse it with impulsivity. Spontaneity is not detrimental, impulsivity is. 10
- 3 Impulsivity results in behaviour that is hasty and sudden. It is demonstrated by our drive to do something without the ability to take into account possible consequences (like impulsively reaching for another drink when we have already had as much as we can handle). In this case, our immediate feelings, unmediated by any deliberative thought process, exert pressure on us to act. Our best judgement is just not available. The immediate aftermath of acting on some immediate impulse can result in emotional distress, and lead to disappointment in ourselves. Acting impulsively puts us in danger of losing control that potentially can cause us (and others) real harm. We are compelled to do something that runs counter to our best interests. Impulsive behaviour is also typically regarded as untrustworthy. So we might describe someone with a serious shopping addiction as "an impulsive (or compulsive) spender," whereas it probably would not occur to us to depict that person's spending as "spontaneous." This is likewise true of drug addicts. 15
20
- 4 Children can easily be governed by whim, or desire. What makes a young child impulsive rather than spontaneous is that his behaviour typically has not first been mediated by some internal censoring mechanism. Children do such things because, in the moment, the behaviour is irresistible. Adults, however – benefiting from life experience – are better able to count the costs of their behaviour. Therefore, each action taken is informed by numerous past mistakes, insensitivities and oversights. Only actions that are prudent – or at least safely "gotten away with" – are performed. As adults, curiosity, a sense of adventure, or what is believed to be necessary or pleasurable, can all motivate us to act spontaneously. If we act spontaneously, it does not mean that we have not evaluated the possible liability of that particular behaviour. It is just that such assessment happens in a flash. Due to knowledge gained from experience, we can instantaneously judge whether an action makes sense, is safe - or at least poses a risk that is manageable. This allows spontaneous people to live in the moment while being responsible for their actions. 25
30
35
- 5 In fact, when we suggest that someone acts more spontaneously, what is implied is that it would benefit them to adapt more readily to changing or unexpected circumstances – that is, become more flexible. It gives them more faith in their ability to do something appropriately without first having to mull it over. In fact, because spontaneous people are not tied down to a particular plan, they are more likely to propose or accept creative solutions to problems that crop up. Their "go-with-the-flow" attitude allows them to avoid conflict and ride the wave of excitement that continuously exists. 40
- 6 In essence, spontaneity is about adaptability and openness to change. Spontaneous acts are in harmony with the person's values and interests. They are a natural manifestation of something that has been thought about in the past – and therefore an expression of experience. Spontaneous people make the best of every situation they face, and take full advantage of everything life has to offer. It may be a bit of conjecture, but it stands to reason that those who are more flexible, creative, and relaxed will ultimately be happier with their lives. 45

Adapted from "The Wisdom of Spontaneity" by Leon F. Seltzer

Passage 2. *Steven Poole questions the modern cult of spontaneity.*

- 1 Live for the moment. Be spontaneous. Be free and happy. Don't worry about the future. Act as though it is your last day on earth. You only live once. Such is one modern conception of the good life. Advertisements encourage us to drop everything and jet off for a city break at the last moment, or to walk at random into a bar where we are sure to meet a new gang of stock-photo besties, all ostentatiously sipping the same brand of transparent liquor. People are reluctant to make concrete social arrangements, so just say, "Text me." Serendipity is our friend; planning is for losers. "Spontaneity" is rhetorically offered as the reason to celebrate both online social media and last-minute travel bucket list shops. Truly living in the moment and embracing utter spontaneity would render you unable, for instance, to make and keep promises, or to formulate any kind of plan for helping yourself or others. 5
- 2 Why, then, is the dream of spontaneity so attractive? It is perhaps because most of our lives are so corralled and timetabled, and our workdays increasingly subject to silent, automated time-and-motion studies conducted by data-harvesting computers for the purpose of what is euphemised as "workforce science", that we dream all the more of being able to be spontaneous – at least in our free time. Our "free" time-is just that time which is left to us after most of it has been forcefully taken away. And so the idea of spontaneity is a dream of liberty. 15
- 3 But true freedom, as Jean-Paul Sartre noted, is also terrifying. And spontaneity, it seems, is a virtue that we sorely wish to have ascribed to us but do not actually want to act out rigorously. To be thought of as a spontaneous person is to own a certain kind of devil-may-care cool, to seem open to new experiences. 20
- 4 However, to be a spontaneous person might lead to a more stressful and disorderly life. Thus, a whole new class of smartphone apps offers what can be thought of as a kind of mediated, filtered spontaneity – a kind of just-in-time planning that still gives the desired impression of impetuosity. For example, a mobile booking start-up called *Hotel Tonight* recently added a feature allowing users to peek at probable same-day rates a few days ahead. The company announced on its blog that this planning feature was part of their "never-ending quest to empower people to be more spontaneous". 25
- 5 Consumer spontaneity is very good for business. It is very much in the interest of people selling things if a habit of recklessly spending money at a moment's notice were considered part of a desirable personality. As it happens, a friend's Twitter feed was recently interrupted by a "promoted tweet" (that is, advert) chirruping: "Go Brazilian this summer with free Ipanema flip-flops when you pick up our bikini razor now." Perhaps the purchase of a "bikini razor" is meant to count as an investment in future spontaneity, though the spontaneity that really counts here is that of immediately clicking on an ad to buy a product. Furthermore, one finds that recent "spontaneity surveys" showing that Britons really wish they were more spontaneous, are predominantly carried out on behalf of companies for which more spontaneity equals more business: train operators and retailers. Or take the advert for Delta Private Jets – the tagline which reads: "Perfect moments are often made on a moment's notice." Here, spontaneity becomes a kind of meta-luxury. 30
- 6 The dream of spontaneity is one of escape, but the truth might be that the more time we spend in a self-built cage, the better we can escape. Other work in psychology reported that pursuing spontaneity at all costs ensures we will be less happy. The problem with a devotion to spontaneity is that we are all subject to "decision fatigue", the existential lethargy that sets in quickly when we are forced to make too many trivial choices. The antidote might be, then, to stick even more closely to a timetable. Freed from the self-imposed pressure to do an awesome thing spontaneously, we will actually experience more pleasure. When we stop worrying about living, we might start having more fun. 35

Adapted from "Think Before You Act" by Steven Poole



CATHOLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examinations
Higher 1

CANDIDATE
NAME

CLASS

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2

8807/02

17 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name and class on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.
Answers written in pencil will not be awarded marks.

Answer **all** questions.
The Insert contains the passages for comprehension.
Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

Read the passages in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

For
Examiner's
Use

*NOTE: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words and phrases from the passage.*

From Passage 1

1 Explain what the author means when he says that the words 'spontaneous' and 'impulsive' are "synonyms, but only rarely can they be used interchangeably" (lines 1-2). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[1]

2 Why does the author place the words 'bedevilled,' 'accursed' and 'ill-fated' (line 5) in inverted commas?

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

3 From paragraph 4, state the main point of contrast between adults and children that enable adults to act spontaneously. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[1]

From Passage 2

5 Why does the author begin his article with a series of short statements?

.....
.....
.....
.....[1]

6 Explain the author's attitude towards advertisements as suggested by lines 3-5.

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

7 What are the negative outcomes of utter spontaneity from Paragraph 1? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

8 Explain what the author means when he writes that spontaneity is "a virtue that we sorely wish to have ascribed to us but do not actually want to act out rigorously" (lines 17-18). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

9 What does the example of the smartphone app in lines 24-26 illustrate? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

10 Why does the author place “that is, advert” (lines 29-30) in brackets?

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

11 Explain the irony in the statement, “The dream of spontaneity is one of escape, but the truth might be that the more time we spend in a self-built cage, the better we can escape” (lines 38-39).

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

2017 CJC Prelim Paper 2 Suggested Answer Scheme

From Passage 1

1. Explain what the author means when he says that the words ‘spontaneous’ and ‘impulsive’ are “synonyms, but only rarely can they be used interchangeably” (lines 1-2). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From Passage	Suggested Answer
Technically at least, the terms "spontaneous" and "impulsive" are synonyms , but only rarely can they be used interchangeably . [answer must capture both a and b to get the 1 mark]	a. The author means that the words have similar meanings/definitions , but b. can hardly/scarcely/infrequently act as substitutes/replacement DNA: if one has positive connotations and the other has negative connotations (vague) If they are used in different contexts (inferred instead of paraphrased)

2. Why does the author place the words ‘bedevilled,’ ‘accursed’ and ‘ill-fated’ (line 5) in inverted commas? [2]

From Passage	Suggested Answer
Those free to act spontaneously are “blessed” and those driven to behave impulsively are "bedevilled," "accursed," or "ill-fated".	a. Function: The inverted commas are used to quote the labels given by others BOD: (variations of) The words are society’s opinions of those who are impulsive. DNA: the words are not used in their original meaning / The author does not believe / the author is expressing doubt
	b. Context: regarding impulsive people as being doomed / ruined / destroyed BOD: do not get anything good out of their actions DNA: people are shown in a negative/unfavourable light (wrong degree) / unfortunate / unlucky / cursed (lift)

3. From paragraph 4, state the main point of contrast between adults and children that enable adults to act spontaneously. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From Passage	Suggested Answer
Children can easily be governed by whim, or desire . / “ unthinking behaviour” / “behaviour is irresistible ” VS. Adults, however - benefiting from life experience - are better able to count the costs of their behaviour . [Contrast between a and b must be seen to be awarded the mark.]	a. Children are rash / foolish OR do not consider the consequences (only exception) OR are unable to control their own behaviour b. whereas adults possess wisdom / maturity / understanding / consider the consequences / able to deliberate DNA: “do not” on its own as a point of contrast. E.g. Adults are wise whereas children are not.

From Passage 2

5. Why does the author begin his article with a series of short statements? [1]

From Passage	Suggested Answer

<p>“Live for the moment. Be spontaneous. Be free and happy. Don’t worry about the future. Act as though it is your last day on earth. You only live once. Such is one modern conception of the good life.”</p>	<p>[function] a. It is to engage / appeal to / interest / intrigue the reader with familiar/common quotes/sayings/idioms/axioms/refrains / popular sentiments Accept: make readers think / challenge / consider / set the context BOD: make readers recall / focus on DNA: emphasise / highlight / show / food for thought (use plain language instead of metaphor) / introduction (vague) / create impact + [context] b. concerning/regarding/encouraging spontaneity.</p>
--	---

6. Explain the author’s attitude towards advertisements as suggested by lines 3-5. [2]

From passage	Suggested Answer
<p>Advertisements encourage us to drop everything and jet off for a city break at the last moment, or to walk at random into a bar where we are sure to meet a new gang of stock-photo besties, all ostentatiously sipping the same brand of transparent liquor.</p>	<p>a. The author is critical towards / disdainful / disapproves / not supportive of advertisements BOD: dismissive DNA: negative (too vague) / cynical (misreading) / sarcastic or mocking or condescending (tone, not attitude) / skeptical / doubt / dislikes / in disbelief / disagrees / despises</p>
	<p>b. as they promote flamboyant / showy / flashy / clichéd / glamorous behaviour. (focus is on ‘ostentatious’) OR idealistic / unrealistic / too good to be true / too perfect / practically impossible BOD: superficial / shallow / exaggerated / façade DNA: false promises by advertisements / fake / artificial / ridiculous / meaningless / unproductive</p>

7. What are the negative outcomes of utter spontaneity from Paragraph 1? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

From Passage	Suggested Answer
<p>Truly living in the moment and embracing utter spontaneity would render you unable,</p> <p>(Student must be able to rephrase the word ‘unable’ somewhere in the answer.)</p>	<p>a. Utter spontaneity would result/make you incapable of / cannot / debilitate / prevents / deter</p> <p>Accept lifts of root words: not able / capable</p>
<p>for instance, to make and keep promises,</p>	<p>b. forming / creating and fulfilling your vows/assurances</p> <p>Accept: trustworthiness Accept: form OR fulfill (as long as one is present)</p>
<p>or to formulate any kind of plan for helping yourself or others.</p>	<p>c. or to create any kind of idea / scheme / process / ways for providing aid to / support / assist / benefits to others and yourself / change for the better / improve oneself</p> <p>Award 1 mark for 1 to 2 points, 2 marks for 3 points.</p>

8. Explain what the author means when he writes that spontaneity is “a virtue that we sorely wish to have ascribed to us but do not actually want to act out rigorously” (lines 17-18). Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

From Passage	Suggested Answer
And spontaneity, it seems, is a virtue that we sorely wish to have ascribed to us	a. Spontaneity is a positive character trait that we dearly/greatly desire / yearn to have / be associated with us / be called / labelled with/own (intensity of the word ‘sorely’ must be seen)
...but do not actually want to act out rigorously . To be thought of as a spontaneous person is to own a certain kind of devil-may-care cool, to seem open to new experiences.	b. but fail to work on/do/perform conscientiously/attentively/in detail / actively DNA: do not <i>actually</i> want to carry it out

9. What does the example of the smartphone app in lines 24-26 illustrate? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

From Passage	Suggested Answer
a whole new class of smartphone apps offers what can be thought of as a kind of mediated, filtered spontaneity –	a. It illustrates how spontaneity is aided / engineered done / managed / curated / arranged / facilitated on their behalf by external applications. BOD: seek services for help with organising DNA: allows
a kind of just-in-time planning that still gives the desired impression of impetuosity .	b. It is to grant the illusion / perception / appearance of spontaneity OR to seem spontaneous Accept: when you think you are ‘spontaneous’ DNA: for the consumers to feel like they are being spontaneous

10. Why does the author place “that is, advert” (lines 29-30) in brackets? [2]

From Passage	Suggested Answer
As it happens, a friend’s Twitter feed was recently interrupted by a “promoted tweet” (that is, advert) chirruping : “Go Brazilian this summer with free Ipanema flip-flops when you pick up our bikini razor now.”	a. [Function] The author uses brackets to include additional information/clarifies [1] BOD: explain / insert his own opinion DNA: criticise / emphasise b. [Context] the purpose of the tweet, which is to motivate/encourage the reader to purchase the razor on the spur of the moment. [1] OR a. [Function] The author uses brackets to mock the fact that [1] b. [Context] the tweet was a marketing trick/tool in disguise to encourage spontaneity. [1] DNA: advertisement (lift, not explaining)

11. Explain the irony in the statement, “The dream of spontaneity is one of escape, but the truth might be that the more time we spend in a self-built cage, the better we can escape” (lines 38-39). [2]

From Passage	Suggested Answer
The dream of spontaneity is one of escape ,	One would expect spontaneity to offer us a chance to break free / run away / liberate us from the pressures of life that is restraining us / having structure in our lives,
(Answer must capture concept of escape / liberty)	
but the truth might be that the more time we spend in a self-built cage , the better we can escape .	Yet, in reality, we can find freedom from the pressures of life more effectively by spending more time with self-imposed rules / schedules .

DNA: (variations of) One would find better chances of getting away if they are more familiar with their cage (too literal)

4. Using material from paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 only (lines 14-24, 37-48), summarise the disadvantages of impulsivity and the benefits of spontaneity.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

Impulsivity is disadvantageous as it brings about...

	From Passage	Suggested Answer
A	Impulsivity results in behaviour that is hasty and sudden	Impulsivity results in behaviour that is unpredictable/rash
B	It is demonstrated by our drive to do something without the ability to take into account possible consequences	as demonstrated by our desire to act without being capable of rationalising our actions /considering the potential implications of our actions
C	Our best judgement is just not available	Being discerning/ thinking critically is just not possible
D	...can result in emotional distress	leads to being upset/anxiety/worry DNA: pain, emotional pain (emotional is a lift), psychological trauma / mental breakdown (focus on emo, not mental) Accept: emotional upset (the word 'upset' captures the emotional state so we can award the mark for it; ignore the lift of 'emotional here')
F	lead to disappointment in ourselves	results in regret/dismay/sadness/upset about who we are/what we can achieve / self-deprecating / self-criticism / self-blame / personal regret / not meeting our own expectation
H	puts us in danger of losing control	places us at the risk of losing power/restraint/autonomy Acceptable lift: 'losing' (idea: loss of agency)
I	potentially can cause us (and others) real harm	possibly bring/lead to/result to actual/genuine pain / suffering
J	do something that runs counter to our best interests	do things that are detrimental to / against what is most beneficial to us
K	Impulsive behavior is also typically regarded as untrustworthy	is also seen as unreliable DNA: dishonest

M	when we suggest that someone acts more spontaneously, what is implied is that it would benefit them to adapt more readily to changing or unexpected circumstances OR become <i>more flexible</i> OR have a “ go-with-the-flow ” attitude	spontaneity suggests that we adjust/respond accordingly due to the dynamic situation OR their adaptability/mellow outlook
N 1	It gives them <i>more faith</i> in their ability to do something appropriately	increasing/greater confidence that they have the potential/capacity/skill/talent to do the right / correct thing
N 2	without first having to mull it over	Without taking time to consider / thinking about it first
O	spontaneous people are not tied down to a particular plan	do not adhere/follow what was decided
P	they are <i>more likely</i> to propose (for points M, N and P, comparative slant MUST be captured, but accept lift of “more”)	instead they have the greater tendency to suggest/provide
Q	or accept creative solutions to problems	or be open to innovative/unique/original answers/remedies to challenges
R	Their allows them to avoid conflict	prevents them from getting into disputes/disagreements/clashes
S	and ride the wave of excitement	to enjoy/benefit from the exhilaration/delight Accept: allow them to have fun / euphoria
T	spontaneity is about openness to change	willingness to making adjustments or to adapt to new shifts/to embrace new variations or shifts/receptive to variation
U	Spontaneous acts are in harmony with the person's values and interests	Spontaneous acts align with the ideals/standards/morals/beliefs of the individual and his/her preferences .
V	[Spontaneous people are] happier with their life (requires the comparative slant)	[Spontaneous people are] more contented/joyful/at a better advantage in their existence/experiences/situations .
W	Spontaneous people make the best of every situation they face, and take full advantage of everything life has to offer	They find ways to turn every circumstance/state of affairs into something that is effective/utilise every opportunity that comes their way. / live life to the fullest

Summary Markscheme

Points	1 pt	2-3 pts	4-5 pts	6-7 pts	8-9 pts	10-11 pts	12-13 pts	14+ pts
Marks	1m	2m	3m	4m	5m	6m	7m	8m

12. Seltzer believes in the value of spontaneity whereas Poole thinks that there are problems with it. **How important** is spontaneity to you and your society, and **how far** would you agree or disagree with the opinions expressed in these two passages? [10m]

Requirements

Candidates should:

1. Explain how far the authors’ views on the value of spontaneity are or are not important to them
2. Explain how far issues related to spontaneity are or are not important to their society
3. Support their views with reasoned argument
4. Show some understanding of the ideas in the passages
5. Explain ideas from both passages

Explanation and Text Reference

Candidates should show understanding of and make reference to *some* of the following issues raised in the Passage [See Table below]

Evaluation

Candidates should:

1. Question or show reasons for seeing some of the authors’ views are important or unimportant
2. Give examples from their own and their society’s experience in support of their views
3. *May* put forward original ideas on the importance of spontaneity
4. Provide insights on Singaporeans’ attitudes and practices
5. Develop objective evaluation of the ideas in the passage

Coherence

Candidates should:

1. Adopt a consistent viewpoint
2. Argue logically
3. Organise their answers into cohesive, themed paragraphs
4. Link paragraphs to show continuity and direction of argument
5. Maintain relevance to the task in everything they write
6. End with a summative or concluding paragraph or sentence

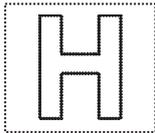
- R1: Justify your answer with reference to the passages
 R2: How important is it to be spontaneous for you and your society?
 R3: [EV]
 R3: [Context]

Textual Reference		EX + Evaluation (Logic + Context)	
From Passage 1	From Passage 2	Important	Not so important
Due to knowledge gained from experience, we can instantaneously judge whether an action makes sense, is safe - or at least poses a risk that is manageable. This allows spontaneous people to live in the moment while being responsible for their actions. [<i>Spontaneous people are able to embrace the moment while still being responsible.</i>]	...to be a spontaneous person might lead to a more stressful and disorderly life.		Although Passage 1 suggests that being spontaneous allows an individual to embrace the moment while still being responsible, Singaporeans have demonstrated via their online actions that spontaneity does not always encourage individuals to act responsibly. Given that Singaporeans are media-savvy but also highly opinionated and often quick to jump to conclusions, the spontaneous sharing of seemingly unjust actions of Singaporeans has actually

			<p>resulted in irresponsible name-calling, cyber attacks and greater misunderstanding. (Eg. Video of taxi driver being scolded by a passenger was circulated online gathering so much vitriol that the passenger’s personal details started to be revealed online.) In this case, a more measured, cautious approach where facts were first verified may have been a more responsible approach to the problem.</p>
<p>It gives them more faith in their ability to do something appropriately without first having to mull it over. In fact, because spontaneous people are not tied down to a particular plan, they are more likely to propose or accept creative solutions to problems that crop up</p>	<p>...pursuing spontaneity at all costs ensures we will be less happy. we are all subject to “decision fatigue”, the existential lethargy that sets in quickly when we are forced to make too many trivial choices.</p>	<p>In the age of disruption in the global economy, it is highly important/ imperative for Singaporeans to be spontaneous in order to innovate and remain relevant.</p> <p>Singapore is known for its conservatism, rigidity and control, and this may prevent us from being unconventional.</p> <p>Spontaneous expression of one’s ideas and opinion is still not common due to the fear of reprisal for opinions that are viewed as inappropriate. The fear of challenging authority and the pressure to conform to social rules and expectations have limited our potential.</p> <p>In the Singapore context, spontaneity might lead to insensitive and inappropriate behaviour towards others from different ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>Yet, we are beginning to make the shift. Spontaneous acts of goodwill are evident and reported in the media. E.g. youth volunteers who gave out masks when the haze affected Singapore. E.g. Agents of Kindness from ‘The Kindness Nexus’ giving out food items, free hugs and hi-fives to the public in Orchard Road. These acts received positive responses from Singaporeans and others.</p>	<p>However, the realities of the current political, social and economic climate today require a calculated approach. Singaporeans are cautious and take calculated risks, knowing that reacting spontaneously may be counter-productive.</p> <p>Spontaneity does not necessarily lead to the formulation of creative solutions.</p> <p>Less applicable and not so important to Singapore.</p>
<p>it would benefit them to adapt</p>		<p>We need to adopt the mindset</p>	<p>We cannot afford to be too</p>

<p>more readily to changing or unexpected circumstances - that is, become more flexible... In essence, spontaneity is about adaptability and openness to change.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Spontaneous people make the best of every situation they face, and take full advantage of everything life has to offer.</p>		<p>of spontaneity as Singapore is susceptible to many external and internal forces like a rapidly changing political or social landscape (eg the emergence of the sharing economy, the USA pulling the plug on the TPP; the Chinese becoming more assertive in their military policies). We must be prepared to seize the opportunities presented to us (to be less risk averse)</p>	<p>hasty as we have much to lose given our degree of vulnerability to external factors.</p>
	<p>Furthermore, one finds that recent “spontaneity surveys” showing that Britons really wish they were more spontaneous, are predominantly carried out on behalf of companies for which more spontaneity equals more business: train operators and retailers. Or take the advert for Delta Private Jets -- the tagline which reads: “Perfect moments are often made on a moment’s notice.” Here, spontaneity becomes a kind of meta-luxury.</p>	<p>[EV] Very important for Singaporeans to be spontaneous in order to seek a more balanced lifestyle. [EX] Singaporeans took an average of 5.2 trips in the last 12 months, with almost half of the trips lasting just three to six days, according to a survey commissioned by performance marketing technology company Criteo. Among the other key findings, 52 per cent of Singaporeans booked their trips between one and four months before departure, and they are most likely to do so while at home (79 per cent) on a weekend, although they would already have browsed on weekdays (56 per cent).</p>	

THE END



DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE
NAME

QUESTION
NUMBER

CLASS

INDEX
NUMBER

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GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

28 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your class, index number, name and Question number in the spaces provided on the question paper and on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/ 30
Language	/ 20
Total	/ 50

This document consists of 2 printed pages.

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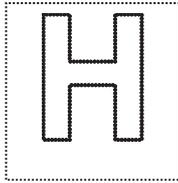
2

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 'Books are dead. Films are the way to go.' Do you agree?
- 2 Should there be any restrictions to enjoying the Arts in your society?
- 3 'The solution to all environmental problems is more regulation, not education.' Do you agree?
- 4 Consider the claim that the purpose of the media is not simply to convey the truth, but to make it interesting.
- 5 'The world will be more peaceful without religion.' What is your view?
- 6 'Interesting and current developments in science and technology are only enjoyed by the few who can afford them.' Discuss.
- 7 To what extent do parks, gardens and open spaces enhance city living?
- 8 'The control of population growth is neither desirable nor effective.' Discuss.
- 9 Should young people in your society look to the future with more optimism than pessimism?
- 10 How far can the State's surveillance of citizens be justified?
- 11 'It is increasingly difficult for voters to make the right choice in elections.' Discuss.
- 12 'Humour is no laughing matter.' Comment.

CANDIDATE NAME	CLASS	INDEX NUMBER
	6C	00 __ __



DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1
YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

28 August 2017

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

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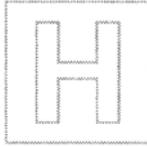
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Lou Perez writes about the fate of art, artists and museums.

- 1 In ancient temples, the consecrated images and statues of the divine served as a focal point for devotees to worship at, meditate on, or otherwise communicate with their gods. In spite of their contribution, the sculptors who built these sacred monuments did not receive much recognition. In fact, they were even treated with disdain by the common folks who saw the menial task of chipping images out of stone as a low form of grunt work. For evidence of maltreatment of these unsung heroes, look no further than the Sphinx statue in Egypt where many sculptors toiled under the harsh desert weather, sometimes without food, to create a masterpiece that is today a proudly touted emblem of Egypt, appearing in coins and official documents. The discrimination faced by these sculptors was also accurately observed by philosopher Seneca who said, "One venerates the divine images, one may pray and sacrifice to them, yet one despises the sculptors who made them." Unsurprisingly, people at that time would not even deign to speak to these sculptors, let alone perceive them as craftsmen, artisans or artists. 5 10
- 2 Today, artists are no longer physically tortured, but are tormented when forced to compromise on their artistic integrity, having to make their artworks more saleable and less provocative than they wish. They continue to receive limited respect, and ironically, their artworks receive more recognition than they ever will. We worship artworks, so much so that museums of art are now our new temples. We make 'pilgrimages' to museums and experience 'transcendence' before major paintings or large-scale installations. 'The Scream' at the National Gallery in Norway is displayed in its own niche, all the better for genuflection, while the artist Edvard Munch was consigned to oblivion. When is the busiest day of the week for most contemporary art museums? That would be Sunday: the day we used to reserve for another house of worship. 15 20
- 3 Granted, museums are a platform for learning: they provide a graphic and physical way of educating people about history and heritage of their own and others, reinforce the formal education system without the formality of the classroom, and host community education programmes which level the disparate world between rich and poor. In addition, they develop communities by building identity through reflecting shared collective values, contributing to social cohesion, and providing public spaces for leisure. The permanency of museums, buildings that we see and touch, endows them with significant roles as guardians and repositories of our collective memory, which enables us to learn from the past, understand the present and foreshadow the future. With government funding, museums help us to reflect, construct, and explore national values, which contribute to a sense of local pride that we have something which is unique and appreciated by others. 25 30
- 4 However, being reliant on government funding is an encumbrance to museums attempting to retain its credibility to the masses. It is impossible for any museum to give a balanced view of what our society and others are about. The lesser known Yushukan, a government-commissioned military and war museum located within Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, constructs the impression of Japan as the hero of the war, with dioramas highlighting the support of Asian countries for Japan's role in the national liberation of Asian peoples. This sits well with the Japanese as it appeals to their nationalistic sentiments but understandably incurs the wrath of the victims of their atrocities. In order to maintain their relevance and continue to enjoy the welcomed government funds, museums toe the line and become the state's instrument in the evolution and propagation of national identity. A quick solution is to wean museums from such funding so that they can stay autonomous and true to their purpose, but concerns over survival necessitate their commercialisation. 35 40 45

- 5 Museums need visitors and money, and to meet these needs, they water down their mission to educate and preserve history in order to improve their bottom-line. To remain relevant and popular, these for-profit museums commoditise the so-called wonder rooms containing cabinets of curiosities and map a path so that visitors can experience history that spans several centuries within a leisurely afternoon. Moreover, thematically decorated cafes within the museum grounds allow them to rest their feet and sip tea, and souvenir shops are strategically located as the last stop to entice visitors to pick up memorabilia. How we get acquainted with art and its history leaves much to be desired. It is clear that there is a conflict of interests because self-funded museums will cherry-pick collections, and become purveyors of popular culture instead of serving as bastions of art, culture and history. Either way, museums find themselves between a rock and a hard place. 50
- 6 As if finding survival within this tight space is not difficult enough, museums have gone further to dig a deeper hole for themselves. There is now a broad consensus within the art community that the prowess of technology is a new-age solution, and almost a panacea, for the long-standing issue of declining visitorship. But who can deny that all too often, our attention gets drawn to all the technological frills instead of the art works? Unfortunately, even the Louvre in Paris, one of the world's most well-visited and antiquated museums, has found it necessary to ride on this technological tide. As today's museums get all flustered over multi-media techniques to engage the audience through visual, aural, and tactile means to help to contextualise the objects, we forget that museums are meant to educate and not to scintillate. In time to come, museum curators could almost single-handedly contribute to museums' possible demise if they were to exhaust all options and money in their attempts to attract visitors. As visitors have higher expectations for live events to justify their invested time and effort, museum curators pander to these demands and organise events that are more social and interactive. Consequently, visitors ask for even more and expect everything that is made available digitally to be more gimmicky and unique than before. Evidently, they are never satisfied. So museums end up running round in circles and going up in smoke eventually. 60
- 7 Today, there is a need for a paradigm shift in how we view art and artists. Although we are becoming increasingly accepting of art, our understanding of their significance remains rather limited. In highly pragmatic societies, art is too often overlooked, while good academic grades in schools continue to be traditionally valued. Very few are aware that artists often have to first explore issues of interest, take risks, experiment and create many artworks, of which only a small percentage are truly masterful. Even for the very few that stand out, artists themselves have to convince museum curators to acquire them. Hence, we have artworks that stop us in our tracks and gawk at them, but few among us actually understand the artistry involved from start to finish. Perhaps, we have to stop treating artists' creations as artworks and start appreciating them as works of art. 75
- 8 While we used to ignore the sufferings of ancient sculptors, at least their divine images were paid homage. But too often now, museum goers venerate the temple of frills and technology surrounding artworks, and sideline artworks and the hands which made them. Alas, we should not be too surprised at the impending doom awaiting art, artists and museums. 80

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DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
 General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
 Higher 1

YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE NAME

CLASS

6	C		
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INDEX NUMBER

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GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

28 August 2017

Candidates answer on the Question Paper

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: 1 Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your class, index number and name on all the work you hand in.
 Write in dark blue or black pen.
 Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.
 The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.
 Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

AQ Mark	
For Examiner's Use	
Content	/ 35
Language	/ 15
Total	/ 50

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **1** Insert.

[Turn over

Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words and phrases from the passage.

1 '... yet one despises the sculptors who made them.' (line 11)

In the first paragraph, what evidence does the author provide to support the observation made by philosopher Seneca? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[3]

2 Why does the author say that 'museums of art are now our new temples' (lines 17 to 18)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[3]

3 How does the example in lines 37 to 42 support the author's ideas in lines 35 to 37?

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[2]

4 What does the expression 'almost a panacea' (line 60) suggest about using technology to deal with declining visitorship?

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..... [1]

5 Explain the author's use of the word 'even' in line 62.

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..... [1]

6 How do the details in lines 67 to 73 support the author's claim that 'museums end up running round in circles and going up in smoke' (line 73)?

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7 According to the author, why must we change 'how we view art' (line 74)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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8 Explain what the author means in the last sentence of paragraph 7.

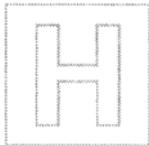
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9 What point is the author making in the last sentence of the concluding paragraph?

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..... [1]

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing, spanning the width of the page.

[10]



DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE
NAME

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CLASS

6	C		
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INDEX
NUMBER

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GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

28 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

Additional Materials: 1 Insert

SUGGESTED ANSWER KEY AND MARK SCHEME

1. '... yet one despises the sculptors who made them.' (line 11)

In the first paragraph, what evidence does the author provide to support the observation made by philosopher Seneca? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (3m)

Passage	Paraphrased
<p>(a) did not receive much recognition. In fact, they were</p> <p>(b) even treated with disdain by the common folks who saw</p> <p>(c) the menial task of chipping images out of stone as a low form of grunt work.</p> <p>For evidence of (d) maltreatment of these unsung heroes where many sculptors toiled under the harsh desert weather, sometimes without food, to create a masterpiece ...</p> <p>Unsurprisingly, people at that time</p> <p>(e) would not even deign to speak to these sculptors,</p> <p>(f) let alone perceive them as craftsmen, artisans or artists.</p>	<p>(a) They were unappreciated/ not acknowledged/ not credited/ not respected for their work/ their social status was beneath the commoners / they were not given the status or credit they deserved for the skills involved in their jobs</p> <p>(b) they were disliked/ looked down upon by people/ treated with contempt</p> <p>(c) their job/ occupation lacked prestige/ glamour/ viewed as unskilled workers</p> <p>(d) they worked under inhumane/ poor conditions</p> <p>(e) would not care to interact / talk to them</p> <p>(f) In no way were they considered skilled / not deemed as professionals/ highly skilled/</p> <p style="text-align: right;">½ m each</p>

2. Why does the author say that 'museums of art are now our new temples' (lines 17 to 18)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (3m)

Passage	Paraphrased
<p>We (a) worship art pieces, so much so that museums of art are our new temples.</p> <p>(e) all the better for genuflection</p> <p>We make (b) 'pilgrimages' to museums and</p> <p>experience (c) 'transcendence' before major paintings or large-scale installations.</p> <p>The Scream at the National Gallery in Norway is (d) displayed in its own niche,</p> <p>That would be Sunday: (f) the day we used to reserve for another house of worship</p>	<p>Visitors to museums</p> <p>(a)/(e) adore / are in awe of / respect / revere / glorify / idolise / show deference to / respect these art works,</p> <p>(b) treat visits to museums as a religious obligation / with a sense of mission / with commitment / dedication/ life goal and</p> <p>(c) receive enlightenment / feel a spiritual high when they view art works,</p> <p>(d) art works are placed / showcased in their own dedicated spaces/ pedestals / for people to pay homage</p> <p>(f) Visitors go to museums on the day that is traditionally dedicated for prayers to God / show respect to God / typically a holy day for religions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1-2 points: 1m 3-4 points: 2m 5 points: 3m</p>

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3. How does the example in lines 37 to 42 support the author's ideas in lines 35 to 37? (2m)

Inferred
<p>Author's idea:</p> <p>1) The example of the Yushukan museum being tasked ("commissioned") by the government and hence reliant on their monetary support (A)... supports the writer's idea of how museums find it challenging to remain credible (A1)</p> <p>2) The example also highlights the Yushukan museum presents history from the point of view of the victor rather than the victim, (B) ... supporting the writer's idea of museums not providing an objective view (B1)</p> <p>Students have to make reference to details about Yushukan that illustrate how it is not credible and how it does not provide a balanced view.</p> <p>Students should not simply recast details found from lines 37 to 42.</p>

4. What does the expression 'almost a panacea' (line 60) suggest about using technology to deal with declining visitorship? (1m)

Passage	Inferred
<p>As if finding survival within this tight space is not difficult enough, museums have gone further to dig a deeper hole for themselves. There is now a broad consensus within the art community that the prowess of technology is a new-age solution, and almost a panacea, for the long-standing issue of declining visitorship. But who can deny that all too often, our attention is drawn to all the technological frills instead of the art works?</p>	<p>(a) While technology has the potential to be an effective method to draw people to museums, (b) it has fallen short/ failed to live up to its potential as people instead end up distracted by the technological gimmicks.</p> <p>Can also be rephrased as: (b) Even though viewers have been more attracted by the technological gimmicks than the artwork itself, (a) this method has still solved the problem of falling visitorship.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1m</p> <p>Students must explain 'panacea' and 'almost', and apply it to the context of technology's ability to 'cure' declining visitorship.</p>

5. Explain the author's use of the word 'even' in line 62. (1m)

Passage	Inferred
<p>Who can deny that all too often, our attention gets drawn to all the technological frills surrounding the art works? Unfortunately, even the Louvre in Paris, one of the world's most well-visited and antiquated museums, has found it necessary to ride on this technological tide.</p>	<p>Either: The Louvre is so well-established, yet she has to resort to using technology to attract visitors.</p> <p>Or: We do not expect the Louvre, a popular iconic museum, to have to make changes but she did.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1m</p> <p>Students need both meaning of 'even' and context.</p>

6. How do the details in lines 67-73 support the author's claim that 'museums end up running round in circles and going up in smoke' (line 73)? (2m)

Passage	Inferred
<p>In time to come, museum curators could almost single-handedly contribute to museums' possible <u>demise</u> if they were to exhaust all options and money in their attempts to attract visitors. As visitors come to have higher expectations for live events to justify their invested time and effort, museum curators pander to these demands and organise events that are more social and interactive. Consequently, visitors ask for even more and expect everything that is made available digitally to be more gimmicky and unique than before. Evidently, they are never satisfied. So museums end up running round in circles and going up in smoke eventually.</p>	<p>(a) Running round in circles: In continually trying to meet the demands of the visitors, - the museums are going nowhere. - the museums are always playing catch-up. - there is no end to it. - or ORA</p> <p>And ...</p> <p>(b) Going up in smoke: - They lose focus on their original cause/aim. - They exhaust/ run out of solutions. - They run out of funds. - They use up all their resources and wind up. - or ORA (notions of 'exhaust money/ options' must be present)</p> <p>Students should not merely paraphrase the relevant material. They need to distil the idea the idea of 'running round in circles' and 'going up in smoke' based on what the museums do.</p> <p>Answers must present 2 separate ideas although there is no need to make explicit reference to "circles" and/or "smoke".</p>

7. According to the author, why must we change 'how we view art' (line 74)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2m)

Passage	Paraphrased
<p>Today, there is a need for a paradigm shift in how we view art and artists. Although we are becoming increasingly accepting of art, (a) our understanding of their significance remains rather limited. (b) In highly pragmatic societies, (c) art is too often overlooked, (d) while good academic grades in schools continue to be traditionally valued.</p>	<p>We still have to change the way we view art because</p> <p>(a) we have not come to appreciate its importance sufficiently, and when (b) we are still too practical (c) art is usually neglected as (d) we have placed too much importance to academic results/ academic results are overly emphasised.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">½ m each</p>

8. Explain what the author means in the last sentence of paragraph 7. (2m)

Passage	Inferred
<p>Very few are aware that artists often have to first explore issues of interest, take risks, experiment and create many artworks, of which only a small percentage are truly masterful. Even for the very few that stand out, artists themselves have to convince museum curators to acquire them. Hence, we have artworks that stop us in our tracks and gawk at them,</p>	<p>'artworks' vs 'works of art'</p> <p>(a) We should cease/ desist from viewing/ regarding artists' creations as mere products/ products superficially. OR We should stop looking at art as the final product / in its finality / as an end in itself.</p>

<p>but few among us actually understand the artistry involved from start to finish. Perhaps, (a) we have to stop treating artists' creations as artworks and (b) start appreciating them as works of art.</p>	<p>(b) Instead, we should begin understanding/ treasuring the skilled and laboured/ rigorous process involved in their creations. OR We should begin see art as a means to an end/ to appreciate the artistic process.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1m each</p>
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9. What point is the author making in the last sentence of the concluding paragraph? (1m)

Passage	Inferred
<p>Alas, we should not be too surprised at the impending doom awaiting art, artists and museums.</p>	<p>The author is implying that our actions led to the bleak future of museums today and thus their fate is regrettably expected. OR The author is resigned about the fate of museums as our neglect contributed to the demise of museums. Students are expected to demonstrate sensitivity to the use of 'alas'.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1m</p>

Prelims Summary question:

Using material from paragraphs 3 and 5, summarise what the author says about the benefits of museums and what they do to survive.

One of the many benefits of museums is...

Material From Passage	Suggested Paraphrased Answers
<p>Granted, museums are</p> <p>(a) a platform for learning: they</p> <p>(b) provide a graphic and physical way</p> <p>(c) of educating people about history and heritage of their own and others,</p> <p>(d) reinforce the formal education system without the formality of the classroom, and</p> <p>(e) host community education programmes which</p> <p>(f) level the disparate world between rich and poor. In addition, they</p> <p>(g) develop communities</p> <p>(h) by building identity through</p> <p>(i) reflecting shared collective values,</p> <p>(j) contributing to social cohesion, and</p> <p>(k) providing public spaces for leisure. The permanency of museums, buildings that we see and touch, endows them with significant roles as</p> <p>(l) guardians and</p> <p>(m) repositories of our collective memory, which</p> <p>(n) enables us to learn from the past, understand the present and foreshadow the future. With government funding,</p> <p>(o) museums help us to reflect on and explore national values, which</p> <p>(p) contribute to a sense of local pride that we have something which is unique and appreciated by others.</p>	<p>One of the many benefits of museums is...</p> <p>a) be they can be an avenue for us to gain information/ knowledge,</p> <p>b) [mode] offer pictures and artefacts / experiential learning (either 'pictures' or 'artefacts')</p> <p>c) to learn about our past/ customs and that of other countries/ societies.</p> <p>d) They reiterate what is taught in schools in a relaxed/ fun environment.</p> <p>e) They organise/ coordinate/ run enrichment activities for the public</p> <p>f) reduce income inequality/ art is open to all/ art connects everybody</p> <p>g) enhance bonds</p> <p>h) by establishing who we are</p> <p>i) through highlighting/ exhibiting common beliefs,</p> <p>j) leading to a sense of solidarity</p> <p>k) are open areas for all to utilise for recreation.</p> <p>l) They protect</p> <p>m) store our shared experiences</p> <p>n) allow us to acquire/ gain knowledge on what had happened, comprehend current trends and predict what is to come</p> <p>o) contemplate national ideals/ principles/ beliefs</p> <p>p) They add to our sense of dignity/ honour towards our country</p>
<p>Museums need visitors and money, and to meet these needs,</p> <p>(q) they water down their mission to educate and preserve history</p> <p>(r) these for-profit museums commoditise the so-called wonder rooms containing cabinets curiosities and</p> <p>(s) map a path so that visitors can experience history that span several centuries within a leisurely afternoon.</p> <p>(t) Moreover, thematically decorated cafes within the museum grounds allow them to rest their feet and sip tea, and souvenir shops are strategically located as the last stop to entice visitors to pick up memorabilia.</p> <p>(u) because self-funded museums will cherry-pick collections, and become purveyors of popular culture instead of serving as bastions of art, culture and history.</p>	<p>In order to survive, museums need to...</p> <p>q) lower their intrinsic aims/ expectations/ neglect in serving the society</p> <p>r) create/ design/ conceptualise attractive exhibitions</p> <p>s) and craft a route for patrons to help them save time / maximise their constraints of time / condense history (accept streamline)</p> <p>t) sell refreshments and mementos / house restaurants and retail stores</p> <p>u) (carefully) select and showcase trendy / fashionable / contemporary exhibits</p>

11 Lou Perez shares his views on the roles and challenges of art, artists and museums.

How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your society?



HWA CHONG INSTITUTION
C2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Higher 1

CANDIDATE NAME

CT GROUP

CENTRE NUMBER

INDEX NUMBER

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

29 August 2017

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer one question.

Note that 20 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.

Write your name, CT class, index number, and question number clearly on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use highlighters, correction tape or fluid.

**YOU ARE REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREFUL PLANNING,
LEGIBLE HANDWRITING, AND GOOD PRESENTATION.**

At the end of the examination, put this question paper at the back of your answer and fasten everything securely together.

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. 'Nothing but provocation and self-centeredness.' Is this a fair description of the state of affairs in today's world?
2. 'My life, my choice.' How far can people expect to live life this way?
3. Should historical monuments and objects be preserved when such an undertaking is very expensive or even a source of unhappiness?
4. 'Many receive an education, but few are educated.' Discuss with reference to situations in your society today.
5. 'Tourism brings less developed countries more harm than good.' Comment.
6. How worried should we be that recent advances in science and technology are creating new challenges and worsening old problems?
7. 'Looks matter, and much more than substance too.' Would you agree with this claim?
8. 'The hallmark of a great country is not how prosperous it is, but how inclusive its people can be.' Should your country work towards this ideal?
9. 'We must surrender our human rights to win the battle against terrorism.' Do you agree?
10. 'Smart cities: innovative, but not necessarily better.' What do you think?
11. 'Corporate social responsibility is bad for business and companies should not be expected to take it up.' To what extent would you agree?
12. 'Let us read and let us sing, for what harm can these amusements bring?' Comment.



**HWA CHONG INSTITUTION
C2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Higher 1**

**CANDIDATE
NAME**

CT GROUP

**CENTRE
NUMBER**

**INDEX
NUMBER**

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

29 August 2017

Insert

1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and 1 blank page.

Hans Affleck worries about the pervasiveness of lies in the world today.

- 1 Honesty is the best policy, or so claims the universal adage that every school-going child has been taught to chant and uphold. While the “Never Lie!” exhortation may be an ideal that well-meaning adults feel obligated to endorse, especially in the presence of children, anyone who attempts to practise it today will be immediately labelled a misfit. The truth of the matter is that honesty no longer paves the way to a brilliant career or a purposeful life. Instead, lying has become the new norm because it gets people to places, and brings societies the quick successes they crave. Welcome to the twenty-first century – a world where strands of truth and deceit are ridiculously spun to cloak inadequacies, camouflage intentions and shield their weavers from responsibilities and repercussions! 5
- 2 There is no better evidence of this phenomenon than what is happening in the political realm: not only are most politicians well-versed in the art of weaving truths, politics has mutated into a showdown of wit and rhetoric. Unscrupulous politicians could not care less about the truth. They churn out a mix of titillating insinuations and incredulous speculations and reinforce them with arresting visuals to keep audiences spellbound and attract the highest votes. Elected to office, the best ‘spin doctors’ rely even more heavily on their public relations machinery. Styling themselves after larger-than-life pop stars and magicians, they stage grand appearances where they crow about spectacular economic rebounds and the imminent abolition of poverty and environmental woes. As facts continue to play second fiddle, good governance slips deeper into the realm of the sensible citizen’s imagination. 10 15 20
- 3 Branding is now the heart of any business, and skilful marketing built upon evocative narratives and glowing reviews is the invisible hand that sends products flying from manufacturing plants into consumers’ homes. Given its ability to drive phenomenal sales, story-telling has become an indispensable tool and valued more highly than product development in the business playbook. To see how it works, we just need to study the globalised obsession with smart devices. Seemingly innocuous seconds-long advertisements implant in our subconscious mind a fervent desire to own not just any smart phone, tablet or watch, but the latest version. Given such allegiance, is it surprising that businesses built on deceit are commonplace and thriving? As long as they package their narratives prettily and sidestep complaints daintily, gullible consumers will continue to mire themselves in a ruinous cycle of purchases and loans. 25 30
- 4 The perpetuation of lies is made possible by two threats to modern society: a distrust of the very leaders and institutions who have been entrusted with its care and a sea change in the way information is disseminated to the public. Worldwide, spectacular failures and the inability of governments to propose sensible remedies have led to acute cynicism towards politically-correct officials who parrot trite replies. The disillusioned even declare their hairdressers and the man-in-the-street to be twice as trustworthy as any government official or business leader. Some maintain a worrying preference for mavericks whose so-called insider knowledge enables them to “tell it as it is”. It certainly does not help that experts are frequently contradicting one another, or that politicians regularly prioritise their vested interests above all else. The latter can be expected to cast doubts on a stringent climate policy by magnifying the uncertainties of science if doing so pleases their campaign sponsors and power brokers. In their hands, statistics is no longer a tool for honest analysis or social progress but a mere numbers game to “prove” their assertions. 35 40 45
- 5 Society would not be so easily enmeshed in the web of deceit if not for accomplices such as the Internet and the services it spawns. On Facebook, Reddit, Twitter or YouTube, anybody can be a publisher. A single idea, or “meme”, can be replicated shorn of all context, for the dark purposes of trolling, doxxing and slamming. Once a haven for geeks with lofty ideals about the free flow of information, the Internet now goads users into acts 50

of self-destruction. Even though Facebook and other forms of social media profess to filter news according to user sensibilities, they are poor moderators of what is genuine or malicious. They are no match for reprehensible publications mining a niche of virulent hoaxes that perpetuate rumours or prejudices for clicks and profits. Google's algorithms which personalise results based on search preferences and surfing behaviour further 55 impede netizens from chancing upon countervailing views, leaving them hopelessly ensnared by biased narratives. In essence, the online hunt for truth now is similar to the proverbial search for a needle in a haystack.

- 6 But all is not lost! There is a silver lining amidst the dark clouds: conscientious journalists who make up the Fourth Estate. They are our bulwark against encroaching falsehood, 60 the bastion of truth for whom accuracy and objectivity are not mere mantras to be chanted. Every news idea is grounded in extensive research, every lead verified through rigorous interviews and every morsel of information scrupulously corroborated to distil partiality from facts. Only after exacting standards in fact checking, copy editing and proofreading are met will the article be given life as a published piece. We often read of 65 editors and reporters who remain staunchly committed to the truth even when their visibility and courage make them scapegoats and adversaries of those they have crossed. The invaluable contributions of these professionals make them our unsung heroes, and we cannot thank them enough for taking up the cudgels against duplicity.
- 7 Truth is important in and of itself: it is gold that has been painstakingly panned from the 70 sediments of time and experience by generations. Its extrinsic value is clearly integral in modern human societies, be it in justice, trade, ethics or government. It is my firm belief that truth is the property of no individual but is the treasure of all men. Today, we sorely need the scrupulous to shine a beacon through the apocalyptic fog of manipulation, lies and deceit, and light our way to this forgotten trove. 75
- 8 Factual integrity is the most valuable legacy we can leave to our future generations in today's world where falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it. We must harken to the clarion call of the Press and rescue truth from its tormentors before it is too late.



CANDIDATE
NAME

CT GROUP

16A/S

GP TUTOR

CENTRE
NUMBER

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INDEX
NUMBER

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General Paper

8807/02

Paper 2

29 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Insert

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- 1) Write your **name**, **CT class**, **index number** and **GP tutor's name** clearly on all the work you hand in.
- 2) Write in **dark blue or black pen** in the spaces provided in the answer booklet.
- 3) Do not use paper clips, highlighters, correction fluid or tape.
- 4) Answer **ALL** questions.
- 5) You may attach additional pieces of writing paper if necessary.

There are **11** questions in this paper.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

Note that up to 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.

You are reminded of the importance of legible handwriting and good presentation.

Staple the passage to the back of this answer booklet at the end of the examination.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/ 35
Language	/ 15
Total	/ 50

Read the passage and then answer **all** the questions which follow below. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

- 1 According to the author, why will adults who practise the exhortation “Never Lie!” (line 2) be “labelled a misfit” (line 4)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....

.....

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.....[2]

- 2 “Welcome to the twenty-first century – a world where strands of truth and deceit are ridiculously spun to cloak inadequacies, camouflage intentions and shield their weavers from responsibilities and repercussions!” (lines 7 – 9).

What is the author’s tone in the above statement? Identify two words from the statement to explain his tone.

.....

.....

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.....[2]

5 “The disillusioned even declare their hairdressers and the man-in-the-street to be twice as trustworthy as any government official or business leader.” (lines 36 – 38)

Explain the irony in the above statement. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

6 Why does the author liken the online hunt for truth to “the proverbial search for a needle in a haystack” (lines 57 – 58)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
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.....[2]

7 According to the author, what is the role of “conscientious journalists who make up the Fourth Estate” (lines 59 – 60)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
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.....
.....[2]

8 The author repeats the word “every” three times in lines 62 – 63. What is the purpose of the repetition? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[1]

9 Identify and explain one metaphor used in Paragraph 7. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

10 Explain what the author means by “falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it” (line 77). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
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.....[2]

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2017 GP Prelims P2 Suggested Answer Scheme

1. According to the author, why will adults who practise the exhortation “Never Lie!” (line 2) be “labelled a misfit” (line 4)? Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)

Lift	Paraphrase
While the “Never Lie!” exhortation may be an ideal that well-meaning adults feel obligated to endorse, especially in the presence of children, anyone who attempts to practise it today will be immediately labelled a misfit. The truth of the matter is that honesty no longer paves the way to a brilliant career or a purposeful life . Instead, lying has become the new norm because it gets people to places and brings societies the quick successes they crave . (lines 2 – 7)	Such adults are labelled a misfit because it i) contradicts / clashes with / is the opposite of the workings of the modern world (do not accept ‘fit’) ii) telling the truth does not enable one to excel in one’s vocation... iii) ...or live a meaningful life iv) dishonesty is the latest trend v) that allows / facilitates / satisfies people’s ambition / aspiration/ yearning / craving for higher social status / stations on life and vi) the swift / rapid accomplishment of goals / achievement / triumph / victory that countries yearn / long for . <i>Note: ½ m per point; any 4 for 2 m. Allow the lifting of ‘social’</i>

2. “Welcome to the twenty-first century – a world where strands of truth and deceit are ridiculously spun to cloak inadequacies, camouflage intentions and shield their weavers from responsibilities and repercussions!” (lines 7 – 9).

What is the author’s tone in the above statement? Identify two words from the statement to explain his tone. (2m)

Welcome to the twenty-first century – a world where strands of truth and deceit are ridiculously spun to cloak inadequacies, camouflage intentions and shield their weavers from responsibilities and repercussions! (lines 7 – 9)	Tone: Caustic / sarcastic / scathing / derisive / sardonic / scornful / highly critical / mocking / sardonic (1m) Identification of two words to explain his tone: The author uses the word ‘welcome’ to what is otherwise a world filled with deceit (1/2) and ‘ridiculously’ spun to indicate the absurdity / ludicrousness of the extent of lying in the world today. (1/2)
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	<p>OR</p> <p>The use of the terms ‘cloak’, ‘camouflage’ and ‘shield’ indicate the author’s criticism against the deliberate weaving of material / garment to cover one’s imperfections / flaws. This is similar to how lies are weaved to disguise shortfalls, real objectives/agenda and protect the perpetrators of lies.</p> <p>Note: Students need to choose any 2 of 5 words and briefly explain how <u>each of the words</u> chosen convey the author’s tone.</p>
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3. Using material from paragraphs 2 and 3 only, summarise the author’s observations about the pervasiveness of lies in the political and business arenas. Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. Use your own words as far as possible. (8m)

Lying has become a norm in modern society because...

s/n	Point from passage	Paraphrased
1	not only are most politicians well-versed in the art of weaving truths ,	not only are most politicians adept/competent/masterful in the art (allow lift) skill/technique of fabricating lies/falsehood/distorting facts
2	politics has mutated into a showdown of wit	politics has been modified/altered into a battle/confrontation/conflict of repartee/drollery/facetiousness
3	and rhetoric	and eloquence/oratory
4	Unscrupulous politicians could not care less about the truth	Dishonest/Unprincipled politicians are not concerned about/focused on/ paying heed/attention to the truth (allow lift)/ veracity/authenticity/accuracy of facts
5	They churn out a mix of titillating insinuations	They produce/create/make (at a fast rate) a mix (allow lift) combination/blend of rousing/exciting/provocative allegations/accusations
6	and incredulous speculations	and dubious/ unconvincing conjectures/ guesswork/suppositions
7	and reinforce them with arresting visuals	and fortify/strengthen/ them with eye-catching/striking visuals (allow lift)
8	to keep audiences spellbound	to keep the public/masses riveted/enthralled mesmerized

9	and attract the highest votes	and garner the most number of votes (allow lift)
10	Elected to office, the best ‘spin doctors’	After being voted in, the most outstanding/leading propagandists/marketing experts/ publicists
11	rely even more heavily on their public relations machinery	depend on/count on even more heavily (allow lift) self-promotion tactics/ploys/manipulation
12	Styling themselves after larger-than-life pop stars and magicians, they stage grand appearances where they crow about spectacular economic rebounds and the imminent abolition of poverty and environmental woes	The politicians have over-promised what they can do in solving the world’s intractable/ troublesome problems/challenges the moment they are voted in (inferred)
13	As facts continue to play second fiddle	The truth remains in a subordinate role/does not really matter,
14	good governance slips deeper into the realm of the sensible citizen’s imagination	good governance (allow life) gradually becomes elusive /difficult to discern (inferred)
15	Branding is now the heart of any business	Branding is currently the center/core/crux/quintessence of any business
16	and skillful marketing built upon evocative narratives	and ingenious/adroit/competent marketing dependent on/reliant on vivid/powerful narratives (allow lift) / accounts
17	and glowing reviews	and complimentary/laudatory/favourable appraisals / assessment /evaluation (reward either point 29 or this)
18	is the invisible hand that sends products flying from manufacturing plants into consumers’ homes. Given its ability to drive phenomenal sales,	that entail free market forces that drive consumption/purchase of goods OR Given its potential/capability/propensity to impel precipitate remarkable/ astonishing sales
19	story-telling has become an indispensable tool	untruthfulness, dishonesty/ deceit has become essential/necessary/crucial/vital
20	and valued more highly than product development in the business playbook.	and more prized/cherished than improving on the quality of products (allow lift)
21	To see how it works, we just need to study the globalised obsession with smart devices	This is evidently displayed in the worldwide mania/craze with smart devices (allow lift)
22	Seemingly innocuous seconds-long advertisements	Supposedly/ superficially harmless messages
23	implant in our subconscious mind	are inserted/put into our subliminal/unconscious
24	a fervent desire to own not just any smart phone, tablet or watch, but the latest version	to possess/own the most advanced gadgets (inferred)

25	Given such allegiance ,	Given such loyalty/ fidelity ,					
26	is it surprising that businesses built on deceit are commonplace	It is expected that businesses built on duplicity / deception / fraud are everywhere					
27	and thriving ?	and flourishing/growing/proliferating					
28	As long as businesses package their narratives prettily	As long as businesses package their narratives (allow lift)/ sales pitches/marketing campaigns attractively/ captivatingly/ in a beguiling/bewitching manner					
29	and sidestep complaints daintily ,	and avoid/evade/dodge customers' grievances/ accusations smoothly/adroitly/skillfully					
30	gullible consumers will continue to mire themselves	credulous /overly trusting/naïve consumers will remain enmeshed /embroiled in/tangled up					
31	in a ruinous cycle of purchases and loans	in a disastrous/catastrophic cycle of consumption and borrowing/debt					
1 - 2 points	1	3- 4 points	2	5 - 6 points	3	7 - 8 points	4
9 -11 points	5	12 - 14 points	6	15 - 17 points	7	18 + points	8

4. According to the author in paragraph 4, how has the role of statistics changed? *Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)*

Lift	Paraphrase
In their hands, statistics is no longer a tool for honest analysis or social progress but a mere numbers game to “prove” their assertions. (lines 43 – 45)	<p>i) it used to be / Instead of being an instrument for the proper and truthful investigation / survey of society,</p> <p>ii) statistics are now manipulated / wielded by the authorities / those with influence / capability</p> <p>iii) to create / give suspicious / unreliable / disputable support for their questionable claims / references.</p> <p>Note: 1 – 2 points = 1m; all 3 points = 2m</p>

5. “The disillusioned even declare their hairdressers and the man-in-the-street to be twice as trustworthy as any government official or business leader.” (lines 36 – 38)

Explain the irony in the above statement. Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)

Ans: Most people would be **expected to** put their trust in government and societal leaders as they are deemed to be more educated / better equipped to deal with global and domestic issues than the layman. **However, in this case, some people actually believe** what the layman (i.e. someone who is clearly without relevant knowledge on global and domestic issues) says to be true. This speaks volumes about their utter lack of faith in these governmental and societal leaders.

6. Why does the author liken the online hunt for truth to “the proverbial search for a needle in a haystack” (lines 57 – 58)? Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)

Lifted	Inference
The online hunt for truth is similar to the proverbial search for a needle in a haystack. (lines 57 – 58)	<u>Explain the metaphor</u> To search for a needle in a haystack refers to the arduous and almost impossible task of locating something miniscule among a huge quantity of items. (1m) AND <u>Explain the writer’s intention(must have context)</u> The writer compares the online search for truth to the search for a needle in the haystack to illustrate/show/emphasize/highlight the near impossibility/futility of the task due to the glut/vast amounts of information in cyberspace (1m).

7. According to the author, what is the role of “conscientious journalists who make up the Fourth Estate” (lines 59 – 60)? Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)

Lifted	Paraphrase
There is a silver lining amidst the dark clouds: conscientious journalists who make up the Fourth Estate and continue the crusade. They are our bulwark against encroaching falsehood , the bastion of truth for wh accuracy and objectivity are not mere mantras to be chanted. (lines 59 – 62)	i)They are our defence / cover / protection / shield / safeguard against lies / deceit sneaking / impinging / intruding / invading us ii)They are the stronghold / mainstay / support of truth They practise and not just preach veracity / exactitude and neutrality / neutralism / non-partisanship in information management Note: 1 – 2 points = 1m ; all 3 points = 2m

8. The author repeats the word “every” three times in lines 62 – 63. What is the purpose of the repetition? (1m)

Lifted	Inference
Every news idea is grounded in extensive research, every lead verified through rigorous interviews and every morsel of information scrupulously corroborated to distil partiality from facts. (lines 62 – 64)	The repetition of the word ‘every’ is for emphasis ; it is to highlight how the author believes and holds the Press and the reporters in high regard for their exacting standards in news reporting, and inadvertently showing us his unquestioning trust in the Press.

9. Identify and explain one metaphor used in Paragraph 7. Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)

Lifted	Inference
Truth is important in and of itself: it is gold that has been painstakingly panned from the sediments of time and experience by generations. (lines 70 – 71)	Truth is compared to gold . (1m) Similar to gold panning which is a laborious/tedious process taken to extract gold from alluvial deposit by gently agitating the deposit in water and allowing the gold to sink to the bottom of the pan for later collection, the distillation / panning of truth is an equally tedious / arduous process. Hence, truth is as valuable as gold as it is also extracted/distilled with great effort . (1m)
Today, we sorely need the scrupulous to shine a beacon through the apocalyptic fog of manipulation, lies and deceit, and light our way to this forgotten trove (lines 73 – 75)	Truth is compared to a beacon . (1m) Similar to how a beacon illuminates the darkness/ignorance, truth makes it possible for people to have knowledge of clear facts through the web of cataclysmic exploitative manoeuvring falsehood / deception / falsification / misrepresentation. (1m) OR The environment of falsehood/lies/deceit is compared to the fog . (1m) Just as how a fog obscures vision, falsehood/lies/deceit would act as a veil to prevent us from seeing the truth.(1m)
“Truth is the property of no individual but is the treasure of all men.”	Truth is compared to treasure . (1m) Similar to how treasure is valuable or is seen as valued property, honesty or truth should be an equally cherished virtue in this world. (1m)

10. Explain what the author means by “falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it.” (line 77) Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)

Lifted	Inferred
Falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it.	<p>Lies/fake news spreads at great speed (1m) while facts are disseminated at a much slower speed and fail to catch on. (1m)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Lies/fake news is often more interesting than the truth(1m)and people would be more attracted to lies/fake news than facts/objective information. (1m)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Falsehood becomes viral (1m) and truth is dealt a heavy blow/crippled by mistruths. (1m)</p>

Application Question

11. Hans Affleck shares his worries about the pervasiveness of lies in the world today. How far would you agree with his observations?

Refer to specific material from the passage as well as your own observations of your society to illustrate and justify your points. (10m)

Question Requirements

R1: How far would you agree with his observations?

- Candidates need to identify the main arguments and concerns in the article, evaluate them, and decide the extent to which they are agreeable with.
- As prompted by the phrasing of the question, candidates should not completely agree or disagree with the writer's points. The candidate's position must be presented in a clear and qualified thesis in the introduction, while assessing the writer's views holistically.
- In the content paragraphs, candidates have to refer to specific material from the passage. The candidate can consider some of these appropriate areas for evaluation:
 - a) the writer's **thesis**, especially the understanding of the term *pervasiveness* as an unwelcome influence or physical effect that is widespread throughout an area or a group of people;
 - b) **specific ideas** associated to the thesis;
 - c) **credibility** of the **substantiation** used to support the writer's claims.
- The candidates should explain the reasons for agreeing/disagreeing with the specific point. Students are encouraged to logically consider the following: the assumptions made by Hans Affleck, the adequacy of the evidence he provided, the conclusions drawn from his claims and so forth.

R2: Refer to specific material from the passage as well as your own observations of your society to illustrate and justify your points.

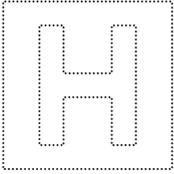
- If the candidate believes that the writer's perspective reflects what is happening in his/her society, proper justification has to be provided and supplemented by relevant examples.
- If the candidate believes that the writer's point is not reflective of his/her society, reasons have to be produced to defend this opinion. Candidates should also be mindful that even if they are unable to perceive the trend of pervasive lying through their personal experiences, that does not preclude the idea that Singaporeans, in general, welcome a culture of lying as a quick means of success. This does not mean that Singapore is a haven for liars either, but candidates have to make a reasoned case based on what they observe in society. Students have to be aware of checking their "blind spots".
- While applying the writer's arguments to the candidate's society, he/she could consider:
 - i) Is the pervasiveness of lying observable in your society or the incidences are more sporadic in nature?
 - ii) What are the similarities and differences identified in Affleck's version of society and the candidate's observations?
 - iii) Could Affleck's views be only partly reflective of the candidate's society?

Text references	<u>Evaluation and Explanation</u> <i>I would agree with Affleck's observations on the pervasiveness of lies in the world today to a large extent as they are reflective of the situation and experiences in my society</i>	<u>Evaluation and Explanation</u> <i>I would disagree with Affleck's observations on the pervasiveness of lies in the world today as they are largely unfounded / not reflective of the situation and experiences in my society</i>
<p><u>Paragraph 1</u> Honesty is the best policy, or so claims the universal adage that every school-going child has been taught to chant and uphold. Instead, lying has become the new norm because it gets people to places, and brings societies the quick successes they crave. ... a world where strands of truth and deceit are ridiculously spun to cloak inadequacies, camouflage intentions and shield their weavers from responsibilities and repercussions!</p>	<p>There is a creeping trend of high-profile leaders using deceit and misinformation to attain quick success. A sizeable premium is placed on expediency (as enabled by lies), rather than working honestly and patiently to raise funds and build trust. For instance, religious leaders are entrusted by their devotees to serve the organization in the best interests for all. Yet, deceit is indeed employed for material gain and to fulfill vested interests at times.</p>	<p>Deceit may play an increasingly important role to build up one's career in a very competitive environment, but Singapore has a zero-tolerance policy for this form of unethical manipulation. Three top scientists in Singapore were found to have committed research fraud in 2011 and 2012 (Lin, 2016). While it was undetected, their research was hailed as a breakthrough in the fight against diseases such as obesity and diabetes. Eventually, their posts were terminated by the local universities and one PhD was revoked. The heavy punishment reflects the honest research culture that the government is at pains to nurture in Singapore to keep attracting the best and the brightest in research talent.</p>
<p><u>Paragraph 2</u> There is no better evidence of this phenomenon than what is happening in the political realm: not only are most politicians well-versed in the art of weaving truths, politics has mutated into a showdown of wit and rhetoric.</p>	<p>It is increasingly observable in the political realm that more leaders have mastered the art of persuasion to some extent. They are willing to tell the people what they want to hear to secure their votes. Edelman found that a high percentage (48 percent) will support politicians they trust to make things better for the respondent and the respondent's family, even if these politicians exaggerate (Goh, 2017). Hence, the general public can be partial towards arguments favouring them, even if the truth is "weaved" to a degree.</p>	<p>In general, politics is not seen as a mere exercise in rhetoric. Singapore's rapid transformation from a third-world to a first-world country was buttressed by a government that worked tirelessly to bring substantive benefit to its people. Lee Kuan Yew bequeathed an admirable legacy of an ethical and incorruptible leadership within the PAP (Mahbubani, 2016). Mr Lee firmly believed in "a public opinion which censures and condemns corrupt persons" and urged his government to live up to his high standards.</p>
<p><u>Paragraph 3</u> Branding is now the heart of any business, and skilful marketing built upon evocative narratives and glowing reviews is the invisible hand that sends products flying from</p>	<p>Modern branding is highly successful in tempting consumers to open up their wallets and make purchases of items and services that they may not necessarily be able to afford. More people are found to be having difficulties in paying off their debts (Chong, 2015). In 2015, 85,352 people had missed two or</p>	<p>Truthfulness in branding remains a highly-valued asset in Singapore. The Singapore Prestige Brand Award (SPBA), jointly organized by the Association of Small and Medium Enterprises and the Lianhe Zaobao, is an acknowledgement of local businesses' honest efforts to deliver quality products and services. The SPBA's</p>

<p>manufacturing plants into consumers' homes. As long as they package their narratives prettily and sidestep complaints daintily, gullible consumers will continue to mire themselves in a ruinous cycle of purchases and loans.</p>	<p>more months of payment on their credit facilities in June. This was a rise in 10 per cent on the same period in 2014. These debts were accumulated from the facilities of credit cards, overdrafts and personal loans. "As Singaporeans get more affluent, they have few qualms over borrowing money to spend, and the interest-free instalment plans on higher-value purchases (using credit cards) give them the feeling that it's not borrowing," said Mr Christopher Tan, chief executive of fee-based financial advisory firm Providend.</p>	<p>evaluation process let nominated companies learn from industry practitioners and experts, perpetuating a virtuous culture. "Heritage brands" are honoured for building trust across generations. "Evocative narratives" are insufficient in building customer loyalty if faith in its quality is not cultivated. In Singapore, business truthfulness and integrity is taken seriously.</p>
<p><u>Paragraph 4</u> The perpetuation of lies is made possible by two threats to modern society: a distrust of the very leaders and institutions who have been entrusted with its care and a sea change in the way information is disseminated to the public.</p> <p>In their hands, statistics is no longer a tool for honest analysis or social progress but a mere numbers game to "prove" their assertions.</p>	<p>Among informed members of the public, Singapore is the fifth most trusted nation as measured by the 2017 Edelman Trust Barometer Index (Goh, 2017). Yet, there was a noticeable decline in the trust in government (69 percent and 5-point drop from the previous year) and local media (54 percent and 6-point drop). It was observed that the local public was perceptibly feeling that their concerns were not met and consequently, there is a lack of faith in the government and media's credibility. Caught in the global wave, Singapore is not immune to the impact of populism. The top three issues concerning Singapore respondents are immigration, globalization and pace of innovation. These are underpinned by a protectionist or nationalist mindset, as a significant proportion believes that there is a need to prioritize the interests of the country over the rest of the world.</p>	<p>A culture of honesty remains the most credible defence against populist tendencies. Over time, the government can build up trust to take on unpopular, yet essential initiatives to meet new challenges. Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam noted that the 2016 populist upsets were driven by an anti-globalization wave, which subsequently dampened the enthusiasm for global cooperation (Yong, 2017). Mr Tharman offered a correction and argued that we should not unduly attribute the fault to globalization, but focus on accurate and effective domestic policy responses.</p>
<p><u>Paragraph 5</u> Society would not be so easily enmeshed in the web of deceit if not for accomplices such as the Internet and the services it spawns.</p> <p>Even though Facebook and other forms of social media profess to filter news according to user sensibilities, they are poor moderators of</p>	<p>Accessing the Internet has become a daily ritual to the vast majority of Singaporeans. This leaves us prone to the incursion of misinformation and malicious fake news planted to lead the gullible user astray. Singapore has witnessed a disturbingly rising trend in this form of "warfare". The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. K. Shanmugam, accused the socio-political website, The Online Citizen, of publishing a series of inflammatory reports in 2016 that alleged police misconduct while investigating a minor, Benjamin Lim (Ng</p>	<p>There is hope that Singapore is or will be less vulnerable to the attacks by fake news. The Media Literacy Council works with schools to train critical thinkers, drive positive and responsible behavior on new media platforms and spearhead projects to influence their peers and the community. The Council advises the government on recent trends and make appropriate policy recommendations. It develops public awareness programmes to sensitise the public towards the threat of fake news.</p>

<p>what is genuine or malicious.</p>	<p>& Foo, 2016). There was an assumption made by the news website that the police lied about their behaviour, they intimidated the student and pressured him to confess to a crime that he did not commit. These actions were direct actions that led to Benjamin's suicide. If the falsified reports went unchallenged, they would have sullied the reputation of our local law enforcement agencies.</p>	
<p><u>Paragraph 6</u> There is a silver lining amidst the dark clouds: conscientious journalists who make up the fourth estate. They are our bulwark against encroaching falsehood, the bastion of truth for whom accuracy and objectivity are not mere mantras to be chanted.</p>	<p>There is discernible support in research conducted by independent research companies and the government to assess the trustworthiness of the Press in terms of public consciousness. Over the past six years, it has been found that for the general population in Singapore, search engines and traditional media remain the channels of choice to find information (Goh, 2017). Readers have reacted positively to traditional media like The Straits Times and the New Paper in terms of their editorial leadership, editorial style and format. This has been contrasted to a decline in trust for online or social media.</p>	<p>There are serious constraints that the local online and offline media outlets face in Singapore to creditably serve as a “bulwark” or a “bastion”. It may be an ideal but it is not one that works well in Singapore. For example, we have the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act, the Defamation Act, the Internal Security Act (ISA) and the Sedition Act are legal tools to curb the publication of materials that the government deems objection.</p>
<p><u>Paragraph 7</u> Truth is important in and of itself: it is gold that has been painstakingly panned from the sediments of time and experience by generations. Its extrinsic value is clearly integral in modern human societies, be it in justice, trade, ethics or government.</p>	<p>The pervasiveness of lying is a demonstrable menace in Singapore and there is an urgency in the fight to ensure truthfulness in public discourse. New laws to regulate Singapore’s online space and tackle the spread of fake news are expected to be introduced in 2018. The government’s goal is “to achieve working with technological platforms to delegitimise fake news, to help people identify what is fake news.” The government identifies that misinformation is more serious now than before, and is an “easy and effective” way to advance alternative and possibly malicious agendas.</p>	

<p><u>Paragraph 8</u></p> <p>Factual integrity is the most valuable legacy we can leave to our future generations in today's world where falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it.</p>	<p>The Singapore government runs the Factually webpage to clarify falsehoods that have attracted enough public interest (Lee, 2017). In early 2017, the website put out two articles to clarify why a goods and services tax is applied to the water conservation tax, while the other explained why the Housing Board had restricted lift company Sigma from tendering for new projects in 2015. The government makes strenuous efforts to ensure that honest communication of the rationale and implementation of its policies takes place.</p>	
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INNOVA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
in preparation for General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

CANDIDATE
NAME

CLASS

INDEX
NUMBER

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

18 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name and class on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

Question No.	
For Examiner's Use	
Content	/30
Language	/20
Total	/50

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

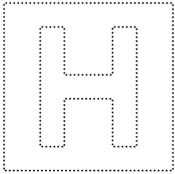


2

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 Consider the view that travel is of little value to the tourist.
- 2 Assess the view that popularity is power.
- 3 Can restrictions on the mass media be justified when they are so difficult to enforce?
- 4 'In a borderless world, it does not matter where you come from.' To what extent do you agree?
- 5 'Increased digital connectivity has improved lives.' Comment.
- 6 Should perseverance always be encouraged?
- 7 To what extent is environmental protection the responsibility of the individual?
- 8 'It is important for people today to be aware of scientific developments.' How far do you agree?
- 9 'Appealing but of little value.' Is this a fair description of the arts in your society?
- 10 How far does your society embrace diversity?
- 11 'Happiness is an expensive pursuit today.' How far do you agree?
- 12 In your society, how well are the demands of an ageing population met?



INNOVA JUNIOR COLLEGE
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Higher 1

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GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

18 August 2017

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passages for Paper 2.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.



CONFORMITY

Passage 1. *Susan Smalley sets out the merits of conformity and cautions about the rise of individualism today.*

- 1 “Be different! Be bold!” The rousing call to individualism is trumpeted everywhere today, from advertisements in the media to lessons in schools and even in dating advice. However, our current obsession with standing out from the crowd needs to be reined in. Conformity has gained a bad reputation and unfairly so. In the days of the Caveman, conformity may have been of survival value when interacting with other tribes of cavemen: by acting as the group did, the individual may be seen in a better light and therefore be accepted by the group, bringing benefits such as protection, food, and companionship. It is seen even in today’s world that we generally get along better with people similar to ourselves. Embracing sameness can give the illusion that we are more like others as we do as they do and reap the benefits. 5
- 2 Conformity has most likely shaped the group norms which are the basis of laws we abide by today to keep us safe. Socio-political theorists in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries like Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau referred to this concept of group norms as the “social contract”, the voluntary, and sometimes implicit, agreement among individuals to behave in certain ways that would bring about the regulation of behaviour and the assurance of mutual protection for members of a society. When the cavemen congregated in their groups, they would have had group norms similar to some of the laws we have today such as not to murder or even to pilfer. 10 15
- 3 Even if it is not as rigid as following the law, conformity such as adhering to socially acceptable etiquette and norms can help maintain order in today’s society and, in unfamiliar surroundings or activities, can even save our blushes. For instance, someone taking part in an activity such as dancing and who has no idea what kind of dancing to do, would most likely mimic the people around and dance like them to avoid embarrassment. Everyone has done it in some way or another throughout their life but choosing to follow the crowd really is handy in the right situations. 20
- 4 People are conformist – and that is a good thing for cultural evolution. By being conformist, we copy the things that are popular in the world and those things are often beneficial to us. For example, most people do not understand how germs can cause disease – but they know they should wash their hands after using the bathroom. Our whole world is made up of things that we do that are good for us, but we do not know why nor do we need to know why. We just need to know that most people do those things. In addition, the more diversity there is in behaviour, the more likely people are to copy the majority as the increasing number of available options creates more uncertainty – and in such circumstances, a majority sends an even stronger signal as to the right thing to do. 25 30
- 5 Of course, mindlessly following the herd is not something to be encouraged but resisting conformity by being different for the sake of being different can have disastrous consequences, which is why the rise of individualism today is a worrying trend. The idea of individualism should be seen along a continuum of sorts – and perhaps we have moved a little too far to the extreme. It is this extreme that may inflate our narcissism as a society. Our individualism has run amok. We praise our children for being unique and create a sense of expectation that they can rise above the masses and “be noticed” because of their uniqueness. But they have all the same fears, sorrows, joys, and pains as everyone else and the chance of rising above the masses is miniscule in probability – we dangle a carrot that they can rarely reach. The “you are special” message does not match their reality and striving sets in. We want to meet the challenge, to rise above the others in our uniqueness or individuality regardless of the means of getting there: attention from the masses validates our arrival. This is also true at the work place, where employees wanting to stand out and be noticed may do so at the expense of organisation culture and norms, thus running the risk of destabilising the work environment and practices. 35 40 45

- 6 This desire to fight conformity to impress others backfires when we are not true to ourselves, which would end up hurting personal relationships and being insultingly labelled as “trying too hard”, “fake”, or “weird but not in a good way”. What is so wrong with good old plain vanilla ice cream which works that we have to doctor it with sprinkles, clashing colours, bizarre toppings, and serve it up in a ridiculous vessel like a test tube? When we try too hard to be different at the expense of our core beliefs and values, we lose sight of ourselves and the bigger picture. 50
- 7 The irony is blinding when everyone wants to stand out. We need more messages that focus on the importance of our ordinary nature, the embracing of our strengths and weaknesses, and of our humanity itself. If we attend more toward the group and our communities than our particular roles in them, maybe we – as a society – may be able to live with greater equanimity and shared humanity. 55
- 60

Passage 2. *Kristen Houghton takes a different view of conformity.*

- 1 We all know that the very best in the world do things very differently. Why else would articles be written on the habits, routines, and methods of people like Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and Steve Jobs? We study them extensively in the hope that the little adaptations we make will improve our lives and edge us closer to distinction. Doing things differently is what made these people the best in their field – it stands to reason that it would benefit us mere mortals as well. 5
- 2 We do not need to be brought up by parents who are hell-bent on raising a child prodigy to be the best. We just need to realise that the best in the field are outliers not just in their accomplishments, but also in their habits and routines. They are willing to be different even if it earned them rebuke or censure. We instinctively think we are above average and we certainly do not want to be average. Yet ironically, we want to be *normal*; we want to have the same interests as most people do. We do not want to be different for fear of sticking out like a sore thumb. Having the same interests, routines, and habits as everyone else ensures that we stay in the majority and are hence part of the “in-group”. But by design, we are setting ourselves up to be average. 10
- 3 So what is the problem with average? While there is nothing wrong about having a statistically average performance, the problem arises when we *choose* to be average – to be just like everyone else – because it means choosing to be mediocre. Being like everyone else is a guarantee that an individual will never fully develop his innate talents and strengths and by extension, will never be the best version of himself. That all but guarantees mediocrity. Indeed, conformity is the reason why many potential geniuses’ creativity never finds an outlet, why many “misfits”, in a constant effort to conform, end up depressed instead of proud of their uniqueness, and, most importantly, why so many social and political catastrophes with huge human costs happen over and over again. 15
- 20
- 4 The desire to have the perfect image is another way that we try to conform to what society says is normal. It is why plastic surgery (which is still major surgery, make no mistake about that) has become as commonplace today as having your teeth cleaned. Diets galore and “nutritional” cleanses are available to help us fit the size that society says we should be. What we do to our bodies borders on torture, starvation, and mutilation simply to fit in. We are blind to – or refuse to see – the dangers of conforming to one ideal of beauty. 25
- 5 Conformity does not only concern our bodies and faces; it also pervades our life choices. Our society is not tolerant of the person who chooses a lifestyle that is not considered the norm. In fact, society is forever scrutinising us and unforgiving of differences. Individuality comes in many different forms, shapes, sizes, and choices. To be intolerant of one person’s differences is to be intolerant of anything with which we do not agree or readily understand. That is not only sad but extremely dangerous. The criteria for obesity should not be measured by someone who weighs 15 pounds more than another person, a sexual preference should not 30
- 35

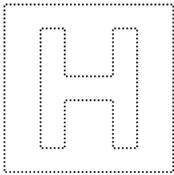
make a person an easy target for someone else's rage, and being different should not make someone strange or suspect. The worst societies thrived on communal conformity because it was, ultimately, a simple form of mind control. You were made to feel that there was something wrong with *you* if you did not think, look like, or act the same as others. Anyone who doubts the danger this poses should look back on the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis on European Jews, the Khmer Rouge on Cambodians and the Serbs on Bosnian Muslims and Croats when conformity turned ordinary people into mass murderers.

40

- 6 Conformity, real conformity, has a price. You may not lose something priceless and precious when you are forced to be like everyone else. You may even be less likely (or so you think) to embrace evil just because everyone else does. But the plain fact is this: we are not like everyone else; we are as individual as our fingerprints. Acceptance of being different and of the differences of others enhances life; intolerance diminishes it. Being different is being happy with who and what we are and want to be. That is our right and the right of all people. It is conformity that is sad.

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INNOVA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

in preparation for General Certificate of Education Advanced Level

Higher 1

CANDIDATE NAME

CLASS

INDEX NUMBER

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

18 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.

Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **1** insert.



Read the passages in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words and phrases from the passage.

From Passage 1

1 What does the word “rousing” (line 1) tell you about the purpose of the call?

.....
..... [1]

2 Why might the author refer to prehistoric man in paragraphs 1 and 2?

.....
..... [1]

3 In paragraph 4, explain how increasing diversity in behaviour encourages conformity. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

4 Explain the author’s use of the phrase “of course” in line 34. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

7 In paragraph 3, what distinction is the author making between people with a “statistically average performance” and those who “*choose* to be average” (lines 15—16)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

8 In lines 20—23, the author describes the consequences of conformity for various groups. Identify **two** such groups and explain the consequence that conformity brings to **each** of them. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

9 Why has the author placed brackets around the comment in lines 25—26?

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

10 In paragraph 5, why does the author see communal conformity as “a simple form of mind control” (line 39)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

1. What does the word “rousing” (line 1) tell you about the purpose of the call? [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>“Be different! Be bold!” The rousing call to individualism is trumpeted everywhere today, from advertisements in the media to lessons in schools and even in dating advice. However, our current obsession with standing out from the crowd needs to be reined in. Conformity has gained a bad reputation and unfairly so.</p>	<p>The purpose of the call is to galvanise/inspire/spur/fire the enthusiasm of people to be unique.</p>

2. Why might the author refer to prehistoric man in paragraphs 1 and 2? [1]

<p>In the days of the Caveman, conformity may have been of survival value when interacting with other tribes of cavemen: by acting as the group did, the individual may be seen in a better light and therefore be accepted by the group, bringing benefits such as protection, food, and companionship. ...When the cavemen congregated in their groups, they would have had group norms similar to some of the laws we have today such as not to murder or even to pilfer.</p>	<p>She does so to show/emphasise a) how deeply embedded/entrenched conformity is in human beings. OR b) that conformity has been essential to our continued survival//has played a crucial role in our continued survival.</p>
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3. In paragraph 4, explain how increasing diversity in behaviour encourages conformity. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

<p>the more diversity there is in behaviour, the more likely people are to copy the majority as the increasing number of available options creates more uncertainty – and in such circumstances, a majority sends an even stronger signal as to the right thing to do.</p>	<p>It encourages conformity because a) people are less sure about the correct course of action to take, b) and when a larger part of the population/most people this course, (c) it indicates more clearly//shows more evidently that it is correct. 1point = 1 mark 2-3 points = 2 marks</p>
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4. Explain the author's use of the phrase 'of course' in line 34. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

- Vocabulary Inferential

From the passage	Suggested answer
Of course, mindlessly following the herd is not something to be encouraged but resisting conformity by being different for the sake of being different can have disastrous consequences, which is why the rise in individualism today is a worrying trend.	The author uses the phrase a) to qualify/ concede to something that is obvious [1] b) that conforming without thinking is not something good/to be promoted/advocated [1]

Q5: Summary

Summary (From Passage 1):

Using material from paragraphs 5-7, summarise what the author has to say about **the harm individualism brings to the individual and to society**, and **the benefits of focusing on the group rather than on individuals**.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

Individualism may be harmful because ...

	From the Passage	Suggested Paraphrasing
1	The idea of individualism should be seen along a continuum of sorts - and perhaps we have moved a little too far to the extreme... OR Our individualism has run amok.	Today it is uncontrolled/gone beyond what is reasonable
2	... that may inflate our narcissism as a society	it may swell people's/society's excessive self-love.
3	We praise our children for being unique...	Parents laud/commend their children's individuality,
4	... and create a sense of expectation that they can rise above the masses...	making them think/assume they can outclass/better others.
5	...and "be noticed" because of their uniqueness.	and stand out for being different
6	But they have all the same fears, sorrows, joys, and pains as everyone else...	But the children's emotional experiences are just like others'
7	... and the chance of rising above the masses is miniscule in probability	and the likelihood/probability of bettering/outdoing others is minute/slim/impossible

	OR we dangle a carrot that they can rarely reach.	
8	The “you are special” message does not match their reality...	as they are not actually unique
9	... and striving sets in.	so they end up struggling// trying too hard
10	We want to [...] rise above the others in our uniqueness or individuality regardless of the means of getting there: ...	People want to be special no matter how//by whatever method//whatever it takes // OR People will do anything to be special
11	...attention from the masses validates our arrival.	as it is public acknowledgement/recognition that confirms/affirms their achievement/success. OR as their sense of achievement/success depends on/is reliant on public acknowledgement/recognition
12	This is also true at the work place, where employees wanting to stand out and be noticed may do so at the expense of organisation culture and norms...	In workers, wanting recognition may jeopardise/endanger/threaten company ethics and standards
13	..., thus running the risk of destabilising the work environment and practices.	possibly upsetting job processes and procedures.
14	This desire to fight conformity to impress others backfires when we are not true to ourselves,	In individuals, not being who you really are//putting on a facade
15	which would end up hurting personal relationships...	damages close/intimate ties/bonds
16	and being insultingly labelled as “trying too hard”, “fake”, or “weird but not in a good way”.	and the individual being demeaningly/derogatorily described as artificial/not natural
17	When we try too hard to be different...	Excessive effort/struggle at uniqueness
18	...at the expense of our core beliefs and values...	which comes at the cost of essential/integral ways of thinking//principles/standards/morals
19	...we lose sight of ourselves...	leads to the lack of self-knowledge//forget who we are
20	...and the bigger picture.	and (lack of) an entire perspective of a situation
21	When we focus on the group rather than on individuals, ...- as a society - may be able to live with greater equanimity...	Focusing more on the group may see a community that is calmer/more composed
22	...and shared humanity.	and benevolent/kind/merciful/compassionate towards one another

No. of points	Marks	SAMPLE SUMMARY
≥ 14	8	<p><i>Individualism may be harmful because</i> uncontrolled, (1) it may swell people's excessive self-love. (2) Parents laud their children's individuality, (3) making them think they will outclass others (4) and stand out.(5) But the children's emotional experiences are just like others' (6) and they are unlikely to do so (7) as they are not actually unique, (8) so they end up struggling. (9) In workers, desiring acknowledgement for uniqueness may jeopardise company ethics and standards, (12) possibly upsetting job processes and procedures. (13) In individuals, not being who one really is (14) damages close ties. (15) Excessive effort at uniqueness (17) which sacrifices essential principles (18) leads to the lack of self-knowledge (19) and an entire perspective of a situation. (20) Focusing more on the group than on individuals may see a community that is calmer (21) and benevolent towards one another. (22)</p> <p>(118 words)</p> <p>(Points 10, 11 and 16 not included)</p>
12-13	7	
10-11	6	
9	5	
7-8	4	
5-6	3	
3-4	2	
1-2	1	

6. Using your own words as far as possible, explain the irony which the author describes in line 10.

[2]

- Irony

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>We just need to realise that the best in the field are outliers not just in their accomplishments, but also in their habits and routines. They are willing to be different even if it earned them rebuke or censure. We instinctively think we are above average and we certainly do not want to be average. Yet ironically, we want to be <i>normal</i>; we want to have the same interests as most people do. We do not want to be different for fear of sticking out like a sore thumb. Having the same interests, routines and habits as everyone else ensures that we stay in the majority and are hence part of the 'in-group'. But by design, we are setting ourselves up to be average.</p>	<p>[Expected Outcome]</p> <p>a) One would expect/assume that since people refuse to be mediocre/ordinary/unexceptional, they would desire/not mind standing out (1m)</p> <p>[Actual Outcome]</p> <p>b) Instead, they wish to be like everyone else to gain acceptance from the rest. (1m)</p>

7. In paragraph 3, what distinction is the author making between people with “statistically average performance” and those who “choose to be average” (lines 15-16)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

- Direct Paraphrase

From the passage	Suggested answer
So what is the problem with average? While there is nothing wrong about having a statistically average performance, the problem arises when we <i>choose</i> to be average – to be just like everyone else – because it means choosing to be mediocre. Being like everyone else is a guarantee that an individual will never fully develop his innate talents and strengths and by extension, will never be the best version of himself. That all but guarantees mediocrity.	She is making a distinction between a) people who are ordinary/unexceptional/ merely satisfactory relative to the rest // not on purpose/their own volition [1] b) and those who opted to be unexceptional/ordinary by conforming to the rest. [1]

8. In lines 20-23, the author describes the consequences of conformity for various groups. Identify **two** such groups and explain the consequence that conformity brings to **each** of them. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

- Direct Paraphrasing + Inferential

- Any two points for two marks

From the passage	Suggested answer
Indeed, conformity is the reason why many potential geniuses’ creativity never finds an outlet,	a) 1. The first group of people are those unrealised prodigies. 2. Conformity stifles/represses the expression of their innovation/inventiveness/individuality
why many “misfits”, in a constant effort to conform, end up depressed instead of proud of their uniqueness,	b) 1. The second group are those that seemingly do not belong //are maladjusted. 2. The continuous/persistent attempt to conform (because of this label) makes them dejected/despondent /lose hope/lose motivation.
and, most importantly, why so many social and political catastrophes with huge human costs happen over and over again.	c) 1. The third group are countries/societies. 2. Conforming to a prevailing political or social (<i>inferred</i>) trend// <i>unscrupulous leaders blindly/even when it is wrong</i> leads to (<i>can be directly paraphrased from passage</i>) repeated disasters/tragedies with devastating impact on the country/society.

9. Why has the author placed brackets around the comment in lines 25-26? [2]

- Punctuation

From the passage	Suggested answer
The desire to have the perfect image is another way that we try to conform to what society says is normal. It is why plastic surgery (which is still major surgery, make no mistake about that) has become as commonplace today as having your teeth cleaned.	<p>a) This is an additional comment to warn/remind us that (F)</p> <p>b) plastic surgery is not the trivial/routine procedure that people think it is/take it to be (C) OR people are wrong when they treat plastic surgery as a trivial/routine procedure</p> <p>c) It is a complex/risky/dangerous/serious medical procedure</p> <p>1-2p=1m 3p=2m</p>

10. In paragraph 5, why does the author see communal conformity as “a simple form of mind control” (line 39)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

- Direct Paraphrase

From the passage	Suggested answer
The worst societies thrived on communal conformity because it was, ultimately, a simple form of mind control. You were made to feel that there was something wrong with <i>you</i> if you did not think, look like, or act the same as others.	<p>She sees communal conformity as a simple form of mind control because</p> <p>a) people were brainwashed/persuaded into thinking [1]</p> <p>b) that they were abnormal/ flawed//that the mistake lies with them [1]</p> <p>c) if their outlook/perspectives, appearance and behaviour were not like/identical with the rest of society. [1]</p>

11. AQ

Susan Smalley thinks conformity is beneficial for individuals and society whereas Kristen Houghton thinks otherwise.

With which of the two authors are you more in agreement, relating your arguments to your own society? [10]



JURONG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2017

CANDIDATE'S NAME

GP TUTOR'S NAME

CLASS

General Certificate of Education

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

23 August 2017

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, civics class and GP tutor's name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

EXAMINER'S USE

Content	/ 30	Comments:
Language	/ 20	
Total	/ 50	

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. Should more emphasis be given to the arts in your society?
2. 'Traditional values should never be sacrificed in the name of progress.' To what extent do you agree?
3. 'Environmental sustainability is a desirable but futile pursuit.' Discuss.
4. Consider the view that foreign intervention in a country's affairs does more harm than good.
5. 'We can no longer trust the media.' Is this a fair comment?
6. Can the restriction of personal freedom ever be justified?
7. 'Modern life has made living longer a burden.' How far do you agree?
8. In your society, how effective have government efforts been in promoting a healthy lifestyle?
9. Is diversity necessarily a good thing?
10. Assess the view that scientific research should not be constrained by ethical concerns.
11. 'Diligence is the key to success.' What is your view?
12. To what extent have technological developments enhanced learning in today's world?

2017 J2 Preliminary Examination P1 Marking Guide

Standard Assessment Benchmarks

- Students who do not engage with the question cannot be allowed to pass overall (i.e. highest 22 marks to be awarded in total).

Specific Question Requirements

1. Should more emphasis be given to the arts in your society?

In attempting this question, students should examine and evaluate the amount of emphasis given to the arts in Singapore (or their country of origin) at present. In further engaging with the key word 'more', students should also attempt to address the implied assumption in the question that not enough emphasis was (in the past)/is currently being given to the arts in their society. There ought to be an attempt at considering the value of the arts and the benefits it brings to different stakeholders, weighing it against other priorities and challenges that are of concern to a student's society based on its specific contextual characteristics. Students should be able to provide range of examples from a variety of artistic genres (drama/theatre/television/film, paintings, literature, music, and dance) within their society to substantiate their arguments.

Weaker scripts may hijack the question and instead suggest other areas that should be given more emphasis in their society, ignoring the question's focus on the arts. Such scripts may also lose their objectivity, relying on sweeping generalisations that degenerate into a rant or complaint about the state of the arts in their society and how it is being marginalised. Weak scripts will likely provide laundry lists of the various policies and actions taken to promote the arts without a consistent evaluation of whether such efforts constitute sufficient emphasis, or necessitate more focus and attention. Such scripts will also lack concrete illustration.

2. 'Traditional values should never be sacrificed in the name of progress.' To what extent do you agree?

Students need to show an understanding of what 'traditional values' entail. These could include beliefs, principles or standards of behaviour, moral codes and cultural norms which are passed down from one generation to another. Students must discuss the significance of traditional values and evaluate the importance of their role in underpinning social stability, before explaining how various aspects of progress and modernity such as economic modernization/globalisation, and the spread of 'progressive', liberal ideas and norms are at odds with some traditional values (for e.g. communitarian principles, deference to authority & respect for elders, religious/moral principles, attitudes towards marriage). Consequently, scripts should contain an assessment of whether traditional values should be cast aside in the quest for economic growth and development, as well as in response to changing global norms. In consideration of the loaded word 'never', students need to examine whether traditional values are so sacrosanct to the extent that they should continue to be perpetuated even in our modern age. There should also be some attempt at providing a balanced perspective of the issue by students, by recognizing the importance of traditional values but also acknowledging that in certain instances, some values or the extent to which they are practiced/adhered to might have to be compromised for progress to be made. They could also utilize relevant seminal theories to justify their arguments.

Weaker scripts are likely to merely discuss why traditional values should or should not be sacrificed without linking these back to the term 'progress'. Such scripts may also ignore the

loaded word 'never' and hence fail to point out the flaws and impracticalities of such an unyielding viewpoint. In terms of illustration and substantiation, weaker scripts are likely to provide vague generalisations and stereotypes of tradition rather than relevant, specific examples.

3. 'Environmental sustainability is a desirable but futile pursuit.' Discuss.

Students should demonstrate a clear understanding of what environmental sustainability entails, and examine the question assumption that efforts to strike a balance between Mankind's use of the environment and our needs & wants are all in vain ('futile'). They should evaluate characteristics of the world today in relation to environmental resource usage management (economic activities, consumer and political attitudes, awareness, current state of environment, effectiveness of measures today) to assess if such a goal possible/impossible to achieve. Both clauses of the question 'desirable and 'futile' should be addressed, and students should at least attempt to establish why efforts to ensure environmental sustainability are desirable to different stakeholders, but, in the eyes of some, a fruitless effort. Some of the reasons could include considerations of practicality/feasibility (human needs & wants far exceed what the environment can offer), some evaluation of the varying degrees effectiveness of efforts to achieve environmental sustainability and challenges that are context-specific. More nuanced scripts may challenge the question assumption for both clauses and look at how the pursuit of environmental sustainability may not be desirable as it appears, using this argument to further bolster a stand that supports the futility of the pursuit. Given the rather broad nature of the question, students should employ a range of examples from a variety of countries in order to justify their arguments. They should also look at environmental sustainability in different aspects (biodiversity management, energy resource, waste/pollution management)

Weaker scripts will likely have a limited understanding of the concept of 'environmental sustainability'. Such scripts tend to overlook the loaded clause as well, and provide a laundry list of measures and initiatives to deal with environmental conservation, or a list of environmental problems that the world faces today. The illustration and examples provided will also be very limited in nature (for e.g. just focusing on climate change and Singapore).

4. Consider the view that foreign intervention in a country's affairs does more harm than good.

Students should first examine various possible reasons for foreign intervention, including (but not limited to) humanitarian crises, economic difficulties, threats to national security/sovereignty, as well as intrastate civil strife. Other more controversial motivations can include attempts by other countries to use their soft power or otherwise to interfere in and shape the affairs and political development of certain countries. In their essay, students must address the loaded word 'more' by consistently weighing the costs and benefits of intervention by external agencies such as international/regional organisations, civil society groups/NGOs and foreign governments. In evaluating the issue, students should assess the motivations behind external intervention, as well as the effectiveness of the intervention efforts before coming to a conclusion. More nuanced responses would avoid taking absolute stands that foreign intervention in a country's affairs will always be either more harmful or more beneficial. Students could then attempt to conclude that ultimately depend on individual situations or contexts, such as whether there is a necessity for external stakeholders to render assistance to the affected country.

Weaker scripts will likely overlook the loaded word 'more', and provide a laundry list of the benefits and consequences of external intervention without addressing the comparative requirement in the question. Such scripts would also have a limited understanding of the concept of 'external intervention', viewing it purely in terms of singular examples or forms, such as that of military intervention alone.

5. 'We can no longer trust the media.' Is this a fair comment?

Students are expected to address the inherent assumption of change in the loaded phrase 'no longer', by discussing how the trust that was placed in the media in the past has been eroded in recent times. Students should also show an understanding of the distinction between traditional media and the new media, examining how the characteristics and nature of both broad categories of the media affect their credibility and accuracy of information. In arguing their case, students should assess changes in the media landscape (as compared to the past) and explain why the media has been both criticized for its failings (for e.g. the rise of 'fake news', media bias in advertising, government objectives of propaganda) as well as lauded for upholding principles such as media ethics, accuracy and objectivity. There should be some attempt at demonstrating an awareness of how different perceptions of stakeholders towards the media's credibility will vary according to different contexts and cultures, before concluding the effect some contextual circumstances have on levels of public confidence and trust in the media as an institution. More nuanced scripts may challenge the assumption in the question, arguing that media outlets have always served the interests of those they represent. Hence, misinformation and media bias are certainly not new developments. Such scripts could also discuss the importance of diversifying one's sources of information in order to confirm the veracity and authenticity of news reports, questioning the reaction of losing one's trust in the media when consumers should instead be more discerning in light of the media landscape and developments today.

Weaker scripts would fail to consistently and accurately deal with the loaded phrase 'no longer', focusing only on arguing why we can or cannot place our trust in the media. Such scripts could also prematurely come to the conclusion that we cannot trust the media simply because of a few isolated, negative instances of misinformation and media bias. Conversely, they could swing to the other extreme when attempting to include balance and struggle to reconcile both extreme perspectives, leading to an essay of contradictions.

6. Can the restriction of personal freedom ever be justified?

Students must clearly define what 'personal freedom' is and what the restriction of such freedom entails (various types/forms of limits/controls; stakeholders involved in such restriction, for e.g. governments' limits on individual freedom of speech) in order to establish their arguments. Students must also engage with the loaded phrase 'ever be', and demonstrate an understanding of the underlying assumption, examining the premise that the restriction of personal freedom is inappropriate and unjustifiable. They may agree with this premise, or challenge it by arguing based on the nuance of the phrase 'ever be' (carries an underlying absolute tone beyond the present/immediate as well). Students should critically evaluate the various motivations/reasons for, and outcomes of attempting to restrict personal freedom (utilitarianism, moral grounds, etc.) before reaching their eventual recommendation. In elaborating on their points, students should provide concrete examples and make suitable reference to controversies (from varying contexts) regarding the restriction of individual freedom.

Weaker scripts may completely miss the loaded phrase ‘ever be’ and merely provide a laundry list of the benefits and drawbacks of limiting personal freedom. It is also likely that weaker scripts are vague in their substantiation, making cursory references to social media without any concrete evidence. There may also be weaker scripts that focus only on a particular type of personal freedom and/or context (for e.g. freedom of expression and Singapore).

7. ‘Modern life has made living longer a burden.’ How far do you agree?

Students should demonstrate an understanding that the phrase ‘living longer’ is nuanced and focuses more on the impact of a longer lifespan on individuals. In addition, they should clearly identify the scope of their discussion by clearly stating the stakeholders they will discuss (living longer does not only apply to an aging population/the elderly). Students must examine and evaluate the various ways in which specific, current characteristics (for e.g. higher costs of living, increased propensity for individuals to develop certain health conditions, increased rates of social isolation/singlehood/childlessness, or better healthcare, increased incomes/affluence, more accepting attitudes towards aging, better opportunities and conditions in developing countries, etc.) of life in modern society has caused a long life to be a worrisome and heavy responsibility, rather than a positive experience or vice versa. Given the nature of the question, in justifying their arguments, students should provide convincing trend-based examples/illustration from a range of different societies around the world.

Weaker scripts will likely list the pros and cons of an aging population on societies without consideration/appropriate treatment of the key words in the question. Students might also hijack the question by arguing that modern life has not made living longer, but other things, a burden instead. There may also be scripts that merely discuss whether or not we should live longer, again without addressing the key issue of whether contextual circumstances have made a longer life a burdensome one.

8. ‘In your society, how effective have government efforts been in promoting a healthy lifestyle?’

Students should demonstrate a clear understanding of what ‘government efforts’ entail, and must discuss specific local initiatives/policies in their essay. The definition of a ‘healthy lifestyle’ (better scripts would go beyond the formulaic diet and exercise campaigns to examine initiatives that deal with the infrastructural/psychological/economic aspects) should also be clearly defined at the onset of the essay. Students may then go on to examine why these efforts may have met with limited success (context-specific challenges to initiatives/measures, flaws of the said efforts, differing views and reception to such efforts, the lack of individual will, etc.). The scope of discussion should also be broad (for e.g. not fixated on just students in schools/the TAF club, but also include more recent trends/developments in health policies) Students should also attempt to provide a range of concrete illustration and examples to substantiate their arguments.

Weaker scripts may simply provide laundry lists of past and present government efforts to encourage a healthy lifestyle without any convincing evaluation of how effective they have been. They may also display a clear lack of contextual evaluation that is required in a ‘your society’ question. Such scripts are also likely to lack the evidence/data required to prove the effectiveness of government efforts.

9. Is diversity necessarily a good thing?

Student must demonstrate an understanding of the term 'diversity' by exploring how many societies around the world today are becoming increasingly cosmopolitan – a by-product of the past few decades of globalization. This potentially complicates and creates new challenges that governments have to deal with, in addition to having to already manage the diversity of their local indigenous populations. Other aspects of diversity that must be discussed could include those in terms of socio-economic status, religious/moral views, political leanings, etc. Students should at least attempt to engage with the key word 'necessarily', examining why diversity is commonly perceived as something desirable, and produces beneficial outcomes for society, but may, under certain circumstances, actually lead to a negative impact instead. Their discussion should include how diversity, when poorly managed, can lead to socio-political tensions. Ultimately, students should recognize that embracing diversity merely for the sake of political correctness might not always be in the best interest of society as no one-size-fits-all solution can be adopted or implemented to truly encourage, embrace or manage differences.

Weaker scripts would fail to address the loaded word 'necessarily', simply listing the pros and cons of having diversity in societies instead. Such scripts would also lack balance, or in the process of doing so, fail to reconcile opposing viewpoints in a way which does not contradict the stand provided in or the introduction. These scripts would also be limited in the examples discussed and might even be restricted to only Singapore-based examples.

10. Assess the view that scientific research should not be constrained by ethical concerns.

Students should examine and evaluate the premise behind the view in the question by looking at the theoretical functions and ideals of science, with one possible argument being that an excessive focus on ethics may hinder the pace of scientific and technological progress. Students could then juxtapose such a perspective against that of stakeholders who feel that ethical considerations are necessary to guard against unethical, immoral and potentially dangerous scientific pursuits and their consequences and evaluate the validity of both schools of thought. To illustrate their arguments, students should provide concrete and specific examples of a variety of scientific research practices and their associated ethical considerations (unbiased and impartial research, accurate record keeping and reporting, peer review, minimisation of potential harm to research subjects, research for altruism vs. profit, stem cell research, etc.). Students may discuss scientific processes and practices that result in the creation of certain technologies, but should not confuse the processes of these practices with the technologies themselves. Better scripts will likely provide a more successfully balanced and nuanced examination of the issue, arguing for the need to achieve a good balance between ensuring the autonomy of scientific pursuits, and the need for ethical checks to prevent abuses. These scripts will be able to support their arguments with a good variety of examples, illustrating the tension between the two competing priorities.

Weaker scripts are likely to provide mere lists of the pros and cons of scientific research or adhering to ethical guidelines in science, without any consideration of the dichotomy/tensions between the two. They may also resort to using broad generalisations about scientific research practices and their ethical concerns, with little consideration of contextual circumstances and poor supporting illustration. These scripts might also be example-led and might confuse scientific practice with technology in general and their ethical implications (e.g. CRISPR genetic editing, 3D printing guns).

11. 'Diligence is the key to success.' What is your view?

Students must engage the absolute phrase ‘the key’ and evaluate the assumption that diligence and sheer effort are most effective method for success. They should also clearly define the meaning of ‘success’ at the onset of their essays, in order for them to craft clearer arguments. They could either argue the case for the question, or challenge the assumption and say there may not be a ‘one-size-fits-all’/sole method for an issue that can be highly individual in nature, by examining how hard work may/may not pay off under different circumstances or in different contexts (culture, socio-political factors, type/severity of success, personality/psychology of individuals, etc.). Students should also attempt to compare hard work with the importance of other positive and desirable attributes that might be more crucial to achieving success in a modern knowledge based economy. Given that the question’s key focus is effectiveness (outcome-based), a variety of concrete examples (from across different aspects of life, professions, countries) establishing the effectiveness of hard work should be provided. More nuanced scripts may go on to argue how it is fallacious to place hard work or any one attribute as the most important above others, given the complexity and dynamism of the modern world.

Weaker scripts will likely miss out on the phrase ‘the key’ and be unable to demonstrate any comparison between hard work and other possible factors for success. Such scripts could be laundry lists of the advantages and disadvantages of hard work/diligence. They may also be very limited in their scope of discussion and content, providing vague illustration, mere hypothetical situations or repeated examples throughout. Weaker scripts could also possibly hijack the question by providing lists of all the possible measures/solutions for success rather than focusing on the comparison required.

12. To what extent have technological developments enhanced learning in today’s world?

Students should begin their essays by clearly defining what technological developments refer to, before examining how and why the advent of technological developments has helped learners of different profiles better explore, master and achieve their educational goals/objectives and outcomes. The key focus of the question should be the degree of enhancement such developments have brought, rather than the presence of it. Hence, there should be at least an attempt to clearly assess the degree of effectiveness technological developments, and evaluate why there may be limitations to such purported enhancements to learning. Students should systematically evaluate specific characteristics of the world today and how technological developments may have/have not effectively facilitated stronger mastery and better learning in various domains. Students could examine how an increasing emphasis on differentiated, customised and multimodal learning, more inclusivity in the education landscape – lifelong learning, specialised educational tools for those with special needs, etc., have provided the platform for technological developments to work their magic (the use of artificial intelligence/A.I. in the formal classroom, augmented reality/AR to support experiential learning, integrated online learning systems for the disabled/less mobile elderly, etc.) In their discussion, a variety of specific and fairly recent technological developments, as well as clear examples from various countries and contexts should be provided.

Weaker scripts will likely be vague, highly generalised or inconsistent in providing examples to support their arguments. Such scripts may also degenerate into a listing of the benefits and drawbacks of technology when it is used in education. Alternatively, these scripts may limit their discussion too specifically to a few technological examples (some of which may be old or outdated), or contexts (for e.g. Singapore’s education system).



JURONG JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2017

CANDIDATE'S NAME

GP TUTOR'S NAME

CLASS

General Certificate of Education

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

23 August 2017

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Olivia Laing writes about loneliness in our modern age.

- 1 At the end of last winter, a gigantic billboard advertising Android, Google’s operating system, appeared over Times Square in New York. In a lower-case sans serif font – corporate code for friendly – it declared: “be together. not the same.” This erratically punctuated mantra sums up the web’s most magical proposition – its existence as a space in which no one need ever suffer the pang of loneliness, in which friendship, sex and love are never more than a click away, and difference is a source of glamour, not of shame. As with the city itself, the promise of the internet is contact. It seems to offer an antidote to loneliness, trumping even the most utopian urban environment by enabling strangers to develop relationships along shared lines of interest, no matter how shy or isolated they might be in their own physical lives. But proximity, as city dwellers know, does not necessarily mean intimacy. Access to other people is not by itself enough to dispel the gloom of internal isolation. 5
- 2 Loneliness can be most acute in a crowd. More than 70 years have passed since the American painter Edward Hopper produced the signature image of urban loneliness in his painting, *Nighthawks*, which depicts four people in a diner at night, cut off from the street outside by a curving glass window: a disquieting scene of disconnection and estrangement. Yet, its anxieties about connection have lost none of their relevance, though unease about the physical city has been superseded by fears over our new virtual public space, the internet. In the intervening years, we have entered into a world of screens that extends far beyond Hopper’s unsettled vision. 15
- 3 Loneliness centres on the act of being seen. When a person is lonely, they long to be witnessed, accepted, desired, at the same time as becoming intensely wary of exposure. According to research carried out over the past decade at the University of Chicago, the feeling of loneliness triggers what psychologists call hypervigilance for social threat. In this state, which is entered into unknowingly, the individual becomes hyperalert to rejection, growing increasingly inclined to perceive social interactions as tinged with hostility or scorn. The result is a vicious circle of withdrawal, in which the lonely person becomes increasingly suspicious, intensifying their sense of isolation. 25
- 4 This is where online engagement seems to exercise its special charm. Hidden behind a computer screen, the lonely person has control. They can search for company without the danger of being revealed or found wanting. They can reach out or they can hide; they can lurk and they can show themselves, safe from the humiliation of face-to-face rejection. The screen acts as a kind of protective membrane, a scrim that allows invisibility and transformation. You can filter your image, concealing unattractive elements, and you can emerge enhanced: an online avatar designed to attract likes. But now a problem arises, for the contact this produces is not the same thing as intimacy. Curating a perfected self might win followers or Facebook friends, but it will not necessarily cure loneliness, since the cure for loneliness is not being looked at, but being seen and accepted as a whole person – ugly, unhappy and awkward, as well as radiant and selfie-ready. 35
- 5 The dissolution of the barrier between the public and the private, the sense of being surveilled and judged, extends far beyond human observers. We are also being watched by the very devices on which we make our broadcasts. As the artist and geographer Trevor Paglen recently said in the art magazine *Frieze*: “We are at the point (actually, probably long past) where the majority of the world’s images are made by machines for machines.” In this environment of enforced transparency, the equivalent of the *Nighthawks* diner, almost everything we do, from shopping in a supermarket to posting a 40

photograph on Facebook, is mapped, and the gathered data used to predict, monetise, encourage or inhibit our future actions.

- 6 This growing entanglement of the corporate and social, this creeping sense of being tracked by invisible eyes, demands an increasing sophistication about what is said and where. The possibility of virulent judgment and rejection induces precisely the kind of hypervigilance and withdrawal that increases loneliness. With this has come the slowly dawning realisation that our digital traces will long outlive us. Faced with the knowledge that nothing we say, no matter how trivial or silly, will ever be completely erased, we find it hard to take the risks that togetherness entails. 50
55
- 7 All new technology generates a surge of anxious energy. Each one changes the rules of communication and rearranges the social order. Take the telephone for example - that miraculous device for dissolving distance. From the moment in April 1877 that the first line linked two phones in the Bell Telephone Company, it was perceived as an almost uncanny instrument, separating the voice from the body. At first, the phone swiftly came to be regarded as a lifeline, an antidote to loneliness, particularly for rural women who were stuck in farmhouses miles from family and friends. But gradually, fears about anonymity clung to the device. By opening a channel between the outside world and the domestic sphere, the telephone facilitated bad behaviour. From the very beginning, obscene callers targeted both strangers and the "hello girls" who worked the switchboards. People worried that germs might be transmitted down the lines, carried on human breath. They also worried about who might be lurking, invisibly eavesdropping on private conversations. The germs were a fantasy, but the listeners were real enough, be they operators or neighbours on shared telephone lines. 60
65
70
- 8 Anxiety also collected around the possibility for misunderstanding, with misgivings about how a device designed for talking might, in fact, make talking more difficult. If the telephone is a machine for sharing words, then the internet is a machine for constructing and sharing identities. In the internet era, anxieties about how technology has affected our ability to speak intimately to one another accelerate into terror about whether the boundaries between people have been destroyed altogether. 75
- 9 We are not as solid and tangible as we once thought. We are embodied but we are also networks, living inside machines and in other people's heads, memories and data streams. We are being watched and we do not have control. We long for contact and it makes us afraid. But as long as we are still capable of feeling and expressing vulnerability, intimacy stands a chance. 80

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JURONG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2017

CANDIDATE'S NAME

GP TUTOR'S NAME

CLASS

General Certificate of Education

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

23 August 2017

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: 1 Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, civics class and GP tutor's name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.

Note that up to 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

EXAMINER'S USE

Content	/ 35	Comments:
Language	/ 15	
Total	/ 50	

This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

1 According to the author, what is the ‘web’s most magical proposition’ (line 4)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....[3]

2 Explain what the author means when she says ‘access to other people is not by itself enough to dispel the gloom of internal isolation’ (lines 11-12). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....[2]

3 ‘Loneliness can be most acute in a crowd’ (line 13).

Explain the irony in this phrase.

.....
.....
.....[2]

4 In paragraph 2, the author describes the painting, Nighthawks, as a ‘signature image of urban loneliness’ (line 14). How does the painting reflect the similarity and difference between individuals’ experience of loneliness in the past and today? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....[2]

5 According to the author in paragraph 3, what are the consequences of a 'hypervigilance for social threat' (line 24)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....[2]

7 What does the phrase 'a lifeline, an antidote to loneliness' (lines 61-62) tell you about society's initial attitude towards the telephone? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....[1]

8 **Using your own words as far as possible**, identify the worries that people in the past had regarding the telephone (lines 65-70), and explain if each of these worries was founded.

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

9 'We are not as solid and tangible as we once thought.' (line 77)

What does the sentence suggest about individual identity today?

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

10 Which sentence in the final paragraph suggests that the author is still hopeful that we can overcome loneliness?

.....[1]

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**2017 JC2 Preliminary Examination
Answer Scheme**

1. According to the author, what is the 'web's most magical proposition' (line 4)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]
(Direct Literal)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>its existence as a space</p> <p>in which no one need ever suffer the pang of loneliness</p> <p>in which friendship, sex and love are never more than a click away</p> <p>and difference is a source of glamour, not of shame</p>	<p>It is the suggestion that the Internet</p> <p>a) <u>is where/a place/platform</u></p> <p>b) <u>nobody</u> has to <u>endure</u> solitude,</p> <p>c) <u>relationships</u> (Note: any form of social connection is accepted) are <u>easily available</u> and</p> <p>d) being <u>unique/unconventional/out of the norm</u> is <u>attractive, not embarrassing.</u></p>

1 = 1m, 2 = 2m, 3 - 4 = 3m

2. Explain what the author means when she says 'access to other people is not by itself enough to dispel the gloom of internal isolation' (lines 11-12). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2] (Extended Vocabulary)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>(Context) But proximity, as city dwellers know, does not necessarily mean intimacy NOTE: BUT students can also discuss context of the Internet)</p> <p>access to other people</p> <p>is not by itself enough</p> <p>to dispel the gloom of internal isolation</p>	<p>The author means that</p> <p>a) having the means to <u>meet/be/interact with other individuals</u></p> <p>b) alone is <u>insufficient/inadequate</u> in</p> <p>c) <u>eliminating/dissipating/chasing away/getting rid of the melancholy/sadness/dejection/misery/sorrow of loneliness that one feels within/curing</u> loneliness. (Note: as long as students capture idea of individuals no longer feeling lonely)</p>

1-2 = 1m, 3 = 2m

3. 'Loneliness can be most acute in a crowd' (line 13).

Explain the irony in this phrase.
(Inferential)

[2]

Lifted/Inferred	Paraphrased
<p>Loneliness can be most acute in a crowd</p>	<p>Expectation from situation</p> <p>a) When individuals <u>find themselves in the company of many other people, we expect</u> that they <u>feel less isolated/alienated.</u></p> <p>Contradiction/deviation from the expected in reality</p> <p>b) However, <u>in reality</u>, individuals may feel <u>the greatest (note: extent must be captured) sense of detachment/abandonment/disassociation</u> when one <u>is among many people whom we do not know/strangers/because we may be amongst people whom we know, but still feel alienated.</u></p>

1 = 0m, 2 = 2m

4. In paragraph 2, the author describes the painting, Nighthawks, as a 'signature image of urban loneliness' (line 14). How does the painting reflect the similarity and difference between individuals' experience of loneliness in the past, and today? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2] (*Direct Literal*)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Yet, its anxieties about connection have lost none of their relevance</p> <p>though unease about the physical city has been superseded by fears over our new virtual public space, the internet</p> <p>OR</p> <p>In the intervening years, we have entered into a world of screens that extends far beyond Hopper's unsettled vision</p>	<p>The painting reflects how</p> <p>a) <u>Concerns regarding loneliness/detachment/isolation/the lack of social interaction or engagement</u> from the past <u>are still very applicable</u> today</p> <p>b) although such concerns <u>about interaction in the real world</u> have been <u>replaced</u> by worries about social interaction/engagement <u>in cyberspace/the digital realm</u>.</p>

1 = 1m, 2 = 2m

5. According to the author in paragraph 3, what are the consequences of a 'hypervigilance for social threat' (line 24)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2] (*Direct Literal*)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>The result is a vicious circle of withdrawal</p> <p>in which the lonely person becomes increasingly suspicious</p> <p>intensifying their sense of isolation.</p>	<p>A hypervigilance for social threat results in</p> <p>a) a <u>worsening/deteriorating cycle</u> of <u>disengagement</u></p> <p>b) where the lonely individual becomes <u>progressively wary</u> of others,</p> <p>c) hence <u>heightening</u> his/her feelings of <u>detachment/loneliness</u>.</p> <p>(Note: If students' explanation of (b) + (c) but incorporate clear elements of (a) in their answer, we can award these students 2 marks)</p>

1-2 = 1m, 3 = 2m

6. Summary Question

Using material from paragraphs 4-6, summarise what the author has to say about the appeal of online engagement and how it may worsen loneliness.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [8]

The appeal of online engagement lies in its ...

S/N	Lifted	Paraphrased
1	hidden behind a computer screen (line 29) OR or they can hide (line 31) OR they can lurk (line 32)	ability to allow people to be anonymous
2	the lonely person has control . (line 30)	empowering those without companions/isolated individuals
3	They can search for company without the danger of being revealed (lines 30-31)	They can attempt to forge relationships without the threat of being exposed/identified
4	or found wanting (lines 30-31)	or deemed to be not good enough
5	They can reach out (line 31) OR can show themselves (line 31)	They can either initiate contact/communication with others OR be identifiable
6	safe from the humiliation of face-to-face rejection (lines 32-33)	avoid the embarrassment of having one's affections being spurned in person
7	The screen acts as a kind of protective membrane, a scrim that allows invisibility (line 33)	because the internet is akin to a shield/film which gives us the choice of anonymity
8	transformation (line 34)	and the ability to make drastic/significant changes
9	You can filter your image, concealing unattractive elements (line 34)	Only allow flattering aspects of one to be revealed while hiding unappealing aspects
10	and you can emerge enhanced (line 35)	accentuate positive aspects/features
11	an online avatar designed to attract likes (line 35) OR Curating a perfected self might win followers or Facebook friends (lines 36-37)	in order to gain approval or acceptance from others
12	But now a problem arises, for the contact this produces is not the same thing as intimacy (lines 35-36)	However, these forms of interactions may be mistaken for genuine feelings of closeness/quality relationships
13	but it will not necessarily cure loneliness (lines 37-38)	which may not be an antidote to loneliness
14	since the cure for loneliness is not being looked at but being seen and accepted as a whole person – ugly, unhappy and awkward, as well as radiant and selfie-ready (lines 38-40)	because we cannot reveal who we truly are/our true self/physical appearances or other insecurities
15	the sense of being surveilled (lines 41-42) OR In this environment of enforced transparency (line 46) OR This growing entanglement of the corporate and social, this creeping sense of being tracked by invisible eyes (line 50)	The feeling of being watched/scrutinised OR In a society in which we have no control over our privacy
16	and judged (line 42)	and having others assess/form opinions/conclude
17	almost everything we do, from shopping in a supermarket to posting a photograph on Facebook, is mapped, and the gathered data (lines 47-48)	businesses extensively mine/collect data about our online activities
18	used to predict, monetise , encourage or inhibit our future actions (lines 48-49)	in order to profit from such knowledge/information
19	The possibility of virulent judgment and rejection induces precisely the kind of hypervigilance and withdrawal that increases loneliness (lines 52-53)	The fear of extreme/severe criticism and being denied causes one to be overly sensitive/paranoid and antisocial, heightening feelings of isolation
20	With this has come the slowly dawning realisation (lines 53-54)	We gradually appreciate that what we do online
21	that our digital traces will long outlive us (line 54) OR	regardless of how inane/petty/insignificant – will remain permanently online

	Faced with the knowledge that nothing we say, no matter how trivial or silly, will ever be completely erased (lines 54-55)	
22	we find it hard to take the risks that togetherness entails (lines 55-56)	Hence, it becomes challenging to embrace challenges/chances to grow closer to others

Total: 22 points

Sample 13-point summary in 120 words (excluding given opening words):

The appeal of online engagement lies in its:

ability to allow people to take virtual cover, empowering isolated individuals to forge relationships without the threat of being exposed, or deemed to be not good enough. They can initiate contact with others, or be anonymous, avoiding the embarrassment of having one's affections being spurned in person. The internet is like a shield which gives us the choice of anonymity and the ability to make drastic changes by revealing and accentuating positive aspects and hiding unappealing aspects in order to gain acceptance. However, these forms of interactions may be mistaken for quality relationships. We gradually appreciate that our online actions remain permanently online. The feeling of being constantly scrutinised makes it challenging to embrace opportunities to grow closer to others.

Points	Marks
13	8
11 - 12	7
9 - 10	6
7 - 8	5
5 - 6	4
3 - 4	3
2	2
1	1

7. What does the phrase 'a lifeline, an antidote to loneliness' (lines 61-62) tell you about society's initial attitude towards the telephone? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]
(*Inferential - Vocabulary*)

Inferred	Paraphrased
<p>a lifeline, an antidote to loneliness</p> <p>(Context) <i>At first, the phone swiftly came to be regarded as a lifeline, an antidote to loneliness, particularly for rural women who were stuck in farmhouses miles from family and friends. But gradually, fears about anonymity clung to the device.</i></p>	<p>The phrase suggests that society's initial attitude towards the telephone was <u>very welcoming/optimistic</u>.</p> <p>Accept (with explanation to students in class that this is actually not accurate, both points should be included):</p> <p>The phrase suggests that society initially saw the telephone as the <u>perfect solution</u> to problems of <u>social disengagement</u>.</p>

Any 1 = 1m

8. **Using your own words as far as possible**, identify the worries that people in the past had regarding the telephone (lines 65-70), and explain if each of these worries was founded. [2] (*Direct Literal*)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>People worried that germs might be transmitted down the lines, carried on human breath + The germs were a fantasy</p> <p>They also worried about who might be lurking, invisibly eavesdropping on private conversations + but the listeners were real enough, be they operators</p>	<p>People in the past were worried that</p> <p>a) telephones and phone lines were <u>unhygienic</u> and <u>caused the spread of diseases</u>,</p> <p>b) but this worry was merely a <u>misconception/an imagined threat or prospect</u>.</p> <p>They were also worried that</p> <p>c) <u>strangers</u> could <u>listen in on</u> their telephone <u>calls/infringe</u> on their <u>personal</u> conversations,</p> <p>d) and this was a <u>valid concern</u> as telephone lines were</p>

or neighbours on shared telephone lines	<u>communal</u> /people used the <u>same</u> telephone lines.
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Any 1 pair (a+b OR c+d) = 1m, 2 pairs = 2m

9. 'We are not as solid and tangible as we once thought.' (line 77)

What does the sentence suggest about individual identity today?

[2] (Inferential - Vocabulary)

Inferred	Paraphrased
<p>We are not as solid and tangible as we once thought</p> <p>We are embodied but we are also networks, living inside machines and in other people's heads; memories and data streams.</p>	<p>It suggests that individual identity today</p> <p>a) is no longer about <u>conventional/former notions</u> of using <u>fixed physical attributes/characteristics</u> to define ourselves</p> <p>b) but <u>also how others perceive us/interact with us online.</u></p> <p>(Note: For teaching purposes, students should ideally have both parts to show the comparison between the past and the present)</p>

Any 1 = 1m, 2 = 2m

10. Which sentence in the final paragraph suggests that the author is still hopeful that we can overcome loneliness? [1] (*Inferential*)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>But as long as we are still capable of feeling and expressing vulnerability, intimacy stands a chance</p>	<p>The sentence is 'But as long as we are still capable of feeling and expressing vulnerability, intimacy stands a chance.'</p> <p>(Note: It MUST be a complete SENTENCE, without missing words/phrases/clauses. If students paraphrase sentence, it MUST be accurate enough an interpretation, but they SHOULD not be paraphrasing.)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The last sentence.</p>

11. Olivia Laing makes some observations about the relationship between technology and loneliness. How far do you agree with her observations, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your society?

Reference from passage	Applicability
<p><u>Paragraph 1</u> Laing writes about how modern communications technology offers great convenience and easy access to others, but that this is only a very superficial connection, not enough to “dispel the gloom of internal isolation.”</p>	<p><u>Intro Paragraph</u></p> <p>Generally Disagree (Line-of-Argument)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While her arguments must be acknowledged, I argue that her pessimism towards technology is unfounded. • While it is true that information communication technology (ICT) could be a hindrance to genuine human connection, most Singaporeans seem to have become adept at using it to supplement and enhance their social lives, which is the opposite of the author’s claim throughout the passage.
<p><u>Paragraph 2</u> Laing highlights how “loneliness can be most acute in a crowd,” and how this is a phenomenon that has plagued us for a long time, now made worse by the internet.</p>	<p>Generally Disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore has a population of approximately 5.6 million people, densely packed into a small area of only 719 km². • Despite this, our competitive meritocratic system rewards individual merit, which could be argued to cause loneliness and isolation, as Singaporeans strive to compete against each other in order to find success, whether in education or in their careers. • However, such emphasis on isolated individualism should not be over-exaggerated. Singapore also places a high emphasis on a collective sense of cohesion, which has been vital in maintaining harmony in a multi-racial and multi-religious society. • Such an emphasis on social cohesion and unity has been the case for 52 years since our country’s independence in 1965 and the establishment of our founding principles of a multicultural, cosmopolitan city-state. • This is especially the case since Singapore annually celebrates the festivals of all ethnic and religious groups. On a cultural level at least, it would be an oversimplification to argue that Singaporeans are lonely when our diverse cultures serves as the connective tissue that bonds us as a society. • Competition has not prevented Singaporeans from socialising, connecting and learning about their fellow countrymen of different races, cultures and traditions. The invention of the internet has also made this process easier as Singaporeans of all walks of life can communicate and socialise over common interests, such as our common love of our diverse cuisine, where “Foodies” can blog or vlog, and share their dining experiences with other Singaporeans. E.g.s LadyIronChef and “ieatshootpost.”
<p><u>Paragraph 3</u> Laing highlights how isolation can cause an individual to be “intensely wary of exposure,” which causes “hypervigilance for social threat” that leads them to “perceive social interactions as tinged with hostility or scorn.”</p> <p><u>Paragraph 4</u> She further links this to how technology can serve as a solution where “the lonely person has control” to “filter [their] image, concealing unattractive elements” so that one can craft “an online avatar designed to attract likes.”</p> <p>She expressed her doubts about this as she opines that “loneliness is not being looked at, but being seen and accepted as a whole person” which includes both their merits and flaws.</p>	<p>Generally Disagree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her arguments do sound plausible. • It is certainly true that social media can allow a lonely person to hide behind an online persona, further worsening their sense of isolation and suspiciousness about society. • Many parents and teachers are growing increasingly concerned that their children could become victims of cyberbullying or may fall prey to cyber stalkers and are very concerned about the safety of their children and their online activities. • However she fails to substantiate her claims with any real evidence, which makes her arguments unconvincing. • Technology can serve as the initial platform that helps people to form that initial connection that helps socially isolated individuals take that first step towards genuine social connection. • Defence of the Ancients 2 (DOTA2) and League of Legends (LOL) are two cooperative Multiplayer Online Battle Arena (MOBA) games which are very popular among the youth in Singapore. • In game, players play various heroes (serving at their online avatars) and have to communicate and strategize with other players to achieve their objective while preventing an opposing team from achieving theirs, • Off line and in the real world, young gamers can socialise with others who share their interest to discuss better ways to play their favourite hero characters and devise new strategies to improve their competitiveness in the game. • It has to be acknowledged that these two games are infamous for their toxic communities, as the extremely competitive and stressful nature of the game causes many players to exhibit anti-social behaviours, such as hurling obscenities and engaging in bigoted racist, sexist or even homophobic slurs to opposing players and even their own team mates. • This can certainly frighten players, leading them to perceive such online interactions with great suspicion and fear, leading to even greater alienation. • However, it cannot be denied that the game also encourages Singapore youths to communicate and collaborate with a sense of common purpose, which can foster a sense of genuine friendship as they connect over their shared passion for their favourite game.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many Singaporean social media influencers and celebrities would likely not agree with Laing as well. • Indeed it could be argued that individuals like XiaXue, Naomi Neo, JianHao Tan and groups like Wah!Banana and TreePotatoes, produce content that might be perceived as superficial and an artificial representation of who they are as individuals. • XiaXue and Naomi Neo have at various times also courted controversy as Singaporean netizens criticise their content or their behaviour. • However, it cannot be denied that these individuals and groups have found success in using social media technology to attract tens of thousands of followers, which have allowed them to monetise their social media presence to find business success. • Corporations of all types have approached XiaXue and Naomi Neo to use their online influence as a means to advertise their products to a greater audience. • While we can question just how genuine these social media influencers are in their online interactions with their fans, it would be very unlikely that they would consider themselves as “isolated” or “lonely,” given their massive social media following.
<p><u>Paragraph 5</u> Laing argues that technology is breaking down the “barrier between the public and private,” contributing to “the sense of being surveilled” where “almost everything we do...is mapped” to “predict, monetize, encourage or inhibit our future actions.”</p> <p><u>Paragraph 6</u> She then argues that this leads to even greater “hypervigilance and withdrawal that increases loneliness” due to the knowledge that “our digital traces will long outlive us.”</p>	<p><u>Agree but not completely</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online technology does track our actions and preferences in Singapore society. • Singaporeans have become avid online shoppers due to its convenience and confidence about the security of online transactions. • However, online shopping websites like Amazon and even social media sites like Facebook keep track of our purchases as well as the articles and videos we watch. • These sites often have programmes and algorithms that analyse our online behaviour and then display advertising that the programme predicts might interest us to promote even more spending or usage. • This is disconcerting as social media technology can possibly be abused to build up a profile of our identities, which can be exploited for profit, to infringe on our privacy, or for stealing our identity. • However Laing’s conclusions are not entirely correct. Instead of causing us further withdrawal and loneliness, the power of internet technology can just as easily promote even more visible, dramatic or reckless online behaviour. • Many cyberbullies use the anonymity of the internet and social networks to abuse and emotionally damage their victims. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Cyber wellness firm Kingmaker Consultancy conducted a survey in 2015 and discovered an increase of 7% in cyber bullying cases in Singapore. • For the victim of such bullying, the technology is a bane that alienates them, leading to the social alienation and hypervigilance that Laing predicts. • But for the bully, it is a tool for them to administer abuse. They certainly do not seem to care much that they are leaving behind the digital evidence of their actions. • Even when the individual’s identity is known to the world, the temptation to share one’s thoughts on social media sometimes promotes reckless and insensitive behaviour rather than “hypervigilance” and loneliness. • In 2013, Amy Cheong posted a racist rant against Malay Weddings at her void deck on her Facebook feed. Her comments were widely condemned. The Police issued her with a warning and she was fired from her job. • In 2015, Amos Yee released an expletive laden video celebrating the death of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, while also insulting the Christian faith. In 2016 he would release another video that insulted Islam. He would be arrested and charged by the Singapore authorities for wounding religious feelings and hate speech against race and religion. • These examples illustrate that rather than causing withdrawal and isolation, ICT can just as easily seduce individuals into abusing their freedom of speech in reckless and insensitive ways.
<p><u>Paragraph 7 and 8</u> Laing illustrates how throughout history, new innovations in technology, including modern internet, have resulted in unease about how they might be abused, or how they discourage or hinder communication, partly due to the fear of our privacy being invaded.</p>	<p><u>Agree but not completely</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Singaporeans are criticised for being too dependent on their smart devices, such that it is normal for people to be using their smartphones, even in a social setting when they should be interacting and engaging others in their vicinity. E.g. A stereotypical Singaporean family that seems more interested in their devices than talking to each other over the dinner table. • In contrast to those who recklessly use social media (mentioned above), some Singaporeans also sometimes lament that they have to be careful of what they post, as they do not want to share certain aspects of their lives with family members, relatives, colleagues and acquaintances that they have in their network. • This is particularly important for Singaporean civil servants and government officials, who are often reminded not to share content or post opinions that are too political in nature, as they have to maintain their professionalism and impartiality to the scrutiny of the public. • However, for those people who already have a genuine and close relationship, ICT and social media can be a great enabler to keep that relationship and connection alive.

- E.g. Social media apps like Skype (video calls) and WhatsApp allow family members and close friends to keep in touch with great convenience, even though they may be in different countries.
- This is especially important since Singaporeans are becoming increasingly geographically mobile as they travel the world either for work, business or education.

Table of Specifications:

No.	Question Types	Question Number	Mark Allocation
1	Direct Literal	1, 4, 5, 8	9
2	Inferential	3, 7, 9, 10	6
3	Extended Vocabulary	2	2
4	Summary	6	8
4	AQ	11	10
		Subtotal	35
		Language	15
		Total	50



MERIDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 Preliminary Examination
Higher 1

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 1

8807/1

11 September 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Writing Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your **full name, civics group** and **GP tutor's name** on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use correction fluid or correction tape.

Answer **one** question.

Note that **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

Write the **question number** on all the work you hand in.

At the end of the examination, fasten your work **securely** together.
You do **not** need to submit this Question Paper with your Answer Script.

All questions carry equal marks.

This document consists of 2 printed pages.

[Turn over]

PAPER 1

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. 'Work smart, not hard.' Is this good advice in today's world?
2. 'Poor governance is the main cause of poverty within a country.' To what extent is this a fair comment?
3. 'University education could and should be fully subsidised for all.' Discuss.
4. How far is it possible to live an environmentally sustainable lifestyle in today's world?
5. 'There has never been a better time to be ageing.' Discuss this in relation to your society.
6. How far does a country's physical size determine its relations with other countries in the world today?
7. How effective is imprisonment in combatting crime?
8. Is loyalty still a valuable trait in this ever-changing world?
9. To what extent can personal responsibility help in preventing the outbreak of diseases?
10. Given that human beings are inherently different, is there any point in trying to eradicate inequalities?
11. Assess the view that new technologies create more problems than benefits for your society.
12. 'The progress of a society is best reflected through the arts.' What do you think?

This Insert consists of 2 printed pages.

Eric Land discusses the perceptions of beauty.

- 1 Beauty. We know it when we see it, but what is it? In 1756, the philosopher Edmund Burke wrote, "We must conclude that beauty is, for the greater part, some quality in bodies, acting mechanically upon the human mind by the intervention of the senses." Scientists are still on a quest to define what makes things and people beautiful. In some ways, it is like asking whether one's vision of "red" is the same as someone else's – there is just no way to know for sure. 5
- 2 A case in point is how our preferences for body shapes differ over time and space. In the West, people may prize longer legs in women while preferring less "lanky men", yet the nomadic Himba society in Namibia have the opposite tastes. Botticelli's Venus – once the Western ideal of beauty – has shorter legs, compared to her body, than the desired shape for models today. Plus-sized comedian Dawn French once quipped, "If I had been around when Botticelli was painting The Birth of Venus, I would have been revered as a fabulous model and supermodels like Kate Moss would have been the paintbrush." 10
- 3 When it comes to facial attractiveness however, there are reasons to believe that specific features and biologically based factors guide our assessment of beauty. Faces that are more symmetrical and average-looking tend to be rated as more attractive in scientific studies. Scientists say that the preference for symmetry is a highly evolved trait also seen in many different animals. Female swallows*, for example, prefer males with longer and more symmetric tails, while female zebra finches* mate with males with symmetrically coloured leg bands. The rationale behind symmetry preference in both humans and animals is that symmetric individuals are seen as more prolific mates. Further, scientists believe that this symmetry is equated with a strong immune system. Thus, beauty is indicative of more robust genes, improving the likelihood that an individual's offspring will survive. 15 20
- 4 In fact, even babies respond more positively to attractive, symmetrical faces. However, babies appear to respond more to faces deemed attractive than those that are purely symmetrical, suggesting there is something else going on. There are theories that specific proportions are the most naturally beautiful, with ratios of length and width being important. And with the help of computers, it has become apparent that morphing a lot of faces together typically produces an end product that is highly attractive. The reasoning goes that this blending gets closer to the face "prototype" that may underline attractiveness – the ultimate idea of an attractive face is ironically the most average one. Thus, it may be that babies are drawn to faces that are most like the most basic concept of a face – that is, they are average. 25 30
- 5 Beauty and attractiveness are often confused to be one and the same. Yet, women who have graced the covers of magazines tell us that they do not necessarily feel attractive. And there are women who are attractive who would never be cover girls. Beauty is a rigid, static, youth-oriented physical image which can be photoshopped or surgically attained. Attractiveness, however, is a fluid, variable psychological experience which develops naturally and can be ageless. One can simply feel attractive about oneself but beauty drives women toward the pursuit of the physical features associated with the word. 35 40
- 6 Be it beauty or attractiveness, people too often tie their self-worth to their physical appearance. Especially today, engulfed by a popular culture saturated with images of idealised, air-brushed and unattainable female physical beauty, many women and girls 45

* Swallows and finches are birds.

cannot escape feeling judged on the basis of their appearance. Moreover, the diet, cosmetic and fashion industries are often too willing to exploit these narrow beauty standards so women and girls will become cradle-to-grave consumers of beauty products, cosmetic surgery and diet programs.

- 7 The health implications that impact women on the never-ending treadmill of unrealistic beauty attainment are substantial. Through chronic and unhealthy dieting, taking unnecessary risks during cosmetic surgical procedures, and absorbing unsafe chemicals through cosmetics, women are placing themselves in precarious health situations to maintain some semblance of their idealised physical selves. Women and girls are at risk of lifelong health problems – and the problems start at an early age. When taken to the extreme, obsession over a particular aspect of one's appearance has a psychiatric diagnosis: body dysmorphic disorder. It is the reason some people get dozens of plastic surgeries, but are never satisfied with the outcomes. 50
55
- 8 Furthermore, the burden of unattainable beauty has far-reaching implications for women's economic well-being. Not only are women spending much of their money on cosmetics, but expectations of physical beauty even impacts women economically through their workplaces. "Lookism", or the prejudice based on physical appearance and attractiveness, is an increasing problem. One study found that employers believe that good looks contribute to the success of their companies. It is unsurprising that discrimination against overweight people in the workplace is a widespread practice. 60
65
- 9 Yet, studies have shown that people who are perceived as being more beautiful also appear more competent and successful. Other research has shown that physical attractiveness can also influence salary. The legal system may even take beauty into account – a variety of studies have found effects suggesting that attractiveness helps when it comes to verdicts and sentencing. It may be that there is a societal view that attractive people are less likely to commit crimes than unattractive people. In society, attractive people are also seen as more intelligent, better adjusted, and more popular. This is described as the halo effect – due to the perfection associated with angels. Research shows attractive people are perceived to have more occupational success and more dating experience than their unattractive counterparts. May it be that this halo effect is accurate since attractive people may indeed be more successful? Alternatively, self-fulfilling prophecies – in which an attractive person's confident self-perception, further perpetuated by healthy feedback from others – may play a role in success as well. 70
75
- 10 For better or worse, the bottom line is that research shows beauty matters; it pervades society and affects how we choose loved ones. Thus, being vain may not be such a vain endeavour after all. Among its other social benefits, attractiveness actually invites people to learn what one is made of, in other respects than just genetic fitness. According to a new study, attractive people are actually judged more accurately – at least, closer to a subject's own self-assessments – than are the less attractive, because it draws others to go beyond the initial impression. "People do judge a book by its cover," the researchers write, "but a beautiful cover prompts a closer reading." 80
85

Candidate Name	Civics Group	General Paper Tutor



MERIDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination
Higher 1

H1 General Paper

Paper 2

8807/02

11 September 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper

Additional Materials: 1 Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your **full name**, **civics group** and **GP tutor's name** in the spaces at the top of this page.
Write in dark blue or black ink on both sides of the paper.
Do not use correction fluid or correction tape.

Answer **all** questions.

The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.

(Note that 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.)

At the end of the examination, submit your Question Paper. You do not need to submit the Insert.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
TOTAL	/50

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **1** insert.

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Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

Note: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words and phrases from the passage.

1 What is the author suggesting in describing the quest to define beauty as being like “asking whether one’s vision of “red” is the same as someone else’s” (line 5)?

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

2 In line 7, the author claims that people’s preferences for body shapes differ over “time” and “space”. Give one example of each difference that the author provides and explain how the examples illustrate his claim. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

3 According to the author in paragraph 3, what explains the preference for symmetry in both humans’ and animals’ choice of mates? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

4 Explain the author’s use of the word “even” in “even babies respond more positively to attractive, symmetrical faces” (Line 25).

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

5 Using your own words as far as possible, explain the irony found in line 32.

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

6 Give three differences between beauty and attractiveness that the author suggests in paragraph 5. Use your own words as far as possible.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....[3]

7 What does “cradle-to-grave” (line 48) suggest about the consumers of beauty products?

.....
.....[1]

8 What does the author mean when he says “being vain may not be such a vain endeavour after all” (lines 80 – 81)?

.....
.....[1]

9 In the light of the final paragraph, why do researchers say that “a beautiful cover prompts a closer reading” (line 86)? Use your own words as far as possible.

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

**Meridian Junior College
2017 J2 Prelims GP Paper 2 Answers**

1. What is the author suggesting in describing the quest to define beauty as being like “asking whether one’s vision of “red” is the same as someone else’s” (line 5)? [2m]

Lifted	Inferred
Scientists are still on a quest to define what makes things and people beautiful. In some ways, it is like asking whether one’s vision of “red” the same as someone else’s	He suggests that the definition of beauty is relative / people have differing views of beauty/ what is beautiful. [1m]
Scientists are still on a quest to define... - there is just no way to know for sure.	And therefore the difficulty of defining beauty / impossible to define beauty. [1m] OR Which cannot be verified with each other. * Missing context (not mentioning beauty) = 0m

2. In line 7, the author claims that people’s preferences for body shapes differ over “time” and “space”. Give one example of each and explain how the examples illustrate his claim. Use your own words as far as possible. [2m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Space In the West, people may prize longer legs in women while preferring less “lanky men”, yet the nomadic Himba society in Namibia have the opposite tastes.</p>	<p><u>Example</u>: The author gives the example of how people prefer women with long legs and men who are not tall and thin/gangly/spindly/gawky in the West, and have contrasting tastes in Namibia.</p> <p>Note – ‘lanky’ means ‘tall and thin’, not ‘skinny’</p> <p><u>Link</u>: Which illustrates how people’s preferences for body shapes differ across different countries/cultures/societies/ regions.</p> <p>*Both women and men should be discussed</p>
<p>Time Botticelli’s Venus – once the Western ideal of beauty – has shorter legs, compared to her body, than the desired shape for models today. OR As plus-sized comedian Dawn French once quipped, “If I had been around when Botticelli was painting The Birth of Venus, I would have been revered as a fabulous model, and supermodels like Kate Moss, would have been the paintbrush.”</p>	<p><u>Example</u>: The author gives the example of how the Western* notion of beauty has shifted from one with shorter legs relative/in relation to her body hundreds of years ago to one with longer legs today</p> <p>OR</p> <p><u>Example</u>: The author gives the example of how Western* notions of beauty used to celebrate plump women but today celebrate skinny women.</p> <p><u>Link</u>: Showing how preferences for body shapes have changed from the past to present/ over time</p> <p>*‘Western’ should be included, part of the context</p>

*Clear signposting to match example to each characteristic required.

3. According to the author in paragraph 3, what explains the preference for symmetry in both humans' and animals' choice of mates? Use your own words as far as possible. [2m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
The rationale behind symmetry preference in both humans and animals is that symmetric individuals are seen as more prolific mates.	Both humans and animals prefer symmetry in their partners because... Those who exhibit symmetrical physical traits are perceived to be more fertile * Ideal/better partners = 0m
Further, scientists believe that this symmetry is equated with a strong immune system .	They are more likely to be healthy / in good health / physically fit / good physical condition
Thus, beauty is indicative of more robust genes, improving the likelihood that an individual's offspring will survive .	Have stronger/better genes or DNA, increasing the chances that their future children will remain alive / thrive

3 for 2m, 1-2 for 1m

4. Explain the author's use of the word 'even' in 'even babies respond more positively to attractive, symmetrical faces.' (Line 25) [2m]

Lifted	Inferred
In fact, even babies respond more positively to attractive, symmetrical faces.	A young infant, who has <u>not been socially conditioned to notions of beauty/does not understand concepts of beauty</u> , [Inferred] also responds favourably to symmetry. [1m] * Characteristic of the young infant must be linked to beauty So answers like 'babies are still young/immature' = 0m But answers like 'babies are too young <i>to understand notions of beauty</i> ' = 1m
	This highlights that the preference for symmetry is <u>deeply ingrained/innate</u> in human nature OR The great extent to which symmetry is preferred by humans [1m]

5. Using your own words as far as possible, explain the irony found in line 32. [2m]

Lifted	Paraphrased / Inferred
morphing a lot of faces together typically produces an end product that is highly attractive. The reasoning goes that this blending gets closer to the face "prototype" that may underline attractiveness – the ultimate idea of an attractive face is ironically the most average one.	It is expected that attractive/beautiful faces stand out / are more remarkable / exceptional than others However what makes such faces appealing to others is because they are actually a composite of the most commonplace / mainstream / commonly found / familiar faces and nothing outstanding in particular. * Attractive faces are good-looking. Actually they are ordinary-looking = 1m ** Need to explain that what is considered attractive contradicts what one believes about attractiveness. Thus the expectation needs to be about 'attractive faces', not about 'common faces'.

6. Give three differences between beauty and attractiveness that the author suggests in lines 37 – 42. Use your own words as far as possible. [3m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
Rigid,static vs fluid,variable	Beauty is seen to be inflexible and unchanging / objective definition VS Attractiveness can change/shift in how it is viewed / subjective definition Volatile = 0m
Physical image vs psychological experience	Beauty is tied to a tangible / concrete / visible picture / outward appearance VS Attractiveness is a state of mind / what one goes through in one's mind
Youth oriented vs ageless	Beauty celebrates / is tied to youthfulness / being young VS Attractiveness can take place at any age / regardless of one's age / is timeless
Photoshopped or surgically attained vs develops naturally	Beauty can be artificially attained VS Attractiveness grows from within
Women pursue physical features associated with beauty vs one can simply feel attractive about oneself.	Women seek / go after features deemed by others as beautiful VS Attractiveness can come from one's own perception of oneself

Any 3 pairs for 3 marks. Marker's discretion.

7. What does 'cradle-to-grave' (line 48) suggest about the consumers of beauty products? [1m]

Lifted	Inferred
women and girls will become cradle-to-grave consumers of beauty products, cosmetic surgery and diet programs	Consumers of beauty products / Women and girls start using beauty products and services from a very young age all the way till old age OR Throughout their lives / their whole lives / life-long obsession * Time element needed Both the old and young are consuming beauty products = 0m Consumers will not cease using them = 0m Consumers cannot live without/obsessed with beauty products = 0m

8. What does the author mean when he says “being vain may not be such a vain endeavour after all” (lines 81 – 82)? [1m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
Thus, being vain	An <u>obsession /excessive concern</u> with one’s own beauty/ looks Merely ‘pursuit of good looks’ / ‘caring about one’s appearance’ = 0m
may not be such a vain endeavour after all.	is not actually futile/pointless / actually has benefits. * Both halves needed to get 1m.

9. In the light of the final paragraph, why do researchers say that “a beautiful cover prompts a closer reading” (line 87)? Use your own words as far as possible. [2m]

Lifted	Paraphrased / Inferred
attractiveness actually invites people to learn what one is made of ... because it draws others to go beyond the initial impression, in other respects than just genetic fitness...	People are attracted / enticed / keen to find out <u>more</u> about attractive people / invites a <u>deeper</u> look / beyond their physical features.
attractive people are actually judged more accurately —at least, closer to a subject’s own self-assessments—than are the less attractive	This allows for a <u>more</u> correct appraisal / evaluation of attractive people

1 for 1m

10. Using material from paragraphs 7 to 9 (lines 50 – 79), summarise what the author has to say about the negative effects of the obsession with beauty and how attractive people are viewed. Use your own words as far as possible. Opening words: An obsession with beauty...

Lifted		Paraphrased
Negative effects of the obsession with beauty		
1	never-ending treadmill of unrealistic beauty attainment ...are never satisfied with the outcomes .	Is a futile/non-stop attempt to look good OR one is never satisfied with one's looks.
2	Through chronic and unhealthy dieting	One eats too little / unbalanced diets * 'Dieting/diets' can be lifted Bad eating habits(Vague) / Poor diets (more for poverty) = 0m
3	taking unnecessary risks during cosmetic surgical procedures	Needlessly jeopardises one's health in surgery * 'Risk' CANNOT be lifted
4	absorbing unsafe chemicals through cosmetics	Consumes/exposes oneself to dangerous/harmful ingredients in cosmetics/beauty products,
5	women are placing themselves in precarious health situations	endangering one's wellbeing * 'Health' can be lifted
6	Women and girls are at risk for lifelong health problems and the problems start at an early age	This results in long term illnesses OR Illnesses begin from a young age
7	obsession over a particular aspect of one's appearance has a psychiatric diagnosis	And even mental illnesses
8	far-reaching implications for women's economic well-being ... women spending much of their money on cosmetics	Such obsessions take a financial toll on women / cause women to spend excessively / overspend on beauty products
9	" Lookism ", or the prejudice based on physical appearance and attractiveness is an increasing problem... discrimination against overweight people in the workplace is a widespread practice	Less attractive people face workplace bias.
How attractive people are viewed		
10	employers believe that good looks contribute to the success of their companies	Companies believe that attractive people add more value to the organisation,
11	Yet, studies have shown that people who are perceived as being more attractive also appear more competent and successful	seeming more capable/proficient/qualified/outstanding * receive higher salaries = 0m (not perception)
12	It may be that there is a societal view that attractive people are less likely to commit crimes than unattractive people,	Society views attractive people as less inclined to break the law,
13	attractive people also seem to be more intelligent,	more clever/bright/brainy,
14	better adjusted	emotionally stable / mature * flexible/adaptable = 0m
15	and more popular	and well-liked/socially adept
16	Attractive people are perceived to have more occupational success	Attractive people are seen to do better in their careers,
17	and more dating experience than their unattractive counterparts	be <u>more</u> eligible as romantic partners
18	in which an attractive person's confident self-perception	And see themselves as self-assured

Points 10- 18 must be phrased as perceptions using words like 'seen', 'perceived', 'viewed', 'appear to be', 'it is thought that' etc

14+ = 8m, 12 – 13 = 7m, 10 – 11 = 6m, 9 = 5m, 7 – 8 = 4m, 5 – 6 = 3m, 3 – 4 = 2m, 1 – 2 = 1m

11. Eric Land considers how beauty is viewed and its impacts on those obsessed with it. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own society?

From the passage	Agree / Disagree
<p>Para 1: Scientists are still on a quest to define what makes things and people beautiful. In some ways, it is like asking whether one's vision of "red" the same as someone else's - there is just no way to know for sure.</p>	<p>Agree Apart from body shape, beauty is indeed culture-specific, especially when it intersects with race/religion (eg. In Middle-eastern countries with conservative dress codes, women's beauty is largely defined by the beauty of their eyes. Whereas in Korea, having double eyelids and a V-line shaped jaw is key to being truly beautiful. In India, meanwhile, having long and soft hair is what defines a true Indian beauty). The reaction by some people in recent years against oppressive/often unattainable Western and Korean beauty ideals is testament to the relativity of beauty standards.</p> <p>Disagree Due to the forces of cultural globalisation and media influence, there seems to have been a general convergence towards universally-accepted/desired beauty standards—defined by the stick-thin ideal, double eyelids, straight hair, fair skin, anglicised features (small nose, thin lips, less prominent curves). A saying goes that the type of black model the beauty/fashion industry looks for has to “be a white girl dipped in chocolate.” Deviance from this norm is subject to exotification, fetishization and sexualisation. In SG, a country assailed by the forces of cultural globalisation, many young girls aspire towards looking like their stick-thin, double eyelid, small face K-Pop idols.</p>
<p>Para 2: ...preferences for body shapes differ over time and space.</p>	<p>Agree Not surprising. Perceptions of beauty partly arise from functional and pragmatic concerns. Nomadic societies may favour men with long legs given the need for men to walk long distances to seek out new pastures. Similarly, perceptions of beauty in the past celebrated more fat because it was a sign of status and prosperity. The wealthy ate in excess, assuring themselves “good health”, while the poor starved. Socially dominant groups with better access to food and thus heavier were believed to have better health.</p> <p>Furthermore, perceptions of beauty are very much shaped by cultural norms, for eg the long-necked women of the Kayan Lahwi tribe in Thailand and Myanmar. In Singapore, which is highly susceptible to media influences from the West, perceptions of beauty are largely tied to those of the West – fair skin, pronounced features, large eyes, slender body shapes, or more recently, from K-pop influences.</p>
<p>Para 4: The ultimate idea of an attractive face is ironically the most average one.</p>	<p>Agree Nothing ironic about considering the most attractive face to be the most average one. It is natural to subscribe to what is seen as conventional and 'normal' and embrace it as being more attractive than looks. Consider how many go for plastic surgery to attain the same features of public celebrities and the ubiquitous results of South Korean women who have undergone cosmetic surgery.</p> <p>Disagree Modern perceptions of beauty are more varied today and society has become more accepting of alternative forms of attractiveness, eg plus-sized models like Ashley Graham have appeared on the cover of fashion magazines like Vogue. Transgender, androgenous, elderly,</p>

	<p>heavily tattooed, mentally and physically disabled models have also all broken into the fashion world. Furthermore, perceptions of beauty still vary greatly in different societies, from Western to Eastern. The big-eyed anime look popularised in South Korea and Japan is vastly different from the Western model but nevertheless tremendously popular in Asia.</p>
<p>Para 5: Beauty and attractiveness are often confused to be one and the same...beauty drives women toward the pursuit of the physical features associated with the word.</p>	<p>Agree: Can't blame people for subscribing to fixed notions of beauty rather than feeling attractive. This is especially since what is portrayed in the mass media are standard notions of 'beauty' by only showcasing supermodel-types who are typically thin, tall, fair, and young.</p> <p>Furthermore, while one feels 'attractive', the definition of 'attractive' features is frequently tied to what is commonly seen as 'beautiful' features (eg. big defined eyes, youthful skin), all dictated by cultural norms and the media.</p>
<p>Para 6: Be it beauty or attractiveness, people too often tie their self-worth to their physical appearance...many women and girls cannot escape feeling judged on the basis of their appearance.</p>	<p>Agree: The beauty/fashion industry is widely seen as oppressing women by casting them primarily as nothing more than objects of beauty for male admiration, often defined by the thin ideal. For eg, a few years ago, Abercrombie & Fitch was under fire for refusing to make clothes for large women, Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld is known for lashing out at fat people who he deems ugly. A 2017 meta-analysis study from the University of South Australisa has established that such oppression does indeed exist.</p> <p>Disagree: The beauty/fashion industry is evolving in many major fashion capitals (New York, Milan, etc)—away from the oppressive beauty association with thinness, including SG's. They are hailing plus-sized models & beginning to promote the idea that a woman's worth is more than skin-deep. Eg. In 2017 France banned super skinny models. Many beauty/fashion magazines also talk of this shift in the Fashion/Beauty industry (eg. international and SG-versions of V Mag, Velvet D'Amour, FFFWeek, Beth Ditto, Melissa McCarthy, Evans, Plus North, Frazier, Big Love, Curvy Girls, Elle Quebec, Vogue Italia).</p> <p>A 2013 Dove internet survey of 300 SG women revealed that while only 2 percent thought that they were beautiful, the majority were reasonably confident about their attractiveness.</p>
<p>Para 7: The health implications that impact women on the never-ending treadmill of unrealistic beauty attainment are substantial...women are placing themselves in precarious health situations...Women and girls are at risk for lifelong health problems – and the problems start at an early age.</p>	<p>Applicable to SG: The widespread access to, and use of social working sites in SG is responsible for internalisation among women of the oppressive thin ideal (among other unattainable ideals). The latest skinny fads usually come on the heels of viral social media trends. A couple of years ago, there was the "bikini bridge", which is the space between a woman's hip bones that showed how flat her tummy is; and the "thigh gap" that apparently proves one has ultra-slim legs. Then in 2016, there was the A4 waist challenge, where women compete to be as thin as an A4 piece of paper (portrait, not landscape!).</p> <p>This obsession over thinness has led to increased concern over the negative health implications of these beauty ideals on women. Eg. documented in 2012 report "Seeking Thinspiration" / SGH reported a 3-fold increase in beauty/fashion-related eating disorders in 2012 / Many SG hospitals report a rising trend of such patients—a 2016 study by the KK Women's and Children's Hospital revealed that beauty-related</p>

	<p>eating disorders from as young as 9 or 10 years old has increased by a significant 10 per cent a year since 2008 when such patients were treated there</p>
<p>Para 8: Furthermore, the burden of unattainable beauty has far-reaching implications for women's economic well-being...expectations of physical beauty even impacts women economically through their workplaces. "Lookism," or the prejudice based on physical appearance and attractiveness, is an increasing problem.</p>	<p>Agree: According to renowned author Daniel Hamermesh, there are at least 3 reasons for the increasing problem of looks-based discrimination at the workplace. First, in service and sales industries, physical attractiveness could actually increase sales for the company because beautiful people are seen as more persuasive. A related reason is that customers prefer dealing with better-looking sales people. Finally, more attractive people tend to have more desirable personality traits, such as self-confidence and self-esteem—and this appeals to both employers and customers. The beauty premium appears to be pervasive in almost every occupation and industry, though it is higher in some than in others. In SG, this is especially applicable for younger women. A 2011 ST report affirms the presence of this traditional gender stereotype/trend in SG. Unlike their male counterparts, younger SG women are found to be valued especially for their looks/dressing, particularly in the finance, F&B and retail sector.</p> <p>Certain companies may have dress codes, which is acceptable given the nature of the job or the industry (eg banking, corporate sales), or simply the need to look professional to impress clients. However, there are also companies who have a 'look policy', such as Abercrombie and Fitch, who in the 2000s was criticised for dictating everything from fingernail length to hair colour. It was also an open secret that the company hired salespeople, called "models", who were stylish, conventionally attractive, and often scantily clad. Male employees were hired specifically to work shirtless! In 2015, after much criticism, A & F has since overhauled its look policy (no more shirtless men amongst other changes).</p> <p>Disagree: Given that SG society does value talent/experience over looks to some degree, this is more applicable to younger women, who may need to rely on their physical looks to climb the social/corporate ladder. Older women are less affected by lookism. Eg. the success stories of hotelier Ms Jennie Chua, Ms Olivia Lum of Hyflux, Ms Ho Ching of Temasek Holdings.</p> <p>Also, no one can be blamed for pursuing beauty especially when employers prize attractiveness highly. For example, the most popular aesthetic procedure globally is blepharoplasty, or double eyelid surgery as it helps them look less 'sleepy' and 'tired', which supports the popular view that bigger eyes equals more attractiveness. In a highly competitive society like South Korea, such aesthetic procedures are a matter of pragmatism, where attractiveness is a competitive advantage in the job market. The assumption employers make is that if you look like you can take care of yourself, then you can take care of your job. Cosmetic procedures are akin to getting a haircut.</p>

Application Question Band Descriptors

Band 1 8 – 10	1 REQUIREMENTS: Systematic reference to the requirements of the question with evidence of a balanced treatment.
	2 EXPLANATION: Shows a good or very good understanding of terms and issues.
	3 EVALUATION: Makes very convincing evaluation by making judgements and decisions and by developing arguments to logical conclusions, and includes elaboration and support through personal insight and apt illustration.
	4 COHERENCE: Very clear shape and paragraph organisation and cogent argument.
Band 2 4 – 7	1 REQUIREMENTS: Covers requirements of the question adequately but not necessarily a balanced treatment.
	2 EXPLANATION: Shows an adequate level of understanding of terms and issues (which may include minor distortion).
	3 EVALUATION: Evaluation is attempted but is not always convincing, and tends to be superficial with limited development of ideas, and is not as thorough in support.
	4 COHERENCE: Paragraphing is sometimes helpful and there is a recognisable over-all shape to the answer; arguments are generally cogent.
Band 3 1 – 3	1 REQUIREMENTS: An incomplete and/or unbalanced treatment of the requirements.
	2 EXPLANATION: Shows very limited degree of understanding and a higher incidence of misinterpretation.
	3 EVALUATION: Tends to be a mere summary of restatement of the text with a few simple and undeveloped judgements, with very thin support.
	4 COHERENCE: Paragraphing and organisation are haphazard; arguments inconsistent or illogical.
0	Nothing in the answer meets any of the criteria.

Use of English (15 marks)

- Assessment must be based on the individual candidate's performance across the whole paper.
- Generally, look for sentence length, the range and variety of vocabulary, and the incidence, range and severity of the following types of error: spelling, vocabulary, tense, number, sentence construction.
- Apply the 'best fit' principle when not all the descriptors of a single band are found within a script.

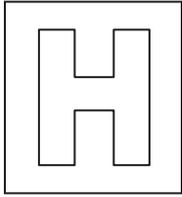
Marks	Descriptors
Band 1 12 – 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good to excellent linguistic ability: very few serious errors; only a few slips or minor errors. <input type="checkbox"/> Assured command of language: it is clear, fluent, effective and appropriate throughout. <input type="checkbox"/> Answers are cogent, concise and well organised. A wide variety of apt vocabulary is used and sentence structure is inventive, developed and appropriate. <input type="checkbox"/> There is a sustained attempt to rephrase the text language for all the answers.
Band 2 8 – 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Good to very good linguistic ability: a number of errors of various kinds but they do not seriously impede the flow of the writing. <input type="checkbox"/> Competent command of language: the Candidate usually writes in convincing and idiomatic English, with some positive merits. <input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary and sentence structures are varied and appropriate but not necessarily outstanding. <input type="checkbox"/> There is a noticeable attempt to avoid the text language for all the answers.
Band 3 4 – 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory / mediocre linguistic ability: errors of various kinds are frequent but the English is for the most part intelligible. <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate command of language: the English is at times halting, repetitive and generally insecure. <input type="checkbox"/> Misuse of vocabulary and/or breakdown of syntax or grammar. Only simple statements attempted successfully. <input type="checkbox"/> There are recognisable but limited attempts to rephrase the text language in the answers.
Band 4 1 – 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Weak linguistic ability: frequent and serious errors of various kinds, rendering the English muddled or unintelligible at times. <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor command of language. <input type="checkbox"/> Widespread misuse of vocabulary; sentence linking is inappropriate or haphazard. <input type="checkbox"/> Answers mostly comprise wholesale copying of the text language. Any attempts to use own language are limited to single word expressions.

Class

Adm No

Candidate Name: _____

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2017 Preliminary Examination 2 Pre-University 3

GENERAL PAPER**8807/01**

Paper 1

29 August 2017

Additional Materials: Writing Paper

1 hour 30 minutes**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your name, class and admission number in the spaces provided at the top of this page and on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

Note that **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/30
Language	/20
Total	/50

This document consists of 2 printed pages.

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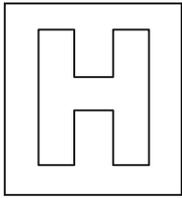
Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 To what extent do gender stereotypes matter to the young people in your country?
- 2 'Small countries are better at responding to change than large countries.' Discuss.
- 3 To what extent should news media present views which are considered offensive?
- 4 'The more society advances, the more people want to remember the past.' How far do you agree?
- 5 How far should disagreements between two countries be resolved without external intervention?
- 6 'Retirement is an outdated concept.' Do you agree?
- 7 'No one really cares what the artist has to say.' What are your views?
- 8 'Sport is an effective means to promote social causes.' How far do you agree?
- 9 'People are willing to put their country before self.' To what extent is this true of your society?
- 10 Should the prevalent use of English be a cause for concern?
- 11 Assess the view that sustainable growth is more important than rapid economic development.
- 12 How far should foreigners be allowed to play a part in your country's religious affairs?

Candidate Name: _____

Class	Adm No
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2017 Preliminary Examination 2 Pre-University 3

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2
Tuesday

29 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your **name**, **class** and **admission number** in the spaces provided at the top of this page.
This insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This insert consists of 3 printed pages and 1 blank page.

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Barbara Cartlens considers the place of stories in our society.

- 1 Stories, more than the wisdom that has been passed down through the ages, are the building blocks of human character and society, and look likely to last longer than fossil fuel. There is no escaping stories, or the pressure to tell them. Human beings are natural storytellers; they cannot help telling stories, and they turn things that are not really stories into stories because they like narratives so much. Everything — faith, science, love — needs a story for people to find it plausible. No story, no sale. 5
- 2 We all like stories. When we do not have a story we look for one. Journalists chasing a news lead will go to extreme ends to pursue their subjects. Boy scouts sitting round a camp fire have it easier; they make it up as the tale unfolds. Religions are so successful because they tell stories, though, to be sure, some of their stories have nice morals and some are not nice at all. Different people like different kinds of morals in their stories. Some draw inspiration from the stories of entrepreneurs who made good despite the odds they faced in life. Some never cease to be fascinated by the heroic tales from the distant past. Yet others will never skip an episode of their favourite family drama on television. 15
- 3 Primates, like monkeys and chimpanzees, groom each other not to pick out lice, which do not really trouble them, but as a form of gossip, a way of exchanging social information — who grooms who for how long tells who's doing well and who's not. This primate grooming and the “gossip” that it entails actually produce brain-opiates, chemicals that make them feel good. Of course, since human groups are roughly three times larger than other primate groups, gossip was no longer enough to produce the opiates that make social interaction pleasant for primates. We started sharing stories about people as a way of drawing each other closer, apart from passing idle time. Indeed, to this day, almost all talk of this nature, is gossip and grooming, though the removal of bodily pests is no longer necessary. This thesis may or may not be true, but it has the excitement of a theory that surprises: it's a good story. 20
- 4 Good stories work in other intriguing ways. What strong scientific theories have in common with good stories is not some profound-sounding generalisations. It is that they make claims so astonishing that they seem instantly very different from all the other stories we have ever heard. The excitement of the great scientific theories lies not in the laws that they establish, but the shock they trigger: the Queen of England is actually the distant relative of an ape with furry arms that lived in a tree! Or simply consider this story: locked inside the nucleus of each little invisible atom is a force so vast it can destroy an entire city! 25
- 5 Studies show that people who read a lot of novels have better social and empathetic abilities, are more skilful navigators, than those who do not. And if these claims seem almost too large to argue, the more central claim — that stories increase our empathy, and make societies work better by encouraging us to behave ethically — seems too absurd even to argue with. Stories are also a great way to bring parents and their children together. As children grow older, they will be on the move — playing, running, and constantly exploring their environment. Snuggling up with a book allows both parent and child to slow down and recapture that sweet, cuddly time they enjoyed when the child was a baby. Numerous studies have also shown that students who are exposed to reading stories before 30 35 40 45

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preschool are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education. After all, if a student struggles to put together words and sentences, how can he be expected to grasp the mathematics, science, and social concepts he will be presented with when he begins primary school? 50

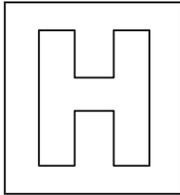
- 6 As communication technology develops, stories have found new ways to enter our lives. The increasing popularity of audio storytelling owes a lot to technology, as smartphones allow people to consume shows on demand anywhere, and cars increasingly come equipped with satellite radio and internet-friendly dashboards. A recent report estimated that a significant majority of young adults listened to online radio weekly. But some research has shown that people who listen to the narration of a passage, like the audio storytelling found in traditional audiobooks, remember less information, are less interested in the content, and are more likely to daydream than those who read the same book out loud or silently to themselves. 55
- 7 With the internet, the stories we encounter today are sometimes more than what they appear to be. People are attracted to stories circulating on the internet, more so if they are stories of tragedy, perversion, penance or plain, old scandal. Nowadays, it is easy to find an endless number of negative messages in stories of all shades and forms that discourage us from being proactive and going forth into the world. A major problem in this regard is that, for the most part, we are so used to negative messages that we are not even aware when we are imbibing them. We no longer question the stories that we hear or read, and we even pass them on. In a world characterised by steadily decreasing attention spans and rampantly increasing information onslaughts, the temptation to simplify and summarise just to keep on top of facts and fiction that come our way is immense. 60
- 8 Moreover, not all stories tell it like it is. In the past few decades, the fortunate among us have recognised the hazards of living with an overabundance of food (obesity and diabetes, for example) and have started to change our diets. But most of us do not yet understand that stories, in the form of news, are to the mind what sugar is to the body. News is easy to digest. The media feeds us small bites of trivial matter, titbits that do not really concern our lives and do not require thinking. That is why we experience almost no saturation. Unlike reading books and long magazine articles (which require thinking), we can swallow limitless quantities of news flashes, stories which are brightly coloured candies for the mind. Today, we have reached the same point in relation to information that we faced twenty years ago in regard to food. We are beginning to recognise how toxic news, and newsy stories, can be. 75
- 9 Perhaps it can be said that there are no good or bad stories. The power to astonish that stories have is true even of seemingly long or complicated novels that no one is said to read (but they do anyway). A sensitive, educated man is madly in love with an eighteen-year-old girl! Yikes! What happened? Are you serious? What will they do next? It took us so long, and so many long sentences, to find that out — but it was worth it. The interesting questions about stories, which, as they say, have fuelled the interests of people for millennia — and will excite them for millennia more — are what makes the enduring ones so different from the dull ones, and whether the good ones really make us better people, or just make us people who happen to have heard a good story. 85

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Candidate Name: _____

Class

Adm No



2017 Preliminary Examination 2 Pre-University 3

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

29 August 2017

ANSWER BOOKLET

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and admission number in the spaces provided at the top of this page and on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

(Note that 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.)

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This answer booklet consists of 7 printed pages and 1 blank page.

Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow below. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this paper.

For
Examiner's
Use

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

1 How do the closing sentences of the first paragraph (lines 6-7) establish the appeal of stories? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....
.....
.....[2]

2 What reasons does the author provide in lines 8-12 to support her claim that 'we all like stories'? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....
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.....[2]

3 In lines 12-16, how does the author support her idea that 'different people like different kinds of morals in their stories'? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

4 In paragraph 3, what distinctions does the author draw between the grooming and gossiping that primates practise and the telling of stories by humans? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[3]

5 Explain the author's use of the phrase 'may or may not be true' in line 27.

.....
.....[1]

6 In paragraph 4, what similarity does the author see between 'strong scientific theories' and 'good stories'? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

8 How does the author show that 'stories, in the form of news, are to the mind what sugar is to the body' (lines 75-76)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[3]

9 Explain the irony in lines 84-86.

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.....[1]

10 How is the idea that stories will excite people for 'millennia more' (lines 90-91) reflected in the opening lines (lines 1-3) of paragraph 1?

.....
.....[1]

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**2017 PU3 Preliminary Examination II
Answer Scheme**

Q1. How do the closing sentences of the first paragraph (lines 6-7) establish the appeal of stories? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>Everything – faith, science, love – needs a story for people to find it plausible. No story, no sale.</p>	<p>(a) Regardless of the subjects/ subject matters/ topics, (b) stories are necessary (a+b 1m) (c) for people to believe in them/ buy into them. (1m)</p> <p><i>*Degree has to be shown for (a).</i></p>

Q2. What reasons does the author provide to support his claim that ‘we all like stories’ (line 8)? Use your own words as far as possible. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>When we do not have a story we look for one. Journalists chasing a news lead will go to extreme ends to pursue their subjects. Boy scouts sitting round a camp fire have it easier; they make it up as the tale unfolds. Religions are so successful because they tell stories, though, to be sure, some of their stories have nice morals and some are not nice at all.</p>	<p>(a) We like stories because we will create stories (b) when they are absent/ not found/ missing. (a+b 1m) (c) Also, religions are popular/ have a wide following because they are able to make use of stories to attract followers. (1m)</p> <p><i>*For (a), accept answers which cite the examples of journalists and boy scouts, but not if they merely paraphrase the examples.</i></p>

Q3. In paragraph 3, the author suggests that ‘different people like different kinds of morals in their stories’ (line 13). How is this claim supported by the examples given in lines 13-17? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>Some draw inspiration from the stories of entrepreneurs who made good despite the odds they faced in life. Some never cease to be fascinated by the heroic tales from the distant past. Yet others will never skip an episode of their favourite family drama on television.</p>	<p>a) The examples consist of varied/ a range of stories (1m) b) which feature/ with morals related to/ to do with</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) resilience, (ii) personal sacrifices (iii) coping with domestic/ household/ social/ everyday situations/ conflicts. OR maintaining family relationships/ resolving conflicts at home</p> <p>*For (b), any 2 points for 1m <i>*Morals must be clearly stated for (b).</i> <i>*Allow lifting of ‘family’.</i></p>

Q4. In paragraph 3, what distinctions does the author draw between the grooming and gossiping that primates practise and the telling of stories by humans? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>...since human groups are roughly three times larger than other primate groups, gossip was no longer enough to produce the opiates that make social interaction pleasant for primates.</p> <p>We started sharing stories about people as a way of drawing each other closer, apart from passing idle time.</p> <p>Indeed, to this day, almost all talk of this nature, is gossip and grooming, though the removal of bodily pests is no longer necessary.</p>	<p>a) While the primates are able to derive satisfaction/ a feel-good experience from grooming and gossiping, humans can only do so through the telling of stories in a larger group. (1m)</p> <p>b) Also, humans tell stories for bonding and leisure. (1m)</p> <p>c) Unlike the primates, humans do not get rid of lice while telling stories. (1m)</p> <p><i>*Allow lifting of 'lice' and 'pests' for (c).</i></p>

Q5. Explain the author's use of the phrase 'may or may not be true' in line 28. [1]

From the passage	Suggested response
	<p>He is suggesting that... his explanation of how storytelling comes about is (a) probably not true/ has little basis/ not accurate/ is just/ no more than a story. (1m)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>... (a) it does not matter whether his explanation is true or not. (1m)</p>

Q6. In paragraph 4, what similarity does the author see between 'strong scientific theories' and 'good stories'? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>It is that they make claims so astonishing that they seem instantly very different from all the other stories we have ever heard.</p>	<p>a) They <u>both</u> make assertions/ suggestions/ involve statements that are</p> <p>b) so shocking/ unbelievable (a+b 1m)</p> <p>c) that they sound like something totally new/ groundbreaking. (1m)</p> <p><i>*Degree has to be shown for (c) ('so astonishing... all the other stories').</i></p>

Q7. Using material from paragraphs 5-7 only, summarise what the author has to say about the benefits and problems that are associated with stories.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [8]

Stories benefit us because...

A1	Studies show that people who read a lot of novels have better social	...they help people develop interaction skills,
A2	and empathetic abilities,	and the abilities to feel for others
A3	are more skilful navigators , than those who do not.	and find directions .
B4	And if these claims seem almost too large to argue, the more central claim — that stories increase our empathy, (... — seems too absurd even to argue with.) and make societies work better by encouraging us to behave ethically	They teach us to do the right thing/ act morally.
C5	Stories are also a great way to bring parents and their children together .	Stories help parents and children to bond/ strengthen their relationship,
D6	As children grow older, they will be on the move —playing, running, and constantly exploring their environment. Snuggling up with a book allows both parent and child to slow down and recapture that sweet, cuddly time they enjoyed when the child was a baby.	especially for parents with active/ more independent/ grown up children. Stories will help both parents and their children to relive/ enjoy the happy moments when the children were babies.
E7	Numerous studies have also shown that students who are exposed to reading stories before preschool are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education.	In addition, students who read stories perform better in <u>school</u> ,
E8	After all, if a student struggles to put together words and sentences, how can he be expected to grasp the mathematics, science, and social concepts he will be presented with when he begins primary school?	because they are equipped with the basic skills to master/ understand different subjects earlier.
F9	A recent report estimated that a significant majority of young adults listened to online radio weekly. But some research has shown that people who listen to the narration of a passage, like the audio storytelling found in traditional audiobooks, remember less information,	However, young adults who listen to online broadcast or recordings of stories are more likely to forget the stories they hear,

F10	are less interested in the content,	are less concerned / do not care much about the information they receive,
F11	and are more likely to daydream than those who read the same book out loud or silently to themselves.	and are more likely to be distracted .
G12	With the internet, the stories we encounter today are sometimes more than what they appear to be. People are attracted to stories circulating on the internet, more so if they are stories of tragedy, perversion, penance or plain, old scandal .	People are also drawn to/ interested in sensational / dramatic stories when they find them online.
H13	A major problem in this regard is that, for the most part, we are so used to negative messages that we are not even aware when we are imbibing them. (see J15)	In fact, these stories are/have become so common / accessible that people blindly accept them (+J15),
I14	Nowadays, it is easy to find [an endless number of negative messages] (H13) in stories of all shades and forms that discourage us from being proactive and going forth into the world .	even though they prevent / hinder us from taking the initiative to help others .
J15	We no longer question the stories that we hear or read, and we even pass them on.	<H13/J15>
K16	In a world characterised by steadily decreasing attention spans and rampantly increasing information onslaughts ,	As our society has become one that is swamped by information, OR become one in which people are no longer able to cope with the deluge of information, <H13 – common vs K16 – swamped>
K17	the temptation to simplify and summarise	people just want to avoid complexity / probing/ having to think too hard
K18	just to keep on top of facts and fiction that come our way is immense.	in order to manage / process the stories they encounter.

**Please do not re-number the points as they reflect the points which are related.*

Points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-18	
Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Q8. How does the author show that 'stories in the form of news is to the mind what sugar is to the body' (lines 75-76)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>News is easy to digest. The media feeds us small bites of trivial matter, tidbits that do not really concern our lives and do not require thinking.</p> <p>That is why we experience almost no saturation. Unlike reading books and long magazine articles (which require thinking), we can swallow limitless quantities of news flashes, stories which are brightly coloured candies for the mind.</p> <p>Today, we have reached the same point in relation to information that we faced twenty years ago in regard to food. We are beginning to recognise how toxic news, and newsy stories, can be.</p>	<p>a) Just as the <u>body</u> is able to ingest/ take in sugar without effort, news do not require much analysis. *Idea of <u>mind</u> must be shown. (1m)</p> <p>b) As such, we will not feel overloaded with <u>either/</u> too much sugar or news/ no matter how much sugar and news we are given. (1m)</p> <p>c) Both sugar and news are harmful to the body and the mind. (1m) *Comparison must be clear.</p>

Q9. Explain the irony in lines 85-87. [1]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>The power to astonish that stories have is true even of seemingly long or complicated novels that no one is said to read (but they do anyway).</p>	<p>a) Long and complicated novels are <u>supposed to be so unattractive/</u> such a put off/ so boring that people will not read them.</p> <p>b) But <u>instead/</u> in reality, they are appealing enough for people to read them.</p> <p>(1m)</p> <p>*Do not accept 'the reverse is true'. The irony and contrast must be clear.</p>

Q10. Which idea in the opening lines (lines 1-3) of paragraph 1 is reflected in the phrase 'will excite them for millennia more' (line 92)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>Stories, more than the wisdom that has been passed down through the ages, are the building blocks of human character and society, and look likely to last longer than fossil fuel.</p>	<p>It is the idea that stories will remain a part of society for a very long time.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The new generations will continue to tell stories. (1m)</p> <p>*Degree and context have to be shown. *Allow lifting of 'society'.</p>

Q11. In this passage, the author writes about why stories are so enduring and some of the concerns she has with them. To what extent do you agree or disagree with her views? Illustrate your answer by referring to the ways in which you and your society regard stories. [10]



NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 Preliminary Examination 2017

GENERAL PAPER

8807/1

PAPER 1

29 August 2017

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and GP Tutor's name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black ink on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

Note that **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This question paper consists of 2 printed pages.

Answer **one** question from this Paper.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. 'The Arts are a luxury and not a necessity.' Discuss this view with reference to your society.
2. 'All languages are equally valuable.' Comment.
3. 'History cannot be relied upon to tell the truth.' Do you agree?
4. Does being educated always make one's life better?
5. 'Public figures should not be forgiven for their wrongdoings.' Do you agree?
6. 'There is no cause for optimism today.' What is your view?
7. How far has the Internet made it harder for businesses to survive today?
8. To what extent does the presence of a foreign power have a negative effect?
9. How far does the government have the right to restrict the freedom of its people?
10. 'Young people today are overprotected.' How true is this of your society?
11. Should the advancement of artificial intelligence be a cause for concern?
12. 'Profit should not be the primary aim of the health industry.' Discuss.



NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2017

8807/2

GENERAL PAPER

PAPER 2:

Tuesday 29 August 2017

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This insert consists of 3 printed pages.

- 1 In 2013, Clément Méric, a leftwing activist, and his friends had gone shopping for Fred Perry tops on offer in a summer sale. After leaving the store, they found themselves confronted by far-right skinheads. Méric was punched in the face, fell, and suffered a fatal blow to the head. The French media immediately began to consider whether the tragedy signalled a huge escalation of far-right extremism. As they did, it became apparent that the British clothing line was at the centre of this terrible tragedy by becoming affiliated with the movements on both ends of the political spectrum. It is for this reason Fred Perry sought to broaden its appeal by signing the tennis champion, Andy Murray, and the late singer-songwriter, Amy Winehouse, to model its products, in the hope of removing the political association. 5
10
- 2 Yet, fashion and clothing have always been closely linked with the human society, the focus of humanities and the social sciences, with identity being one of the most compelling and contentious concepts in the latter. Fashion becomes inextricably implicated in constructions and reconstructions of identity: how we represent the contradictions and ourselves in our everyday lives. Through appearance style (personal interpretations of, and resistances to, fashion), individuals announce who they are and who they hope to become. Moreover, they express who they do not want to be or become. Appearance style is a complex metaphor for identity that includes physical features (for example, skin, bodily shape, hair texture) as well as clothing and grooming practices. Because the latter are especially susceptible to change, individuals are prone to fluctuating and fluid ways of understanding themselves in relation to others within the larger context of fashion change. 15
20
- 3 An individual's clothing visually articulates multiple and overlapping identities such as gender, race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, age, national identity, personal interests, aesthetic, and politics. Not all of these identities are consciously present at any given moment; power relations influence one's awareness of one identity or another. Privileged identities (such as whiteness, masculinity, heterosexuality) are often taken for granted as being "normal" or "natural." But because identities intersect, their representation is seldom simple. From a cultural studies perspective, identities have not only histories but also futures. They come from somewhere, they are complex and contradictory, and they enable us to express who we might become. 25
30
- 4 Expressing who we are and are becoming in words can be a challenge; appearance style seems to offer a way of articulating a statement that is difficult to put into words - that is, emerging and intersecting identities. In fact, it is easier to put into words who we want to avoid being or looking like (that is, not feminine, not too sleazy, no longer a child) than it is to articulate who we are. The interaction between various identities, which include the interplay between youth versus age, masculinity versus femininity, or high versus low status, among many other possibilities within and across identities, creates ambivalences. Sociologists identify ambivalences as the "fuel" or ongoing inspiration for fashion change. 35
- 5 Although for centuries, clothing had been a principal means for identifying oneself (for example, by occupation, regional identity, religion, social class) in public spaces, the twentieth century witnessed a wider array of subcultural groupings that visually marked their difference from the dominant culture and their peers by utilising the props of material and commercial culture. The "teenage phenomenon" of the 1950s and 1960s made this very apparent by fostering an awareness of age identity as it intersected with a variety of musical and personal preferences - all coded through appearance styles. The social movements 40
45

(civil rights, feminist, gay and lesbian rights) of the late 1960s and early 1970s further accentuated stylistic means for constructing and transgressing racialised, ethnic, gender, and sexual identities.

- 6 Modernity, with the attendant fragmentation and dislocation, is then said to have caused the modern fashion consumers to move away from a concern with elaborate artifice toward one of individual expression. Fashion designers then used the runway as a means to feed this newfound desire to be heard. They speak out about the political climate, addressing issues from diversity to women's rights through their design concepts. Fashion is a sponge in terms of what is happening in culture. Fashion takes it in and it comes out in certain ways, and the climate will produce a lot of creativity. Several models at Nicholas K had their looks topped off with black or gold berets. The caps clearly mirrored those worn by the Black Panthers, a militant group that defended minorities during the civil rights movement. The brand's designers said that the '90s was a decade promising communal diversity and unity, and attributed the first step in that change to Nelson Mandela's release from prison. However, Desigual, a Spanish label, made a more subtle statement. Its collection pulled together different colours and materials to communicate diversity. This is because at Desigual, they do not dress bodies; they dress people to allow them to be who they want to be. 50 55 60
- 7 This year marks the 40th anniversary of the punk movement. In a 2016 January show, fashion icon Vivienne Westwood dedicated the collection to David Bowie, who was punk before there was a word for it and spawned a generation of pop stars who would manipulate the codes of tailoring in their own subversive way. In that season, it was hard to look at the parades of opulent suits and military uniforms that filled the runways without thinking of two of them, namely Prince and Michael Jackson. Scrubbed-up 1980s by-products of the hippy and punk movements, they reappropriated masculine power values through their wardrobes. Jackson's dressmaker Michael Bush once referred to his client's look as "Liberace goes to war". In a world that has lost both Jackson and Prince, menswear has to process what the legacies of these superstars mean to the way men dress. Reactionary times call for reactionary measures, and that military uniforms have been given the fairy-tale treatment in a war-mongering era of Trump and Putin, is not a coincidence. 65 70
- 8 In fashion, you can be certain of one thing: uniforms are never not political. As Mussolini – no doubt a uniform fetishist – noted in 1930, in an inadvertent punk moment decades before it existed, 'Any power whatsoever is destined to fail before fashion. If fashion says skirts are short, you will not succeed in lengthening them, even with the guillotine.' 75



NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2017

Candidate Name: _____ Class: _____ GP Tutor: _____

GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 2:

8807/2
Tuesday 29 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.
No Additional materials are required.

ANSWER BOOKLET

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Name, Class, and GP Tutor's Name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen in the spaces provided on the Question Paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.
The insert contains the passage for comprehension.
Note that 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
SAQ	/17
Summary	/8
AQ	/10
Language	/15
TOTAL	/50

This document consists of 7 printed pages.

Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

1. In paragraph 1, explain how the endorsement by Murray and Winehouse helps to remove the political association with the Fred Perry clothing line. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

2. What is the author implying about the death of Méric by her use of the word “tragedy” in line 4?

[1]

3. Why does the author place inverted commas around the words “normal” and “natural” in line 27? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

4. Explain what the author means by calling the personal preferences “coded” (line 45). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

5. In paragraph 5, what difference does the author see between clothing as a principal means of identifying oneself in the past and in the present? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

6. What is the author’s purpose in describing fashion as a “sponge” (line 53)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

7. In paragraph 6, what contrast does the author make between the ways Nicholas K and Desigual reflected communal diversity? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

8. Explain the author's use of the word "spawned" in line 65. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

_____ [1]

9. Explain what the author means by military uniforms have been given "the fairy-tale treatment" (line 73) and how this is a reactionary measure against the "war-mongering era" (line 74). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

_____ [2]

10. Which aspect of the author's argument in the last paragraph is reinforced by the quotation from Mussolini? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

_____ [1]

NYJC J2 Prelim Exam 2017

Suggested Answer Scheme

1. In paragraph 1, explain how the endorsement by Murray and Winehouse helps to remove the political association with the Fred Perry clothing line. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

From the text	Suggested Answer
As they did, it became apparent that the British clothing line was at the centre of this terrible tragedy by becoming affiliated with the movements on both ends of the political spectrum. It is for this reason Fred Perry sought to broaden its appeal by signing the tennis champion , Andy Murray, and the late singer-songwriter , Amy Winehouse, to model its products, in the hope of removing the political association. (lines 5-10)	It is because Andy Murray and the late Amy Winehouse, are a) two popular celebrities/ two public figures b) who are in areas not associated with politics/not politicians.

2. What is the author implying about the death of Meric by her use of the word “tragedy” in line 4?

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>In 2013, Clément Méric, a leftwing activist, and his friends had gone shopping for Fred Perry tops on offer in a summer sale. After leaving the store, they found themselves confronted by far-right skinheads. Méric was punched in the face, fell, and suffered a fatal blow to the head. The French media immediately began to consider whether the tragedy signalled a huge escalation of far-right extremism. As they did, it became apparent that the British clothing line was at the centre of this terrible tragedy by becoming affiliated with the movements on both ends of the political spectrum. (lines 1-7)</p>	<p>a) The author is implying that Meric’s death was needless when all he did was to shop for a Fred Perry top. [1]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>a) The author is implying that Meric died for a very trivial reason by choosing to shop for an item of clothing at Fred Perry.[1]</p>

3. Why does the author place inverted commas around the words “normal” and “natural” in line 27? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Not all of these identities are consciously present at any given moment; power relations influence one's awareness of one identity or another. Privileged identities (such as whiteness, masculinity, heterosexuality) are often taken for granted as being "normal" or "natural." (lines 24-27)</p>	<p>a. The author disagrees with the assumption that privileged identities are innate and right (1)</p> <p>b. because these advantaged characteristics are/ entitled status in society is actually dictated/determined/artificial/externally imposed by those who have influence in society (1)</p> <p>Note: 1m for (a) and 1m for (b) Do not allow lift of 'normal' or 'natural'</p>

4. Explain what the author means by calling the personal preferences “coded” (line 45). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Although for centuries clothing had been a principal means for identifying oneself ... The “teenage phenomenon” of the 1950s and 1960s made this very apparent by fostering an awareness of age identity as it intersected with a variety of musical and personal preferences - all coded through appearance styles. The social movements (civil rights, feminist, gay and lesbian rights) of the late 1960s and early 1970s further accentuated stylistic means for constructing and transgressing racialised, ethnic, gender, and sexual identities. (lines 39-48)</p>	<p>a) He means that the personal preferences of teenagers in terms of fashion choices are symbolic/cryptic/have a hidden agenda /are oblique indicators (1)</p> <p>b) of their personality /to indicate a person’s personality/to indicate what they hope others will perceive them as/to indicate their individual likes and dislikes (1)</p>

5. In paragraph 5, what difference does the author see between clothing as a principal means of identifying oneself in the past and in the present? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Although for centuries clothing had been a principal means for identifying oneself (for example, by occupation, regional identity, religion, social class) in public spaces, the twentieth century witnessed a wider array of subcultural groupings that visually marked their difference from the dominant culture and their peers by utilising the props of material and commercial culture. The "teenage phenomenon" of the 1950s and 1960s made this very apparent by fostering an awareness of age identity as it intersected with a variety of musical and personal preferences - all coded through appearance styles. The social movements (civil rights, feminist, gay and lesbian rights) of the late 1960s and early 1970s further accentuated stylistic means for constructing and transgressing racialised, ethnic, gender, and sexual identities. (lines 39-48)</p>	<p>a) In the past, clothing was used to show they belonged to a group,</p> <p>b) but in the present/the twentieth century, people use clothing to distinguish themselves from the mainstream culture and their contemporaries.</p>

6. What is the author’s purpose in describing fashion as a “sponge” (line 53)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Modernity, with the attendant fragmentation and dislocation, is then said to have caused the modern fashion consumers to move away from a concern with elaborate artifice toward one of individual expression. Fashion designers then used the runway as a means to feed this newfound desire to be heard. They speak out about the political climate, addressing issues from diversity to women's rights through their design concepts. Fashion is a sponge in terms of what is happening in culture. Fashion takes it in and it comes out in certain ways, and the climate will produce a lot of creativity. (lines 49-55)</p>	<p>a) The author’s purpose is to use an analogy readers can relate to. (1)</p> <p>b1) Just as a sponge soaks up the liquid it is immersed in, b2) fashion, likewise, encapsulates/absorbs the socio-political climate of the day to represent what it means to the individual. (1)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b1) Just as a sponge soaks up the liquid it is immersed in, b2) fashion, likewise, encapsulates/ absorbs the socio-political climate of the day to generate/produce/construct/craft /come up with new/innovative designs/ideas. (1)</p> <p>Note: (b1) and (b2) = 1m</p>

7. In paragraph 6, what contrast does the author make between the ways Nicholas K and Desigual reflected communal diversity? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Several models at Nicholas K had their looks topped off with black or gold berets. The caps clearly mirrored those worn by the Black Panthers, a militant group that defended minorities during the civil rights movement. The brand's</p>	<p>a) Nicholas K shows the cohesion amongst the different groups/races/ cultural groups in a direct/obvious manner.</p> <p>b) On the other hand, Desigual, adopted a more</p>

<p>designers said that the '90s was a decade promising communal diversity and unity, and attributed the first step in that change to Nelson Mandela's release from prison. However, Desigual, a Spanish label, made a more subtle statement. Its collection pulled together different colours and materials to communicate diversity. (lines 55-61)</p>	<p>indirect/less obvious approach.</p> <p>Note: 0 OR 2m [Answer must show contrast].</p>
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8. Explain the author's use of the word "spawned" in line 65. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>This year marks the 40th anniversary of the punk movement. In a 2016 January show, fashion icon Vivienne Westwood dedicated the collection to David Bowie, who was punk before there was a word for it, and spawned a generation of pop stars who would manipulate the codes of tailoring in their own subversive way. (lines 63-66)</p>	<p>The author uses the word to highlight that David Bowie was the individual who gave rise to the brood/group of pop stars who used fashion to undermine/rebel against the mainstream culture/ the establishment.</p>

9. Explain what the author means by military uniforms have been given "the fairy-tale treatment" (line 73) and how this is a reactionary measure to the "war-mongering era". **Use your own words as far as possible.**

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Reactionary times call for reactionary measures, and that military uniforms have been given the fairy-tale treatment in a war-mongering era of Trump and Putin, is not a coincidence. (lines 73-74)</p>	<p>a) By fairy tale treatment, the author means that military uniforms have been romanticised/glamourised. [1]</p> <p>b) This is to soften the violent/ aggressive atmosphere of the period.</p>

	<p>OR</p> <p>b) This is to contrast/contradict the violent/aggressive reality/period. [1]</p>
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10. Which aspect of the author’s argument in the last paragraph is reinforced by the quotation from Mussolini? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

From the text	Suggested Answer
In fashion you can be certain of one thing: uniforms are never not political. (line 75)	Fashion trends can influence the political climate/opinions of society. Therefore, politicians should not ignore the political influence of fashion/fashion designers. <i>Note: Accept if students refer to uniforms rather than fashion.</i>

11. Using material from paragraphs 2-4 only (lines 11-38), summarise what the author has to say about the close link between fashion and the identity of individuals.

Write your summary **in no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

Fashion and the identity of individuals are closely linked

	Lifted	Paraphrased
1	Fashion becomes inextricably implicated in constructions and reconstructions of identity [lines 13-14]	because fashion is the means by which people create/build/present and re-create their sense of self/personality/individuality/uniqueness
2	how we represent the contradictions and ourselves in our everyday lives [lines 14-15] OR and contradictory [line 29]	and the inconsistencies/clashes/ incongruities in our daily lives.
3	Through appearance style (personal interpretations of, [line15]	The way individuals see/perceive/ fashion
4	and resistances to , fashion), [lines 15-16]	and their opposition to fashion//reluctance to follow fashion/the latest trends/ struggles with the current trends <i>[Note: Allow lift of 'fashion']</i>
5	individuals announce who they are [line 16]	are the means by which people assert their identity/proclaim their sense of self/ personality/uniqueness
6	and who they hope to become. [line 16] OR and they enable us to express who we might become. [lines 29-30]	and the personality they wish to develop/who they aspire to be
7	Moreover, they express who they do not want to be [lines 16-17]	or who they do not want to be associated with
8	or become. [line 17]	or grow/develop into/evolve to.
9	Appearance style is a complex metaphor for identity [lines 17-18]	Appearance style/fashion is a complicated manifestation/representation/

	<p>OR</p> <p>But because identities intersect, their representation is seldom simple. [lines 27-28]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>They come from somewhere, they are complex [line 29]</p>	<p>symbol of a person's identity</p>
10	<p>that includes physical features (for example, skin, bodily shape, hair texture) [line 18]</p>	<p>that includes the appearance/physiological/physical traits/characteristics</p> <p><i>[Note: Allow lift of 'physical']</i></p>
11	<p>as well as clothing and grooming practices. [lines 18-19]</p>	<p>as well as the attire and /ways of sprucing themselves up/caring for their appearance /paying attention to their appearance.</p>
12	<p>Because the latter are especially susceptible to change, [line 19]</p>	<p>Fashion is vulnerable/subject to variation/modification</p> <p><i>[Note: Allow lift of 'change']</i></p>
13	<p>individuals are prone to fluctuating and fluid ways of understanding themselves in relation to others within the larger context of fashion change. [lines 20-21]</p>	<p>and thus constantly alters the way a person sees himself/comprehends himself in connection with others.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>and thus the way people see themselves and their connection with others varies.</p>
14	<p>An individual's clothing visually articulates multiple [line 22]</p>	<p>Through fashion, a person expresses varied/various/many/a myriad of</p>
15	<p>and overlapping identities such as gender, race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, age, national identity, and personal interests, aesthetic, and politics. [lines 22-24]</p>	<p>merging personalities.</p>
16	<p>Not all of these identities are consciously present at any given moment; power relations influence one's awareness of one identity or another. [lines 24-25]</p>	<p>Their status in the social hierarchy affects their knowledge of their different/various identities and thus, influences how they dress.</p>
17	<p>From a cultural studies perspective, identities have not only histories [line 28]</p>	<p>Fashion reflects our cultural identities in the past</p>
18	<p>but also futures [lines 28-29]</p>	<p>and in subsequent years /upcoming years/time to come/ensuing years.</p>

19	Expressing who we are and are becoming in words can be a challenge; appearance style seems to offer a way of articulating a statement that is difficult to put into words - that is, emerging and intersecting identities. [lines 31-33]	Fashion is a means to express our interconnecting and evolving/developing personality that is problematic/hard to verbalise/communicate .
20	In fact, it is easier to put into words who we want to avoid being or looking like (that is, not feminine, not too sleazy, no longer a child) than it is to articulate who we are . [lines 33-35]	Fashion facilitates/enables us to show/reveal our identity, and with whom we do not want to be associated, better than verbal means. OR It is less difficult to verbalise the personality we do not want to be associated with than to verbalise our true personality.
21	The interaction between various identities , which include the interplay between youth versus age, masculinity versus femininity, or high versus low status, among many other possibilities within and across identities, creates ambivalences . [lines 35-37]	The interconnection between the different identities gives rise to two opposing feelings/Our expression of our personalities conveys two opposing feelings.
22	Sociologists identify ambivalences as the "fuel" or ongoing inspiration for fashion change . [lines 37-38]	This encourages/stimulates/allows for/enables/engenders/acts as a catalyst for the modifications/variations in fashion.

Marks scheme

1-2 pts = 1m
3-4 pts = 2m
5-6 pts = 3m
7-8 pts = 4m
9-10 pts = 5m
11-12 pts = 6m
13-14 pts = 7m
15 pts and above = 8m

Application Question:

12. Susan B. Kaiser discusses the role that fashion plays in the expression of identities. How far would you agree with her observations, relating your arguments to your own society?

[10]

Possible Ideas from Text	Agree to a large extent	Disagree to a large extent
<p>1. Through appearance style (personal interpretations of, and resistances to, fashion), individuals announce who they are and who they hope to become.(Para 2: lines 15-16)</p>	<p>EV:</p> <p>While Singaporeans do not claim to be fashionistas, they do exhibit a distinctively Singaporean fashion sense – flip flops and bermudas with casual cotton tops on weekends and generally dark coloured smart clothes for work. This is due to the hot humid weather which makes dressing comfortably sensible. However, offices are air-conditioned and more formal dress is expected. For some professions, such as lawyers and bankers, ladies are expected to wear discreet dresses or suits while long sleeved shirts and dress pants. Sometimes ties are de riguer for men. In other more laid back professions, dress codes are more relaxed.</p> <p>EG #1:</p> <p>Job Street, a major Singapore online job website, advises candidates to pay as much attention to their dress as they do to their resumes. They should dress according to the</p>	<p>EV:</p> <p>There are, however, some who really do not much care what they wear. Their concerns are not about projecting their personalities or affiliations. It is not a case of personal style, as they may not even be aware of it, but because of the exigencies of their circumstances. The very young, schoolgoing children, the elderly or the disabled, and the poor, wear what they are given, what is prescribed, possible or available respectively.</p> <p>According to a Straits Times report, suitable clothes, much less fashionable clothes, for the elderly or the disabled are in short supply in Singapore. Buttons and zips which are taken for granted are challenges for them. School going children are required to wear uniforms. The possibilities for personal interpretation are limited, especially by the presence of the disciplinary committees in schools. For</p>

	<p>culture of their prospective companies so as to project the right image.</p>	<p>the poor, beggars cannot be choosers. (<i>Straits Times</i>, 11 December 2012,)</p>
<p>2. Although for centuries clothing had been a principal means for identifying oneself (for example, by occupation, regional identity, religion, social class) in public spaces, the twentieth century witnessed a wider array of subcultural groupings that visually marked their difference from the dominant culture and their peers by utilising the props of material and commercial culture. (Para 5: lines 39 -43)</p>	<p>EV:</p> <p>In recent years, Singaporeans have judiciously lapped up many foreign cultural exports and icons as a result of media exposure and also increased frequency of travelling for work and leisure. One key area the ideas and thinking from abroad has greatly influenced Singaporeans is none other than fashion sense from these parts. The sartorial influence exerted by singers and actors and other celebrities from these countries is so strong that there are throngs of Singaporeans who look different from the average Singaporeans. A glance at the daytime office crowds in Shenton Way and party goers at Orchard Road in the evening will reveal many Singaporeans with a fashion sense and outlook that seemed to have been inspired by the latest Western, Japanese and very prominently these days, Korean stars, and these trends cut across gender and age groups and even include fashion statements like piercing and tattoos, that formerly just did not get the kind of mainstream acceptance that they have now.</p> <p>EG:</p> <p>Korean fashion, or K-fashion, characterised to be “edgier”</p>	

	<p>and consisting of what is described as streetwear, is definitely taking root in Singapore, with industry watchers predicting the trend as more than a flash in the pan. Retailers - from big-name department stores to online shops - have started to offer more South Korean brands, with local businesses springing up to meet the demand. Mr Samuel Tan, course manager of retail management in Temasek Polytechnic's School of Business, says: "The popularity is largely due to Korean celebrities who command much influence on fashion trends, such as musician G-Dragon and actor Kim Soo Hyun from the Korean drama, My Love From The Star." Independent streetwear brands and contemporary designers such as avant-garde menswear label Juun.J have been gaining popularity in Singapore as well, thanks to recent advertisement campaigns fronted by Korean rapper and singer G-Dragon (whose real name is Kwon Ji Yong) and Taeyang (whose real name is Dong Young Bae). Both are members of the music group, Big Bang. French luxury brand, Chanel, launched its cruise collection in Seoul and appointed G-Dragon as one of its brand ambassadors in May last year.</p> <p>(http://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/fashion/korean-fashion-taking-root-in-singapore)</p> <p>Another fashion statement that has indeed become more and more readily seen in Singapore is tattoos. While most Singaporeans have no inclination of getting tattoos any time soon, a minority of Singaporeans is getting them in a</p>	
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	<p>bid to look different, and more importantly, to look “cool”. This is despite tattoos and piercing still being looked upon as seedy or having a less than savoury character. (http://www.herworldplus.com/lifestyle/tattoo-singapore-body-ink-bernice-chua-victoria-woon-jen-tan)</p>	
<p>3. Modernity, with the attendant fragmentation and dislocation, is then said to have caused the modern fashion consumers to move away from a concern with elaborate artifice toward one of individual expression. Fashion designers then used the runway as a means to feed this newfound desire to be heard. They speak out about the political climate, addressing issues from diversity to women's rights through their design concepts.</p> <p>(Para 6: lines 49-53)</p>	<p>Ev:</p> <p>Singaporeans use fashion as a tool to express their views about social issues. Fashion is used not so much by fashion designers to express their views about the social and political climate, but by members of the community to reflect the values and norms of the society.</p> <p>EG:</p> <p>In response to the Pink Dot rally which supports the LGBT, the Wear White campaign was launched to protest against homosexuality and defend traditional family values. As Hong Lim Park turned pink for the annual Pink Dot gathering that champions gay rights, Muslims were urged by the Islamic religious teacher, Noor Deros, to defend the sanctity of the family and wear white to the mosque during Ramadan. The LoveSingapore network also called on its 100 churches to encourage their members to turn up for services over the weekend dressed in white. Network chairman and Faith Community Baptist Church senior pastor Lawrence Khong said that the Wear White</p>	

	<p>campaign hopes to show that the church’s stance on heterosexual marriage and the “natural family” is in keeping with the social norms of Singapore’s conservative majority. (<i>Today</i>, 23 May 2016)</p>	
<p>4. In fashion you can be certain of one thing: uniforms are never not political. (Para 8: line 75)</p>	<p>EV: In Singapore, individuals are not allowed to don attire or uniforms to make a political statement as fashion is believed to be political. This is to prevent individuals or political parties from influencing the members of the public to their advantage.</p> <p>EG #1:</p> <p>During the Singapore General Election, clothing symbols of political parties are not allowed on Cooling-off Day. Cooling-off Day, the traditional day of campaign silence introduced in 2011, is meant to give voters a chance to reflect rationally on various issues raised before going to the polls. The wearing, of any political propaganda, which include badges, symbols or flags by people, is banned. The public is also to refrain from wearing any apparel affiliated to a candidate. [<i>AsiaOne</i>, 6 May 2016]</p> <p>EG #2:</p>	

	<p>In 2008, three Singaporeans were jailed after being charged with contempt of court for showing up at Singapore's Supreme Court wearing T-shirts depicting kangaroos in judges' robes.</p> <p>Isrizal Bin Mohamed Isa and Muhammad Shafi'ie Syahmi Bin Sariman were sentenced to seven days' jail, while Tan Liang Joo John received 15 days imprisonment. They were each ordered to pay S\$5,000 (2,147 pounds) in costs.</p> <p>Tan is the Assistant Secretary-General of the opposition Singapore Democratic Party, led by Chee Soon Juan.</p> <p>The three had worn the T-shirts at a court hearing to determine the damages that Chee Soon Juan and his sister Chee Siok Chin were to pay after being found guilty of defaming Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and former leader Lee Kuan Yew.</p> <p>Singapore's attorney-general said in bringing the case to court the trio had "scandalised the Singapore judiciary."</p> <p><i>(Reuters 27 Nov 2008)</i></p>	
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NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE

SH2 Preliminary Examination

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 1

8807/01

21 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your full name, registration number, civics class and tutor's code on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

PAPER 1

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 'There is no justification for the prize money of some sports being so much more than others.' Do you agree?
- 2 Evaluate the appeal of theatre, dance or music in your society.
- 3 'International relationships between countries are becoming increasingly important.' Discuss.
- 4 'Technology is developing too fast for our own good.' To what extent do you agree?
- 5 'Travel, rather than reading, is the best way to learn.' How far do you agree?
- 6 'In our world of uncertainty, we can never have too much security.' Do you agree?
- 7 To what extent is entrepreneurship encouraged in your society?
- 8 Should parents be stricter in the upbringing of their children today?
- 9 Can ethics ever be irrelevant to science?
- 10 'The study of History is underrated.' Do you agree?
- 11 'You are what you buy.' Discuss.
- 12 'The overconsumption of energy is the greatest threat to the environment today.' Discuss.

Richard Florida discusses the problems of city-living.

- 1 Do cities make us sick? A century ago, it went without saying that they did. With their teeming slums, open sewers, filthy streets and soot-laden air, global capitals such as New York, Rome, London, Paris and Hong Kong were rife with infectious diseases. As recently as the 1960s – the height of the old urban crisis of de-industrialisation and white flight in America – cities had rates of infant mortality and disease that were far higher than those of suburbs. That world has been turned completely upside down. Cities have come back and poverty has shifted to the suburbs – a process which has been dubbed the “great inversion”. Today’s great cities are engines of technological innovation and economic growth; they are cleaner, greener and safer than many suburbs and rural areas, and much more productive. 1 5
- 2 Urban density is associated with high wages, artistic creativity and entrepreneurial start-ups rather than epidemics. Affluent city-dwellers have access to a wider variety of organic foods than even the rural people who grow them; they jog and bike and belong to expensive gymnasiums and enjoy long life expectancies. And, of course, cities are home to great medical centres. 10
- 3 But if our cities are experiencing a dramatic resurgence, inequality is also growing at a fantastic pace. Our economic geography is deeply polarised, and the fault lines run not just between cities and suburbs, but between comparatively rich cities and comparatively poor ones – and between the more or less advantaged and disadvantaged neighbourhoods within them. Comparatively healthy places, we found, were more urban and diverse, and generally had post-industrial economic structures. A strong hi-tech presence was a harbinger of better health; a dependence on older manufacturing industries was associated with poorer health. Metros with higher incomes, higher levels of education and greater concentrations of the creative class were healthier than those where less well-educated, working-class occupations predominated. 15 20
- 4 Urban structure and commuting styles also played a role. Denser metros where greater shares of residents walked or biked to work were healthier than more sprawling metros where larger shares of people drove to work by themselves. The way we live – not just what we eat and how much we exercise – appears to play a big role in how healthy we are. But if the downtowns of many older American cities are pre-eminently walkable, their more affordable peripheries and suburbs are as car dependent as most newer Sunbelt cities. And the affluent creative class is far from a majority: overall, it accounts for less than a third of the workforce. For most of us, urban living means long commutes, sedentary working days and the constant temptations of junk food, sugary, alcoholic beverages and the dramatic speed-up of society. People may complain about how busy they are and how overloaded modern life has become. 25 30
- 5 Our lives are spinning out of control. The major cause in the speed-up of life is not technology but economics. The nature of work has changed now that bosses are demanding more hours of work. After a long workweek, the rest of our life becomes a rat race, during which we have little choice but to hurry from activity to activity, with one eye always on the clock. Home-cooked meals give way to frozen pizzas, and Sundays turn into a whirlwind of errands. We have quickened the pace of life only to become less patient. We have become more organised but less spontaneous, less joyful. We are prepared to act for the future but less able to enjoy the present and reflect on the past. 35
- 6 At the same time, the prevalence of lifestyle diseases – atherosclerosis, heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and the whole panoply of bad things that are associated with obesity, smoking and alcohol and drug abuse – is rising alarmingly. Two thirds of the 415 million people around the world who have type 2 diabetes live in cities. A new study by researchers at University College London for the Cities Changing Diabetes programme explores the complex social and cultural factors that are driving this epidemic. One of its most striking findings is that the social isolation that occurs in cities and vulnerability to disease are closely associated. That chimes with an important study published by 40 45

Toronto Public Health, which looked into the increasing incidence of mental health problems and suicides in the city's population. The link it found between suicide and social isolation was unmistakable. Isolation is a fact of life in far-flung sprawling suburbs where people depend on the car, but it also occurs in even the most crowded cities. 50

- 7 There is good news and bad news in this. If urban living elevates some health risks, cities can also mobilise the resources that are needed to mitigate them. Most cities have well-established infrastructures for the delivery of social welfare and health services. Urban hospitals and clinics are developing more and more effective medical interventions; as medical schools and medical professionals reach better understandings of the specifically urban dimensions of health problems, they will be better able to respond to them. Urban density and diversity accelerate the transmission of information and ideas; cities are rich in media and other mass communication professionals and platforms that can go far to raise public awareness and change behaviours. 55
- 8 A growing chorus of social critics dare to say that faster is not always better. Quality of time is important. We must pay attention to the psychological, environmental and political consequences of our constantly accelerating world. A balanced life, with intervals of creative frenzy giving way to relaxed tranquillity, is what is needed. How do we begin to apply the brakes in our lives when the world around us seems to be stomping on the gas pedal? 60
- 9 Quality of place is important too – numerous surveys have shown that the physical and intangible features of a city are associated with higher levels of happiness and better health. Poor health outcomes and intractable urban poverty are as closely related today as they were historically; raising minimum wages, improving education and creating higher levels of socio-economic mobility can go far to change that. Community-building can help dispel the plague of loneliness. 65
- 10 Cities can do a lot, and many are – but they cannot do it all by themselves. A century ago, healthcare practices and standards received a huge boost through the extraordinary concept of teaching hospitals. We need to bring similar levels of innovation and creativity to the delivery of healthcare in our cities today – via robust urban agendas at the state and national levels of government, and by building international networks of expertise that knit private and public resources together. Cities themselves need to become more like teaching hospitals where researchers, policy-makers, urbanists and residents can come together to identify the most effective ways to promote healthier lifestyles. By the middle of this century, 75% of humanity will live in cities; we are about to embark on the greatest epoch of city-building that history has ever seen. We can do it systematically, making our cities better and healthier places, or we can wing it. The choice is ours. 70
75

Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

For
Examiner's
Use

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

1 What is the purpose of the rhetorical question in the opening statement?

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.....[1]

2 From paragraph 1, what is the main distinction between cities 100 years ago and today?

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.....
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.....[2]

3 According to the author in paragraph 2, what benefits are cities linked with? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[3]

4 Explain what the author is suggesting by saying that “our economic geography is deeply polarised” (line 15)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

*For
Examiner's
Use*

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.....[3]

5 Why does the author think that urban living is harmful (line 29-31)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

7 Explain the author's use of the phrase "dare to say" in line 59.
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.....[1]

8 What is the author implying in the last sentence of paragraph 8?
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.....[2]

9 What reasons does the author suggest in lines 65-68 that might stand in the way of "happiness and better health" (line 65)?
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.....[2]

10 How does the author suggest a sense of optimism in "we are about to embark on the greatest epoch..." (lines 76-77)?
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.....[1]

Answer Scheme for 2017 NJC Prelim GP Paper 2

1. What is the purpose of the rhetorical question in the opening statement? (1m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase
1	<p>Do cities make us sick? A century ago, it went without saying that they did. With their teeming slums, open sewers, filthy streets and soot-laden air, global capitals such as New York, Rome, London, Paris and Hong Kong were rife with infectious diseases. As recently as the 1960s – the height of the old urban crisis of de-industrialisation and white flight in the US – cities had rates of infant mortality and disease that were far higher than those of suburbs. (lines 1-5)</p>	<p>(Purpose) It is to provoke our thinking/ draw our attention to</p> <p>(Do not accept “emphasize”, “show”, “highlight”.)</p> <p>(Context) the issue of how cities may be damaging to our health/ have adverse effects on our health.</p>
<p>Learning point:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Both parts (purpose + context) needed for 1 mark Students must note the specific purpose of the use of a rhetorical question. Students should not lift “sick” but should paraphrase it. The context of “health” must be included. 		

2. From paragraph 1, what is the main distinction between cities 100 years ago and today?
(2m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase	
1	A century ago, it went without saying that they did. With their teeming slums, open sewers, filthy streets and soot-laden air , global capitals such as New York, Rome, London, Paris and Hong Kong were rife with infectious diseases . (lines 1-3)	<p>a) In the past, cities were terribly/ extremely polluted and had poor sanitation.</p> <p>(Accept “very dirty” as paraphrase of “filthy”.)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>b) Illnesses were rampant/ pervasive in cities in the past.</p>	Students must get matching pairs to get full marks. (2 or 0)
2	Today’s great cities are engines of technological innovation and economic growth; they are cleaner, greener and safer than many suburbs and rural areas, and much more productive. (lines 7-9)	<p>a) In contrast, cities now have well-maintained environments.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>b) In contrast, cities now have healthier environments.</p>	
<p>Learning Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students must capture either 1a + 2a or 1b + 2b. 2. Students need to be discriminating in selecting the main distinction between the cities of the past and the present. (The distinction is not about people falling ill more easily in the past – not about city-dwellers but the subject of cities being rampant with diseases). 3. Students should not use the negative format of the word to show contrast. 4. The extent of (types of) pollution/ sanitation must be captured for part 1. 5. Discourse marker is needed to show contrast between past and present. 6. Reference to the subject must be included. 			

3. According to the author in paragraph 2, what benefits are cities linked with? Use your own words as far as possible. (3m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase	
1	Urban density is associated with high wages , (line 10)	Cities are linked to good income/ salaries and	5pts = 3m 3-4pts = 2m 1-2pts = 1m
2	artistic creativity and entrepreneurial start-ups (lines 10-11)	Inventive/innovative ideas and new innovative companies.	
3	Affluent city-dwellers have access to a wider variety of organic foods (lines 11-12)	Natural healthy food is available/ affordable	
4	they jog and bike and belong to expensive gyms and enjoy long life expectancies. (lines 12-13)	Who benefit from healthy lifestyles and anticipate a prolonged life. (Accept "long")	
5	And, of course, cities are home to great medical centres. (line 13)	Additionally they provide excellent medical services/ hospitals/ infrastructure.	
Learning Points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paraphrasing question 2. Students should try to pick out all relevant points in the paragraph. 			

4. Explain what the author is suggesting by saying that “our economic geography is deeply polarised” (line 15)? Use your own words as far as possible. (3m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase	
1	Our economic geography is deeply polarised , (line 15)	There is a pronounced/ extreme divide/ great disparity in the standard of living	4pts = 3m
2	and the fault lines run not just between cities and suburbs , (lines 15-16)	between the cities and the outlying areas	2-3pts = 2m
3	but between comparatively rich cities and comparatively poor ones (line 16)	and also between wealthy cities and those that are deprived/ less well to do	1pt = 1m
4	– and between the more or less advantaged and disadvantaged neighbourhoods within them. (lines 16-17)	Additionally there is a big difference seen between the privileged and underprivileged vicinities within them. (Accept privilege as referring to wealth.)	
<p>Learning Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students must explain the keywords in the quote and capture the degree of the divide . 2. Students need to be careful in their choice of points as the rest of the paragraph describes polarity in terms of health, not focusing on the economic geography. 			

5. Why does the author think that urban living is harmful (line 29-31)? Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase	
1	For most of us, urban living means long commutes , (line 29)	Urban life results in greater travelling time between places	3-4pts = 2m
2	sedentary working days (line 30)	and being inactive when on the job	
3	and the constant temptations of junk food, sugary, alcoholic beverages (line 30)	frequent desire for unhealthy snacks	1-2pts = 1m
4	and the dramatic speed-up of society . People may complain about how busy they are, how overloaded modern life has become . (lines 31-32)	and an excessively hectic pace of life/ schedules which are extremely packed	
<p>Learning Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paraphrasing question 2. Modifiers (constant, dramatic, etc.) must be captured in the answers. 3. Dramatic speed-up does not refer to the sudden onset of a fast pace, rather that society is now moving very fast. 			

6. Using material from Paragraphs 5-7, summarise what the author has to say about the problems of city life and how cities are best positioned to address them. Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. Use your own words as far as possible.

One problem is that.....

No.	Line	Text	Paraphrase
1	L33	Our lives are spinning out of control	We are losing our grip on life (idiomatic expression) / unable to manage our lives effectively
2	L33	The major cause in the speed-up of life.....economics	Mainly because life has become hctic/accelerated due to our work life
3	L34	The nature of work has changed now that bosses are demanding more hours of work	We are expected to commit more time to our job
	L35	After a long work week....	Do not accept lift for "work".
4	L35	..the rest of our life becomes a rat race.....	We are equally frenzied in our free time.
5	L36	..to hurry from one activity to activity, with one eye always on the clock.	We are rushing for time to attend to overwhelming daily duties
6	L36	Home cooked meals give way to frozen pizzas(e.g.)	Even to the extent of eating fast/ processed food
7	L37	Sundays turn into a whirlwind of errands	Using the day off for chores/ menial tasks
8	L37-38	We have quickened the pace of life only to become less patient.	This results in us being intolerant,
9	L38	Less spontaneous,	Leading too structured a life
10	L38-39	Less joyful/less able to enjoy the present and	And being less happy/ derive less pleasure from life
11	L39	Reflect on the past	With no time to contemplate the past/ what we have done Accept lift for "past".
12	L40	At the same time, the prevalence of lifestyle diseases	Simultaneously, esses related to our way of life are idespread.
13	L41	And the whole panoply of bad things that are associated with obesity, smoking, alcohol and drug abuse is rising alarmingly	Besides the drastic increase in the adverse effects of harmful pursuits/ indulgences
14	L45-46the social isolation that occurs	The situation is exacerbated by a sense of loneliness/desolation Accept "being alone".
15	L46	... increasing incidence of mental health problems and suicides	Which results in the rise in psychological illnesses and suicides.
		ADDRESS PROBLEMS	
16	L52	..mobilise the resources needed to	However cities have the means to

		mitigate them	alleviate the problems
17	L52-53	Well-established infrastructure.. delivery of social welfare and health services	With their recognized organisations/ institutions for community support and healthcare. Do not accept “facilities”.
18	L53-55	..more and more effective medical interventions	Increasingly early actions are taken to address diseases successfully
19	L55-56	Medical schools and medical professionals reach better understandings of specifically urban dimensions of health problems, better able to respond to them	As specialists gain more knowledge of afflictions affecting cities , they can deal with the health problems.
20	L56	Urban density	Furthermore with a big population/ being closely packed
21	L56	Diversity	And the variety of people,
22	L57	Accelerate the transmission of information and ideas; cities rich in media and mass communication professionals and platforms	The spread of information is easily facilitated/disseminated Accept lift for “information”. The focus is on the transmission.
23	L58	Raise public awareness	To bring about people’s consciousness of their health The context for health is implied.
24	L58	Change behaviours	And their lifestyle

1-2	3-4	5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14+
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Our problem is that.....

We mismanage our lives mainly because work life is hectic and exacting. Leisure time is equally frenzied, attending to overwhelming daily duties with no time to cook. This results in us being intolerant, having too structured a life, being unhappy with no time to contemplate the past. Simultaneously, we are vulnerable to lifestyle illnesses. Besides the increase in harmful pursuits, we suffer from loneliness which consequently brings about psychological illnesses and suicides. However cities have the means to alleviate these problems. There are recognised organisations for community support and healthcare. Increasingly early actions address diseases successfully. Specialists gain better insights into illnesses. Furthermore, the big and varied population facilitates information for people’s greater consciousness of health and lifestyle. (120 words)

7. Explain the author's use of the phrase "dare to say" in line 59. (1m)

	Lifted	Inferential
1	<p>A growing chorus of social critics dare to say that faster is not always better. Quality of time is important. We must pay attention to the psychological, environmental and political consequences of our constantly accelerating world. A balanced life, with intervals of creative frenzy giving way to relaxed tranquillity, is what is needed. (lines 59-61)</p>	<p>The author wants to show that</p> <p>An increasing number of social commentators, are confident (purpose) that a slower pace of life may be the preferred option (context) despite popular opinion/ belief</p> <p>OR</p> <p>These commentators are challenging (purpose) mainstream thinking that favours a speedy lifestyle. (context)</p>
	<p>Learning Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students need to explain the phrase in context. 2. Either interpretation of "dare to say" is accepted. 3. The idea of "in spite of" must be captured. 	

8. What is the author implying in the last sentence of paragraph 8? (2)

	Lifted	Inferential
1	How do we begin to apply the brakes in our lives	The author is implying that there is a sense of struggle/ difficulty OR The author is uncertain of how we can slow down
2	when the world around us seems to be stomping on the gas pedal? (lines 62-63)	amidst the frenzy all around us / when the pace of life is so hectic (Context)
	Alternatively students may answer in this way:	Just as it is difficult to 1) apply the brakes to slow down when everyone else is accelerating (No credit for Part 1 alone) 2) it is also a challenge for us to slacken our pace of life when the world around us is so hectic.
	Learning point: 1. Students must grasp that this is a rhetorical question posed by the author and implies a sense of difficulty or struggle. 2. The word “implies” requires students to pick out the inference from the sentence; it is not a question which requires students to explain the metaphor (“Explain what the author means”).	

9. What reasons does the author suggest in lines 65-68 that might stand in the way of “happiness and better health”? (line 65) (2m)

	Lifted	Inferential	
1	Poor health outcomes and intractable urban poverty are as closely related today as they were historically; raising minimum wages , (lines 65-67)	They are: Very low incomes/ earnings	3-4pts = 2m 1-2pts = 1m
2	improving education (lines 67)	Poor education levels/ low literacy levels Allow lift for education	
3	and creating higher levels of socio-economic mobility can go far to change that. (line 67-68)	and limited movement/ ability to rise up the social ladder Allow lift for “socio-economic”.	
4	Community-building can help dispel the plague of loneliness. (line 68)	Isolation due to a lack of togetherness/ connections/ social cohesion	
<p>Learning Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inference question as students must infer how these factors could possibly impede people’s happiness and health 2. Students cannot directly paraphrase from the passage. 			

10. How does the author suggest a sense of optimism in “we are about to embark on the greatest epoch...” (lines 76-77)? (1m)

	Lifted	Inferential
1	By the middle of this century, 75% of humanity will live in cities; we are about to embark on the greatest epoch of city-building that history has ever seen. (lines 76-77)	The author suggests this by highlighting/ emphasising (do not accept “show”) that this is the very era/ point in time when the growth/ development of cities will peak/ reach its height.
<p>Learning Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students must get both parts of the answer to get the full mark. 2. Students have to pay close attention to the choice of words that suggest optimism. 3. Students must capture the meaning of “greatest” in the answer. 		

11. Richard Florida sees the problems and potential of cities. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own experiences and that of your society? (10m)

Requirements of the question:

1. Students are to identify **three relevant arguments** from the passage addressing the author's observations about the **problems and potential of cities**.
2. **Both problems and potential** must be discussed – failure to address either would constitute an “incomplete treatment of the requirements” (Band 3).
3. **Explicit reference must be made** to how the problems and potential are heightened in, or particularly relevant to cities or urban living. Students should not merely relate all arguments to Singapore without reference to cities just because Singapore is a city state.
4. Students must **take a stand** as to whether the arguments identified can be contextualised to the individual and society (making judgements and decisions).
5. **Arguments are to be evaluated**, showing the extent to which they are contextualised to their society. (developing arguments to their logical conclusions)
6. **Examples** offered can be based on their observations, knowledge and experience from their **society** (not necessarily Singapore). **Personal examples or insight** should be related to society at large or the larger community.
There should be a **succinct introduction and conclusion**. (very clear shape and paragraph organisation)



PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Higher 1

Paper 1

11 September 2017
1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Writing Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, CT group and GP Tutor's name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

Note that **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

PJC 2017

[Turn over]

Answer **one** question from this Paper.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. 'Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.' Comment.
2. Should humans be hired when robots can do the job better?
3. 'Going green makes good business sense.' Comment.
4. To what extent can we believe what is in the news when information today can be easily made up?
5. How far can a culturally diverse society build unity?
6. To what extent is technology making crime more of a problem?
7. 'The key to effective leadership is to give the majority what they want.' Do you agree?
8. Is charity always a good thing?
9. 'All forms of scientific research are worth pursuing.' Discuss.
10. Can war be avoided when countries continue to invest in weapons?
11. In times of economic difficulty, should the Arts in your society still be publicly funded?
12. 'Freedom of speech must include the freedom to offend.' Do you agree?

Insert

The authors of this article contemplate the future of shopping malls in today's modern world.

- 1 Officially shopping malls are defined as “one or more buildings forming a complex of shops representing merchandisers, with interconnected walkways enabling visitors to walk from unit to unit.” Unofficially, they are the heart and soul of communities, the foundation of retail economies, and a social sanctuary for teenagers everywhere. In recent decades, the concept of the shopping mall, which has its origins in the U.S. and became a full-blown modern retail trend there in the post-WWII years, has proliferated across the globe. The five largest malls in the world now reside in Asia. China’s New South China Mall in Dongguan stands at the top of the heap with 2.9 million square meters of space. 5
- 2 Despite its ubiquity, the mall as it has been conceived for the last half century is at a critical inflection point. A storm of global trends are coming together at the same time to cause malls to change the role they play in people’s lives. No longer are they primarily about shopping. Now, when consumers visit malls, they are looking for experiences that go well beyond traditional shopping. 10
- 3 The trends helping to create this change include changing demographics, such as an aging population and increased urbanisation. This means more people living in smaller spaces and a greater need for public spaces in which to congregate and socialise. In this environment, malls offer a welcome watering hole, especially in cities where other public spaces are not safe. Sustainability concerns are causing some consumers to prefer mixed use developments where they can live, shop and work all within walking distance – instead of having to get into a car and drive to a crowded suburban mall. The growing middle classes in Latin America and Asia maintain a strong association between consumption and pleasure, driving the need for more engaging shopping experiences. And finally, the e-commerce revolution and the rise of digital technologies are fundamentally reshaping consumer expectations and shifting the function of stores toward useful and entertaining customer experiences. 15
20
25
- 4 As these trends advance across the global stage, they are forcing mall operators to rethink how they conceive and operate their properties. This identity crisis is most intense in the U.S., the country that pioneered malls and has the most malls per inhabitant. Thanks to a continued economic slowdown and rapid advance of the digital revolution, the U.S. mall industry is retracting and facing high vacancy levels. Websites such as deadmalls.com collect pictures of weedy parking lots and barren food courts, and try to explain how once-thriving shopping malls began to spiral downward. The death of the shopping mall has been predicted for years, ever since people started shopping on the internet, but the decline only recently became serious, retail sales be damned. Within 10 to 15 years, the typical US mall, unless it is completely reinvented, will be a historical anachronism – a 60-year aberration that no longer meets the public’s needs, the retailers’ needs, or the community’s needs. 30
35
- 5 In her talk, entitled “Are fashion stores out of fashion? Or a competitive weapon in the digital age?”, Nathalie Remy, partner, McKinsey & Co. spoke about the changing retail landscape. Even though the digital market share is still below 10 percent in most countries, it is gaining ground rapidly. She cited that 50 percent of French apparel buyers made at least one purchase online in the last six months, and digital apparel sales have multiplied tenfold in China in the last two years. Most of the casualties will be in the mid-market range, like those malls arranged around a huge branch of Sears or JC Penney, which announced the closure of 33 of its stores in January, with the loss of 2,000 jobs. 40
45

- 6 Remy sees two fundamental trends that have put a burden on the future of brick-and-mortar stores. One is that consumer shopping behaviours are changing, and consequently, a great store experience is changing too. Second, the economics of apparel stores have been deteriorating for the last few years and will most likely continue to do so. The question today is whether fashion stores are at risk of becoming completely out of fashion one day. 50
The development of e-stores and pop-up stores has changed the role of the store, which can sometimes be a showroom, delivery point, or in some cases, not even visited. Today's consumers are also going through an integrated path to purchase, where physical and digital touchpoints reinforce each other. Ironically, some people consider the future of offline is online, but they should actually say that the future of online is offline. 55
- 7 In the face of these considerable challenges, malls are seeking to stay relevant, drive growth and boost efficiency. We see successful players investing along three key fronts: differentiating the consumer offering, with a focus on experience and convenience; transforming the mall experience by leveraging technology and exploring new formats like mixed used developments to offer consumers an attractive, integrated community in which to live, work and shop. 60
- 8 Whilst these strategies help businesses, the pleasures of the shopping mall bring out the worst in us, encouraging our worst appetites and feeding on a dim, atavistic desire to shuffle around overlit spaces buying things we do not need. There is the muzak, and the marble and the zombie-like pace of it all. There are the fake bargains. Nothing advertises the cynicism of the mall experience so much as the discount outlets, those complexes where *Fifth Avenue stores sell cheap lines with posh labels to encourage the delusion you are getting something exclusive for less. 65
- 9 And yet. There is a reason the mall occupies such a central role in the American idea – and it is not just one of grim-faced consumerism. Most of people's mall experiences recently have not resulted in much impulse spending. (With the exception of the large, pink exercise ball gathering dust in the corner of the living room. And the thing that takes the head of your egg like a guillotine. And the gourmet jelly beans.) True to those movies of the 1980s, when you go to a mall, even at this age, it is not to shop, it is to hang out. After all, you are not wandering around the Sistine Chapel. The scenery is aggressively uninteresting. 70
75
- 10 But what does it matter? For the space of an afternoon you are strolling and talking with someone uninterrupted. You are not half-listening while staring at a screen. You are not trying to get anywhere in a hurry, except, perhaps, the food hall, where you can eat as grossly as you want because that is all there is. If that is not quality time these days I do not know what is. There are times in life when malls offer a thing we will be sad to see go, an activity with no redeeming feature, no take-away, no element of self-improvement. 80

**Fifth Avenue is a major thoroughfare in New York City. It is considered to be one of the most expensive and best shopping streets in the world.*

Adapted from

'Are fashion stores out of fashion?' by Lisa Lockwood, 'The future of the shopping mall' by Roberto Fantoni, Fernanda Hoefel and Marina Mazzarolo and 'The shopping mall is dead' by Emma Brockes



PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER
Higher 1

8807/02

Paper 2

11 September 2017
1 hour 30 minutes

ANSWER BOOKLET and INSERT

Candidate's Name: _____ CT Group: _____

GP Tutor: _____

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, CT group and GP tutor's name on every sheet on the cover page of this answer booklet.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions in the Answer Booklet.

Note that 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.

The number of marks is given in the brackets [] at the end of each question or each part question.

For Examiner's Use	
SAQ	/17
SQ	/ 8
AQ	/10
Language	/15
TOTAL	/50

This document consists of an **Answer Booklet** comprising **6** printed pages including **1** cover page, and an **Insert** comprising **2** printed pages.

PAPER 2 (50 marks)

For
Examiner's
Use

Read the passage and then answer all the questions which follow below. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this paper.

Note: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

- 1 From paragraph 1, what is the authors' purpose in giving the official and unofficial definition of shopping malls (lines 1-4)?

[1]

- 2 Why do the authors call shopping malls a 'welcome watering hole' (line 17)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

- 3 In paragraph 3, the authors identify several trends that created 'this change' (line 14). Explain the consequence of any 2 trends. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

- 4 In paragraph 4, why do the authors use the phrase 'historical anachronism' (line 35) to describe the future state of a typical US mall?

[1]

5 Explain the irony in the last sentence of paragraph 6 (lines 54-55).

[1]

6 In paragraph 8, according to the authors, why do the pleasures of the shopping mall bring out the worst in us (line 62-63)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[3]

7 In paragraph 8, how do the authors illustrate the cynicism of the mall experience (line 66)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

8 Why do the authors put brackets around the 3 sentences in paragraph 9 (lines 71-73)?

[2]

9 Explain the authors' use of the word 'even' in the phrase 'even at this age' (line 74).

[2]

2017 PJC JC 2 Prelim Suggested Answer Scheme

Q1) From paragraph 1, what is the authors' purpose in giving the official and unofficial definition of shopping malls (lines 1-4)? [1m]

From the text	Inferred
Officially shopping malls are defined as "one or more buildings forming a complex of shops representing merchandisers, with interconnected walkways enabling visitors to walk from unit to unit." Unofficially, they are the heart and soul of communities, the foundation of retail economies, and a social sanctuary for teenagers everywhere.	<p>He wants to show us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) what the real or unintended function or value of malls is OR ii) how impactful the mall is to the larger community OR iii) a more comprehensive understanding of malls

Q2) Why do the authors call shopping malls a 'welcome watering hole' (line 17)?
Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)

From the text	Inferred
This means more people living in smaller spaces and a greater need for public spaces in which to congregate and socialise . In this environment, malls offer a welcome watering hole, especially in cities where other public spaces are not safe .	<p>They are a 'welcome watering hole' as they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) provide secure spaces for people (1m) ii) to gather or meet (1m) iii) and interact in the crowded city. (1m) <p>1-2 points – 1m 3points – 2m</p>

Q3) In paragraph 3, the authors identify several trends that created 'this change' (line 14). Explain the consequence of any 2 trends. **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2m)

From the text	Inferred
1. changing demographics, such as an aging population and increased urbanisation. <u>This means</u> more people living in smaller spaces and a greater need for public spaces in which to socialise and congregate.	<p>More people in tinier homes and the increased necessity to have common areas for people to aggregate and bond with other (1m)</p>

<p>2. Sustainability concerns are <u>causing</u> some consumers to prefer mixed use developments where they can live, shop and work all within walking distance</p> <p>3. The growing middle classes in Latin America and Asia maintain a strong association between consumption and pleasure, <u>driving</u> the need for more engaging shopping experiences.</p> <p>4. the e-commerce revolution and the rise of digital technologies are fundamentally <u>reshaping</u> consumer expectations and shifting the function of stores toward useful and entertaining customer experiences.</p>	<p>ii) More inclined to live in a place that has amenities and their office in close proximity (1m)</p> <p>iii) Necessity to make personal shopping a pleasurable/enjoyable activity (1m)</p> <p>iv) Redefining what shoppers want and the role of shops in meeting the practical and pleasure elements of a shopping activity. (1m)</p>
---	--

Q4) In paragraph 4, why do the authors use the phrase ‘historical anachronism’ (line 35) to describe the future state of a typical US mall? (1m)

From the text	Paraphrased
<p>Within 10 to 15 years, the typical US mall, unless it is completely reinvented, will be a historical anachronism – a 60-year aberration that no longer meets the public’s needs, the retailers’ needs, or the community’s needs.</p>	<p>It suggests that the typical US mall will be: a thing of the past /outdated /serves no purpose /irrelevant /obsolete</p>

Q5) Explain the irony in the last sentence of paragraph 6 (lines 54-55). (1m)

From the text	Inferred
<p>Ironically, some people consider the future of offline is online, but they should actually say that the future of online is offline.</p>	<p>It is ironic as</p> <p>i) it is expected for people to feel that the future is one where physical stores have no place in the shopping experience</p> <p>ii) but in actual fact, they are needed to complement e-commerce.</p> <p>Note: both parts must be present to get 1m</p>

Q6) In paragraph 8, according to the authors, why do the pleasures of the shopping mall bring out the worst in us (line 62-63)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (3m)

From the text	Paraphrased/Inferred
the pleasures of the shopping mall bring out the worst in us, 1) encouraging our worst appetites and 2) feeding on a dim, atavistic desire to 3) shuffle around overlit spaces buying things we do not need . There is the muzak, and the marble and 4) the zombie-like pace of it all.	<p>They bring out the worst in us as they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) promote our greed / base instincts ii) make us regress / succumb to primitive or primeval impulses iii) promote wasteful behaviour / overspending / unnecessary consumption iv) reduce us into unthinking consuming creatures/ something less than human <p>1 point – 1m 2-3 points – 2m 4 points – 3m</p>

Q7) In paragraph 8, how do the authors illustrate the cynicism of the mall experience (line 66)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2m)

From the text	Inferred
Nothing advertises the cynicism of the mall experience so much as the <u>discount outlets</u> , those complexes where Fifth Avenue stores sell cheap brands alongside posh labels to encourage the delusion you are getting something exclusive for less .	<p>They illustrate this cynicism using the example of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) discount outlets that mislead buyers (1m) ii) into thinking they are getting a high-end product at a cheaper price (1m) <p>Note: Context must be correct to get any mark - the discussion is not about fake goods - cannot confuse discount outlets with Fifth Avenue stores</p>

Q8) Why do the authors put brackets around the 3 sentences in paragraph 9 (lines 71-73)? (2m)

From the text	Inferred
Most of people's mall experiences recently have not resulted in much impulse spending. (With <u>the exception</u> of the large, pink exercise ball gathering	<p>They want to:</p> <p>Function: show a contrast (1m)</p>

dust in the corner of the living room. And the thing that takes the head of your egg like a guillotine. And the gourmet jelly beans.)	Content: between their own miserable failed attempts at not buying with the observed lack of impulse buying in most people. (1m)
---	--

Q9) Explain the authors' use of the word 'even' in the phrase 'even at this age' (line 74). (2m)

From the text	Inferred
True to those movies of the 1980s, when you go to a mall, even at this age, it is not to shop, it is to hang out.	<p>This word shows that the authors are</p> <p>i) want to emphasis the purpose of the mall has still not changed (1m)</p> <p>ii) despite the passing of time / after a long period of time (1m)</p>

Q10) Why do you think the authors switch to 'we' in the final sentence (line 81)? (1m)

From the text	Inferred
There are times in life when malls offer a thing we will be sad to see go, an activity with no redeeming feature, no take-away, no element of self-improvement.	<p>The word 'we' includes both the readers and authors to highlight how everyone would share the same feelings about the mall.</p> <p>Note: -Both the aim of inclusivity and context must be present. Accept any other sensible answer. -'make relatable' - 0m</p>

Q11) Using material from paragraphs 5 to 7, summarise how the retail landscape has changed, why it has changed and how malls can cope with the challenges. Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.** (8m)

The retail landscape has changed in many ways. Firstly,

#	Lift	Paraphrased
	<i>How the retail landscape has changed</i>	
1	1a) Even though the digital market share is still below 10 percent in most countries, it is gaining ground	1a) more people are buying products online Or - e-commerce is becoming increasingly popular
	1b) rapidly . She cited that 50 percent of French apparel buyers made at least one purchase online in the last six months, and digital apparel sales have multiplied tenfold in China in the last two years.	1b) - at a fast rate/quickly
2	Most of the casualties will be in the mid-market range, like those malls arranged around a huge branch of Sears or JC Penney, which announced the closure of 33 of its stores in January, with the loss of 2,000 jobs.	Many stores have shut down.
	<i>Why it has changed</i>	
3	consumer shopping behaviours are changing ,	The way people buy things has altered
4	a great store experience is changing	an enjoyable shopping encounter is being redefined
5	the economics of apparel stores (note: not bolded anymore) have been deteriorating for the last few years	Stores find it harder to make money,
6	and will most likely continue to do so	and this will probably not stop anytime soon

7	The development of e-stores and pop-up-stores (note: not bolded anymore) has changed the role of the store which can sometimes be a showroom, delivery point, or in some cases, not even visited.	New retail set-ups / platforms to sell have altered the way shops are used
8	today's consumers are going through an integrated path to purchase	Shoppers also now adopt a dual/combined approach
9	where physical and digital touchpoints	where online and actual stores connect
10	reinforce each other	to complement each other.
<i>how malls can cope with the challenges</i>		
11	... malls are seeking to stay relevant	need to keep up with the times
12	drive growth	ensure the progress of the company / stimulate sales
13	and boost efficiency	encourage productivity / lower production costs
14	differentiating the consumer offering	by customising the products / providing a unique experience
15	with a focus on experience	making shopping a meaningful and enjoyable activity
16	and convenience;	and easy-to-do activity / accessibility / ease of shopping
17	leveraging technology	harnessing/optimising/maximising/ capitalising on technology
18	and exploring new formats	And trying out novel retail ideas/concepts
19	to offer consumers an attractive, integrated community	providing an appealing one-stop location

Mark allocation:

Points	Number of marks
1 point	1
2-3 points	2
4-5 points	3
6-7 points	4
8 points	5
9-10 points	6
11-12 points	7
13 points or more	8

Q12) In this article, the authors examine the role and future of shopping malls. How applicable do you find their views to yourself and your society?

Some possible points	
<p>From para 6:</p> <p>Shopping malls are not dead. In fact, the future of shopping malls lies in the presence of online stores that complement the physical stores. According to the authors, today's shoppers tend to adopt "an integrated path to purchase, where physical and digital touchpoints reinforce each other".</p>	<p>Applicable:</p> <p>Ex/Eg: Singaporean shoppers, especially the young who grew up with the Internet, are savvy in making online purchases either through online platforms like Lazada or Amazon. This trend has spurred the large shopping malls like CK Tangs to create an online platform to cater to them. At the same time, Tangs still maintains its physical stores to cater to those who want to browse, touch and feel the merchandise. This two-pronged strategy helps to pull back customers who have migrated to online platforms and at the same time, retain those who have not.</p>
<p>From Para 7:</p> <p>We see successful players investing along three key fronts: differentiating the consumer offering, with a focus on experience and convenience; transforming the mall experience by leveraging technology and exploring new formats like mixed used</p>	<p>Ex/Eg:</p> <p>In Singapore, where the size of the local market is limited due to its small land area, companies that are still geared to serving customers directly are increasingly drawn to being part of mixed use developments. Malls like Westgate, Ion Orchard and Hillion are among many that are built around existing train stations</p>

<p>developments to offer consumers an attractive, integrated community in which to live, work and shop. Applicable:</p>	<p>or bus interchanges with adjoining condominiums. These malls gain from the ready stream of daily commuters and the hundreds of residents.</p>
<p>From para 2: No longer are they primarily about shopping. Now, when consumers visit malls, they are looking for experiences that go well beyond traditional shopping.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p> <p>Ex/Eg: Singaporean Shoppers are still very much lured by shopping as the reason to visit malls. The experiences they are looking for are for a wide variety of products and brands. This is the reason why the most successful malls in Singapore such as Wisma Atria, Ion Orchard and Ngee Ann City constantly updating their stalls and products to be on trend.</p> <p>In addition, Singaporean shoppers constantly visit malls for shopping bargains and sales. This is especially apparent during the period known as the Great Singapore Sale where shoppers flock to malls purely for shopping. Even overseas visitors visit malls during this period purely for the shopping.</p>



RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
Year 6 Preliminary Examination II

General Paper
PAPER 1

AUG 2017
8807/1

1 HOUR 30 MINUTES

NAME _____

CLASS _____

INDEX NO. _____

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class, index number and question number clearly on all pages of your answer script, including the cover page.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer one question.

Note that **20** out of **50** marks will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the paper, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

QUESTION NUMBER	
CONTENT (30 marks)	
LANGUAGE (20 marks)	
TOTAL (50 marks)	

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

[Turn over]

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Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 Is being innovative more desirable than keeping the status quo?
- 2 'The promise of science and technology cannot be realised without the humanities.' Do you agree?
- 3 Is politics today nothing but a series of empty promises?
- 4 'Education perpetuates rather than fights inequality.' Comment.
- 5 'Men only need to be good, but women have to be exceptional.' To what extent is this true in the workplace today?
- 6 Is increased military spending justifiable when countries are not at war?
- 7 Should we always be compassionate?
- 8 To what extent is renewable energy the solution for the world's increasing need for energy?
- 9 Consider the relevance of patriotism in your society today.
- 10 Given that the global population is growing rapidly, should people be having more children?
- 11 To what extent are the needs of the marginalised met in your society?
- 12 'There is no such thing as bad art.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER

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RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION II 2017

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2
INSERT

8807/02
August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



River Valley High School
EL/GP Department

[Turn over]

Need a home tutor? Visit smiletutor.sg

Nick Thorpe discusses materialism...

- 1 On my desk stands a miniature of an Easter Island moai, carved for me by a Rapa Nui craftsman from the same stone his ancestors used for the world-famous monoliths. It is precious to me, but it is also an uneasy symbol of humanity's precarious relationship with the material world. The original 13-foot ancestor statues were quarried in the Middle Ages with a fervour to match any modern production line; more than 800 were carved and dragged into position using rope and log rollers hewn from timber, before somebody cut down the last mature tree on the isolated habitat. Ecological collapse ensued, bringing strife and starvation. 5
- 2 You would think that this blunt parable of unsustainable consumption would help me moderate my relationship with my stuff. But my mobile phone contract is nearly up, and shiny new iPhones beckon. My desktop *moai* is frowning reproachfully: what kind of object needs to be replaced every two years? At least statues endure. 10
- 3 We have got used to the transitory nature of our possessions, the way things are routinely replaced — whether it is last season's cut of jeans or computers that mysteriously slow down as if clogged by quick-drying cement. According to data aggregated by the Global Footprint Network, it takes the biosphere a year to produce what humanity habitually consumes in roughly eight months, a situation that is logically unsustainable. And yet we persevere with the 'hedonic treadmill', holding out the unlikely hope that the spike of satisfaction from our next purchase will somehow prove less transitory than the last. In fact, the opposite is true — the cravings of consumerism tend to make us more miserable. 15 20
- 4 Most of us know this instinctively, and yet remedying our troubled relationship with material possessions is no easy matter. If Western consumer culture sometimes resembles a bulimic binge in which we taste and then spew back things that never quite nourish us, the ascetic, anorexic alternative of rejecting materialism altogether will leave us equally starved. The better approach is to learn to enjoy our things more. Who, then, can teach us how to celebrate our possessions with the mindful, celebratory spirit of a gourmet? 25
- 5 Perhaps we can look to the Chilean poet-politician Pablo Neruda, a self-described 'thing-ist'. A passionate socialist and an erudite curator of curious objects, such as carved pipes, grotesque African masks, ships in bottles, and whales' teeth, Neruda was materialistic in the purest and most playful sense, delighting in textures, noises, colours, the taste of a rattle, the subversive shock of a magic trick. He saw no clash between this celebratory 'thing-ism' and socialism's impulse towards redistribution. He would give his toys away if guests asked, but expected the same generosity in return. Could it be that our problem with materialism is not that we value material things too much, but that we do not truly value them enough? 30 35
- 6 After all, things matter. The humble baguette is quintessentially French: it has its origins in a law made after the French Revolution, which stated that there would only be one type of bread — no longer a bread of wheat for the nobility and a bread of bran for the poor, but a bread of equality. Andy Warhol's serial repetition of a can of Campbell soup has also come to represent the age we live in, where the ordinary is celebrated. Museums and art galleries, filled with items that tell our stories, feed a fascination with objects both significant and otherwise. The British Museum, home to over 8 million items — ranging from the toothpicks used by the Qing Dynasty peasants to the Rosetta Stone, the key to deciphering the hieroglyphs — is proof, if any were needed, that we define ourselves by our things. 40 45
- 7 In recent years, a range of voices from science, philosophy, political activism, and the arts have begun to coalesce into a movement that grounds us ever more mindfully in the material world. This 'new materialism' challenges us to love our possessions not less but

- more — to cherish them enough to care about where they came from, who made them, and what will happen to them in the future. If we could truly cherish the things in our lives and retain the pulse of their making, would we not then be the opposite of consumerists? 50
- 8 But if we are ever going to respond more consciously to our knee-jerk replacement anxiety, we need products designed to last. With that in mind, I have been looking with interest at the Fairphone — launched by a Dutch start-up in December to model what a smartphone might look like in an economy that honours the origins of things. With an open-source operating system that allows users to get round obsolescence, it has two SIM-slots for those who might otherwise need to carry two phones for work and home. But will it make enough money for any long-term market presence, if nobody needs to replace it? I will watch with interest. 55
- 9 Another solution could very well be sustainable models that allow us to extend the lifespan of products, such as the growing network of community repair shops in Edinburgh, dedicated to teaching ordinary people to repair and reuse household goods. There, people sit in a room chatting, repairing clothes, learning new skills — creating an experience that is joyful. The New Economics Foundation explains that creating a society in which things last longer and are endlessly re-used will necessarily entail a major shift to the services that keep things going, thereby creating employment to replace lost manufacturing/retail output. It is, essentially, an economics of better, not bigger. I suspect that will mean paying more, but less frequently. And so, I have started weaning myself off craving bargains and willing myself to pay more for better-made things. 60 65
- 10 The New Economics Foundation also predicts that the new materialism will lead to more emphasis on spending on ‘experiences rather than disposable goods’, which means less shopping and more music, film, live performance, sport, and socialising: more lasting satisfaction and less of the transitory hit of ownership. This in turn might lead to a proliferation of festivals, sporting competitions, and cultural events celebrating the talents we share and occluding the endless proliferation of retail stuff. There are also some indications that the fetish of ownership is passing in favour of a ‘sharing market’: people are increasingly opting to hire, and films and music are also increasingly available by subscription, via digital services such as Spotify or Netflix, calling time on those unrecyclable CD, video and DVD formats that often end up in a landfill. 70 75
- 11 Interestingly, this was more or less what changed for Easter Islanders when it became obvious that building totemic tribal monoliths was not going to save them from the ecological abyss. The *moai* became a sculpted lesson that no way of living or thinking can endure forever. There are many who believe that our own society is in the process of learning a similar lesson. However, a more deliberate commitment to love and cherish what we already have might yet save us too, and leave us more deeply connected to one another. 80 85

Adapted from “The Love of Stuff”, Aeon (March 2014)



RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Year 6 Preliminary Examination II

GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 2

8807/02
AUGUST 2017
1 HOUR 30 MINUTES

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.
Additional Material: 1 Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.
The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.
Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

NAME _____
CLASS _____
INDEX NO. _____

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Read the passages in the insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow below. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

- 1. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain what the author means when he describes his miniature *moai* as an 'uneasy symbol' (line 3).

.....

.....

.....

.....[2]

- 2. Suggest one reason why the author might perceive his desktop *moai* as 'frowning reproachfully' in line 11.

.....

.....[1]

- 3. What does the word 'routinely' (line 13) suggest about the way we replace our possessions?

.....

.....[1]

- 4. What can you infer from the examples in lines 14 and 15 about the reasons why our possessions are replaced?

.....

.....

.....

.....[2]

5. In lines 17 to 20, what is the contrast the author makes between what we hope our products can do for us and what he believes to be the reality? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

6. What does the author mean when he uses the phrase 'equally starved' (lines 24 - 25)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

7. In paragraph 5, identify a word or phrase that shows how Pablo Neruda exemplifies a (i) 'mindful' and (ii) 'celebratory' spirit (line 26).

(i) mindful:
.....[1]

(ii) celebratory:
.....[1]

8. In paragraph 6, what similarities does the author draw between the baguette and the can of Campbell soup? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

10. According to the author in lines 82 to 86, what are the lessons that we can learn from the *moai*? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....[3]

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2017 Y6 Prelim II
Paper 2 Answer Scheme

1. Using your own words as far as possible, explain what the author means when he describes his miniature *moai* as an 'uneasy symbol' (line 3). [2]

From passage	Inferred/ Paraphrased
It is precious to me, but it is also an uneasy...	(A) The author means that it is an uncomfortable/ troubling/ disconcerting
symbol of...	(B) representation of...
Ecological collapse ensued, bring strife and starvation	(C) ...the devastation mankind unleashed on the environment
uneasy symbol of humanity's precarious relationship with the material world.	(inferred) (D) ...because of our consumption patterns/ materialism/ demand for things. <i>No marks if paraphrased literally.</i> <i>1-3 points for 1 mark 4 points for 2 marks</i>

2. Suggest one reason why the author might perceive his desktop *moai* as 'frowning reproachfully' in line 11. [1]

From passage	Inferred/ Paraphrased
My desktop <i>moai</i> frowns reproachfully : what kind of object needs to be replaced every two years? At least statues endure.	(inferred) The author's purpose is to convey his guilty conscience regarding wanting to replace his mobile phone. OR The author feels bad about wanting to replace his mobile phone.

3. What does the word 'routinely' (line 13) suggest about the way we replace our possessions? [1]

From text	Inference/ Paraphrased
We have got used to the transitory nature of our possessions, the way things are routinely replaced...	The author is suggesting that we replace our possessions in a mindless/ unthinking/ careless way. <i>Do not accept 'regularly' or 'habitual'</i>

4. What can you infer from the examples in lines 14 and 15 about the reasons why our possessions are replaced? [2]

From text	Inference/ Paraphrased
whether it is last season's cut of jeans...	(A) We replace our possessions because the items are no longer trendy,
...or computers that mysteriously slow down as if clogged by quick-drying cement	(B) or because there is some built-in obsolescence in the product/ the manufacturers made the product so that it will need to be replaced after a short amount of time <i>Do not accept literal answers. Accept reasonable answers that show an understanding of 'mysteriously', e.g. sabotage, computer viruses</i>

5. In lines 17 to 20, what is the contrast the author makes between what we hope our products can do for us and what he believes to be the reality? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From text	Inference/ Paraphrased
...holding out the unlikely hope that the spike of satisfaction from our next purchase will somehow prove less transitory than the last.	We hope that the (A1) <u>fulfilment</u> we get from our products will (A2) <u>last</u> for a long time OR that we will (A2) <u>ultimately</u> be (A1) <u>fulfilled</u> by our purchases, <i>Both points required for 1 mark.</i>
In fact, the opposite is true—the cravings of consumerism tend to make us more miserable .	but the fact is that the (B1) <u>desire to keep buying things</u> makes us (B2) unhappy/ discontented . (1)

6. What does the author mean when he uses the phrase 'equally starved' (lines 24 - 25)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From text	Inference/ Paraphrased
If Western consumer culture sometimes resembles a bulimic binge in which we taste and then spew back things that never quite nourish us , the ascetic, anorexic alternative of rejecting materialism altogether will leave us equally starved .	The author means that (A1) <u>whether we embrace consumerism</u> or if (A2) <u>we give up on buying things completely</u> , (1) ('equally') (B) we will not be satisfied/ fulfilled. (1) ('starved')

7. In paragraph 5, identify a word or phrase that shows how Pablo Neruda exemplifies a (i) 'mindful' and (ii) 'celebratory' spirit (line 26). [2]

From quote	Answer
mindful	an erudite curator of curious objects. (1) <i>Accept either 'erudite' or 'curator'</i>
celebratory	delighting in textures, noises, colours, et cetera. (1) OR materialistic in the purest and most playful sense. (1)

8. In paragraph 6, what similarities does the author draw between the baguette and the can of Campbell soup? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From text	Inference/ Paraphrased
the humble baguette A can of Campbell soup.... where the ordinary are celebrated.	Both the can of Campbell soup and the baguette are mundane/ insignificant/ common items, (1)
The humble baguette is quintessentially French : it has his origins in a law made after the French Revolution A can of Campbell soup has also come to represent the age we live in...	...and are (B1) symbols of/ tell us about (B2) an important aspect of our culture/ era/ values/ who we are/ what society is. (1) <i>2 points for 1 mark</i>

9. Using material from paragraphs 7 to 10 only (lines 46 to 79), summarise what the author says about how we can counter materialism and the effects of these actions. Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. Use your own words as far as possible.

We can counter materialism by...

23 points

Points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-13	14-16	17 +
Marks	1m	2m	3m	4m	5m	6m	7m	8m

	From text	Paraphrased/ Inference
A	a range of voices from science, philosophy, political activism and the arts have begun to coalesce into a movement that...	...coming together/ working collectively
B	grounds us ever more mindfully in the material world towards being more <u>thoughtfully/ deliberately/ consciously/ centred/ rooted/ established</u> in the physical/ corporeal/ tangible world. <i>2 parts for 1 point</i>
C	...challenges us to love our possessions not less but more — to cherish them enough...	We can <u>value</u> our things,
D	...to care about where they came from, Or honours the origins of things	be concerned about their <u>source</u> ,
E	who made them,	their manufacturers,
F	what will happen to them in the future .	and what will become of them OR how they will be <u>disposed/ recycled/ reused</u> ,
G	... retain the pulse of their making	and in so doing, remember the <u>essence</u> of how they were made.
H	we need products that last . OR a society in which things last longer	We need to make things that <u>endure</u>
I	with an open-source operating system that allow users to get round obsolescence ,	(<i>inferred</i>) and provide ways to keep products <u>up-to-date/ useful/ relevant</u> .
J	it has two SIM-slots for those who might otherwise need to carry two phones for work and home	(<i>inferred</i>) Businesses also need to <u>streamline</u> their products/ make products that are <u>multi-functional</u>
K	sustainable models of extending the lifespan of products such as the growing network of community repair shops	We can <u>fix</u> our things when they break down,
L	...entail a major shift to the services that keep things going, thereby creating employment...	[effect] and this creates new jobs in industries that restore/mend/fix items
M	...to replace lost manufacturing/retail output.	[effect] and leads to fewer jobs in the production/service industry
N	...and are endlessly re-used	We can constantly/continually upcycle/ re-purpose/ recycling. <i>2 parts for 1 point</i>
O	It is, essentially, an economics of better , not bigger.	We need to focus on manufacturing/buying products of <u>higher quality</u> . <i>Accept "better quality"</i>
P	I suspect that will mean paying more, OR I've started weaning myself off craving bargains	We have to be willing to spend more.
Effects		
Q	spending on ' experiences rather than disposable goods'	We will pursue adventure/ memorable activities,
R	more lasting satisfaction	and this will lead to more <u>fulfilment</u>
S	more lasting satisfaction OR and less of the transitory hit of ownership	that <u>endures/ is long-term/ more permanent</u> .
T	This in turn might lead to a proliferation of festivals, sporting competitions and cultural events celebrating the talents we share.	This will lead to <u>more activities</u> that <u>commemorate/ recognise/ focus on</u> the <u>gifts/abilities/skills</u> we have. <i>3 parts for 1 point</i>
U	There are some indications that the fetish of ownership	We will be less keen to <u>possess</u> ,
V	is passing in favour of a ' sharing market ' OR hire OR by subscription	and more keen to share/ rent/ pay for streaming <i>Allow lift of 'share'</i>
W	Calling time on those unrecyclable CD, video and DVD formats that often end up in a landfill .	There will be less waste.

10. According to the author in lines 82 to 86, what are the lessons that we can learn from the *moai*? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From text	Inference/ Paraphrased
The <i>moai</i> became a sculpted lesson that no way of living or thinking can endure forever.	(A) We learn that we must change, OR no lifestyle or ideology is sacrosanct/ permanent
...a more deliberate...	(B) We need to be more conscious/ thoughtful/ purposeful/ mindful...
...commitment	(C) and dedicated
to love and cherish what we already have might yet save us	(D) in caring for what we have.
	1 point: 1 mark 2-3 points: 2 marks 4 points: 3 marks

11. The author writes about the problems of materialism and how individuals and companies can counter it. How relevant are his arguments to you and your society? [10]

Question Number:

Candidate's Name:

Civics Group:

GP Tutor:

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SERANGOON JUNIOR COLLEGE

2017 JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER

8807/1

PAPER 1

28th August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your **name** and **CG number** in the spaces provided on the question paper.

Write in **dark blue or black ink** on both sides of the paper.

DO NOT USE staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

FOR EXAMINER'S USE	
Content	/30
Language	/20
TOTAL	/50
Marked by	

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 to 800 words in length.

- 1 Consider the effectiveness of advertisements today.
- 2 'Cultural and heritage sites have lost their relevance.' How far is this true of your society?
- 3 Can a country afford to isolate itself from the rest?
- 4 'Medical science should seek to heal rather than enhance.' Comment.
- 5 How far can we alleviate poverty when discrimination exists?
- 6 'Dictatorships are more efficient than democracies.' Discuss.
- 7 Should any limits be set on artistic expression?
- 8 To what extent are wars and conflicts due to poor leadership?
- 9 Should science progress without any influence from religion?
- 10 To what extent can Singapore be optimistic about the future given her limitations?
- 11 'Consumerist lifestyles should be discouraged, not promoted.' Do you agree?
- 12 'There is too much emphasis on image today.' Do you agree?

Question 1: Consider the effectiveness of advertisements today.

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
10 - 12	<p>10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Essay shows no understanding of what “advertisements” are. - Essay only talks about the negative impacts of advertising <p>11-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay merely describes functions of advertisements with no evaluation of effectiveness • Essay discusses pros AND cons of advertising rather than the effectiveness of advertisements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. Negative impacts of false advertising
13 - 15	<p>13-14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some attempt to evaluate effectiveness of advertisements • However, it is not consistently done. Essay may digress to negative consequences at parts. • Examples are very general, lacking concrete details • Examples focus more on describing the advertisement or the thing that is being advertised rather than illustrating effectiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. In trying to prove effectiveness of campaigns - “In Kenya, rhinos are sliced for their horns and military groups use helicopters to shoot down elephants for their tusks for ivory sales. Singapore has raised awareness of such issues by making use of (billboards at) public transport such as train carriages and bus stops” <p>15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some attempt to evaluate effectiveness of advertisements • However, it is not consistently done. Essay may digress to negative consequences. • At least one paragraph that concretely illustrates effectiveness of advertisements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. “The campaign using the hashtag “know your lemons” effectively reached out to a large target group and attracted the attention of many.”
16 - 18	<p>16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the essay (at least two paragraphs) shows understanding of generic term “effectiveness” • Sustained quality of examples and reasoning (of effectiveness) in these two paragraphs <p>17-18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay shows consistent understanding of generic term “effectiveness” • Sustained quality of examples and reasoning (of effectiveness) in every paragraph • Relevant characteristics of today’s world are fleshed out and tied to arguments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. the use of technology to track consumer patterns to make more targeted advertisements (Zalora recommending users brands based on the things they were browsing earlier)
19 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay shows consistent understanding of generic term “effectiveness” • Sustained quality of examples and reasoning in every paragraph

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant characteristics of today's world are fleshed out and tied to arguments consistently • Examples cover a range of advertisements (by corporations, by governments, by non-profit organisations, social media influencers etc) • Original insight
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Question Analysis (Generic/Ambiguous/Key Terms):

Topical term	Advertisements	A notice or announcement in a public medium promoting a product, service, event or even job vacancy. Students should consider advertisements across different mediums (print, television, the internet, social media) and for different functions.
Generic terms	Effectiveness	Though some of the usual "effectiveness factors" can be applied here, eg reach and significance of impact, it is important to also talk about how well the methods of advertising deployed today meet the tastes and preferences of consumers today, especially the tech savvy ones.
Context term	Today's world	Relevant characteristics of today's world should be fleshed out e.g. increased exposure to different media platforms, globalisation leading to access to a greater variety of goods, more discerning / educated consumers who value product reviews and accuracy in product information. Because of the context, students should bring in new age forms of advertising such as social media influencers

Suggested Approaches:

Possible stand: Advertisements are largely effective in today's world.	Possible stand: Advertisements are largely ineffective in today's world.
TS1: With the rise of the internet, advertising is now more powerful than ever in being able to reach out to consumers through viral marketing. These videos often are uploaded on social media platforms and spread beyond borders, quickly raising the profile of the product.	TS1: Given the dominance of the internet in today's world and the use of multiple platforms is important for a comprehensive reach, advertisements disseminated only on traditional forms of media platforms are no longer able to effectively reach out to consumers.
TS2: Furthermore, advertisers have adapted with the times, no longer merely creating generic advertisements for the masses, instead tapping on "influencers" to reach out to different target groups.	TS2: Furthermore, due to consumers having the platform of the internet to share their honest reviews with other consumers, people have grown more cynical of advertisements that exaggerate product benefits or strengths.
TS3: Additionally, in this age of globalisation where consumers have access to a wide variety of goods, Overseas advertisers have adjusted their marketing techniques to have local media producers make ads with a local flavour that appeal to the consumers there.	TS3: Moreover, given the information age that we are in, where we are constantly bombarded with information and messages from various different media platforms, advertisements often only have a fleeting impact on consumers.

Question 2: 'Cultural and heritage sites have lost their relevance.' How far is this true of your society?

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
10 - 12	<p>10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question is misinterpreted - either 1) cultural and heritage sites - mistaken certain places as such 2) relevance - mistakenly addressed • Singapore is completely left out <p>11-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Cultural and heritage sites" - are collapsed into the same thing - with "lost their relevance" both barely addressed accurately; for e.g. "Sites" seen as simply "old places", and so on, and "Relevance" seen simply and myopically as 'still around' or so on. • Evidence ranging from mostly none, and where there are any, they are factually wrong or not Singapore, to, those that are cliché and yet used 'narratively' and not as evidence
13 - 15	<p>13-14:</p> <p>Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore "Cultural and heritage sites" - are collapsed into the same thing, and, "lost their relevance" both addressed with mere allusions to them without explanations of what they are. <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely limited - cliché (one or two) and narratively used <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Ranging from limited to just barely acceptable range of address of key generic and topical terms • Reasoning is mostly absent or irrelevant <p style="text-align: right;">Need a home tutor? Visit smiletutor.sg</p>

	<p>15: Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore “Cultural and heritage sites” and “lost their relevance’ both addressed with acceptable paraphrase and explained simply as such: Sites of cultural importance/ important to heritage (without clear understanding of terms convincingly shown) • Reasoning is over-simplistic but relevant <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat limited evidence - cliché (two or three) and with them mostly narratively used <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard is of just about/barely acceptable address of key generic and topical terms
16 - 18	<p>16: Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore “Cultural and heritage sites” and “lost their relevance’ both addressed with acceptable paraphrase and explained acceptably as such: Sites important to history and sense of who we are • Both ‘cultural’ (rituals and beliefs) and ‘heritage’ (shared history) are understood and explained accurately • Address of past - when these sites have significant cultural and heritage importance • Reasoning is acceptable <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable range of evidence that range from hints of apt use to some aptly used • Non-cliché evidence used <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable address of key generic and topical terms <p>17-18: Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spore “Cultural and heritage sites” and “lost their relevance’ both addressed with acceptable paraphrase and explained acceptably as such: Sites important to history and sense of who we are and rather confidently employed • Both ‘cultural’ (rituals and beliefs) and ‘heritage’ (shared history) are understood and explained accurately • Address of past - when these sites have significant cultural and heritage importance • Reasoning is rather strong - such as: due to globalisation, capitalist goals... etc. <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable range of evidence that are all aptly used • Non-cliché evidence used <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good range of address of key generic and topical terms
19 - 20	<p>All of the above +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impressive list of evidence used aptly
21 - 23	<p>All of the above +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to evaluate how far it has lost or has not lost relevance in a simple manner - either through arg by numbers etc.
24 - 25	<p>All of the above +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to sophisticatedly evaluate how far it has lost or has not lost relevance in a simple manner - e.g. that whether or not it has lost its relevance depends not so much with what sites are kept or demolished, but how Sporeans as a whole utilise and view these sites, and how the government has managed to (or not) utilise these sites and leverage on them to build new, modernised infrastructures and architecture.

Question Analysis (Generic/Ambiguous/Key Terms):

Topical term	Cultural and heritage sites	Cultural and heritage sites refer to an official location where pieces of political, military, cultural, or social history have been preserved due to their cultural heritage value such as the St. Andrews Cathedral Church, Fort Canning, Sentosa (Fort Siloso), Changi Museum, the Cenotaph, Botanical Gardens, Sri Mariamman temple, Har Par Villa, Sultan Mosque (in Kampong Glam), Malay Heritage Centre, Peranakan cultural places and restaurants, Chinatown as a whole, Little India as a whole...etc.
Generic terms	Relevance	Of use, applicable, serves a purpose or function
	How far is this true	The extent to which this statement is true and happening in Singapore – students should either quantify the extent of relevance (largely relevant versus not much relevant) or consider the conditions in which they are/are not relevant.
Context term	Your society	Relevant characteristics of Singapore should be fleshed out e.g. highly developed, pragmatic... Still retains or does not retain its function, with regard to areas such as lifestyle, work, stress, economy, political stability, social integration, and so on.

Suggested Approaches:

Possible stand: Yes, this is true to a large extent	Possible stand: No, this is mostly untrue.
TS1: Singapore, as LHL has mentioned in recent times, aims and needs to move into the future as a growing IT and science hub. For that to happen, many of the low-lying shop houses in Chinatown and Little India might have to go to make way for these, particularly due to our limited land space - as seen in Bukit brown incident (cultural site?)	TS1: It might seem as though cultural and heritage sites are of not much significance now, what with Singapore moving towards becoming an IT and science and Technological hub. However, buildings and sites such as Sri M temple and Chinatown have in fact had a major 'facelift' in recent times. Because the Govt recognises the allure of these sites, many of the old shophouses have now been transformed and renovated into modern, hip restaurants and pubs and shops, bringing about a new form of vibrancy to this cosmopolitan city that thrives and feeds on tourism. Let's not forget the millions of dollars used to renovate cultural and heritage sites like the Novena church and the church near City Hall, as well as Fort Canning, all of which have a part to play on tourism and even exhibitions.
TS2: Many of the younger generation of Singaporeans are already westernised, 'koreanised, and japanised', what with the influx of media-related influence in our highly globalised society. Hence, these sites no longer hold the same allure and significance for many of them, who are rather secularised and modernised.	TS2: These sites also play the crucial role in social integration. They are reminders of our forefathers, our heritage and history and the fact that we are all migrants at one point, coming together with a common goal of succeeding together regardless of race, language or religion.

	<p>TS3: These are crucial monuments of peace and calm for the majority of our migrant workers who come mostly from china, India and Bangladesh. Indeed, Filipinos like congregating in the St Andrews cathedral too, another of the cultural and heritage sites. Botanic Gardens too offer us a reprieve from stressful lives. Because they act as monuments that resemble their homeland, and are places that have culturally and historically been known to facilitate the congregation of their own peoples in this foreign land, they serve to bring about calm and peace as well as allay homesickness for them, which all translates to better social cohesion and less social problems regarding integration.</p>
	<p>TS4: They also serve as a reminder to the younger generations of the hardships and lives sacrificed for the land; and as for the elderly, they are a show of respect and gratitude to the pains and losses they have to endure, to allow for the country to become what it is today.</p>

Question 3: Can a country afford to isolate itself from the rest?

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
10 - 12	<p>10: - Arguments with no clear idea of what it means to 'isolate itself from the rest'. E.g. Student talks about a country who wants to help another country but does not want to cooperate with other countries in doing so. Or student talks about wanting to have bilateral relations rather than relations with many countries. - Arguments merely offer advantages of self-isolation, without paying attention to the cost of doing so.</p> <p>11-12: - Student may be providing costs of isolation but lacks any real world examples (only hypothetical discussion) OR only pros and cons of being self-sufficient (if cons are evaluated to show if it is a cost the country can afford → can pass)</p>
13 - 15	<p>13-14: - <u>Only with one aspect</u> of isolation is dealt with eg trade. - Superficial reasoning to evaluate the country's capability to go on its own E.g. They have their own resources, so they can go on their own OR list a disadvantage without weighing the disadvantage to see if it is something a country can afford, then merely say that is why the country cannot afford to isolate itself. - One good argument but has weak examples can get a pass.</p> <p>15: - Only one good argument evaluating a country's ability or inability to withdraw from the rest of the world ie showing that the costs are bearable or alternatives are available, supported by concrete examples</p>

16 - 18	<p>16: - All paragraphs may deal with <u>only one aspect</u> of isolation but there is sustained evaluation in at least two paragraphs, showing possible impact of such an action, with the appropriate characteristics of those nations which can or cannot afford to depart from the general norm of global participation, and supported by sustained quality of examples.</p> <p>17-18: - Arguments deal with a range of aspects of isolation, eg trade, information, migration, etc, but reasoning and examples lack the depth of those in the higher bands.</p>
19 – 20	<p>Arguments deal with <u>a range of aspects of isolation</u>, eg trade, information, migration, etc, showing implications of such an action, with the appropriate characteristics of those nations which can or cannot afford to depart from the general norm of global participation. Arguments are supported by sustained quality of examples.</p> <p>Student is able to not just consider the immediate cost but also considers long term sustainability</p>
21 - 23	<p>The script displays a deep understanding of the subject of isolation, showing the implications of such an action, with the appropriate characteristics of those nations which can or cannot afford to depart from the general norm of global participation. Arguments are supported by sustained quality of examples..</p> <p>Student is able to not just consider the immediate cost but also considers long term sustainability</p>

Question Analysis (Generic/Ambiguous/Key Terms):

Topical term	Country Isolate from the rest	<p>A nation with its own government To cut off connection from others / remain alone , whether in terms of diplomatic relations, or the flow of trade, information or movement of people</p>
Generic terms	Can afford to	<p>to be able to do or spare something, esp without incurring (financial) difficulties or without risk of undesirable consequences Students cannot merely see this as a “should” question where they examine pros (irrelevant to this question) and cons of isolation.</p>
Context term	None	Default global and today’s society

Suggested Approaches:

Possible stand: A country can ill-afford to isolate itself	Possible stand: A country can afford to isolate itself
TS1: For most countries, it is too much risk to not establish good diplomatic nations with other countries as it could potentially cost national security and peace	TS1: Countries that have strong military might and advanced defence technology could afford to not form close diplomatic ties with others since it is unlikely that other countries would want to risk attacking them.
TS2: For countries that are highly reliant on openness to information and trade, not participating in or withdrawing from global trade with the intention to boost its local industries is likely to reduce economic competitiveness leading to cost inefficiencies and economic hardship.	TS2: A country that has immense resources can rely on its own availability of such resources and be able to regulate its imports without fear of the country suffering from deprivation or insufficiency.
TS3: Similarly, restricting access to the Internet and information from the international media is suicidal as the country can ill-afford to stunt the intellectual development of its people, limit opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and stymie businesses which rely on time-sensitive information, all of which will have severe consequences on the economic and social progress of the country.	TS3: Stunted intellectual development as a result of isolation, arising from restrictions to information provided by the international media, can have serious consequences on development in political thought, scientific and technological advancements, and economic and social progress, but such a cost may be something the government is willing to bear, as the possibility of dissent is reduced and the people's dependence on, and perceived loyalty to, the government may be enhanced instead.
TS4: Likewise, restricting the liberal movement of people into and out of the country, especially for education or employment, is likely to limit opportunities for cross-cultural learning and business development and cause a shortage of manpower, leading to a less vibrant economy and a less culturally-diverse society, which may have severe implications for the country's development.	TS4: The liberal movement of people in and out of the country may bring immense benefits to economic growth and the reputation of the country, but giving it up may be a cost that a government is willing to bear, considering that the context now is that such a curtailment brings more benefits – in terms of improved security (eg reduced threat of terrorism) and increased job opportunities to the local people.

Question 4: 'Medical science should seek to heal rather than enhance.' Comment.

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
10 - 12	<p>10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student approaches question as a pros and cons of medical science (no awareness of generic terms "heal" or "enhance") • Student misinterprets and shows NO understanding of generic terms "heal" AND "enhance" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. Student sees "enhancement" as "prevention of diseases" without clearly explaining what is being "enhanced" to achieve this better ability to prevent diseases • Student talks about other types of S&T that are not medical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. "Medical science enhanced food stock" (GM food) <p>11-12:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student describes instances of medical science healing/enhancing without evaluation the pros and cons (“should”) • Student digresses to limitations of medical science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. “Medical science is too costly and hence people cannot afford to be healed” • Student only talks about healing/enhancement
13 - 15	<p>13-14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows a general understanding of key terms in the question (both “healing” and “enhancement” must be addressed at some point in the essay) • May digress in some paragraphs • Very generic/thin examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. Vitamins, steroids, medication referred to in general terms, no real world reference <p>15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows a general understanding of key terms in the question (at least one paragraph clearly addresses both generic terms) • May digress in some paragraphs • At least one paragraph that concretely illustrates pros/cons of healing/enhancing • Sees “enhancement” as purely “making our bodies stronger/enhancing our immunity system” <i>throughout the essay</i> making the contention limited to “prevention is better than cure”
16 - 18	<p>16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two paragraphs understanding of generic term “should...heal/enhance” • Sustained quality of examples and reasoning in every paragraph • Range of arguments: student also considers “enhancement” as cosmetic/unnecessary improvements to an otherwise healthy individual <p>17-18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay shows consistent understanding of generic term “should...heal/enhance” • Sustained quality of examples and reasoning in every paragraph • Essay attempts a weighing/comparison of the two functions in reasoning (rather than evaluating them in isolation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. “medical science should be meant for helping those in need, and enhancement should be of less priority” • Range of arguments - students can see beyond the pragmatic costs and benefits of healing/enhancing and considers also the moral/ethical issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E.g. Moral obligation to use limited funds on ending suffering rather than developing performance-enhancing drugs”
19 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay shows consistent understanding of generic term “should...heal/enhance” • Sustained quality of examples and reasoning in every paragraph • Essay attempts a weighing/comparison of the two functions in reasoning (rather than evaluating them in isolation) • Range of arguments - students can see beyond the pragmatic costs and benefits of healing/enhancing and considers also the moral/ethical issues • Essay shows understanding of the false choice and shows that were possible (i.e. resources are not limited), both aims can actually be met • Original insight - Showing that the two are interlinked/don’t have to be separate

Question Analysis (Generic/Ambiguous/Key Terms):

Topical term	Medical science	The branch of science concerned with the study of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.
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Generic terms	Should seek to heal rather than enhance	Pros and cons of focusing on healing (recovering from / treatment of illnesses, injuries, diseases, terminal conditions) rather than enhancing (cosmetic changes to the body not for health reasons) and vice versa. Students can also choose to argue that it should seek to do both. This is technically not a comparative question, though the comparative approach can be adopted to deepen the analysis.
Context term	Default global and current	

Suggested Approaches:

Possible stand: Medical science should seek to heal rather than enhance.	Possible stand: Medical science should seek to both heal and enhance.
TS1: Medical science should seek to heal rather than enhance since afflictions that require healing are often more pressing. In contrast, a healthy person's desire to improve their physical features is not a necessary procedure.	TS1: Certain enhancement procedures serve the important function of raising self-esteem of individuals.
TS2: The enhancement of the human body sometimes brings with it certain moral quandaries, so it can be argued that medical science should focus on providing solutions to current medical problems instead.	TS2: Furthermore, if patients are willing to pay money for medical enhancements, it should not be turned away since ultimately this can generate money for the industry to continue to improve and fuel innovations.
TS3: When resources are limited, medical science should seek to prioritise healing rather than enhancement since saving a human life is more important than merely making it better.	TS3: Given the rate of advancement of medical science, it can and should seek to do both. To limit it to only achieving one aim would be limiting the potential of medical science.

Question 5: How far can we alleviate poverty when discrimination exists?

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
10 - 12	<p>10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arguments discuss the alleviation of poverty without any mention of discrimination. Other solutions may be discussed instead. Arguments may also discuss discrimination without a convincing link to poverty. There are no examples provided, merely generalisations. <p>11-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arguments discuss the alleviation of poverty and make passing mention of discrimination either as an obstacle or as a factor that is unrelated to poverty. The alleviation of poverty is merely asserted. The causal relationship between discrimination and poverty is merely asserted. There are no examples provided, merely generalisations.
13 - 15	<p>13-14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arguments should consist of either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty cannot be alleviated due to the presence of discrimination. Poverty can be alleviated despite the presence of discrimination. The relationship (or lack of) between discrimination and poverty is clearly/convincingly explained. Successful/failed alleviation of poverty may be asserted. <p>15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additionally, at least one argument attempted contains evidence of poverty and discrimination. Successful/failed alleviation of poverty is clearly/convincingly explained.
16 - 18	<p>16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All paragraphs contain evidence of poverty and discrimination. One paragraph contains evidence of P and D, but there are examples of alleviation/failure. Successful/failed alleviation of poverty is clearly/convincingly explained. <p>17-18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All paragraphs contain evidence of poverty and discrimination. Successful/failed alleviation of poverty is support with evidence in at least one argument.
19 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every argument is fully relevant and may consider how poverty may be alleviated despite the presence of discrimination, or how it cannot be alleviated due to the presence of discrimination. Examples are present in all paragraphs.

Question 6: 'Dictatorships are more efficient than democracies.' Discuss.

Descriptors for content mark:

10	<p>→ Script demonstrates gross misunderstanding of key terms 'dictatorships'* and 'democracies'</p> <p>→ Script demonstrates gross misunderstanding of key term 'efficient' eg efficient in promoting human rights without showing how human rights are a function to be protected by the govt.</p> <p>→ Script does not even attempt comparison between dictatorships and democracies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Need a home tutor? Visit smiletutor.sg</p>
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	<p>*https://www.britannica.com/topic/dictatorship Dictatorship, form of government in which one person or a small group possesses absolute power without effective <u>constitutional</u> limitations. The term dictatorship comes from the Latin title <u>dictator</u>, which in the <u>Roman Republic</u> designated a temporary magistrate who was granted extraordinary powers in order to deal with state crises.</p>
11-12	<p>→ Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms ‘dictatorships’ and ‘democracies’ → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key term ‘efficient’ (even if understanding is not 100% accurate). → Script does attempt a comparison between dictatorships and democracies. → Script has zero concrete examples</p>
13-14	<p>→ SPECIAL RULE: 1 <u>pass-quality para (relevant reasoning + concrete example) guarantees 13 marks.</u> → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms ‘dictatorships’ and ‘democracies’ → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key term ‘efficient’ (even if understanding is not 100% accurate or if it is limited to speed / how quick, in various situations). → Script does attempt a comparison between dictatorships and democracies. → Script has some (at least 1) concrete examples</p>
15-16	<p>→ SPECIAL RULE: 1 <u>good quality para (relevant and valid reasoning + good quality concrete example) guarantees 15 marks; 2 of such paragraphs guarantee 16 marks.</u> → Script shows a consideration of some of the advantages (in terms of efficiency) of dictatorships OR some of the weaknesses (in terms of efficiency) of democracies. → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms ‘dictatorships’ and ‘democracies’ → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key term ‘efficient’ (even if understanding is not 100% accurate). → Script has some good quality concrete examples</p>
17-18	<p>→ Script shows a consideration of some of the advantages (in terms of efficiency) of dictatorships OR some of the weaknesses (in terms of efficiency) of democracies. → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms ‘dictatorships’ and ‘democracies’ → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key term ‘efficient’ (even if understanding is not 100% accurate). → Script makes a fair and sensible (<i>i.e. not biased, myopic, or uninformed</i>) comparison between dictatorships and democracies. → Script consistently makes a comparison between dictatorships and democracies. → Script consistently (at least 3 paragraphs) has good quality concrete examples</p>
19-20	<p>→ Script shows a consideration of some of the advantages (in terms of efficiency) of dictatorships OR some of the weaknesses (in terms of efficiency) of democracies. → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms ‘dictatorships’ and ‘democracies’ → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key term ‘efficient’ (even if understanding is not 100% accurate). → Script makes a fair and sensible (<i>i.e. not biased, myopic, or uninformed</i>) comparison between dictatorships and democracies. → Script consistently (at least 3 paragraphs) has good quality concrete examples → Scripts have a good range of points (i.e. not just talking about 1 type of efficiency).</p>
21 and above	<p>→ Script raises good insights (e.g. “The type of efficiency that dictatorship promotes is not as important as the type of efficiency that democracy promotes.”).</p>

Question Analysis (Generic/Ambiguous/Key Terms):

Topical term	Dictatorship Democracy	<p>A dictatorship is one in which the leader has absolute rule / total power over a nation or state, and usually obtained his position of power by force. A democracy is one in which the people rule, and the leader is often more concerned with meeting the people’s wants and feeding their citizens’ needs. The leader often gets elected into office through voting.</p>
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Generic terms	More efficient than	Comparison required. Efficiency with regards to speed of processes, maximum productivity, minimum wasted effort or expense. Note that measuring efficiency is quite specific and students should not digress into which is "better". [For a democracy, students need to be aware of the range of democracies and what political processes can be voted over in which nations, as the rules of each type of democracy can differ from country to country. Dictatorships are more straightforward (but examples should be varied).]
Context term	General	Since the context is not specified, students can bring in both past and present examples to prove the comparison between the two systems of governance.

Suggested Approaches:

Possible stand: Dictatorships are more efficient.	Possible stand: Dictatorships are not always more efficient. Democracies can be more efficient, and some forms more so than others.
TS1: Decisions to expand a nation's assets and land are often more speedily made in a dictatorship, as the ruler has a good vision over what he wishes to achieve with his conquests. Once plans are made, the strike can occur at the leader's command. Democracies can cause a simple decision to become a long-drawn process due to the process of voting and seeking public opinion on issues; dictators can make a more specific call in such times.	TS1: Democratic rulers are able to know their people's wants and desires more clearly than dictators, and be able to establish policies that meet these desires in a more targeted manner. Hence while it may take longer for decisions to be made and policies to be rolled out, in the long run, it minimises unnecessary time and effort spent making changes.
TS2: Political objectives are often clearer when the leader has his way to pave the way forward for the nation. This is opposed to a democracy where voice is given to not only the people but opposing parties within the government, causing a lack of focus in direction at times.	TS2: There are forms of democracies that actually do not require the consultation of the people for most of the decisions made, and thus are as efficient as dictatorships.
TS3: In dictatorships, decisions/policies can be rolled out without unnecessary expenditure of time and resources to garner feedback and approval.	

Question 7: Should there be any limits placed on artistic expression?

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
10 - 12	<p>10: - Students merely state the various functions of art eg escape from reality</p> <p>11-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arguments with no clear idea of what 'artistic expression' means (talks about pop culture/media rather than art or freedom of speech (amos yee)). Arguments show some understanding of key terms but lacks any concrete examples

13 - 15	<p>13-14: - One good argument (either moral or pragmatic) but has weak examples can get a pass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout essay arguments do not address the possible harm eg threat social cohesion / moral values that artistic expression can cause to society and do not raise the need for setting any limits on such expression. Where examples are provided, they are merely described and not evaluated. <p>15: - But there is only one good argument that is convincing and examples are well-evaluated.</p>
16 - 18	<p>In order to get 16 and above, student should not have contradictions in stand (i.e. “there should not be any limits”, next paragraph “there should be limits in this case”)</p> <p>16: - Arguments deal with a narrow range of points (at least two relevant arguments) but there is sustained evaluation, supported by quality examples.</p> <p>17-18: - Arguments show consistent (at least 3 paras) relevance and are supported by examples, but lack the depth of those in the higher bands.</p>
19 – 20	<p>The script displays a deep understanding of the subject of artistic expression, and portrays clearly the polarising tension that unlimited expression can bring to bear on society. Arguments are supported by sustained quality of examples.</p>

Question Analysis (Generic/Ambiguous/Key Terms):

Topical term	Artistic expression	Declarations of one's ideas and feelings through the medium of art, whether music, dance, drawing, writing, theatre etc
Generic terms	Should Any limit	Moral and pragmatic arguments (for and against setting limits on artistic expression) A point beyond which people should not cross / censorship / regulations Absolute proposition
Context terms	Default global and current	

Suggested Approaches:

Possible stand: There should be limits set on artistic expression.	Possible stand: There should be no limits set on artistic expression.
TS1: The protection of an individual's rights ends when these rights impinge on the safety and rights of others. To create an exception for art would be hypocritical and justifying content such as hate speech as a form of art is providing a loophole for its existence.	TS1: Stifling free expression, particularly the creative abilities of human beings, is a violation of the individual's right as a human being. Civil rights should not be restricted so long as no illegal acts are committed in the creative process.
TS2: Many forms of modern art seek to push the boundaries on topics like sex, race, religion or politics, beyond what is acceptable, and such content may not be suitable for everyone, eg children have to be protected, and it should be up to the society to decide on the level of tolerance for itself and impose limits, where necessary.	TS2: The public should have a choice in deciding whether to view or access the content without the need for limits to be imposed. Everyone should exercise his personal discretion, eg parents should refrain from taking their children to view art that they deem offensive.
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TS3: Art is often a platform for political commentary and for limits to be imposed by the government, it would defeat this purpose of art and potentially hinder any chance for change.

Question 8: To what extent are wars and conflicts due to poor leadership?

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
10 - 12	<p>10: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question is misinterpreted: e.g. no mention of poor leadership, or no mention of other factors, or no mention of cause of effect from these three elements. <p>11-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor leadership” barely addressed acceptably [student tried to address but did a very poor job] • “Wars” and “conflicts” barely addressed acceptably <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely limited - one relevant one - (e.g., Singapore only, or only mention of a cliché case, such as those of Hitler or merely historical contexts and no recent ones) [The cliched Hitler example cannot be accepted even if well-explained?] <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simply stating “Wars” or “conflicts” are caused by “Poor leadership”, without necessarily proving it [no attempt even to show how war/conflict brought/not brought about about by poor leadership]
13 - 15	<p>13-14:</p> <p>Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor leadership” addressed by merely alluding to it • “Wars” or “Conflicts” collapsed into 1 topic instead of being dealt with separately; meaning, only one is addressed [Are we then expecting students to (i) deal with both tensions and armed conflict and (i) deal with both international and domestic war?] [Possible to shift this requirement for scope/range of points to the 19-20 band?] <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely limited - one relevant one - (e.g., Singapore only, or only mention of a cliché case, such as those of Hitler or merely historical contexts and no recent ones) <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor leadership” has led to wars; Other factors have led to wars/conflicts too - this is proven through examples (example driven) without being able to name exactly what the other factor other than poor leadership is, that has led to wars. <p>15:</p> <p>Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor leadership” addressed by some attempt to paraphrase and explain it (such as, “short-sighted, rash...etc.”); but minimal • “Wars” or “Conflicts” both are being dealt with [Possible to shift this requirement for scope/range of points to the 19-20 band?] • <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat limited - two - and cliché as well (e.g., Singapore only, or only mention of cliché cases, such as those of Hitler or merely historical contexts and no recent ones); they are mostly ‘narrative’ [Are we able to shift this requirement for original (non-cliche) examples to a higher band?] <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor leadership” such as (such and such...) have led to conflict and wars; Other factors have led to wars too - this is proven through examples (example driven) without being

	able to name exactly what the other factor other than poor leadership is, that has led to wars. [Can we shift this requirement to bring in other factors (to evaluate extent) to the 16-18 band?] [To get 15 student does not need to mention other factors than leadership.]
16 - 18	<p>16:</p> <p>Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor leadership” addressed by acceptable attempts to paraphrase and explain it (such as, “short-sighted, rash...etc.”) • “Wars” or “Conflicts” both are being dealt with <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable range of evidence that range from simply ‘narrative’ with hints of apt use, to some aptly used <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor leadership” such as (such and such...) have led to conflict and wars; Other factors (such as geographical location, having aggressive neighbours, history of violence and tensions, land and capital ...etc.) have led to wars too, with some evidence that range from simply ‘narrative’ with hints of apt use, to some aptly used [To get 16 student must mention <u>specifically</u> other factors than leadership.] <p>17-18:</p> <p>Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor leadership” addressed by acceptable attempts to paraphrase and explain it (such as, “short-sighted, rash...etc.”) • “Wars” or “Conflicts” both are being dealt with <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable range of evidence that are all aptly used <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Poor leadership” such as (such and such...) have led to conflict and wars; Other factors (such as geographical location, having aggressive neighbours, history of violence and tensions, land and capital ...etc.) have led to wars too, with a range of evidence all aptly used
19 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the above + • Impressive list of evidence all aptly used
21 - 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the above + • Attempt to evaluate how far [e.g. within this case/scenario, the degree to which poor leadership caused war and conflict] and how true [e.g. across cases, how many wars and conflicts are caused by poor leadership?] it is that wars and conflicts are caused by poor leadership or by other factors as mentioned; not sophisticated but acceptable; e.g., by number of cases...etc.
24 - 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the above + • Attempt to evaluate how far and how true it is that wars and conflicts are caused by poor leadership or by other factors as mentioned; sophisticatedly done; e.g. wars and conflicts are caused by a combination of both poor leadership and other factors, as history as shown... or... that largely it is due to poor leadership, as history has shown how good leadership can help avert these imminent (brought about by other factors) wars and conflicts, many a times, as well as, how poor leadership has led to many of them.

Question 9: Should science progress without any influence from religion?

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
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10 - 12	<p>10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question is misinterpreted: e.g. DOES NOT show understanding that ‘religion’ here implies the whole host of moral implications it professes to teach and uphold (e.g. Belief that one must not ‘play God’, ‘manipulate nature as it is intended to be’, must not ‘hurt or kill people, even the unborn or those with the potential to be alive’, and that one must follow these rules and precepts, regardless of the benefits progress). • No relevant evidence <p>11-12:</p> <p>Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Science progress”, “Religion” and “Influence” are addressed by merely alluding to them – there is no clear attempts to explain the CONNECTION between religion and science, but allude to them as almost like separate entities. • “Should” barely addressed; merely stated as claims without reasoning. <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range from none to extremely limited evidence of “should/should not influence” - limited to merely cliché ones that are somewhat outdated and used as mostly as ‘narrative’. <p>Issue is dealt with as such: Basically, attempts at proving (through reasoning and evidence) that science is being hampered by religion, or religion being useful for science progress, are mostly made as (ranging from) none to basic sweeping claims (such as R will hinder S, R is important as it teaches morals...etc.)</p>
13 - 15	<p>Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Science progress”, “Religion” and “Influence” are addressed by merely alluding to them – there is no clear attempts to explain the CONNECTION between religion and science, but allude to them as almost like separate entities. • “Should” barely addressed and unconvincingly proven with weak reasoning; such as “should because it is right; it is beneficial” or “should not because it is against it; obstructs it” WITHOUT any or much elaboration on how it is ‘right’, ‘beneficial’, or how it ‘obstructs’ it. <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely limited evidence of “should/should not influence” - limited to merely cliché ones that are somewhat outdated and used as mostly as ‘narrative’. <p>Issue is dealt with as such: Basically, attempts at proving (through reasoning and evidence) that science is being hampered by religion, or religion being useful for science progress, are mostly made as (ranging from) basic sweeping claims (such as R will hinder S, R is important as it teaches morals...etc.) to general, unsubstantiated claims to claims that are poorly substantiated by evidence</p>
16 - 18	<p>16:</p> <p>Understanding of Terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Science progress”, “Religion” and “Influence” acceptably paraphrased and explained as (types of science progress: cloning, stem cell research, IVF, abortion, animals testing, cryogenics, sex change, transhumanism...etc.; types of religion: Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and their ideals: Belief that one must not ‘play God’, ‘manipulate nature as it is intended to be’, must not ‘hurt or kill people, even the unborn or those with the potential to be alive’, and that one must follow these rules and precepts, regardless of the benefits progress). • Clear attempt to consistently show the connection between religion and science and whether it helps promote a safer and more humane form of scientific progress or whether it hinders it much. <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence moves away from cliché to more recent and significant cases, and instead of being narrative, now is used sometimes aptly to show the religion promotes or hinders science progress. <p>Issue is dealt with as such:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Religion” is shown in acceptable manner how it either hinders or promotes science progress. Evidence sometimes aptly used. <p style="text-align: right;">Need a home tutor? Visit smiletutor.sg</p>

	17-18: All the above + Evidence is all aptly used to substantiate stand.
19 - 20	All the above + Impressive list of evidence used Reasons are more sophisticated – Sci needs Rel in order to 1) curb the rampant capitalistic and financial exploitation of research materials for profit rather than humanity due to R's persistence in fighting for the rights of individuals and society and keep science progress for the sake of humanity instead of profit-making MNCs; or, Rel should not be allowed to influence Rel because 1) its own precepts are questionable and outdated, 2) its hindering science progress has led to lives 'lost', led to 'lands uncharted', slowing down progress which might be extremely detrimental given our environmental predicament or health-related issues of pain, death, etc, 3) Rel is not needed for a society to be deemed as moral (as logic and open discussion is the way to go)
21 - 23	All the above + Attempts to address 'any' (the extent portion) of question by explaining, rather unoriginally, that because of the overwhelming number of cases...etc.
24 - 25	All the above + Attempts at a sophisticated address of 'any' (the extent portion) of question, by explaining, rather originally, that both need each other, in all areas of research, because doing away with religion is in fact going against the idea of freedom of ideas and speech and discussion, and might end up hampering more progress for science, as ultimately science is a tool that is used to serve humanity, and not be a ruler of all. Science, in many cases, requires the portion in Rel that grounds universal morals strongly in society, and ought to have such positive influence and backing indeed, but at the same time, be allowed to do away, or at least question, other Rel moral implications (such as right to abort, IVF, stem cell research ...etc. as history has shown, since Galileo, that in time, Rel can be more open, and somehow, ironically, even be made more progressive, by Science, to become a positive influence of Science as well.

- “should be present or not” or “should we have religion or not”

Question 10: To what extent can Singapore be optimistic about the future given her limitations?

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
10 - 12	10: - Arguments with no clear idea of what it means to 'be optimistic about her future' + no clear unpacking of the condition 11-12: No projection to the future , merely describes Singapore currently (our strengths and weaknesses) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mention of Singapore's limitations (or a mere repeat "Singapore's limitations" without explaining or mentioning what it is)

13 - 15	<p>13-14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One good argument with <u>evaluation of Singapore characteristics to warrant a sense of optimism</u> can get a pass. - <u>Every paragraph deals with 'pessimistic' without a single paragraph dealing with various degrees of optimism</u> but clearly discusses Singapore characteristics. (<u>cap at 13</u>. Reasoning: you can have little optimism yet not be pessimistic) - Superficial treatment of Singapore characteristics (whether strengths or weaknesses) and little evaluation of characteristics of Singaporeans eg resilience, and of actions (eg policies to overcome weaknesses) - Every paragraph deals with <u>international events that Singapore is unable to tackle, without providing characteristics of Singapore</u> (in terms of vulnerabilities and actions being taken to overcome the vulnerabilities) - essentially the same argument repeated over and over again with different examples - <u>Superficial discussion of characteristics of the possible future landscape that warrants concern</u> (what does 'optimistic' or 'having a bright future' mean?) i.e. student projects to the future but rather generally without surfacing a specific aspect of the future to be optimistic about. <p>15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One very good argument (well illustrated), with evaluation of Singapore's vulnerabilities or strengths, to meet the challenges ahead.
16 - 18	<p>16: - All paragraphs deal with <u>only one aspect</u> of Singapore's future eg economic aspect but there is sustained (at least two paragraphs) discussion of Singapore characteristics and sustained quality of examples</p> <p>17-18: - Arguments deal with a <u>range of aspects</u> concerning Singapore's future, eg social and economic, and are able to consider the various government policies / characteristics of its people to deal with both domestic as well as global challenges leading to Singapore's ability to weather the uncertainties ahead.</p>
19 – 20	<p>The script displays a <u>deep understanding</u> of the various domestic, regional and global limitations and challenges confronted by Singapore and is able to evaluate the extent of success of a range of solutions to weather the challenges presented.</p>
21 - 23	<p>Beyond surfacing the range of challenges faced by Singapore, the script consistently displays evaluation of extent eg degree of optimism, eg short-term vs long-term, reach of effect, root cause, etc, within each paragraph (i.e. internal evaluation of extent of optimism)</p>

Question Analysis (Generic/Ambiguous/Key Terms):

Topical term	Optimistic about the future	Confident about the future, assessed in terms of the nation's ability to mitigate external and internal threats
Generic terms	To what extent	Students should qualify the degree to which this statement is true in their overall stand by either quantifying the optimism (very optimistic, not that optimistic) or providing conditions or areas in which we can be optimistic, and other areas in which we may not be able to be so optimistic.
	can	Ability to achieve something
Context term	Your society	Relevant characteristics of Singapore context should be considered

Condition	Given her limitations	The condition has to be acknowledged throughout the essay. The condition is not up for debate. Students should consider relevant limitations that might affect Singapore's ability to be optimistic e.g. small land size, ageing population etc.
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Suggested Approaches:

Possible stand: Singapore can hardly be optimistic about the future	Possible stand: Singapore can largely be optimistic about the future
TS1: Given Singapore's geographical location and limitations such as lack of resources and smallness of its population causing it to be highly dependent on the actions of major economies, no matter what Singapore does, it is unable to tackle external threats of geopolitics and economic and political uncertainties on a global level.	TS1: Recognising its geographical limitations, the government has successfully established diplomatic relations with many countries and leveraged on its location in South East Asia to form a strong regional grouping, ASEAN, to negotiate its relations with the world on a collective basis. So far, this has led to regional stability and more opportunities for employment, business, trade and travel.
TS2: On the domestic front, given Singapore's persistent low birth rates despite many years of government incentives, a rapidly ageing population and a reluctance to embrace a liberal foreign talent inflow, productivity and domestic growth rates will always be capped by such limitations.	TS2: While low birth rates may be a persistent problem, Singapore has tweaked its immigration policies to place priority on jobs for Singaporeans, while at the same time, leveraging on technology to overcome manpower issues, resulting in reasons for optimism.
TS3: Within the country, the multi-religious and multi-racial composition of its population presents challenges in the form of prejudice and discrimination which are inherently hard to overcome, a crisis along the lines of a racial riot which had happened before, such as a terrorist attack, can fracture the society along racial lines.	TS3: Given the multi-religious and multi-racial composition of its population which may be a potential cause for divisiveness, the government has managed race relations well through policies encouraging social cohesion and laws on censorship that lay down out-of-bounds markers to prevent actions that can spread ill-will, so there is no reason to worry.

Question 11: 'Consumerist lifestyles should be discouraged, not promoted.' Do you agree?

Descriptors for content mark:

10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Script demonstrates gross misunderstanding of key terms 'consumerist lifestyle'. → Script does not address the 'should' in the question, and merely describes how things currently are, rather than how they ought to be.
11-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms 'consumerist lifestyle'. → Script does address the 'should' in the question. → Script talks about either (i) the pros of consumerism or (ii) the cons of consumerism. → Script has <u>zero</u> concrete examples → NOTE: Credit scripts that attempt to weigh pros against cons.
13-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → SPECIAL RULE: 1 <u>pass-quality para (relevant reasoning + concrete example) guarantees 13 marks.</u> → Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms 'consumerist lifestyle'. → Script does address the 'should' in the question. → Script talks about either (i) the pros of consumerism or (ii) the cons of consumerism. → Script has some (at least 1) concrete examples → NOTE: Credit scripts that attempt to weigh pros against cons.

15-16	<p>→ SPECIAL RULE: 1 <u>good quality</u> para (relevant and <u>valid</u> reasoning + <u>good quality</u> concrete example) guarantees 15 marks; 2 of such paragraphs guarantee 16 marks.</p> <p>→ Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms 'consumerist lifestyle'.</p> <p>→ Script does address the 'should' in the question.</p> <p>→ Script talks about both (i) the pros of consumerism and (ii) the cons of consumerism.</p> <p>→ Script has some good quality concrete examples</p> <p>→ NOTE: Credit scripts that attempt to weigh pros against cons.</p>
17-18	<p>→ Script shows a consideration of some of the <u>major</u> advantages and drawbacks of consumerism (i.e. student must demonstrate a more-than-superficial knowledge of this topic).</p> <p>→ Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms 'consumerist lifestyle'.</p> <p>→ Script does address the 'should' in the question.</p> <p>→ Script talks about both (i) the pros of consumerism and (ii) the cons of consumerism.</p> <p>→ Script has a good number of good quality concrete examples</p> <p>→ NOTE: Credit scripts that attempt to weigh pros against cons.</p>
19-20	<p>→ Script shows a consideration of some of the <u>major</u> advantages and drawbacks of consumerism (i.e. student must demonstrate a more-than-superficial knowledge of this topic).</p> <p>→ Script does demonstrate some understanding of key terms 'consumerist lifestyle'.</p> <p>→ Script does address the 'should' in the question.</p> <p>→ Script talks about both (i) the pros of consumerism and (ii) the cons of consumerism.</p> <p>→ Script has a good number of good quality concrete examples</p> <p>→ Script convincingly weighs pros against cons.</p> <p>→ Scripts have a good range of points.</p> <p>→ Script raises good insights.</p>

Question Analysis (Generic/Ambiguous/Key Terms):

Topical term	Consumerist lifestyles	A lifestyle characterised by buying and buying, always seeking the most fashionable, the latest product or the better-than-before. The assumption that people will discard the old for the newer items as well.
Generic terms	Should be + discouraged vs promoted	Consider benefits vs problems OR pro and cons of such a lifestyle or the pragmatic considerations of whether to encourage such a lifestyle and Consider the moral / ethical standpoint of whether such a wasteful, materialistic lifestyle has only negative impacts to the environment, to the self, to future generations.
Context term	General	Though the context is not specified, relevant characteristics of today's world should be fleshed out e.g. media / advertising promoting consumption habits like buying the latest product, globalisation leading to access to a greater variety of goods, goods of other nations, or leading to constant product improvements as well.

Suggested Approaches:

Possible stand: Consumerist lifestyles should be discouraged, not promoted	Possible stand: Consumerist lifestyles should be promoted, not discouraged
TS1: Knowing that buying more means more waste as the older and outdated products likely get thrown away, people should be advised to turn away from such a materialistic pursuit of the latest things as global waste is a growing problem.	TS1: The only way to push innovation and creation of better products is to constantly target the desires of consumers and meet their wants. With this in mind, it is only right to encourage purchases and luxurious pursuits.
TS2: In addition, natural resources get used up ever more quickly as such wasteful lifestyles are adopted and the use of these resources are often for rather intangible or inconsequential purposes like making one look trendy and fashionable.	TS2: After a nation has reached a level of development, the next step to make life better for the people is to encourage a higher standard of living. A consumerist lifestyle is a natural rite of passage for such nations who have a growing purchasing power.
TS3: In this age of globalisation where consumers have access to a wide variety of goods, promoting the consumerist lifestyle only serves to raise our carbon footprint as we produce more and transport them over long distances to overseas markets.	TS3: Moreover, given the information age that we are in, where it is easy to learn of the cultures and the fashion styles of other nations, promoting products and services to other nations is a way of growing a particular brand's market share and earn greater profits.
TS4: From an ethical standpoint, we cannot continue to encourage such irresponsible lifestyles without regard for the environment and future generations.	

Question 12: 'There is too much emphasis on image today.' Do you agree?

Descriptors for content mark:

Mark range	Descriptors
10 - 12	<p>10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect understanding of the term 'image' - photos, pictures, posters etc. • No clear understanding of the notion of having too much emphasis. <p>11-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat limited understanding of the term 'image' mainly as physical appearance and looks. • AND Anecdotal description of how being concerned with image has negative impacts/can be beneficial. • AND Presentation of negative impacts fails to capture the severity required to prove 'too much emphasis'.
13 - 15	<p>13-14:</p> <p>TO PASS, STUDENT MUST SHOW EXTENT+NEGATIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of image may still be limited to the individual level (physical appearance and looks). • There is at least an argument that addresses image in a relevant manner. • Explanation of argument captures the severity of 'too much' or that there is not 'too much'. • Evidence might still be anecdotal/general. • There might be concrete evidence that fails to support the verdict.

	<p>15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is at least one relevant argument that successfully proves 'too much' or not 'too much'. • Concrete evidence is present for this argument too.
16 - 18	<p>16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are relevant arguments (at least two) but there is a lack of consistency in explaining the yardstick or providing concrete evidence. <p>17-18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arguments may be limited to individual but should go beyond just physical appearance • There are at least three relevant arguments with yardstick clearly explained/addressed, concrete examples are present.
19 - 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All arguments contain concrete evidence and clear explanation of the yardstick. • Arguments cover a good range of 'image', going beyond just the individual level.

Candidate Name:	Civics Group:	GP Tutor:
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SERANGOON JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination 2017

GENERAL PAPER
Paper 2
INSERT

8807/02
28 August 2017
1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.
Write your **name** and **CG** in the spaces at the top of this page.
Submit the insert together with your answer booklet at the end of the examination.

Joel Stein considers the best and the worst traits of Millennials.

- 1 It is tempting to think of the millennials as lazy, entitled, selfish and shallow. Certainly, there have been complaints about the high incidence of narcissistic behaviour among them. Millennials received so many participation trophies growing up that a recent study showed that 40% believe they should be promoted every two years, regardless of performance. They are so convinced of their own greatness that they are disappointed when the world refuses to affirm how “great” they know they are. 5
- 2 Millennials consist of people born between 1980 and 2000. To put it more simply for them, the group is made up mostly of teens and 20-somethings. Each country's millennials are different, but because of globalisation, social media, the exporting of Western culture and the speed of change, millennials worldwide are more similar to one another than to older generations within their nations. Even in China, a generation as overconfident and self-involved as the Western one has been created. 10
- 3 The idea of the teenager started in the 1920s, where most of their social interactions were with adults in their family or in the workplace. Now that smartphones allow millennials to socialise at every hour – an average of 88 texts are sent a day – they are living under the constant influence of their friends. Never before in history have people been able to grow up and reach the early twenties so dominated by peers. To develop intellectually, an individual has to relate to older people and older things. It is no wonder that millennials are stunted. 15
- 4 In spite of their perceived immaturity, this is the most threatening and exciting generation not because they are trying to take over the Establishment, but because they are growing up without one. This is why millennials do not need us. While the Industrial Revolution has made baby boomers powerful – they could move to a city, start a business, and form organisations, the Information Revolution has further empowered millennials by handing them the technology to compete against huge organisations: hackers versus corporations, bloggers versus newspapers, YouTubers versus studios. 20
- 5 Millennials are interacting all day but almost entirely through a screen. They can be seen sitting next to one another and texting. They might look calm, but they are deeply anxious about missing out on something better. Seventy percent of them check their phones every hour, and many experience phantom pocket-vibration syndrome. That constant search for a hit of dopamine (when someone likes their status update or approves of their selfies from the dressing room) reduces creativity. Both a lack of face-to-face time and higher degrees of narcissism have similarly reduced empathy. Millennials are apathetic: they have less civic engagement and lower political participation than any previous group. Not only do they lack the kind of empathy that allows them to feel concerned for others, but they also have trouble even intellectually understanding others' points of view. 25
- 6 What they do understand is how to turn themselves into brands, with "friend" and "follower" tallies that serve as sales figures. As with most sales, positivity and confidence work best. According to W. Keith Campbell, a psychology professor at the University of Georgia, “People are inflating themselves like balloons on Facebook. If you do this well enough on Instagram, YouTube and Twitter, you can become a microcelebrity.” It is no wonder millennials are so fame-obsessed. 30
- 7 While it may be easy to write them off, this generation’s greatness should not be undermined by their shortcomings, but determined by how they react to the challenges that befall them. The millennials are passionate, inquisitive and challenging, and want to leave their mark on the world. On top of this, many of them are aware that they will be entering a changed world, one where their ideas, skills and talent will be valued from the start. 35
- 8 They are technologically adept, first of all. The millennials are technologically precocious, growing up with a rattle in one hand and a computer mouse in the other. They may have the least seniority but claim the most authority when it comes to technical support. They welcome change. Millennials are by nature well-suited for the unpredictable workplace of the future. They do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore attempt the impossible. They have less baggage – they get married later, and have children even later in life – and can therefore afford to take risks. 40
- 9 They think differently, unencumbered by years of education and experience which were once necessary to succeed, but are now increasingly seen as irrelevant, even a liability. Young companies, born on the 45

- right side of the digital divide, are running circles around their older, richer, slower rivals. For a company to think outside the box, why not learn by working with people who do not know there is a box? 50
- 10 They are independent. One of the most pervasive business trends of the past decade has been the rise of the free agent, caused both by the breakdown of the social contract between companies and employees, and by the growing share in the workforce of knowledge workers with portable skills. The millennials came of age as that social contract was dissolving. They have never expected loyalty from a company, nor have they expected to give it. They define themselves by their skills, not the firm they work for. The overwhelming majority of graduates see their career at graduation not as a straight line of advancement in one company but as a zigzag path from company to company, job to job, skill to skill. 55
- 11 They are entrepreneurial. With a booming economy, capital for the taking and an unprecedented technological opportunity, it is no surprise that more have been striking out on their own. This is not just the bravado of callow youth: by the time they enter university, most teenagers already know far more about the business world than their parents ever did. The signs of this business precociousness are everywhere. Universities used to tell students to go out and get experience in the workplace, learning at someone's expense, before thinking about starting their own firms. Now they run on-campus Incubators for the shrinking number of students that have postponed entrepreneurship long enough to go to college at all. The oracle of trend-spotting, Vanity Fair, has had to coin a new word to capture the phenomenon: "Enfantreneurs". 60 65
- 12 We are in the middle of a changing of the guard. The millennials are moving from the shadows to the spotlight in the workplace, thanks to a convergence of forces that play to their strength – from technology to the pace of change to the tearing down of the traditional corporate order. Indeed, they are our future. They are pragmatic idealists, tinkerers more than dreamers, life hackers. They are everything that is good as well as bad about the world. They are our own children, yet they are also the little-understood enemy. They are super-predators and they are lost lambs. They are the problem – and the solution. They will, for better or worse, inherit the earth. 70

Adapted from "Millennials: The Me Me Me Generation" and "Bright Young Things"

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Candidate Name:	Civics Group:	GP Tutor:
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SERANGOON JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination 2017

GENERAL PAPER
Paper 2

8807/02

28 August 2017
1 hour 30 minutes

Insert & Question Paper
Candidates answer on the Question Paper.
No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write in dark blue or black pen in the spaces provided on the Question Paper.
Do not use paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction tape/fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

At the end of the test, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.

(Note that 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.)

For Examiner's Use	
Short-Answer Questions	/17
Summary	/8
Application Question	/10
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This Question Paper consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.

[Turn over

Read the passage in the insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow below. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the **quality and accuracy of your use of English** throughout this Paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, **you must still use your own words to express it**. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

1. Suggest why “participation trophies” (line 3) have helped to create a sense of entitlement in millennials.

.....
.....[1]

2. Why has the author written “great” in inverted commas (line 5)?

.....
.....[1]

3. Explain the author’s use of the word “even” in line 9.

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

4. According to paragraph 3, why are the millennials “stunted” (line 16) in their growth? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

5. What does the phrase “perceived immaturity” (line 17) suggest about the millennials?

.....
..... [1]

6. **Using your own words as far as possible**, what are the distinctions between the millennials and the “baby boomers” mentioned in lines 19 to 22?

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

7. Explain the irony in the first line of paragraph 5.

.....
.....[1]

8. Explain how the author justifies the use of the word “apathetic” (line 29) to describe the millennials. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

9. What do you understand by “people are inflating themselves like balloons on Facebook” (lines 34-35)?

.....
.....
.....[1]

10. Explain what the author means by “a generation’s greatness should not be undermined by their shortcomings” (lines 37-38).

.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

12. Explain what the author means by “they will, for better or worse, inherit the earth” (line 74).

*For
Examiner's
Use*

.....

.....

.....

.....[2]

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2017 JC2 GP Prelims Paper 2
Suggested Answers

1. Suggest why “participation trophies” (line 3) have helped to create a sense of entitlement in millennials. [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Millennials received so many participation trophies growing up that a recent study showed that 40% believe they should be promoted every two years, regardless of performance. (Lines 2 – 4)	Such trophies reward the millennials for simply being around without needing to do anything or prove anything . *Accept any reasonable answer that shows lack of or no effort in getting any reward. *Accept any reasonable answer that mentions outcome of performance * No need to show extent * accept “merely” or “just” participate as BOD

2. Why has the author written “great” in inverted commas (line 5)? [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
They are so convinced of their own greatness that they are disappointed when the world refuses to affirm how “great” they know they are. (Lines 4-5)	The author is implying that the millennials alone falsely assume they are highly capable. [1] OR The author is being sarcastic as he feels the millennials have an inflated ego about their own abilities. In reality, they are the only ones who think of their own abilities as being fantastic. [1] <i>No need to pick up on sarcasm</i> *Answer needs to show that only the millennials themselves feel this way. *Do not award if no intention is shown, no mention of author’s perspective or the wrong intention is provided. *Do not award if subject is wrong Eg: Teens/youths

3. Explain the author’s use of the word “even” in line 9. [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Each country’s millennials are different, but because of globalisation, social media, the exporting of Western culture and the speed of change, millennials worldwide are more similar to one another than to older generations within their nations. Even in China, a generation as overconfident and self-involved as the Western one has been created. (Lines 7 – 10)	The author uses the word “even” to highlight the a) pervasiveness/inevitability of the selfishness/extreme pride among the millennials to the point that b) a conservative and conventional country such as China that prides itself in upholding traditional norms c) also faces a similar ailment among its own millennials. OR He wants to emphasise a) how influential the <u>forces of change</u> are in <u>influencing the millennials</u> (answer as a whole need to mention the subject of millennials) b) such that China, which is a country that is not only conservative but traditionally very resistant to Western culture has also managed to produce a generation c) that shares the same traits as those of their Western counterparts a = 1m b + c with a attempted but wrong = 1m no a = 0m a + b + c = 2m *Characteristics of the millennials must be present in pt a of the millennials *Forces of change – accept listing but DO NOT accept if only ONE tool is mentioned *Do not award if intention is incorrect. Attempted intention refers to either the tools of change or the character of the millennials. Eg: the huge influence of globalisation OR How pervasive the character of millennials are *Do not award if answer for (a) is vague. Eg: the author wants to show the extent/how far.... These answers are neutral hence vague

4. According to paragraph 3, why are the millennials “stunted” (line 16) in their growth? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>a) Now that <u>smartphones</u> allow millennials to socialise at every hour – an average of 88 texts are sent a day – they are living under the constant influence of their friends. Never before in history have people been able to grow up and reach the early twenties so dominated by peers.</p> <p>b) To develop intellectually, an individual has to relate to older people and older things. It is no wonder that millennials are stunted. (Lines 12 – 16)</p>	<p>They are stunted in their growth as a person because</p> <p>a) <u>smartphones/mobile devices</u> (necessary context) have ensured that they only always interact with / are highly shaped/moulded by people their own age [1]</p> <p>NOTE: allow paraphrase of dominated as influence and vice versa.</p> <p>*Allow lifting of smartphones, no context = 0m</p> <p>*Accept as long as smartphones are mentioned anywhere in the answer</p> <p>*Award as long as extent is shown in capturing either, “every hour”, “never before”, or “so dominated”</p> <p>**Do not accept technology/electronic device/internet</p> <p>*Accept communications device/communicating online/social media apps or sites</p> <p>b) and they are not communicating/learning from people who are older and ideas/values/items from the past/memorabilia/historic items/artefacts. [1]</p> <p>*BOD adults for older people</p> <p>*Do not accept history/past issues</p>

5. What does the phrase “perceived immaturity” (line 17) suggest about the millennials? [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>In spite of their perceived immaturity, this is the most threatening and exciting generation not because they are trying to take over the Establishment, but because they are growing up without one. (Lines 17 – 19)</p>	<p>The millennials may appear to be juvenile but they are not.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The millennials are not as childish as they seem</p> <p>*Do not accept repeat of the words in the question as that doesn't explain anything</p> <p>*Do not accept: childlike/naïve/inexperienced</p> <p>*Do not accept a positive paraphrase of perceived immaturity. <i>Eg: The millennials are actually very mature/mentally developed/ adult-like</i></p>

6. Using your own words as far as possible, what are the distinctions between the millennials and the “baby boomers” mentioned in lines 19 to 22? [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>a) While the <u>Industrial Revolution</u> has made baby boomers powerful – they could move to a city, start a business, and form organisations,</p> <p>b) the <u>Information Revolution</u> has further empowered millennials by handing them the technology to compete against huge organisations: <i>hackers versus corporations, bloggers versus newspapers, YouTubers versus studios</i>. (Lines 19 – 22)</p>	<p>a) The <u>Industrial Revolution</u> [context needed] has made baby boomers mobile, entrepreneurial and start/create groups/establishments [1m]</p> <p>b) whereas the <u>Information Revolution</u> [context needed] has allowed the millennials to contend with colossal/giant/large organisations [1m]</p> <p>*Accept if students group “start a business and form organisations”</p> <p>OR</p> <p>a) The <u>Industrial Revolution</u> [context needed] has enabled baby boomers</p> <p>b) but the <u>Information Revolution</u> [context needed] has emboldened the millennials even more/ greatly enabled the millennials</p> <p>*degree must be conveyed for the word "huge" in pt b</p> <p>** Examples in italics need not be paraphrased but do not penalise if students paraphrased them</p> <p>***Contrast needed for full 2m</p>

7. Explain the irony in the first line of paragraph 5. [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Millennials are interacting all day but almost entirely through a screen . (Line 23)	<p>Expected: a) By saying that the millennials are interacting all day, it is expected that they are out socialising with actual people</p> <p>Actual: b) However, all they are doing is actually just sending messages over a device <u>instead of having face-to-face interactions</u></p> <p>OR</p> <p>a) It is ironic that the millennials' idea of interacting is no longer about face-to-face socialising/conversations b) but simple sending of text messages through the phone/ through connecting over the internet while they are isolated from each other</p> <p>*a) needs to show face-to-face/ physical interaction b) needs to show on screen ** No Irony = 0m *Award even if answer has no subject mentioned *Accept "directly" for FTF *Do NOT accept "live" for FTF *Do not award if subject is different, i.e. people vs millennials *Do not award if answer presented as inverted commas (refer to google doc for eg)</p>

8. Explain how the author justifies the use of the word "apathetic" (line 29) to describe the millennials. Use your own words as far as possible [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Millennials are apathetic: a) they have less civic engagement and b) lower political participation than any previous group . (Lines 28 – 29) <u>*Focus of this question is to test that the students are able to understand the purpose of the colon and so answers should only come from the portion that follows the colon.</u> <u>**Ignore answers that come from elsewhere</u>	He does so by saying that the millennials a) do not really bother to make a difference to their societies [1m] b) and are less involved in politics/ care less about what the government is doing than the generations before [1m] OR He highlights how the millennials/they are not as involved in a) social and [1m] b) political issues compared to all the generations that came before/other generations [1m] *Do not accept answers of 0% like "do not care/do not bother" *Accept Least involved in social and political issues *NOTE: <u>Answer for b needs to reflect the idea that the millennials do the LEAST among ANY other generations and NOT about comparing them to the past</u>

9. What do you understand by “people are inflating themselves like balloons on Facebook” (lines 34-35)? [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
According to W. Keith Campbell, a psychology professor at the University of Georgia, “ People are inflating themselves like balloons on Facebook. If you do this well enough on Instagram, YouTube and Twitter, you can become a microcelebrity.”(Lines 33 – 36)	<p>The <u>millennial's Facebook</u> is filled with posts of a mundane or superficial nature in order to make it seem like they lead interesting or busy lives.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The attention the <u>millennials</u> shower on themselves on <u>social media</u> is self-aggrandising.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The <u>millennials</u> are boasting about their lives on Facebook</p> <p>*Can lift Facebook **Necessary subject = the millennials (BOD people) Necessary context = Facebook/social media ***No context = 0m *Accept any answer that shows that millennials are trying to make themselves look good</p>

10. Explain what the author means by “a generation’s greatness should not be undermined by their shortcomings” (lines 37-38). [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
While it may be easy to write the millennials off, a generation's greatness should not be undermined by their shortcomings , but determined by how they react to the challenges that befall them. (Lines 37 – 38)	<p>a) The <u>millennials'</u> achievements/successes [1m] b) should not be weakened/destroyed/marred/limited(BOD) as a result of their flaws/mistakes.[1m]</p> <p>*Necessary subject = Millennials, no subject = 0m **Degree of greatness needed</p>

12. Explain what the author means by “they will, for better or worse, inherit the earth” (line 74). [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
We are in the middle of a changing of the guard...They will, a1) for better a2) or worse , b) inherit the earth (Line 74)	<p>The author means that a) no matter how good or bad the <u>millennials</u> are/become [1] b) they are the ones who will become the guardians/custodians of the world [1] OR b) the world will eventually belong to them [1]</p> <p>*Answer in a needs to show the idea of <u>having no choice of the outcome</u> *Do not accept words with negative connotations for "inherit" *Pt a should refer to the characteristics of the millennials and not their actions or what happens to the earth *Do not accept vague answers or metaphorical answers **Necessary subject: The millennials, no subject = 0m</p>

11. Using material from paragraphs 8-11 (lines 44-71), summarise that the author has to say about the characteristics of millennials and how they would be advantaged in their careers.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below.

Use your own words as far as possible. [8]

One characteristic of the millennials is...

	From the passage	Suggested answer
A	They are <i>technologically adept</i> , (line 42)	proficient/skilful/good/well-versed/very knowledgeable/vast knowledge of at using technology <i>*Do not accept knowledgeable/ have knowledge</i>
B	<i>technologically precocious</i> , (line 42)	from a very young age
C	growing up with a rattle in one hand and a computer mouse in the other (line 42-43)	because they have been exposed to technology from birth/young
D	They may have the least seniority but claimed the most authority when it came to <i>technical support</i> (line 43-44)	This makes them technological experts despite being the most junior/youngest <i>*Point should indicate it is about technical support/technology</i>
E	They welcome change (line 44)	They look forward to new experiences/embrace spontaneity <i>*Do not accept answers that are negative (do not mind)</i> <i>*Do not accept evolution for change</i>
F	by nature well-suited for the unpredictable workplace of the future (line 45)	so they are inherently/fundamentally/ innately equipped for the ever-changing/ volatile workplace of the future <i>*Context of workplace/jobs/career must be present</i>
G	They do not know enough to be prudent , (line 45)	They are without adequate understanding to be wise , <i>*Do not accept answers that are conclusions drawn. Eg: too hasty/ rash</i>
H	and therefore attempt the impossible (line 46)	they thus try the unfathomable <i>*G and H are a set</i>
I	They have less baggage (they get married later, and have children even later in life) and can therefore afford to take risks . (line 46-47)	With less commitments, they are able to take chances OR As they settle down later, they form families at an older age, they are able to take chances .
J	They think differently , (line 48)	They are creative / they have dissimilar mindsets / alternative approaches
K1	unencumbered by <u>years of education and experience</u> (line 48) <i>Award only if point J is present</i>	As they are not burdened / hindered/ unhampered by years of education and experience <i>Context of education and experience is needed for K1 & K2</i>
K2	which were once necessary to succeed, but are now increasingly seen as irrelevant , even a liability. (line 48 -49) <i>Award only if point J is present</i>	as it is more unnecessary today /presently appears to be even more outdated <i>Context of education and experience is needed for K1 & K2</i>
L	For a <u>company</u> to think outside the box, why not learn by working with people who do not know there is a box? (line 50 -51)	For <u>companies</u> that want to be innovative, creative millennials are sought after . OR The millennials' creative minds have aided companies which need to innovate .
M	They are independent . (line 52)	They are self-directed / do not follow others / strike out on their own / work well on their own/ self-sufficient/ self-reliant/ not reliant on others <i>*Do not accept negation i.e. not dependent</i> <i>**Do not accept limited context of friends/family for do not rely/do not follow</i>
N	One of the most pervasive business trends of the past decade has been the rise of the free agent, caused both by the breakdown of the social contract between companies and employees,	(inferred) Idea should reflect the understanding of free agent which is about free-lancing/ being your own boss or outsourcing

	and by the growing share in the workforce of knowledge workers with portable skills. (line 50-52)	along with being a jack-of-all-trades or having multiple talents
O	The millennials came of age as that social contract was dissolving. (line 54-55) <i>Award only if point P is present</i>	The millennials have matured in the time in which the social contract was disintegrating / becoming irrelevant
P	They have never expected loyalty from a company, nor have they expected to give it. (line 55-56)	They do not ever demand fidelity from firms, nor feel required to dispense it.
Q	They define themselves by their skills , not the firm they work for. (line 56-57)	Their identity is based on their abilities / capabilities , no the companies that employ them.
R	The overwhelming majority of graduates see their career at graduation not as a straight line of advancement in one company but as a zigzag path from company to company, job to job, skill to skill. (line 57-58)	The bulk of millennials do not stick to one job company and wait for promotion, they job hop as a means of climbing up the ladder. <i>*Accept "multi-directional job progression"</i>
S	They are entrepreneurial (line 59) or it is no surprise that more have been striking out on their own. (line 60)	They set up/start their own businesses <i>*Accept business-minded / business-oriented / business driven/enterprising</i>
T	With a booming economy, capital for the taking and an unprecedented technological opportunity (lines 59 - 60) <i>Award only if point S is present</i>	With a rising economy, funds to finance their businesses, and uncharted levels of technological possibilities/wonders
U	This is not just the bravado of callow youth: (line 61)	Not only do they have the arrogance / swagger / boldness / foolhardiness of inexperience / immaturity
V	by the time they enter university, most teenagers already know far more about the business world than their parents ever did. (line 65-66)	they are very much aware / very well aware/ have extensive experience of the ways of doing commerce/entrepreneurship/ economy <i>*Do not accept economics</i>
W	The signs of this business precociousness are everywhere (line 61 - 62)	It is common/ the norm/ Generally, the millennials are proficient beyond their years / prodigious in business.
X	Now they run on-campus Incubators (line 64) <i>Award only if point Y is present</i>	Today, tertiary institutions / colleges provide spaces / manage / organise start-ups / Incubators.
Y	for the shrinking number of students that have postponed entrepreneurship long enough to go to college at all. (line 65-66)	A larger number of students start businesses rather than pursue formal education OR <i>(inferred)</i> Students are increasingly prioritising their economic / business ambitions rather than educational ones.

No of Points	Marks
1 – 2	1
3 – 4	2
5 – 6	3
7 – 8	4
9	5
10 – 11	6
12 – 13	7
≥ 14	8

13. Joel Stein makes observations about the millennial's best and worst traits. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your society? [10]

Marks	Description
1 – 2	<p>Award 1m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No proper argument quoted i.e. free-writing or simply repeating of question Incomplete arguments with only a quote and/or a stand Point picked is not an argument at all <p>Award 2m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly restatement without any reference to Sg Society No opinions and is simply a paraphrase/ description of the author's opinion instead
3 – 4	<p>Award 3m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some misunderstanding of the author's point or point not discussed in the correct context but evaluation and explanation is acceptable AND/OR evaluation is barely considered and is mostly just a description or repetition of what the author is saying (echoing author's point without own opinion) Overall argument is completely illogical/incoherent/irrelevant (high level of misunderstanding) <p>Award 4m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct argument picked but not properly explained or developed Evaluation present but mostly general observations or personal examples Some name-dropping attempted but not entirely accurate Tends to have logical flaws or gaps in reasoning even though overall opinion makes sense
5 – 6	<p>Award 5m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation includes proper examples Some attempts at proper development of argument though not entirely perfect Some minor misunderstanding but does not affect argument and reasoning much Few gaps in reasoning Balance attempted but may not be successful <p>Award 6m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No misreading or misunderstanding of point Evaluation is good and supported by substantial examples or apt observations Balance provided but not perfect
7 – 8	<p>Award 7m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 1 6m argument provided Balance is provided and achieved <p>Award 8m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 properly developed and evaluated arguments provided with balance included OR 2 properly developed and evaluated arguments that are well supported and one slightly weaker argument this is inclusive of balance Examples in this band must be real examples and not simply apt observations or personal experience There is limited gaps in reasoning or no gaps in reasoning at all, allowing for a cogent and coherent argument
9 – 10	<p>Award 9m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete AQ with at least 3 arguments and introduction and conclusion provided though intro and conclusion need not be good Real examples used with no gaps in reasoning Coherent and cogent arguments with constant reference to points from the passage Sg society characteristics properly considered and used to further the argument made <p>Award 10m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly convincing piece that shows understanding of the author's arguments and proper consideration of what these arguments might entail for the Singapore society Apt examples that are wide ranging together with Singapore characteristics to support evaluation that is convincing Balance is achieved seamlessly and there is an overall coherence to the piece Introduction and conclusion shows proper insight and understanding

Language marks

12m	Good vocab, very clean, few grammar mistakes, no basic grammar mistakes like (sp, t, sv), includes signal markers in AQ and summary.
11m	Good vocab i.e. answers are often rather similar to answer key, same as 12 but not much use of signal markers
10m	Same as 11 but makes some basic grammar errors though answers can still be understood
To get 10m and above. student should not have lifted anything maybe just 1 lift	
9m	Average - range of mistakes but expression is largely clear, some lifts in summary
8m	Some unclear expressions, greater number of basic errors (T, SV, SP) lifting in summary and SAQ
7m	Answer requires re-reading even in AQ portion, errors of many types esp EXP, WW, SS

ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION



GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

PAPER 1

24 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials: Writing Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, Civics Group and register number on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.
Note that **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All the questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This question paper consists of 2 printed pages.

Answer **one** question from this Paper.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. Are rules meant to be broken?
2. Is singlehood still to be avoided?
3. 'Singapore for Singaporeans.' Discuss.
4. Do you agree that there is little value in literature today?
5. Does a country's economic progress guarantee quality of life?
6. 'There is no harm in the young trying everything they want.' Do you agree?
7. 'The environment is the main cause of our health woes today.' Discuss.
8. 'Small countries can never make a real impact in today's world.' Discuss.
9. How effective has your country been in creating a national identity?
10. Does modern technology satisfy our wants rather than our needs?
11. Is it better for a country to focus on the needs of the young rather than the needs of the rest of the society?
12. 'The right to die should be respected as much as the right to live.' To what extent do you agree?

2017 JC2 Prelim Answer Scheme

1. ARE RULES MEANT TO BE BROKEN?

Analysis

Students should consider a range of different rules (from regulations, protocols, laws etc) and examine the arguments for adhering to or breaking these rules from various levels - individual, family, societal or international. Students should not provide a laundry list of what types of rules are meant to be observed or meant to be broken.

Clarification of Terms

- Rules - Explicit or understood/tacit regulations or principles governing the conduct or procedure. Rules, regulations and policies necessarily exist to establish a basic framework within which an organization operates.
- Meant to be - Intended to be

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

Yes, rules are meant to be broken

1. Rules are not universal, they are contextual

Rules are, more often than not, generalizations, designed to apply to most people and in most situations. Rules were formed depending on a range of factors, such as history, people, processes and goals. They are not tailored to specifically meet every single unique circumstance. Therefore, blindly following rules in every situation can be instead seen as foolish and merely blind adherence. Rules are based on theories of what is best and those theories are based on the available information at the time they were created, this means that rules can often be outdated or irrelevant yet blindly followed. Especially in cases of emergencies, rules are not made to cover every single type of emergency and thus discretion should be taken in deciding if rules should be rigidly followed. These rules might also not be well constructed.

2. Rules should just be seen as guidelines since they can limit potential, ability to explore and prevent us from living our lives fully or reaching greater heights

"Rules are for the obedience of fools and the guidance of wise men." – Harry Day. Rules are rigid and confine behaviour and thinking within a preconceived space. Rules are created to protect the status quo, not to spur innovation. Singapore's rigid bend toward uncompromising performance excellence also means it is less agile than other markets. It also means that, should this continue, she will always be at the mercy of international businesses and foreign talents as her workforce currently lacks the assertiveness skills, courage and grit to take helm of the innovative changes necessary to level up its economy. Excessive rules can also cause over-regulation and lower efficiency and productivity. In Singapore, Singaporeans follow rules rigidly. This causes us to have weak adaptation skills when things change and in new situations with no pre-established rules. In a way, this creates fear of the unknown and limits our ability to take advantage of new situations.

3. Rules take away our right, independence and autonomy

Every day governments pass laws to make us a safer society. As they make society safer they are slowly chewing away at people's rights, liberties, and personal freedoms. Where is the line between where our right to choose is more important than the government's right to impose their standards on us, even if it is for our own good? We now have law regulating everything. We are forced to wear seat belts. Smokers cannot smoke outside. Governments want to regulate abortion, religion, sex, child discipline, marriage, and free speech.

More devastatingly, rules remove our ability to think for ourselves when we get so accustomed to blindly following them. Recently, scientists have recreated the notorious Milgram Experiment and found that even in today's supposedly enlightened times, obedience to rules and authority could be a dominant factor in our decision making.

rules as a defence for their wrongdoing. In businesses, the standard line from an employee of a rule-bound company is "hey, I'm not losing my job over this," taking away our ability to make the right choices and decisions because of our fear of breaking rules.

Rules are not meant to be broken

1. As they create order and stability.

Rules, even the most seemingly objectionable ones, are meant to keep one and others safe as one is made aware of the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable actions. This ensures the effective functioning of society, for example, school rules instil discipline in students and laws of a country ensure that citizens are protected from one another. So if one goes against rules, the law can be enforced. Rules also help to protect the rights of the minority groups in society so that they are not taken advantage of and become resentful. For example, Singapore's Manpower Ministry has employment laws in place to penalise discriminatory practices related to age and gender. Under the Retirement and Re-employment Act, an employer cannot dismiss an employee on the grounds of age. Rules also ensure that people are aware of what to do in crises so that society is not thrown into chaos.

2. As they can guide one's actions.

Rules function as general guidelines for society, and were made and implemented to help reinforce what is acceptable / moral, and what is not. Written codes aid in negotiating one's way through life and helps one to do one's job better. In fact, many groups of professionals subscribe to a code of ethics that govern their actions and conduct. For example, the American Medical Association prescribes a detailed code of medical ethics stating clearly patient-doctor relationships and confidentiality issues. The teaching profession in Singapore too abides by a Code of Professional Conduct for Educators that guides teachers on their conduct and help them uphold standards amid an increasingly complex environment. In arbitration, rules are important because they help to determine which party is right or wrong and the appropriate action or punishment to be meted out to the respective parties.

3. As they express the collective wisdom / shared understanding of people.

Rules (in the broadest sense) are a distillation of the collective wisdom of a society. Passed down through the generations, these rules help people to determine and reinforce what is permissible and what is prohibited in many areas of life. By doing so, this reinforces the values, beliefs and principles that are cherished and deemed important to people. For instance, what we consume and how it is consumed (like diet and dining etiquettes) to all the major milestones in life's journey (birth, coming of age, marriage, death).

2. IS SINGLEHOOD STILL TO BE AVOIDED?

Analysis

It has been the traditional thinking that being single is not what humans are created to be. Procreation to ensure the continuance of one's family line is considered to be one of the most important responsibilities of being married. As such, remaining single is traditionally frowned upon, and the terms "bachelor" and "spinster" even carry negative connotations, as if there is something wrong with people who remain unmarried. They could be considered to be physically or mentally defective. Singlehood was to be avoided at all cost, less you want to be shunned or looked at with suspicion. However over time, values and family mores change, and today, being single is a matter of choice and no longer something to be simply dismissed. In fact, it is even recognised as desirable for some.

Clarification of Terms

- Still - It was, or it happened. But does it prevail till today? Does it continue till today?
- To be avoided - Suggests that there is something inherently wrong with remaining single that could be harmful to both individuals and society.

Singlehood is still to be avoided

1. Societal and social expectations prevail till the present time to pressure singles to get married.

Parents with adult children live with the wish for their children to get married and start families of their own. This hope to see their children grow up, become mature and responsible adults and then settle down existed in the past, and this expectation continues to exert pressure on single children who may have plans and aspirations of their own that they want to fulfil. In Asia, such expectations are especially evident as it is a traditional and cultural belief that has been deeply entrenched over centuries in their lives. Such an expectation is translated into a sense of family duty. Such a duty is in turn attached to being filial to not only one's parents, but also the generations of ancestors before them, and single children are perceived to not have fulfilled this duty. The burden of getting married sits squarely on the shoulders of such children. As a result, single children are put through a gruelling process during family gatherings, where relatives question why they are still not married and how their parents are still waiting to have grandchildren to dote on. Singles fear times like this, and some would go out of their way to avoid relatives during festive occasions. Some live with a sense of guilt, especially for single Asian males who assume the obligation of carrying on their family lineage and therefore not fulfil their duties. In this sense, being single is to be averted due to fervent family and societal pressure to get married.

2. Single people continue to live with the fear of leading a lonely existence.

Humans are social beings and families are the closest kin who see us through thick and thin. In the past when most people got married, single people often ended up leading lonely lives, with no family members to rely on. Today, even with society being more accepting of singlehood, single people continue to fear being lonely as our society becomes more individualistic. Privacy is valued to the detriment of single people as people respect the rights of others to remain single. To avoid making single people feel awkward during social gatherings, they may not be invited for such gatherings.

3. In an increasingly greying world, the social and economic impact of a society that consists of largely single people ought to be feared in various ways.

In our modern world, sociologists and economists are warning about the impending negative impact of a declining birth rate, made worse by an ageing population. This is also compounded by an increasing number of single people, and it is especially prevalent in developed countries, from Singapore to Europe. A 2015 Gallup Poll revealed that a whopping 64% of respondents were single and never married, and this number showed a steady increase over the past decade. The American Bureau of Labor Statistics confirmed that there are more single Americans than married ones: in 1950, there was about 22% single people, while it is now 50.2%. Social support facilities could be strained as a result, especially when they grow old and have no one to rely on, and the burden of sustaining them falls on the government, and therefore the taxpayers, possibly disproportionately displacing the other needs of the society.

Singlehood is no longer to be avoided

1. Modern society, which is a lot more open and accepting of differences, no longer frown on those who choose to remain single, but recognise singlehood as a lifestyle choice that ought to be respected.

While single people could be shunned in the past due to the stereotypical views that there could be something

wrong with them or they were queer, today, people are more open to them. This is because being single is perceived to be an alternative lifestyle that carries with it a right that nobody should deny. Just as there are alternative marriages and alternative sexual orientations that are a lot more public nowadays – as people accept these alternative lifestyles – singlehood is just part of this trend. Even Singaporeans, still largely conservative, are part of this trend. In the past divorcees were stigmatised, especially for divorced women who were (unfairly) perceived as used goods, and they could be ostracised socially as well. But today, being divorced is socially acceptable.

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2. With the aid of advanced technologies, elderly singles could still live a healthy existence and remain productive citizens who contribute much to the economy.

Debilitating diseases that plagued the single elderly used to be a huge issue, especially when such ailments caused suffering, rendering the old folks totally dependent and hanging on to a meaningless existence, alone and neglected. However today, with phenomenal advances in medical technologies, such diseases have either been eliminated or the conditions are alleviated to the extent that the elderly could live a reasonably productive and quality life. Being stricken with cancer, a common dreaded disease among old folks, is not as scary as before as scientists are racing to find a cure for it, and meanwhile, when diagnosed early, cancer could be arrested. Other diseases such as coronary heart diseases, osteoporosis and stroke – which those who are growing old as singles could be prone to – could be managed well with medicine. In addition, education on ways to lead a healthier lifestyle to curtail the onslaught of old-aged diseases are freely available on social media. There are health programmes, forums and talks – on dieting and exercise – that are specially tailored for single people as they are a vulnerable group when growing old by themselves. With such a prevalent availability of health-related services, what is there to be afraid of when growing old as singles?

3. The current trend of singlehood is one of active ageing and growing old gracefully and purposefully.

Unlike in the past when single people were less educated and therefore had less personal aspirations. They would often just flow with what life offered them, and accept that growing old meant slowing down and becoming decrepit and reliant on families and society for provision. In a sense, they just wait, alone, for the Grim Reaper to get them. Today, there are many clubs and activities that are targeted specifically to cater to the needs of the silver tsunami. Many governments, aware that the increased older population could potentially become a financial and emotional burden to society, are taking active steps to counter this by advocating active ageing. A lot more activities are organised for the singles, ranging from outings, meals, dates, tours, etc.

3. 'SINGAPORE FOR SINGAPOREANS.' DISCUSS.

Analysis

Students need to understand and unpack the implications of the quote 'Singapore for Singaporeans' in the light of tensions and xenophobia regarding the increasing influx of foreigners and immigration issues. Students should also recognise the difficulties and challenges that Singapore faces should the needs of Singaporeans only be placed as top priority. They should also acknowledge that for our nation's success and survival, there is a need to find a balance between the two extremes.

Clarification of Terms

- Singapore for Singaporeans – the notion that the needs of Singaporean citizens must be placed as utmost importance. This implies that government's policies and decisions regarding various aspects of life, for example, employment and educational opportunities, should be centred around Singaporeans and not non-Singaporeans

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

Singapore is for Singaporeans

1. As Singapore has limited resources and these resources should be given to Singaporeans.

As a small island state, Singapore has limited resources whether in terms of infrastructure, housing, jobs or educational opportunities. With more foreigners entering Singapore, local Singaporeans feel that there is a growing strain on these resources. For example, the increasing number of foreigners over the last few years have impacted our transportation system, causing many Singaporeans to complain about the over-crowded buses and trains especially during peak hours. Also, there is a perception that non-Singaporeans pose a threat to local Singaporeans' job security as there is increasing competition for the jobs available and the foreigners are taking up opportunities and better job prospects in companies and organisations which would have previously gone to the local Singaporeans. In addition, immigration has been blamed for rising prices of housing and education. The

result is that local Singaporeans feel disadvantaged and develop a sense of unhappiness and dissatisfaction. Hence it can be argued that the livelihood of Singaporeans should be placed as a priority and these job opportunities and promotions ought to be given to the locals first. For example, the Fair Consideration Framework was implemented on 1 August 2014 to alleviate perceptions that foreigners are given preferential treatment in hiring processes. Employers must now consider Singaporeans before hiring Employment Pass Holders.

2. As it is the responsibility of the Singapore government to take care of Singaporeans' needs.

It is widely accepted that the government of a country is duty-bound to take care of the needs of its citizens. If the government does not take care of the people who voted it into power, then who will? As a result of concerns raised by Singaporeans regarding employment, the government revised immigration policies and implemented several measures, such as the Fair Consideration Framework which encourages employers to consider more local applicants. In addition, the Ministry of Manpower introduced stricter requirements, such as a higher minimum salary for employment pass holders and a more stringent review of the qualifications submitted by potential applicants. In terms of education, school and miscellaneous fees payable by Singapore citizens is much lower than foreign students.

3. As there is a need to preserve the Singaporean identity

Foreigners bring with them their own traditions, cultural beliefs and practices and it is unsurprising that there is fear among Singaporeans that not only will local cultures and norms be infringed, the Singaporean identity would be diluted too. For example, in 2011, the dispute between a migrant family from China and a Singaporean Indian family over the smell of curry emanating from the latter's home sparked off a huge public uproar about immigrants who were critical about Singapore's cultural practices. As a result, the "Cook and Share a Pot of Curry" campaign was started by Singaporean, Florence Leow, who used Facebook to encourage Singaporeans to cook curry at home on 21 August 2011 to celebrate curries as Singaporeans' way of life.

Singapore is not just for Singaporeans (ie also for foreigners)

1. As Singaporeans and foreigners are needed to contribute to a dynamic economy.

Due to the decreasing birth rates and an ageing population, Singapore simply lacks the resources and manpower to ensure that our economy continues to grow. According to a report by The Straits Times in February 2017, the country's total fertility rate (TFR) in 2016 has dropped to 1.20. This is below the previous year's rate of 1.24, which is well below the 2.1 rate a population needs to achieve to replace itself. The number of working-age Singaporeans will still start to decrease from 2020 and at our current low birth rate, our citizen population will age rapidly and start declining from 2025 if we do not take in any new immigrants. The Singapore government released the Population White Paper in 2013 in a bid to increase the population to 6.9 million by 2030. For Singapore's survival in the long term, it is imperative that we continue to attract a pool of talented people from other countries that can add value to Singapore's economic growth. Skilled immigrants are beneficial to Singapore as Singapore will be able to increase her talent pool and improve the quality of labour workforce, making it industrious and highly efficient. It is also important to recognise that some foreigners are only transient workers and they do not intend to make Singapore their home and stay here for the long term. Nevertheless, foreigners in Singapore are able to pass down the skills and techniques they learned back in their host countries and contribute and share ideas with Singaporeans, upgrading the locals' expertise. Also, in the light of increasing competition from the growing

economies of our neighbouring countries, our population and workforce must support a dynamic economy that can steadily create good jobs and opportunities to meet the hopes and aspirations of Singaporeans and non-Singaporeans alike.

2. As it is not just Singaporeans but foreigners which help to make Singapore's cultural landscape even more vibrant and colourful.

In addition to celebrating Chinese, Indian and Malay cultures, foreigners bring in their unique cultural values, practices and traditions which help to augment the cosmopolitan nature of Singapore as a Renaissance City,

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bringing us to be at the same level as other multi-cultural cities such as London, France and New York. At the International Women's Forum 20th Anniversary Dinner, Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, spoke of the importance of diversity as a source of strength. The melting pot of cultures from across the world such as French, British, Italian, Japanese and Korean add colour and liveliness, helping to promote Singapore's reputation as a global city.

3. As Singapore is historically a country of immigrants who came from different parts of the world

Historically Singapore attracted immigrants from China, India, the Malay Archipelago, and beyond even from her earlier years. Singapore's very existence is built on being open to immigration and in fact, there are few Singaporeans whose forefathers were not themselves immigrants. Today there are many foreigners who come to Singapore to live, study or work both on a short term or long term basis. As of June 2016, Singapore's total population stood at 5.61 million out of which there were 3.41 million Singapore citizens, 0.52 million permanent residents and 1.67 million non-residents, including dependants, international students and foreign individuals who are here to work and live. Already Singapore cannot and should not contemplate reserving Singapore only for Singaporeans and closing our borders to foreigners and immigrants. Local Singaporeans have also written in to the press to encourage fellow Singaporeans to have a mindset of being more accepting towards other cultures, reminding them that Singapore is also from immigrant stock. The reality of today's global world too is that people come and leave. Singaporeans should therefore adopt an open mindset and be more accepting towards foreigners.

4. DO YOU AGREE THAT THERE IS LITTLE VALUE IN LITERATURE TODAY?

Analysis

The assumption is that there was value in literature in the past but not now. That the world today is fast, competitive, materialistic and very practical and as such, has little need for literature. The art of writing, is deemed to have no practical value, relevance or meaning.

Clarification of Terms

- Literature - An art form to do with stories or writings in prose or verse expressing ideas of permanent or universal interest / the body of written works produced in a particular language, country or age / Examples: poetry, novels, history, biography and essays.

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

Yes, I agree that there is little value in literature today

1. As it has very little to do with real life and its practical concerns.

Compared to the sciences which can be used in a practical way in our daily life, art cannot do the same. The uses of the sciences, whether biology, chemistry or physics, are varied and seen everywhere. It tells us how the world works and offers solutions to problems that we face in the physical world, our bodies, etc. It can help us live better, save us from disease and disaster. Literature, however, is secondary and more like a leisure or past-time activity that one engage in during our spare time to amuse or entertain ourselves. It is not essential to our survival. In general, many Asian societies (Singapore included) see little value in pursuing the arts, literature included. It may help improve one's language but is unlike mathematics and the technical sciences that can give one more future work options. As such, parents may not encourage their children's interest in literature.

2. As people have little time nor patience to read literature.

People today are busy with work and family obligations. They are unlikely to spend the little time they have reading literature that will not help them improve their lives in any way. They are more likely to spend time on work-related reading materials and self-help books that will help them get a better job, to better meet their responsibilities or to get promoted. With the family, they are likely to spend leisure time out for a meal or shopping than to read quietly together or alone. Parents may also read up on parenting rather than to read

literature. They may also push their children to read up on enrichment books or more useful books that will help them get better grades rather than to 'waste time' reading make-believe stories. There are also many more trendy leisure activities today that provide fancy alternatives to reading which is more often than not seen as old-fashioned pursuit.

3. As there is no longer a culture that values the sustained reading of literature.

Very few children read in a sustained way these days. The Twitter generation, used to the snappy 140-character captions (including space), do not take to reading literature which requires focus, attention and discipline. They are used to short pieces of writing and are not able to engage deeply in literature that explores themes and motivations of the characters, etc. Many have taken to reading comics as well, whether it is the Japanese manga or the American Marvel super-heroes series. All these provide simple, repetitive tales in bite-size bits for a generation fed on instant information. Web-novels, self-published fiction are all the rage today with but these materials are not always worthy literature. Such writing does not help cultivate good readers as can be seen in some cringe-worthy but extremely popular fan fiction. Everything thinks they can write but do not read the classics to hone their skills.

No, I believe there is still value in literature today

1. As it expands our horizons

Literature opens our eyes and makes us see beyond our own little world. It helps us to realize the many interesting facets of life that literature from other cultures offer. We are exposed to different values and perspectives and this help us build our intuition and instinct to better deal with the myriad situations that may come our way. Many successful global companies have thinkers in their teams who come from different disciplines. Even tech companies recognise the value that input from employees with liberal arts background can bring and often recruit people with with different strengths.

2. As it builds our critical thinking skills

Critical thinking skills can be picked up in literature and language arts classes. When children read, they are taught to read between the lines, to make connections and to infer. They are taught to find symbols, and themes, and to examine the characters. They are taught to explore situations, evaluate, judge, give reasons for their choices. Reading literature expands these skills, especially since they are often 'put' in situations they may not have faced. In learning to look at a sentence with a larger sense of detail and depth, children can learn about the importance of making correct inferences from hidden meanings and this can be a useful skill in dealing with people. In the US, children are routinely exposed to language arts in schools and they learn to think on their feet and are often very vocal, eloquent and competent at getting their views across to people. In Australia's highly-regarded matriculation programmes, students undergo a compulsory arts programme that is intended to help them develop breadth of thinking, range of ideas and the ability to vocalise their thoughts. In Singapore, the NUS-Yale programme aims to do this as well. In literary studies, students analyse literary works, learn the life skills through their questioning of assumptions and norms and the weighing of options.

3. As it helps us to understand the past and to appreciate our own / other people and cultures.

A people's history and culture are intertwined with its literature. A country's story is not just about power struggles, wars and dates. It is about the people who are products of their time. Without literature, we would not know about our families, the lives of our fellowmen, and what came before them and us. Reading cross-cultural literature provides us with a way of learning about other countries, their unique values and beliefs. It allows us to understand and personally 'experience' these other systems of living. Most importantly, we get an insight into the minds and reasoning of someone else. In doing so, we can appreciate them better, even if the book is JD Salinger's controversial 'The Catcher in the Rye', it comes highly recommended by former American President George W Bush and Microsoft's founder, Bill Gates. Such knowledge helps us to make connections in a global world, and is especially relevant to Singapore, which prides itself as one of the world's most diverse and cosmopolitan city states.

4. As it addresses our shared humanity and encourages us to be more empathetic.

All literature, whether it be poems, essays, novels, or short stories, helps us address our human nature and the conditions which affect us. It may be about life and death, birth and loss our doubts and fears. Rivalry and friendship, jealousy, love, compassion, forgiveness and etc. In short, literature helps us to explore the infinite possibilities in our responses, to live well and to make better choices. Regardless of the context, the setting or where the literature hails from, it speaks of the same universal experiences. Regardless of whether it is Greek or Chinese mythology or even contemporary children's literature like JK Rowling's Harry Potter series, literature teaches good values like empathy and love. The latter, for example is enjoyed by successful people from such different walks of life as England's football captain Wayne Rooney and Facebook's COO, Sheryl Sandberg. Local stories written by Catherine Lim (Little Ironies, the Bondmaid, etc.) and Suzhen Christine Lim (A Bit of Earth, The River's Song, etc.) are long-time favourites that teach values that never go out of fashion and are often included in Singapore schools' reading programmes.

5. As literature hones our imagination and provides us with the ability to think outside the box.

Everything that man makes, creates or becomes, begins with imagination. The best of technologies that are deemed practical, useful and essential, all start from a creator or a thinker's imagination. Literature, as an art form, does this very job of thinking up of the unlikely, improbable and near impossible. If one cannot imagine it, one cannot make or become it. Steve Jobs never made it as a coder or programmer but from his love of calligraphy (an art of writing), he created beautiful fonts and devices that captivated the world, making Apple Inc. the world's most valuable company. He was also known for enjoying literary classics like Herman Melville's 'Moby Dick', which was incidentally a favourite of former US President Barack Obama, who became America's first black president. Both mentioned in interviews that the novel addresses themes of knowledge and fate that they applied in charting their careers. For the very reason that literature readers can think differently, past dictators and tyrants often destroyed their country's literature in an attempt to stop them from thinking, e.g. China's Cultural Revolution.

5. DOES A COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS GUARANTEE QUALITY OF LIFE?

Analysis

Most developed economies have been highly successful in increasing economic growth. But impressive increase in national output cannot guarantee an improvement in people's quality of life. To decide whether economic growth has increased happiness is highly subjective. It is sometimes assumed that the two terms (economic progress & quality of life) refer to the same thing. There is some overlapping in what is measured but there are also differences. They do not necessarily rise and fall in tandem. Ironically, economic progress can actually detract from one's quality of life even if one's standard of living goes up.

Clarification of Terms

- Economic progress - Economic growth is an increase in the capacity of an economy to produce goods and services, measured most commonly by higher GDP per capita.
- Quality of life - personal satisfaction, including one's standard of living and other non-tangible aspects like happiness, health, one's well-being, opportunity, education, leisure, safety & security, basic rights, one's material and natural living environment, etc.)

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

Yes, a country's economic progress guarantees quality of life

1. As people benefit from having more choices and the opportunity to buy and consume more.

People generally gain when there are more goods and services in the country. An assumption of economics is that having more options to buy and consume is related to having greater convenience, efficiency and efficacy in the way we live. To have more is to prosper. To have less, is not. On a basic level, a country's economic progress is a reflection of its ability to provide a better quality of life for its citizens.

than not, whether it is about simple daily household products that we buy at the supermarket (e.g. meat cuts from Australia, USA or Japan, etc.) or the dining options (Western, Middle-eastern, Asian, etc.) one may have at a lifestyle mall like Ion or Vivocity).

2. As there are real benefits to having improved services and amenities, especially public goods and services.

With increased tax revenues the government can spend more on important public services such as health and education. Improved health care can improve quality of life through treating diseases and increasing life expectancy. People will feel more secure and in control of their life when there are various options they can pursue in seeking treatment, e.g. for any one of the first-world health concerns like high cholesterol, gout or even cancer. Increased educational standards can give the population more choices pursuing their interests and a greater diversity of skills and literacy. This empowers young people, giving greater freedom and opportunity to venture out into the world to try out new opportunities. Education is seen as an important determinant of welfare and happiness and Singaporeans benefit from this, being able to welcome and host many foreigners in our small island as well as be welcomed by our counterparts in other countries. Such joint ventures have led to not just economic gains but social ones as well. The universities support exchange programmes to many countries and the government ties up with many industries to encourage overseas stints all over the world.

3. As there will be reduced unemployment and poverty and greater opportunities for people to achieve their aspirations and be gainfully employed.

Economic progress helps to reduce unemployment by creating jobs. This is significant because unemployment is a major source of social problems such as crime and alienation. There are great social gains as well. On the personal level, the individual is more secure, leading to the higher chance that they will marry, have a family, buy a home, be invested in the community and have a care for what goes on in society. This leads to greater stability and security for the country. Singapore, like other developed countries, face less crime than in countries where there is want and people lack the necessary means to live. Unemployment is low in Singapore (less than 3%) and in fact, we have more jobs than can be filled by Singaporeans.

4. As a higher standard of living brings about stability in the community

The 'broken windows' theory by Wilson and Kelling in 1982 is a metaphor for disorder within neighbourhoods, linking disorder within a community to subsequent occurrences of serious crime. Throughout the 1990's, NYC underwent an aggressive order-maintenance to clean up neighbourhoods which led to a dramatic decrease in crime rates. In Singapore, public housing (HDB) undergoes regular and staggered upgrading in order to spruce up aged and wilted neighbourhoods. This makes it attractive to new tenants and owners, in a way providing fresh blood and preventing them from becoming bad neighbourhoods and enclaves for the marginalised. Such improvements to one's living environment is possible only with strong economic growth.

No, economic progress does not guarantee quality of life

1. As there is diminishing returns on economic progress and growth

If a section of the population is living in absolute poverty, economic growth enables people to have higher incomes and therefore they will be able to afford the basic necessities of life such as; food, and shelter. When economic growth can overcome this type of poverty there is a clear link with improved living standards. However, when incomes increase from say \$35,000 a year to \$36,000 the improvement in living standards is harder to justify. Diminishing marginal utility of income and wealth is a basic economic concept, which suggests the tenth unit of a good will give much less satisfaction than the first. If we already have 2 cars, does our living standards really improve if we now have the capacity to own 3 cars? Incidentally this is what wealthy Singaporeans do- they buy cars and properties and then more cars and properties. Sometimes too, as economic growth increases incomes, people increasingly save their money. This is basically because they struggle to find anything meaningful

to spend their money on. More is now spent on improving the aesthetics and design of our living environment including the necessary lift upgrading initiative in light of our ageing population.

2. As there are related side-effects to such growth

Economic growth involves increased production, manufacturing and industrialisation. These cause related side effects, such as increased pollution and ultimately global warming which is becoming a real problem for society. The economic and social costs could potentially be greater than all the perceived benefits of recent economic growth. However, it is worth noting that economic growth does not necessarily have to cause pollution. The benefits of growth could be used to develop better green and environmentally-friendly technologies that create less pollution. It is just that the record is spotty as large companies and multi-nationals are at heart more interested in making a profit than saving the environment. Donald Trump's attempt to 'make American great again' by bringing jobs back to the US has led him to reverse Barack Obama's earlier promises on climate change. China's rapid economic growth has also led to much negative environmental impact.

3. As economic growth can cause increased inequality.

It is perhaps a paradox that higher economic growth can cause an increase in relative poverty. This is because those who benefit from growth are often the highly educated and those who own wealth. In 1980s and 1990s higher growth in the UK and US has resulted in increased inequality. However, it depends on how growth is managed; economic growth can be used to reduce inequality, for example the economic growth which occurred in the 50s and 60s helped reduce inequality. There are those who fall by the side, like US's 99%, will have a harder time making a living even if they work longer and longer hours at low-paying gig jobs.

4. As there can be an increase in crime and social problems

It is another paradox that as incomes increase and people are better off the level of crime may increase as well. This suggests that crime is not motivated by poverty but perhaps envy. One reason why crime rates increase is that quite simply there are more things to steal, e.g. cell phones and lap tops, credit card information and e-banking accounts, etc. Basically, economic growth has created more goods to steal. Singapore has attracted foreigners who come here as tourists only to break into homes, cheat in currency exchange (Mexicans and a Chilean at Mustafa Centre) skim credit cards, fix scanners to ATMs, cheat at and use counterfeit chips at the casinos (Chinese & Indian nationals at MBS) etc. They use the internet to set up love/drug mule/money scams (Nigerians target local women). E-commerce cheating scams (Chinese nationals). Human trafficking and prostitution may increase too, e.g. the recent 'high-class' Russian vice ring that was busted in May, 2017.

5. As it can lead to more hours worked

In the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, higher growth led to people working lower hours. However, in the past couple of decades higher incomes have actually led to people working longer hours. With greater use of technology, people were supposed to be able to work less and fewer hours. This has not happened. Work can now be done faster but the time that is freed up has led to workers being pressured to fill it up with more work. It seems people are unable to enjoy their higher incomes. Many feel the necessity or simply prefer to work longer hours, presumably to get more money or better promotions. This suggests people are valuing earning money more than leisure.

6. As it can lead to diseases of affluence

Economic growth has enabled improved health care treatments, but at the same time there has been an unexpected rise in the number of diseases and illnesses related to increased prosperity. One example is obesity. Modern lifestyles and modern diets have created an epidemic of obesity. In Singapore, diabetes is also a huge health concern and it is often related to overeating a too-rich diet and a sedentary lifestyle. In recent years, higher childhood obesity cases in Singapore has led to higher childhood rates of diabetes as well. A host of other mental

and emotional problems may come with economic growth, given that people may overwork, not have time to cultivate close relationships, feel lonely or isolated, become obsessed with wealth or be distrustful of others due to their wealth, etc. Another concern is that the top-quality health care system comes at a very high cost for those who need its services and many in Singapore are also afraid of what the future may hold when they fall sick.

6. 'THERE IS NO HARM IN THE YOUNG TRYING EVERYTHING THEY WANT'. DO YOU AGREE?

Analysis

It is a common belief that young people should be given the liberty to try anything they want while they have the luxury to undo or restart any unsuccessful endeavours. However, this belief could also be seen as a controversial and even dangerous "blank cheque" for young people to try things that could eventually prove to be detrimental to themselves and others.

Clarification of Terms

- No harm – no foreseeable dangers/ undesirable outcomes.
- Everything they want – all conceivable endeavours/ activities deemed favourable by the young.

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

No harm

1. **Young people are highly adaptable and would be able to rebound better should they fail in the things they try.**

Very often, young people are too afraid to try new things for fear of failing. They tend to stick to a safe and familiar route in life where the risks are minimised. While these risks in taking the road less travelled may be real at times, such young people underestimate their potential to rebound and gain even higher grounds after each setback. Hence, the "harm" that one associates with trying everything they want is usually overhyped since young people have the capacity to circumvent and overcome these so-called harm. A case in point would be how young Singaporeans tend to underestimate themselves when they often believe more in the possible harm that comes with trying everything they like than in themselves: very few young Singaporeans refrain from venturing beyond the tried-and-tested academic route that their peers take (eg. the fear of losing out if they do not take the JC to University route); even fewer would dare try to follow their true passions in life.

2. **The so-called 'harms' are actually good for personal growth.**

To develop resilience, young people should be try everything they want even when there are real harms and risks involved. Instead of being overly-protective, society, schools and parents should encourage young people to bravely face these harms and reframed them as "challenges" that could possibly stretch their growth to become stronger and more resilient individuals. With cautious and well-monitored practices, these harms could well become catalysts for personal growth and development. In particular, this is most evidently demonstrated in how young people should explore and try different types of professions they want before settling down a one final career of their choice. This process of trying different professions and in learning different skills-sets by "roughing it out" would invariably toughen up a young person which would eventually make him a better worker – and for that matter, a more reliable human being.

3. **Trying everything would help a person become more creative and innovative.**

In this VUCA 21st Century world filled with the complex issues that usually require a multi-pronged approach in addressing them, a successful person would need to be highly creative and innovative. Such traits could only be developed if a person gets to try everything he or she wants without any fear of any possible harm. Individuals like Steve Jobs, Jack Ma and Elon Musk all tried a plethora of different ventures and misadventures before they became successful. On hindsight, these creative and innovative trailblazers often attributed their sense of creativity to their penchant to try as many things as possible. Indeed, by not conforming to the norm, they were able to create a new path for themselves. [Need a home tutor? Visit smiletutor.sg](https://www.smiletutor.com), one

would be exposed to a far richer composition of possibilities which will lead to greater scope of creative solutions to solve complex problems in this modern world.

There is harm

1. Although the young may gain in short run trying everything they want, there is some long term harmful consequences.

While it is most gratifying in the short run for young people to try everything all in the name of experimentation in their lives, there are likely to be some subtle long term harmful consequences which they would need to face in their later years. In the 1960s and 1970s, young hippies in America, Britain and other Western societies experimented with various recreational drugs which they claimed helped them to be more artistic and at peace with themselves and others had subsequently suffered various drug related diseases which threatened their sanity and lives.

2. Young people who try everything they want may end up hurting the people around them.

While it may be true that young people may gain in their existential and practical experiences as they try everything they want, they may end up harming the people around them especially their loved ones inadvertently. Young people who perpetually wish to try different gigs and jobs just to see if it suits their lifestyles and liking may not realise that people who depend on them for sustenance (eg. aged parents who have failing health) are suffering in their wait for them to settle down with a stable income. More significantly, if all young people in our society embrace the so-called entrepreneurial dare without sparing a thought for their family members and for those who depend on them, the society may not experience the kind of economic and social stability made possible by a group of young people who choose to try only those endeavours that guarantee success. In other words, this mentality to “try everything” that panders to the young’s fancies is a self-serving ethos.

3. Trying everything might create an overly-jaded generation of young people.

The assumption that young people have the capacity to rebound and that their resilience will only grow with every tried and failed endeavour is not fully valid. Indeed, for those who experienced “productive failures” like Albert Einstein, Jack Ma and Richard Branson happened to be those who are born with a sheer sense of resilience which normal people could only aspire to have. In reality, ordinary people who blindly try everything they lay their eyes on may more often than not become so discouraged and jaded that they may never recover in life. Some may even become cynical, depressed or even suicidal after trying everything without any successes.

7. ‘THE ENVIRONMENT IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF OUR HEALTH WOES TODAY!’ DISCUSS.

Analysis

In the past two decades, major environmental issues that have a negative impact on human health have been featured very prominently and regularly in our media. As such, it appears to be a major contributor to our ill health. However, other than such adverse environmental causes, there are actually other factors that are also undesirable and harmful to our health. This question examines all these causes. Students must ensure that they compare the different causes’ impact to that of the environment in order to establish which cause is the main cause.

Clarifications of Terms

- Main cause of – Not the only one, but it is the foremost, principal or major contributor of.
- Health woes – All kinds of health problems and ailments, e.g. allergies, asthma, cancer, coronary diseases, etc.

***NOTE:** The arguments below are to be paired with the ones above respectively as possible CA-R’s. Students are expected to make comparisons between the 2 stands.*

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

Environment is the main cause of health woes

1. Environmental pollution is one of the main contributors of health woes today.

The Industrial Revolution began in the 18th century in Britain and then spread all over the world. While we gained much economically, unfortunately, it was also a time when there was a drastic increase in pollution to the environment, which continues today. Auto-vehicles add on to our pollution and health woes. And the extensive uses of fossil fuels and toxic chemicals have led to land, air and water pollution, and this has impacted human health detrimentally. According to the website, History, in 1948, severe industrial air pollution created a deadly smog that asphyxiated 20 people in Donora, Pennsylvania, and made 7,000 more sick. In the Great Smog of 1952, pollutants from factories and home fireplaces killed at least 4,000 people in London over several days. Today, the release of human-produced sulphur and nitrogen compounds into the atmosphere negatively impacts plants, fish, soil, forests. When humans consume such tainted fish, animals and plants from these areas, our health is affected negatively too.

2. Seasonal changes in the environment could also cause our health to deteriorate.

Pollens from flowering plants, mould and grass are widespread and causes of allergies. Allergic reactions vary from mild itch of the eyes and runny noses to severe breathing problems that could be life threatening, e.g. serious asthmatic attacks. Most people look forward to spring when beautiful flowers bloom. Unfortunately for others, this is a season when they suffer most from allergies, beginning in February to mid-summer. Trees (spring), grass (summer) such as Johnson, Timothy and Rye, and ragweed (fall) are main allergens. At times, mild spring temperatures could lead to early plant pollination, or a rainier spring could cause plants to grow more abundantly, all of which are not helpful to those who are prone to allergies. Allergies cause much misery to the sufferers and also downtime in productivity. Statistics obtained from the Netherlands' Central Bureau of Statistics over eight years revealed that there was an average of more than 330 deaths daily due to corresponding data for airborne pollen concentrations.

3. Today, natural disasters could result in certain environmental conditions that could lead to the spreading of diseases.

The changing weather patterns nowadays have brought about many natural disasters. Global warming is the main cause of changing weather patterns today. Extreme heatwaves could kill, especially for the more vulnerable elderly people and children. Between April and May 2015, a heatwave in India killed more than 2,200 people, with temperatures a scorching 47-degree Celsius, 7-degree above normal. Andhra Pradesh suffered the most, with 1,636 dying. According to the website, Climate Hot Map, global warming has led to changing precipitation patterns which could create prolonged drought, causing forest and peat fires and endangering the lives of residents and firefighters. A warming atmosphere also increases the chance of extreme rainfall and flooding. In many heavily populated areas, sea level rise from the melting arctic will cause storm surges and coastal flooding.

There are other causes of our poor health today

1. Rather than environmental factors, our sedentary and stressful lifestyle and unhealthy habits contribute to our ill health today.

Admittedly, pollution in the environment could impact our health negatively, but our health is very much within our control and management too. Potato couch and television surfing. Online gaming. Fast food. Smoking. A lack of physical exercise. Recreational drugs. The slow economy that leads to increased unemployment, more intense work competition and unending deadlines that cause a very stressful lifestyle as compared to the past. Physical inactivity and an unhealthy diet have been proven to cause certain cardiovascular diseases, e.g. obesity that make people at risk of heart attacks. Smoking is also cancer causing, and recreational drugs cause addiction that eats up the health of people. All these are modern-day phenomena that have contributed to our ill health. According to a John Hopkins article, physical inactivity could also lead to an increase risk of certain cancers, anxiety and depression, a decrease in skeletal-muscle mass and elevated blood pressure and cholesterol levels. In addition,

advancements in technology have brought us much convenience that reduces physical toil for tedious tasks that we used to labour over; and conversely, technological advancements also lead to a faster pace of life that increases pressure, and they compound the problem of ill health. These numerous causes are self-inflicted, man made, and the environment is surely not a culprit.

2. Other than the environment causing us to fall ill, there are people who are born with defective genes that make them genetically more prone to certain diseases.

It is true that seasonal environmental changes could result in ill health, such as seasonal allergies. However, our own biological tendency could also be the reason why people become more prone to such seasonal sicknesses. Due to a person's genetic makeup, it could cause him to be predisposed to certain diseases. For example, there are people whose genetic makeup make them more inclined to have seasonal allergies than others. And in 2015, two years after very famously having a double mastectomy, Angela Jolie also removed her ovaries and fallopian tubes due to a cancer scare. Before that, she was found to be carrying a genetic mutation that increased the potential of her contracting fatal breast cancer, like her mother, and thus, the mastectomy. Genetic disorders could also be hereditary where the defective genes are passed on from parents to their children.

3. The environment aside, the country that one is born in could also impact our health negatively, due mainly to the poor economic state of the country and a lack of adequate medical facilities.

Although our environment could induce illnesses, however where one lives could also impact health. The infant mortality rates in third world countries are much higher than those in developed countries. According to 2016 World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics, in developing countries, nearly half of mothers and newborns do not receive skilled care during and immediately after birth, and up to two-thirds of newborn deaths can be prevented if effective health measures are provided at birth. In other words, the vast majority of newborn deaths take place in developing countries, and they have nothing to do with the environment.

8. 'SMALL COUNTRIES CAN NEVER MAKE A REAL IMPACT IN TODAY'S WORLD.' DISCUSS.

Analysis

There is an assumption that countries which are small in terms of land area and population are unable to make a significant impact or contribution (in the areas of politics, economics, cultures, etc) in the world. Vice versa, it is believed that size truly matters and big countries are the ones that can make a real difference in the world with their larger resources or political and economic clout. Students should recognise the extreme word 'never' in the question and address whether it is indeed true that small countries can never make a significant impact in the global context. Better students would recognise the complexities of the world today, and the strengths of small countries as well as difficulties that they face and evaluate these according to the actual impact they are able to make in the world today.

Clarification of Terms

- Small countries - states which are small in terms of land area and population
- Real impact - genuine / significant / visible effect

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

Small countries can make a real impact in today's world

1. As the success stories of small countries can serve as learning points for other countries.

Small in terms of land area or population does not necessarily mean that these countries are lacking in other areas for example, knowledge or skills in areas like education or science and technology. In fact small countries often have niche areas where they excel and can make a genuine impact on other countries when they share their expertise and knowledge to benefit other countries. For example, Israel may be a small country, but its contribution to the world of technology has been immense. Notable Israeli companies like Intel, Google, and Microsoft have been successful in the global market. **Need a home tutor? Visit [smiletutor.sg](http://www.smiletutor.sg)**

assistance technology to prevent accidents and major companies like Audi and Tesla Motors have embedded its technology into their cars. According to Business Insider, Israel continues to produce an impressive number of highly successful tech companies for a country with a population of just 9 million people. This is the reason why Israel is sometimes referred to as "Startup Nation" thanks to the huge number of entrepreneurs building businesses there and attracting investors worldwide. Also, Singapore's education system has built up a sound reputation over the years and countries like Japan and the United States have demonstrated a keen interest to learn more about and adapt our educational practices by sending teams of teachers to study Singapore's system.

2. As small countries can serve as middlemen and facilitate negotiation between conflicting countries in a political stalemate.

In order to protect their own countries' interests and avoid being identified too closely with bigger countries, small countries often play the role as an 'honest broker' in disputes and conflicts among bigger countries. This enables them to be efficient mediators and help other countries come to a resolution or agreement. A good example is Norway which has a limited size – both in terms of population and economic prowess. Over the years, many Norwegian diplomats have acted as third-party mediators in several international conflicts, including in Bosnia and Sudan. In addition, in hosting the Oslo Accords between Israel and Palestine, Norway can appear to be working as an international mediator trying her very hardest to work in the interest of international peace, whilst at the same time vastly increasing her soft power by nation branding, as a country that shows her commitment to and ability to engage successfully in "international peace brokering" and diplomacy.

3. As small countries can bond together to make a difference.

A small power recognizes that it may face difficulties by relying solely on its own capabilities. This explains why small countries tend to bond in coalitions to enable their voices to be heard more clearly. For example, Singapore is supportive of platforms that allow small states to discuss and foster common positions on issues of mutual concern, thereby giving them a bigger voice on the global stage. In 1992 in New York, Singapore established an informal grouping of small states known as the Forum of Small States (FOSS). Membership in FOSS is on a non-ideological and non-geographical basis. It now comprises more than 100 countries and meets a few times a year to discuss issues of concern to small states. In particular the inaugural 2012 FOSS Conference on Small States profiled the role and contributions of small states in the international arena, and also provided a platform to share experiences and strategies for development among small states. Also, small island countries in the Pacific are in imminent danger of being washed into the sea as sea levels rise due to climate changes.

4. As small countries are able to wield soft power as a means to appeal to and influence others.

Soft power can be displayed in the attractiveness of countries' cultures, political ideals, and policies. For example, even though it is a small island state, the Maldives has attained significant economic growth by developing and establishing its reputation in the tourism sector. Also, by acting as an international benchmark on specific issues, small states can become leading experts, investing in specific issues in order to set global margins. For example, Denmark's environmental know-how is seen as world leading. Denmark's success in addressing growing demand for renewable energy and other clean technologies and increasing international engagement across the cleantech ecosystem was recognised when it came in tops in the Global Cleantech Innovation Index 2017.

Small countries can never make a real impact in today's world

1. As in reality, small countries face many limitations that hinder them from making effective and long term impacts.

Due to the small area and population size, small countries tend to face many constraints like a lack of natural resources or human resources to contribute or compete actively at the global stage. For example, many small countries do not produce as many Nobel Prize Science or Literature winners as compared to the big countries.

simply because they have fewer outstanding individuals in these areas. Also, most of the more well-known entertainment and sports celebrities tend to come from bigger countries which have bigger talent pools and monetary as well as physical resources to better support the development of these industries.

2. As scholars and leaders of small countries tend to be more cautious of rocking the boat and challenging the big countries.

Small countries are well aware of the boundaries they have and the repercussions of being overly vocal on the international stage and risk offending bigger countries. As a result, leaders of small countries tend to be very guarded in their words and actions. As a result, in order to avoid the risk of conflict with other countries, even when it is not deliberate, small countries tend to play the safe card. This was precisely the topic of heated debated recently with Mr Kishore Mahbubani, an academic and former diplomat, who raised the idea that “small states must always behave like small states”. In the light of what happened to Qatar, his advice for Singapore is: “What's the first thing we should do? Exercise discretion. We should be very restrained in commenting on matters involving great powers.” Clearly his view ignited much debate in Singapore. However, with such cautiousness, it is no wonder that these small countries are unable to make significant contributions.

3. As small countries simply lack the power to shape political world events.

Small countries also simply lack the hard power to shape events as they do not possess the military strength to send armed forces or equipment for warfare to aid other countries. In a 2016 Global Firepower Index which compares military power by countries, out of 133 countries, it is unsurprising that big countries like China, India and the USA emerge tops of the list. Top country on the list China for instance has about 3,712,500 total military personnel as compared to Singapore's 504,500 (Singapore's ranking is at 101). Also the US has been prolific in supporting the Syrian opposition by providing military personnel as well as weapons such as assault rifles, anti-tank rocket launchers and other ammunition. The US State Department has reportedly allocated millions of dollars for civilian opposition groups in Syria. Clearly smaller countries which do not possess hard power in the form of military and economic means would not be able to participate directly in world events. In fact, more often than not, small countries are at the mercy of the actions of bigger countries and are unable to do much to retaliate as they simply lack the means or might to do so. One instance is that of Qatar and the Qatar-Gulf crisis in June 2017 when several countries abruptly cut off diplomatic relations with Qatar by withdrawing ambassadors, and imposing trade and travel bans.

9. HOW EFFECTIVE HAS YOUR COUNTRY BEEN IN CREATING A NATIONAL IDENTITY?

Analysis

A country's national identity is a vital constituent of its existence. How successfully the country manages its identity has a very significant impact on its expression of itself, how other countries perceive it, how the country interacts with others, and its international stature, in all sense of the word. It is definitely not easy to derive at or acquire a national identity, especially when the country does not have a homogenous population with similar needs and aspirations. Globalisation today and the relative ease of migration complicate this issue exponentially. As such, this question requires writers to evaluate well a country manages its construct of its own national identity, bearing in mind that each country is unique and therefore there is no one approach that could be deem to be the most successful as it all depends on the history, culture and composition of a country.

Clarifications of key terms

- How effective – Requires evaluation of the success or lack of, of how the creation of a national identity has been managed.
- Creating – The deliberate and planned process of conceiving and establishing.
- National identity – National identity is a sense of belonging to a state or nation, as represented by distinctive traditions, cultures, languages and politics. It does not necessarily need to be inherited.

commissioned by the government. It could be something that is organic and personal even. (Sometimes, national identity is something that we do not even think about, and ironically, it only becomes an issue when leave a home country to go abroad for us to better appreciate it.)

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

Singapore has successfully created a national identity

1. Singapore's lingua franca, English, is a major bonding factor for its citizens, establishing its national identity as a united and harmonious multi-racial society.

The English language does not merely serve as a tool of commerce to facilitate communication with the rest of the world, it actually plays an important role in this multi-racial nation to help bring about national unity. In the initial years of Singapore's independence when its population was mostly illiterate, people spoke in their native tongues and dialects, and this segregated the different ethnic groups. Realising that this could be a potential incendiary racial sparkplug, the government instituted the bilingual education policy for children, with English being the principal language. Over the years, these children have grown up speaking English, and that serves as a common language now, such that regardless of race, Singaporeans are able to understand one another. This transcends any differences that they might have and provides a common platform for the various races to bond.

2. Singapore's meritocratic system is the common denominator that cultivates shared values among Singaporeans.

Singapore's education system adopts a common syllabus, with civics lessons that allow the sharing of our common historical and economic narratives. Many Singaporeans of humble backgrounds have benefited from this meritocratic educational system and risen in social economic status. As such, the Singaporean educational system plays a crucial role in enabling everyone an equal opportunity to go through the same system and to succeed. No one race has an unfair advantage over another. This shared system therefore imbues in Singaporeans the same set of values, attitude and ethos. Despite Singapore being a young nation, a discernible semblance of national identity is beginning to emerge and will continue to be reinforced with time.

3. The brand name of Singapore is synonymous to quality.

The ascension of Singapore from a backward fishing village to a first-world technologically advanced country – all achieved within a generation – is a miracle that is unlikely to be replicated anywhere else in this world. From its world renown peerless education system where its students dominate the global PISA educational rankings, to having a sea port and airport of international standing, to even being a famous food paradise, Singapore has surpassed many developed countries that are much larger than itself. Steeped in Confucian teachings, Singaporean workers are also known among employers to be both hardworking and honest.

Singapore has somewhat faltered in creating its national identity

1. Singapore's paternalistic government and strict laws often caused it to be stereotyped as a straight-laced and no-nonsense nation, full of boring people.

Tourists are often amused by what infringements of the laws here could land people in hot soup. It is well known that Singapore is a finE city, where we get fined for not only littering, but also not flushing the toilets and jaywalking. Vandals could be caned – . There is a ban on the sales of g gum. Opposition party members are sued for daring to smear the reputations of dominant PAP members. And horror of horrors, capital punishment for drug trafficking is still administered in this modern day and age! While we may enjoy a low crime environment and live in a Garden in a City, we have unfortunately been labelled as socialist country with dictators as leaders, and the citizens as compliant puppets who have no sense of humour and could not laugh at ourselves. Many articles in foreign publications have even questioned if Singapore is truly democratic and some of them have been sued for defamation.

2. Singapore's short history and heterogeneous population make it difficult to create a national identity.

With no common traditions, Singapore has been having a hard time trying to derive a national identity. The Malay language is Singapore's national language. Ironically, other than the Malay themselves, the rest of Singaporeans, who form the majority, do not learn Malay, and most are not even aware that Malay is their national language. In addition, Singaporeans no longer identify with the countries of origin of our ancestors, which translates to a weaker link to our roots, and therefore, an ethnic identity. We are just an assortment of disparate races that is not unlike oil and water. We don't even have a national costume.

3. There is not much – ideologically nor culturally – that bind Singaporeans to Singapore, causing our ties with one another to be tenuous.

Pragmatism rules in Singapore, not anything that is ideological or cultural in nature. Unfortunately, the latter two factors are often what matter most in creating a national identity. It is precisely because Singaporeans are so pragmatic, they will not hesitate to move to a different country when conditions there are more ideal. Some top reasons why Singaporeans emigrate include less pressure abroad, more work opportunities elsewhere, more freedom and less strict in another country and Singapore literally having not much room to grow. And being well educated, it is easy for Singaporeans to leave. There is nothing ideological or cultural that could hold them back and cause them to think twice before settling their families in other countries. Pragmatism is pervasive, and it permeates the psyche of Singaporeans. Indeed, this tendency is observed especially in the millennials who are raised in a more affluent environment and have more opportunities to travel and compare Singapore with other countries. They find the educational system here overly pressurising and work life to be tough, with Singaporeans being one of the unhappiest people in the world.

10. DOES MODERN TECHNOLOGY SATISFY OUR WANTS RATHER THAN OUR NEEDS?

Analysis

Students need to distinguish and clearly define what needs and wants are. The context of the question is implied by the use of the word 'modern' and they should be able to see that needs can change over time.

The better scripts will be able to take a nuanced stand and recognize that modern technology satisfies both our wants and needs.

Clarification of Terms

- Satisfy - meet the expectations of
- Wants - Wants are unlimited and are a human desire to get something additional. Something that you would like to have but not something that you cannot live without.
- Needs - Needs are fundamental for human survival

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

Yes, technology satisfy our wants rather than our needs

1. Tech companies are profit-driven and it is more lucrative to meet people's desires.

In our increasingly consumeristic and materialist society, we are driven by our desire to acquire material goods. By taking advantage of such a mind-set, tech companies push out model after model of smartphones, tablets and computers. This mind-set can also lead people to be emotionally invested in a blind pursuit of owning goods. Apple achieved a cult following by manipulating people's emotions and producing quality products. Some believe that Apple has gone beyond forming an emotional connection and has instead achieved a neurological connection with its customers. It creates a strong psychological and emotional response that operates on a subconscious level which leads to addiction. Apple's revenue at Q3 2017 was \$45.4 billion, up 7% year-over-year with its iPad sales at \$11.42m, up 14% year-over-year. In comparison, engaging in non-profit organizations and their aims do not earn them any money and this sort of connection is rarely found towards companies providing basic necessities such as NTUC or PUB where people prioritise value for money and practicality over unbridled purchase.

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New technology is also constantly creating new desires and wants through personalized advertisements that also creates desires for items that we did not know we needed or wanted. Mobile applications companies also create and supply many gaming applications that feed on people's need for entertainment and addiction by charging for in-game purchases – these games earn much more money for the app developers as compared to practical applications such as alarm clocks and calendars.

2. Technology has already done more than enough to address our basic needs. It is evolving and driven by what we want from it.

Over the past century, there has been a massive surge in the amount of convenience technologies. In the past, the wheel was invented to help transport goods and supplies across long distances. Then the industrial revolution came along and with it, steam engine powered locomotives and ships. This was followed by cars and planes. All these were invented because they were needed to fulfil a need – to transport people and goods across long distances, and this need has been fulfilled. Modern technologies however, are driven by people's desires for better, faster and more luxurious cars and planes. Cars, instead of being a necessity, has now become a status symbol. Luxury car sales in Australia grew by 11 per cent in 2016, compared with just 2 per cent growth for the rest of the industry. This can also be seen in Singapore where there has been a decline in the overall number of cars but an increase in the number of luxury cars. As of 2016, the high-end brands comprised about 22% of cars in Singapore compared to 17% they represented in 2013. These luxury cars represent the excesses and unnecessariness of the consumeristic culture. Even Tesla, a car company that strives to create zero-emissions, is more attractive to consumers because of its style and looks and not its environmental benefits.

Technology does satisfy our needs rather than our wants

1. Technological advancement has helped solve important problems such as access to clean water, medicine and food around the world and continues to solve these problems today.

The Green Revolution has doubled rice production in many Third World countries such as India, China and Pakistan. Between 1960 and 2000, yields for all developing countries rose 208% for wheat, 109% for rice, 157% for maize, 78% for potatoes, and 36% for cassava. More recently, many innovative products have been invented and used to improve the quality of life for those in developing countries.

2. (Individual) As society evolves and modernises, what was once considered luxury are now basic necessities and technology is still utilized today to meet our new needs.

What defines our wants and needs have evolved as our quality of life increases. These new needs include, portable communication devices such as smartphones, access to the internet, access to modern healthcare and many other electronic devices.

- Medical Technology – what was once cosmetic or elective procedures are now considered normal or even essential procedures. In the earliest days of plastic surgery, people sometimes tried to minimise or disguise that they had engaged in a facial rejuvenation of body-contouring surgery. Such choices were sometimes referred to as 'vanity' and only for the wealthy. Aesthetic procedures are losing their taboo even in traditionally more conservative countries like Singapore and Malaysia. However, in today's world, having 'work' done is the new norm and is no longer frowned upon. In Korea, double eyelid surgery is almost seen as necessary and single eyelids are perceived as a birth defect.

3. (National) Technology satisfies the changing needs of nations.

As the world evolves, so do our needs and threats. To survive in this competitive world with little natural resources, Singapore aims to become a knowledge-based industry which thrives on innovation and enterpriserise and to be

successful, she needs to leverage on research and technology. The Singapore government's R&D spending in 2016 is at about 1% of GDP, comparable to the US. Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean said: "Essentially R&D is an investment in our own future. It's an expression of belief in Singapore and Singapore's future and if we want to be a knowledge-based economy, which thrives on innovation and enterprise, and to build this knowledge base on which we can build the future of Singapore, then R&D is where we have to invest."

- Smart Nation: Far from being excessive, Vivian Balakrishnan, who was minister for environment and water resources until October 2015, as well as the head of the Smart Nation Initiative, told the audience at an innovation event in April 2015 that, "What you see in Singapore is an exercise of desperate imagination. It's not about innovation because it's sexy, but because it's survival."

To be safe in this time and age, technology can help us secure of basic need of safety and security efficiently and reliably. Technology aids in crime investigation and forensic science. Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS): When broken glass is involved in a crime, putting together even tiny pieces can be key to finding important clues like the direction of bullets, the force of impact or the type of weapon used in a crime. With this technology, forensic scientists are able to match even the smallest shard of glass found on clothing to a glass sample from a crime scene.

11. IS IT BETTER FOR A COUNTRY TO FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF THE YOUNG THAN ON NEEDS OF THE REST OF SOCIETY?

Analysis

Since this is a comparison question, students need to ensure consistent comparison is being made throughout the essay between the youth and the rest of society.

Clarification of Terms

- Needs - According to Maslow Hierarchy of Needs, there 5 layers of needs: physiological/biological, safety, love/belonging, esteem, self-actualization

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

Yes, it is better for a country to focus on the needs of the young

- 1. The young represents the hope for our future, thus, investing in the young is akin to investing in the country's future.**

By focusing on youth and youth-related programs, governments ensure a more prosperous future for the country and its economy. In 2011, the world reached a historic milestone with seven billion people, 1.8 billion of which are youth aged 10 to 24. And of this young population, 90 percent live in developing countries. This generation, the most interconnected generation ever, continues to grow rapidly, and the challenges they face are ever more daunting. We need to focus on providing quality education and creating a stable society so that our young will be able to navigate the volatile future. Also, with the increase in the amount of fake news and the accessibility to such information, it is vital that the youth be taught critical reading and evaluative skills to ensure that they become well-informed adults. It is also important to engage them since habits and mentality formed during their developmental years would affect them when they are older. The Chief Executive of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kate Carnell, fears that if young people are not engaged and working, we are creating a lost generation and if the young are disengaged from society, it could lead to long-term unemployment and the prospect of hundreds of thousands of unemployed floating in society constitutes a very real and big problem.

- 2. The young represents the energy and risk-taking attitude societies need, thus, focusing on them can help to rejuvenate society and the economy.**

Nelson Mandela once said: "Whenever I am with young people, I feel like a recharged battery." Youth, with all their optimism and energy, think big, hope for the best and envision a better tomorrow, making unceasing efforts to turn their dreams into concrete actions. The young are not risk-averse yet and are willing to constantly try and innovate

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to solve problems. Organisations are starting to understand that much more can be achieved through young people. They are more likely to learn and adapt, try new and innovative ways to meet customer needs, and can be associated with higher levels of team performance - a key feature in today's work structures. The team work environment has proved to enhance creativity as it relates to team performance. Infusions of young blood can rejuvenate tired organisations and fill them with new energy and purpose. They signal the kind of energy the society should have.

3. The young is a potential threat to progress and stability since they have less to lose.

The young are characterised by their passion, energy, and boldness, so when they believe in a cause, they usually actively participate in it to show their support. Together with today's technological advances, such as the Internet and social media, the youth have easy access to the tools that allow them to galvanise for change. According to a global survey done by Havas Worldwide, around 70% of youth believe that social media is a force for change. Around the world, youth are using social media to monitor the effectiveness of public service. In countries such as Paraguay and Brazil, they are using Facebook and Twitter to make official data available publicly to inform and mobilize their peers. In Latvia, two 23-year-olds built an e-petition system so their fellow Latvians could submit and support proposals for policy change. The government then looks at petitions supported by at least 20% of the population. Student activists played a vital role in the Bersih Movement in Malaysia, the fall of Suharto in Indonesia and more recently, the Protests for Democracy in Hong Kong. However, it is important to help them achieve their dreams and ambitions by providing the appropriate and right guidance, if not, the young might invest their energy in counter-progressive actions. Thus it is better to engage them positively than to leave them alone.

No, the country should focus on the needs of the rest of society

1. Because the rest make up the majority of the population and they also have much more to contribute as compared to the youth, in both the workforce and the society.

Youth and children make up about 40% of the world's population. In developed countries, such as the US and Singapore, the young only makes up about 30% of the country's population. Compared to the young, adults and the elderly work and make actual contributions to the country. They contribute economically through their employment and productivity at work by injecting new drive and energy, and coming up with new and innovative practices. They also contribute to the society by forming new families. The family is a basic unit of society and the adults contribute to that by forming marriages, giving birth and educating and transmitting cultural norms and traditions to the young. Adults also have a greater impact politically as they have the power to weigh in on national issues and eventually vote in the government that will lead the country. Thus, compared to the young, adults can make real contributions and enact actual changes that affect society making it more important to focus on their needs in order to ensure a happy and productive workforce.

2. Because a good government would ensure that all citizens are taken care of, regardless of who they are.

The primary roles of a government are to protect and provide for its citizens. A government can cushion the inability of citizens to provide for themselves, particularly in the vulnerable conditions of youth, old age, sickness, disability and unemployment due to economic forces beyond their control. This is especially important in our increasingly volatile economy.

3. Because problems that the youth face in comparison to the rest of the society are less pressing and less severe.

In a survey done by YMCA in the UK, some of the top concerns of the young were their failure to succeed in the education system, body image issues and pressures of materialism. This pales in comparison to the severity of the pressing concerns of adults today; the economy, governance, unemployment and national security. While the concerns of the young might be valid to them, they are issues that are confined to their age and will pass with them whereas the larger concerns of the rest of the population have graver and wider implications. In saying that, when

the country focuses on the needs of the rest of the population, they are going to be building a better future for the youth as it is more strategic to help the adults first. The benefits of a more stable, more educated, more well-off adult population will trickle down to their children, leading to a better group of youth in the future.

12. 'THE RIGHT TO DIE SHOULD BE RESPECTED AS MUCH AS THE RIGHT TO LIVE'. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE?

Analysis

The contention lies in the belief that one's right to die should be respected equally as one's right to live. The belief that one should have the right to die is the main basis behind the idea of euthanasia or even suicide. There are those who conversely believe that life is sacred, and while one should be entitled to the inalienable right to live, the right to take away one's own life is not ours to claim.

Clarification of Terms

- Right to die – the sole prerogative to decide when one should die, regardless of one's medical condition.
- Right to live – the inalienable right to sustain one's own life/ moral principle that one should not be killed by another person.

Stand / Possible Points and Examples

The right to die should be respected as much as the right to live.

- 1. If we truly respect a fellow human being and his autonomy as a discerning individual, we should respect their right to live as much as their right to die.**

Although the right to live is universally recognised internationally and chartered as one of the key rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the right to die is often deemed as sacrilegious. This dismissal of the right to die does not respect the individual's true autonomy to decide what is best for his life and casts doubts on his discretion as an individual. Indeed, if we truly respect a person's right to live, we should not be practising a double standard of morality in denying his right to end his life in dignity. Individuals who are suffering from chronic and terminal diseases are very often not only suffering physically, but are also deprived of their dignity as they are forced to see themselves deteriorating beyond their control.

- 2. Right to die should be made legal or else there will be social ills.**

If one's right to die is not accorded with equal respect as one's right to live, people who have been physically and psychologically suffering would be forced to take illegal means to end their lives in a violent and anti-social manner. To these long-suffering individuals, they are plagued not only by their physical and mental illnesses, but also by the stigma placed on them by society for entertaining such "immoral thoughts" of ending their lives. This adds to their misery and shame which may eventually pushed them to commit suicide as a result of social isolation. We see this as a common trend amongst the senior citizens in Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong and in other developed nations where they feel that they no longer have the dignity nor social empathy to continue living meaningfully. In the long run, a high suicide rate in a society will be deemed as a social ill which reflects negatively on the whole nation. If the right to die is respected and legally recognised, a proper and comprehensive process can be exacted by the State to alleviate individuals from their chronic suffering since they have been medically justified for euthanasia.

- 3. The right to die should not be disdained as death is part of life.**

Given that death is part of life, the right to die must come together with one's right to live. The process of dying is part of life, and invariably it is this phase of 'living' that is most uncertain and painful. If the right to life means the right to minimise pain and maximise positive experiences in one's life, then surely the painful process of dying for those with terminal illnesses or for those who have no further meaning to continue their existence, should be managed or even expedited under the individual's wish and control. Death in such cases, is therefore not a bad thing for these individuals, but may ironically be the sweetest part in their lives.

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The right to die should not be respected as much as the right to live

1. Arguments on the right to die is sophistry that masquerades a self-centred attitude towards life which should not be encouraged and endorsed.

Regardless of all the arguments that support the right to die, the underlying agenda is self-centred and self-serving as people who wish to end their lives on their own terms and conditions do not spare a thought for those around them. While it seems defensible for people who are suffering from chronic illnesses to claim their right to die, these people fail to understand or perhaps accept that life is not free from pain and suffering. They tend to believe that the world revolves around them and that they alone should decide on when they should end their lives, without reflecting on the effects of such a self-serving action on the people around them (especially their loved ones). Moreover, if the right to die is respected and legalised, the message conveyed to the society on the whole is detrimental especially for the young and impressionable who may believe that death is an easy way out of difficulties in life where they do not need to account to their family and loved ones.

2. The right to die could be abused by medical professionals and even family members.

Respecting the right to die through legalised euthanasia may end up as a cost effective way to manage the terminally ill. In March 2013, a Reuters report shocked the world when it disclosed that Dr. Virginia Soares de Souza from Brazil was charged with 7 counts of murder and may have killed 300 patients in order to, reportedly, “free-up” beds. Separately, three studies from the Flanders region of Belgium also found that 32% of all euthanasia deaths were done without explicit request; 47% of all euthanasia deaths were not reported as euthanasia; nurses are euthanizing their patients, even though the Belgium law limits the act of euthanasia to doctors. There have also been cases reported where patients who were so ill that they were not lucid enough to contest the family members’ request for euthanasia, where the latter were ultimately more interested in inheriting the fortune of the deceased. Hence, the right to die should not be legally and socially recognised and respected given the propensity for people to abuse it.

3. Respecting the right to die is a way of accepting the notion that some lives (ie. those who are stricken by illnesses) are worth less than others.

Suffering is part of human life and could be a virtue in itself. Hence, if we were to expediently remove all sufferings from our lives since it is our so-called ‘right to die’, we would also be removing this virtue from our lives. People who insist on their right to die would therefore not only erode this virtue of perseverance from society, but would also label all who are stricken by illnesses to be lesser than the normal people, stereotyping them to be utterly useless to society. In reality, people who are plagued by chronic illnesses could in fact be a source of inspiration for others where instead of succumbing to pessimistic thoughts, they would fight to savour every second of their lives. Dr. Richard Teo Keng Siang, a millionaire cosmetic surgeon in Singapore who was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer in 2011, chose to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to cancer patients through his personal testimony in his Christian faith. Likewise, Canadian humanitarian Terry Fox did not use his cancer as an excuse to end his life, but chose to use his life story to start a series of social activism to help cancer patients.

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This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Alain de Botton writes about why you will marry the wrong person.

- 1 It is one of the things we are most afraid might happen to us. We go to great lengths to avoid it. 1
And yet we do it all the same: We marry the wrong person. Partly, it is because we have a
bewildering array of problems that emerge when we try to get close to others. We seem normal
only to those who do not know us very well. In a wiser, more self-aware society than our own, a
standard question on any early dinner date would be: "And how are you crazy?" 5
- 2 Perhaps we have a latent tendency to get furious when someone disagrees with us or can relax
only when we are working; perhaps we are anxious in getting closer to a person or clam up in
response to humiliation. Nobody's perfect. The problem is that before marriage, we rarely delve
into our complexities. Whenever casual relationships threaten to reveal our flaws, we blame our
partners and call it a day. As for our friends, they do not care enough to tell us what is exactly 10
wrong with our relationships. One of the privileges of being on our own is therefore the sincere
impression that we are really quite easy to live with.
- 3 Our partners are no more self-aware. Naturally, we make a stab at trying to understand them. We
visit their families. We look at their photos, we meet their college friends. All this contributes to a
sense that we have done our homework. We have not. Marriage ends up as a hopeful, generous, 15
infinitely kind gamble taken by two people who do not know yet who they are or who the other
might be, binding themselves to a future they cannot conceive of and have carefully avoided
investigating.
- 4 For most of recorded history, people married for logical sorts of reasons: because her parcel of
land adjoined yours, his family had a flourishing business, her father was the magistrate in town, 20
there was a castle to keep up, or both sets of parents subscribed to the same interpretation of a
holy text. And from such reasonable marriages, there flowed loneliness, infidelity, abuse, hardness
of heart and screams heard through the nursery doors. The marriage of reason was not, in
hindsight, reasonable at all; it was often expedient, narrow-minded, snobbish and exploitative.
That is why what has replaced it — the marriage of feeling — has largely been spared the need 25
to account for itself.
- 5 What matters in the marriage of feeling is that two people are drawn to each other by an
overwhelming instinct and know in their hearts that it is right. After all, romantic love is a powerful
force. Romantic love is increasingly viewed as an essential component of a marriage, with 91
percent of women and 86 percent of American men reporting that they would not marry somebody 30
who had every quality they wanted in a partner but with whom they did not love enough. Indeed,
the more imprudent a marriage appears (perhaps it has been only six months since they met; one
of them has no job or both are barely out of their teens), the safer it can feel. In this case, this
reckless action of tying the knot is seen as a counterweight to right all the errors of reason. It is an
instinctive response to the traumatic experiences of marriage based on reason. 35
- 6 But this pursuit of happiness in marriage that is based on romantic feelings is not that simple.
What we really seek is familiarity — which may well complicate any plans we might have had for
happiness. We are looking to recreate, within our adult relationships, the feelings we knew so well
in childhood. The love most of us will have tasted early on was often confused with other, more
destructive dynamics: feelings of wanting to help an adult who was out of control, of being deprived 40
of a parent's warmth or scared of his anger, of not feeling secure enough to communicate our
wishes. How logical, then, that we should as grown-ups find ourselves rejecting certain candidates
for marriage not because they are wrong but because they are not us. [Need a home tutor? Visit smiletutor.sg](http://www.needahometutor.com)

- understanding and reliable — given that in our hearts, such rightness feels foreign. We marry the wrong people because we do not associate being loved with feeling happy. 45
- 7 Additionally in our pursuit of marriage, we make mistakes, too, because we are so lonely. No one can be in an optimal frame of mind to choose a partner when remaining single feels unbearable. We have to be wholly at peace with the prospect of many years of solitude in order to be appropriately picky; otherwise, we would only be marrying someone for the sake of not being alone. 50
- 8 Finally, we marry to make a nice feeling permanent. We imagine that marriage will help us to bottle the joy we felt when the thought of proposing first came to us: Perhaps we were in Venice, on the lagoon, in a motorboat, with the evening sun throwing glitter across the sea, chatting about aspects of our souls no one ever seemed to have grasped before, with the prospect of dinner in a risotto place a little later. We married to make such sensations permanent but failed to see that there was no solid connection between these feelings and the institution of marriage. Indeed, marriage tends decisively to move us onto another, very different and more administrative plane, which perhaps unfolds in a suburban house, with a long commute and maddening children who kill the passion from which they emerged. The only ingredient in common is the partner. And that might have been the wrong ingredient to bottle. 55
60
- 9 The good news is that it does not matter if we find we have married the wrong person. We must not abandon him or her. The notion of a perfect being who exists to meet all our needs and satisfy our every yearning is but only a Romantic idea. We need to swap the Romantic view for a tragic (and at points comedic) awareness that every human will frustrate, anger, annoy, madden and disappoint us — and we will (without any malice) do the same to them. There can be no end to our sense of emptiness and incompleteness. But none of this is unusual or grounds for divorce. Choosing whom to commit ourselves to is merely a case of identifying which particular variety of suffering we would most like to sacrifice ourselves for. 65
- 10 This philosophy of pessimism offers a solution to a lot of distress and agitation around marriage. It might sound odd, but pessimism relieves the excessive imaginative pressure that our romantic culture places upon marriage. The failure of one particular partner to save us from our grief and melancholy is not an argument against that person and no sign that a union deserves to fail or be upgraded. The person who is best suited to us is not the person who shares our every taste (he or she doesn't exist), but the person who can negotiate differences in taste intelligently — the person who is good at disagreement. Rather than some notional idea of perfect complementarity, it is the capacity to tolerate differences with generosity that is the true marker of the “not overly wrong” person. Compatibility is an achievement of love; it must not be its precondition. 70
75
- 11 Romanticism has been unhelpful to us; it is a harsh philosophy. It has made a lot of what we go through in marriage seem exceptional and appalling. We end up lonely and convinced that our union, with its imperfections, is not “normal.” We should learn to accommodate ourselves to “wrongness,” striving always to adopt a more forgiving, humorous and kindly perspective on its multiple examples in ourselves and in our partners. 80

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ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION



CANDIDATE NAME

CIVICS GROUP

INDEX NUMBER

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

Thursday, 24 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, Civics Group and index number on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.
The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.
Note that **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This document consists of **7** printed pages.

Read the passage in the insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow below. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

For
Examiner's
Use

Note: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

1. Why does the author use a colon in line 2?

.....
.....[1]

2. "In a wiser, more self-aware society than our own" (line 4). What is the author implying about society today?

.....
.....[2]

3. What does the author mean when he says we "clam up in response to humiliation" in line 8? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....[2]

4. In paragraph 2, what does the author imply about how one should handle relationships before marriage? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....[3]

5. What is the author implying about people's attempt to understand their partners by his use of the phrase "we have not" in line 15?

.....
.....[1]

SAJC Prelim 2017 Paper 2
Questions and Answers (Updated 21 September, 2017)

1. Why does the author use a colon in line 2? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
It is one of the things we are most afraid might happen to us. We go to great lengths to avoid it. And yet we do it all the same; We marry the wrong person. (lines 1 – 2)	<p>A1 (function of colon to reveal the main claim): To lead to his <u>conclusion</u>/ main claim/ issue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>A2 (function of colon to connect the first part to the second part of the sentence): to explain/ highlight/ elaborate/ emphasise the <u>first part of the sentence 'it'</u>/ reveal the action he is describing before the colon</p> <p>B (context): that we <u>marry the wrong person</u>.</p>

2. “In a wiser, more self-aware society than our own” (line 4). What is the author implying about society today? [2]

Lifted	Inferred
In a wiser , more self- aware society than our own, a standard question on any early dinner date would be: “And how are you crazy?” (lines 4 – 5)	<p>A (wiser): <u>undiscerning</u>/ naïve/ unenlightened/ immature/ not street-smart/ ignorant/ shallow/ does not think deeply/ less prudent [1]</p> <p>B (self-aware): we <u>do not know</u> ourselves/ less conscious of themselves/ deluded/ oblivious to self/ not understanding themselves [1]</p>

3. What does the author mean when he says we “clam up in response to humiliation” in line 8? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Inferred
Perhaps we have a latent tendency to get furious when someone disagrees with us or can relax only when we are working; perhaps we are anxious in getting closer to a person or clam up in response to humiliation . (lines 6 – 8)	<p>A (clam up): Withdraw/ <u>isolate</u> ourselves/ close ourselves off/ retreat/ distance ourselves from others/ shying away/ hiding away/ retract [1]</p> <p>B (humiliation): when we are <u>embarrassed</u>/ disgraced/ shamed [1]</p>

4. In paragraph 2, what does the author imply about how one should handle relationships before marriage? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Lifted	Paraphrased
The problem is that before marriage, we rarely delve into our complexities . Whenever casual relationships threaten to reveal our flaws, we blame our partners and call it a day . (lines 8 – 10)	<p>A (delve into our complexities): be <u>introspective</u>/ reflective/ look into ourselves/ analyse our own faults/ explore our personalities [1]</p> <p>B (blame our partners): <u>not accuse</u> our partners/ shoulder part of the responsibility/ accept, admit or embrace our flaws [1]</p> <p>C (call it a day): work hard on the relationship/ <u>persist</u>/ not give up on improving the relationship. [1]</p>

5. What is the author implying about people’s attempt to understand their partners by his use of the phrase “we have not” in line 15? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
Naturally, we make a stab at trying to understand them. We visit their families. We look at their photos, we meet their college friends. All this contributes to a sense that we have done our homework. We have not. (lines 13 – 15)	People are overly optimistic/ half-hearted attempts/ not trying hard enough/ shallow/ perfunctory/ superficial/ attempts are futile/ meaningless/ unsuccessful/ ineffective/ insufficient

6. Why does the author refer to marriage as a ‘gamble’ (line 16)? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

Lifted	Paraphrased
Marriage ends up as a hopeful, generous, infinitely kind gamble taken by two people who do not know yet who they are or who the other might be, binding themselves to a future they cannot conceive of and have carefully avoided investigating . (lines 15 – 18)	<p>A (don’t know yet who they are): People <u>lack self-awareness</u> / understanding of themselves</p> <p>B (who the other might be): insufficient knowledge of the <u>other party</u></p> <p>C (binding themselves to a future they cannot conceive of): <u>cannot predict</u>/ do not know how it will unfold what we will be getting ourselves into/ <u>hoping</u> that the future is beautiful/ don’t know what to expect</p> <p>D (have carefully avoided investigating): have not done enough research / groundwork / jumped hastily into marriage/ have not thought through/ <u>deliberately refused to find out</u>/ has not been considered/ meticulously choose not to find out more.</p>

7. Using material from paragraphs 4 and 5, summarise what the author has to say about the reasons why people get married, why these reasons are poor ones, and why romantic love has replaced these reasons.

Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. Use your own words as far as possible.

People get married...

The reasons why people get married			
	Lift	Paraphrased	Main Idea
1.	for logical sorts of reasons <i>or</i> such reasonable marriages	For sensible / <u>rational</u> / practical / pragmatic reasons	Sensible
<i>Note. For points 2 – 6, students cannot merely paraphrase literally e.g. property in close proximity</i>			
2.	her parcel of land adjoined yours,	(inferred) Such as <u>expanding</u> the <u>property</u> owned	Acquisition of land
3.	his family had a flourishing business	(inferred) economic/ financial gain / expand the family business/ <u>material riches</u> / wealth/ financially stable partner/ increase assets	Expand their business empire

4.	her father was the magistrate in town,	(inferred) Building political <u>connections</u> / political clout/ reputation/ influential and powerful family/ to gain power/ for social status/ prestige/ authority/ social standing	Political connections
5.	there was a castle to keep up,	(inferred) for sharing living expenses/ to do the household chores/ share the labours of the household/ run the household	Keeping up the castle (either money or labour)
6.	or both sets of parents subscribed to the same interpretation of a holy text	(inferred) <u>religious</u> beliefs/ same faith	Religious reasons
Why these reasons are poor ones			
7.	loneliness	Relationships that were solitude/ seclusion/ alienation/ emptiness/ isolation	Solitude
8.	infidelity	Unfaithful/ cheating/ adultery/ betrayal/ affairs	Unfaithful
9.	Abuse	Mistreatment/ physical and mental damages/ bullied/ violence/ torture/ physical assault	Mistreated
10.	hardness of heart	and <u>indifferent</u> / apathy/ loss of emotional connections/ cold-heartedness/ insensitivity/ lack of affection/ loss of feelings/ no love	Indifferent
11.	screams heard through the nursery doors	(inferred) Children are neglected/ left alone/ unwanted/ unhappy/ abused/ inability to deal with parenthood OR The couple is stressed by having to care for their children/ frustrated at children	Children are neglected/ not raised well <i>Target group must be specified</i>
12.	expedient	Such marriages were <u>hastily</u> / conveniently arranged/ too rushed	Speed
13.	narrow-minded	for <u>shallow</u> reasons/ superficial/ selfish reasons/ bigoted/ short-sighted/ prejudiced/ closed-minded/ insular/ simplistic/ myopic/ ill-informed	Shallow /superficial reasons
14.	snobbish	And also about <u>social class</u> compatibility/ elitist/ look down on others	Social class compatibility / status
15.	exploitative	based on <u>unfair</u> / unequal terms between the partners/ done only for benefits/ taking advantage/ making use of the spouse/ manipulative/ ulterior motives	
Why romantic love has replaced the marriage of reason...			
16.	drawn to each other by an overwhelming instinct Or powerful force	It creates a <u>strong</u> / influential/ <u>inexplicable</u> / overpowering/ passionate emotional longing/ attraction/ connection	Strong emotional longing

17.	and know in their hearts that it is right	Seems <u>natural</u> / makes our heart feel good/ follow their heart/ intrinsic understanding/ believes in their choice	Know in their hearts
18.	essential component	Romantic love is a <u>key</u> / main ingredient/ irreplaceable/ necessary/ important/ has to be present	Key
19.	Indeed, the more imprudent a marriage appears (perhaps it's been only six months since they met; one of them has no job or both are barely out of their teens), the safer it can feel.	a (negative connotation must be clear): In fact, the more <u>ill-judged</u> / inappropriate/ ill-considered/ unfavourable/ ill-advised, dangerous b: the more <u>secure</u> / comforting/ appropriate/ right, it can feel.	The more love is inappropriate, the more they think they're doing the right thing
20.	reckless action of tying the knot is seen as a counterweight to right all the errors of reason	This <u>balances</u> / remedies/ outweighs/ counteracts/ corrects the wrongs/ mistakes/ eliminates the other illogical reasons/ compensation	To put right the mistakes
21.	It is an instinctive response to the traumatic experiences of marriage based on reason.	It is a <u>subconscious</u> / natural/ knee-jerk/ inherent/ intrinsic/ automatic/ spontaneous/ intuitive reaction to the marriage of practicality.	Subconscious reaction

8. From paragraph 6, identify two negative feelings in childhood that affects the ability to choose the right partner? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
The love most of us will have tasted early on was often confused with other, more destructive dynamics: feelings of wanting to help an adult who was out of control, of being deprived of a parent's warmth or scared of his anger, of not feeling secure enough to communicate our wishes.	A (Feelings of wanting to help an adult who was out of control): powerlessness/ hopelessness/ helplessness B (being deprived of a parent's warmth): unloved/ rejected/ neglected/ C (scared of his anger): fear D (not feeling secure enough to communicate our wishes): insecure, vulnerable, unsure

9. What does the author mean by 'And that might have been the wrong ingredient to bottle' (lines 59-60)? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
We married to make such sensations permanent but failed to see that there was no solid connection between these feelings and the institution of marriage. Indeed, marriage tends decisively to move us onto another, very different and more administrative plane, which perhaps unfolds in a suburban house, with a long commute and maddening children who kill the passion from which they emerged. The only ingredient in common is the partner. And that might have been the wrong ingredient to bottle. (lines 55 – 60)	We may have married the wrong person/ marrying the person was the wrong move. [1]

10. Explain what the author means by compatibility “is an achievement of love; it must not be its precondition” (line 77). [2]

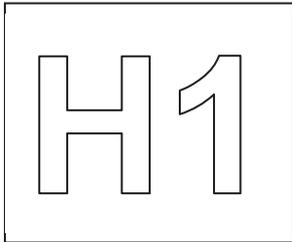
Lifted	Inferred
Rather than some notional idea of perfect complementarity, it is the capacity to tolerate differences with generosity that is the true marker of the “not overly wrong” person. Compatibility is an achievement of love; it must not be its precondition . (lines 75 – 77)	<p>A (achievement of love): It is something we work towards/ the ability to <u>accommodate</u> one another/ making compromises and concessions/ it is the <u>result</u> of love and affection. [1]</p> <p>B (not its precondition): It should not be the basis/ expected of in a relationship/ not something we start with/ pre-requisite [1]</p>

11. Alain de Botton raises issues about marriage. How far do you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to you and your society?

Para 2 & 3	<p><u>Point</u> We rarely delve into each other’s complexities in relationships.</p> <p>Marriage is a gamble.</p>
EX	De Botton argues that we fail to explore the deeper nuances of one another’s character before we choose to tie the knot. In fact, we do not even acknowledge our own imperfections. We simply get to know each other on a superficial level, which is nowhere near as intimate as the rigours of a matrimonial relationship demand, and then thrust ourselves into this new relationship, hoping for the best.
EV	De Botton’s observation is indeed an apt description of the state of courtship and marriage in Singapore society today. Young Singaporeans rarely have the time to look for a potential life partner in country that is seemingly addicted to being busy. It is a well-known fact that Singapore tops the world in average working hours. This inevitably means that young couples here are devoting less time to the imprecise art of finding a suitable spouse. The rise of dating apps that, with a few casual swipes, match strangers based on a summary list of interests and an assortment of photoshopped selfies is testament to the state of modern dating in Singapore. To compound matters even further, marriage is a prerequisite for purchasing public housing in Singapore. These social realities often mean that young people are pressured into finding a spouse before they hit the government stipulated “expiry date”- beyond which they no longer qualify for housing subsidies in a country infamous for its high cost of living.!
Para 4 & 5	<p><u>Point</u> In the past there was a logical reason for people to get married, but these were poor reasons to actually get married.</p> <p>The romantic idea behind getting married is unwise, because it is not based on reason.</p>
Ex	<p>People in the past used to get married for material gains, power and on religious grounds. The author thinks that these reasons for getting married are flawed – he considers them narrow-minded, conceited and even manipulative. He puts forward the argument that ‘the marriage of reason’ should be replaced by ‘the marriage of feeling’ which has largely been spared the need to account for itself i.e. romantic relationships don’t need an explanation.</p> <p>Yet marriage simply based on feelings may also not be ideal.</p>
Ev	<p><u>Agree</u> In modern societies however, couples do go for the ‘marriage of feeling’ i.e. to be romantically involved prior to getting married. Couples would like to get to know each other better before finally tying the knot. Many would also consider this as less of a gamble as they will know each other’s idiosyncrasies better. Expressing feelings in a relationship is very important. Feelings and indeed communication - are at the heart of every marriage. We get married because we love and have strong positive feelings towards someone and we chose to spend our lives and have children with him or her. Such images of marriage bliss are popularised by the mass media. Couples will not feel that they have been ‘trapped’ by families or relatives to get hitched for ‘logical reasons’ that the author has denounced i.e. material gains, power</p>

	<p>and on religious grounds. Furthermore, statistically speaking there are more love marriages as compared to arranged marriages in Singapore. Many feel that being romantically involved with a partner before marriage, accounts for a stronger marriage afterwards.</p> <p><u>Disagree</u></p> <p>It is hard to deny that people in the past used to get married for all the logical reasons the author has said – material gains, power and on religious grounds. These were probably the main reasons why people got married in the first place. The dowry system, still practised by some Indians in Singapore, for example refers to the durable goods, cash and real or movable property that the bride's family gives to the bridegroom, his parents, or his relatives as a condition of the marriage. Amongst the Chinese here, it is the reverse – the bridegroom's family sends wealth over to the bride's family to reserve the marriage. Though the dowry may not be the main focus in planning for marriage, it is undeniable that families do want their children to marry well and that their respective in-laws be financially stable.</p>
Para 6	<p><u>Point</u> We marry the wrong person because we do not associate being loved with being happy.</p>
EX	<p>The author is saying that we marry the wrong person because when we were young we were confused by the kind of love we received. The people whom we expected love from, were the closest people to us, but we did not receive love because of their own insecurities, personality disorders, anger, frustration and other negative feeling they were filled with. Our idea of love was then not the right kind- the warm positive feeling. We are unfamiliar with this kind of love and will not marry those who give it. We end up marrying those who cannot give us love, similar to those people in our childhood, whose love we yearned for and never got. That is why we marry the wrong person.</p>
EV	<p>We in Singapore may be facing the same problem too. Although there is no evidence to show that we marry the wrong person for the reason cited by the author, the divorce rate is high and is going up. One in 4 marriages ends in divorce and the common reason given is the irreconcilable differences between husband and wife. The age groups vary from those who were married for a few years to those who were married for decades. This is across all income groups too. What can be deduced from the divorce rate alone, is that they may have married the wrong person. These people may have married for the wrong reason as cited by the author. Due to the high standards of living and people having to work very hard all their lives, the family lives of many are not very stable and there are relationship problems, anger and frustration. So the children in such families do not get the love. Instead they get a lot of abuse and that may be seen as the norm. Increasingly, there are many institutions that provide after-school services to child whose parents are working, like the Student Care Centres. This shows that many parents are absent most of the time. Coupled with financial problems, family life cannot be good. As a result, these children grow with confused ideas of life and possibly marry the wrong person. This may account for the increasing number of marital problems and increasing number of divorces in Singapore.</p>
Para 7	<p><u>Point</u> We only marry because we do not want to be alone.</p>
EX	<p>The author is saying that we make mistakes and marry the wrong person because we are lonely. When one is lonely, one is in a miserable state of mind and naturally would want to get out of it. So when the opportunity arises to end the misery and loneliness, we quickly jump into a marriage. That's how we marry the wrong person too.</p>
EV	<p>Singapore is by and large still a traditional society. Traditional values and thinking driven by culture and religion govern this society. Many parents still adhere to such thinking. However, as much as we have advanced economically, we are still a traditional society. Many in Singapore still think that they should marry when they reach a certain age. They would not want to stay unmarried past a certain age. There is some kind of social embarrassment when they reach a certain age and are not married. During festivals like Chinese New Year, relatives will pester and ask embarrassing questions like when one is going to get married or if one has a boyfriend. This is especially so with single women because the older people think they have a 'sell by' date and would not be able to marry after a certain age. There is pressure on the males also if they are the only child, but less so otherwise. Parents also resort to match making formally or informally. We also have government agencies that helps people get together for the purpose of finding the spouse. This was set up in the 80's by the then Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew when he found out that many graduate women were not getting married. There are also many match making agencies in Singapore. Speed dating and other activities are common in Singapore, all with the same purpose. There are also agencies that would match make males with foreign brides, for the males in</p>

	certain social brackets cannot attract suitable brides. All these increase the pressure on the Singaporean singles to get married. This itself adds to the misery of the singles. Of course there is an increasing number of singles who do not care to get married and are oblivious or choose to ignore the pressure.
Para 8	<u>Point</u> We marry to make a nice feeling permanent, but this is a naïve expectation.
EX	The author is putting forth the argument that we want to keep forever the nice feeling people have during courtship and therefore these people go on to make the arrangement permanent, by marrying the person who provided that feeling. But he goes on to say that there is little connection between the wonderful feelings people had during courtship and the feelings during marriage. The wonderful feeling actually disappears. The situation is not the same and therefore there are no grounds to re-create those nice feeling experienced during courtship. This is one main reason people get married trying to keep those feelings permanent.
EV	After marriage, there are other practical aspects of life one has to deal with. These include finding proper housing, making decisions to raise children and actually going through the different and difficult processes of raising children. This is very true in Singapore. The main cause of divorce and marital problems in Singapore is incompatibility due to difference of opinion. In Singapore alone, the divorce rate has become alarming. In 2007, it was only 2.02 per 1,000 married couples but in 2009, it has become 7.7 per 1,000 married couples per record of the Department of Statistics. Many married couples quarrel about money and finances. Marriage partners come from different families and adapting to a new family can become stressful as they join their families together. In-laws might also interfere or meddle into the affairs or decisions of the couple such as where to live, how to raise kids, and all other things.
Para 9 & 10	<u>Point</u> It does not really matter if we marry the wrong person. Compatibility is an achievement of love, not its precondition.
EX	Very often we hear the term 'similarity attracts' and compatibility is touted as one of the key reasons why people fall in love with each other and marry. However, compatibility actually does little to predict a long-lasting and gratifying marriage. It is a quality that is honed and cultivated because of a couple's willingness to cooperate and communicate positively with each other.
EV	Young Singaporeans are saddled with a million notions of romantic, never-ending love after watching countless drama serials and romantic comedies, and yet there are fewer marriages and more divorces today as compared to the past. It could be argued that this is because of the idealistic and unattainable idea of a 'perfect couple' and 'perfect life' that is portrayed in the social media-soaked world that today's young adults are living in. The popular hashtag #couplegoals shows couples gazing lovingly into each other's eyes, embracing each other in front of the sunset and other equally cheesy movie-worthy image that does not depict real relationships at all. Thus young people today view relationships through these rose-tinted glasses and once things go awry in a relationship, they think they have married the "wrong" person and cite 'irreconcilable differences' as a reason for divorce. Compare this with the arranged marriages of the past, where marriages were seen to be pragmatic and where a couple learnt to live together and were committed to each other, flaws and imperfections included.



TAMPINES JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION



CANDIDATE
NAME

CIVICS GROUP

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TUTOR

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

24 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper

Additional Materials: 1 Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

- Write your name and class on all the work you hand in.
- Write in dark blue or black pen.
- Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

TOTAL:

/50

Answer **all** questions.

The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.

Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use

Qn 1		Qn 7		MARKER 1	
Qn 2		Qn 8		MARKER 2	
Qn 3		Qn 9		MARKER 3	
Qn 4		Qn 10		MARKER 4	
Qn 5		Qn 11		MARKER 5	
Qn 6					
Sub-total	 / 35		AVE LANG MARK / 15

Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

For
Examiner's
Use

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words and phrases from the passage.

1 In the first paragraph, what reasons does the author offer for why clothing is important throughout human history? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

2 In paragraph 2, what differences does the author see between the clothes of early human societies and societies today? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....
.....
.....[2]

3 What is the author hinting at by her use of the words "it was assumed" (lines 25 – 26)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....
.....
.....[2]

4 In paragraph 4, what reasons does the author suggest for “standards of dress” being “a form of soft power” (line 29)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

5 Explain the irony in the author’s description of soft power in paragraph 4.

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.....
.....[2]

6 In paragraph 5, explain how the poster of Rosie the Riveter overturned characteristics traditionally associated with women. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

7 How does the slogan on the poster support the author’s argument in paragraph 5? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[1]

9 In paragraph 7, how does the author illustrate her idea that “collecting and wearing haute couture is the ultimate status symbol” (lines 60 – 61)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[3]

10 Which aspect of the author’s argument in the first paragraph is reinforced by the last sentence in the passage? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....

.....[1]

Nicole Smith writes about how clothing establishes our identity.

- 1 Say the word "communication" and ask for associations. Most people are likely to focus on verbal expressions as the primary association with the communicative process and function. Our personal image, however, also communicates volumes about who we are, what we believe, what we consider important, and how we want others to view us. A woman wearing a hijab, for instance, is identifying herself as an adherent to particular religious and cultural norms. By negotiating these aspects of our identity by what we wear, we can either bring ourselves closer to others or distance ourselves from them. Looking back over the course of human history, one sees how important clothing has been, not only in the process of conveying important information about ourselves and the groups with which we associate, but also in the process of establishing certain cultural and social norms that provide both shape and structure to society. 5
10
- 2 The clothes of early human societies seem to have been more functional than fashionable, permitting hunter-gatherers a certain degree of protection from the elements while maintaining ease of movement. However, the transition from clothing as a purely functional object to one that also had expressive and communicative capacities was relatively quick. African and Native American tribes, for instance, have extensive and rich traditions of elaborate clothing, especially for ceremonial purposes. The degree and quality of decoration, as well as the materials used, signified the wearer's rank in the social order. Eagle feathers and elaborate headdresses were reserved for elders and important tribal leaders. Certain pieces of clothing were also reserved for wear during important ceremonies and rites, and were not part of everyday dress. Such clothing was believed to be imbued with special spiritual and protective powers. 15
20
- 3 Dress codes are often markers of a person's socio-economic status. In old England, students donned blue Tudor frock coats with yellow stockings. Blue was the cheapest available dye at the time, and was used to emphasise the low status of the children. Today, wealthier, more traditional schools often have dress codes that represent the privileged world they are a part of or their families aspire to attain. Many lower income schools have uniforms because it was assumed that students who come from low performing schools need uniforms for the students to take the learning environment seriously. Clothes and appearance have always been symbols of how an individual belongs within – or is excluded from – his or her community. 25
- 4 Standards of dress can also constitute a form of soft power. Western civilization, for example, set the standards of dress for colonisers and the locals. In cases where colonial rulers regarded indigenous dress as a potential focus of resistance to occupying power, suppression of local dress was rigidly enforced. For instance, when Korea was a Japanese colony, all markers of Korean cultural identity, including the use of the spoken and written Korean language and the wearing of the national *Hanbok* costume, were ruthlessly suppressed. 30
- 5 During World War II, as women began to work outside the home, helping with the war effort by working in factories, clothing became an important way in which identity and gender stereotypes were negotiated. The poster of Rosie the Riveter, a cultural icon representing American women during World War II, depicted a woman with a determined look on her face and a confident display of strength. Although the poster only depicted Rosie from the torso up, it was clear that she was not garbed in traditional female dress of the time. Instead, she was wearing a functional blue denim work shirt, not adorned with any decorations. She was not wearing earrings or other 35
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jewellery, and she had a covering on her head, a bandanna, that kept her hair out of her face. "We can do it!" was the slogan on the poster. The image of Rosie the Riveter was important because it diffused a whole new idea of women and their dress on a massive scale. Its widespread dissemination, and its appeal and popularity ensured that women could be advocates for change. 45

6 The mid-20th century represented a dramatic shift in the way that clothing was both conceptualised and used. The locus of authority establishing norms of dress also began to shift. Social norms about dress began to relax somewhat, and there was a trend towards self-determination in the form of self-identity and self-representation. The power of institutions to dictate who could wear what and why became diluted. As a result, industries oriented around clothing became increasingly pervasive and visible in society. Clothing producers began creating, marketing, and disseminating more types, styles, and varieties of clothing than ever before, creating an almost endless array of possibilities for the wearer. 50

7 Just because there was a loosening of social norms about dress did not mean that it lost its power as a marker of social status. On the contrary, as designers and manufacturers increased the variety of styles and made them available on the market, clothing became a more powerful marker of status than it ever was. Innovation created demand, and demand spawned various sectors within the clothing industry: haute couture and budget clothing, to name just two segments of the market. For diehard fashionistas and the wealthy, collecting and wearing haute couture is the ultimate status symbol in the modern world. The made-by-hand clothing cannot be purchased in stores. Instead, buyers must have insider knowledge and connections to learn what is for sale. In some cases, they liaise directly with ateliers. The result? A one-of-a-kind piece created by specially-trained artisans. On the other hand, budget clothing shops are scattered across cities, with mass produced, low cost wears available for purchase. Moreover, the acceleration of technologies such as the Internet, digital photography, and online media such as blogs, YouTube, and the like have all had a significant impact on the spread of new fashion standards, which are either accepted or rejected by the buying public. These media serve to stimulate desire, inviting people who consider themselves trendsetters to adopt a product and bring it to the larger public. 60
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8 Today, the clothing industry is a platform to raise awareness of world issues. When global retailer *H&M* launched their *Conscious* collection, they were committed to the ethical production of sustainable garments. Similarly, there are other brands that support and raise funds for a variety of issues throughout the world. American clothing retailer *Gap* was a partner of the *(PRODUCT)RED* campaign to help raise awareness and eliminate AIDS in Africa. *Gap's* campaign featured celebrities who wore a *Gap (PRODUCT)RED* item each. Thought-provoking questions, such as "Can the shirt off your back change the world?" and "Can the next generation change the world?" accompanied the images. So fashion is really more than meets the eye. Gone are the days when people just choose to wear something because it looks good. Of course, that is still very much a part of fashion choices. But these days, clothes and accessories stand for something. Fashion choice today is about making a statement. 75
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9 We see, then, how clothing has evolved from a purely functional personal item to one of great creative significance, a tool we use to establish, express, and convey multiple aspects of our identity. Clothing does speak.

Tampines Junior College
2017 JC2 Preliminary Examination

Suggested Answer Scheme

1. In the first paragraph, what reasons does the author offer for why clothing is important throughout human history? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2 marks)

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
conveying important information about ourselves (lines 8-9)	projects/imparts/transmit/relays significant/impactful/powerful/crucial details/particulars/facts/background about a person
the groups with which we associate (line 9)	people we connect/identify with/relate/affiliated to
establishing certain cultural and social norms (lines 9-10)	clothes set the standard/benchmark/guide for social behaviour/traditions/customs of a society
that provide both shape and structure to society (line 10)	and this gives a framework/system/backbone for society to function effectively

- 1-2 points – 1 mark
3-4 points – 2 marks

2. In paragraph 2, what differences does the author see between the clothes of early human societies and societies today? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2 marks)

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
More functional than fashionable (line 11)	a. Clothes of early human societies were designed to be practical and useful whereas today they are for enhancing one's appearance
signified the wearer's rank in the social order (line 17)	b. Clothes of early human societies was not a reflection of social standing but in societies today, clothes are a reflection of a person's position/grade/status/level in society
Certain pieces of clothing were also reserved for wear during important ceremonies and rites, and were not part of everyday dress (lines 18-19)	c. In early human societies, there was no distinction between the clothes worn every day and for special occasions but today, there are clothes set aside for particular uses/specific purposes

Any 2 points for 2 marks

3. What is the author hinting at by her use of the words "it was assumed" (lines 25 – 26)? (2 marks)

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
Many lower income schools have uniforms because it was assumed that students who come from low performing schools need	Belief/Assumption: The attitude of low performing students towards learning will change when they are wearing standard

uniforms for the students to take the learning environment seriously (lines 25-27)	school uniform and they will take learning earnestly/purposefully/resolutely Reality: This is not the case
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4. In paragraph 4, what reasons does the author suggest for “standards of dress” being “a form of soft power” (line 29)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2 marks)

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
Western civilization , for example, set the standards of dress for colonisers and the locals (lines 29-30)	Standards of dress are a form of soft power because the group in authority/power determines/decides the rules with regard to clothing.
where colonial rulers regarded indigenous dress as a potential focus of resistance to occupying power (lines 30-31)	Local/native clothes is an expression of non-compliance/refusal to accept authority
suppression of local dress was rigidly enforced (lines 31-32)	Those in power could quell/crush/repress the opposition by strictly controlling/keeping in check/curbing the use of local dress.

Any 2 points for 2 marks

5. Explain the irony in the author’s description of soft power in paragraph 4. (2 marks)

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
Standards of dress can also constitute a form of soft power. Western civilization, for example, set the standards of dress for colonisers and the locals. In cases where colonial rulers regarded indigenous dress as a potential focus of resistance to occupying power, suppression of local dress was rigidly enforced . For instance, when Korea was a Japanese colony, all markers of Korean cultural identity, including the use of the spoken and written Korean language and the wearing of the national <i>Hanbok</i> costume, were ruthlessly suppressed (lines 29-34)	Expected: Soft power is the use of persuasion BUT in this description, Reality: coercion/force/intimidation/enforcement is used instead

6. In paragraph 5, explain how the poster of Rosie the Riveter overturned characteristics traditionally associated with women. **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2 marks)

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
determined look on her face and a confident display of strength (lines 38-39)	Traditionally , women were indecisive/meek/passive, irresolute (inferred) , but Rosie has a firm/gritty/dogged/go-getter demeanour and exudes assertiveness and power.
Instead, she was wearing a functional blue denim work shirt, not adorned with any	Traditionally , women were only meant to look beautiful, attractive/immaculate (inferred) , but Rosie is wearing

decorations. She was not wearing earrings or other jewellery (lines 40-42)	practical/handy/serviceable clothes (hair out of face as well)
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7. How does the slogan on the poster support the author’s argument in paragraph 5? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (1 mark)

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
it diffused a whole new idea of women ... and its appeal and popularity ensured that women could be advocates for change (lines 44-46)	It conveyed a novel/different perception/fresh perspective of women possessing transformative power/as revolutionaries/being able to make a difference

8. Using material from paragraphs 6-8 only (lines 47 - 81), summarise what the author has to say about changes in society and how they impact people’s perception of clothing.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

Changes in society have influenced people’s perception of clothing by

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
A: dramatic shift in the way that clothing was both conceptualised and used (lines 47-48)	A: Sudden/striking change in direction in how clothing was thought of and utilised/employed .
B: The locus of authority establishing norms of dress also began to shift (line 48).	B: There is no longer a central/dominant power to set the standards of acceptable dressing.
C: Social norms about dress began to relax somewhat (line 49).	C: There are fewer restrictions on what people should wear.
D: there was a trend towards self-determination (lines 49-50)	D: People decide for themselves/have greater autonomy over their clothing preferences
E: in the form of self-identity and self-representation (line 50)	E: because it is a reflection of who they are and how they would like to be portrayed .
F: The power of institutions to dictate who could wear what and why became diluted (lines 50-51).	F: The ability of organisations to directly influence/control/determine/impose the choice of clothing is weakened/diminished/reduced/lessened .
G: As a result, industries oriented around clothing became increasingly pervasive and visible in society (lines 51-52).	G: The fashion industry thus grows/becomes more widespread/prevalent and evident/conspicuous/prominent in society.
H: Clothing producers began creating (line 53),	H: Clothing producers started generating/producing/making
I: marketing (line 53),	I: selling/promoting

J: and disseminating more types, styles, and varieties of clothing than ever before (lines 53-54),	J: distributing/circulating/spreading more kinds/sorts/forms of fashion trends
K: creating an almost endless array of possibilities for the wearer (line 54).	K: This creates countless/unlimited/multitude/infinite range of options/choices for the wearer.
L: clothing became a more powerful marker of status than it ever was (lines 57-58).	L: Clothing has become a stronger/more influential/more formidable indicator of rank/social standing/social position/station in life.
M: Innovation created demand (line 58),	M: Changes/revolutions in clothing gave rise to more needs/wants/requirements/desires on the part of consumers
N: and demand spawned various sectors within the clothing industry (lines 58-59)	N: which in turn created/gave rise to diverse/many categories/divisions/groups within the clothing industry.
O: haute couture and budget clothing, to name just two segments of the market (lines 59-60).	O: catering to the rich and fashionable as well as those looking for affordable/cheaper/inexpensive clothing.
P: the acceleration of technologies such as the Internet, digital photography, and online media such as blogs, YouTube, and the like have all had a significant impact on the spread of new fashion standards (lines 66-68),	P: The increase in the rate of technological advancements has a notable/remarkable/important effect/influence on the proliferation/development of novel/current/contemporary fashion paradigms/ideals/guidelines
Q: which are either accepted or rejected by the buying public (line 68).	Q: and these are either embraced/welcomed/adopted or dismissed/refused/shunned by buyers.
R: These media serve to stimulate desire (lines 68-69),	R: The media trigger/spark/kindle people's longing/yearning for new things
S: inviting people who consider themselves trendsetters to adopt a product and bring it to the larger public (lines 69-70).	S: encouraging fashion influencers to choose/select/pick out items and show/promote them to people.
T: Today, the clothing industry is a platform to raise awareness of world issues (line 71).	T: Today, the clothing industry is an avenue/stage to bring people's attention/increase knowledge/consciousness/understanding/appreciation of global problems/concerns.
U: Gone are the days when people just choose to wear something because it looks good (line 79).	U: People today no longer pick out/select their clothes only/merely to improve their physical appearance/beautify themselves/enhance outward appearance
V: these days, clothes and accessories stand for something. Fashion choice	V: But today, fashion is an assertion/communication of beliefs/ideals/principles/conviction.

today is about making a statement (lines 80-81).	
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1m	2m	3m	4m	5m	6m	7m	8m
1-2 pts	3-4 pts	5-6 pts	7-8 pts	9-10 pts	11-12 pts	13-14 pts	15 and above

Summary Sample:

Changes in society have influenced people's perception of clothing by (A) changing how clothing is thought of and employed. There are (C) fewer restrictions and (D) more autonomy of choice. The (F) ability of organisations to influence choice is reduced. Hence, (G) the fashion industry becomes more prevalent and conspicuous. Clothing producers started (H) making, (I) promoting and (J) spreading different kinds of fashion trends, creating (K) unlimited options for the wearer. Clothing has become a (L) stronger indicator of social standing. (M) New inventions generated more wants, (N) leading to many categories in fashion. (P) The speed in technological advancements had a remarkable impact on the proliferation of fresh clothing guidelines, which could be (Q) welcomed or shunned by buyers. Clothes today can be a (T) way to increase knowledge of global problems. (U) Clothes are no longer put on to enhance appearance but (V) reflect beliefs. (17 points, 121 words)

9. In paragraph 7, how does the author illustrate her idea that "collecting and wearing haute couture is the ultimate status symbol" (lines 60-61)? Use your own words as far as possible. (3 marks)

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
made-by-hand clothing (line 61)	handcrafted clothing
cannot be purchased in stores (lines 61-62)	cannot be bought off the rack/at retail shops
buyers must have insider knowledge and connections to learn what is for sale. In some cases, they liaise directly with ateliers. (lines 62-63)	buyers must have exclusive information/the lowdown and be in networks/have the right contacts/links/relations to know what is for sale. In some cases, they communicate/reach out to directly with the fashion designer/fashion house
one-of-a-kind piece (line 63)	bespoke/personalised/custom-made

Any 3 points for 3 marks

10. Which aspect of the author's argument in the first paragraph is reinforced by the last sentence in the passage? Use your own words as far as possible. (1 mark)

From the Passage	In Your Own Words
Clothing does speak (line 84) communicates volumes about who we are, what we believe, what we consider important, and how we want others to view us (lines 3-4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clothes say a lot about our personalities/identities, b. Our values/what we stand for/our convictions c. What we hold dear/ prioritise/deem essential/vital d. Motivation behind the projection of self/how we want to be perceived/seen/regarded

Any 1 of the above

11. Nicole Smith thinks that clothing is an important way of communicating information about ourselves to others. How far would you agree with her observations, relating your arguments to your own society?

Para	Passage Ref	Agree	Disagree
2	<i>'However, the transition from clothing as a purely functional object to one that also had expressive and communicative capacities was relatively quick.'</i> (lines 13 – 14)	<p>a) Clothing is a way to express identity, religious affiliations, sexual orientation and also serves to convey a message or push for change.</p> <p>Example: In 2014, Islamic religious leader Noor Deros launched a campaign – 'Wearwhite' in opposition to Pink Dot. Pink Dot is an annual event championing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) community. Wearing white indicates opposition to homosexuality and liberal ideologies and supports the promotion of traditional family values. In 2016, a pastor, Mr Lawrence Khong, pushed for his congregation and Singaporeans to wear white during the Pink Dot weekend as a "Pro-family, pro-Government, pro-Singapore message". According to Mr Khong, this shows the church's stance on heterosexual marriage and the "natural family", and is in keeping with the social norms of "Singapore's conservative majority".</p> <p>b) In Singapore, clothes are vital in communicating our racial identity and who we are as a nation.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Singaporeans typically don red and white colours on National Day (and the days leading up to it) as they are the colours of our national flag. Wearing red and white reflects our loyalty to and support for our country. 2) At Miss Universe pageants, Singapore representatives deck out in bespoke evening gowns that consist of 	<p>Many clothes are still worn for functional and practical reasons. People of different occupations wear different uniforms respectively that are best suited for the various activities they undertake.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Regular personnel of the Singapore Armed Forces have to wear uniforms to work daily. They don pixelised uniforms that have a camouflage print, boast superior fabric and an ergonomic design – all to enhance survivability and operational effectiveness of soldiers. The shape, pattern and colours of the pixelised patterns were designed for different operating environments. For example, the army's green pixelised pattern is optimised for a vegetated environment while the Air Force's and Navy's greyish-blue pixelised patterns are designed to blend into air base installations/onboard ships, respectively. Different occasions also call for different ways in which the uniform is to be worn. Soldiers don their 'Number 1' at formal events such as the National Day Parade while the 'Number 4' can be worn as 'short 4' (before and after training sessions) and 'long 4' (during training).

		<p>elements that represent Singapore. In 2015, local couturier Frederick Lee designed a bold red gown featuring a cheongsam top made of trademark batik red fabric of the <i>Singapore Girl kebaya</i> attached to a heavily sequined mermaid skirt. The gown was paired with a <i>sanggul lintang</i>, inspired by the traditional headdress worn by Malay brides. The finishing touch was a 3-m wide structure on her back featuring large red foam orchids. Mr Lee drew inspiration from the <i>kavadis</i> that Hindu devotees carry during the Thaipusam procession. He also wanted to pay homage to the fact that the Singapore Botanic Gardens became the nation's first Unesco World Heritage Site. A total of 50 red orchids of varying sizes adorn the outfit as a tribute to Singapore's golden jubilee.</p>	<p>2) Doctors in Singapore wear scrubs and many hospitals are moving toward nurses and other allied healthcare professionals wearing scrubs to carry out daily activities for a few practical reasons. Scrubs help contaminants and bodily fluids get recognised, are inexpensive to replace, can get cleaned using harsh chemicals, protect personal clothing from being ruined and obviously, help patients identify them.</p>
3	<p><i>'Dress codes are often markers of a person's socio-economic status.'</i> (line 21)</p>	<p>a) The socialites in Singapore carry designer goods and are adorned in pieces from latest seasons. They are featured in magazines such as High Net Worth Digital Magazine (Singapore) or Singapore Tatler. They are invited to launches of new products and collections.</p> <p>b) #therichkidsofsingapore post #ootds on social media platforms such as Instagram. In their photos, luxury goods from clothes to bags are visible. For example, Arissa Cheo (@xarissaxcheox) is a well-dressed heiress often seen in fashion-forward looks, while decked out in brands like Chanel, Hermes, Saint Laurent, Christian Louboutin, Alexander Wang and Givenchy. Jamie Chua's (@ec24m) Instagram account provides a glimpse into her extensive collection of over 200 Hermes bags and Lianhe Wanbao dubbed her as the woman with "the most number of Hermes Birkin bags in the world".</p>	<p>a) In modern Singapore, clothes have been made highly affordable. Today, the choice of dress is mostly a personal one that may not be entirely reflective of one's social standing. Clothes are worn for occasion and for comfort. Slippers, often regarded as sloppy and informal are dubbed by some as our "national footwear". Undergraduates at local universities received flak for wearing slippers on campus while Singaporeans wear thongs everywhere – from restaurants to Orchard Road to the Esplanade. When interviewed, students and Singaporeans cited comfort and fashion as reasons for the choice of footwear.</p>

		<p>c) Watches are luxury items that are status symbols. A watch in Singapore is typically a mark/indicator of success. Popular brands include Rolex, IWC, and Patek Phillip and are available in shops such as Sincere Watches Hourglass, in upmarket Marina Bay Sands and Orchard Road.</p>	<p>b) In the past, ownership of designer bags was reserved for the rich. With the rising affluence of Singaporeans, it is not uncommon to see Singaporeans, especially women, carrying bags from luxury labels such as Gucci, LV, and Coach. There are also more ‘wallet-friendly’ designer brands such as Kate Spade, Longchamp, Michael Kors. They are cheaper than other luxury brands but they are considered branded nonetheless. Sporting a bag from any of these brands does not immediately reflect one’s true socio-economic status. A contributing factor to this would also be that the prices of these bags are severely marked down during sales such as the Great Singapore Sale or purchased from Factory Outlets overseas. This makes it easier to obtain these bags and hence they are not reserved exclusively for the rich.</p>
5	<p><i>‘...clothing became an important way in which identity and gender stereotypes were negotiated.’ (lines 36 – 37)</i> <i>‘Its widespread dissemination, and its appeal and</i></p>	<p>a) Increasingly today lines between what constitutes menswear and womenswear have blurred. Women sport ‘boyfriend jeans’ and sneakers have become the footwear of choice amongst young girls and older women alike.</p> <p>b) Women typically donned frocks and dresses that complement the feminine figure. The ‘Power Suit’ epitomises the push against female stereotypes as domesticated and dependent on men. The clean sharp lines of a ‘Power Suit’ put women in good stead to compete against and succeed in a man’s world</p>	<p>a) In Singapore, most Muslim women dress modestly, covering everything except the face, hands up to wrists and feet. In addition, they don a <i>hijab</i> or headscarf. This has perpetuated gender stereotypes of women as subservient to men and as passive individuals. Their fabrics are mostly without print and dull in colour. This traditional clothing does not reflect women as forerunners for change but</p>

	<p><i>popularity ensured that women could be advocates for change.' (lines 44 – 46)</i></p>	<p>as a woman in it projects strength and exudes confidence. These suits once reserved only for men are being transformed to suit the female body and flatter their curves. This serves as a representation of women being as good, if not better than men in many different spheres of work.</p> <p>c) Muslim women subscribe to a modest fashion style. Associated with a modest choice of wear, there is the belief that Muslim women cannot be fashion-forward in their wardrobe choices. However, today, modest wear has become very trendy and is even referred to as 'Modern Modest Wear'. This goes against the stereotype of the meek Muslim woman. They now have agency in choosing what they want to wear, with fashion forward designs and mixing and matching different variations of outfits, yet maintaining their conservative style. Furthermore, these clothes being easily available in big retail stores such as Zalora and Uniqlo show that modesty and fashion can be synonymous.</p>	<p>instead may reflect the traditional and backward associations of women.</p> <p>b) In most Singapore schools, girls wear skirts or pinafores while boys wear Bermuda pants or long pants. In a world where androgynous fashion is becoming increasingly popular and where fashion is pushing boundaries and breaking free from gender stereotypes, uniforms still have clear barriers between male and female dress.</p>
6	<p><i>'The locus of authority establishing norms of dress also began to shift.' (line 48)</i></p> <p><i>'...there was a trend towards self-determination in the form of self-identity and self-representation.' (lines 49 – 50)</i></p>	<p>a) No locus of authority establishing norms of dress. Globalisation has given Singapore access to a variety of high end, mid-market and budget apparel and accessories, such as sports goods, ladies fashion, footwear and bags. There is a range of choices to suit everyone's taste, preferences and budget.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There are luxury brands to cater to the affluent shopper. Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands has 170 luxury and premium brands such as Dior and Gucci. 2) For those looking for affordable and one-of-a-kind outfits, there are flea markets, thrift stores and Bugis Street with its alleys of different clothes. 	<p>Generally, Singaporeans find comfort in big, recognisable global fashion brands such as <i>Topshop, Uniqlo</i> and <i>H&M</i> because they connote quality, and to some extent prestige and status. In a bid to make profits, many shopping malls in Singapore carry these same brands, resulting in people having a rather homogeneous look as they have obtained their clothes from the same few shops. Young people, especially, are still finding their personal identity and tend to be keen to own what their peers have so that they can fit in and make themselves feel part of a community. This is reflected in their clothing choices.</p>

		<p>So in Singapore, we are spoilt for choice and the variety available means people have different styles to choose from that fits their purpose and budget.</p> <p>b) With the influx of mass market global brands in Singapore, people are craving for individuality and seeking pieces that are off-the-beaten path. There is thus a new thriving market for local designers. These homegrown designers give a local spin to their designs.</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>1) <i>Ong Shunmugam</i> creates modern, wearable interpretations of traditional wear, such as the cheongsam, sari or samfu. Womenswear label <i>Baju</i> by Oniatta and leather goods label <i>Oakmoon Crafts</i> weave batik into their designs and give the traditional method of wax painting a modern twist. The traditional textile is paired with materials such as leather or used to make everyday work clothes.</p> <p>These local designers put a modern twist on traditional items, producing unique pieces of clothing that incorporate both the old and new and owning these pieces reflect the wearer's appreciation of culture and history.</p>	
7	<p><i>'Moreover, the acceleration of technologies such as the Internet, digital photography, and online media such as blogs, YouTube and the like have</i></p>	<p>a) Instagram is one of the most popular and influential social media platforms in the world, and the go-to place for fashionistas, bloggers and photographers who want to share their #ootd snaps with their adoring fans.</p> <p>The term "influencer" is a social media buzzword that is generally used to describe people who have a substantial reach and following on social media platforms, are trendsetters and can shape the opinions and behaviour of</p>	<p>Influencers (Instagrammers, bloggers) are useful to the fashion industry because the influencer's feed or blog or vlog is an avenue for product placement, but this has been said to affect fashion in a negative way because they are essentially promoting the dominant fashion trends, namely street fashion, instead of encouraging creativity in fashion. The end product is created with the prevailing consumer</p>

<p><i>all had a significant impact on the spread of new fashion standards...’ (lines 65 – 68)</i></p>	<p>many. These influencers play a vital role in the landscape of fashion. With young people aged 16-24 years old in Singapore displaying trust in what people say online, the benefit of Instagram influencer marketing is amplified.</p> <p>Examples of Fashion Instagrammers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Blogger Naomi Neo gets up to \$45,000 worth of free clothing, beauty products and gadgets in a year. All these from a range of companies keen to get a mention on her blog and social media accounts. Her blog receives 250,000 to 280,000 hits a month, while her Instagram account has 142,000 followers. 2) Another blogger, Nellie Lim’s IG is not just about fashion, but also filled with food and lifestyle photography. Her account is characterised by colourful accents in every shot, whether it is from her clothes or her skill at scoping out the best #ootd backgrounds all around Singapore. 3) Another fashion icon is Nicole Wong with her espousal of a punk-rock, edgy vibe in her leather jackets, Converse shoes and 90s inspired chokers. <p>b) Celebrities also use social media to spread current fashion trends and showcase their style. They wield exceptional power and influence because they already have a fan base and a signature look. Because of their influence, they are trendsetters in today's society. BIGBANG’s G-Dragon, for example, is listed among the top 500 people considered to be the most influential in shaping the global fashion industry.</p> <p>c) The Internet has transformed the entire fashion supply chain. While previously the fashion industry was mainly driven by producers, retailers and designers, today, the industry is mainly driven by consumers who are increasingly able to design their own garments by choosing fabrics, colours, prints</p>	<p>interest in mind, rather than necessarily creating new fashion standards.</p>
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		and style. Digital technologies also enable small and new fashion labels to gain access to markets around the globe.	
8	<p><i>'Today, the clothing industry is a platform to raise awareness of world issues.' (line 71)</i></p> <p><i>'Fashion choice today is about making a statement.' (line 81)</i></p>	<p>a) The trend is catching on in Singapore, with more shoppers going green and stores eager to meet the rising demand.</p> <p>Singaporean consumers are generally becoming more eco-conscious and aware of how their lifestyles can impact the natural environment and they are keen on wearing their conviction on their sleeve and asserting their choices as a consumer. This trend could be because of active campaigning by activist groups, as well as eco-friendly apparel becoming more readily available on the market. Eco-fashion is also becoming more fashionable. More players in the market also mean a possible decrease in price.</p> <p>Examples of popular eco-fashion labels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Etrican Established in 2009. Seen demand jump in the past three years and has ramped up production. Organic and eco-friendly label. Uses organic cotton – Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certified, which dictates against several ills such as child labour, unfair wages, and prohibits toxic chemical input. 2) The Fashion Benefit Online retailer – aggregator of local and international labels that wave the flag for social and environmental sustainability. Every purchase leads to a US\$5 donation to a chosen cause. Seen business surge in recent years. 3) Saught Online store – accessories line with a peace-building message. Salvaged scrap metal from active Cambodian landmines is repurposed into jewellery by skilled Cambodian artisans. 	<p>Singapore has a consumer-driven economy and the young particularly are obsessed with buying cheap, fast fashion. Fast fashion chains like Zara, H&M, Uniqlo, and Forever21, blogshops, and online shopping sites like ASOS and Love, Bonito churn out new collections quickly to keep their customers excited and satisfied. Instant gratification and constant stimulation seem to be the key to customer satisfaction. In this digital age, trends and “what’s hot” lists change fast. There is little loyalty to items and brands, as they could become obsolete after a short period of time. Clothes are no longer about the craft or the underlying social message. There is just a need to constantly replenish wardrobes with new things.</p> <p>Example: According to statistics from the National Environment Agency (NEA), Singapore generated 156700 tonnes of textile and leather waste in 2016. This includes clothing, linen and bags. According to the statistics, Singaporeans buy about 34 pieces of brand new apparel per year and on the average discard 27 items of clothing per year. Possible reasons for this: Greater spending power fuelling consumption rate of goods, leading to consumers buying more than they need, proliferation of fast fashion chains in neighbourhood malls, emphasis of mass production of such clothing may mean clothes of</p>

		<p>Collaboration between Saught's founders, artisans from Cambodian-based NGOs and students from Temasek School of Design, who came up with the jewellery designs. Transformative social business -jewellery pieces which are emblems of peace, bringing people's attention to the war restoration cause in Cambodia.</p> <p>b) Major fashion retailers such as Benetton Group and H&M promoting sustainability has removed association of eco-friendly fashion with frumpiness to become something that is stylish and desirable.</p>	<p>poorer quality and may not last long, competitive prices and convenience brought about by online shops and marketplaces accelerate the issue. So the priority of consumers here seems to be cost and variety of clothing.</p>
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GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

25 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and GP tutor's name on all the work that you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue, correction fluid or correction tape.

Answer **one** question.

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

[Turn over

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2

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 Can government surveillance eradicate the threat of terrorism?
- 2 Examine the claim that globalisation creates equal opportunities for all.
- 3 'The government is not doing enough to support local sportsmen in your society.' What is your view?
- 4 To what extent is a universal language desirable?
- 5 Should people in your society be fearful of the future?
- 6 'Graciousness is lost as society progresses.' Is this an accurate reflection of your society?
- 7 How far do you agree that technology gives us greater control in life?
- 8 Consider the view that what is posted online is all talk and no action.
- 9 'Failure should never be acceptable.' Discuss.
- 10 Do you agree that only parents should be allowed to discipline their children?
- 11 Is volunteerism always good?
- 12 'The world today values appearance over substance.' Is this a fair comment?

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

25 August 2017

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This document consists of **3** printed pages.

Michael Pollan laments the rise of cooking programmes and the decline of home cooking.

- 1 How amazing is it that today we live in a culture that not only has something called the Food Network but now has a hit show on that network called “The Next Food Network Star,” in which thousands of 20- and 30-somethings compete eagerly to become? The Food Network can now be seen in nearly 100 million American homes and on most nights, commands more viewers than any of the cable news channels. Millions of Americans, including my 16-year-old son, can tell you months after the finale, which contestant emerged victorious in Season 5 of “Top Chef”. 5
- 2 On prime time television, famous restaurant chefs wage culinary combat to see who can, in sixty minutes, concoct the most spectacular meal from a secret ingredient ceremoniously unveiled just as the clock starts – an octopus or a bunch of bananas. Cooking on television is a form of athletic competition. On “Iron Chef America,” a running commentary is given, as the iron chefs and their teams race the clock to peel, chop, slice, dice, mince, boil, double-boil, pan-sear, sauté, deep-fry, pressure-cook, grill, deglaze, reduce and plate – this last is a word I am old enough to remember when it was a mere noun. A particularly dazzling display of cheffy knife skills will earn an instant replay – an onion minced in slow motion. The commentator asks in a hushed tone, “Can we get a camera on this? It looks like Chef Flay’s going to try for a last-minute garnish grab before the clock runs out! Will he make it? [The buzzer sounds.] Yes!” 10
- 3 These shows move so fast, in such a blur of flashing knives, frantic pantry raids and more sheer fire than you would ever want to see in your own kitchen, that I honestly cannot tell you whether that “last-minute garnish grab” happened on “Iron Chef America” or “Chopped” or “The Next Food Network Star” or whether it was Chef Flay or Chef Batali who snagged the sprig of foliage at the buzzer. But you do have to wonder how easily so specialised a set of skills might translate to the home kitchen, or anywhere else for that matter. When in real life are even professional chefs required to conceive and execute dishes in twenty minutes from ingredients selected by a third party exhibiting obvious sadistic tendencies? Never, is when. The skills celebrated on the Food Network in prime time are precisely the skills necessary to succeed on the Food Network in prime time. 20
- 4 We learn things from watching these cooking competitions, but they are not things about how to cook. There are no recipes to follow, the contests fly by much too fast for viewers to take in any practical tips and the kind of cooking on television is far more spectacular than anything you would ever try at home. As a chef friend put it, when I asked him if he thought I could learn anything about cooking by watching the Food Network, “How much do you learn about playing basketball by watching the NBA?” 30
- 5 Yet, cooking shows captivate us because food is attractive to humans and that attraction can be enhanced by food styling. You may be flipping aimlessly through the cable channels when a slow-motion cascade of glistening red cherries or a tongue of flame lapping at a slab of meat on the grill catches your eye, and your brain paralyses your thumb on the remote, forcing you to stop to see what is cooking. Food shows are the campfires in the deep cable forest, drawing us like hungry wanderers to their flames. 35
- 6 We are drawn to the textures and rhythms of kitchen work too, which seem so much more direct and satisfying than the more abstract and formless tasks most of us perform in our jobs nowadays. The chefs on television get to put their hands on real things, not keyboards and screens but fundamental things like plants and animals, and they get to work with fire and ice and perform feats of alchemy. How many of us still do work that engages us in a dialogue with the material world and ends with such a gratifying and tasty sense of closure? 40

- 7 But here is what I do not understand. How is it that we are so eager to watch other people browning beef cubes on screen but so much less eager to brown them ourselves? The rise of celebrity chefs has, paradoxically, coincided with the rise of fast food, home-meal replacements and the decline of everyday home cooking. 50
- 8 For most of us, cooking at home does not pay the rent, and very often, our work does not leave us the time. For many years now, Americans have been putting in longer hours at work and enjoying less time at home. Since 1967, we have added 167 hours to the total amount of time we spend at work each year, and in households where both parents work, the figure is closer to 400 hours. Unsurprisingly, in those countries where people still take cooking seriously, they also have more time to devote to it. 55
- 9 The entrance of women into the work force is responsible for the collapse of home cooking, but that is only part of the story. Women with jobs outside the home spend less time cooking, but so do women without jobs. The amount of time spent on food preparation in America has fallen at the same rapid rate among women who do not work outside the home, as it has among women who do. In general, rising income has also led to increased spending on restaurants or takeout food. While women with jobs have more money to pay corporations to do their cooking, all American women now have greater financial means to allow corporations to cook for them. 60
- 10 Furthermore, the food industry laboured mightily to sell American women on all the processed food wonders it had invented – canned meals, freeze-dried food, dehydrated potatoes, powdered orange juice and coffee, instant everything. Over the years, food scientists have gotten better and better at simulating real food, keeping it looking attractive and seemingly fresh, and the rapid acceptance of microwave ovens – which went from being in only 8 per cent of American households in 1978 to 90 per cent today – opened up vast new horizons of home-meal replacement. 65
- 11 The decline of home cooking could explain most of the increase in obesity in America. Mass production has driven down the cost of many foods, both in terms of price and the amount of time required to obtain them. All these hard-to-make-at-home foods – cream-filled cakes, fried chicken wings, exotically flavoured chips or cheesy puffs of refined flour – have been transformed into everyday fare we can buy on a whim and for less than a dollar. When we do not have to cook meals, we eat more of them. The fact that we no longer have to plan or even wait to enjoy these items, as we would if we were making them ourselves, makes us that much more likely to indulge impulsively. The time and work involved in home cooking, as well as the delay in gratification, served as an important check on our appetite. Now that check is gone, and we are struggling to deal with the consequences. The question is, can we ever put the genie back into the bottle? 75
- 12 So what are we doing with the time we save by outsourcing our food preparation to corporations and 16-year-old burger flippers? Working, commuting to work, surfing the Internet and, perhaps most curiously of all, watching other people cook on television. But this may not be quite the paradox it seems. Maybe the reason we like to watch cooking shows is that there are things about cooking we miss. We might not feel we have the time or the energy to do it ourselves every day, and yet we are not prepared to see it disappear from our lives entirely. Why? Perhaps because cooking, unlike sewing or darning socks, is an activity that strikes a deep emotional chord in us, one that might even go to the heart of our identity as human beings. 85

**TEMASEK JUNIOR COLLEGE
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2017**

CANDIDATE'S NAME

CLASS

GP TUTOR'S NAME

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

25 August 2017

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.
Additional Materials: 1 Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and GP tutor's name on all the work that you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue, correction fluid or correction tape.

Answer **all** questions.
The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.
Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This document consists of **6** printed pages.

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Read the passage in the insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow below. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

1 What is the purpose of the author's opening question?

.....
..... [1]

2 How does the author illustrate the popularity of cooking programmes in lines 3–5? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

3 Explain why 'culinary combat' (line 8) is an apt description of cooking competitions on prime time television. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

4 In paragraph 2, what similarities does the author see between cooking on television and sport? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

5 What is the author implying about cooking competitions by his use of the word 'sadistic' in line 26?

.....
..... [1]

6 In paragraph 4, identify **three** reasons why it is difficult to learn how to cook from watching cooking competitions. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

7 Explain why cooking shows 'captivate' (line 35) viewers. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

8 In lines 43–46, what explanations does the author offer for the 'direct and satisfying' (line 42) nature of kitchen work? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

9 Explain the paradox in paragraph 7. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

**2017 JC2 GP Preliminary Examination
Paper 2 Suggested Answers**

1. What is the purpose of the author’s opening question?

[1]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How amazing is it that today we live in a culture that not only has something called the Food Network but now has a hit show on that network called “The Next Food Network Star,” in which thousands of 20- and 30-somethings compete eagerly to become? (l. 1–3) 	<p>The author uses the opening question to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduce the topic of the passage. introduce the topic of the passage in an interesting way/ to engage the reader/attract the reader’s attention. make the point that cooking programmes have become such a sensation/ become so popular. invite the reader to acknowledge/reflect on the remarkable proliferation of food shows in recent times. emphasise that cooking has now become a form of entertainment. indicate his disbelief/ incredulity that cooking programmes are so popular. highlight that cooking has become something where people pit their skills against one another. to express disbelief that so many young people would be interested/ enthusiastic in contending with/ challenging one another in a cooking competition to be a cooking champion.

2. How does the author illustrate the popularity of cooking programmes in lines 3–5? Use your own words as far as possible.

[2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Food Network can now be seen in nearly 100 million American homes (l. 3–4) on most nights, commands more viewers than any of the cable news channels. (l. 4–5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many/ A large number of people/ Americans watch/ tune in to cooking programmes. [1] News/ other programmes have become less popular due to cooking programmes. [1] OR They forgo watching news/ other programmes in favour of cooking programmes. [1]

3. Explain why ‘culinary combat’ (line 8) is an apt description of cooking competitions on prime time television. Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On prime time television, famous restaurant chefs wage culinary combat... (l.8) ...concoct the most spectacular meal... (l.9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to how a combat involves fighters battling for supremacy against opponents, [1] on prime time food shows, celebrity chefs try to outdo/ defeat/ beat one another // strive to come up with the best/ winning dish/ to outperform rivals. [1] <p><i>(Bullet 1 should not mention ‘chef/ culinary combat’. Bullet 2 must mention ‘chefs’, and the idea of being victorious over opponents must be captured.)</i></p>

4. In paragraph 2, what similarities does the author see between cooking on television and sport? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On “Iron Chef America,” a running commentary is given (l.11) ...in sixty minutes...(l.8-9); as the iron chefs and their teams race the clock (l.12) to peel, chop, slice, dice, mince, boil, double-boil, pan-sear, sauté, deep-fry, pressure-cook, grill, deglaze, reduce and plate (l.12–13) A particularly dazzling display of cheffy knife skills will earn an instant replay – an onion minced in slow motion (l.14–16) The commentator asks in a hushed tone, “Can we get a camera on this? It looks like Chef Flay’s going to try for a last-minute garnish grab before the clock runs out! Will he make it? [The buzzer sounds.] Yes!” (l.16–18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A] During both events, a concurrent explanation/ description of the action/ development is provided. [B] There is a time limit imposed on both sports teams and chefs and their teams. <i>(For Bullet B, ‘as fast/ quickly as they can’ is not accepted.)</i> [C] A myriad/ an array of/ many skills are showcased during/ required for both events. [D] In both cooking and sport, demonstrations of prowess/ ability are rewarded with an immediate encore of the action/ repeat telecast/ playback. <i>(For Bullet D, the answer should reflect ‘instant’ replay, and the cause and effect must be reflected.)</i> [E] The commentators create suspense/ excitement /sensationalise the action/ creates a sense of anticipation.// The atmosphere is filled with suspense/ excitement before the outcome is known. <p>1 – 2pts=1m, > 3pts=2m</p>

5. What is the author implying about cooking competitions by his use of the word ‘sadistic’ in line 26? [1]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When in real life are even professional chefs required to conceive and execute dishes in twenty minutes from ingredients selected by a third party exhibiting obvious sadistic tendencies? (l.24–26) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The author is implying that cooking competitions are based on producers/ viewers deriving enjoyment/ pleasure/ entertainment from watching chefs struggle/ suffer/ fail./ Producers/viewers like to watch/ are happy when chefs suffer/ fail. [1]

6. In paragraph 4, identify three reasons why it is difficult to learn how to cook from watching cooking competitions. Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no recipes to follow (l. 30) the contests fly by much too fast (l.30) and the kind of cooking on television is far more spectacular than anything you would ever try at home (l. 31–32) ...“How much do you learn about playing basketball by watching the NBA?” (l. 33–34) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [A] There are no instructions as to the ingredients used/ the method of food preparation/ on how to replicate the dish. [B] The rapid pace of the competition makes it difficult for viewers to follow and learn something from it. [C] The difficulty/ complexity/ standard of such cooking is beyond the capabilities of most home cooks./ The types of dishes are much more impressive/ splendid/ fantastic/ elaborate than home cooked ones. [D] The skills/ practices of professional chefs are not easily transferrable to home cooking/ picked up/ acquired (inferred). <p><i>Any 3 points for 3 marks</i></p>

7. Explain why cooking shows ‘captivate’ (line 35) viewers. Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<p>Yet, cooking shows captivate us because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> food is attractive to humans ... (l.35) and that attraction can be enhanced by food styling. (l.35–36) 	<p>Cooking shows captivate viewers because food is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alluring/ inviting/ appealing/ tempting to people// food draws our attention/ interest [1] and it is made even more so by the way in which food is presented/ displayed/ arranged/ fashioned/ designed/ decorated/ served. [1]

8. In lines 43–46, what explanations does the author offer for the ‘direct and satisfying’ (line 42) nature of kitchen work? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ...get to put their hands on real things, not keyboards and screens but fundamental things like plants and animals (l.43–44) ... material world (l.46) ▪ ends with such a gratifying and tasty sense of closure (l.46) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooking allows us to connect/ work with concrete/ tangible/ material/ actual/ physical/ natural things. [1] ▪ We are rewarded with a delicious/ delectable dish.// We get to cook/ eat delicious food/ enjoy food. [1] <p><i>(Bullet 2 should include both parts: ‘gratifying’ + ‘tasty’.)</i></p>

9. Explain the paradox in paragraph 7. Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The rise of celebrity chefs has, paradoxically, coincided with the rise of fast food, home-meal replacements and the decline of everyday home cooking (l.48–50) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [A] With more celebrity chefs demonstrating their cooking prowess/with the popularity of chefs and their cooking shows today, ▪ [B] it would be logical to assume that more people would be inspired to cook/ it is expected that people would be doing more cooking/ there would be more interest in home cooking. ▪ [C] However/ Paradoxically/ The contradiction is that an increasing number of people instead opt not to cook/ do not cook/ settle for pre-cooked food/ prefer ready-made meals. <p><i>(Note: A contrast linker should be used to indicate the paradox. [A] is the premise which must be present; [C] should also be present to explain the paradox. [A] + [C] = 1 mk [A] + [B] = 0 mk [A] + [C] = 0 mk [A] + [B] + [C] = 2mk</i></p>

10. Using material from paragraphs 8–11 (lines 51–82) only, summarise the reasons for the decline of home cooking, and how this has contributed to the increase in obesity.

Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. Use your own words as far as possible. [8]

Home cooking is in decline because...

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase	
Reasons for the decline in home cooking		
▪ it does not pay the rent (l.51)	A1	▪ it provides no financial returns.
▪ our work does not leave us the time (l.51–52)... putting in longer hours at work (l.52–53)	A2	▪ Work/jobs/careers/earning a living consumes our time/ makes us busy/busier,
▪ enjoying less time at home (l.53)	A3	▪ reducing time at home.
▪ The entrance of women into the work force is responsible for the collapse of home cooking (l.57)	A4	▪ Furthermore, more women have their own careers
▪ So do women without jobs (l.59)... the same rapid rate among women who do not work outside the home (l.60–61)	A5	▪ and even homemakers/housewives cook less.
▪ rising income (l.61) ... more money (l.62) ... greater financial means (l.63)	A6	▪ As people become richer/ more affluent,
▪ has also led to increased spending on restaurants or takeout food (l.61–62) ... pay corporations to do their cooking ... allow corporations to cook for them (l.62-64)	A7	they spend more money dining out/ more people dine out more often/ they buy/ purchase commercially-prepared meals <i>(accept 'outsource')</i>
▪ the food industry laboured mightily to sell American women on (l.65)	A8	▪ Food businesses aggressively market to women <i>(degree of marketing must be reflected as in 'mightily')</i>
▪ all the processed food wonders it had invented (l.65–66)	A9	▪ remarkable/ amazing/ novel innovations of
▪ Instant everything (l.67)	A10	▪ ready-made food/ convenient food/ easily prepared food.
▪ keeping it looking attractive (l.68)	A11	▪ Food technology has improved the presentation/ appearance of such food// makes such food look delicious/ appealing/ alluring/ tantalising,
▪ and seemingly fresh (l.69)	A12	▪ making it appear just-prepared/ cooked/ newly prepared/ so that it does not look stale. <i>(look 'new' is not accepted)</i>
▪ the rapid acceptance of microwave ovens ... (l.69)	A13	▪ The prevalence/ popularity of microwave ovens/ cooking appliances/devices/ kitchen technology also

		<i>(‘technology’ is not accepted unless it is cooking technology)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> opened up vast new horizons of home-meal replacement (l.70–71) 	A14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gave rise to endless/ infinite/ never-ending/ myriad/ diverse alternatives/ substitutes/ options to home cooking. <i>(answer must include ‘vast’ + ‘replacement’)</i>
How it has contributed to the increase in obesity		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mass production has driven down the cost of many foods (l.72–73)... for less than a dollar (l.76) 	B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has contributed to obesity because factory/ bulk production of food/ food produced in great quantities has decreased the price of food/ made food cheaper
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driven down... the amount of time required to obtain them (l.73–74)...wait to enjoy these items (l.78) 	B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and more convenient to buy/ more readily accessible/ has reduced the duration needed to obtain it. (inferred)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All these hard-to-make-at-home foods (l.74) ... transformed into everyday fare (l.76) 	B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food that is labour-intensive/ difficult/ complicated to prepare has become commonplace/ ordinary/ regular/ available everywhere/ the norm, <i>(answer must include ‘hard-to-make’ + ‘everyday fare’)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> we can buy on a whim (l.76)... impulsively (l.79)...we no longer have to plan (l.77)...delay in gratification (l.80) 	B4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and is purchased on the spur of the moment/ with little thought/ at the drop of a hat.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> we eat more of them (l.77)... indulge (l.79) 	B5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hence/ Therefore/ As a result, we tend to overeat/ gorge ourselves/ binge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The question is, can we ever put the genie back into the bottle? (l.81–82) 	B6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This trend seems to be irreversible/ impossible to stop/ we may not be able to stop this situation. (inferred)

Mark scheme (20 points)

1 point	1 mark	5-6 points	4 marks	11-12 points	7 marks
2 points	2 marks	7-8 points	5 marks	≥ 13 points	8 marks
3-4 points	3 marks	9-10 points	6 marks		

- 11. Michael Pollan discusses the reasons for the decline of home cooking. How far do you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own society? [10]**

QUESTION ANALYSIS

the reasons for the decline of home cooking

- Pollan observes that people cook much less at home and supports his observation by giving reasons
- Students need to identify the reasons that Pollan gives in support of his stand

(Note: While Pollan also discusses some consequences arising from the decline of home cooking, these observations are not relevant to the question.)

How far do you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own society?

- **how far** → students should clearly state the degree of agreement/ disagreement with the author's stand, using appropriate qualifiers.
- **his observations** → students should identify author's overall stand in the passage + reasons given to support his stand.

relating your arguments to your society

- The society must be identified at the start of the answer.
- All aspects of the AQ answer must relate to the society identified and should not discuss issues in general.
- The answer must be contextualised in the society identified, right from the start.
- Residents of the society identified should not be referred to vaguely as 'people'; instead, specific nationalities such as 'Singaporeans', 'Malaysians', 'Chinese' (or other relevant nationalities) should be used throughout the answer.
- Answers should not vaguely describe what is happening in the society identified. Instead, answers should offer:
 - clear reasons and evaluation to support *how relevant* the authors' opinions are to that society.
 - some consideration/ evaluation whether and why different groups in the society identified might react differently: the elderly, young people, working adults, people with different educational levels, etc .
 - reasons why the situation in that society may have changed/ intensified/ abated in recent times: people's changing mindsets/ evolving social and economic realities/ creative business innovations/ technological advancement, etc.

SUGGESTED APPROACH

R: The extent to which the student agrees with the observations Pollan makes which explains the decline of home cooking in the society he/she comes from.

OB1–5: Observations made by Pollan to support his stand (with relevant quotes from the passage). The chosen observation should be clearly stated with para/line reference at the start of each body paragraph.

EX, EV: Explaining, developing and evaluating arguments with reference to 'your own society', making the link clear to OB and R.

EG: Supporting ideas with relevant examples from the society identified, and making the link from the examples to OB, EX, EV and R.

INTRODUCTION

- In my society Singapore, inexpensive local hawker food, usually in shopping malls and open-air complexes, has historically been a staple in the Singapore food scene.
- This shows no signs of slowing down as more women join the workforce, and fewer households cook at home due to the busy lifestyles of Singaporeans.
- **The observations of Pollan explaining the decline of home cooking do reflect the situation in Singapore. I am mostly in agreement with his observations, although it cannot be said home cooking in Singapore has altogether disappeared because people do still cook in the weekends and especially when they have domestic helpers to cook meals at home.**

OBSERVATION 1

Pollan argues that one of the reasons home cooking is in decline is that for most people, 'it does not pay the rent' (line 51). While I do not entirely agree with his view in the context of my society, it is undeniable that many Singaporeans still hold this view.

- Certainly, there are many in my society who opt not to cook because they feel that their time can be more lucratively spent elsewhere. Living in a society which largely values pragmatism, coupled with the rising cost of living, many Singaporeans are very concerned with making the most of their time financially. As reported by AIA Singapore in 2016, 85% of working Singaporeans aged 25–45 feel that the increasing cost of living is their top financial concern. Singaporeans have also acquired a reputation for being materialistic, with the 5Cs – car, cash, condo(minium), credit card and country club – being goals to achieve for many ambitious young Singaporeans. Given such concerns and mindsets, it is no surprise that many Singaporeans are too busy making money in lucrative careers to cook at home.
- In fact, in 2016, Singaporeans clocked 2,371.2 hours of work, the longest hours anywhere in the world. Millennials, too, work very long hours - according to a 2015 international survey by Millennial Careers, Singaporean millennials are amongst those who work the longest hours, taking 4th place with an average of 48 hours a week, ahead of countries like Japan and the United States. That these long working hours are the result of a desire to make more money is supported by research by Randstad Awards 2016 which found that the prospect of making more money is primarily what motivates Singaporean workers to work more, as highlighted by 80% of respondents. Since whipping up meals at home diverts time away from their jobs and does nothing to meet their financial goals, many Singaporeans, then, choose to forgo home cooking, contributing to its decline.

That being said, in recent years, an increasing number of Singaporeans have come to realise that they can, in fact, marry the joys of home cooking with the pleasure of earning money. Home cooking can, for such Singaporeans, indeed 'pay the rent' (line 51).

- Many workaholic Singaporeans do realise the less-than-rosy long term health effects of eating out on a constant basis. However, many of these same Singaporeans also do not want to forgo their time spent earning money to prepare healthy home-cooked meals. Enterprising Singaporeans have stepped in to fill this gap by charging for home-cooked meals, allowing busy Singaporeans to enjoy healthy, home-cooked meals without the hassle of having to prepare them.
- The burgeoning success of the meal-sharing industry in Singapore has also largely been facilitated by the rapid rise in the number of online applications dedicated to matching time-starved Singaporeans to passionate home cooks. Being generally technologically-savvy, Singaporeans have been quick to avail themselves of these apps and develop even more of them. Recently developed apps like Dine Inn, Share Food Singapore and Hcook allow diners to search for food by cuisine or location, browse food photos, descriptions and customer reviews, and chat with home cooks. Diners can then either pick up their food from the home cook or enjoy a meal hosted by the home cook.
- Many of these apps report a healthy demand for meal-sharing amongst Singaporeans, with up to 200 orders received a week. Each of these apps also boasts up to 400 home cooks on their rosters, and the number of enterprising home cooks continues to rise. According to Luke Lee, founder of Dine Inn, there has been a 50% increase in sign-up rates for home chefs in early 2017.
- In fact, a significant proportion of home cooks registered on these apps come from low-income backgrounds and view meal-sharing as a means to support themselves and their families. For instance, about 20% of Hcook's home chefs are from low-income backgrounds, having been identified through regular talks with grassroots and non-profit organisations and encouraged to enter the meal-sharing industry.
- It can be seen that the decline of home cooking amongst many working Singaporeans who want to earn more in their careers has, conversely, contributed to other Singaporeans taking up home cooking for the same income-making reason. Home cooking in Singapore has clearly become, now more than ever, a rather viable source of income for those who are looking for novel ways to 'pay their rent' (line 51).

OBSERVATION 2

Pollan observes that longer hours at work (lines 52–53) and the entrance of women into the workforce (line 57) have led to the decline of home cooking. I agree that this situation has contributed to the decline of home cooking in several households in my society Singapore.

- A generation or two ago, it used to be a must for Singaporean women to learn how to cook from their own mothers and mothers-in-law. However, with increasingly better and now equal educational opportunities for women in Singapore, more women are pursuing a career of their own. As such, many better educated Singaporean women do not see themselves relegated to the role of cook in the family.
- In 2016, the labour force participation rate (LFPR) for women in Singapore was 60.4%, according to the Ministry of Manpower. This is a significant increase from 54.3% a decade ago in 2006, indicating that today more than half of Singaporean women spend their day at the workplace rather than in the kitchen.
- However, it is still lower than the rates in many Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries which achieve 70% or more. The Singapore government recognises that there is another 40% of women to tap on for the economy

and has been encouraging more women to enter the workforce. In view of this, it does seem that home cooking will continue to decline.

- Furthermore, with the rising cost of living in Singapore, dual income families are becoming the norm here. In 2016, nearly 54 per cent of married couples in Singapore were dual-income couples, and the figure rose to over 75 per cent for those where the husband was under 35, and 70 per cent for those where the husband was aged 35 to 49.
- Perhaps even worse than the situation in America, Singaporeans spend long hours at work, clocking 2371.2 hours in 2016, the longest hours in the world.
- As a result of these factors, many Singaporeans have no choice but to eat out for lunch and are certainly too tired to prepare dinner after work, preferring to spend whatever time they have after work with their families or on leisure activities, which also include eating out with family and friends.
- According to a survey conducted by household and professional appliances company Electrolux in 2014, one-third of Singaporeans eat out more than they do at home – the second-highest figure among 10 Asia-Pacific countries polled. Those surveyed cited reasons such as cooking being a hassle and eating out due to necessity rather than out of preference. Similarly, the National Nutrition Survey conducted by the Health Promotion Board in 2010 showed that six in 10 Singaporeans eat out at least four times a week.
- Companies offering meal subscription services to busy CBD workers, such as Food Matters, FitThree and Kim's Kitchen, have sprung up in recent years. Similarly, weekday tingkat dinner delivery services are popular among harried Singaporean workers who have neither the time nor energy to cook. Such services have been around for more than 10 years and remain popular today with more than 30 caterers providing this service. In fact, companies such as Tong Chiang and Select Catering report an increase of 10 to 18 per cent in subscription rates over the last few years.

While longer working hours and more women in the workforce are certainly responsible for less home cooking in many Singaporean families compared to the past, this does not mean that home cooking is non-existent in Singaporean households.

- With more Singaporean households hiring domestic helpers, coming home to a home-cooked meal is not so rare. Furthermore, with many Singaporean grandparents lending a helping hand to care for their grandchildren and housing schemes to help married Singaporeans live near their parents, the possibility of having a home-cooked meal is higher for a number of working Singaporeans.
- The 107 wet markets (cum hawker centres) across Singapore are a clear indication that home cooking has not died out in Singaporean homes. These thriving wet markets are still the preferred place among home cooks to shop for the freshest vegetables and meat.
- Supermarkets such as Giant and NTUC Fairprice reported that Singaporeans are spending more than ever at supermarkets, particularly on fresh produce such as fruits, vegetables, seafood and meat, despite a weaker economic climate. Purchases from supermarkets hit \$2.3 billion in 2015, nearly double the \$1.2 billion in 2005. This is the highest spending in a decade, part of which can be attributed to a rising interest in home cooking.
- Shops such as Mayer, ToTT and Sia Huat which specialise in kitchen appliances and cookware sections in department stores which stock brands such as Le Creuset, Scanpan and WMF are well-patronised by Singaporean shoppers with an interest in home cooking.

- Furthermore, The Straits Times features regular columns about home cooking on Sundays. These include 'Singapore Cooks' which focuses on recipes shared by ordinary Singaporeans with a passion for home cooking, and 'Hunger Management' where journalist Tan Hsueh Yun has been sharing her recipes for a wide range of dishes since 2008. Even though the space taken up by these columns is small compared to the several pages in The Straits Times dedicated to places for eating out, home cooking is still alive in Singapore, despite some decline over the years.
- The array of recipe books stocked by local bookstores and libraries are also testimony to the interest in home cooking, at least among some, if not all, Singaporeans. These cookbooks range from local ones such as The New Mrs Lee's Cookbook to foreign ones such as Gordon Ramsay's Ultimate Home Cooking.
- Another indication that home cooking is not on the way to extinction in Singapore is the growing interest in cooking classes among many Singaporeans. Among the slew of cooking studios in Singapore are CulinaryOn, ABC Cooking Studio and Coriander Leaf which teach a variety of Asian and Western cuisine. At cooking studio Palate Sensations at Biopolis, registration for classes has grown by at least 20 per cent year on year since it started a decade ago in 2006.

Although home cooking has declined with more women working outside the home, it has far from disappeared in Singapore and people do still prepare meals at home.

OBSERVATION 3

Pollan argues that home cooking has declined because the food industry has 'laboured mightily to sell American women on all the processed food wonders it had invented' (I.65–66), and food scientists 'have gotten better and better at simulating real food, keeping it looking attractive and seemingly fresh' (I.67–69). Although I generally agree that these reasons also explain the decline of home cooking in my society Singapore, Singaporeans still do cook whenever they can because many feel that it is still the most healthy way of preparing and consuming food especially for the family.

- Instant meals are appealing, especially to working adults who are strapped for time and appreciate the convenience of eating on the go. Food may be available around the clock in Singapore, but that has not stopped companies from producing and advertising processed food aggressively to busy people, especially working adults. Food companies such as Prima Taste Ready Meals are catering to busy, time-starved Singaporeans who want convenient meals and healthier food products. Many people who work lack sufficient time to prepare a meal from scratch which they can enjoy at any time of the day.
- To prepare an instant meal, one simply opens the packet, pours out the contents and heats them up in the microwave. Such processed food options are attractively packaged and look much like fresh meat and vegetables. Instead of dehydrated ingredients or MSG-laden instant noodles, French fries, nuggets and hot-dogs, ready-to-eat meals with meat and vegetables are hitting the shelves. Some even come with healthier mixed grain rice.
- Such food options making their entrance include briyani by House Brand, Chinese-style chicken soup from Freshen Food and curry chicken from Foodbox. Foodbox also offers Soy Ginger Chicken, Curry Chicken and Black Pepper Chicken to provide spicy and non-spicy choices. Prima Taste recently launched its Ready Meal range which features four flavours – Curry Chicken, Nonya Sambal Chicken, Beef Rendang and

Chicken Claypot Rice. The rice component is a mix of white basmati rice, wholegrain basmati rice and multi-grains.

- Food scientists have been producing healthy processed food sold in supermarkets using retort technology, a heatsterilisation process that keeps food shelf-stable without the use of preservatives. The meals are cooked from scratch and vacuum-sealed before sterilisation. By adjusting the heat parameters, flavours and nutrients are preserved, while bacteria is destroyed. These foods come in retort pouches and can be stored at room temperature and are shelf-stable for at least one year.
- Fuss-free instant mala or spicy hotpot meals from China have also become increasingly popular in Singapore. Although not yet currently available in major supermarkets, many Singaporeans who enjoy mala hotpot can buy it on websites such as Qoo10 and Shopee Singapore. Joneve Trading sold its entire first shipment of 600 instant hotpots online in just two days, and in June 2017, it sold more than 10,000 individual packs of Ba Shu Lan Ren hotpots online.
- These instant spicy hotpot meals come in three mala flavours: original, rice and meat, and beef. They come complete with a heat pack that, when activated by room-temperature water, generates enough heat to steam a small bowl of ingredients for 15 to 20 minutes. Although the ingredients were not freshly packed, customers found mala hotpot to be flavourful and authentic. The vegetables such as fungus, potatoes and mushroom did not look stale and were palatable. Even the rice tasted surprisingly fragrant and soft. Customers like the convenience that instant self-heating meals provide, especially if they are strapped for time.
- Besides purchasing instant meals online, students and working adults are also turning to vending machines to buy ready-to-eat meals sold at convenience stores to satisfy their hunger pangs. Singapore's first all-vending machine cafe, VendCafe, was an instant hit when it opened in August in 2016, with long queues forming to try its hot meals. A second and third VendCafe outlet opened at Ang Mo Kio MRT station and Lakeside station in July 2017.
- Leveraging on technology, meals from vending machines feature a special vacuum skin packaging which would ensure preserved flavour and colour, keep portions fresh and unmixed on the tray, and extend shelf life with no compromise on nutrition.
- Many are rather impressed by the taste and quality of food offerings from vending machines which have become increasingly sophisticated: seafood hor fun, salted egg yolk pasta, popiah and even spaghetti carbonara can be obtained from a vending machine. Cheers also recently teamed up with consortium The Common Good Company to provide a new line of ready-to-eat meals from prominent local brands like Pastamania and The Soup Spoon.

Even though the increasing popularity of such instant processed food has caused a decline in home cooking, Singaporeans generally still feel that home cooking is more healthy even though they may not always have the time to cook at home.

- While single working adults may try instant food from vending machines or buy them online, families generally prefer to cook meals at home so that the entire family can interact and bond over a meal eaten together. Many working adults with families in Singapore are weekend chefs. They enjoy cooking simple meals for the family when there is more time to shop for fresh, nutritious ingredients and cook them in healthier ways. Additionally, a good number of families in Singapore have domestic helpers who cook for the family every day, and the family eats out only occasionally. Extended families with grandparents usually prefer home-cooked food and almost never buy instant food online.
- Dietitians have cautioned against consuming ready-to-eat meals on a regular basis, pointing to the higher salt content these meals tend to have. Salt adds to the flavour of

the food, but also acts as a preservative to prevent bacteria growth and extend the shelf life of the product. High salt content could put people at risk of hypertension or cardiovascular diseases. Due to the perishability of vegetables, these meals also tend to have fewer greens, which affects their nutritional value.

- Additionally, the cooking and storage processes involved in preparing these instant meals may also reduce the nutrients in the food, particularly vitamins like Vitamin D and E, which are temperature-sensitive.
- Instant processed meals such as TV-dinners (pre-packaged frozen or chilled meal that usually comes in individual portions) which can be taken from the fridge and reheated for dinner, are not all that popular among Singaporeans who generally prefer to eat out affordably at food courts and fast food chains.

Thus, although dining out and instant meals are gaining popularity among busy working adults in Singapore, Singaporeans are generally knowledgeable about the dangers of consuming processed food, and they still do enjoy more healthily prepared home-cooked food even though they do not cook very often.

OBSERVATION 4

The author points out that the rapid acceptance of the microwave opened up “vast new horizons of home meal replacement” (lines 73–75). **While this may be true in more Western countries as evidenced by the ubiquitous microwave TV-dinners, I definitely do not agree that this phenomenon is relatable to my society, Singapore.**

- Singapore is well-known internationally as a food paradise through the marketing efforts of the STPB and true to this reputation, there are many more alternatives than what can be found in the frozen section of microwave meals at supermarkets or convenience stalls like 7-11 where there is a reasonable variety of such microwaveable meals that boast local dishes such as chicken rice to shrimp wanton soup. **However, in my society, the microwave may be more likely to be used for thawing frozen food to re-heating food than for such microwave meals.**
- Typically, Singaporean families which do not cook at home for various reasons are **much more likely** to turn to the conveniently located neighborhood coffee-shops which have ‘zi-char’ or literally ‘stir-fry’ stalls offering dishes reminiscent of home-cooked meals like sambal kangkong (local greens in spicy chilli paste) to sweet-and-sour ribs and everyday fare like fried-rice or ‘hor-fun’ (broad rice noodles) served piping hot and at very reasonable prices.
- In addition, there are also food-courts or hawker centers in every HDB estate or shopping malls where stalls offer local favorites like chicken-rice to ‘mee-soto’ (Malay spicy soup noodle dish) or ‘nasi-briyani’ (Indian basmati rice cooked in spices with chicken or mutton) which are all freshly made, mostly cooked on the spot, at prices that are even more friendly on the wallet. Any true-blue Singaporean would be able to rattle off a few of their favorite stalls from Tian Tian to Wee Nam Kee for local favorites like Hainanese Chicken Rice.
- The popularity and demand for hawker centres is so strong that the government announced in 2011-2012 that ten new hawker centres will be built in newer and even more mature HDB housing estates, from Woodlands to Pasir Ris, to ensure that affordable local fare will be readily available to all.
- **On top of such almost-home-cooked alternatives**, Singaporean families, especially dual-income families, typically hire foreign domestic workers who are usually expected to prepare meals for the family as well. Out of a population of more than five and a half million, there are slightly more than a quarter of a million foreign domestic workers

in Singapore, all of whom have some basic training in cooking and taking care of household chores.

- **Last but not least**, there is another social phenomenon whereby working couples may have meals after work with their parents or in-laws who may be helping to look after their younger children, sometimes assisted by said foreign domestic workers. This phenomenon can be partially attributed to deliberate housing policies for HDB flats such as the Proximity Housing Grant of \$20,000 which has been introduced to further help families who want to buy a resale flat, to live in with or near their parents.

With such mouth-watering dishes and value for money alternatives available, on top of deliberate government policies, it is not difficult to see why microwave meal-replacements have not taken off in a big way in my society, Singapore. Ironically, it may be such ready availability of affordable and ready sources of local fare that contribute to the decline of home-cooking instead of the microwavable home meal replacement.

OBSERVATION 5

Pollan also observes that ‘rising income has also led to increased spending on restaurants or takeout food’ (lines 61–62). I do generally agree with this observation as I find this happening in Singapore.

- As the Singaporean economy has grown over the years, the average Singaporean has become more affluent. At the individual level, Singaporeans are typically hardworking, pragmatic with their finances and often career-oriented, all of which surely contributes to increasing income level of the average Singaporean.
- Singapore’s adult population had an average wealth of about US\$276,885 (S\$395,000) per person in 2016, an increase of 1.4% from 2015, as reported by Global Wealth Report which ranked Singapore top in Asia and seventh globally among major economies.
- With such personal wealth at their disposal, coupled with long working hours, it is no wonder that many Singaporeans have no qualms about eating out regularly and pampering themselves at restaurants and other eateries. The huge number of food offerings ranging from fast-food outlets and hawker centres to fine dining establishments does also play a part in encouraging Singaporeans to eat out, with food offerings matching any budget one might have.
- In a survey conducted by MasterCard, Singaporeans emerged the top spenders on dining out among South-east Asian countries, with an average monthly amount of US\$198 in 2013.
- Furthermore, at least 12 per cent of Singapore respondents indicated that they plan to dine out at more expensive venues, while a quarter of respondents said they plan to eat out more in the next six months, at the time of the survey. Millennials think nothing of splurging on fancy healthy food like avocado toasts which cost about \$14–\$16.
- The trend of eating out and cooking less at home is also evident in the long queues that form when new food outlets open. Food at these outlets does not come cheap, but Singaporeans appear to have the financial means to indulge.
- For example, the opening of Pablo, a well-known Japanese cheese tart outlet at Wisma Atria in August 2017, attracted long queues that formed as early as 9am, three hours before it opened. Prices for the cheese tarts are about \$15–\$18 each, which is hardly cheap, but many Singaporeans clearly are affluent enough to afford it.

These findings do indicate that more Singaporeans have the means and are willing to dine out, which does come at the expense of cooking and eating meals at home.

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**VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC1 PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION 2017
HIGHER 1**

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your C.T. group, index number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write your question number in the left-hand margin of your foolscap paper.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **2** printed pages

[Turn over

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Answer **one** question from this Paper.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. 'Diplomacy, not war, is the solution to conflicts in the world today.' Do you agree?
2. To what extent are migrants a threat to a country in today's world?
3. 'Cities have never been better for living.' Discuss.
4. 'It is a mistake to give criminals a second chance.' Is this view valid?
5. Do you agree that competition, not collaboration, is more important for society to progress?
6. Should we be afraid of artificial intelligence?
7. 'Young people in today's society lack a sense of adventure.' How true is this of your society?
8. 'The rich are responsible for the poor.' What is your view?
9. 'The most effective form of education is one that takes place outside the classroom.' Do you agree?
10. 'We are consuming too much for our own good.' Is this true of society today?
11. 'In scientific research, the use of animals should not be an issue.' Do you agree?
12. Assess the view that reading books is, by far, the most wondrous of all pastimes.



**VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2017
HIGHER 1**

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your C.T. group, index number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of 9 printed pages

[Turn over

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Passage 1. *The Economist* writes about how the millennials' time has come.

- 1 Some people despair of the young. Books such as "Generation Me" by Jean Twenge and "The Road to Character" by David Brooks describe young Americans as deluded narcissists. Having constantly been told they are special, they are now far more likely than their elders to believe that "if I ruled the world, it would be a better place" or that "somebody should write a biography of me." 5
- 2 They are materialistic, too. About 65% of American college students expect to become millionaires, and some are not too fussy about how they get to the top. In one study of high-school students, 95% admitted to having cheated in tests. The millennials' expectations of life are so out of kilter with reality that "they will probably get less of what they want than any previous generation" frets Ms. Twenge. 10
- 3 Moral panic is not confined to America. Chinese parents worry that their "little emperors" have grown up lazy, spoiled and promiscuous. When a video of a young couple engaged in an obscene act in the fitting room of a trendy clothes shop in Beijing went viral last year, officials vowed to arrest the culprits, spluttering that their behaviour was "against socialist values". Young Beijingers just laughed; a number made pilgrimages to the store to take defiant selfies outside. 15
- 4 Where some see a generation in crisis, others think the young are adapting quite well to the circumstances of a changing world. They flit from job to job not because they are fickle but because job security is a thing of the past. They demand flexible hours and work-life balance because they know they do not have to be in the office to be productive. They spend six hours a day online because that is how they work, and also how they relax. Their enthusiasm for new ideas (and lack of spare cash) has kick-started money-saving technologies from Uber to WhatsApp. They take longer to settle down and have children, but so what? They will also be working far later in life than their parents did. 20
- 5 What will the world be like when today's young people are in charge? Some worry that it will be more cynical. In China, for example, eight out of ten students say they want to join the Communist Party, but of those who do, only a handful are motivated by a belief in the system. Party membership opens doors, and millennials grab opportunities where they can. Others take a cheerier view. When the millennials rule, society will be "more meritocratic and better governed", says a young journalist in Malaysia, where the current prime minister has given a confusing explanation of why nearly 700 million U.S. dollars was found in his bank accounts (he denies wrongdoing). When the millennials rule, the world may also be greener. They have shown great ingenuity in using resources more efficiently by sharing cars, bikes and spare rooms with strangers. 25
- 6 The young are less racist than the old, too. The majority of youngsters in Brazil, Russia, India and China agreed that their generation is accepting of people from different races, and that they differed from their parents on this topic. American students are so touchy about any hint of racism that they sometimes see bigotry where there is none. When a professor at Yale suggested that students should be free to choose their own Halloween costumes, activists furiously protested that without strict rules, someone might wear an offensive one. Still, today's oversensitivity is vastly preferable to the segregation of yesteryear. 30
- 7 Tolerance is unlikely to erode as the millennials grow older. They may grow more fiscally conservative as they earn more and notice how much of their pay is gobbled up by tax. They may move to the suburbs and buy a car when they have children. But they will not suddenly take against their friends who look different or love differently. Perhaps a future world ruled by millennials may not be such a bad thing after all. 35

Passage 2. *Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic discusses the complexities and paradoxes surrounding millennials.*

- 1 They have been called entitled, lazy, and the most high-maintenance workforce in the history of the world – but are millennials, also known as Gen Y, really that bad? How different are they from previous generations, and how consequential are these differences?
- 2 As it turns out, millennials are complex, which explains the wide variety of views about them. Indeed, the most interesting fact about millennials is the paradoxical nature of their character – a tension between opposites that must be reconciled. This tension presents a challenge, not only to millennials themselves, but to those trying to understand them. For instance, they are perceived to be ambitious but lazy. There is no clearer evidence for millennials' entitlement than the discrepancy between their ambitious aspirations and their lukewarm work ethic. Since much of Gen Y has been persuaded – first by overprotective parents, then by grade inflation and the unrealistic promises from universities – that their high expectations would eventually translate into actual achievements, it should come as no surprise that millennials are less interested in working hard to achieve them. Unfortunately, millennials have bought into the idea that the cause of success is high self-belief; not discipline, self-knowledge or humility. This keeps their hopes in their (self-perceived) talents intact, as if sooner or later their exceptional potential will be discovered, even if they do not devote much time to harness it.
- 3 Interestingly, millennials are seen as hard to motivate, but more passionate about their work. At first, this may seem puzzling: how can a generation with over-the-top aspirations and delusional goals be happier at work, especially when they are disadvantaged vis-à-vis older, more experienced peers, and less successful than them? The answer is that Gen Y sees work as less central to their lives, and that they value work-life balance more than other generations do. Ironically, this makes millennials' demands and standards lower – when you see work as "just making a living", you expect to find meaning in other areas of life such as education, relationships, or hobbies.
- 4 Millennials believe in fun rather than work, and, accordingly, they expect to have fun at work. This is why Google, Microsoft and many other firms have transformed their offices into playgrounds, and why many employers have had to restrict access to social media sites at work. That said, the news is not all good. Even among millennials, only a minority of people are fully engaged at work and data suggests that in certain parts of the world, engagement levels are lower among millennials than their predecessors. In short, hiring more millennials will not necessarily boost engagement at your workplace.
- 5 Yet another paradox of millennial character is how they are hyper-connected, but self-obsessed. Although the ubiquity of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram has led to the suggestion that millennials are incredibly sociable, the reverse is probably true. Millennials are hyper-connected, but they display little interest in others except as an audience. As the YouTube slogan suggests, their main ambition is to broadcast themselves, even if it requires collecting disposable friends and engaging in inappropriate self-disclosure with strangers.
- 6 Superficially, this phenomenon may be attributed to the social media revolution, but it is probably the other way around: the power of social media is just highlighting how vain we have become. Indeed, narcissism levels have risen steadily during the past few decades, making millennials more self-obsessed than their predecessors. In the US, narcissism has increased at the rate of obesity and is the main explanation for the apparent extraversion of millennials – it is exhibitionism and attention-seeking, but camouflaged as sociability.
- 7 While narcissism has a bright side (confidence, assertiveness, and charisma), it is still problematic: narcissists struggle to form intimate relationships, they take credit for others' accomplishments, and behave aggressively when confronted with negative feedback or rejection. They are impulsive and driven mainly by instant gratification, which explains the success of hook-up apps like Tinder or sexting apps like Snapchat.
- 8 Given all these paradoxes and complexities surrounding millennials, we may want to start asking ourselves not how we can change them, but how we will cope with them.

Candidate's Name: _____

Candidate's Civics Class: _____

Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

Paper 2 (50 marks)

Read the passages in the insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

Note: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passages for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passages.

From Passage 1

1. What is implied about millennials by the phrase 'somebody should write a biography of me'? (lines 4-5) [1]

2. Explain the significance of the word 'too' in line 6. [1]

3. Why would Ms. Twenge fret about the millennials (line 10)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

4. What does the phrase 'a number made pilgrimages to the store to take defiant selfies outside' (line 15) tell you about the reaction of young Beijingers to the officials? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

5. In paragraph 4, the author describes how millennials are adapting to the 'circumstances of a changing world' (line 17). Give **two** examples of how millennials are doing this, and why. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

6. Explain the reason for beginning paragraph 5 with the question 'What will the world be like when today's young people are in charge?'. [1]

7. Why has the author placed the sentence 'he denies wrongdoing' (lines 30-31) in brackets? [1]

10. Explain the contradiction in the phrase 'disposable friends' (line 34). [2]

11. What does the author mean when he calls narcissism 'exhibitionism and attention-seeking, but camouflaged as sociability' (lines 40-41)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

12. Explain what the author finds problematic about narcissism in paragraph 7. Give any **two** reasons for this. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

VJC 2017 PRELIM GP Paper 2 Suggested Answer Scheme

From Passage 1

1. What is implied about millennials by the phrase ‘somebody should write a biography of me’? [1]

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
‘somebody should write a biography of me’	<p>The implication is that millennials <u>seem to think their actions/deeds/lives are of great significance to the point that they should be recorded</u> in a book/biography. OR</p> <p><u>They think the story of their lives/they are so important that other people will want to read</u> or know about them.</p> <p>Answer should clearly demonstrate an understanding of the significance of biographies. Answers that mention ‘worth listening to’ or recognition are not enough.</p>

Markers’ Comments:

Many students did not realise they needed to link their answer to the significance of biographies. They gave generic answers about how millennials had over-inflated egos, were arrogant etc.

2. Explain the significance of the word ‘too’ in line 6.

[1]

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
They are materialistic, too.	<p>To show that millennials have many faults/flaws in addition to what was listed in the preceding paragraph/not just materialistic.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>To show that materialism is just one of their many flaws.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>To show that on top of narcissism, they are also materialistic, which is like a nail in the coffin. (1m)</p>

Markers’ Comments:

Most students were able to get the correct answer.

3. Why would Ms Twenge fret about the millennials (line 10)? Use your own words as far as possible.

[2m]

From the passage	Suggested Answer
The millennials expectations of life are so out of kilter with reality that ‘they will probably get less of what they want than any previous generation,’ frets Ms Twenge.	<p>She frets about the millennials because:</p> <p>(a) what they want out of life/goals in life</p> <p>(b) are so out of touch with reality/unrealistic/unrealistically ambitious</p> <p>(c) that she thinks they might eventually actually</p>

	achieve/obtain/gather less (d) than preceding/earlier generations. 1-2 pts 1 m, 3-4 pts 2m.
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Markers' Comments:

There was a tendency for some students to paraphrase irrelevant characteristics of millennials or try to link their answer to how millennials lacked morals and were willing to do anything for the sake of materialism.

4. What does the phrase 'a number made pilgrimages to the store to take defiant selfies outside' (line 15) tell you about the reaction of young Beijingers to the officials? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested Answer
'a number made pilgrimages to the store to take defiant selfies outside'	Answer must address the implication about the <u>reaction</u> of young Beijingers towards the officials. (a) Young Beijingers went out of their way/were willing to inconvenience themselves/took the trouble to journey to the store (1m) (b) to mock/challenge/oppose/antagonise/thumb their noses at the authorities/express a rebellious attitude (1m) Note: The explanation of 'pilgrimage' needs to be in context. It is not about religion per se. Defiant must be paraphrased correctly. 'Treated it like a joke' is too vague, 'making fun of the authorities' will not be accepted. Mock is accepted because one of the definitions of mock is to defy.

Markers' Comments:

Many students got the mark for paraphrasing defiant but most did not get the second mark which necessitated explaining pilgrimages in context. The students tended to give generic answers about making trips or tried to explain how the trips were religious or akin to religious trips. The correct paraphrase hinges on how the young Beijingers were willing to go out of their way/take the trouble to make such trips (just as going on a pilgrimage takes a special effort of will)

5. In paragraph 4, the author describes how millennials are adapting to the 'circumstances of a changing world' (line 17). Give **two** examples of how millennials are doing this and why. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
They flit from job to job not because they are fickle but because job security is a thing of the past .	They move from job to job/change jobs often to cope with their understanding that jobs these days might not last forever/employment insecurity.
They demand flexible work hours and work-life balance because they know they don't have to be in the office to be productive.	They lobby/actively word towards more alternatives to regular working schedules for work-life harmony because they know that the best/most meaningful

<p>Their enthusiasm for new ideas (and lack of spare cash) has kick-started money-saving technologies from Uber to Whatsapp.</p> <p>They take longer to settle down and have children, but so what? They will also be working far later in life than their parents did.</p>	<p>work might no longer be done in the confines of the office.</p> <p>Millennials have less money, so they come up with/develop money-saving technology</p> <p>They marry and have children later/prolong the time they take to start families because they know that they will retire later/are aware that their working years will definitely be extended.</p> <p>Any 2, 2m Markers will accept only the first two examples if more are given. For those who conflate 2 or 3 points into 1, it will be taken as 1 point not 2.</p> <p><i>Note: Examples must clearly reflect the circumstances of a changing world for the mark to be awarded. 'They spend 6 hours a day online because that is how they work, and also how they relax' is not a relevant answer because this material does not fully address the circumstances of a changing world well.</i></p>
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Markers' Comments:

Students were usually able to identify the points but ended up corrupting many of them when paraphrasing. One example would be how the issue of lack of job security was paraphrased as job security/stability being unimportant or being unfashionable. Several students who identified the point about money-saving apps were not able to link it to millennials lacking money (which was the impetus for creating such apps).

6. Explain the reason for beginning paragraph 5 with the question "What will the world be like when today's young people are in charge?". [1]

From the passage	Suggested Answer
<p>What will the world be like when today's young people are in charge?</p>	<p>To acknowledge that there are differing views about young people's ability to lead. OR To get readers to think about the possibilities of a reality in the future governed by young leaders. OR To set the tone and introduce the topic of millennial leadership for the rest of the paragraph.</p> <p><i>Accept any sensible answer that has adequate elaboration and explanation, but it must have the context of the future or millennials. (1m)</i></p>

Markers' Comments:

Most students were able to answer this question correctly.

7. Why has the author placed the sentence 'he denies wrongdoing' (lines 30-31) in brackets? [1]

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
<p>the current prime minister has given a confusing explanation of why nearly 700 million U.S. dollars was found in his bank accounts (he denies wrongdoing) lines 29-31</p>	<p>The writer wants to clarify/to make clear what the "confusing explanation" means. OR It is the writer's retort regarding the denial made by the prime minister. He finds it implausible/does not believe in the prime minister's explanation. OR He is implying that the PM's denial is suspicious. OR It is a tongue-in-cheek jibe at the PM's claim that he is innocent.</p>

Markers' Comments:

There was a tendency for many students to mechanically repeat the answer to the 2012 A-level Compre question on brackets (i.e. claiming the author does so to include a piece of information that was not relevant to the main argument) Students need to understand that there is no standard template for answering questions on language/punctuation use and they have to explain their answers in context.

8. Explain why oversensitivity is 'vastly preferable to the segregation of yesteryear' (lines 39-40)? [1]

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
	<p>Oversensitivity is seen to be the lesser of two evils/less harmful/ is better than the racial divide in the past. (1) Answer must show a comparison of present-past behaviour.</p>

Markers' Comments:

The question only required students to explain that while oversensitivity was bad in a mild sort of way (i.e. annoying, inconvenient, etc), it was still much better than the overt racism or harm to society caused by segregation. Many students ended up paraphrasing oversensitivity and segregation wrongly as well as attributing all sorts of irrelevant motives and explanations to both issues (e.g. oversensitivity aims to build an inclusive society, segregation results in some people not talking to others)

From Passage 2

9. Using material from paragraphs 2 to 4 only (lines 4-29), summarise what the author has to say about the millennials' attitudes towards work and their reasons for holding such attitudes. Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

	From the Passage	Suggested Answer
a	lukewarm work ethic (line 9)	They have an unenthusiastic/indifferent attitude
b	ambitious aspirations (line 9)	Millennials have lofty goals/set their sights high
c	much of Gen Y has been persuaded – (line 9)	Millennials have been convinced
d	first by overprotective parents, then by grade inflation and the unrealistic promises from universities (line 10)	by various/different sources
e	that their high expectations would eventually translate into actual achievements (line 11)	That their hopes/dreams would finally be realised/come to fruition.
f	no surprise that millennials are less interested in working hard to achieve them (line 12)	Millennials dislike excessive work/shy away from work (Note the subtle difference to point “a” about being lukewarm)
g	millennials have bought into the idea that the cause of success is high self-belief ; (lines 13)	Millennials are convinced that confidence in themselves will get them results/get the job done
h	not discipline (lines 13-14)	They do not prize/value self-control
l	self-knowledge (line 14)	(They do not prize) self-reflexivity/understanding of the self
J	Humility (line 14)	(They do not prize) modesty
k	This keeps their hopes in their (self-perceived) talents intact , (line 14)	Millennials remain deluded,
l	as if sooner or later their exceptional potential will be discovered, (line 15)	Thinking someone will realise their immense/great talents
m	even if they don't devote much time to harness it (16)	Even though they do not bother to develop themselves/polish their abilities
n	millennials are seen as hard to motivate ,	It seems difficult to inspire millennials

	(line 16)	
o	but more passionate about their work (line 16)	But they are more enthusiastic about their work/they are more driven
p	The answer is that Gen Y sees work as less central to their lives (line 19)	They do not see work as critical/vital to their existence
q	they value work-life- balance more than other generations do (line 20)	They think it is important to have an equilibrium between work and their personal time
R	this makes millennials' demands and standards lower (line 21)	Millennials do not expect/desire much
s	when you see work as "just making a living " (line 21)	They think work is simply/nothing but a way to earn money/make ends meet
T	you expect to find meaning in other areas of life (line 22)	Millennials look for fulfilment in various other sectors
u	such as education , (line 22)	such as studying/learning
v	relationships (line 22)	personal connections/bonding with others
w	or hobbies (line 22)	pastimes/leisure activities
x	Millennials believe in fun rather than work (line 23)	Millennials prize enjoyment over work
y	and, accordingly, they expect to have fun at work (line 23)	They want to enjoy themselves/have a good time while working
z	Even among millennials, only a minority of people are fully engaged at work (line 26)	(inferred) Millennials do not concentrate on their work

N.B. The first point of the summary should be an attitude so that it matches the opening words.

1-2pts=1m, 3-4=2m, 5-6=3m, 7-8=4m, 9-10=5m, 11-12=6m, 13-14=7m, 15 and more=8m

Markers' Comments:

- There was a tendency for students to combine points and hence lose the essence of one or more points
- Point 'a' and point 'f' need to be sufficiently differentiated.
Point 'a' is about work ethic/attitude. Point 'b' is about not wanting to work to achieve one's goals.
- For point 'L', many students did not have the context of talents being discovered/recognised.
- For point 'o', passion was often wrongly paraphrased as 'interested in work'
- For point 'q', 'balance' was frequently lifted.
- For points 'x' and 'y', 'fun' was not paraphrased.

10. Explain the contradiction in the phrase 'disposable friends' (line 34).

[2]

From the passage	Suggested Answer
<p>Their main ambition is to broadcast themselves, even if it requires collecting disposable friends</p>	<p>The contradiction in the phrase arises from the millennials view of friends as being expedient/ expend able instead of people whom they can have an enduring/sustained bond.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>They do not see permanence in their friendship, once their friends are of no more use for them, they are discarded.</p> <p>The contradiction must be addressed and shown explicitly. E.g. The students should show that the idea of friendship is directly contradicted by or at odds with 'disposable'.</p> <p>No marks will be awarded for simply defining both terms. 'Insignificant' is not accepted as a paraphrase for disposable.</p>

Markers' Comments:

Some students merely listed the definition of friends followed by the definition of disposable. Students need to explicitly state that the notion of friendship is at odds with the notion of being disposable and that it is a contradiction because one does not expect that friendship is something easily cast aside.

11. What does the author mean when he calls narcissism "exhibitionism and attention seeking, but camouflaged as sociability" (lines 40-41). Use your own words as far as possible.

[2]

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
<p>narcissism...is the main explanation for the apparent extraversion of millennials – it is exhibitionism and attention-seeking, but camouflaged as sociability lines 40-41</p>	<p>When the author describes millennial as narcissists, he wants to make clear to his readers that their gregarious/friendly behaviour is nothing more than a cover/a facade (1) for their desire to be noticed/seen by people. (1)</p> <p>Students need to paraphrase 'camouflaged' correctly. Facade, false front, disguise, etc. are accepted. If students merely state that they seem or appear to be sociable, that is not acceptable.</p>

Markers' Comments:

Some students did not paraphrase 'camouflage' properly and instead merely mentioned that narcissists 'appear' or 'seem' friendly. Answers need to touch on the connotation of how the exhibitionism is disguised, a façade or a cover.

12. Explain what the author finds problematic about narcissism in paragraph 7. Give any **two** reasons for this, **Use your own words as far as possible** [2]

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
<p>Narcissists struggle to form intimate relationships (line 43)</p> <p>They take credit for others accomplishments (line 43)</p> <p>Behave aggressively when confronted with negative feedback or rejection (line 44)</p> <p>Impulsive and driven mainly by instant gratification lines (44-45)</p>	<p>What is problematic about narcissism is that:</p> <p>Those who are narcissistic find it difficult to become close to/ bond with or have close ties with other people</p> <p>And they are prepared to accept recognition or allow people to believe that they have done something praiseworthy, whether or not they have actually done it</p> <p>Are hostile/antagonistic/belligerent when they do not receive positive affirmation relating to their work</p> <p>Do not think through their actions and are largely motivated by immediate fulfilment of their desires/do not believe in deferment of pleasure</p> <p>Any 2, 2m Again, as with Q5, only the first two examples will be accepted.</p>

Markers' Comments:

<p>-Taking credit for others accomplishments was often paraphrased oddly. For example 'stealing other people's limelight' or 'accept rewards for other people's work' which did not quite fit the bill.</p> <p>-Not all students were able to paraphrase aggressive and some left it out of their answer which made it too generic (e.g. cannot accept criticism, cannot take bad comments).</p> <p>-For the point about impulsiveness and instant gratification, many students left one or the other out.</p>
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13. The Economist article presents a largely positive view of the millennials, whilst Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic has a less flattering one. How far would you agree with their observations, relating your arguments to your own experiences and that of your society? [10]

- Students need to pick out the positive ideas from the Economist article and the less flattering views from the second article.
- Millennials: Demographers and researchers typically use the early 1980s as starting birth years and the mid-1990s to early 2000s as ending birth years.

Main Arguments & Explanations	Evidence / examples
<p>Band 1</p> <p>8 - 10marks</p>	<p>REQUIREMENTS: systematic reference to the requirements of the question with evidence of a balanced treatment.</p> <p>EXPLANATION: shows a good or very good understanding of terms and issues.</p> <p>EVALUATION: makes very convincing evaluation by making judgements and decisions and by developing arguments to logical conclusions, and includes elaboration and support through personal insight and apt illustration.</p> <p>COHERENCE: very clear shape and paragraph organisation and cogent argument.</p>
<p>Passage 1</p> <p>Para 4</p> <p>“the young are adapting quite well to the circumstances of a changing world.” (lines 16-17)</p>	<p>Possible arguments for why you agree or disagree largely/somewhat with the arguments raised</p> <p><u>Largely positive views about the millennials</u></p> <p>This is largely true in the Singaporean context. It was reported in the Today paper that 3 in 4 millennials in Singapore plan to be their own boss with 30 percent starting their businesses while still in school. The government has emphasised the increasingly volatility of the economic sector in the past decade. This has led to the business community and even educational institutes like SMU paying special attention to the area of nurturing entrepreneurship, For examples, there is an Institute of Innovation & Entrepreneurship at SMU. Millennials are also using their technological expertise to help themselves do business, especially online. They are reaching a global market instead of being confined to local customers. Examples of companies started by local entrepreneurs include Love Bonito and Style Lease, which deal with fashion.</p>
<p>Para 4</p> <p>“enthusiasm for new ideas” (line 20)</p>	<p>Millennials in Singapore are able to adapt to new circumstances as they have shown the ability to come up with refreshing concepts that enable them to have a niche market in the world. This could be partly attributed to the education system which gives them exposure to the arts, sciences and other areas. Internet access also allows them to be aware of global trends and to adapt accordingly. Examples of companies are Travel Clef, a music company which moves around to teach music to different organisations and groups, and Virtuoso, a local company that deals with cardistry.</p>
<p>Para 5</p> <p>“millennials grab opportunities where they can.” (line 27)</p>	<p>There has been criticism of Singapore youth that they are too laidback and not driven enough, especially when compared to their foreign counterparts. This could be attributed in part to the relatively comfortable and secure lives they have been leading. Brought up without having to worry about food and shelter, and even having access to some luxury, they do not seem to be very concerned about staying competitive. However, the opposite could be true as well, that as global competition heats up, the millennials are slowly awakening to the realisation that they need to fight for what they want, or languish in a fast-paced economy. This is evident in the numbers that apply for internships and</p>

	<p>scholarships annually in schools. Competition is very keen and the students ensure that they have impeccable grades and CCA records so as to get ahead. They, too, are grabbing opportunities wherever they can.</p>
<p>“the world may also be greener.” (line 31)</p>	<p>Millennials in Singapore seem to be more environmentally aware. They are more likely to recycle and adopt practices which are environmentally-friendly. This could be due to the numerous campaigns they have been exposed to: Clean and Green Singapore, Saving Gaia, etc. They are also considerably better-educated than the older generation, and may be more aware about the direct impact their actions can have on the environment. They would have grown up with recycling bins in their housing estates and neighbourhoods, and are likely to have a greener lifestyle. Also, it is deemed fashionable to be environmentally-friendly with the introduction of global events like Earth Hour every year.</p> <p>Of course, it remains to be seen how much the millennials are willing to sacrifice to ensure that the world is greener. While they may not mind occasionally recycling and saving water, this generation tends to have consumerist tendencies. They purchase a lot of unnecessary items because they can afford to, and then these are disposed just as readily to make way for the next big trend. Also, they treat their handphones and electronic devices as lifelines and cannot be without them. This contributes greatly to the use of electricity, very often for entertainment and non-essential usage. In fact, a study found that Singaporeans spend over 12 hours a day on their gadgets daily. The millennials, being a core group of users, are surely just as guilty of this. (http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/12hr-42min-connected-for-hours)</p>
<p>Para 6</p> <p>“The young are less racist than the old”. (line 34)</p> <p>Para 7</p> <p>“Tolerance is unlikely to erode as the millennials grow older.” (line 41)</p> <p>“they will not suddenly take against their friends who look different or love differently.” (line 44)</p>	<p>Indeed, more young people in Singapore seem to be less racist than the old, with more accepting inter-racial marriages. Having grown up in an era which emphasised racial harmony, they may be less inclined to treat people differently because of race. Also, there was a deliberate policy by the government to build on school culture. This must have helped to unite students of different races together to work for the glory of the school. With English as the lingua franca of schools and workplaces, communication has been facilitated between the races. With the improvement in communication naturally comes better understanding and acceptance of each other, regardless of race, and thus, the millennials are less likely to be racist than the old.</p> <p>With the rise of the Internet, millennials are exposed to the more liberal views from beyond our shores. There is greater acceptance of LGBT relationships, as can be seen from the increasing numbers which attend Pink Dot rallies annually. When surveyed, young people seem to be less conservative and willing to accept non-traditional relationships.</p>

<p>Passage 2</p> <p>Para 2</p> <p>“ambitious but lazy” (lines 7-8)</p> <p>“the discrepancy between their ambitious aspirations and their lukewarm work ethics.” (lines 8-9)</p>	<p><u>A less flattering view</u></p> <p>There are definitely Singaporean millennials who are ambitious but lazy. Employers have noticed that millennials seem to want to advance very quickly but are unable or unwilling to do the work required to get there. They are branded the strawberry generation, which refers to a group of people who are delicate and bruise easily when face with challenges. They also seem less willing to travel overseas for work, as they prefer to stay in comfortable, convenient Singapore.</p> <p>One wonders if this is a fair comment to make, though, as many Singaporean millennials have shown that they are willing to work long hours and deliver what is required by their bosses. 50 percent of the millennials surveyed said they intended to stay with their current employer for the next few years or longer. This corroborates the results of a 2015 survey which found that 59 percent of Singaporeans believed in job loyalty and intended to stay in their jobs more than five years. (http://www.herworldplus.com/lifestyle/work/are-you-part-strawberry-generation-these-3-attitudes-towards-work) Of course, they will not stay in a company they are unhappy with, but most seem prepared, or resigned, to working past the retirement age. It is questionable, therefore, to consider them lazy and possessing lukewarm work ethics.</p>
<p>Para 3</p> <p>“they value work-life balance more... Ironically, this makes millennials’ demands and standards lower.” (lines 20-21)</p> <p>“you see work as “just making a living”, you expect to find meaning in other areas of life such as education, relationships or hobbies.” (lines 21-22)</p>	<p>While millennials may value work-life balance more, this may not correspond to lowered standards and demands. Singaporeans have long been told that no one owes us a living. Given this message and the current wave of retrenchment exercises in many companies both locally and globally, there is likely the realisation that they have to work very hard to keep their jobs. Their continued employment at MNCs is evidence of this. Also, as they like the finer things in life, like frequent vacations, they realise that they need to maintain standards in order to be competitive in the global economy. So, while some may see work as just making a living, they may still do well at it so that they are able to indulge in other areas of their lives where they find meaning.</p> <p>Interesting, more millennials are finding that their hobbies actually can be transformed into viable careers. Unlike the previous generation, millennials are bold enough to make major career switches and become yoga teachers, personal trainers, life coaches and music teachers. The proliferation of gyms and yoga centres in Singapore is evidence of the viability of these careers. Of course, one crucial factor is that Singapore is fairly prosperous and can afford to support these modes of employment. In short, they have a customer base for the activities offered.</p>
<p>Para 5</p> <p>“they are hyper-connected, but self-obsessed.” (line 30)</p>	<p>With Internet access readily available in Singapore, the millennials who are not connected via Facebook, Instagram or Twitter are definitely in the minority. Many seem to need to post every event in their lives on social media, from the food they eat to the places they visit. While some have many followers, it is questionable as to how much people actually pay attention to the views or posts or others, or whether they are merely concerned about garnering ‘likes’ for</p>

<p>Band 2 4-7 marks</p>	<p>REQUIREMENTS: covers requirements of the question adequately but not necessarily a balanced treatment EXPLANATION: shows an adequate level of understanding of terms and issues (which may include minor distortion) when applied to Singapore society. EVALUATION: evaluation is attempted but is not always convincing, and tends to be superficial with limited development of ideas, and is not as thorough in support. COHERENCE: paragraphing is sometimes helpful and there is recognisable over-all shape to the answer; arguments are generally cogent.</p>
<p>Band 3 1-3 marks</p>	<p>REQUIREMENTS: an incomplete and/or unbalanced treatment of the requirements. EXPLANATION: shows very limited degree of understanding and a higher incidence of misinterpretation of the author's views. EVALUATION: tends to be mere summary or restatement of the text with a few simple and undeveloped judgements, with very thin support (no examples and evidence from Singapore society). COHERENCE: paragraphing and organisation are haphazard.</p>
<p>0</p>	<p>Nothing in the answer meets any of the criteria</p>

Markers' Comments:

-Many students latched on to top-down government policies such as Racial Harmony Day and Skillsfuture as evidence that millennials were not racist or were adapting to their circumstances. Students need to realise that the existence of such policies does not automatically mean millennials acquire traits like tolerance or adaptability. More unpacking and substantiation is needed.

-Students tended to give multiple anecdotal examples and did not link them to larger social trends which resulted in narrow and forced arguments (e.g. about how their older family members were racist).

-Some students also gave trivial examples like MRT breakdowns to justify that millennials lacked resilience.

-Overall there was a serious problem with a lack of unpacking. Many students were content to list examples and adopt a touch-and-go approach.

Candidate's Name	CTG
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**YISHUN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2017**

**H1 GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 1**

**8807/01
22 August 2017
0800h – 0930h**

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TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name and CTG on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Write your answer on a separate answer paper.

Write the number of the question attempted on your answer script.

If you are unable to attempt the paper, submit a blank sheet stating your name and CTG.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/30
Language	/20
Total	/50

This question paper consists of **2** printed pages including this page.

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PAPER 1

Answer **ONE** question from this Paper. Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. Considering their apparent financial stability, should developed countries be obliged to help other countries in need?
2. 'The only obstacle in the Arts is censorship.' Discuss.
3. 'People are more compassionate nowadays.' To what extent is this true of your society?
4. How far has modern technology been a hindrance for people when they work?
5. 'The pursuit of economic growth creates more stress than happiness for the individual.' Discuss.
6. Evaluate the claim that a knowledge of history is more an advantage rather than a problem for political leaders today.
7. Assess the view that Literature is a subject that has no practical value.
8. 'The main aim of scientific research is to create knowledge about how the world works, rather than solve problems.' To what extent is this true?
9. Is greed always an undesirable trait?
10. In your society, how well are the needs of the young and the old balanced?
11. 'Freedom remains an unattainable goal.' What is your view?
12. 'Everyone has a part to play in tackling global issues.' How far do you agree?

**YISHUN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2017**

**H1 GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 2**

**8807/02
22 August 2017**

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

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Joshua Rothman considers the issues surrounding leadership.

- 1 People who fetishise leadership sometimes find themselves longing for crisis. They yearn for emergency, dreaming of a doomsday to be narrowly averted. When Donald Trump's campaign released its first official television advertisement, it featured a procession of alarming images – the San Bernardino shooters, a crowd at passport control, the flag of Syria's Al Nusra Front – designed to communicate the idea of a country under siege. But the advertisement does more than stoke fear; it also excites, because it suggests that we have arrived at a moment welcoming the emergence of a strong and electrifying leader (Trump, a voice-over explains, will 'quickly cut the head off the Daesh¹ – and take their oil'). By making America's moment of crisis seem as big as possible, Trump makes himself seem more consequential too. 5 10
- 2 Our faith in the value of leadership is durable. This faith survives, again and again, our disappointment with actual leaders. Polls suggest that, even though voters who support Trump are frustrated with the people in charge, they are not disillusioned about leadership in general: they are attracted to Trump's 'leadership qualities' and to an authoritarian view of life. In a sense, they are caught in a feedback loop. The glorification of leadership makes existing leaders seem disappointing by comparison, leading to an ever more desperate search for 'real' leaders to replace them. Trump's supporters are not the only ones caught in this loop. Schools that used to talk about 'citizenship' now claim to train 'the leaders of tomorrow'; academics study leadership in think tanks and institutes; leadership experts emote their way through talks about it on YouTube. 15 20
- 3 If you are flexible in how you define 'leadership', you will find that people have been thinking about it for a very long time. Plato, Confucius, and the poet (or poets) who wrote the Bhagavad Gita thought about leadership; so did Machiavelli. Historians have detailed the lives and decisions of individual leaders. Still, case studies and books on leadership advice do not add up to the kind of systematic description you would need in order to say that someone has 'leadership qualities'. The attempt to create that description – to develop, essentially, a science of leadership – began around a century ago, but has met with little success. 25
- 4 For a long time, leadership experts remained nostalgic for old-type leaders. In the nineteenth century, books such as Thomas Carlyle's 'On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History' attempted to isolate, through historical surveys, the character traits of 'great men'. Well into the twentieth century, many scholars elaborated on a 'trait model' of leadership. They proposed that leaders possessed certain personality traits – courage, decisiveness, intelligence, attractiveness, and so on – that made them intrinsically charismatic, with no respect for bureaucracy. A great deal of time was spent thinking about how leadership qualities might be detected, so that leaders could be identified in advance of their elevation. 30 35
- 5 The trait model is still relevant today. However, by the mid-twentieth century, alternatives to the trait model of leadership have gained traction. Experts have studied leadership psychologically, sociologically, and even 'existentially-experientially'. Many have settled on a 'process-based' approach. They have come to see leadership as something that unfolds in stages. A problem emerges, a leader is selected, a goal is 40

¹ Daesh – an Arabic acronym formed from the initial letters of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)'s previous name in Arabic – "al-Dawla al-Islamiya fil Iraq wa al-Sham"

- developed, a team is assembled, the goal is re-evaluated, and it repeats. From this perspective, the working life of an organisation begins to look like an unending sequence of leadership events. A leader's job is to shepherd the team through the leadership process. 45
- 6 Process models favour the bureaucratic over the charismatic, and have a number of advantages over trait models. For one thing, they suggest that leadership is learnable: you just observe the process. For another, they are capable of differentiating between the designated leader, often a broad-shouldered white guy with a power tie and a corner office, and the actual, 'emergent' leaders around whom, at particular moments, events coalesce. Research shows that workplaces often function because of unrecognised emergent leaders, many of them women. Most fundamentally, process models acknowledge that 'being a leader' is not an identity but, rather, a set of actions. It is not someone you are. It is something you do. 50 55
- 7 Leaders, moreover, used to command; now they suggest. Conceptually, at least, leadership and power have been decoupled. In 1927, Personnel Journal cited an expert who defined leadership as 'the ability to impress the will of the leader on those led and induce obedience, respect, loyalty, and cooperation'. But after the Second World War, the concept of leadership softened. Leaders, it was said, were not dictators or tyrants; instead of ordering us around, they influenced, motivated, and inspired us. A distinction began to emerge between leadership, which was said to be inspirational, and management, which was seen as more punitive. (As the business books have it, 'managers require, leaders inspire'). The distinction persists today. On diagrams of the leadership process, 'punishing disobedient subordinates' rarely appears. 60 65
- 8 Others explore the idea that leadership is a form of captivity, in which one is both separated from others and exposed to their judgment. In his essay 'Shooting an Elephant', George Orwell describes his time as a policeman in colonial Burma. Often, he suggested his decisions were informed by his fear of shame, by the fact that 'my whole life, every white man's life in the East, was one long struggle not to be laughed at'. Sometimes, it is the people supposedly under one's control who really call the shots. 70
- 9 To some extent, leaders are storytellers; really, though, they are characters in stories. They play leading roles, but in dramas they cannot predict and do not always understand. Since the serialised drama of history is bigger than any one character's arc, leaders cannot guarantee our ultimate narrative satisfaction. In addition, events, on the whole, are more protean than people, and leaders grow less satisfying with time as the stories they are ready to tell diverge from the stories we want to hear. Finally, our desire for a coherent vision of the world is bottomless, which parallels our insatiable hunger for leadership. Leaders make the world more sensible, but never sensible enough. 75 80
- 10 Should our leaders keep this in mind? Do we want them to lead with a sense of submerged irony, of wistful self-awareness? When we are swept up in the romance of leadership, we admire leaders who radiate authenticity and authority; we respect and enjoy our 'real' leaders. At other times, though, we want leaders who see themselves objectively, who resist the pull of their own charisma, who doubt the story they have been rewarded for telling. 'If a man who thinks he is a king is mad', Jacques Lacan wrote, 'a king who thinks he is a king is no less so'. A sense of perspective may be among the most critical leadership qualities. For better or worse, however, it is the one we ask our leaders to hide. 85

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Candidate's Name

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**YISHUN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2017**

**H1 GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 2**

**8807/02
22 August 2017
1030h – 1200h**

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TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

- Write your name and CTG on all the work you hand in.
- Write in dark blue or black pen.
- Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.
- At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

Answer **all** questions.
 The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.
 Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

Question	1 2m	2 1m	3 3m	4 1m	5 2m	6 8m	7 2m	8 3m	9 2m	10 1m	11 10m
Marks											

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This question paper consists of 7 printed pages, 1 blank page and 1 Insert.

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Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words and phrases from the passage.

- 1. Why would people who fetishise leadership 'find themselves longing for crisis' (line 1)?

[2]

- 2. Why has the author placed brackets around the comment in lines 8–9?

[1]

- 3. In paragraph 2, the author states 'our faith in the value of leadership is durable' (line 11). Give the example that the author provides to support this and explain what it indicates about leadership. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

[3]

- 4. **Using your own words as far as possible,** explain what the author suggests is lacking in the past idea of leadership in lines 25-28.

[1]

5. In paragraph 4, the author claims that 'for a long time, leadership experts remained nostalgic for old-type leaders'. How does the remainder of the paragraph illustrate his assertion? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[2]

7. Explain what the author means by describing leadership as 'a form of captivity' (line 67). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

8. In lines 73–76, what similarities does the author see between leaders and characters in stories? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[3]

9. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain the analogy which the author uses in lines 86–87.

[2]

10. In light of the final paragraph, why does the author describe 'a sense of perspective' (line 87) as something 'we ask our leaders to hide' (lines 88–89)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

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Answers for 2017 General Paper Preliminary Examinations Paper 2

*Note: Accept lift for leaders/leadership throughout.

Question	Paraphrased/inferred from
<p>1. Why would people who fetishise leadership 'find themselves longing for crisis' (line 1)? [2]</p> <p><i>Reworked from Q2, GCE 2016</i></p> <p>They yearn for emergency, dreaming of a doomsday to <u>be narrowly averted</u>. (lines 1-2)</p> <p>...it suggests that we have arrived at a moment welcoming the emergence of a strong and electrifying leader. (lines 7-8)</p>	<p>For (a): Acceptable to lift "emergency" but still necessary to have it as the context (must have the intensity of a disaster). Focus is on the avoidance.</p> <p>For (a): Saving/salvage is not the idea of avoidance</p> <p>For (b): BOD if 'emergence' is not present</p> <p>For (b): BOD if either 'strong' or 'electrifying' is seen.</p> <p>For (b): Cannot award if attributes are not present.</p> <p>a. People desire for a <u>disaster</u> that would be barely <u>avoided</u>. [1]</p> <p>b. which signals/heralds the rise/appearance/arrival of a <u>powerful/able/forceful person</u>. [1]</p>
<p>2. Why has the author placed brackets around the comment in lines 8—9? [1]</p> <p><i>Reworked from Q3, GCE 2013</i></p> <p>(Trump, a voice-over explains, will quickly cut the head off the Daesh - and take their oil').</p>	<p>Note: Focus is on context (of decisiveness), not on the function</p> <p>a. The additional information reveals the author's opinion on how strong leaders would <u>do their work decisively/get to the root of the problem</u>. [1]</p>
<p>3. In paragraph 2, the author states 'our faith in the value of leadership is durable' (line 11). Give the example that the author provides to support this and explain what it indicates about leadership. Use your own words as far as possible. [3]</p> <p><i>Reworked from Q3, GCE 2015</i></p> <p>Polls suggest that, even though <u>voters who support Trump</u> are frustrated with the people in charge, they are not disillusioned about leadership in general: they are attracted to Trump's 'leadership qualities' and to an authoritarian view of life. (lines 12-15)</p> <p>In a sense, they are caught in a feedback loop. The glorification of leadership makes existing leaders seem disappointing by comparison, leading to an ever more desperate search for 'real' leaders to replace them. (lines 15-17)</p>	<p>For (c): As long as 'feedback loop' is captured, award 1m</p> <p>The author illustrates his description by citing how</p> <p>a. Illustration: voters who support Trump (accept lift of 'voters who support Trump') [1]</p> <p>b. They are enticed by the leadership attributes (that Trump possesses) because of their <u>anger/disappointment</u> towards their current leaders. [1]</p> <p>c. They <u>still believe</u> that there are people elsewhere who demonstrate authentic/actual leadership attributes, and, as such, <u>constantly/endlessly look</u> for new leaders to take over/supplant current leaders. [1]</p>

Question	Paraphrased/inferred from
<p>4. Using your own words as far as possible, explain what the author suggests is lacking in the past idea of leadership in lines 25-28. [1]</p> <p><i>Reworked from Q6, GCE 2016</i></p> <p>Still, case studies and books of leadership advice do not add up to the <u>kind of systematic description</u> you would need in order to say that someone has 'leadership <u>qualities</u>'. The attempt to create that description – to develop essentially, a science of leadership –... (lines 25-28)</p>	<p>Note: Need to have both 'systematic' and 'description' captured in the answer for 1m.</p> <p>The author suggests that it is</p> <p>a. the <u>methodical/structured attempt to define/explain the criteria</u> for someone possessing leadership traits/attributes or the features of a leader.</p>
<p>5. In paragraph 4, the author claims that 'for a long time, leadership experts remained nostalgic for old-type leaders'. How does the remainder of the paragraph illustrate his assertion? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]</p> <p><i>Reworked from Q8, GCE 2014</i></p> <p><u>In the nineteenth century</u>, books such as Thomas Carlyle's 'On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History' <u>attempted to isolate</u>, through historical surveys, the character traits of 'great men'. <u>Well into the twentieth century, many scholars elaborated on a 'trait model' of leadership.</u> (lines 30-34)</p> <p><u>A great deal of time</u> was spent thinking about how leadership qualities might be detected, so that leaders could be identified in advance of their elevation. (lines 36-38)</p> <p>They proposed that leaders <u>possessed certain personality traits</u> - courage, decisiveness, intelligence, attractiveness, and so on - that made them intrinsically <u>charismatic</u>, with <u>no respect for bureaucracy.</u> (lines 34-36)</p>	<p>Note: (b) needs to have the idea of 'certain' to have 1m.</p> <p>The author demonstrates the idea by</p> <p>a. highlighting <u>past works/works across time</u> that have shown how [1]</p> <p>b. people thought that leaders needed to <u>have particular characteristics/attributes</u> [1] OR <u>have desirable/positive characteristics/attributes</u> [1]</p> <p>c. which allowed them to be innately <u>winning/attractive/compelling</u> [1],</p> <p>d. and <u>ignore the prevailing rules governing leadership/ not abide by protocols/rules</u> [1]</p> <p><i>Note: First mark goes to point a, second mark goes to any point between b-d.</i></p>
<p>7. Explain what the author means by describing leadership as 'a form of captivity' (line 67). Use your own words as far as possible. [2]</p> <p><i>Reworked from Q3, GCE 2014</i></p>	<p>The author means that leadership can</p>

Question	Paraphrased/inferred from
<p>... in which one is both separated from others and exposed to their judgment. (lines 67-68)</p>	<p>a. (literal) <u>isolate/detach a person</u> from others [1] and b. (inference) and force a person to <u>submit to the views/wishes/demands</u> of others. [1] OR <u>be vulnerable/left to the criticisms</u> of others. [1]</p>
<p>8. In lines 73-76, what similarities does the author see between leaders and characters in stories? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]</p> <p><i>Reworked from Q2, GCE 2014</i></p> <p>They play leading roles, (line 74)</p> <p>but in dramas they cannot predict (line 74)</p> <p>and do not always understand. (line 75)</p> <p>Since the serialised drama of history is bigger than any one character's arc, leaders cannot guarantee our ultimate narrative satisfaction. (lines 75-76)</p>	<p>Note: For (c), focus is on the 'narrative satisfaction' *For students: Need to be clear that every point must clearly show a comparison between leaders and characters</p> <p>Both leaders and characters in stories are</p> <p>a. <u>main/important/pivotal/key/chief/prominent characters/protagonists/players</u> [1] b. <u>unable to foresee/anticipate</u> what will happen next, [1] c. <u>unable to comprehend</u> why events unfold as they do, [1] d. unable to assure/promise an outcome that we will be <u>contented with/is fulfilling/rewarding/pleasing</u>. [1]</p> <p><i>Note: 3m for any 3 out of 4 points.</i></p>
<p>9. Using your own words as far as possible, explain the analogy which the author uses in lines 86—87. [2]</p> <p><i>Reworked from Q5, GCE 2010 (question on figurative language)</i></p> <p>'If a man who thinks he is a king is mad', Jacques Lacan wrote, 'a king who thinks he is a king is no less so'.</p>	<p>Note: (a) can be awarded if (b) is absent, even if there isn't a comparative element. (b) will need the intensity of 'no less so' for 1m.</p> <p>Just as</p> <p>a. an ordinary man who thinks he has great significance is seen as insane, [1] b. a leader who is too self-aware of his greatness/self-absorbed is <u>deemed equally irrational/insane/foolish/delusional</u>. [1]</p>
<p>10. In light of the final paragraph, why does the author describe 'a sense of perspective' (line 87) as something 'we ask our leaders to hide' (lines 88—89)? Use your own words as far as possible. [1]</p> <p><i>Reworked from Q9, GCE 2016</i></p> <p>Should our leaders keep this in mind? Do we want them to lead with a sense of submerged irony, of wistful self-awareness? When we are swept up in the romance of leadership, we admire leaders who radiate authenticity and authority; we respect and enjoy our 'real'</p>	<p>a. While self-awareness is important for leadership, it is ultimately the people's desires/expectations that are the most important. [1]</p> <p>For students: Yellow: What people want (<u>objective self-awareness which is positive/leaders who see themselves as important, which is negative</u>) Green: What is objectively important for leadership.</p>

Question	Paraphrased/inferred from
<p>leaders. At other times, though, we want leaders who see themselves objectively, who resist the pull of their own charisma, who doubt the story they have been rewarded for telling. 'If a man who thinks he is a king is mad', Jacques Lacan wrote, 'a king who thinks he is a king is no less so'. A sense of perspective may be among the most critical leadership qualities. For better or worse, however, it is the one we ask our leaders to hide.</p>	

6. Using material from paragraphs 5—7 only (lines 39—66), summarise what the author has to say about the changes to leadership brought about by the process model.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

The author feels that leadership...

Lifted from text	Paraphrased equivalent
1) They have come to see <u>leadership</u> as something that unfolds in stages . (lines 42-43)	A. Leadership constitutes various phases/moments .
2) A problem emerges, a leader is selected , a goal is developed, a team is assembled, the goal is re-evaluated, and it repeats. (lines 43-44)	B. (crux: process of selection) The leadership identification process is duplicated whenever an issue/obstacle crops up .
3) From this perspective, the working life of an organisation begins to look like an unending sequence of <u>leadership</u> events. (lines 44-46)	C. Leaders appear to manage a continuous/ceaseless/uninterrupted series of incidents/occurrences.
4) A <u>leader's</u> job is to shepherd the team through the leadership process. (lines 46-47)	D. The leader guides/directs the team under him/her.
5) <u>Process models</u> favour the bureaucratic over the charismatic , (line 48)	E. (inferred) Leadership is systematic/rule-governed, rather than being appealing/compelling/captivating .
6) and have a number of advantages over trait models. (lines 48-49)	F. The process model is more beneficial than/superior to/has an edge over trait models.
7) For one thing, they suggest that <u>leadership</u> is learnable : you just observe the process. (line 49)	G. Leadership can be picked up/studied/grasped .
8) For another, they are capable of differentiating between the designated leader , often a broad-shouldered white guy with a power tie and a corner office, and the actual... (lines 50-52)	H. The process model is able to distinguish between leaders who are appointed
9) ...and the actual, 'emergent' leaders around <u>whom</u> , at particular moments, events coalesce. (lines 52-53)	I. Real/true/natural leaders who blossom when incidents/situations/crises come together

Lifted from text	Paraphrased equivalent
<p>10) Research shows that workplaces often function because of unrecognised emergent <u>leaders</u>, many of them women. (lines 53-54)</p> <p>11) Most fundamentally, process models acknowledge that '<u>being a leader</u>' is not an identity (line 55) OR It is <u>not someone you are</u> (line 55-56)</p> <p>12) but, rather, a set of actions. (lines 54-55) OR It is <u>something you do</u>. (lines 55-56)</p> <p>13) <u>Leaders</u>, moreover, used to command; now they suggest. (line 57)</p> <p>14) Conceptually, at least, <u>leadership</u> and power have been decoupled. (lines 57-58)</p> <p>In 1927, Personnel Journal cited an expert who defined leadership as "the ability to impress the will of the leader on those led and induce obedience, respect, loyalty, and cooperation."</p> <p>15) But after the Second World War, the concept of <u>leadership</u> softened. (lines 60-61)</p> <p>16) <u>Leaders</u>, it was said, were not dictators or tyrants; (line 61)</p> <p>17) instead of ordering us around, <u>they</u> influenced, motivated, and inspired us. (line 62)</p> <p>18) A distinction began to emerge between <u>leadership, which was said to be inspirational</u>, and management, which was seen as more punitive. (lines 62-64)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>18) (As the business books have it, 'managers require...leaders inspire'.) The distinction persists today. (lines 64-65)</p> <p>19) On diagrams of the <u>leadership</u> process, "punishing disobedient subordinates" rarely appears. (lines 65-66)</p>	<p>J. Companies work well due to anonymous/hidden leadership. (Both conditions must be present for point J to be accepted)</p> <p>K. Leadership is not a name/label/title</p> <p>L. Leadership has to be carried out/undertaken/more of a behaviour/conduct.</p> <p>M. Previously, leaders demanded/ordered, currently they advise on/propose/recommend actions.</p> <p>N. Leadership and power have been separated/disconnected.</p> <p><i>Note: no credit to be given here.</i></p> <p>O. Leadership was toned down/moderated.</p> <p>P. Leaders could not be authoritarian/oppressive,</p> <p>Q. Leaders shaped/encouraged people (full credit can be awarded for addressing any one of the three conditions)</p> <p>Crux for point 18: "distinction"</p> <p>R. Leaders have a more positive influence OR Leaders have a positive influence whereas managers are more negative/demanding/disciplinary.</p> <p>S. Leaders seldom penalise/discipline defiance/misbehaviour.</p>

Marks Table (based on 19 points)

Points	0	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9	10	11	>12
Marks	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Sample summary (120 words)

The author feels that leadership...

(A) constitutes various phases and (B) they are duplicated whenever issues appear. (C) Leaders appear to manage a continuous series of incidents and (D) guide their team. (F) The process model is more beneficial than trait models (E) although leaders are systematic, rather than captivating, as (G) leadership can be studied. (H) The process model distinguishes between leaders appointed and (I) those who are real and blossom during crises. (J) Companies work well under hidden leadership. (K) Leadership is not a label, and (L) more of a behaviour which has to be undertaken. (M) Leaders advise actions now rather than order as (N) leadership and power are disconnected. (O) Leadership is moderate and (P) leaders cannot be oppressive, (Q) Leaders shape people and (R) have a positive influence, whereas managers are more disciplinary. (S) Leaders seldom penalise misbehaviour. (120 words)

11. Joshua Rothman writes about some ways in which leadership is demonstrated. **How applicable are the different types of leadership**, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your own society?

Note:

- **How applicable** is the first demand; “**the different types of leadership**” is the second demand (students must pick out process/trait models and the various features of the models to get B2 and above). Not about the features or traits of leadership but the **models**.
- If there is some mention of the model, requirements would be more clearly met, but coherence may fluctuate.

Points that can be developed:

The Trait Model and its Features	
1. ... they are attracted to Trump's 'leadership qualities' and to an authoritarian view of life... The glorification of leadership makes existing leaders seem disappointing by comparison, leading to an ever more desperate search for 'real' leaders to replace them	Not applicable In Singapore there is a much greater desire for leaders who are empathetic and personable, rather than leaders who are strongmen and dictatorial. We saw that in Singapore's 2011 parliamentary election where the historically popular People's Action Party, lost some popular support from Singaporeans because they had allegedly not been listening to the concerns of the people. A heavy-handed approach where the views of the common man are ignored is thus unlikely to be appreciated by Singaporeans and in response to calls for more open dialogue, the government launched REACH ¹ , a government feedback unit which encourages active citizenry by having a platform for citizens to air their concerns.
2. They proposed that leaders possessed certain personality traits - courage, decisiveness, intelligence, attractiveness, and so on - that made them intrinsically charismatic, with no	Applicable We have leaders who possess great charisma and are able to hold the attention of many international diplomats. Our late former prime minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew was one such leader

¹ <https://www.reach.gov.sg/>

<p>respect for bureaucracy.</p>	<p>with incredible presence that he was able to gain an audience with many prominent political leaders in the world despite representing Singapore, a small state. In the 1960s, he uncovered a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) plot which the United States attempted to cover up by bribing Mr Lee. However Mr Lee had the extraordinary courage to rebuff the USD 3.3 million bribe and demand a formal apology. ²</p> <p>Not applicable</p> <p>In Singapore, leaders are valued for their ability to plan in an organised manner and be mindful of the right processes. In fact in the CIA scandal, it was Mr Lee's respect for bureaucracy which enabled him to look past the personal gain that he was presented with and instead to abide by what was appropriate. Mr Lee's charisma, with his sense of bureaucracy, was what allowed him to instead request for a larger sum to drive Singapore's economic development.</p>
<p>The Process Model and its Features</p>	
<p>3. They have come to see leadership as something that unfolds in stages. A problem emerges, a leader is selected, a goal is developed, a team is assembled, the goal is re-evaluated, and it repeats.</p> <p>4. Process models favour the bureaucratic over the charismatic</p>	<p>Applicable</p> <p>In Singapore leaders are chosen through a careful process of being tried-and-tested rather than based on their eloquence. The government looks at leadership renewal as something intentional. The ministers in the top-tiers of government are groomed by rotations through different ministries where they take on various portfolios to understand different facets of the county's needs.³</p>
<p>5. For one thing, they suggest that leadership is learnable: you just observe the process.</p>	<p>Applicable</p> <p>We rarely see leadership as something that simply comes naturally but see it instead as something we can pick up. In Singapore that is a large market for leadership training courses and children even in primary school, can go for courses which claim to teach leadership skills during their school holidays. The Learning Lab runs a Future Leaders Programme which aims to prepare its students to "achieve their academic and leadership dreams"⁴.</p>
<p>6. Leaders, moreover, used to command; now they suggest/ Leaders, it was said, were not dictators or tyrants; instead of ordering us around, they influenced, motivated, and inspired us.</p>	<p>Applicable</p> <p>Singapore has often been criticised in the past for lacking much freedom as its leaders carried too much authority over its people. Mr Lee Kuan Yew, our former prime minister was often accused of being too heavy-handed. However these days, such a position is unlikely to work as Singaporeans now desire leaders who are empathetic and personable, such that they are</p>

² <http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/improper-activities-by-american-officials>

³ <http://www.straitstimes.com/politics/shaping-singapores-4th-gen-leadership>

⁴ <https://www.thelearninglab.com.sg/aboutus/future-leaders-program/>

	able to communicate and inspire citizens. We see that today with our Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong and his wife Ho Ching who make efforts to engage and encourage active learning amongst the Singapore population through their social media engagement. Mr Lee Hsieng Loong has often been praised for his interesting and authentic social media posts that shows his interest in coding and other fascinating sites he observes around Singapore. ⁵
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<http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/pm-lee-hsien-loong-marks-3rd-year-on-social-media-with-video>

