

2018

JC2 H1 GP

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ANDERSON JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2018

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

27 August 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials: 12-page Answer Booklet
4-page Additional Booklet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, PDG, GP tutor's name and Question Number on the 12-page Answer Booklet and 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.

Do not detach any pages from the Answer Booklet.

Answer one question.

All questions carry equal marks.

At the end of the examination, staple any additional booklets you have used behind your Answer Booklet.

(Note that up to 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. To what extent do you agree that science is more important than religion?
2. 'Diplomacy is a poor substitute for war in resolving international conflicts.' Do you agree?
3. Sport is more about business than enjoyment.' What is your view?
4. How much is self-reliance valued in your society?
5. 'In a world where the environment is at risk, our population numbers should be controlled.' How far do you agree?
6. 'The media is too focused on the trivial.' Discuss.
7. 'The value of education is overrated.' How far is this true in your society?
8. Consider the view that women will never overcome discrimination in the workplace.
9. 'The role of parents is diminishing in modern society.' Discuss.
10. In the digital age, is there any point in preserving traditional art?
11. How open should we be to change today?
12. 'Sites of tragedy should be forgotten rather than remembered.' Discuss.

Candidate's Name	PDG /17	GP Tutor's Name
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ANDERSON JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2018

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

27 August 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

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.

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

This document consists of **7** printed pages, **1** blank page 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 Which word in paragraph 1 conveys the idea that the search for truth is 'long and arduous' (line 5)?

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..... [1]

2 What are the differences between the way society interpreted the natural world in the past and from the 18th century onwards (lines 11-13)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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..... [2]

3 Why has the author written 'truth' (line 20) in inverted commas?

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..... [1]

4 What does the author mean by the phrase 'their actual expertise here is secondary' in line 27? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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..... [2]

5 In paragraph 4, identify the reasons the author provides for why we lie and accept lies. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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6 In paragraph 4, how does the author illustrate that people lie for good intentions? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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7 What does the author mean by a world that was 'idyllically false' (line 42) and how did Albert Camus feel about it?

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..... [1]

8 What distinctions does the author draw between the findings of the NBC report and the allegations of Russian interference in the US elections (lines 47-52)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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..... [3]

9 What is the author suggesting about the role of the individual when he says that 'the individual is the source, medium and target of falsehood' (line 87)?

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..... [1]

10 Suggest one reason why the author concludes the passage with the final sentence.

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ANDERSON JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2018

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

PAPER 2

27 August 2018

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.

[Turn over

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Taylor Shahem considers the changing perceptions of truth and why truth is important.

- 1 In Roman mythology, Veritas, the goddess of truth, hid at the bottom of a sacred well, elusive to all except those who were most determined to find her. Throughout history, many people have joined the ranks of adventurers on that quest – philosophers who ponder the nature of truth, scientists who want to discover the truth and mathematicians who want to describe the truth, among many others. Today, the search, although long and arduous, continues. As we moved through the 17th and 18th centuries, developments in the way scientists worked transformed the way we understood our world. ‘Veritas’, the Latin word for truth, is emblazoned proudly across the mottos of many institutions of research and learning which concern themselves with research and intellectual pursuits. It seemed that we had discovered the means to find the truth. 5 10
- 2 Historically, people attributed natural events to divine forces and made wild guesses in an attempt to interpret natural events. By the 18th century, scientists had turned to experiments to tease apart the workings of the natural world, and searched relentlessly for scientific causes. Revolutionary scientific discoveries hinted at laws that could describe natural phenomena, and the dizzying rate of scientific progress gave us hope that one day we would understand the physical world in its entirety. Such a theory, however, could not explain the range of human experiences. They were too varied, too colourful, too complex to be reduced to mere equations and formulae, no matter how many there were. Different cultures, informed by their history and beliefs, viewed the world through unique lenses. So while natural laws ruled the physical world, philosophers could now mull over the ‘truth’ of the social world. 15 20
- 3 This was a short-lived revelry as soon, disinterest in the value of truth itself began to appear. Today, we seem to be progressing backwards as people’s perspectives no longer need to be rooted in reality to be valid. In this age of populism where there is contempt for expert advice and susceptibility to reactionary thinking, views which are not informed by what is true are accepted as true. What lends legitimacy to them is not whether they are reasonable or based on facts. These views become ‘true’ when they are endorsed by some famed politician or celebrity (their actual expertise here is secondary), when they have been bandied around sufficiently on social networks to be embedded in our minds through sheer repetition, or simply when they fit with one’s existing prejudices. 25
- 4 The era of untruth had quietly crept in. Granted, falsehoods are not new. We have always been drawn to the allure of not telling the truth. We lie to acquire unjust rewards, embroider our achievements, and cover up unacceptable behaviour. Even compassion leads people to lie for good intentions: it is the desire not to hurt others with the truth. According to a survey of doctors, ten percent of them had told patients untruths. They concealed abnormal laboratory test results to spare them anxiety and minimised the severity of patients’ conditions to keep them hopeful about recovery. Indeed, we might even want to be lied to. It is not that we do not value the truth – as a species that avoids pain and seeks pleasure, we merely prefer lies to the pain that honesty often inflicts. 30 35
- 5 Today, shockingly, it seems to no longer matter whether something is true or not. It has gone beyond the world that Albert Camus probably feared when he said, “Seeking what is true is not seeking what is desirable.” He preferred a world that was painfully truthful as opposed to one that was idyllically false, where there was still a distinct difference between truth and falsehood. Now, the disregard of the truth is more insidious, symptomatic of our increasingly amoral society which lacks a sense of what is right or wrong. Technology places us in even greater peril here: the Internet allows ideas to be transmitted quickly by anyone, and the extensive networks of people connected on social media encourages the uncontrolled spreading of untruths online. A 2018 NBC report disclosed that “false news was spread more often than true news was”, and this was done naively in an unintended manner by “ordinary people”. Such findings instil more fear compared to those, for example, in the United States elections where it was found that ill-intentioned Russian and other foreign agents deliberately 40 45 50

flooded social media with untrue reports and posts to mislead people about political candidates. It is ironic that those who wish to muddy the waters are clear about what is true and the very people who wish to know more sink deeper into the mire of untruths.

- 6 There are consequences for not valuing the truth. People are at risk of being easily exploited because they make decisions that are not necessarily based on fact or logic. Companies peddling dubious health solutions leverage this to convince buyers of the supposed merits of their products. The ability to make sound judgements, left unexercised, withers away. Damaging falsehoods about people are carelessly repeated without any verification, throwing lives into disarray and inflicting deep psychological pain. Over time, people trust each other less and the common ground between them vanishes: there is nothing that we can all agree on. People find it hard to learn from one another with so much misinformation, and discussions inevitably push people to take extreme positions since the factual basis of issues is now unclear, discouraging new ways of thinking. Furthermore, governments are rightly worried about the disregard for truth. The security of a country is at risk when people do not verify falsehoods. Misinformation is allowed to spread rapidly resulting in at best, uncertainty, and at worst, conflict, weakening the authority of governments. Trustworthy news outlets are sidelined when people forego accurate reporting in favour of provocative claims. Worse, they are unceremoniously lumped together with unreliable sources, and their best efforts at reporting the facts are dismissed as yet another version of fiction. 55 60 65
- 7 To defend against the erosion of truth, many news outlets today have taken on the responsibility of fact checking which can be done through either ante hoc fact checking where 'facts' are verified before dissemination or post hoc fact checking where errors are checked after being published (increasingly a crowd favourite). When public figures make claims during speeches or debates, journalists rapidly run through their statements to verify that the things they say are true. Schools teach students about the dangers of fake news and equip them with skills needed to distinguish falsehood from truth. Governments have begun to enact laws against fake news. Social media companies have also been taken to task by governments and communities for their role in spreading misinformation. For instance, they have been encouraged and coerced to block errant users from their services and take down posts that are untrue. Furthermore, there are many well-meaning anonymous entities, ranging from humble start-ups to technological giants who have sponsored the formation of various independent fact-checking platforms to combat the insidious nature of fake news. Individuals, disillusioned by how rampant fake news has become, are themselves taking the initiative to report it as and when they encounter it. 70 75 80
- 8 The prospect of a world without truth is frightening. It has galvanised efforts on global and national scales to preserve the truth, but these efforts are not enough without the cooperation of every individual; after all, the individual is the source, medium and target of falsehood. If we remain steadfast in clinging to the value of truth, we might bring Veritas out from her holy well. 85

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AJC Preliminary Examination 2018
General Paper: Paper 2 Review

1. Which word in paragraph 1 conveys the idea that the search for truth is 'long and arduous' (line 5)? [1]

From passage	Suggested answer
Throughout history, many people have joined the ranks of adventurers on that quest – philosophers who ponder the nature of truth, scientists who want to discover the truth and mathematicians who want to describe the truth, among many others. Today, the <u>search</u> , although <u>long and arduous</u> , continues.	The word is 'quest'.

2. What are the differences between the way society interpreted the natural world in the past and from the 18th century onwards (lines 11-13)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From passage	Suggested answer
<u>Historically</u> , people attributed natural events to divine forces and made wild guesses in an attempt to interpret natural events. <u>By the 18th century</u> , scientists had turned to experiments to tease apart the workings of the natural world, and searched relentlessly for scientific causes .	In the past, people ascribed natural occurrences to God/the gods , whereas from the 18th century onwards people sought explanations of the natural world using systematic reasoning . In the past, people made <u>speculations/conjectures</u> to understand the natural world whereas from the 18 th century onwards people <u>conducted tests</u> to understand the world.

3. Why has the author written 'truth' (line 20) in inverted commas? [1]

From passage	Suggested answer
<u>Different cultures</u> , informed by their history and beliefs, viewed the world through unique lenses. So while natural laws ruled the physical world, philosophers could now mull over the <u>'truth'</u> of the social world.	There was no one single definition of the truth as there are many suitable interpretations of the truth.

4. What does the author mean by the phrase 'their actual expertise here is secondary' in line 27? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From passage	Suggested answer
These views become 'true' when they are endorsed by some famed politician or celebrity (<u>their actual expertise here is secondary</u>)	The author is saying that the politicians' and celebrities' real knowledge of the topics they are discussing are not very important to their opinions being seen as true.

5. In paragraph 4, identify the reasons the author provides for why we lie and accept lies. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From passage	Suggested answer
<p>We have always been drawn to the <u>allure of not telling the truth</u>. We lie to acquire unjust rewards, embroider our achievements, and cover up unacceptable behaviour. Even compassion leads people to lie for good intentions: it is the desire not to hurt others with the truth... Indeed, <u>we might even want to be lied to</u>. It is not that we do not value the truth – as a species that avoids pain and seeks pleasure, we merely prefer lies to the pain that honesty often inflicts.</p>	<p>We lie to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. obtain undeserved gains, b. exaggerate our accomplishments, c. conceal wrongdoings and d. to be kind / to prevent harming others. <p>We accept lies to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. avoid the suffering that the truth could bring.

6. In paragraph 4, how does the author illustrate that people lie for good intentions? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From passage	Suggested answer
<p>According to a survey of doctors, ten percent of them had told patients untruths. They <u>concealed abnormal laboratory test results</u> to spare them anxiety and <u>minimised the severity of patients' conditions</u> to keep them hopeful about recovery.</p>	<p>The author used the example of doctors who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. hid unusual medical findings to keep patients from worrying and b. understated the seriousness of patients' illnesses to keep them optimistic about getting better.

7. What does the author mean by a world that was “idyllically false” (line 42) and how did Albert Camus feel about it? [1]

From passage	Suggested answer
<p>It has gone beyond the world that Albert Camus probably feared when he said, ‘<u>Seeking what is true is not seeking what is desirable</u>’. He preferred a world that was painfully truthful as opposed to one that was <u>idyllically false</u>, where there was still a distinct difference between truth and falsehood.</p>	<p>The author is referring to a world that is pleasantly full of lies.</p> <p>Albert Camus was afraid of such a world.</p>

8. What distinctions does the author draw between the findings of the NBC report and the allegations of Russian interference in the US elections (lines 47-52)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From passage	Suggested answer
<p>A 2018 NBC report disclosed that ‘false news was spread more often than true news was’, and this was done naively in an <i>unintended</i> manner by ‘ordinary people’. Such findings instil more fear compared to those, for example, in the <u>United States elections</u> where it was found that ill-intentioned Russian and other foreign agents <i>deliberately</i> flooded social media with untrue reports and posts to mislead people about political candidates.</p>	<p>The NBC report found that common citizens were involved in the spread of false news whereas allegations of Russian interference involved special operatives.</p> <p>False news was spread <i>without planning</i> in the NBC report whereas the allegations of Russian interference involved the <i>orchestrated</i> spreading of falsehoods.</p> <p>The NBC report found that false news was innocently spread whereas it was alleged that falsehoods were maliciously spread during the US elections.</p>

9. What is the author suggesting about the role of the individual when he says that ‘the individual is the source, medium and target of falsehood?’ (line 87)? [1]

From passage	Suggested answer
<p>It has galvanised efforts on global and national scales to preserve the truth, but these efforts are not enough without the cooperation of every individual; after all, <u>the individual is the source, medium and target of falsehood</u>.</p>	<p>The author is suggesting that the individual has the main / most important role to play in preserving the truth.</p>

10. Suggest one reason why the author concludes the passage with the final sentence. [1]

From passage	Suggested answer
<p>If we remain steadfast in clinging to the value of truth, we might bring Veritas out from her holy well.</p>	<p>The author wants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. make a link to the introduction which is about the search for Veritas who hides in a well OR b. call the reader to action and pursue the truth OR c. end on an optimistic note that we still have a chance to uphold the truth OR d. reiterate his point about how society can work together to preserve the value of truth.

11. Using material from paragraphs 6 and 7 only (lines 55-85), summarise the negative consequences of not valuing the truth, and what is being done to combat the erosion of truth. [8]

	From passage	Banned	Paraphrase
1	people are at risk of being easily exploited	risk easily exploited	People are <u>effortlessly taken advantage of</u> .
2	The ability to make sound judgements... withers away	ability sound judgements withers away	The <u>capacity to form logical conclusions</u> <u>deteriorates</u> .
3	(Damaging falsehoods) throwing lives into disarray	throwing disarray	Lies <u>hurl people's lives into chaos</u>
4	and inflicting deep psychological pain	deep pain	and cause <u>severe</u> <u>psychological suffering</u> .
5	people trust each other less	trust less	People do not believe in others as much.
6	the common ground between them vanishes : (there is nothing that we can all agree on.)	"common ground" vanishes agreement	<u>Shared beliefs amongst people disappear</u> .
7	People find it hard to learn from one another ,	hard learn	People find it <u>challenging to gain</u> <u>knowledge from each other</u> .
8	people to take extreme positions	extreme positions	People have <u>polarised views</u>
9	discouraging new ways of thinking	discouraging new "ways of thinking"	and are <u>put off from having novel perspectives</u> .
10	The security of a country is at risk	security risk	The <u>safety</u> of a nation is <u>compromised</u> .
11	(Misinformation) resulting in at best, uncertainty ,	uncertainty	Falsehoods lead to <u>confusion</u>
12	and at worst, conflict .	conflict	or even <u>hostility</u> .
13	weakening the authority of governments	weakening authority	This <u>undermines the power</u> of the <u>leaders</u> .
14	Trustworthy news outlets are side-lined	outlets side-lined	<u>Reputable news sources are rejected</u> .
15	lumped together with unreliable sources , and their best efforts at dismissed as yet another version of fiction.	lumped together unreliable fiction	They are <u>seen as less credible</u> sources.

What is being done to combat this			
16	<p>news outlets today have taken on the responsibility of fact checking</p> <p>OR</p> <p>When public figures make claims during speeches or debates, journalists rapidly run through their statements to verify that the things they say are true</p>	“fact checking”	News outlets now <u>verify / corroborate information</u>
17	Schools teach students about the dangers of fake news	teach dangers	while <u>educational institutions educate</u> students about the <u>harms</u> of false news
18	equip them with skills needed to distinguish falsehood from truth	skills distinguish	and provide them with the <u>expertise</u> to <u>discern</u> falsehood from truth.
19	Governments ... enact laws against fake news.	enact laws	Governments now <u>pass legislations</u> to <u>make fake news illegal</u>
20	Social media companies have also been taken to task by governments and communities	taken to task	while social media companies are <u>punished</u> by authorities and societies for propagating fake news.
21	the formation of various independent fact-checking platforms to combat ...fake news.	independent fact-checking platforms	There are numerous <u>autonomous avenues</u> to <u>verify information</u> .
22	Individuals, taking the initiative to report it as and when they encounter it.	report	Individuals are now <u>exposing</u> fake news.

No. of points	Marks
14 and above	8
12-13	7
10-11	6
8-9	5
7	4
5-6	3
3-4	2
1-2	1

ANGLO-CHINESE JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your index number and 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 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.



Anglo-Chinese Junior College
General Paper Department

GP 8807_1
ACJC 2018

[Turn over]

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Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. To what extent is lifelong learning beneficial to your society?
2. Is innovation always desirable?
3. Do the media promote a culture of fear in the world today?
4. To what extent does sport worsen inequality?
5. Should people in your society be more concerned about the food that they eat?
6. To what extent should a government consider the views of its people?
7. Examine the view that fashion and the fashion industry should be regulated.
8. To what extent is it true that corporations have too much power in today's world?
9. 'To avoid the mistakes of youth, draw from the wisdom of age.' How far is this good advice for the young people of today?
10. How far do you agree that as your society progresses, there is no place for heritage?
11. 'There was a time when women activists asked men to stand up for their rights, but this time we will do it ourselves.' (Malala Yousafzai) How far do you agree that women are more successful at fighting for their own rights?
12. How far do you agree that zoos and wildlife reserves are the only hope when it comes to protecting endangered animals?

ANGLO-CHINESE JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018

CANDIDATE
NAME

INDEX
NUMBER

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

Additional Materials: 1 insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your index number and 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 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.



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 What reasons does the author give in lines 3–6 for the eagerness of organisations to participate in the sharing economy? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[2]

2 Explain the author's use of the word 'piggyback' in line 11.

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[1]

3 According to paragraph 2, what 'backlash' (line 15) has there been ever since it was noticed that the sharing economy was not as beneficial? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[3]

4 Suggest one problem that is caused by 'capitalism and the operation of the market' (line 24) and how the sharing economy can help solve it.

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.....

[1]

ANGLO-CHINESE JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This document consists of **3** printed pages.



Juliet Schor discusses the sharing economy.

- 1 The term 'sharing economy' covers a sprawling range of digital platforms and offline activities, from financially successful companies like Airbnb, a peer-to-peer lodging service, to smaller initiatives such as repair collectives and tool libraries. Many organisations have been eager to position themselves under the big tent of the sharing economy because of the positive symbolic meaning of sharing, the magnetism of innovative digital technologies, and the rapidly growing volume of sharing activity. 5
- 2 The debut of the sharing economy was marked by plenty of language about doing good, building social connections, saving the environment and providing economic benefits to ordinary people. It was a feel-good story in which technological and economic innovation ushered in a better economic model. Especially in the aftermath of the financial crash, this positive narrative was hard to resist. Social activists flocked to these initiatives, hoping to piggyback on their popularity. Maybe they thought, digital sharing platforms could be a pathway to a true grassroots, inclusive, fair and low-impact economy. But within a few years, and particularly since the for-profit platforms began to take large sums of outside investment from venture capitalists, the situation has become more contested. A backlash has begun, from politicians, regulators and commentators, as well as the businesses being disrupted by these technologies. Local officials are investigating platforms and restricting activity. Critical articles are proliferating and workers are organising against some of the more aggressive platforms. 10 15
- 3 Motives for participating in the new sharing economy differ, which is not surprising given the diversity of platforms and activities such as Ebay and Uber. Some participants are drawn by the trendiness or novelty of the platforms. Beyond the pull of new technologies, participants tend to be motivated by economic, environmental and social factors. A commitment to social transformation is an important motivator – many participants emphasise the value of sharing and collaboration while some are highly critical of capitalism and the operation of the market. 20
- 4 Sharing economy sites are generally lower in cost than market alternatives. An Airbnb host, for example, can deliver a room more cheaply than a hotel. Service and labour exchange platforms also allow people to earn money in ways that had not previously been safely or easily available. However, many have questioned whether the popular claim that the sharing economy is fairer, lowers carbon emissions, is more transparent, participatory and socially-connected is anything more than rhetoric for the large, moneyed players. Will the sector evolve in line with its stated progressive, green and utopian goals, or will it devolve into business as usual? This moment is reminiscent of the early days of the Internet, when many believed that digital connection would become a force for empowerment. The tendency of platforms to scale and dominate (think Google, Facebook and Amazon) offers a cautionary tale. Will sharing platforms follow a similar trajectory as they grow? 25 30 35
- 5 Many sharing sites advertise themselves as green and present sharing as a way to reduce carbon footprints. It is a truism among sharers that sharing is less resource intensive than the dominant ways of accessing goods and services (for example, hotels, taxis, shopping malls) because of the assumed reduction in demand for new goods or facilities. The ecological benefits of sharing are often seen as obvious: secondary markets reduce demand for new goods, so footprints go down. Staying in existing homes reduces the demand for new hotels just as tool sharing reduces new tool purchases. However, despite the widespread belief that the sector helps to reduce carbon emissions, there are almost no comprehensive studies of its impact. To assess overall ecological impacts, we have to consider the ripple effects: what does the seller or the host do with the money earned? Does the appearance of a market for used goods lead people to buy more new things that they intend to sell later? If travel becomes less expensive, do people do more of it? Sharing platforms are creating new markets that expand the volume of commerce and boost purchasing power. They are likely to create economic activity that would not have existed otherwise – more travel, more private automobile rides. For instance, Airbnb 40 45

- users are taking more trips now and the availability of cheap ride services is diverting some people from public transportation. All of these effects raise ecological and carbon footprints. 50
- 6 The desire to increase social connections is also a common motivation. People have historically limited sharing to within their own social networks. Today's sharing platforms facilitate sharing among people who do not know each other and who do not have friends or connections in common. Many sites advertise this feature of their activities, and participants often articulate a desire to meet new people or get to know their neighbours. For instance, couch surfing does, in fact, lead to new friendships. While heart-warming anecdotes about making new friends are plentiful, many platforms fail to deliver durable social ties. A recent study of car sharing found that the two parties to the transaction often never met on account of remote access technology. Many sites in the sharing space advertise social connections as a core outcome of their activity. But do these sites actually build friendships, networks and social trust? Social connections can be elusive, and users have become disenchanted as the relationships they form are now more casual – Uber users, for example, describe their interactions as 'anonymous' and 'sterile'. 55 60
- 7 'Stranger sharing' entails higher degrees of risk, and many of today's exchanges are quite intimate – sharing one's home or car, going into strangers' homes to do work or eating food prepared by unknown cooks. The uniqueness of this new sharing economy is that it mobilises technology, markets and the 'wisdom of crowds' to bring strangers together. The conventional wisdom is that the provision of crowdsourced information on users via ratings and reputational information is what leads people to feel safe about interacting in intimate ways with strangers. Research has, however, uncovered a paradox: the more reputational information the site provides about people, the less users form strong bonds. Venturing into unknown territory with strangers may be more of the appeal of some sites than their ability to master a utilitarian calculus of risk and reward. 65 70
- 8 It is important to recognise that sharing is not just a relic of pre-modern societies; such practices remain common in working class, poor and minority communities. The discourse of the new sharing economy presumes that everyone has access to digital technologies, a false universalism that can be alienating to people who have maintained non-digital sharing practices in their daily lives. Sharing economy sites can also reproduce class, gender and racial biases and hierarchies. In research done at a food swap, researchers found that cultural capital, a type of class privilege, limited the trades members were willing to make. Only participants with the 'right' offerings, packaging, appearance or taste received offers; some people were found screening potential trading partners by grammar and education. A recent study also reported evidence of racial discrimination among Airbnb users, finding that non-black hosts were able to charge 12% more than blacks for comparable properties. 75 80
- 9 So what are we to make of the sharing economy? There is little doubt that the pro-sharing discourse is blind to the dark side of these innovations. At the same time, the critics are too cynical. There is potential in this sector for creating new businesses that allocate value more fairly, are more democratically organised, reduce eco-footprints, and can bring people together in new ways. That is why there has been so much excitement about the sharing economy. We are at a critical juncture where users' organising for fair treatment, demands for eco-accountability, and attention to whether human connections are strengthened through these technologies can make a critical difference in realising the potential of the sharing model. There is an enormous amount of new economic value being created in this space. It is imperative that it flow equitably to all participants. After all, that is what we ordinarily call 'sharing'. 85 90

**ACJC General Paper Department
JC2 Preliminary Exam 2018 P2 Answer Scheme**

1. What reasons does the author give in lines 3-6 for the eagerness of organisations to participate in the sharing economy? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

From Passage	Paraphrased
Many organisations have been eager to position themselves under the big tent of the sharing economy because of the positive symbolic meaning of sharing, (lines 3-5)	The organisations have been eager to participate in the sharing economy because of the good / favourable connotations / image of sharing,
the magnetism of innovative digital technologies, (line 5)	the attractiveness / allure of creative / new / ground-breaking digital technologies.
and the rapidly growing volume of sharing activity. (lines 5-6)	and the quickly expanding number of / exponential increase in sharing activities.

1-2pts=1m, 3pts=2m

Question type: Literal

Examiners' notes:

- For the 2nd point, many students mistakenly wrote that the sharing economy attracts new technologies
- For the 3rd point, the rate of growth is essential for the point

2. Explain the author's use of the word 'piggyback' in line 11. [1m]

From Passage	Inferred
Social activists flocked to these initiatives, hoping to piggyback on their popularity. Maybe they thought, digital sharing platforms could be a pathway to a true grassroots, inclusive, fair and low-impact economy. (lines 11-13)	Social activists were hoping to ride on / latch on / take advantage of / make use of the draw of the sharing economy (to achieve their own goals).

Question type: Vocab

Examiners' notes: Do not accept merely "to rely/depend on the draw of the sharing economy" unless the idea of achieving a goal or making something easier is clear e.g "to rely on the sharing economy to gain support for themselves".

3. According to paragraph 2, what 'backlash' (line 15) has there been ever since it was noticed that the sharing economy was not as beneficial? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3m]

From Passage	Paraphrased
Local officials are investigating platforms and restricting activity. (lines 16-17)	Officials have placed several sharing platforms under scrutiny / they have been monitoring and limiting / regulating / controlling the transactions.
Critical articles are proliferating ... (line 17)	Negative reports / Reports pointing out the flaws of / Bad reviews about the sharing economy have been increasing growing / becoming more widespread
and workers are organising against some of the more aggressive platforms. (lines 17-18)	and workers have been protesting / rallying / demonstrating against the more competitive / forceful / assertive sharing platforms.

Question type: literal

Examiners' notes: Students will have to identify and paraphrase keywords that represent the backlash faced by the sharing economy.

4. Suggest one problem that is caused by 'capitalism and the operation of the market' (line 24) and how the sharing economy can help solve it. [1m]

From Passage	Inferred
Beyond the pull of new technologies, participants tend to be motivated by economic, environmental and social factors. A commitment to social transformation is an important motivator – many participants emphasise the value of sharing and collaboration while some are highly critical of capitalism and the operation of the market. (lines 21-24)	<p>Problem: Capitalism & the operation of the market can result in monopolistic practices. Solution: The sharing economy can help go against monopolistic practices by providing many sources of goods and services.</p> <p>Problem: A capitalist economy focuses on profit and charges high prices for goods and services. Solution: The sharing economy can help to lower prices for goods and services.</p> <p>Problem: A capitalist economy results in social inequality or a rich-poor divide; the poor cannot afford a lot of the expensive goods. Solution: The sharing economy narrows the gap between the rich and the poor; the poor are now able to own goods previously unaffordable.</p> <p>Problem: A capitalist economy encourages demand for more goods or encourages materialism and thus causes a lot of wastage or causes harm to the environment. Solution: The sharing economy can help to reduce wastage or environmental damage by allowing people to share resources.</p> <p>Problem: In a capitalist economy, the big companies have control over the market and it is difficult for small players to compete. Solution: The sharing economy can help even ordinary people to do business or the poor to earn money.</p> <p>Accept any sensible response.</p>

Question type: Inference

Examiners' notes: Students need to give one problem and one solution to obtain full marks. Answer should be closely tied to 'capitalism and the operation of the market'.

5. What 'similar trajectory' (lines 34-35) does the author foresee that the sharing economy will follow? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3m]

From Passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
Will sharing platforms follow a similar trajectory as they grow? (line 34-35) This moment is reminiscent of the early days of the Internet (lines 31-32)	The author foresees that the path / route / track / trend / pattern that the sharing economy will follow may be the same / close to identical / parallel / comparable to that of the Internet, <i>Note: a comparison to the Internet is needed</i>
...is more transparent, participatory and socially connected (line 29) Will the sector evolve in line with its stated progressive, green and utopian goals, (lines 30-31) ...when many believed that digital connection would become a force for empowerment . (lines 31-33)	which started with the promise of a better world / an ideal future, OR which had the potential to develop into something that would change the world positively, <i>Note: accept paraphrases of "participatory", "progressive", "green", "utopian", etc.</i>
or will it devolve into business as usual? (line 31) The tendency of platforms to scale and dominate ... (line 33)	but has instead focused on profits / making more money / expanding their revenues. OR but has instead allowed certain companies or applications to grow bigger / allowed them to monopolise / take full control of the market.

Question type: Literal/Inference

Examiners' notes: Student's answer must capture stated promise and the reality of the sharing economy and the Internet (the movement from positive to negative must be captured).

6. Explain what the author means by 'false universalism' in lines 76-77. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1m]

From the passage	Paraphrased
The discourse of the new sharing economy presumes that everyone has access to digital technologies, a false universalism (lines 75-77)	The belief that all people have access to digital technologies is not true / a wrong assumption / a generalisation. <i>Allow lift for 'everyone'.</i>

Question type: *Literal*

Examiners' notes: Students should show understanding of keywords 'false' and 'universalism' in their answers. Many have only paraphrased one of the keywords.

7. In paragraph 8, how does the author illustrate 'biases and hierarchies' (lines 78-79) in the sharing economy? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

From the passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
In research done at a food swap, researchers found that cultural capital, a type of class privilege , limited the trades members were willing to make. Only participants with the 'right' offerings, packaging, appearance or taste received offers; (lines 79-81) ...some people were found screening potential trading partners by grammar and education. (lines 81-82)	It is illustrated through the example of the food swap where people were selective about / tend to discriminate clients based on their educational background / social standing.
A recent study also reported evidence of racial discrimination among Airbnb users, finding that non-black hosts were able to charge 12% more than blacks for comparable properties. (lines 82-84)	It is also illustrated through the example of Airbnb where people can earn higher or lower income / rents due to their ethnicity / skin colour for similar services.

Question type: *Literal*

Examiners' notes: Students should state the examples clearly (i.e. food swap and Airbnb) and explain how the examples illustrate biases and hierarchies.

8. Why has the author written 'right' (line 81) in inverted commas? [1m]

From the passage	Inferred
Only participants with the ' right ' offerings, packaging, appearance or taste received offers... (lines 80-81)	(function) The author is questioning the validity of the use of the term / suggesting that it is wrong to use such a term / that it is inaccurate to use such a term / that the word is not used in its conventional sense / expressing doubt / scepticism / his disapproval (context) implying that there is no one accepted type of goods / because it is subjective.

Question type: *Punctuation*

Examiners' notes: Both function and context must be given for 1 mark to be awarded. Many students mistakenly inferred that the author is being sarcastic, which is not the case in this context.

9. Why do you think the author switches to 'we' in the final paragraph? [1m]

From Passage	Inferred
<p>So what are we to make of the sharing economy? (line 85) We are at a critical juncture... (lines 89-90) After all, that is what we ordinarily call 'sharing.' (line 94)</p>	<p>The author switches to 'we' for the purpose of inclusivity, to get the reader to feel the same way as the author about the impact of the sharing economy <u>OR</u> The author switches to 'we' to persuade the readers to agree with her views about the sharing economy. <u>OR</u> The author switches to 'we' to establish a personal connection with the reader regarding the sharing economy.</p> <p>Note: If student merely writes "To get the reader to think about the sharing economy" – the answer is wrong.</p>

Question type: Inference

Examiners' notes: Students should state both the linguistic meaning of 'we' as well as the context.

10. What is the author implying in the final sentence 'After all, that is what we ordinarily call "sharing"' (line 94)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

From Passage	Inferred/Paraphrased
<p>It is imperative that it (new economic value) flow equitably to all participants. (lines 93-94)</p>	<p>(A) The author is implying that if wealth is <u>not</u> distributed fairly / in an unprejudiced manner. (B) The author is implying that it is necessary for the wealth to be distributed fairly / in an unbiased manner</p> <p>Accept 'equal'.</p>
<p>After all, that is what we ordinarily call 'sharing.' (line 94)</p>	<p>(A) the word 'sharing' is not used correctly. (B) <u>otherwise</u>, the word 'sharing' is not used correctly. <u>OR</u> (B) because that is what the word 'sharing' actually / truly means / is supposed to mean / normally means.</p>

Question type: Inference/Literal

Examiners' notes: Students should infer from the quote what the usual meaning of the word 'sharing' refers to and state how it is being used today.

11. Using material from paragraphs 4-7 (lines 25-73), summarise the concerns regarding the sharing economy. 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 concern regarding the sharing economy is.....

From the passage		Paraphrased	
1	...many have questioned whether the popular claim that the sharing economy is fairer , (line 28)	1	...whether it is actually more equitable / equal / impartial / reasonable ...that it may be biased / unequitable,
2	lowers carbon emissions , (line 29) All of these effects raise ecological and carbon footprints . (line 51)	2	(whether it is) less harmful to the environment / reduces environmental degradation / greenhouse gases (...that it may be) harmful to the environment / cause environmental degradation / increase greenhouse gases
3	Is more transparent (line 29)	3	(whether it is) more clear-cut / honest / straightforward / understandable, (...that it may be) less open / accountable / honest,
4	participatory (line 29)	4	(whether it) involves / includes more people, (...that it may) involve very few people,
5	and socially-connected (line 29) But do these sites actually build friendships, networks and social trust? Social connections can be elusive (line 61)	5	(whether it) links people / communities / forges relationships / develops bonds with others / relationships can be difficult to achieve. (...that it may not) forge relationships. <i>Allow lift for 'social'</i>
6	is anything more than rhetoric for the large, moneyed players. (lines 29-30)	6	These claims (about the benefits) are just hot air / empty talk / empty promises by established companies
7	Will the sector evolve in line with its stated progressive, green and utopian goals (line 30-31)	7	It may not grow / develop / progress / advance according to its idealistic aims / targets of making the world a better place. <i>Accept pairing of 'evolve' with any good goals.</i>
8	or will it devolve into business as usual ? (line 31)	8	Companies may regress and pursue profits instead / It may end up just being about profits / Companies may still focus on making profits.
9	The tendency of platforms to scale and dominate (think Google, Facebook and Amazon) offers a cautionary tale. (lines 33-34)	9	Sharing platforms tend to expand and take over / grow bigger and control / monopolise the market.
10	...there are almost no comprehensive studies of its impact. (line 43)	10	There is hardly any detailed research done on / in-depth analysis of the effects of the sharing economy.
11	Does the appearance of a market for used goods lead people to buy more new things that they intend to sell later? (lines 45-46) Sharing platforms are creating new markets that expand the volume of commerce and boost purchasing power . (lines 47-48) ... create economic activity that would not have existed otherwise (lines 48-49)	11	The sharing economy may cause an increase in the goods purchased / an increase in consumerism.
12	...many platforms fail to deliver durable social ties. (lines 58)	12	Interactions between people may not be long lasting / may be fleeting / brief (focus on length of relationship)
13	But do these sites actually build... social trust ? (line 61)	13	It may not develop faith / belief / confidence in people <i>Allow lift for 'social'.</i>
14	...users have become disenchanted (line 62)	14	People have become disillusioned / disappointed / dissatisfied with the sharing economy.
15	...the relationships they form are now more casual (lines 61-63) Uber users, for example, describe their interactions as ' anonymous ' and ' sterile ' (line 63) ...the more reputational information the site provides about people, the less users form strong bonds. (lines 70-71)	15	Relationships are often impersonal / distant / not genuine / not real, may be more superficial / weaker (focus on quality of relationship)
16	'Stranger' sharing" entails (line 64)	16	Sharing with unknown people / unfamiliar people involves
17	...higher degrees of risk (line 64)	17	endangering ourselves / putting ourselves in harm's way
18	and many of today's exchanges are quite intimate – sharing of one's home or car... (lines 64-65)	18	because the interactions it entails are personal / private.
19	Venturing into unknown territory with strangers may be more of the appeal of some sites than their ability to master a utilitarian calculus of risk and reward. (lines 71-73)	19	People / Sharing platforms are not fully capable of weighing / discerning / determining the benefits and dangers / pros and cons of the sharing economy.

No. of Points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9	10-11	12-13	14 & more
Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

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Sample summary:

One concern regarding the sharing economy is that it may be biased (1), cause environmental degradation (2), less open (3), involve very few people (4), and may not forge relationships (5). Its claimed benefits are just hot air (6) by established businesses and it may not grow according to its idealistic aims (7). It may end up just being about profits (8). Sharing platforms tend to expand and monopolise the market (9). There is very little detailed research on its effects (10) and it may worsen consumerism (11). Interactions between people may not be long lasting (12) and people may be disillusioned (13) because these relationships are distant (14). Sharing with unknown people (15) endangers ourselves (16) because the interactions it entails are personal (17) and people are not fully able to weigh the pros and cons of it (18). (120 words)

12. Juliet Schor discusses some benefits and concerns regarding the sharing economy. How far would you agree with her observations, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your society?

Requirement:

Students should -

- a) explain the functions the sharing economy plays in their own society
- b) describe the benefits and problems of the sharing economy
- c) show understanding and engage with the ideas and views raised in the passage
- d) support their views with relevant examples from their own society

Explanation:

Discuss some of the following in relation to their own society

- a) the sharing economy and its ability to forge social cohesion
- b) the various economic, social and environmental impacts of the sharing economy
- c) how people participate in the sharing economy and whether it leads to greater discrimination in society

Evaluation:

- a) question/show reasons for subscribing/not subscribing to the author's ideas
- b) provide insightful analysis of the changing perceptions towards and the reasons why people would want to adopt these mindsets
- c) critically evaluate the functions and benefits of the sharing economy
- d) provide cogent development of arguments
- e) give examples from their own society to support their views

Coherence:

- a) adopt a consistent viewpoint
- b) argue logically
- c) organise answers into cohesive, themed paragraphs
- d) link paragraphs to show continuity and direction of argument
- e) maintain relevance to the task in everything they write
- f) end with a summative or concluding paragraph/ sentence

Examiners' notes:

- Many students do not show an accurate understanding of the sharing economy. Some students have wrongly given examples such as Instagram, Facebook and Reddit as examples of the sharing economy.
- Students are cherry-picking examples to support their point and this results in an unbalanced view of the issue. For example, students often cite the example of increased Grab ridership as evidence of the sharing economy increasing carbon emissions. They fail to consider that Grabhitch / Grabshare reduces the number of total trips people would take in a day, or that most private-hire vehicles are hybrid vehicles which does mitigate the problem of carbon emissions.
- Students are coming up with points that are too general. A common one is that the sharing economy in Singapore is not at all risky "because Singapore is a safe country with strictly-enforced regulations". This view fails to consider that crimes still do happen e.g. scams on Carousell, Grab drivers getting robbed, or vandalism of shared bicycles. A more balanced view is needed.
- Analysis as to why the effects of the sharing economy are beneficial or of concern to Singaporeans needs to be given. For instance, many students merely provide a generic explanation of how an increase in Grab cars causes a rise in carbon emissions without stating why such an effect is of concern especially in Singapore's context.

Note: Uber is no longer functioning in Singapore & Airbnb is illegal in Singapore.

12. Juliet Schor discusses some benefits and concerns regarding the sharing economy. How far would you agree with her observations, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your society?

References (Key Ideas)	Guiding Qns / Discussion Issues	Beneficial / Not harmful	Harmful / Not beneficial
<p>Many organisations have been eager to position themselves under the big tent of the sharing economy because of the positive symbolic meaning of sharing, the magnetism of innovative digital technologies, and the rapidly growing volume of sharing activity. (lines 3-6)</p> <p>The debut of the sharing economy was marked by plenty of language about doing good, building social connections, saving the environment and providing economic benefits to ordinary people. (lines 7-8)</p>	<p>Do the ordinary people in Singapore enjoy the benefits of the sharing economy?</p>	<p>Definition of sharing economy: where people use websites and mobile applications, or apps, to rent, lend, and swap goods and services with one another rather than buying them from shops or commercial companies.</p> <p>Generally, Singaporeans have benefitted greatly from the sharing economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ride-sharing, private-hire cars, and bike-sharing companies have helped ease reliance on private cars and reduced congestion on the roads. They have also shortened waiting times for taxis and made taxis more accessible, especially to the elderly and wheelchair-bound. • Ride-sharing has also provided lower-income families with a way to own their own cars whilst working as private hire drivers. • Carousell allows users to sell and purchase second-hand goods and to advertise their skills and services. This helps them save money because there are lower overheads factored into the cost of the goods and the app provides consumers with more options (i.e. not having to buy from brick and mortar shops). • Platforms such as Nimbusforwork.com are also a low-cost way for people to engage services without having to hire workers on a full-time basis. For example, Nimbusforwork.com provides cleaning and handyman services for many organisations so that they do not have to hire their own full time cleaners. KFC now no longer hires its own delivery riders but uses foodpanda (which delivers for other restaurants as well). • The increase in private-hire car ridership has eased the burden on the beleaguered SMRT lines, allowing for less crowded, more punctual, and more reliable train services. 	<p>There are some in the society who are resistant to change as they are still used to the tried and tested methods of earning a living.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially, taxi drivers from ComfortDelGro felt threatened by the onslaught of private-hire car services that companies Uber & Grab have added to the market. They saw these companies as competitors to their businesses and to their rice bowl. • Along with new technologies and business models, people have taken the opportunity to scam others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A fake Grab and Uber promotional package scam cheated victims of S\$7,700. ○ Uber users in Singapore were charged for 'phantom' rides overseas. The victims were charged in foreign currencies including the US dollar, euro and British pound. • Riders left rideshare bicycles parked haphazardly, blocking walkways, roads, canals, and other public places. They also vandalised the bicycles or locked them up so that others could not share them. • OBike users were unable to get a refund of their deposit when the company pulled out of the market.

References (Key Ideas)	Guiding Qns / Discussion Issues	Beneficial / Not harmful	Harmful / Not beneficial
<p>A backlash has begun, from politicians, regulators and commentators, as well as the businesses being disrupted by these technologies. (lines 15-16)</p> <p>Local officials are investigating platforms and restricting activity. Critical articles are proliferating and workers are organising against some of the more aggressive platforms. (lines 16-18)</p>	<p>How are businesses and workers affected by the sharing economy?</p>	<p>Despite some concerns raised, Singaporeans are generally receptive towards the sharing economy as they perceive that there is still a net benefit overall when they participate in it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grab and the newly introduced Ryde carpooling app are still used widely as they saves one's time and money and are convenient for both the driver and passengers. Taxi drivers who were once up in arms against ride-sharing apps have jumped onto the bandwagon and participate in these services as well. • The backlash that we see in Singapore today is targeted not so much at the business model but at the ways people use or even abuse the sharing economy. (i.e. Unfair regulations placed on bike sharing companies in Singapore when the companies are not the main culprits for indiscriminate parking). Most reasonable people enjoy the usage of the share bicycles as a convenient and affordable alternative to buying their own bicycles. • Deliveroo, Food Panda and Honest Bee are examples of how Singaporeans and businesses have tapped on such services very readily. In fact, these businesses are growing steadily in Singapore as many welcome the new concept of Personal Shoppers. • The government is constantly looking at ways to reduce congestion, pollution, wastage and maximise efficiency. Thus as much trouble and disruption as the sharing economy has brought, it remains committed to trying to regulate the industry rather than ban such companies from operating. 	<p>As a society that is too ready to implement changes in society, numerous people have taken advantage of the system and caused unhappiness and inconvenience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have been abusing the bicycles provided by Ofo, Obike and other bike-sharing companies by vandalising them, dumping them in obscure places, or leaving them haphazardly parked, obstructing human traffic. The LTA has imposed geo-fencing (which requires shared bicycles to be parked within designated zones before the riders can lock the bicycles) to dis-incentivise irresponsible parking behaviour, but the cost of non-compliance is borne by the vendor, not the user, so several vendors have ceased operations. • Bicycle rental companies that used to dot places like East Coast Park have all due to competition from bike-sharing companies. • Poor business practices have also dogged bike-sharing companies. For example, oBike has withdrawn from operating in Singapore, leaving users' deposits not refunded and their 70,000 bicycles strewn across the island. • Consumers have complained about the inexperience of private-hire taxi drivers, the lack of professionalism, the lack of insurance coverage, reckless driving, and even cases of harassment of passengers from these part-time drivers. • People have been fined for renting their homes out through Airbnb as they contravene rental regulations governing property in Singapore. Generally, neighbours or people who rent out their homes through AirBnb are concerned about the lack of privacy and security when a unit is rented out to a constant stream of strangers. • Grab acquired rivals Uber to create a monopoly of ride-sharing services in Singapore. This was deemed anti-competitive and has incurred fines and regulations to promote competition and new ride-sharing firms to enter the market.
References (Key Ideas)	Guiding Qns / Discussion Issues	Beneficial / Not harmful	Harmful / Not beneficial

<p>Many sharing sites advertise themselves as green and present sharing as a way to reduce carbon footprints. It is a truism among sharers that sharing is less resource intensive than the dominant ways of accessing goods and services. (lines 36-38)</p>	<p>How has the environment benefitted from the sharing economy?</p>	<p>Living in a highly consumeristic society that is wrought with a throw-away culture and wasteful habits, many embrace the sharing economy as it provides practical and hassle-free solutions to environmental conservation. Furthermore, we live in a high density society and the government is always looking at ways to reduce cars on the road. The sharing economy seems to provide a win-win solution in this case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carousell is a good way to buy/sell goods amongst people, reducing wastage and buying of new goods when other used options are available. Rent Tycoons allow users to put up their items and services up for rent, reducing the need for people to go out and buy something that they may only need once. • Many people use shared bicycles to complete their journeys to/from MRT stations and this helps reduce traffic congestion. • Car-sharing schemes allow people the convenience of a car when they need it, reducing the demand for their own cars. Carpooling apps such as GrabHitch and Schoolber also allow people to carpool to work/school, reducing the number of individual car trips taken. • Delivery services like foodpanda and Deliveroo serve a large number of restaurants, reducing the need for each restaurant to hire and maintain their own fleet of vehicles, thus cutting down on the number of vans and motorcycles needed on the road. 	<p>The sharing economy is not environmentally-friendly as it seems. With businesses that are always hungry for profits and consumers who readily hop on the bandwagon of the sharing economy, a culture of excess is all the more created.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of private-hire vehicles has increased dramatically, congesting the roads and polluting the air. Although it is much easier now to hail a taxi than to take the bus or MRT, this has led to an increase in the number of car trips taken daily. While overall vehicle population has decreased by two per cent since 2013, petrol consumption has increased, and the private-hire (ride-sharing) vehicle population has quadrupled. • Many of these ride-sharing start-ups are flush with millions of dollars from investment funding. In a race to gain market share and increase their visibility, they have possibly injected more bicycles than are actually needed. It is estimated that only half of the 100,000 shared bicycles here are actively used. • Cheap bike rental in Singapore has exacerbated inconsiderate practices. For example, bicycles are thrown into canals or grass patches, resulting in an increase in environmental garbage.
<p>Today's sharing platforms facilitate sharing among people who do not know each other and who do not have friends or connections in common. (lines 53-55)</p> <p>Social connections can be elusive, and users have become disenchanted as the relationships they form are now more casual. (lines 61-63)</p>	<p>Do users form positive social relationships when they participate in the sharing economy?</p>	<p>Indeed, more and more Singaporeans are embracing the idea of buying and selling goods with strangers. The younger generation especially take delight in an economy which provides both networking opportunities and the ability to reap tangible benefits at the same time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of GrabHitch and GrabShare may increase social interaction as individuals find themselves in a more confined space and may be more compelled to interact with others. • Airbnb is another platform which encourages interaction between the host and guests and many Singaporeans who travel overseas and find lodging using Airbnb enjoy this unique interaction and experience that it provides. • Apps like Carousell provide people with similar interests a chance to meet and swap / sell items to each other like collectibles, sport equipment, toys, etc. 	<p>The effectiveness of the sharing economy in promoting connections between strangers can be questioned in my society. In Singapore, people are generally already overwhelmed with vast amounts of information and lack personal space. Claiming that the sharing economy allows people to form meaningful relationships is highly doubtful. Moreover, sharing platforms may further promote antisocial behaviours, as people may abuse service providers rather than forge new bonds with strangers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uber and Grab promotes largely superficial relationships. It is highly idealistic to expect the sharing economy to encourage social connections based on brief encounters with strangers. • Most activities conducted on sharing platforms are seen as commercial transactions. Thus, they do not promote social interaction once the deals are done. It may even cause conflict when disputes over the quality of goods and services arise. For example, Carousell has been disparagingly called "Carouhell" by users due to the number of unreasonable offers sellers have to deal with when they try to sell their products.
<p>References (Key Ideas)</p>	<p>Guiding Qns / Discussion Issues</p>	<p>Beneficial / Not harmful</p>	<p>Harmful / Not beneficial</p>

<p>The uniqueness of this new sharing economy is that it mobilises technology, markets and the 'wisdom of crowds' to bring strangers together. (lines 66-67)</p>	<p>How trustworthy is the sharing economy in Singapore?</p> <p>How reliable is the 'wisdom of crowds' in deciding what and how to share?</p>	<p>Living in a society where consumers trust reviews and peer recommendations with regard to goods and services, both businesses and consumers see benefits in relying on the 'wisdom of crowds' in the advancement of businesses and the consumption of goods and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carousell, Airbnb and Grab rely on after service reviews for their businesses. A negative review would affect their businesses as people generally desire value for the money paid. Therefore, most sellers / landlords / drivers strive to uphold their end of the deal in order to prevent receiving negative feedback about themselves. • Spotify and Netflix also employ the 'wisdom of crowds' to recommend songs of the day and most watched films to viewers. Usually, this is relied upon to provide a rough gauge to the most popular and talked-about films and songs. 	<p>Being rather risk averse, Singaporeans tend to rely more on the word of mouth for recommendations rather than the mere 'wisdom of crowds' in the sharing economy. This is because not all reviews given in the sharing economy are reliable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proliferation of fake reviews online has generated greater disenchantment and distrust towards the 'wisdom of crowds'. For example, recruiting companies that manage the online reputations of businesses usually hire an army of fake reviewers to boost their clients' reputation online.
<p>Venturing into unknown territory with strangers may be more of the appeal of some sites than their ability to master a utilitarian calculus of risk and reward. (lines 71-73)</p>	<p>What are the dangers of participating in the sharing economy?</p> <p>Are people in your society able to weigh the pros and cons of the risks involved?</p>	<p>Many Singaporeans are well-informed and are aware of the risks in taking part in the sharing economy. They would make the calculated decision of participating in the sharing economy but are still cautious about trusting people and businesses they interact with online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the recent scams happening in the sharing economy, the Singapore government has tightened security and pressured firms to ensure that customers are not being put in unnecessary risks. These scams are also highly rare in Singapore, hence, many Singaporeans are still confident about participating in the sharing economy. • Numerous Singaporeans are able to discern and participate in the sharing economy based on reviews and research. They would hence be able to minimise placing themselves in danger while buying and selling goods and services in the sharing economy. 	<p>As the sharing economy promotes the 'x-factor' of living life in an unconventional manner, many Singaporeans, especially millennials, readily embrace the thrill-factor of the sharing economy. However, being a very nascent economy, the authorities still do not have a full idea of how consumers can be better protected from the downsides of the sharing economy. Hence, many Singaporeans put themselves at the risk of being harmed in the sharing economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous young Singaporean students readily couch-surf when studying and working abroad. However, the laws in place to protect them are insufficient since the industry cannot fully monitor who the host is. • The sheer size of Airbnb's user base makes it next to impossible for platform owners or authorities to police undesirable social elements and criminal activities; the history of the firm is rife with social and legal abuses, ranging from racial discrimination, last minute cancellations, money laundering, and bogus listings. • The lack of regulation and enforcement on Airbnb's platform has resulted in the illegal conversion of rentals into temporary brothels and drug dens.
<p>References (Key Ideas)</p>	<p>Guiding Qns / Discussion Issues</p>	<p>Beneficial / Not harmful</p>	<p>Harmful / Not beneficial</p>

<p>The discourse of the new sharing economy presumes that everyone has access to digital technologies, a false universalism that can be alienating to people who have maintained non-digital sharing practices in their daily lives. (lines 75-78)</p>	<p>Is the sharing economy truly inclusive?</p> <p>Which groups of people are being left behind in the sharing economy?</p>	<p>The sharing economy is a new innovation in Singapore's society and one to be developed since the idea of sharing has become a trendy term amongst businesses and consumers. Those who eschew participation in the sharing economy are rendered out of touch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nowadays, there are numerous channels that people can turn to to upgrade their skills and to stay relevant in the sharing economy. The government has provided locals across the nation with skills future credits to aid both the young and old in the upgrading of their skills and knowledge so that they do not get left behind in the fast-changing economy. • The widespread use of smartphones in Singapore means that most Singaporeans are able to handle most of the sharing platforms / apps. • People can save significant amounts of money and enjoy greater convenience through participating in the sharing economy. This motivates Singaporeans to adapt quickly and learn how to utilise the sharing economy for their needs. 	<p>In modern day Singapore, old sharing practices may not be as relevant as their reach may not be as extensive as that of the sharing economy. Hence, many who are unable to keep up with the sharing economy would inevitably be left behind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not much has been done to ensure that the underprivileged or even the elderly in Singapore are able to participate in the sharing economy. Those with smartphones only use them for the basic functions. However, sharing apps are highly complex. More often than not, people who cannot afford smart phones or who do not have the knowledge regarding how they can use sharing apps get left behind in the fast-changing economy.
<p>Sharing economy sites can also reproduce class, gender and racial biases and hierarchies. (lines 78-79)</p>	<p>Does the sharing economy cause greater divisions than unity in your society?</p>	<p>In an increasingly open world, the sharing economy works precisely because people are increasingly accepting of people despite their class, gender and race. This is especially so in Singapore where people are more focused on practical benefits and greater efficiency in their lives. Hence, the gender, class or race of a person plays very little role in their consumption of goods and services in the sharing economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since interactions are mainly limited to online platforms, people are seldom conscious about other people's race or gender. Take for instance BlueSG, there is no interaction required in the rental of cars. The main focus of the business is about the sharing of resources. • New services like RedMart and Honestbee do not choose who they sell to / provide their services to, Singapore's economy is already very small thus they have to serve everyone and try to cater to everyone's tastes and preferences in order to maximise profit. 	<p>In a sharing economy, people are given a lot more freedom to choose their customers and service providers based on first impressions and preconceived mindsets and stereotypes. Hence, there is chance that the sharing economy could widen the social gap within a society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing apps – from Airbnb to Uber are supposed to make services open to everyone. But real-life discrimination can be exacerbated in an economy where we are vulnerable to others' biases. For instance, consumers are given the option to select their drivers for Uber or Grab based on the photos given online. • For businesses reliant on demand and supply, surge pricings may exclude people who are less well-off as they may be priced out of their ability to afford a taxi ride.



Catholic Junior College
JC2 Preliminary Examination
Higher 1

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

15 August 2018

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 Is change always good?
- 2 'Education is more about the process and less about the result.' How true is this of your society?
- 3 'Fashion has no practical purpose.' Do you agree?
- 4 'Entertainment, not truth, is the priority of the media today.' Comment.
- 5 'Recent innovations in transport are transforming our way of life.' How far is this true of your society today?
- 6 Do the Arts have the power to bridge the social divide?
- 7 Should a government provide free healthcare for its people?
- 8 'National borders are no longer relevant in today's world.' What is your view?
- 9 'Young people in your society today do not have strong beliefs that they are willing to fight for.' Discuss.
- 10 Should the public care about a politician's private life?
- 11 Can we eliminate violence with education?
- 12 To what extent is loyalty valued in today's world?

END OF PAPER



CATHOLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination 2018
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

CANDIDATE
NAME

CLASS

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2

8807/02

15 August 2018
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 on both sides of the paper.
Do not use 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.
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 **9** printed pages, and 1 blank page.

Read the passage 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 From paragraph 1, why does the writer suggest that the assaults made on liberty by 'well-meaning politicians' are the most 'insidious'?

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..... [3]

- 2 Explain what the writer means when he asserts that the behaviour of religious extremists 'strikes at the heart' of western liberal democracies (line 30).

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..... [2]

From Passage 2

4 What is the purpose of the opening example in paragraph 1?

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..... [1]

5 What does the word 'amazingly' (line 11) tell you about the author's view of General Flynn?

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..... [1]

6 Explain the irony in the line 'But the manager was told these rumours were speech protected under the law.' (lines 14-15)

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..... [2]

7 What is the purpose of placing 'active misinformation' (line 16) in brackets?

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..... [1]

8 Explain why fake news is a 'danger to democratic freedoms' (line 20)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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9 In paragraph 4, according to the Supreme Court, when should free speech be prohibited? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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10 Explain what the author means by 'more speech, not enforced silence, is the remedy for falsehood and fallacies' (lines 34-35)?

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..... [2]

11 What is the 'alternative' (line 36) that the author suggests in the final paragraph?

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Passage 1. AC Grayling argues for free speech.

- 1 Liberty is not divisible; a society's members do not have it if they have only some of it in some spheres. That is why incremental reductions of aspects of civil liberty in society are a danger. The too-true cliché says that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, which is why we must resist, and resist vigorously, the early stages of assaults on liberty especially those made by well-meaning politicians who earnestly, eagerly, sincerely desire to protect us from bad people and from ourselves, for those are the most insidious. 5
- 2 The foundation of liberty is free speech. Without free speech one cannot claim other liberties, or defend them when they are attacked. Without free speech one cannot have a democratic process which requires the statement and testing of policy proposals and party platforms. Without free speech one cannot have a due process at law in which one can defend oneself, accuse, collect and examine evidence, make a case or refute one. Without free speech there cannot be genuine education and research, enquiry, debate, exchange of information, challenges to falsehood, questioning of governments, proposal and examination of opinion. Without free speech there cannot be a free press, which although it always abuses its freedoms in the hunt for profit, is necessary as a watchdog in a free society. Without free speech there cannot be a flourishing literature and theatre. Without free speech there are limits to innovation and experiment in any walk of life. In short, without free speech there is no real freedom. 10
- 3 It is also true that there have to be limits to free speech at times. But it is absolutely vital that this be understood scrupulously and carefully. The standard example of a case where limits to free speech are justified is falsely crying "fire!" in a crowded cinema. In the example, what is wrong with doing this is irresponsibly causing harm. Allowed too wide a reading, the "fire!" example can justify all manner of unjustifiable restrictions on free speech, as have occurred in our country in recent years ("glorification of terrorism", "incitement to religious hatred"). Restrictions on free speech have to be extremely narrow, extremely specific, case by case, one-off and on the best justification. But, generally, the remedy for bad free speech is better free speech in response. 15
- 4 So vital is free speech to the health and liberty of a society that the plea of "feeling offended" by what people say about one's choices and beliefs is not and can never be a reason for limiting free speech. Taking offence, followed by infantile demonstrations and infinitely more offensive threats of mayhem and death, has become typical of religious extremists. This is unacceptable anywhere, but in western liberal democracies especially so, for it strikes at the heart of what makes them both liberal and democracies. 20
- 5 Censorship by coercion and special pleading is as big a threat to liberty in the west today as the actions by our own governments in diminishing our freedoms in the supposed interests of security. All who choose to live in a western liberal democracy should be told that discrimination based on age, ethnicity, disability, and sexuality - the things they cannot choose but to have or be - will not be tolerated; but their opinions and beliefs, the matters over which they have choice, are open season for cartoonists, satirists, and all those who disagree: and they must like it or lump it, or if they are too immature or insecure, or both, to do neither, they are free to leave. 25
- 6 With the prohibition of the "glorification" of such inglorious things, such as terrorism, and government action taken against criticism of religion, the assault on free speech is well underway: it is time its defense is well under way too. 30

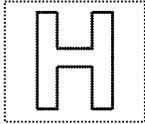
Adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2007/dec/13/freedomofspeech>

Passage 2. *Peter Singer argues against free speech.*

- 1 About a week before the United States presidential election, someone posted on Twitter that Hillary Clinton was at the centre of a paedophilia ring. The rumour spread through social media, and a talk show host, Alex Jones, repeatedly stated that she was involved in child abuse and that her campaign chairman, John Podesta, took part in satanic rituals. In a YouTube video watched more than 400,000 times (since removed), Jones referred to “all the children Hillary Clinton has personally murdered and chopped up and raped”. 5
- 2 Emails released by WikiLeaks showed that Podesta sometimes dined at a Washington pizza restaurant called Comet Ping Pong. This information was frequently retweeted by bots – programmes designed to spread certain types of messages – contributing to the impression that many people were taking the allegations that the pizzeria housed the paedophilia ring seriously. 10 The story, amazingly, was also retweeted by General Michael Flynn, who is soon to be Donald Trump’s national security adviser. Even after Trump’s election – and despite debunking by the New York Times and the Washington Post – the story continued to spread. Comet Ping Pong was harassed by constant, abusive, and often threatening phone calls. But the manager was told these rumours were speech protected under the law. 15
- 3 Fake news – (active misinformation) that is packaged to look as if it comes from a serious news site – is a threat to democratic institutions. There have been less absurd examples, including a fake report of a nuclear threat by Israel’s defence minister that misled his Pakistani counterpart into retweeting the report and warning Israel that Pakistan, too, is a nuclear power. President Barack Obama acknowledged the danger to democratic freedoms. Whether or not fake news cost Clinton 20 the presidency, it plainly could cause a candidate to lose an election and upset international relations. It is also contrary to a fundamental premise on which democracy rests: that voters can make informed choices between contending candidates.
- 4 The First Amendment to the US Constitution states that “Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...” By 1919, the Supreme Court’s interpretation of those words had led to the doctrine that Congress could prohibit speech only if it posed “a clear and present danger” of serious harm. That position was further refined, with freedom of speech and assembly described as functions essential to effective democracy. On that basis, for speech to pose a clear and present danger that could justify prohibiting it, the harm the speech would cause must be so imminent that it could preclude any opportunity to discuss fully what had been said. 25 30
- 5 Today, these narrowly defined prohibitions appear to be inadequate. It is difficult to have so much confidence in the power of free and fearless reasoning, especially if it is supposed to be applied through the processes of popular government – which presumably requires that it influences elections. Similarly, the belief that more speech, not enforced silence, is the remedy for falsehood and fallacies looks naïve, especially if applied in an election campaign. 35
- 6 What, though, is the alternative? Clinton could sue Jones personally for defamation, but that would be costly and time-consuming. Instead, the government could intervene with criminal charges. For many centuries in the United Kingdom, defamation was a criminal offense, but it fell into disuse and was abolished in 2010. Yet, recent examples of fake news suggest that this conclusion was premature. To accuse a US presidential candidate of personally murdering children is not petty, and current measures provide no adequate remedy. In the Internet age, is it time for the legal pendulum to swing back? 40

Adapted from <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/fake-news-criminal-libel-by-peter-singer-2017-01>

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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

27 August 2018

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/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.

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

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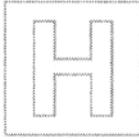
2

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 To what extent do foreign television programmes have a negative impact on the culture of your country?
- 2 Do countries achieve greater economic growth when citizens give up their freedom?
- 3 'A world of sport without any scandal is an impossible dream.' Do you agree?
- 4 Is patriotism really desirable?
- 5 Assess the view that attempts to combat discrimination can never be truly effective.
- 6 'A world without borders creates more problems than benefits.' Is this a fair comment?
- 7 Do you agree that city dwellers are becoming increasingly lonely?
- 8 'Politics and business should never mix.' To what extent do you agree?
- 9 How far has the digital age changed the concept of marriage?
- 10 'Scientists are the ones most responsible and equipped for dealing with environmental problems.' To what extent do you agree?
- 11 'Be seen and heard – that is the key to success.' To what extent is this true of your society today?
- 12 'Anything you can get away with.' Is this an accurate assessment of the arts?

CANDIDATE NAME	CLASS 6C __ __	INDEX NUMBER 00 __ __
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DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

27 August 2018

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

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Seah Shi-ren writes on fear.

- 1 Shades of scarlet have always been linked with danger and dominance, and interestingly, animal colouration research confirms this: even in contests for food, many animals meekly give way to any competitor coloured red. This instinctive response to colour suggests that fear is an innate response to potential perils. For humans, our in-built fears can be traced back to our ancestors, who faced extreme weather conditions and a relentless pressure to outwit wild predators. Fear sensitised them to the presence of these threats and allowed them to anticipate what lay ahead and respond accordingly, improving their chances of survival. Even today, these primal instincts persist. People experience an atavistic fear when they view menacing-looking wildlife in highly secure enclosures, despite being perfectly safe, and never having met or been harmed by such animals before. Evidently, our innate fears are instrumental in shaping our behaviour. 5
- 2 However, most fears were learnt and amplified by the societies we lived in. As sociologist David Altheide rightly argued, 'fear does not just happen; it is socially constructed and then manipulated by those who seek to benefit'. Down the ages, people in power have done just that, since fearful people are easily led – and misled. Fear was nurtured by village leaders to instil proper values within us, by which moral standards were most effectively enforced through our fears of social isolation or condemnation in our smaller communities of old if we fell short of these standards. Religious leaders also took advantage of our fear of eternal damnation to control our behaviour, and make arbitrary, self-serving social hierarchies appear immutable and incontestable. Illiteracy and superstition further intensified these adherents' fears – and filled the spiritual leaders' coffers too, with them 'needing' to donate minimum sums of money in order to accrue merit. Indubitably, simpler times meant simpler arguments: not listening to gods' representatives on earth meant that we were heading straight to the fiery pits of hell. 15
- 3 Today, there is an overarching narrative of fear. Fear used to be only tied to specific threats – death, punishment, illness, hunger – but in recent times, even the nebulous feeling of fear itself is a legitimate cause for concern, especially when medical science has tied anxiety to heart disease and cancer. From being previously seen as trivial and weak, low-grade fears are now important enough to warrant an expensive session with a therapist. (Thankfully though, this has led to a rise in the number of men opening up about their emotions and anxieties, and having a safe space to be vulnerable.) Additionally, collective, commonly felt fears are no longer the norm, where contemporary trends of customisation have spawned highly individualised fears about our lives. After all, with 'Dr. Google', we can now perform online searches for all possible diagnoses for the slightest bodily health concerns. 20
- 4 Interestingly, when there is fear, we give our governments the legal right to control every single aspect of our lives and behaviour. We allow ourselves to be watched anonymously by closed circuit television systems and permit our Internet activities to be filtered and screened, all in the name of security. Nobody questions the government's monopoly over surveillance, data collection or even the use of force. By empowering governments with the greatest abilities, people fear less since fanatical terrorists, deadly diseases and all manner of fearful events are expected to miraculously disappear. 25
- 5 And troubling as it may be, fear sells. The fear market thrives in a society that has internalised the belief that we are powerless to cope with the risks we face and are continually confronted with the problem of survival. Capitalising on this, business-minded opportunists transform and package our elusive general anxieties about life into tangible fears, and in doing so, exultantly line their pockets by selling a growing range of products and services, as people pay more to fear less. Shrewd entrepreneurs are also extremely talented at harnessing our proclivity for anxiety in situations where our fears bear little relationship to actual experience, to promote 'innovative' products that tackle our 'problems in life'. Ironically, the market for personal security gizmos is booming, even though crime rates have been kept low: high-tech Halloween costumes, equipped with sophisticated devices that allow parents to keep track of their little trick-or-treaters, have been flying off the shelves at exorbitant prices, although the incidence of 30

child abductions has drastically dropped in the last decade. Worryingly, this burgeoning fear economy has turned us into passive subjects who can only respond by mindlessly and obsessively consuming products to ease our deep insecurities.

- 6 Fear is also so deeply embedded into our cultural lexicon that we are reminded of it even in lighter moments: the game show *Fear Factor* ran on the premise that contestants confront terrifying, stomach-churning situations for the enjoyment of repulsed yet transfixed viewers. This captivation with experiencing fear sustains one of the most profitable industries – horror entertainment. But for fear to be bankable, one condition must be fulfilled: for people to truly enjoy a scary situation, and experience a flood of adrenaline, endorphins, and dopamine, it must happen in a completely protected space. Haunted houses scare us by shocking our senses and triggering a fear response. However, our brains can process the fact that these are not ‘real’ threats, so we scream and jump – but then almost immediately laugh and smile. 55
60
- 7 Predictably, the digital age has magnified the pervasiveness of fear. We live in an era obsessed with limitless access to information, showcasing all kinds of dangers that *might* afflict us. Threats far removed from our urban lives are internalised on a daily basis: viral footage of a python heavily swollen after consuming a man in a small village in Sulawesi lingers in our minds as we trudge home through our concrete jungles. To top it off, once-specialised technical knowledge is now widely available to the public, giving rise to lowered barriers to entry in technology development. Lone wolf terrorists can download a gun blueprint anywhere in the world and easily construct it on a 3D printer. The awareness of such covert dangers has created the terrifying notion that no one is safe, and, more perversely, that anyone can cause harm – your classmate in school or even your neighbour next door. 65
70
- 8 As we become more cognisant of our capabilities, we also have a stronger perception of our vulnerabilities. Increased knowledge, historically the antidote of fear, now also serves to poison our sense of rationality and to heighten an irrational sense of panic. Quiet fears of everyday life now manifest in seemingly insignificant details: nervousness sending our children up the school bus, discomfort sitting next to a foreigner on the train, a creeping unease when a loved one remains uncontactable for a few hours... The only way to cope with the multiplying uncertainties and perceived dangers of the world, it would seem, is to stay even more wired – and so the cycle of anxiety continues. When American President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed in 1933 that there was nothing to fear but fear itself, he sadly could not have anticipated that people would today be ruled more by fear than ever before. 75
80
- 9 To effectively counter fear, we must challenge the narrative that we are powerless, because our human imagination possesses a formidable capacity to learn from the risks it faces. Throughout history, humanity has learnt from its setbacks, and developed ways of systematically identifying, evaluating, selecting and implementing options for reducing fear-inducing threats. There is always an alternative. Whether or not we are aware of the choices confronting us depends upon whether we define ourselves by our vulnerability or by our capacity to be resilient. 85
90

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Acknowledgements:
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DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
 General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
 Higher 1

YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE NAME

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GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

27 August 2018

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.
 DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

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 In the first paragraph, how does the author support his idea that 'our innate fears are instrumental in shaping our behaviour' (lines 10–11)? Use your own words as far as possible.

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[3]

- 2 Using lines 18–22, explain how religious leaders used fear to their own advantage. Use your own words as far as possible.

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[3]

- 3 Explain why the author says that 'illiteracy and superstition' (line 20) made our fears in the past more intense.

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[2]

4 From paragraph 3, what **two** contrasts does the author make between fears in the past and fears today? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....

.....

[2]

5 Why has the author used brackets in lines 28–30?

.....

[1]

6 What is the author implying by using the word ‘miraculously’ (line 40) to describe fearful events (line 39)?

.....

[2]

7 Why do you think the author uses ‘your’ in line 73?

.....

[1]

8 What does the author intend you to understand about the quiet fears of everyday life by the three dots (...) in line 79?

[1]

9 Explain how the material in lines 84–88 shows humanity’s ‘capacity to be resilient’ (line 90). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....

.....

[2]

10 Using material from paragraphs 4–6 only (lines 34–63), summarise what the author has to say about how fear has been used, and its effects on society.

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.**

When there is fear, we

.....

.....

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.....

[8]

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[10]



DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE
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GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

27 August 2018

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: 1 Insert

SUGGESTED ANSWER KEY AND MARK SCHEME

1. In the first paragraph, how does the author support his idea that 'our innate fears are instrumental in shaping our behaviour' (lines 10–11)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Lifted	Suggested Paraphrase
<p>For humans, a) our in-built fears can be traced back to our ancestors, who faced b) extreme weather conditions and a c) relentless pressure to outwit wild predators. Fear d) sensitised them to the presence of these threats and e) allowed them to anticipate what lay ahead and respond accordingly, improving their chances of f) survival... (g) People experience an atavistic fear when they view menacing-looking wildlife in highly secure enclosures, despite being perfectly safe, and never having met or been harmed by such animals before.</p>	<p>The author supports his idea by showing that/by making reference to/using the example of</p> <p>a) (i) our predecessors/forefathers (ii) having these innate fears. Or/ (ii) our innate fears coming from/originated from / entrenched in (i) mankind's long-ago history/ our predecessors/ forefathers</p> <p>b) who encountered severe weather threats c) Constant stress to outsmart/beat/win animals that jeopardised/threatened their lives. d) Fear warned them/alerted them/made them aware/know about the existence of these dangers e) and caused them to be prepared for/predict what is to come and react/act appropriately /suitably, f) Increasing their ability to live longer/sustain life longer/ stay alive. g) Today, people react with anxiety/ get intimidated/threatened by animals which are fierce-looking even if they are in a protected area/their lives are not in danger.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1-2 pts: 1m 3-4 pts: 2m >5 pts: 3m</p>

2. Using lines 18–22, explain how religious leaders used fear to their own advantage. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Lifted	Suggested Paraphrase
<p>Religious leaders also took advantage of a) our fear of eternal damnation b) to control our behaviour, and c) make arbitrary, self-serving social hierarchies appear d) immutable and incontestable. Illiteracy and superstition further intensified these adherents' fears – and e) filled the spiritual leaders' coffers too, with them 'needing' to donate minimum sums of money in order to accrue merit.</p>	<p>Religious leaders used our fears of</p> <p>a) going to hell / being punished forever / being punished in the afterlife b) to influence/regulate our actions, c) creating random social orders that <i>[x] vague (for 'arbitrary')</i> d) seemed unchanging and unquestionable, e) giving the leaders monetary/financial rewards/ paying them in the process.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1-2 pts: 1m 3-4 pts: 2m 5pts: 3m</p>

3. Explain why the author says that 'Illiteracy and superstition' (line 20) made our fears in the past more intense. [2]

Lifted	Suggested answer
<p>Illiteracy and superstition further intensified these adherents' fears – and filled the spiritual leaders' coffers too, with them 'needing' to donate minimum sums of money in order to accrue merit.</p>	<p>Illiteracy and superstition meant that these believers</p> <p>a) did not have the education/know-how, and b) held entrenched beliefs / had a strong belief in the supernatural that guided their daily lives</p> <p><i>Note: (a) and (b) are inferred from the meanings of 'illiteracy' and 'superstition'.</i></p> <p>c) [<i>effect of these</i>] and so did not question those in authority / could not make rational judgements about the rules being set for them, increasing their fears of being punished.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1-2 pts: 1m 3 pts: 2m</p>

4. From paragraph 3, what two contrasts does the author make between fears in the past and fears today? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Suggested answer
<p>Fear used to be only tied to specific threats [...] but in recent times, even the nebulous feeling of fear itself is a legitimate cause for concern</p> <p>From being previously seen as trivial and weak, low-grade fears are now important enough to warrant an expensive session with a therapist.</p> <p>collective, commonly felt fears are no longer the norm, where contemporary trends of customisation have spawned highly individualised fears about our lives.</p>	<p>a1: fear took the form of particular/certain/precise/exact/explicit/concrete/clear dangers/risks a2: while today, it is vague/imprecise/tenuous/uncertain (do not accept wide-ranging)</p> <p>b1: fears were seen as superficial/meaningless/pathetic (accept paraphrase for either trivial or weak; do not accept unimportant) b2: but today they are seen as significant/given weight/ worth attention</p> <p>c1: fears used to be shared/communal/similar/felt by the majority c2: but today, they are unique to each person/no longer shared amongst others (accept specific to each person)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 pair: 1m</p>

5. Why has the author used brackets in lines 28-30? [1]

Lifted	Suggested answer
(Thankfully though, this has led to a rise in the number of men opening up about their emotions and anxieties, and having a safe space to be vulnerable.)	<p>The author is</p> <p>a) separating / distinguishing the content from the rest of the text / providing additional information (<i>function</i>)</p> <p>[x] fun fact / trivia / interesting point of view / unrelated information/ aside</p> <p>to show</p> <p>b) an alternative point of view that balances out the cynicism of the previous view on fear today / a benefit that is in contrast to the negative portrayal of the 'low-grade' fears today / how such positivity does not fit with the negativity of the rest of the paragraph. (<i>context</i>)</p>

6. What is the author implying by using the word 'miraculously' (line 40) to describe the 'fearful events' (line 39)? [2m]

Lifted	Suggested answer
By empowering governments with the greatest abilities, people fear less since fanatical terrorists, deadly diseases and all manner of fearful events are expected to miraculously disappear.	<p>He is implying that</p> <p>a) these events are highly dangerous/very difficult problems/challenges to be resolved/overcome (<i>scale of event as very difficult as inferred from 'fearful events'</i>)</p> <p>b) and, people's expectations of the government are very high/unrealistic/bordering on the ridiculous (<i>overly high level of trust in the government as inferred from 'miraculously'</i>)</p> <p>Note: must capture the intensity</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 pt: 1m</p>

7. Why do you think the author uses 'your' in line 73? [1]

Lifted	Suggested answer
The awareness of such covert dangers has created the terrifying notion that no one is safe, and, more perversely, that anyone can cause harm – your classmate in school or even your neighbour next door.	<p>The author wishes to</p> <p>a) directly address the reader / include the reader / reduce distance / personalise the examples / better connect when listing possible threats [<i>function</i>]</p> <p>b) to emphasise his point that no one is safe / these threats can happen to anyone near you or you/ anyone can cause harm / affects anyone at a personal level [<i>context</i>]</p>

8. What does the author intend you to understand about the quiet fears of everyday life by the three dots (...) in line 79? [1]

Lifted	Suggested answer
<p>Quiet fears of everyday life now manifest in seemingly insignificant details: nervousness sending our children up the school bus, discomfort sitting next to a foreigner on the train, a creeping unease when a loved one remains uncontactable for a few hours...</p>	<p>The author uses the three dots to highlight</p> <p>a) A deliberately incomplete sentence/unfinished list of details / the list goes on / endless list [<i>function</i>] [x] a cycle of events/ many</p> <p>b) that shows how the fears we face are so pervasive/widespread/widely known/many in our lives that they can emerge in any/all of our daily activities [<i>context</i>] (accept: deeply entrenched)</p>

9. Explain how the material in lines 84 – 88 shows humanity's 'capacity to be resilient' (line 90). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Suggested answer
<p>To effectively counter fear, we must challenge the narrative that we are powerless, because our human imagination possesses a formidable capacity to a) learn from the risks it faces. Throughout history, humanity has b) learnt from its setbacks, and c) developed ways of systematically identifying, evaluating, selecting and implementing options for reducing fear-inducing threats.</p>	<p>The text shows that humanity</p> <p>a) is able to acquire lessons/knowledge/insights from the dangers/threats encountered,</p> <p>b) as well as from obstacles/problems/hurdles/failures encountered, and</p> <p>c) created ways to analyse/ make choices / decide on how to reduce these threats. [<i>one overarching idea to encapsulate the different subpoints</i>]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1-2 pts: 1m 3 pts: 2m</p>

10. Using material from paragraphs 4–6 only (lines 34–63), summarise what the author has to say about how fear has been used, and its effects on society.

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.**

When there is fear, we ...

Material From Passage	Suggested Paraphrased Answers
<p>Paragraph 4 Interestingly, when there is fear, we (a) give our governments the legal right to control every single aspect of our lives and behaviour. We allow ourselves to be (b) watched anonymously by closed circuit television systems and permit our Internet activities to be filtered and screened, (c) all in the name of security. (d) Nobody questions the government's monopoly over (e) surveillance, data collection or even the use of force. (f) By empowering governments with the greatest abilities, people fear less since fanatical terrorists, deadly diseases and all manner of fearful events are expected to miraculously disappear.</p>	<p>(a) allow the authorities/ give the government the ability to manipulate individual conduct totally (do not accept surrender power) and (b) to observe/monitor/track/view us (c) for the sake of safety/public order/protection/no danger. (d) no one challenges the authorities' right/without resistance (e) to spy, gather knowledge and use violence OR methods to keep us in check (collapsed point). (f) By giving the full/complete authority to governments, citizens are less afraid Also accept: sacrificing/relinquishing authority for "empowering governments" X power as paraphrase for empower</p>
<p>Paragraph 5 And troubling as it may be, fear sells. The fear market thrives in a society that has internalised the belief that we are powerless to cope with the risks we face and are continually confronted with the problem of survival. Capitalising on this, (g) business-minded opportunists transform and package our elusive general anxieties about life into tangible fears, and in doing so, (h) exultantly line their pockets by selling a growing range of products and services, as (i) people pay more to fear less. (j) Shrewd entrepreneurs are also extremely talented (k) at harnessing our proclivity for anxiety in situations where our fears bear little relationship to actual experience, (l) to promote 'innovative' products that tackle our 'problems in life'. Ironically, (m) the market for personal security gizmos is booming, even though crime rates have been kept low: high-tech Halloween costumes, equipped with sophisticated devices that allow parents to keep track of their little trick-or-treaters, have been flying off the shelves at exorbitant prices, although the incidence of child abductions has drastically dropped in the last decade. Worryingly, (n) this burgeoning fear economy has turned us into passive subjects who can only respond by mindlessly and obsessively consuming products to ease our deep insecurities.</p>	<p><i>[Not relevant to how fear has been used and its effects]</i></p> <p>(g) entrepreneurs present our vague worries as something concrete/ to be significant (accept paraphrase for either elusive or tangible) (h) and make a lot of money by offering an increasing variety of merchandise/goods (i) as people spend more money OR firms sell products at high prices to reduce their anxieties. [(h) and (i) can be collapsed] (j) Businessmen use their craftiness/acumen (k) to take advantage of our inclination to feel scared in circumstances where our worries are not reflective of reality (l) to market creative merchandise/goods/things (m) there is a huge demand for safety devices/gadgets</p> <p><i>[Examples]</i> (n) people submit/comply/defer by compulsively/blindly buying more</p>
<p>Paragraph 6 Fear is also so deeply embedded into our cultural lexicon that we are reminded of it even in lighter moments: the game show Fear Factor ran on the premise that contestants confront terrifying, stomach-churning situations for the (o) enjoyment of repulsed yet transfixed viewers. (p) This captivation with experiencing fear sustains one of the most profitable industries – horror entertainment. But for fear to be bankable, one condition must be fulfilled: (r) for people to truly enjoy a scary situation, and experience a flood of adrenaline, endorphins, and dopamine, (q) it must happen in a completely protected space. Haunted houses scare us by shocking our senses and triggering a fear response. However, our brains can process the fact that these are not 'real' threats, so we scream and jump – but then almost immediately laugh and smile.</p>	<p><i>[Example]</i> (o) Fear is used for the pleasure/delight/entertainment of an audience/people (p) and ensures the showbiz business/films remain lucrative/flourish. (q) Totally safe/secure environments are constructed (r) for people to feel thrilled/exhilarated while being frightened.</p>

Point-Mark Table

Number of points	Awarded marks
1 – 2 pts	1 m
3 – 4 pts	2 m
5 – 6 pts	3 m
7 – 8 pts	4 m
9 pts	5 m
10 - 11 pts	6 m
12 - 13 pts	7 m
14 pts or more	8 m

11. In this article, Seah Shi-ren makes a number of observations about how fear is used and its effects on our lives. How applicable do you find his observations to yourself and your own society? **[10]**

Ideas from paragraphs	Contexts in the Singaporean society



EUNOIA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination 2018
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 1

8807/01

10 September 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: 12-Page Answer Booklet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, civics group 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 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.

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 'Diversity should be celebrated, not feared.' Discuss.
- 2 'We need to talk about taboos.' How true is this of your society?
- 3 'The value of memory is often underestimated.' Is this an accurate assessment of modern society?
- 4 Examine the claim that the problem of inequality can only be tackled by governments.
- 5 Consider the view that more action and less talk will help countries solve their current domestic problems.
- 6 'The battle against consumerism is a pointless one.' Comment.
- 7 'Images are always more powerful than words.' Do you agree?
- 8 Assess the view that international agreements are well-intended, but ineffective.
- 9 Has your society sacrificed too much for progress?
- 10 How important is it to have a sense of humour?
- 11 Is it justifiable for nations to always prioritise their national interests?
- 12 Given the growing demands of modern society, has raising children become more of a burden?

Eunoia Junior College
2018 JC2 H1 GP Preliminary Examinations
Paper 1 Suggested Answer Scheme

1 'Diversity should be celebrated, not feared.' Discuss.

The attitude / approach towards something should be A and not B; normative (should)

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject matter: diversity in society, and whether it should be celebrated rather than feared

Key Terms:

- *diversity* – candidates may consider diversity in terms of race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, beliefs, identities, or any conceivable variations
- *should* – candidates must consider which of these states is desirable instead of the other: that diversity is feared or that it is celebrated, or whether diversity is something there is reason to fear or to celebrate (embrace)

Context: societies in general (not just one's own); global consideration of different societies

Issues:

- Why should diversity be 'feared'? Does diversity bring great harm to society? Should diversity be discouraged and met with caution?
- Why should diversity be 'celebrated'? Does diversity encourage us to better understand and accept others for their humanity rather than judge them based on superficial factors?

Assumptions:

- It is desirable to embrace and celebrate all forms of diversity, and fearing such diversity is unproductive and undesirable for the growth of humanity.

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidates must consider reasons why celebrating diversity is desirable, as opposed to being averse to it.
- In order to engage balance in the essay, candidates should also demonstrate awareness and understanding of perspectives that may posit that diversity itself is something undesirable for society and humanity.

Possible Arguments & Examples:

- Because diversity brings tends to bring about differing views and thus conflict, we should fear its potentially divisive and harmful effects on communities.
 - Various kinds of tensions have arisen because of the wide range of different views and identities.

- Fully celebrating and embracing diversity may be seen to loosen and disrupt the boundaries that govern our systems and ways of life, thus causing instability, which should be feared.
 - Accepting a variety of beliefs that is too wide may shake or undermine some important principles that have governed our behaviours and systems in a way that seeks to protect quality of life and even rights.
 - Celebrating diversity may condone acts that may be considered by some to be immoral.
 - Being too liberal with one's viewpoints may encourage deviance from judgements and decisions that are considered moral or normative.
 - Mere diversity does not take into proper consideration the impact that people's decisions have on those around them.
 - For example, some lifestyles harm nature and wildlife more so than others: vegans or animal rights activists would argue that people with meat diets or who purchase products that involve animal testing are harming nature with their lifestyle and habits; yet supporters of diversity would argue that these are simply different lifestyles that everyone has a right to choose.

- Although many may fear diversity in today's world, diversity should be celebrated because accepting others despite their differences makes us kinder and more generous human beings towards one another.
 - Celebrating diversity enables us to look past relatively inconsequential differences and instead focus on what we have in common.

- Diversity should be celebrated and not feared, because fear itself drives us to treat others unfairly based on very arbitrary conditions. What makes us different from one another is often an innate or significant part of our identity that we cannot necessarily change/control.
 - Fearing diversity and therefore discriminating against a particular racial group is unfair because one is born with a clear racial identity and cannot change one's skin colour.

Thoughtful Responses:

- Will be able to engage both parts of the question throughout the essay:
 - Consider reasons why one might expect diversity to strike fear in people, but arguing that such an expectation is unrealistic or not viable due to the nature of our diverse world, which requires that we embrace and celebrate diversity.
 - Consider reasons why one might find the expectation of celebrating diversity too optimistic or idealistic, and thus offer more realist perspectives of the rifts and divides that diversity has brought about as well as a counterargument.

Limited Responses:

- May merely describe reasons that make us fear or celebrate diversity, rather than explaining clearer reasons why we **should** fear or celebrate it
- May focus only on more minute instances of discrimination or prejudice without considering the wider scope of 'diversity' as a concept
- May merely list the advantages / benefits and disadvantages / harms of diversity

- May be example- or domain-driven¹, based on the type of 'diversity' that the candidate identifies

2 'We need to talk about taboos.' How true is this of your society?

There is a need for something (invites consideration of the point of the need) => extent to which this is true of the local context, in the current time context; imperative (need)

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject Matter: taboos in society, and the extent to which people in the candidate's society need to talk about them

Key Terms:

- *taboos* – actions, practices or words that are avoided for social or religious reasons; there would be customs that prohibit or restrict such taboo behaviours, ways of life and things; the consideration of taboos usually requires the consideration of societal context as these implicit or explicit prohibitions are usually based on a cultural sense that the taboo is (excessively) repulsive, undesirable or frightening; such prohibitions are present in virtually all societies
- *taboos in Singapore* – race, religion, sex and sexuality (LGBTQ), death, history, and others
- *need* – the idea of moving forward, making progress towards something, hence the necessity, urgency, critical push
- *talk about* – this could range from talking about issues in advocacy groups, to talking across groups with fundamentally different perspectives, which have not been talking, to larger community discussions, national discussions, talk in policy circles and in government

Context: the candidate's society / Singapore

Issues:

- What makes something taboo in the candidate's local context, e.g. Singapore?
- What good or bad can come out of talking about taboos? This could be considered from previous experiences within society or by drawing from other contexts' experiences.
- What kind of society does the candidate want to live in? What kind of society do the majority of people in the candidate's society want? This informs whether there are good grounds to push for talks about taboos, and the extent to which this push and need exists in the candidate's society.

Assumptions:

¹ domain driven = the appearance of different arguments when actually the candidate only adopts one argument, and transposes it across different domains across different paragraphs

- Taboos are not really talked about in the candidate's society, hence giving rise to the question of whether we need to talk about them or not, and the extent to which the need is reflected in the candidate's society.

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- The candidate must calibrate the extent to which taboos need to be talked about in his or her society, and justify why.
- The candidate must demonstrate an awareness of the key word 'need'.
- The candidate must recognise that different groups in society feel differently, for different reasons (subjective beliefs and values), and the candidate must reach a reasoned conclusion after consider all these reasons.

Possible Arguments and Examples:

- When left unexamined, taboos can lead to unfair treatment of groups, and hence they need to be talked about in order to prevent such cultural / societal oppression.
 - Singapore is changing as a society – despite the pull of convention, orthodoxy and tradition, there seems to be a push towards building a more inclusive society, and the construction of such a society, would require some taboos to be talked about as some groups' practices and ways of life are deemed taboo, deviant and undesirable and this could contribute to the perception or reality that such groups are socially excluded or marginalised.
 - If younger Singaporeans genuinely desire a more inclusive society, as reflected through platforms such as Our Singapore Conversation, then conversations need to take place to consider if certain taboos are indeed taboo and therefore still socially undesirable, or if it is time to reconsider our social norms.
- We need to talk about taboos to ascertain if there are really legitimate grounds to forbid and prohibit them given that what is taboo in one context need not necessarily be in another.
 - It is largely true that we need to if we consider the broader context of rights and respect for our fellowmen.
 - Taboos become taboo because of their social context, for example, in some societies, certain religions are regarded as cults and taboo despite them being regarded as orthodox and normalised in other societal contexts. Would it be fair to practitioners of such faiths to have their religions labelled as deviant and taboo?
 - Examples could include Jehovah's Witnesses, Seven Day Adventists and Mormons. Even marriages between brothers and sisters, which is now almost universally regarded as socially unacceptable, was once a norm in Roman Egypt in ancient times.
 - The felling of laws against same-sex marriage and sex acts between members of the same sex all around the world also calls to mind the need to talk about the way forward for Singapore in spite of resistance.
- It is not always productive / fruitful to talk about taboos because objections and acceptance of them are both based on fundamental values and core beliefs that rationality cannot necessarily overcome. The contesting of such values through the discussion of taboos would only lead to resistance and conflict.
 - Certain taboos are regarded as problematic in many societal contexts, for example, incest and bestiality, and in most traditional circles, they are hardly talked about

because of a variety of fears: fear that talk about such taboos would corrupt, offend one's own or others' sensibilities, or signal that such taboos can be condoned.

- These fears are shared in even liberal circles too but perhaps more open cultures feel that open conversations about such taboo topics can only be healthy for the nation, in terms of values education and forging social consensus that such practices are morally problematic.
- Singapore is a country where both circles have a strong presence, but on the whole, it seems to be the case that there are more who would feel that we should not and do not need to talk about such taboos for the reasons aforementioned.
- Hence, given a culture that is rather reticent to talking about what is perceived to be "dirty" and deviant, it seems to be true that the majority of Singaporeans believe that we should not talk about such universally problematic taboos at all.

Thoughtful Responses:

- Will consider the nature of taboos and realise that the nature of subjective beliefs about right and wrong, and what is socially desirable and not, needs to be considered
- Will understand that it is this difference in subjective beliefs and values that causes people to feel differently about the need to talk about taboos
- Might wonder about what it is about the nature of taboos that makes people fear them and conversations about them; what causes the feelings of offense, disgust and fear?
- Might wonder about how talks about taboos have been in their own and others' local contexts – have these talks led to impasses because of the nature of the way the talks have unfolded? E.g. combative and confrontational rather than consultative?
- Might wonder if there is a healthier, more inclusive way to talk about taboos such that all stakeholders in society are ready to converse rationally, with respect, and as equals

Limited Responses:

- A bare listing / description of instances where Singaporeans have resisted talking about taboo topics, with bald assertions that such is discriminatory, prejudicial or undesirable, which then lead to hasty conclusions that we therefore need to talk about taboos
 - Candidates should close the logical leap between something being discriminatory, and why, therefore, we should talk about it – what will talking do? How will it alleviate the situation, and what end is achieved through talking?
- Careless reading of the question – not realising the question requires one to calibrate extent to which the statement is true in one's society, and not realising the statement puts forth an imperative (it is not "we should"). The former issue is less grievous than the latter though, and competent responses that slip just on the extent front could still be credited beyond the band.

3 The value of memory is often underestimated. Is this an accurate assessment of modern society?

The value of something is often underestimated => extent to which this is true in modern societies, in the current time context; consideration of realities (is)

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject matter: memory, and the extent to which it is true that modern societies often underestimate its value and worth

Key Terms:

- *memory* – in the context of modern society, could refer to the history of a community, the collective memory that a people has of shared experiences, or the more general sense of nostalgia and sentimentalism
- *value* – the importance or significance that we attribute to memory, or monetary value
- *often* – the claim in the statement indicates the frequency and prevalence of this trend of underestimating the value of memory in modern society
- *how far, modern society* – the essay should address the question by considering the extent to which the statement reflects *modern society*; *key trends and characteristics* of modern society need to be considered throughout the essay

Context: modern societies worldwide; modern societies in general

Issues:

- Is there a disparity between the *actual* value of memory and how valuable such forms of memory are currently *perceived* to be?
- What is the yardstick against which one can measure the value of memory? What does valuing memory look like?
- How is memory underestimated? On what basis is memory being underestimated?

Assumptions:

- The current perception of memory by modern society does not take into account its true value.

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidates need to examine whether the claim that the value of memory is often underestimated is actually *true* of modern society, based on recent trends and current characteristics of today's world.

Possible Arguments & Examples:

- Memory is not necessarily under-valued in modern society, as can be seen from the priority and significance that is placed on various forms of memory to support current aspects of life.

- History is often drawn upon to support narratives of identity and belonging that endure through time and that manifest in our various systems and policies today.
- Resources are pumped into sustaining these aspects of history as part of our present ways of life.
- In fact, it could be said that rather than memory being undervalued in modern society, sometimes too much value is placed on memory instead, both sentimentally as well as financially.
 - The culture of memorialisation has gripped the modern psyche with a relentless need to remember people, things and places that have passed, so much so that the original intentions and meanings that these events once represented have become diluted or reduced to simpler narratives or interpretations, e.g. war memorials and the over-sentimentalisation of war stories.
 - Historical sites often become places of interest for tourists and academics, sometimes commercialised as sources of revenue rather than representations of memory.
- Yet, the value of memory is more often underestimated in modern society because of our focus on progress and the future.
 - We often sacrifice elements of memory (such as tradition, history, and nostalgia) in order to make way for greater economic and social progress.
 - Various symbols of memory (such as buildings, historical sites, or memorials) are destroyed in order to prioritise more pragmatic needs.
 - There is a tendency to disregard heritage claims in the name of economic progress.
- The value of memory is underestimated because people seldom understand the depth and dimensions of thought and emotion that memory can offer as an abstract concept, especially in a world that operates largely based on calculations of concrete costs and benefits.
 - It is difficult to put a price or value on abstract ideas of nostalgia and sentimentality, as opposed to more practical considerations of present issues and concerns.
 - Such ideas of memory are thus often sidelined.
 - In the short-term, we can understand the value of what we want to pursue, but not the value of what we are giving up. We cannot foresee the consequences of underestimating the value of memory.
- Due to the capacity of modern technology to capture, store and search for information, the value of memory, in the cognitive sense, has definitely been underestimated.
 - Given the ease and convenience of searching for information online and in digital archives that we keep, it has also become less important to know things by heart since we can rely on these tools for recording purposes, thus showing that modern society has underestimated the value of memory.
 - Our tendencies to take photographs of everything we experience has transformed memories from psychological and emotional records of significant experiences into the multitude of files and posts that sit in our albums and social media accounts.
 - While some may argue that photographs serve as precious records of memories as well, hence demonstrating the extent to which we value memory when we look through old photographs, it is difficult to say that many of us actually do take a second glance at the many photographs that we take of people, places, and things, due to their sheer number.

Thoughtful Responses:

- Will acknowledge the central tension in the question between the forward-looking impulses of modern society and the value that memory holds in preserving our past
- Will evaluate whether our appreciation of these forms of memory accurately reflects how valuable they really are
 - Make acute observations of our current valuation of memory based on modern behaviours and habits
 - Make considered judgements of the value that memory holds for modern society
- May consider various forms of memory in the context of modern society

Limited Responses:

- May merely *describe* valuable aspects of memory
- May only consider one form of memory (e.g. only history, sentimentality, or cognition) that has limited scope in substantiating main arguments
- May interpret the key term as 'memories' and provide rather literal and specific examples rather than demonstrating awareness of 'memory' as a more abstract concept

4 Examine the claim that the problem of inequality can only be tackled by governments.

Absolute claim being posited => a problem can only be tackled by one stakeholder; consideration of realities and logical possibility (can)

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject Matter: the problem of inequality, and the extreme position that it can only be tackled by one stakeholder of the problem: governments

Key Terms:

- *the problem of inequality* – the existence of inequality is a fact of life, a corollary to the natural lottery;
 - Consider inequality that is *acute* to constitute a serious local or global problem.
 - Inequality could refer to social, economic, and power inequalities. Each form of inequality is intricately linked and reinforces other forms of inequality.
 - Social inequality occurs when social and economic goods in a society are distributed unevenly, because of norms and beliefs about how allocation of resources ought to be done.² When norms of allocation exacerbate natural forms of inequality (of natural advantages and disadvantages), the distribution of *rights, privileges, social power and access to basic public goods* can be severely impacted.

² This differential allocation could be along the lines of socially-defined categories of persons, such as those with more power, those of a certain religion, kinship, race / ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation and class. This differentiation in access to social and economic goods could also result in persons' rights to labour markets, sources of income, health care, freedom of speech, education, political representation and participation being unequal.

- Any consideration of the problem of inequality cannot be divorced from consideration of meritocracy which is a system that upholds certain beliefs about how socioeconomic resources ought to be distributed.
 - Inequality between societies can be in terms of international inequality (inequality between countries), and global inequality (inequality between people across countries, e.g. differences in access to healthcare and education).³ Many citizens of nations live in constant envy of the provision for basic needs in other countries: food, clean water and basic safety and security.⁴
- *can only be* – realistically, and in terms of logical possibility, the problem can only be tackled by governments
 - *tackled by* – to try to deal with something; make determined efforts to manage a difficult problem; to attempt to stop, alleviate or mitigate an issue (need not entail resolution but there would be a sustained effort to address a problem)
 - *governments* – the state entity that governs a society, and is conferred the executive power to set and administer public policy; it has, beyond executive power, political and sovereign power too, enshrined by the institutions and laws of the state, and in many countries, conferred by its electorate’s votes that give it the mandate to rule and decision-make on behalf of citizens

Context: local and global; in both societies and between nations

Issues:

- The nature of government and its role: why would it be believed that only governments are in the position to tackle the problem of inequality?
- How would different conceptions of the social compact, and considerations of context, influence perspectives on this question? E.g. A struggling nation, transiting from a period of failed government to one with more promise would necessarily look more towards the government for answers. Contrast that with a more mature polity where solutions to inequality could be found within the community and in the business sector rather than solely from the ranks of political and bureaucratic leadership.
- What makes the problem of inequality so intractable and complex? What would have happened to make unequal distribution of resources so pronounced that reified class hierarchies are created?
- What has past and current history shown us in terms of governments’ success stories (or lack thereof) in tackling inequality? Do we have cause to be optimistic when government takes the lead or are there more grounds for pessimism?

Assumptions:

- The government(s) in question are functioning ones, that enable them to tackle the problem. They are equipped with the political and executive power to put in place policies to alleviate

³ Considerations of World Systems Theory and Dependency Theory would be useful in understanding international and global inequality.

⁴ Philosopher Ronald Dworkin claims that equality is a state of people being able to live without envy, that is, countries or citizens being able to live lives without the constant desire for the lives of others in other nations.

the ill-effects of inequality, and to redistribute socioeconomic goods. They also possess the political will and gumption to policy-make well, and see the changes through.

- For a variety of reasons, other stakeholders are less viable options to either take the lead or be relied on for answers to the problem.

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- The candidate must demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the problem of inequality, minimally, at the level of society. This understanding should be demonstrated by an awareness that inequality is not only economic in nature; it also comprises inequality in access to basic public goods, such as education and healthcare, and rights.
- The candidate should notice that the word choice is 'tackled' and not 'solved', indicating recognition that the problem of inequality is complex enough that seeking a complete resolution would be but a pipedream.
- The candidate should demonstrate awareness about the unique role of government.

Possible Arguments and Examples⁵:

- Though governments are not the only ones who can tackle the problem of inequality, given the level of power they wield in making decisions that shape the systems and structures of a country, they indeed play a crucial role in addressing the *systemic* causes of inequality.
 - Governments are in a prime position to tackle seemingly intractable problems such as inequality as they not only have the power to determine policy, they also have the power to mobilise and determine distribution of resources, both within and between nations.
 - "[S]tate actions (and inactions), in tandem with corporate practices, are crucial for intensifying or ameliorating problems."⁶
- On the other hand, due to the decisions that governments are responsible for making with regards to other areas of need, they may not prioritise tackling the problem of inequality.
 - Governments tend to be motivated by "vested material and symbolic interest in its perpetuation" and "narratives of growth, development and meritocracy". Inequality could be seen as a necessary trade-off for growth for the country on a larger scale.
 - In order for governments to adequately tackle the problem, they must develop the political will to fully understand and address it. Teo argues that "To see better, we need to expand our narratives. We must uncover more data. [...] An important goal to set for ourselves lies in changing the narrative."⁷
- Perhaps the answer to the problem of inequality lies in our *individual choices and acts*, the decisions of advocacy groups to rally, condemn and boycott systems of exploitation and oppression, and the collective will of many in society to commit to dismantling highly

⁵ Other arguments informed by observations from:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/inequality-is-a-threat-name-it-and-face-it>

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/can-education-fix-growing-inequality-in-singapore-10308796>

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/this-is-what-the-face-of-poverty-inequality-looks-like-10633800>

<https://inequality.org/great-divide/8-ways-reduce-global-inequality/>

⁶ Teo You Yenn, *This is What Inequality Looks Like*, p. 22.

⁷ Teo You Yenn, *This is What Inequality Looks Like*, pp. 35-36.

asymmetrical power structures, rather than more slow-moving bureaucracies and governments.

- The desire to have the state 'nanny' us, and provide us with solutions, will further incapacitate us in our quest to tackle the problem of inequality.
- Hence, the solution cannot possibly only lie with governments, even though governments hold one of the many important keys to the solution.

Thoughtful Responses:

- May not only consider the problem of inequality in societies, but also consider the problem of global inequality
- Will recognise the multifaceted and complex nature of inequality: that different forms of inequality are the result of each other and they reinforce each other
- Will recognise that the government-only perspective is one rooted in a certain conception of government: they know better, it is filled with experts and technocrats, and decision-making is best left to them to steer the way
- Will question this assumption and mode of addressing community and global problems, and realise that individuals too, have power

Limited Responses:

- May reveal sketchy understandings of inequality, the role of government and the power it has
- May be overly-mechanical in outlining of how governments have managed to tackle the problem of inequality rather than engaging with the reasons why such governments were able to do so (the *nature* of government and how it pertains to the question)
- May shift off focus to become an essay about meritocracy and poverty
- May show limited thought revealed by believing that only government holds the solution

5 Consider the view that more action and less talk will help countries solve their current domestic problems.

The position that more A than B would help a party solve a problem => a question about causality: comparatively (between A and B), what would be the result? Context of time matters (will; current): connotes that postulations based on current realities are required

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject Matter: assessing approaches to solving domestic problems within a country – 'talk' or 'action' – and evaluating how much of each approach we need

Key Terms:

- *current domestic problems* – candidates should focus on recent problems that are faced specifically by individual countries within their national borders
- *action* – **actual steps** taken to resolve problems or to work towards a resolution in response to contentious issues that have arisen within countries

- *In a *positive* sense, action is what is ultimately needed for problems to be solved and not just discussed at the level of policy legislation or civil discourse.
- Taken negatively, this could also refer to rash or impulsive action (e.g. knee-jerk reactions or hasty policy-making) without careful consideration of issues on a deeper level.
- **talk** – any **verbal or written response** to current problems that a country is facing
 - *In the question, 'talk' is implied as *negative*, possibly referring to empty promises that are not honoured, or lip service by governments and leaders. It could also include comments from members of the public that merely criticise either the problems themselves or failed attempts at resolving them.
 - Seen in more positively, it could encompass meaningful discussion / dialogue or contemplative talk.
- *more ... and less* – the relative nature of the terms 'more' and 'less' imply that an adjustment to the level of 'action' and 'talk' to address current problems is required in order to solve them

Context: Examples from any country can be used (global consideration), but candidates should keep the scope of their essay focused on different countries' domestic issues (local contextualisation) rather than international / global issues.

Issues:

- What would help countries solve the domestic problems that they are experiencing in the present? Would it be more action and less talk or more talk and less action, or a good balance of both?
- Does current discourse or criticism of a country's domestic problems create too much noise that overshadows efforts to take real action?
- Is not enough being done currently to solve a country's domestic problems? Are more concrete and constructive measures necessary to properly address these problems?

Assumptions:

- There is currently an imbalance between 'action' and 'talk': an excess of 'talk' or discourse that drowns out or clouds an accurate assessment of whether enough is actually being done to solve domestic issues in a country.

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- Consider whether both 'more action and less talk' will facilitate the process of solving problems within a country's national borders.
- Consider opposing perspectives to this statement, that even 'more action and less talk' would not fully address the root causes of the problems that countries are facing.

Possible Arguments & Examples

- More action and less talk is definitely needed to solve problems, because current discourse and criticism tends to drown out more constructive discussions on concrete steps to be taken to fully address pressing issues.
 - Talk is cheap. 'Keyboard warriors' or 'armchair critics' tend to simply criticise others' behaviours, government policies, or any aspect of society that is found to be unsatisfactory in any way.

- Their comments, often posted on online platforms nowadays, seldom do much in the way of actually triggering concrete and constructive actions to resolve the issues they talk about.
- These comments also tend to go viral, creating an 'echo chamber' that reinforces a singular view or interpretation of the event, policy, or person in question.
- Too much talk and no action would be ineffectual in addressing problems because people can easily get stuck in a deadlock in the process of reconciling a wide range of differing views on the best way to proceed with coming up with solutions.
- However, it is not necessarily true that more action and less talk will enable us to better solve current domestic problems, because it still remains necessary for society to engage in critical discourse ('talk') to fully understand various angles of a problem, before crafting the most suitable 'actions' to resolve it.
 - Focused group discussions may seem to be tedious and time consuming, but gathering a variety of perspectives from the ground is definitely necessary for authorities to better understand the nature of the problems they are tackling.
 - A significant amount of 'talk' can actually draw attention to the most pressing domestic problems.
 - Sometimes, the right kind of 'talk' itself can solve the problem.
- More action and less talk may not necessarily help to solve problems, because it is not always true that the 'talk' involved is mere noise. Rather, actions that are taken too impulsively tend to overshadow the importance of listening, which enables us to be more sensitive to the reasons for domestic problems as well as the gaps in current measures to tackle them.
 - Based on what we learn from actively listening to opinions that are voiced out of a genuine desire to resolve pressing domestic problems and based on keen observations of society, relevant stakeholders and authorities can then design real solutions and take action to solve these problems.
 - We need more constructive talk including listening to what is being said, and seeking to understand different perspectives.
- Even with more action and less talk, we may not necessarily be able to solve current domestic problems because of the complexity of these issues.

Thoughtful Responses:

- Will convincingly assess the current state of affairs in most countries to evaluate the efficacy of the ways in which domestic problems are being addressed, given characteristics of modern discourse and action
- Will evaluate what is necessary for countries' domestic problems to be fully resolved, and assess if these current methods (of 'talk' and 'action') are sufficient for achieving more desirable outcomes
- Will clearly delineate different ways to understand 'talk' and 'action' as multi-dimensional
- Will set a clear context to raise the counter-argument that talk could also be positive, or that action could also be negative

Limited Responses:

- May de-couple the statement to deal with 'talk' and 'action' separately in each argument
- May suggest various ways in which 'more talk and less action' could be achieved without a proper and convincing assessment of current needs in solving domestic problems
- May confuse what is considered 'action' and what is considered 'talk'

6 'The battle against consumerism is a pointless one.' Comment.

Absolute claim being posited => fighting something is a pointless exercise; consideration of current realities (is) and projecting into the future (pointless)

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject Matter: consumerism, and the battle against it – is this battle a pointless one?

Key Terms:

- *consumerism* – a social and economic order that encourages the acquisition of goods and services in ever-increasing amounts; the human desire to own and obtain products and goods in excess of one's basic needs (having sufficient food, clothing and shelter); a theory that a country that consumes goods and services in large quantities will be better off economically; a policy that promotes greed
- *battle against [it]* – connotes that the fight against consumerism is a sizeable and severe one, so much so that it is likened to a war / battle; there is a sense that the battle is a losing one, in the face of growing and overwhelming consumerism, and that those who wage war against / fight consumerism have to expend massive efforts against the power of consumerism; those who battle might be outnumbered; there are various groups battling consumerism; not only one -- who are they?
- *pointless* – having no purpose or use; would be a waste of time; having little or no sense

Context: global; worldwide

Issues:

- The context that has allowed consumerism to become a scourge in the modern world – what has allowed certain societies to see rising levels of consumerist behaviour, and what are the impacts on people in other countries?
- Are there systems and structures that enable and fuel consumerist behaviour, to the point that consumers have very little agency to combat their own behaviour (has it become a matter of uncontrollable impulse?) – to the point that the battle against it is deemed pointless?
- What beliefs and values fuel consumerism? Are matters of identity involved when people engage in consumeristic behaviour? E.g. beliefs that status and wealth are important; the belief that class identity is reified when one acquires more?
- Which stakeholders are involved in consumerism and what are their agendas?
- Movements against consumerism and have they been successful? This should inform inferences about the point to or pointlessness of the battle.

- The conflict between those who encourage consumerism, and those who discourage it -- is it almost like an ideological battle between both camps? Why?
- Implications of an apologetic and resigned attitude towards this problem: what would be the harm done to not only others in other societies but also to one's self and community?
- Exploitation, fair trade, food waste, conservationist movements, fast fashion, minimalism, pollution and environmental degradation, sustainable development, and responsible consumerism

Assumptions:

- Consumerism is a bad thing; it has become an undesirable and unhealthy phenomenon that has caused problems for societies, people and the world

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- The candidate must comment on whether he or she believes the battle against consumerism is pointless, or not, and justify with reasons grounded in evidence.
- The candidate must demonstrate an awareness of the key words, 'pointless' and 'battle'.
- The candidate must consider the impacts of excessive consumerism: to not only the consumer himself or herself, but also upon his or her community, the lives of others who produce so that people can consume, and the global environment: waste, unsustainable production of goods that harm our natural environments
- The candidate should show an awareness of the systems and structures that create consumerism: the global supply chain, exploitation

Possible Arguments and Examples⁸:

- In the face of all the forces that encourage individuals to buy: either for status or to display their economic worth, or to get value of money by buying more for less, it seems that movements to stem waves of consumerism, such as minimalism, are futile at best.
 - The rise of consumerism is evident in countries with emerging and mature markets such as the United States of America, Singapore, China, India, South Korea and Brazil.
 - The battle against this rising tide of buying and acquiring more seems to be fuelled by the mass production of both luxury and cheap goods, the saturation of the media with advertisements to encourage consumer spending, and emerging platforms that make consumption an easier task, such as food and goods delivery services (Grab Food, Amazon Prime).
 - Consumers either choose to remain conscientiously ignorant of the real-world impacts of their consumerist behaviour, or they can persist in such wasteful behaviour because of a lack of care or mindfulness.
- The battle would be pointless because there are real benefits to be reaped from consumerism. If we remove humane and environmental considerations from the equation and only focus on economic ones, we will see that there are real advantages to consumerist behaviour for the economy.

⁸ Other arguments informed by observations from:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/the-good-and-bad-sides-of-consumerism>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/08/online-shopping-and-accumulation-of-junk/567985/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMrGDSIRMHQ>

- Consumerism creates a boom in goods and services industries and for retailers that serve such industries and this purportedly creates a cycle of demand that also creates jobs for people.
 - Many developed societies hence do little to combat consumerism because it is not in their national interests to do so. Never mind the exploited workers in less developed countries, or the heaps of waste accumulating in oceans or the massive deforestation and loss of plant and animal life due to pollution.
 - The not-in-my-backyard attitude towards this pressing global problem enables it to continue.
- In the face of big companies' marketing tactics and the power they exert over consumers, there seems to be grounds to believe that the battle is pointless.
 - Firstly, psychologists have found that consumption and purchasing items makes consumers feel good (research shows consumers actually have heightened dopamine when they buy), and secondly, goods and services companies invest huge amounts of resources into studying ways in which they can influence people to buy more things.
 - In the face of all these influences, especially in a media-saturated world, some would contend that it is almost as if individuals have no choice but to succumb to their impulse to buy.
 - Rising credit card debts in societies such as USA and Singapore point towards the gravity of the problem.
 - It would take massive awareness campaigns, as well as tighter credit governance to stem the problem of consumerism.
 - Engagement of the success of anti-consumerist movements: have they gained traction and actual influence or have they merely succeeded in raising awareness and only converting some such that only a dent on the problem has been made.
 - This would inform the candidate's inference about the pointlessness or the point to it all.

Thoughtful Responses:

- Will understand the complex web of relationships that creates consumerism and the effects of it: that consumerism is not just a problem that local contexts have to grapple with, it has far-ranging impacts on people in other countries and on our natural environment
- Will recognise reasons why it is seen as an intractable problem: why people would perceive that the problem has mushroomed to the point that solutions seem futile (as it might entail dismantling global capitalist systems of production and supply)
- Will not adopt a resigned and apologetic attitude and recognise that individuals have agency and there are ways to disempower systems and structures propped up by companies and richer nations

Limited Responses:

- Listing of effects of consumerism with little to no engagement of whether there are ways to ameliorate these effects by tackling consumerism and reducing it
- Conflation of meaning: not recognising that pointlessness entails futility and is of a different degree than even the greatest difficulty

- Might conflate consumerism with capitalism (but if the links to consumerism are made evident, this would not be considered limited)

7 'Images are always more powerful than words.' Do you agree?

Absolute claim being posited => that something is always comparatively more powerful than another thing; consideration of past and current realities (are)

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject matter: images and words – is the former always more powerful than the latter?

Key Terms:

- *images* – artefacts that depict visual perception, or a two-dimensional picture that has a similar appearance to some subject; it could encompass most forms of such visual representation, including, most prevalently, photographs, or paintings, digital renderings, and even moving images (although this last example should not be the main or only focus of the essay)
- *words* – encompass both the verbal and written word, including speeches, articles, books, captions, or any form of textual information produced by individuals or institutions
- *always* – the claim is absolute in nature, requiring candidates to examine if images are more powerful than words in **all** situations and circumstances, past, present and even in the future.
- *more ... than* – candidates must **compare** the power of images with that of words in order to evaluate the statement as a whole

Context: global, worldwide; historically, as well as in the short and long term as well.

Issues:

- Do images have such a degree of power that no words can ever convey?
- How can power be measured?
 - Power can be measured based on the *magnitude* of the impact on the viewer or reader that is created by images or words respectively.

Assumptions:

- The statement implies that the power of images in creating an impact on viewers is so strong that words can never compare.

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidates must evaluate whether images are powerful to the extent of always creating a larger impact on viewers than words do.
- Candidates must address the absolute nature of the question throughout the essay and compare the power of images and words.

Possible Arguments & Examples:

- *[Immediacy]* Some may indeed argue that images are always more powerful than mere words, because they have a greater capacity to capture the immediate attention of viewers.
 - Photographs have the capacity to capture the actual appearance of any particular subject, thus presenting the viewer with a most realistic portrayal of that subject and an immediate representation of reality.
 - 'A picture speaks a thousand words.'
- *[Reach / Magnitude]* The nature of viewers' engagement with images as opposed to words makes the former more powerful, because images can convey a more direct message to a universal audience, without any barriers of language.

Due to the absolute nature of the question, it is more important that candidates evaluate the limitations of the stand embedded in the question by including strong alternative arguments:

- *[Openness to interpretation / Subjectivity]* However, it is difficult to argue that images are always more powerful than words. Due to the wide range of interpretations and responses that words allow compared to the fixed and prescriptive nature of images, words are often more powerful than images in enabling readers to exercise the range of their imagination and to enrich their encounter with the text.
 - Granted, some people may find greater enjoyment and comfort with viewing images rather than the tedium of ploughing through words. However, it still stands that when considering the breadth of interpretations and the excitement of such variation in reading words compared to viewing images, words are indeed seen to be more powerful in eliciting unique personal responses.
 - Some may also argue instead that images could also give rise to a wider range of interpretation without the specific guidance of words, such as the case of abstract art pieces in museum galleries without textual descriptions, or posts of images on social media platforms without a caption to provide context. However, considering images and words as distinct media in their own right, it is still true that most would consider a well-written body of text more liberating and compelling compared to a mere image without language to express the full weight of its message.
- *[Depth / Detail]* Images are ultimately limited in terms of the **detail and depth** that they can convey as compared to written or spoken texts.
 - Words can be said to carry deeper meanings compared to images, and thus create a more powerful impact on viewers, especially when fueled with the imagination.
- Images and words produce rather unique effects in their own right, and one cannot reliably be said to be more powerful than the other in all circumstances.
 - In fact, it is often a combination of both images and words that produces the most powerful effects on viewers.

Thoughtful Responses:

- Convincingly substantiate arguments about the powerful effects of images based on the nature of images, as demonstrated through a range of examples

- Acknowledge some limitations of the power that images have, especially in comparison to the effect of words
- May challenge the absolute nature of the question by arguing that images, like words, cannot be said to have absolute power, given the various limitations that these mediums would have in conveying ideas and concepts
- Will compare the level of power that words and images have on readers / viewers based on specific criteria
- May explore nuances of the power relation between images and words

Limited Responses:

- May merely consider the power of images without comparison with that of words
- May not address the absolute nature of the question and thus merely list various ways in which images are powerful (and/or cases in which their power is limited)
- May make the assumption / assertion that most people are visually-oriented
- May conflate 'powerful' with 'effective' without explaining more specifically the relative nature and magnitude of the effect that is created by words and images

8 Assess the view that international agreements are well-intended, but ineffective.

Something is A (good intentions), but not B (not effective); disconnect between theory and practice; consideration of past and current realities (are)

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject Matter: international agreements and an assessment of whether they are well-intended but ineffective

Key Terms:

- *international agreements* – An international agreement is an instrument by which states and other subjects of international law, such as certain international organisations, regulate matters of concern to them, or an official document signed by a group of countries that wish to make new rules relating to trade, the environment, so on and so forth.⁹
 - The agreements are governed by the law of treaties, which is part of customary international law.
 - International agreements can also be known as accords, annexes, charters, conventions, memorandums of understanding, protocols and treaties.
 - Such formal understandings and commitments between two or more countries could comprise **bilateral** agreements (2 countries), or **multilateral** ones (more than 2 countries). Candidates need not explicitly distinguish between the different forms of international agreements but breadth of consideration is still expected.

⁹ The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties specifies that an international agreement is an "agreement concluded between states in written form and governed by international laws, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation." Although considered binding, international agreements may lapse on expiration, through war or denunciation, or when a fundamental change in circumstances occurs.

- There are many international agreements to be engaged. Those that are more prominent include: the Geneva Protocol, the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement (2015)
- *well-intended* – having or showing good, benevolent or the best of intentions; desiring good effects
- *ineffective* – not producing the effects or results that are desired; no or poor effects on a situation or process; inefficient or ineffectual; not capable of performing satisfactorily

Context: global; regional and world-wide

Issues:

- Why is there a need for international agreements?
- Why do some international agreements work and some not? Are there problems of enforcement?
- *How* is effectiveness measured? *Who* measures effectiveness?

Assumptions:

- International agreements are well-intended, with no agendas favouring certain countries.
- International agreements are well-intended but either well- or poorly-conceived, resulting in implementation issues.

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- The candidate must demonstrate a basic grasp of the nature of international agreements, and show awareness of some international agreements that have been made, in order to examine if they were well-intentioned and effective or ineffective.
- The candidate must flesh out what the effectiveness of an international agreement entails: this could comprise a range of effects from full compliance to overall alleviation of the problem (presumably, an ineffective agreement would be one that achieves no overall betterment in terms of outcomes, or is purely symbolic / a paper exercise).
- The candidate should have a sense of clarity of the intentions behind some of these agreements: what were their intended outcomes, and the reasons why these outcomes were achieved to an extent, or not achieved at all. An examination of reasons contributing to the effectiveness or ineffectiveness, or mixed outcomes, must be ventured.

Possible Arguments and Examples¹⁰:

¹⁰ Other arguments informed by observations from:
<https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/1/issue/1/enforcing-international-law>

- The perspective that international agreements are well-intended but ineffective arises from the many occurrences of failed or ineffectual international pacts and treaties.
 - The Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Helsinki and Oslo Protocols, the Kyoto Protocol and the 1951 Refugee Convention are prime examples of international accords and agreements that had the best of intentions and aspirations, but which fell short in efficacy.
 - One reason for these agreements' hampered and handicapped implementation lies in the fact that generally, **there exist no real ramifications should parties to the agreements back out of or flout the terms of agreement as it has been generally true that international law cannot really be enforced.**
 - The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has provisions to impose mandatory sanctions such as economic ones, diplomatic ones, or military sanctions, but historically, such sanctions have seldom been imposed because the UNSC is not seen to be an adequately representative international body.

- International agreements are also seen to be merely well-intended and not effective because **in reality, many states join treaties not because of aspirational goals of a more orderly, better world, nor because they have a real desire to properly tackle an international issue.**
 - **Most states simply enjoin themselves in international treaties because they have something to gain:** for example, they are cajoled by allies into joining these treaties in the hopes of gaining political leverage for future causes (e.g. North Korea giving in to pressure from China and Russia to sign the NPT; Iran too, under pressure from USA).
 - In the absence of a shared vision and political will to actualise a common goal, the international agreement is doomed from the start with the absence of a shared outcome.
 - **Furthermore, even in cases where multiple parties have a common shared goal, there have also been instances where the international treaty is badly crafted or lacks sturdy implementation mechanisms.**
 - The Biological Weapons Convention is an illustrative case in point, as it was such a quick and loose treaty that had no monitoring, verification or compliance systems, and unsurprisingly, it was aborted in 2002.

- To tar all international agreements with the same brush because of the many instances of failed, ineffective and hollow international agreements would be too harsh a generalisation because there have been clear examples of international agreements that have been both well-intended and effective.
 - The differences in the design and effects of the Montreal Protocol are best observed by comparing it against the Kyoto Protocol, which paled in its ability to implement an effective monitoring system.
 - The Montreal Protocol (MP) was **effective in comparison because it managed to monitor** the ban on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by subjecting all developed and developing nations that were signatories to the same requirements.

<https://voxeu.org/article/international-environmental-agreements-don-t-work>
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog/2012/jun/07/earth-treaties-environmental-agreements>
<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7839.pdf>

- Many observers contend that the MP was also successful in its monitoring because it had **simple outcomes that were easily trackable and measurable**: it simply wanted a ban on the release of CFCs into the atmosphere and this was an action that was easily enacted by all parties which also valued the common aspiration to reduce the role in the ozone layer, and **all parties could see tangible results from their collective action**: a reduction in ozone layer depletion.

Thoughtful Responses:

- Will examine the reasons for the disconnect between theory (well-intentioned design and creation of the international agreements), and practice (these agreements being ineffective in implementation): what causes international agreements to work, and to not work?
- Engage a range of international agreements to reflect awareness that international agreements are made on a variety of bilateral and multilateral issues
- Might recognise that effectiveness is dependent on perspective, which might differ from party to party

Limited Responses:

- Will assume that international treaties have always not worked and venture a one-sided and misinformed response that shows skewed knowledge on only failures (limited scope)
- Will only demonstrate awareness of failed international agreements without recognition of the reasons why these agreements were ineffective
- Will describe the ineffectiveness without attending to reasons accounting for the lack of efficacy
- Will consider only international agreements pertaining to the environment; there exist a variety of international agreements, spanning civil rights to economic pacts (the scope of consideration ought not to be limited to only environmental, worse still, only climate change agreements)
- May de-couple the statement, hence disregarding intentions and focusing only on effectiveness
- May bark up the wrong tree and launch into an examination of international agreements that are not well-intended
 - Some international agreements have hidden agendas, but to question the intention as being dishonourable would be pointless in responding to the question.

9 Has your society sacrificed too much for progress?

Consideration of whether an excess – more than necessary has been sacrificed for an end; consideration of past and current realities (has)

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject matter: society's progress – whether too much (what specifically?) has been given up in service of the pursuit of progress

Key Terms:

- *society ... progress* – can be considered in terms of various domains: economic, social, or political
- *too much* -- candidates should assess whether the price that one's society has paid for the sake of progress is **excessive**, or has resulted in a state of affairs that has become unsatisfactory or undesirable (or even worse off than before), despite the benefits that progress itself has brought about

Context: the candidate's society / Singapore

Issues:

- Can we justify the price that one's society has paid for the sake of progress?
- If we cannot, does this entail that too much has been sacrificed for progress?
- If we can, what are the reasons to reconcile the trade-offs and rationalise that too much has not been compromised in the pursuit of progress?
- What does progress look like in one's society?
- What are sacrificed in pursuit of it? How were these sacrifices legitimised? Were they small trade-offs or trade-offs of important national needs?
- Would the magnitude of sacrifice be perceived differently by different stakeholders? E.g. would environment conservation groups hold a different view from urban developers?
- What have sacrifices in the short-term looked like? And in the long-term? Do the short- and long-term sacrifices bear upon the worthwhileness of these sacrifices?

Assumptions:

- One's society has sidelined other important concerns in the name of progress to a degree that is too much for society to bear.
- Progress is a good in itself and ought to be pursued.
- Most in society agree that what is defined as national progress is beneficial are truly a hallmark of national advancement.

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidates must assess whether various aspects of the price we have paid in order for the country to gain progress in multiple domains has become excessive, or come at the expense of equally or more important concerns.
 - Candidates must first be able to identify areas of development that have been sidelined, overlooked, undermined, or completely sacrificed in the pursuit of progress.
 - Candidates must then be able to assess whether these sacrifices that have been made are justified or worthwhile, based on the effect that has been produced on society – for the better or worse, and for whom (differing perspectives by differing stakeholders).

Possible Arguments & Examples:

- Due to the pragmatic pursuit of progress, my society has indeed sacrificed too much of the more intangible, emotional dimensions of our lives.
 - In Singapore, the psyche of pursuing tangible economic growth and progress has resulted in a very competitive, calculative, and individualistic culture.
 - The way in which my country has progressed as a society is also reflected in our individual mindsets and ambitions for ourselves: just as Singapore behaves as a country in relation to bigger powers in the region or world, many Singaporeans seek to outperform others around them in pursuit of quicker and greater progress.
 - Such a culture has proven to be detrimental to our sense of civic-mindedness and in our social interactions, as we often prioritise our own interests rather than those of others.
- Progress, which looks forward towards ever-rising standards and goals, has often come at the cost of cherishing and preserving the things that really matter in the present, and even the parts of our past that have led us to our present stage.
 - Our society has progressed to a level that is lauded in the international community, in terms of economic growth, education standards, and social and political stability. However, these improvements have also come at the cost of rising complacency, ruthless competitiveness, and general apathy.
 - Our country's steady economic growth has led us to feel a sense of complacency and dissatisfaction with the state of our individual lives.
 - We engage in competition in so many aspects of our lives (education, social status, wealth, careers) that we seldom allow ourselves to slow down to savour daily experiences, and instead relentlessly pursue the next milestone or goal in our lives.
 - Many still feel that Singaporeans are not sufficiently aware of, let alone engaged with important issues of politics and civic discourse (for the citizen: economic acumen developed at the expense of political consciousness).
 - Our society's impressive progress has ironically left the current generation rather disengaged and uninterested in taking ownership of the country's future progress – a price that is too high to pay as a result of the stable progress that we have enjoyed for a large part of our country's journey towards achieving progress.
 - What we might have gained in the short-run: political stability and follower-ship as a result of a citizenry that does not often question the decisions political leaders make, we might lose in the long-run, especially in a future world where the political climate might be volatile, and political discernment is necessary.
- With that being said, there is truth to the perspective that the sacrifices that my society has made have not been 'too much'. Hefty as they may seem, these sacrifices have in fact been necessary and worthwhile in order for the country to have progressed.
 - As said by Lee Kuan Yew in his book *Hard Truths to Keep Singapore Going*¹¹

Thoughtful Responses:

¹¹ Could be contested with the ideas in Donald Low and Sudhir Thomas Vadaketh's *Hard Choices: Challenging the Singapore Consensus*

- Will engage with the core requirement of the question to assess if sacrifices made are considered 'too much' even with the advantages that progress has brought.
- This will require candidates to weigh these costs against the benefits of progress.

Limited Responses:

- Only consider various sacrifices that society has made, without any connection to how this has resulted from the pursuit of progress.
- Domain-driven or example-driven answers would limit the scope of the argument. (Domain-driven = the appearance of different arguments when actually the candidate only adopts one argument, and transposes it across different domains across different paragraphs.)

10 How important is it to have a sense of humour?

Extent to which something is important

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject Matter: a sense of humour – the degree to which it is important to have this

Key Terms:

- *to have a sense of* – the ability to appreciate or to express; a mood or state of mind; to have the temperament or disposition to; a quality of being
- *humour* – the quality of being funny, amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech; the ability to express humour or to amuse other people and make them laugh
- *important* – to be of great significance, worth or value; to be of consequence or social relevance

Context: timeless; all contexts

Issues:

- What role does humour play in our lives? Not only in our personal lives, but also in various aspects of community – in education, advertising, political satire, the media.
- How has humour had positive and negative impacts on the self, community, state and in international relations? In light of these observations, what has been the overall extent to which it is important to have a sense of humour?
- What kind of humour causes offence? What undergirds reactions that deem such humour in poor taste or as socially irresponsible or disrespectful? What are some ensuing responses that have regarded such reactions as reflecting a lack of a sense of humour? Are they justified or not?
- Do comics and comedians have the right to free speech, and also the right to offend? Is it fair to say that some audiences do not understand the nature of humour and comedy, and therefore have no sense of humour?

Assumptions:

- Humour is undoubtedly valuable and important, but it has fallen to bad use

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- The candidate must evaluate to determine the degree of importance attached to having a sense of humour.
- The candidate must recognise that humour can yield both benefits and harms, and in considering all these, decide the overall extent of importance that having a sense of humour should be regarded and treated with.
- The candidate should pay attention to the key words 'have a sense of' and understand that humour is relational – it requires a party to generate / produce the humour, and another party to understand / interpret the humour.
- The candidate should realise that there might be situations where intended humour is not interpreted and understood as humour, and that it might cause offence.

Possible Arguments and Examples:

- Arguments about levity vs. causing offence:
 - Those who would devalue or regard humour with suspicion should interrogate the intentions and interpretation of humour: something intended as humorous could cause unwitting offense, therein necessitating the audience's ability to take things in a more light-hearted manner.
 - With that being said, some variants of humour are absolutely in poor taste, and are intended to harm and disrespect. People who produce such jokes and jest often lament that people should not take things so seriously and should acquire a sense of humour, despite the fact that their jokes are really offensive and hurtful, e.g. jokes about sexuality, gender, race and religion.
 - This points to the fact that while having a sense of humour is very important, one should not venture humour with malicious intent and one should not be expected to tolerate mean-spirited humour.
 - While it is absolutely important to have a sense of humour, norms of respect should not be flouted, and neither should people have to laugh off blatant disrespect or condescension.
 - It is hard to understand how the 12 offensive editorial cartoons of Prophet Mohammed by Danish newspaper, Jyllands-Posten, were humorous in any way. Granted, they were intended as political humour and purportedly sought to contribute to debates about self-censorship in Islam, but the depictions of Prophet Muhammad were flagrantly disrespectful to Muslims' cherished belief that it is blasphemous to visually represent Prophet Mohammed.
 - Muslims' reactions also should not have been dismissed as overreactions as offence was caused given the sacred nature of the subject of the political cartoons. As such, while having a sense of humour is absolutely important in life, that ability to share humour must be exercised responsibly.
- It seems to be that humour has grown in importance, particularly in hectic, modern societies such as Singapore. This could be because of how draining working life and modern living can be, so much so that people value humour more so than before as it provides an avenue through which people can be happy and laugh.

- Interestingly, in Singapore's 2018 National Values Assessment, having a sense of humour and fun made the list of Top 10 values, beliefs and behaviours that best describe themselves, Singapore society currently, and their notion of an ideal Singapore society.
- Observers ventured explanations for the increasing degree of importance placed on having a sense of humour by opining that this could be due to the growing expectations of Singaporeans, and the stresses of escalating costs of living and external pressures, which have caused Singaporeans to believe that it is important to laugh, have an outlet, and let off steam.
- This lead one to also consider the importance of humour during personally difficult times.
- Historically, humour has been a means of communicating complex and possibly unpopular ideas to make them palatable to the masses (and sometimes, to sway perceptions). Hence, the importance of having a sense of humour to communicate these ideas and to also understand them cannot be understated
 - The role of the fool in Renaissance England
 - Chaplin's films
 - John Oliver
- This bears upon the debate about understanding and/or accepting political critique delivered through humour:
 - Jimmy Kimmel and his frequent jibes made at Donald Trump and Trump's reactions
 - Ricky Gervais and his views on offensive comedy, shared in his Netflix special, 'Humanity'
 - Jerry Seinfeld other comedians' views that comedians have the right to be offensive.
- Also possibly, though not the weightiest point, the role and importance of humour in interpersonal relationships
- Other arguments informed by observations from:
 - <http://theconversation.com/what-is-the-point-of-offensive-humour-76889>

Thoughtful Responses:

- Will consider humour more broadly, and perhaps consider why comedy is such an important genre in literature, and the draw of great comedies such as those of William Shakespeare's.
- Will consider the controversies over political humour and satire.
- Might attend deeply to the nature of humour itself, and show awareness of the 'outrage culture' and the notion of political correctness.

Limited Responses:

- Will forget to calibrate the extent of importance, and perhaps answer a simpler argumentative question, 'Is humour important?', or worse still a simple expository question, 'What are the benefits and harms of humour?'.
- Will see humour only in individuals' lives, and neglect to consider humour in the media, in politics and aspects of community and international relations.

11 Is it justifiable for nations to always prioritise their national interests?

An absolute position in all circumstances => privileging one thing over another in all instances => whether this is justifiable

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject Matter: justifiability of nations prioritising their national interests all the time, in all circumstances

Key Terms:

- *justifiable* – there is good reason for it; defensible and defensible as reasonable or right
- *always* – in all circumstances; at all times; on all occasions
- *prioritise* – designate or treat something as being more important than another; to decide which is of more or the most importance and to focus one’s attention on those before all others
- *nations; national interests* – the needs and wants of the nation as a whole, above and beyond the interests of subordinate areas or groups within the nation; a country’s goals and ambitions (it’s *raison d’état*) and the process of fulfilling or securing these through various tools such as foreign policy

Context: global; worldwide

Issues:

- Apart from national interests, what other interests do nations have to consider and act on?
- The contexts of various types of nations, and how this bears upon justifiability: a beleaguered nation would have justifiable reason to always prioritise its national needs as (1) its resources might very well be limited, and hence, (2) should reasonably be directed to its own citizens, when (3) there are other nations that are in better positions to help
- The duties of care governments owe to their citizens, and the citizens of other nations
- A more inward-looking and protectionist outlook versus a more global, cosmopolitan outlook
- Is any nation in the position (in terms of resources and power) to ever not prioritise national interests? Would doing so be irresponsible on the part of the government?
- How national interests are framed varies from context to context, and this has implications on the question: some nations have very parochial concerns whereas others have national interests that do not exclude non-national interests

Assumptions:

- There are nations that exhibit such behaviour: always putting their national interests before all other interests
- It can be observed that many countries exhibit the behaviour of always prioritising their national interests above all other interests
- National interests are exclusionary and inward-looking and do not encompass more global and inclusive outlooks

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- The candidate must engage reasons for justifiability: the grounds upon which we can or cannot rationalise / legitimise a nation always putting its national interests above all other considerations.

Possible Arguments and Examples:

- Generally, it is believed that countries have every justifiable reason to always prioritise their national interests. This is because there is truth to the assumption that the world comprises an inter-state system, and states must compete as *unitary, rational actors* to maximise their national interests in order to benefit their citizens whom governments owe *fundamental duties of care* to.
 - This *realist* paradigm portends that governments are not only duty-bound to serve their countries' national interests first and foremost, in order to maximise their citizens' well-being in relation to other citizens in other nations, they must compete against other nations in order to develop ahead of others.
 - This is why despite censure from humanitarian groups, rich nations continue to prioritise their interests ahead of those of poorer nations, and why countries turn away refugees seeking asylum on the grounds of needing to prioritise their national interests.
- In an increasingly *interdependent* world, the realist paradigm of countries needing to prioritise their national interests above other countries' needs, or shared global concerns, is fast losing relevance.
 - Many international relations theorists and scholars have posited that bilateralism and multilateralism, and seeking mutually-beneficial outcomes that serve both national and common bilateral and multilateral interests, are more beneficial to all nations overall rather than solitary pursuits of national interest.
 - Sometimes, national interests can be de-prioritised in relation to more universal goals, whilst still remaining important even though it is of secondary significance.
 - This would be better for nations as a collective, and various advantages could be reaped, for example, stronger regionalism.
 - We must prioritise national interest in all we do by fostering partnerships and cooperation that have some benefit for us. This provides the basis for consistent international relations.
 - The prioritisation of national interests does not have to be a zero-sum game. National interests and the interests of other countries are not necessarily mutually exclusive.
- It is not always justifiable because national interests are often erroneously thought of as the shared, common interests of all in society, when in actual fact, the state does not always represent all sections in society.
 - In reality, most states represent the interests of specific groups more so than others', and sometimes, even at the expense of the latter's interests. This means that the rights and needs of some in society can be compromised in service of what are deemed to be larger, national goals.
 - In some countries, civil rights and liberties have been suppressed or violated in the name of national interest, such as in the case of Sri Lanka where the Sinhalese-

majority government implemented the Sinhala Only Act, an official language act, to purportedly unify the nation, when in actuality, it resulted in many Tamils being denied jobs and opportunities as they had to learn the language of the majority Sinhalese in order to gain public service employment.

- Hence, policies and legislation, which claim to be in service of larger national goals can have discriminatory and disadvantaging effects on minorities in societies and therefore cannot always be prioritised.
- Prioritising national interests without regard to the well-being or rights of citizens is not justifiable.

Thoughtful Responses:

- Will have a clear conception of what national interests are, and what they could comprise
- Will engage in reasoning, and put forth bases to ascertain justifiability
- Might go beyond considering the tension between national and more universal interests, to realise that national interests might not always represent the interests of groups in society
- Will weigh arguments against one another
- May raise problems of coming to a consensus of what national interest is, but this only works if it is carefully linked to problems of a certain national interest being pushed too far at the expense of another national interest (or this risks being too tangential)

Limited Responses:

- May list or describe examples in which national interests have been prioritised to beneficial and detrimental ends, with a lack of attention to the key words 'always' and 'justifiable'
- May fail to recognise that the key contention in the question is about something '*always*' being 'justifiable'
- May merely make assertions about the moral obligation to set aside national interests to help other countries, rather than excavating the deeper reasons behind this obligation
- May make appeals to prioritising national interest that are not really in the national interest (For example, North Korea's or Duterte's regimes disguise regime interests under the veneer of national interest, so this cannot be an argument against national interest.)

12 Given the growing demands of modern society, has raising children become more of a burden?

Given a condition, has something become more A than B (cause and effect; comparative: become more A than B); consideration of past and current realities to compare (has ... become)

QUESTION EXPECTATIONS:

Subject matter:

- Candidates must have an informed and sensitive understanding of the challenges of raising children in today's world, for all levels of society.
- This is primarily focused on **parents** as the key figures responsible for the raising of their children (from infancy to their school-going ages), but could potentially include other members of the family involved in the process of raising children, or even the role of

institutions in shaping the formative years of children in the education system as well (although this latter point should not form the main or only focus of the essay).

Key Terms:

- *growing demands* – candidates must also be able to consider how modern society places increasing demands on parents to raise their children in an increasingly complex world.
- *more of a burden* – the term ‘more of a burden’ requires candidates to compare whether the challenges and costs of raising children in today’s world have increased as compared to the past.

Context: modern societies, worldwide; modern societies, in general

Issues:

- The raising of children is inextricably connected to the environment in which they grow up. Parents take on the main responsibility of ensuring that their children are raised in a physically, mentally and emotionally healthy manner.
- However, given the higher expectations that modern society exerts on parents as compared to the past, this task of raising children has become much more demanding, and therefore a heavier burden on the shoulders of parents, who have to navigate these challenges alongside their children.

Assumptions:

- Because of the more complex and challenging demands that modern society creates for families with children, it has indeed become more burdensome to have children and to raise them based on good moral standards together with a good standard of living.

QUESTION REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidates should analyse ‘the growing demands of modern society’ in countries beyond their own, in order to broaden the scope of their arguments to consider a range of concerns that parents face in raising children.
- Possible ways of presenting opposing arguments could be to posit that the task of raising children has always been burdensome or challenging, and is not significantly increased despite the growing demands of modern society.

Possible Arguments & Examples:

- Raising children has indeed become more of a burden in modern society because of the greater need to guard them against challenges of an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world.
- Raising children is also more of a burden because societal expectations of children as well as parenthood have become simultaneously higher and more diverse.
 - There are various perspectives on what constitutes good parenting principles, based on sources ranging from books and online forums to professional advice or word-of-mouth. Parents have the task of navigating this deluge of differing viewpoints in order to decide what is best for their children.

- Parents are also now facing a bigger problem of meeting higher expectations with regards to ensuring that their children are not disadvantaged in comparison with other children, especially those in families with more resources.
- Raising children might not be a burden, since they, as adults, eventually help shoulder the burden of family expenditure, and contribute to the taxpayer pool to aid an ageing population in modern society in the long term.
 - As children grow up to become moral, productive and responsible members of society, this is a practical consideration that many parents might consider. Especially in societies that prize filial piety, there is a general expectation that children will provide for their parents in retirement.
 - In the short term, however, the onus of raising such cherished members of society largely falls upon the parents.
 - One may argue that this sense of filial piety is no longer as strong in modern society, where individual liberty is prized above collective well-being. However, it would not be considered too much to expect one's children to care for their parents, and to see that as one of the factors that may alleviate the financial burden of raising children, in the long run.
- The supposed emotional benefits that outweigh, alleviate or remove the burden of raising a child amidst the demands of any modern society hinges greatly upon the importance of raising the children right in the first place.
 - Some may feel that the joy of raising children makes all sacrifice worthwhile in the end.
 - Children become a precious part of the family whom parents are willing to give up anything for, in order to protect, love, and care for them.

Thoughtful Responses:

- Will recognise the negative connotation of the word 'burden' and form arguments that support or challenge this perception of raising children as becoming more of a burden
- Will demonstrate a deep understanding of how the demands of modern society have affected the task of raising children, and critically analyse the extent of this causal relationship

Limited Responses:

- May make superficial assumptions and assertions about the task of raising children without considering issues from the point of view of parents and other significant adults involved in the process of raising children
- May merely list the various challenges of raising children without assessing how the demands of modern society have affected these

Eunoia Junior College
2018 JC2 H1 GP Preliminary Examinations
Paper 2 Suggested Answer Scheme

From Para 1

1. What are the two opposite reactions towards slang described in paragraph 1? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From Passage (words UNDERLINED IN BOLD are key words; also, meaning of words in bold must be captured)	Direct Paraphrase / Literal
pervades to a startling degree ... Its POPULARITY can be gauged by the rush of journalists, politicians and purveyors of popular culture to EMBRACE the latest word or phrase to spice up a newspaper headline, advertisement or television script.	A (POPULARITY, EMBRACE) [1]: <u>popular</u> : One reaction is the (rush of) widespread acceptance / great support <u>embrace</u> : and approval / recognition / welcoming / celebration of the newest / most current slang terms by <i>newsmakers, politicians and purveyors of popular culture</i> .
On the other side of the fence, prescriptive guardians of standard English and morality BEMOAN slang's ' DEGRADING ' effect on public discourse and culture; their outcry ...	B (BEMOAN, DEGRADING) [1]: <u>bemoan</u> : In contrast, the opposing reaction is that <i>defenders / champions of standard English and social values</i> lament / grumble / complain about / express disdain (what they perceive to be) <u>degrading</u> : the demeaning / damaging effects of slang.

2. Using material from paragraphs 2–4 only (lines 10–30), summarise the reasons for the popularity and power of slang. [8]

Slang is popular among speakers of American English because ...

Point	From Passage (words UNDERLINED IN BOLD are key words; also, meaning of words in bold must be captured)	Paraphrased
A	(By design,) slang is WITTIER (11) OR slang's rich flashes of HUMOUR (12)	<i>Slang is popular among speakers of American English because ...</i> it is funnier / funny
B	and more CLEVER than standard English (11) OR slang's ... GENIUS (12)	and more intelligent than standard English.
C	As a species, we seem to have a GENETIC INCLINATION to linguistic creativity (11-12)	We naturally / innately / inherently prefer / have a predisposition / lean towards / have an affinity for / are drawn to such flair / style in the use of language.
D	each generation or subculture or counterculture group has the chance to SHAPE (13-14)	Slang allows each unique group to customise / create
E	and PROPAGATE its own lexicon (14)	and spread / promote / popularise unique phrases,
F	exercise INGENUITY . (14)	demonstrating / flexing creativity / innovativeness.
G	a DYNAMIC , (15)	The outcome is a lively / spirited / vibrant
H	MISCHIEVOUS body of language (15)	and playful / cheeky language
I	it is FUN to use (16)	that is enjoyable / amusing to use
J	and IDENTIFIES the speaker as clever and witty. (16)	and conveys the impression that the user is / causes the user to be seen as / regarded / known as intelligent and humorous.
K	establish a sense of COMMONALITY among its speakers (17)	Slang builds a shared sense of identity / provides a form of shared identity among its users
L	When slang is used, there is a SUBTEXT to the primary message (18)	by conveying an underlying / subtle message
M	That subtext speaks to the speakers and listeners in the same 'TRIBE' . (19)	that only those from the same in-group / identity group / community would understand.

N	slang is an explicit MANIFESTATION of that (tribe) identity. (20-21) <i>Context: Because 'tribe' identity is so important,</i>	slang is a strong / powerful / clear / vivid / graphic representation of an identity.
O	its VARIED (23)	Slang is also popular because of its assortment of / different / myriad of / wide range of
P	and UNAMBIGUOUS vocabulary (24)	and distinct / specific / precise vocabulary
Q	that reflects the NUANCES of status. (24) <i>Context: in a society preoccupied with status</i>	that gives us words to express / communicate / show / demonstrate the subtleties of status / different social statuses of people
R	Slang plays a CRITICAL role (24)	Slang plays an important / indispensable / essential / imperative role
S	(inferred) whether it DELINEATES a winner ('top dog') from a loser ('toast'), or an oppressor ('the Man') from the oppressed ('doormat') (25-26) OR LABELS for 'us versus them' (26)	in differentiating / distinguishing between those who are powerful / successful and those who are not
T	providing CATCHY and MEMORABLE labels (26)	in an instantly appealing, unforgettable / impactful way.
U	In a similar vein, slang is also much more EFFECTIVE than standard or conventional English (27)	Slang is also much more lucid / powerful than standard English
V	(inferred) when it comes to DESCRIBING sports, sex and intoxication. (27-28)	(inferred) when we want to convey thoughts / talk about informal / leisure / casual / frivolous topics.
W	and when it does we DRAW UPON slang far more than (29)	As such, we rely on it more
X	(inferred) we would if discussing, for example, the economy, religion or foreign policy. (29-30)	than when talking about serious / formal issues .

[Total: 24 points]

No. of points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	15 & above
Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

From Para 5

3. In line 31, why does the author describe American slang as 'fertile'? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

<p>From Passage (words UNDERLINED IN BOLD are key words; also, meaning of words in bold must be captured)</p>	<p>Use of Language [reason for author's word choice]</p>
<p>American slang is also known for being FERTILE. At any given moment, there are MANY, MANY new slang words and expressions being CREATED and in use with each new generation.</p>	<p>Answers could be presented in the following formats:</p> <p>1. Function & Context <i>Seeing the question as a metaphor-type question (a fertile being)</i></p> <p>A1 (FUNCTION: Meaning: to <u>CREATE OR MANY, MANY</u>) [1]:</p> <p>He does so because fertility connotes reproduction / the giving of life <u>OR</u> He wishes the reader to have the idea of abundance / aplenty (, just like fertile land that can give life to bountiful crops)</p> <p>and he wants to convey that likewise,</p> <p>B1 (CONTEXT) [1]:</p> <p>American slang also reproduces itself (A2) <u>AND/OR</u> gives expression to a great number of new words (B2).</p> <p>2. Two reasons for why the word 'fertility' was used to describe <i>Seeing the question as a paraphrase-type question (two senses of fertile)</i></p> <p>A2 (first meaning of <u>FERTILITY</u>: to <u>CREATE</u>) [1]:</p> <p>He does so because slang reproduces itself</p> <p>B2 (second meaning of fertility: <u>MANY, MANY</u>) [1]:</p> <p>in abundance with each new generation.</p>

4. What is the author's purpose in comparing the language process of meaning-making to 'natural selection' (line 33)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From Passage (words UNDERLINED IN BOLD are key words; also, meaning of words in bold must be captured)	Use of Language [infer author's purpose]
<p>In fact, the language process of meaning making is akin to natural selection. With a few notable exceptions — most especially “cool” — we tire of even the strongest words and they FADE AWAY ... Just like a living organism, to counteract its short-lived nature and survive, slang must constantly REGENERATE as a body of speech and subset of the language.</p>	<p>ALL-OR-NOTHING</p> <p>A (PURPOSE: of comparison) [1]:</p> <p>Either to show similarities:</p> <p>The author is using an analogy to help his readers understand that the processes of both meaning-making and natural selection are similar ...</p> <p>The author wants to highlight the similarities between both ...</p> <p>The author intends to create a parallel between ...</p> <p>Or to make a less familiar concept understandable:</p> <p>The author hopes to use a process that most readers would be familiar with, to illustrate / help readers understand a process that is less familiar</p> <p>B (CONTEXT: understanding of natural selection must be shown) [1]:</p> <p>and therein show that it is important for slang to continually evolve to meet the needs of people otherwise it would risk dying out.</p>

From Para 7

5. In lines 45–50, why is youth ‘the most powerful stimulus for the creation and distribution of slang’ in comparison to the other factors? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From Passage (words UNDERLINED IN BOLD are key words; also, meaning of words in bold must be captured)	Inference
<p>The four factors that are the most likely to produce slang are youth, oppression, sport and vice, which provide an impetus to coin and use slang for different sociolinguistic reasons. Of these four factors, youth is the most powerful stimulus for the creation and distribution of slang.</p> <p>For, although we are not all MEMBERS of a GROUP that is oppressed by a dominant culture, or sports fanatics immersed in the language and lore of the game, and we do not all dip our toes into the pool of vice with its attendant slang, we are all young once.</p>	<p>ALL-OR-NOTHING</p> <p>A (universality of the experience of youth) [1]:</p> <p>This is because all of us went through the same phase of growing up / adolescence.</p> <p>VS</p> <p>B (lack of a common experience with the other four factors) [1]:</p> <p>However, we may not have all experienced the other factors (of oppression, sport and vice).</p>

6. Explain the author’s use of the expression ‘let alone’ in line 52. [2]

From Passage	Use of Language [reason for author’s choice of expression]
<p>generational imperative to invent a slang vocabulary that we perceive as our own, rejecting the slang of our older brothers and sisters, let alone our parents, in favour of a new lexicon</p>	<p>ALL-OR-NOTHING</p> <p>A (FUNCTION: meaning of expression) [1]:</p> <p>The function of the expression could be understood as ONE of these:</p> <p>Expression used to indicate <u>probability</u>:</p> <p>The author wants to highlight / emphasise how (highly) unlikely / the improbability / implausibility ... (tied to context of adopting old lexicon)</p> <p>The author wishes to indicate how it is more likely that ... (tied to context of rejecting parents’ lexicon)</p> <p>Expression used to indicate <u>expectation / obviousness</u>:</p> <p>The author wants to establish that if we cannot expect ... The author wants to show that obviously ...</p> <p>B (CONTEXT) [1]:</p> <p>it would be for the young to accept / use the slang of their parents given that the more likely / probable situation of accepting / using the slang of their older siblings is not even happening.</p>

young people would reject the slang of their parents, since they **already do not wish to** adopt the slang of siblings who are closer to them in age, and who would purportedly have less dated slang.

young people to be willing to adopt the slang of their parents if they **already reject** the slang of older siblings, which might be trendier and therefore more acceptable to young people.

young people would not want to inherit slang from their parents **given the fact that they already do not wish to** use the slang of their older siblings.

E.g.

The author wishes **to indicate that it is implausible** (A) for us to not reject the slang of our parents, **given that we already** reject the slang of our older siblings who are of our generation. (B)

The author wants to impress upon us that **given that we already reject** the slang of those who are just slightly older than us – our siblings of the same generation (B), **it is hard to expect us to not** reject the slang of our parents who are one generation older (A).

From Para 8

7. What is the author implying about slang with the use of the word 'predatory' (line 54)? [2]

From Passage	Use of Language [reason for author's word choice; implication due to the word choice]								
<p>Youth slang derives some of its power from its willingness to borrow from other bodies of slang. Despite its seeming mandate of creativity and originality, slang is blatantly predatory, borrowing without shame from possible sources.</p>	<p>ALL-OR-NOTHING</p> <p>A (FUNCTION: Meaning of 'predatory') [1]:</p> <p>The meaning of the word could be understood in terms of ONE of these:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>A1: an animal predator feeds on (‘derives some of its power from’, ‘from other other bodies’):</p> <p>Just as how a predator feeds off prey to survive, ...</p> <p>As a predator is more powerful than its prey because it feeds on them ...</p> </td> <td> <p>A2: animal predator instinct (‘from other bodies’, ‘borrowing without shame’):</p> <p>Just as how a predator would eat / hunt others instinctively / naturally / as a matter of nature ...</p> </td> <td> <p>A3: human predatory behaviour - exploitative / unashamedly (‘blatantly’, ‘borrowing without shame’, ‘from other bodies’):</p> <p>Predatory behaviour is often exploitative ...</p> <p>Predatory behaviour involves a person deriving his or her power from using the body of another weaker person ...</p> <p>Human beings can behave in a predatory way by shamelessly using others ...</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>B (CONTEXT: corresponding implication by likening both):</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>B1:</p> <p>slang is derived from words from other dialects / languages (to survive).</p> <p>slang also grows more powerful because it takes from words of other languages.</p> <p>Just as a predator feeds off prey, slang too, derives words from other languages.</p> </td> <td> <p>B2:</p> <p>slang instinctively consumes words from other languages, and creates its own vocabulary list.</p> <p>slang naturally draws on words from other bodies of slang as that is the nature of slang itself (as a derivative language)</p> <p>slang’s borrowing from other languages is likewise without guilt / ill-intent as it is the nature of how slang is created.</p> </td> <td> <p>B3:</p> <p>and likewise slang exploits other languages by strengthening itself by drawing on other vernaculars.</p> <p>and slang is similar because it takes words from other languages and therein gains its power.</p> <p>and slang’s borrowing from other languages is likewise unashamed and blatant because it is willingly taking / has always taken from other languages.</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p>A1: an animal predator feeds on (‘derives some of its power from’, ‘from other other bodies’):</p> <p>Just as how a predator feeds off prey to survive, ...</p> <p>As a predator is more powerful than its prey because it feeds on them ...</p>	<p>A2: animal predator instinct (‘from other bodies’, ‘borrowing without shame’):</p> <p>Just as how a predator would eat / hunt others instinctively / naturally / as a matter of nature ...</p>	<p>A3: human predatory behaviour - exploitative / unashamedly (‘blatantly’, ‘borrowing without shame’, ‘from other bodies’):</p> <p>Predatory behaviour is often exploitative ...</p> <p>Predatory behaviour involves a person deriving his or her power from using the body of another weaker person ...</p> <p>Human beings can behave in a predatory way by shamelessly using others ...</p>	<p>B1:</p> <p>slang is derived from words from other dialects / languages (to survive).</p> <p>slang also grows more powerful because it takes from words of other languages.</p> <p>Just as a predator feeds off prey, slang too, derives words from other languages.</p>	<p>B2:</p> <p>slang instinctively consumes words from other languages, and creates its own vocabulary list.</p> <p>slang naturally draws on words from other bodies of slang as that is the nature of slang itself (as a derivative language)</p> <p>slang’s borrowing from other languages is likewise without guilt / ill-intent as it is the nature of how slang is created.</p>	<p>B3:</p> <p>and likewise slang exploits other languages by strengthening itself by drawing on other vernaculars.</p> <p>and slang is similar because it takes words from other languages and therein gains its power.</p> <p>and slang’s borrowing from other languages is likewise unashamed and blatant because it is willingly taking / has always taken from other languages.</p>
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8. How does the author illustrate his point that American youth slang has borrowed 'consistently' (line 60) from the slang of the black American urban experience? [1]

From Passage	Inference
<p>Foremost among them is the African-American vernacular, whose influence on American youth slang of the 20th century cannot be over-stated. Beginning in the late 1930s with the wild popularity of swing jazz and the jitterbug, continuing into the 'jive generation' that fought World War II, through the beats and hipsters of the 1950s, the Sixties' mainstream youth and hippies alike, into the pervasive patois of hip-hop, American youth slang has borrowed consistently from the slang of the black American urban experience.</p>	<p>He illustrates his point by using examples across time / throughout history. (inferred)</p>

From Para 9

9. (a) Give one similarity and one difference between slang and fashion mentioned in paragraph 9. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From Passage (words UNDERLINED IN BOLD are key words; also, meaning of words in bold must be captured)	Direct Paraphrase / Literal
<p>youth slang is a core element of youth culture -- a defiant gesture of resistance and an emblem of tribe identity. Fashion and hairstyles are other KEY MANIFESTATIONS of a generation's identity, but they can be REGULATED by adult authorities with LESS EFFORT. With music and language, REGULATION and RESTRICTION are much more DIFFICULT. Even the most vigilant and repressive attempts by adult authority cannot completely eradicate slang and music with its slang lyrics.</p>	<p>A (SIMILARITY - KEY MANIFESTATIONS) [1]: Both slang and fashion are important / crucial / vital / main ways in which people can display / exhibit their individuality.</p> <p>B [DIFFERENCE - ease of REGULATION, RESTRICTION: LESS EFFORT vs. much more DIFFICULT]:</p> <p>ALL-OR-NOTHING Both B1 + B2 needed to secure the 1m</p> <p>The difference is that ...</p> <p>B1: while fashion can be policed / controlled easily,</p> <p>B2: monitoring the use of slang is much more challenging (as even the most watchful and strict adults struggle to entirely eliminate the use of slang).</p>

(b) What is the author implying about slang by highlighting the difference between slang and fashion? [1]

From the Passage	Inference
<p>Whatever its source, youth slang is a core element of youth culture, as a defiant gesture of resistance and an emblem of tribe identity. Fashion and hairstyles are other key manifestations of a generation's identity, but they can be easily regulated by adult authorities. With music and language, regulation and restriction are much more difficult. Even the most vigilant and repressive attempts by adult authority cannot completely eradicate slang and music with its slang lyrics.</p>	<p>The author is implying that slang is more pervasive / enduring than fashion in establishing one's identity.</p>

From Para 10

10. Suggest one reason for the author ending the passage with 'Slang swings. Slang moves and grooves. Slang rocks, slang rules.' (lines 72-73). [1]

Inference
<p>Answers <u>must</u> focus on the use of slang / the nature of slang:</p> <p>It is to sum up his topic about slang by using expressions with words that have acquired slang usage such as 'swings', 'grooves', 'rocks'.</p> <p>OR It is to keep to his theme of slang by closing with a series of slang expressions.</p> <p>OR It is to conclude on an informal note as it befits the nature of slang.</p> <p>OR It is to capture the energy / life in slang to end the passage in an interesting manner.</p> <p>Even better answers will <u>also</u> notice the rhetorical / literary device used:</p> <p>The author uses the device of repetition, of the word 'slang', and the use of slang words, 'moves', 'grooves', 'rocks' and 'rules', to memorably end his essay on slang.</p> <p>The author uses repetition and slang words to end the passage in a memorable way.</p>

11. Tom Dalzell makes a number of observations about the popularity and power of slang. How far do you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to yourself and your society? [10]

Requirements:

R1: How far do you agree with his observations?

In addressing R1, candidates should draw from their own experience, especially given the fact they are young people, and that of their society.

What is slang?

- From the passage:
 - 'used only by certain groups, such as teenagers or people of certain professions' (lines 8-9)
 - 'establishes a sense of commonality among its speakers' (line 17)
- OED / Other online resources:
 - **(OED)** A type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people.
 - **(Wikipedia)** Colloquialisms are distinct from slang or jargon. Slang refers to words used only by specific social groups, such as teenagers or soldiers. Colloquial language may include slang, but consists mostly of contractions or other informal words and phrases known to most native speakers of the language.
 - **(Literarydevices.com)** Colloquialism can be confused with slang and jargon, since these are two other ways of conversing in informal ways. The difference is that slang words are used in specific social groups, like teenagers, whereas colloquialisms can generally be understood across age and socioeconomic barriers as long as the speakers are all from the same geographic region. Colloquialisms may use slang within them, but this is not always the case.
 - Similar to slang, jargon is used only by certain groups, but it often refers to words used in a particular profession. For example, the way in which lawyers speak is so specific to their profession that it is often known as "legalese." Other professions that rely on exchanging complex information also use jargon, such as scientists, doctors, and businesspeople.
- For the purpose of this AQ:

SINGLISH

- 'Singlish' is not the best example of slang; it is an entire creole.
 - Candidates who raise Singlish as an example of slang will "show an adequate level of understanding of terms and issues (which may include minor distortion)", but manage to show features of slang as raised by the passage.
- Singlish, however, contains slang words/phrases which can be raised as examples for this AQ -- these words are used by specific groups of people: e.g. 'ponteng' for skipping lessons → evolved in simply 'pon'
 - Candidates who show the ability to differentiate slang words and phrases from the entire creole of Singlish will "show an adequate to good/very good understanding of terms and issues": Band 1 or 2 for AQ Content.

SLURS/DEROGATORY TERMS/VULGARITIES

- By definition, trending slurs do belong within the scope of slang -- candidates should recognise these slurs are not nice though, and socially frowned upon. When examples are cited, there should be explanations and discussion about the negative implications of the use of derogatory slang terms.

Other things to note:

- A few Text References are not the best to use as they tend to invite candidates to list examples of slang and can be difficult to evaluate deeper.

- Also, many candidates may tend to narrowly refer to slang from the English or Singlish language. For a broader range of illustration, candidates should try to provide examples of slang used by the Malay, Indian and Chinese communities as well (which are separate from the Singlish lingo).

Possible Responses:

These are just possible responses and are not exhaustive. Candidates should be given credit when they generate unanticipated but sensible arguments, ideas and illustrations that are relevant.

Para 1

Text Reference	Explanation & Evaluation	Evidence
prescriptive guardians of standard English and morality bemoan slang's 'degrading' effect on public discourse and culture	Slang is seen as something that could thwart the government's efforts in ensuring that Singaporeans have a good command of standard English. A good command of standard English will help Singaporeans communicate ideas that could be understood by other people around the world, especially when it comes to business dealings.	There is a clear ban on the use of slang and colloquialism especially in English Language examinations at the different levels e.g. PSLE, O and A-levels. There is a more pervasive use of slang through the increasing popularity of social media sites such as SGAG which promote the use of slang heavily. While many teachers can empathise with the draw of such sites, they have raised concerns about the influence of such sites when it comes to students' ability to express themselves clearly using standard English.

Para 2

Text Reference	Explanation & Evaluation	Evidence
By design, slang is wittier and more clever than standard English ... rich flashes of humour, genius and poetry .	Slang is able to incorporate humour through its smart use of words (new words are sometimes created) and this is one of the reasons for its appeal. Slang can also express certain sentiments or describe situations in a way that is easily understood without the use of too many words.	The Singlish slang "chimology" is a portmanteau of "chim" meaning "profound" in the Hokkien dialect, and -logy. It refers to the study of things that are profound, usually of concepts, ideas. It is used almost exclusively by students during examination preparation. Another Singlish slang "pattern more than badminton" is the English version of the saying " <i>pattern chay kway badminton</i> " - it describes an "innovative" person who thinks up excessively inventive solutions to do (or to avoid doing) tasks he is given.
With slang, each individual, society and generation has the chance to shape and propagate its own lexicon ... exercise ingenuity	Slang allows people to come up with their own distinctive language, forging a bond between its users in the process. Each generation can come up with its own slang unique to its users and sometimes older slangs could be modified or have their meanings changed or expanded. In 'Singlish', the influence of other languages and dialects has allowed its users to come up with innovative ways to describe different situations and sentiments that are uniquely Singaporean.	The use of "little red dot" reflects Singaporeans' narrative of our vulnerability and resilience. The relatively new slang "chillax" demonstrates how two words "chill" and "relax" can be fused to form a new word that incorporates the meanings of both words. Such slang overlaps with foreign slang terms. In fact, SGAG is a local spinoff of the internationally popular 9GAG which contains many references to western slang.

Para 3

Text Reference	Explanation & Evaluation	Evidence
<p>Slang's primary reason for being - to establish a sense of commonality among its speakers ... subtext speaks to the speakers and listeners in the same 'tribe'</p>	<p>Slang spawns from various social groups and Dalzell is right to say that it creates a sense of belonging amongst people from the same social group or 'tribe'. Singapore slang borrows from a colourful array of languages such as Hokkien and Malay. The multi-ethnic nature of Singapore calls for an even greater need to speak the same language and borrowing words from the language of each race can help to build a greater sense of identity. These slang terms allow various social groups and even Singaporeans as a whole to bond and feel a sense of commonality.</p> <p>In addition, slang also helps people from different social groups to understand each other's culture. With globalisation and the media, Singaporeans are well-connected to the world. The exposure to foreign slang also makes it easier for us to understand the culture of people outside of our 'tribe' and country. Such knowledge goes beyond mere awareness, but can also influence Singapore's culture in ways that may not be desirable, especially amongst impressionable youth.</p>	<p>Some samples include: the Hokkien slang 'chao keng' (slacker) used by military men; the Malay slang 'buaya' (womaniser) used by Singaporeans in general; the English slang 'being arrowed' (to be delegated an unpleasant job) used in office settings. Another common slang is "sabo", which is taken from the English word sabotage, which refers to situation where one deliberately causes trouble or inconvenience to (someone else), especially in order to gain a personal advantage.</p> <p>For example, the American slang 'YOLO' (you only live once) reflects the indulgent and reckless youth lifestyle promoted by American media. Another American slang, 'Noob' refers to individuals who know little and have no will to learn any more. They expect people to do the work for them and then expect to get praised about it.</p> <p>The Japanese word 'kawaii' (things that are cute) has been adopted by many around the world including Singaporeans to refer to things that are adorable.</p>

Para 4

Text Reference	Explanation & Evaluation	Evidence
<p>Slang's widespread use is guaranteed by its varied and unambiguous vocabulary that reflects the nuances of status ... providing catchy and memorable labels</p>	<p>Status is an important aspect of Asian societies. Respect is paid to those who are of a higher rank or position. However, as in all societies, there are also derogatory terms used on people who are seen to be of a different status in the eyes of society. As suggested by Dalzell, slang words used to delineate status are assorted and explicit.</p> <p>In Singlish, there are numerous words that denote someone's status or background. Once labelled as such, it is hard to shake off. Very often the labels are attached to one's status in society. People of higher social status tend</p>	<p>For example, 'tai tai' is used for a woman, usually wealthy, who does not work but spends her time shopping, meeting friends and so on - basically, deemed a lady of leisure.</p> <p>On the other hand, if someone or something is deemed as 'CMI' or "cannot make it", it suggests he is somewhat of a loser, one who is not up to scratch. 'Blur sotong' is similar in that this person is slow to catch on to ideas.</p> <p>Popular Singaporean artistes and television shows have the ability to spread and propagate funny and catchy Singlish slangs. Sitcoms such as The Noose were well-loved by Singaporeans and the slang used in these shows were</p>

	to use Western slang and those of lower social status tend to use Singlish slang. When it is so easy to identify someone's status based on the slang he/she uses, it may emphasise the difference of status and may lead to further problems involving social cohesion and inequality.	familiar and thus spread easily. The catchy and memorable slang terms would often be repeated by amused Singaporeans in jest to relive the hilarious moments in the sitcom.
Slang is also much more effective than standard English when it comes to describing sports ...	(focus on sports) Exciting moments in sports are made all the more exhilarating when shared with friends. Cheering and shouting together builds camaraderie and brotherhood especially when the love for the same team is shared. The use of slang whilst watching sports has brought all manner of Singaporeans together in the cheering or heckling during soccer games. Many Singaporeans view sports as a leisure or casual activity and the use of slang is more apt for the context and the intended audience, rather than using formal, standard English.	(focus on sports) Very often when supporters do not agree with a referee's decision, the common chant is "referee kayu".

Para 5

Text Reference	Explanation & Evaluation	Evidence
American slang is also known for being fertile . At any given moment, there are many, many new slang words and expressions being created and in use with each new generation .	<p>Outdated phrases or slang no longer reflect the perspectives or situations that the youth of today find themselves in. New slang is born and sprouts up because it better captures the essence of young people's experiences. Various changes such as changes in technology, culture and society might be responsible for this (e.g. there were no "selfies" 10 years ago).</p> <p>Strong phrases resonate or contain deep meaning which succeeding generations of young people may continue to appreciate or identify with. Such terms continue to be relevant as they remain part of the national psyche where being competitive is what keeps Singapore surviving.</p> <p>Slang which is not timeless or strong enough to make the cut, or slang which is associated only with one-off occurrences will tend to fade or decline in popularity over time.</p>	<p>Strong slang or phrases survive, such as "kiasu" (afraid to lose out) and "cannot make it" (not up to standard) are still used by young people after many years.</p> <p>For example, Ris Low's expression "Boomz" and the Singlish/army slang term "gabra" (meaning confused/scattered-brain/poorly organised).</p>

Para 7

Text Reference	Explanation & Evaluation	Evidence
<p>Youth is the most powerful stimulus for the creation and distribution of slang ... when we are young, we are subject to the generational imperative to invent a slang vocabulary that we perceive as our own, rejecting the slang of our older siblings and parents.</p>	<p>We reject the slang of our siblings and parents because they belong to different generations and the experiences or slang of older generations is rejected or perceived as “uncool”, because it does not reflect the worldview of the youth. Also, many of the conversations among youth take place in informal setting, unlike the formal work setting of their older siblings or parents.</p> <p>Young people want to distinguish themselves from their parents and older folk. The slang they invent or adopt allows them to identify with their peers.</p>	<p>Young people have a slang vocabulary of their own that is cobbled together from the different social media sites or memes that are popular with young people (e.g. from sites such as SGAG). Young people will use expressions or slang that are derived from these sites or memes such as “YOLO”, “Face palm”, “thick skinned” or “thin skinned”.</p> <p>Examples of slang used by the previous generations which are rejected because they no longer fit the worldview or experiences of the younger generation would be terms like “goondu” (the Tamil word for idiot) for a foolish person, or “bao kar liau” which is a term with Hokkien/Chinese origins that can mean various things: going to great lengths to find favour with someone, or to describe two people who are on extremely good terms with each other.</p>

Para 8

Text Reference	Explanation & Evaluation	Evidence
<p>Youth slang derives some of its power from its willingness to borrow from other bodies of slang ... without shame (especially from the American music scene).</p>	<p>Slang used by any generation is derived not just from one culture but does tend to be reliant on pop culture, especially pop, R&B and rap music for its source.</p> <p>American slang is popular with Singapore youth, especially when conveyed through pop songs. This is to be expected given that the media which young people in Singapore are exposed to are heavily American. This cannot be helped given that the local radio stations are themselves setting the music agenda which is heavily leaning towards Western songs. Thus, our youth which are heavily into music, are borrowing slang terms from the Western songs they have been listening to.</p> <p>However, home-grown slang is also commonly used by the young although these are mostly dependent on the dialects or</p>	<p>Examples include bro (brother), yo man (hey, brother) and chill (relax, don't get worked up). However, slang terms like “dope” that young Singaporeans have borrowed may give legitimacy to the drug culture and may run counter to Singapore’s tough anti-drug laws and stance.</p> <p><i>[could add in examples of K-Pop influences after looking at students’ scripts]</i></p> <p>Examples are 'referee kayu', 'kelong (from football, from Malay), kiasu (from Hokkien), and so on. These examples show that the young in Singapore can</p>

	vernacular languages in our society. Within ethnic groups, young people are also using certain unique slang in their vernacular language.	create their own slang but their creations are confined to expressions that are mostly Singlish, Malay or Hokkien for mileage. For example, young Malay Singaporeans now use Malay slang terms such as “sado” (muscular-bodied men) and “payong” (to offer support).
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Para 9

Text Reference	Explanation & Evaluation	Evidence
Youth slang is a core element of youth culture - a defiant gesture of resistance and an emblem of tribe identity ... adult authority cannot completely eradicate slang.	<p>Young people heavily use slang to express rebellion against authority.</p> <p>However, it may be hard to agree with the author on this point. It is not so obvious that the youth in Singapore use slang to express rebellion against authority - their usage is more an indication of bonding or belonging to the group.</p> <p>While it is true that slang cannot be eradicated by authorities, for example, teachers (specifically language teachers, only because their concern is with formal or standard English), it is also a fact that many Singaporean adults are quite tolerant of slang language used by the youth. This is because the older generation too have their own slang expressions; after all, slang expressions boost camaraderie because of their informal character and the way they reflect current thinking. Slang can also express some ideas better and more economically than formal language can.</p>	<p>For example, “obiang” (usually relating to fashion, obiang is used to describe something as being old fashioned and therefore undesirable) and “koyak” (something that is spoiled or broken).</p>



EUNOIA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination 2018
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

10 September 2018

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

CANDIDATE
NAME

CIVICS
GROUP

17 -

Tom Dalzell writes on the pervasiveness of the use of slang.

- 1 Slang pervades American speech to a startling degree. Its popularity can be gauged by the rush of journalists, politicians and purveyors of popular culture to embrace the latest word or phrase to spice up a newspaper headline, advertisement or television script. On the other side of the fence, prescriptive guardians of standard English and morality bemoan slang's 'degrading' effect on public discourse and culture; their outcry further attests to slang's persistent and powerful presence in everyday American English. However, we must never make the mistake of confusing slang with colloquialism. While both use informal register, colloquialism is used by people in everyday speech, whereas slang is used only by certain groups, such as teenagers or people of certain professions. 5
- 2 Slang's popularity and power with speakers of American English should not come as a surprise. By design, slang is wittier and more clever than standard English. As a species, we seem to have a genetic inclination to linguistic creativity, as illustrated by slang's rich flashes of humour, genius and poetry. With slang, each generation or subculture or counterculture group has the chance to shape and propagate its own lexicon, and in so doing to exercise ingenuity. The end result is a dynamic, mischievous body of language that is at times used for no other reasons than that it is fun to use and identifies the speaker as clever and witty. 15
- 3 Slang's primary reason for being — to establish a sense of commonality among its speakers — further ensures its widespread use. When slang is used, there is a subtext to the primary message. That subtext speaks to the speakers and listeners in the same 'tribe'. Owing to the fact that 'tribe' identity is so important, slang becomes important too because slang is an explicit manifestation of that identity. At times, the primary message is not in the meaning of what is said, but in the very utilisation of slang — a compelling example of how the medium can be the message. 20
- 4 Similarly, in a society preoccupied with status, slang's widespread use is guaranteed by its varied and unambiguous vocabulary that reflects the nuances of status. Slang plays a critical role whether it delineates a winner ('top dog') from a loser ('toast'), or an oppressor ('the Man') from the oppressed ('doormat'), providing catchy and memorable labels for 'us versus them'. In a similar vein, slang is also much more effective than standard or conventional English when it comes to describing sports, sex and intoxication. Conversation often turns to these important aspects of American culture, and when it does, we draw upon slang far more than we would if discussing, for example, the economy, religion or foreign policy. 30
- 5 American slang is also known for being fertile. At any given moment, there are many, many new slang words and expressions being created and in use with each new generation. In fact, the language process of meaning-making is akin to natural selection. With a few notable exceptions — most especially "cool" — we tire of even the strongest words and they fade away, usually after being co-opted by advertisers and headline writers. Just like a living organism, to counteract its short-lived nature and survive, slang must constantly regenerate as a body of speech and subset of the language. 35
- 6 Historically, in 1892, Whitman described slang as "the start of something unconventional and fanciful." In the century-plus since Whitman's characterisation of slang, the America that Whitman knew has been radically changed by immigration, industrialisation, urbanisation and mass communication. Due to these changes and for the reasons suggested by Whitman, slang — with its breath of life — has permeated everyday speech. Slang is, to a large extent, ephemeral, and so to survive, it must constantly renew itself; both the ephemeral and regenerative traits are nowhere more apparent than in the slang of American youth. 40

- 7 The four factors that are the most likely to produce slang are youth, oppression, sport and vice, which provide an impetus to coin and use slang for different sociolinguistic reasons. Of these four factors, youth is the most powerful stimulus for the creation and distribution of slang. For, although we are not all members of a group that is oppressed by a dominant culture, or sports fanatics immersed in the language and lore of the game, and we do not all dip our toes into the pool of vice with its attendant slang, we are all young once. When we are young, we are subject to the generational imperative to invent a slang vocabulary that we perceive as our own, rejecting the slang of our older brothers and sisters, let alone our parents, in favour of a new lexicon. 45 50
- 8 Youth slang derives some of its power from its willingness to borrow from other bodies of slang. Despite its seeming mandate of creativity and originality, slang is blatantly predatory, borrowing without shame from possible sources. Foremost among them is the African-American vernacular, whose influence on American youth slang of the 20th century cannot be over-stated. Beginning in the late 1930s with the wild popularity of swing jazz and the jitterbug, continuing into the 'jive generation' that fought World War II, through the beats and hipsters of the 1950s, the Sixties' mainstream youth and hippies alike, into the pervasive patois of hip-hop, American youth slang has borrowed consistently from the slang of the black American urban experience. 55 60
- 9 Whatever its source, youth slang is a core element of youth culture — a defiant gesture of resistance and an emblem of tribe identity. Fashion and hairstyles are other key manifestations of a generation's identity, but they can be regulated by adult authorities with less effort. With music and language, regulation and restriction are much more difficult. Even the most vigilant and repressive attempts by adult authority cannot completely eradicate slang and music with its slang lyrics. 65
- 10 As we move into our twenties, we gradually stop acquiring new slang and then ultimately just stop; we also slowly stop using our existing slang vocabulary. For most of our adult lives, we use the core slang vocabulary acquired in our youth either as a lingering symbol of our generational identity or simply on a vestigial basis. When we think of slang, then, we either think of our children's slang or the slang of our own youth. For this reason, if no other, the slang of youth exerts enormous power over American English. Of all the vernacular, slang is the most spectacular. Slang swings. Slang moves and grooves. Slang rocks, slang rules. 70



GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2

8807/02

10 September 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, civics group and question 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.

CANDIDATE
NAME

CIVICS
GROUP

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

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
Comments

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 are the two opposite reactions towards slang described in paragraph 1? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

3 In line 31, why does the author describe American slang as 'fertile'? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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4 What is the author's purpose in comparing the language process of meaning-making as being 'akin to natural selection' (line 33)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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5 In lines 45–50, why is youth 'the most powerful stimulus for the creation and distribution of slang' in comparison to the other factors? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

6 Explain the author's use of the expression 'let alone' in line 52.

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.....[2]

7 What is the author implying about slang with the use of the word 'predatory' (line 54)?

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.....[2]

8 How does the author illustrate his point that American youth slang has borrowed 'consistently' (line 60) from the slang of the black American urban experience?

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.....[1]

9 (a) Give one similarity and one difference between slang and fashion mentioned in paragraph 9. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

(b) What is the author implying about slang by highlighting the difference between slang and fashion?

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.....[1]

10 Suggest one reason for the author ending the passage with 'Slang swings. Slang moves and grooves. Slang rocks, slang rules' (lines 72–73).

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.....[1]



HWA CHONG INSTITUTION
C2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Higher 1

CANDIDATE NAME

CT GROUP

CENTRE NUMBER

INDEX NUMBER

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

29 August 2018

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet

1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, CT group, Centre number and index number in the boxes above.

Answer **one** question.

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

Write your answer in the Answer Booklet.

Use both sides of the paper.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use highlighters, correction tape or fluid.

**You are reminded of the importance of careful planning,
legible handwriting, and good presentation.**
**Submit your Question Paper and Answer Booklet separately
at the end of this examination.**

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

[Turn over

Answer one question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. 'Adversity will always bring out the best in people.' Would you agree with this observation?
2. Should more be done to promote resource conservation and recycling in your country?
3. 'Mankind's technological innovations say little about his intelligence, but speak volumes about his laziness.' To what extent would you agree with this viewpoint?
4. How well are the needs of the vulnerable in your society being taken care of?
5. Is it really so important to be creative in today's world?
6. Consider why successful countries find it hard to attract good political talent today.
7. Should traditions and values change with the times?
8. 'If you have it, flaunt it!' Is there anything wrong should people choose to live in this manner?
9. 'Commerce and friendship with all and the enemy of none.' Is it realistic to expect countries to adopt this approach to foreign policy?
10. Would you agree that physical shops will eventually become a thing of the past?
11. 'People, not the government, should be responsible for their own wellbeing.' Comment.
12. 'The study of literature broadens horizons and transform lives.' Discuss.



HWA CHONG INSTITUTION
C2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Higher 1

Candidate Name				
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GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2

8807/02

29 August 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Write in dark blue or black pen.

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

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

<p>You are reminded of the importance of legible handwriting and good presentation. Submit your Question Paper and Insert <u>separately</u> at the end of this examination.</p>

For Examiner's Use	
Content	
Language	
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Read the passages 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 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.

1. Suggest why the author starts off the passage with an anecdote.

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.....[1]

2. What does the phrase "it takes no prisoners" (line 8) tell us about the behaviour of perfectionists and the nature of perfectionism? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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3. Why has the author placed brackets around her explanation of the "magic tips" in line 23? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[1]

For
Examiner's
Use

5. "However, the distinction is lost on those who continue to misconstrue perfectionism as an admirable character flaw at the workplace." (lines 47-46).
How does the example of Steve Jobs support the above argument? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[3]

6. "Perfectionism purportedly results in amazing ideas, amazing works of art and even more amazing products." (lines 51-52). Suggest two reasons why the author repeats the word 'amazing' in the above sentence. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

7. "Perhaps the more pertinent question should be: where is perfectionism *not* coming from?" (line 64). What is the author implying in the above question? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[1]

8. "Competitiveness to be the best has also become the DNA of all schools." (line 68)
Explain what the author means in the above statement. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

For
Examiner's
Use

9. a) According to the author in paragraph 9, what do social media users see online that depresses them? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[1]

b) Why does the author claim social media users are “lock[ed]...into a game of mutually assured depression” (line 80)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

10. Explain why the author claims “It is a Herculean task to convince perfectionists that they have an attribute that needs to be moderated.” (lines 81-82). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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HWA CHONG INSTITUTION
C2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Higher 1

Candidate Name				
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Index Number				
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GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2

INSERT

8807/02

29 August 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

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

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Amanda Ruggeri examines the dangers of perfectionism.

- 1 In one of my earlier memories, I was drawing. I cannot recall what the picture was supposed to be but I remember the mistake. My marker slipped, an unintentional line appeared and my lip trembled. The picture has long since disappeared, but that feeling of deep frustration has stayed with me. More often than I would like to admit, something inconsequential will trigger the same unyielding quest to be perfect. Even squashing the loaf of white bread I had just bought can tumble around in my mind for several days, accompanied by incessant self-rebukes of "You should have known better!" Falling short of a bigger goal, even when I know achieving it would be near-impossible, would leave me deflated. That is the thing about perfectionism: it takes no prisoners. 5
- 2 Admittedly, perfectionism can, in some circumstances, be healthy and useful. When perfectionism involves the setting of high personal standards and working towards those goals proactively, the results speak for themselves. Nowhere is the 'practice makes perfect' adage more religiously adhered to than in the world of classical music. Virtuoso Lang Lang started practising the piano at age 3 and spent an average of 8 hours a day honing his craft. His perfectionistic and unfailing work eventually paid off – he helms sold-out concerts in major cities today. Self-professed perfectionists, Michelin-starred chef Gordon Ramsey and tennis maven Roger Federer are also at the top of their leagues. These Goliaths whose unceasing and intense pursuit of perfection have empowered them to hone their talent, build illustrious careers and amass vast fortunes certainly make perfectionism appear extremely valuable. 10
- 3 Contrary to popular perception, perfectionism has not always made humanity more accomplished; rather, it has made us excessively demanding of ourselves and others. Indeed, perfectionism is a self-defeating way to navigate the world – everywhere we look, there are omnipresent reminders that we need to be much better. Beauty advertisements promise us flawless skin, diets grant us 'ideal bodies' and gurus offer magic tips (list-making, email-answering, desk-tidying...) to make our lives exemplary. But any pursuit of perfection sows discord within our families as it consumes our leisure hours and squeezes the enjoyment out of all our activities. The thought of not succeeding distresses us so much that we develop a more exacting routine to cope. In fact, this behaviour becomes so ingrained that it degenerates into an addiction. 15
- 4 Multiple studies have also found a correlation between perfectionism and performance anxiety. In sports, perfectionist athletes tend to deliver second-rate performances regardless of their talent. When such athletes equate performance to self-worth, they do not just feel disappointed when they fail to meet their sporting goals; they are mortified. Their pursuit of perfection traps them in a repeated pattern of self-induced setbacks, disproportionate expectations and inordinately rigorous training regimes. Their critical inner voice that chides them to be "swiftest, highest and strongest!" always leaves a bitter sense of dissatisfaction and inadequacy, even in times of victory. 20
- 5 Nonetheless, there is a distinction between perfectionism as a tool and perfectionism for its own sake. The former involves an attitude of wanting to improve and to reach for higher standards, elevating work and raising performances beyond the ordinary. The latter ignores achievements as long as they fall short of perfection. In addition, perfectionists are adroit at stirring a squall into a snowstorm and whipping a brief ill wind into a category-five hurricane. Inept at handling failures, they boil with self-rage or slump into melancholic despair when success is not as instant nor as tangible as they wish. To make matters worse, perfectionists are also unlikely to verbalise their need for help as they cannot admit that they are less than perfect. They might even develop depressive symptoms over perceived failures which can then spiral into self-recrimination and a total depreciation of self-worth. 25
- 6 However, the distinction is lost on those who continue to misconstrue perfectionism as an admirable character flaw at the workplace. Declaring that we are perfectionists comes off as subtle self-praise; it is practically a stock answer to the trick question "What's your worst trait?" in job interviews. Surely, a workaholic who will not leave the office till a project is completed to the highest of standards must indubitably be an asset to the company? Won't someone who takes a longer time to complete the job produce work that is wonderful to behold and a cut above the rest? Perfectionism purportedly results in amazing ideas, amazing works of art and even more amazing products. According to urban legend, the most famous of all perfectionists, the late Steve Jobs, paid attention to every minute detail of every Apple product. Even the screws holding an iPhone 30

together were a big deal for him because he wanted the overall experience of using one of his products to be “totally amazing!” until the consumer hankers for the next epitome of perfection. 55

- 7 In addition, anecdotal evidence indicates that this curse of perfectionism afflicts women more than men. It is acceptable for men to turn up in the office dishevelled and unshaven but social constructs dictate that women dress well, look confident and maintain an immaculate work space all the time. Women also believe they have multiple roles they need to fulfil impeccably: the consummate spouse, the bearer of model children or the faultless mother. Is it any wonder that women tend to establish unrealistic standards of perfection for themselves more often and become disconsolate at the thought of never being able to reach the pinnacle of perfection? 60
- 8 To cope with this quest for Nirvana, we need to trace the roots of our fixation with perfectionism. Perhaps the more pertinent question should be: where is perfectionism *not* coming from? Living in societies that only embrace accomplishments and frown upon failures, it is no surprise that we feel compelled to meet such impossible standards in our lives. The fear of being less than perfect is especially severe in market-based societies where governments have removed social safety nets. Competitiveness to be the best has also become the DNA of all schools. Standardised testing and high-pressure university entrance requirements have resulted in parents putting more pressure on themselves and their children to become overachievers. When children internalise that aspiration for perfection, they begin to define themselves only in strict, narrow terms of academic success. Such perfectionistic tendencies take root for life, causing many gifted children to become merely mediocre adults. 65 70
- 9 The high premium placed on perfectionism can also be attributed to how we think of our public lives as a flawless performance instead of a participation exercise. We all know how it feels to envy others – their celebrations, holidays and achievements. Mired in the perfectionist paradox, we crave validation which drives us not only to meet the established standards but to trump them. A lot of participants on social media aspire to “measure up” to their peers and judge others harshly too. Ask anyone with an Instagram account! All those glossy feeds of picture-perfect people living it up, lock everyone into a game of mutually assured depression. 75 80
- 10 It is a Herculean task to convince perfectionists that they have an attribute that needs to be moderated. Perfectionists disregard the oceans of tears that their stellar role models had shed to attain success and the countless sacrifices the latter had made to become ‘perfect’. They habitually belittle their own accomplishments, big and small, blinded by their insistence on being impossibly perfect in an imperfect world. 85

Adapted from *The Dangerous Downsides of Perfectionism*, BBC News

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1. Suggest why the author starts off the passage with an anecdote. (1)

Passage	Answer
In one of <u>my earlier memories</u> , I was drawing. I cannot recall what the picture was supposed to be but I remember the mistake. My marker slipped, an unintentional line appeared and my lip trembled. The picture has long since disappeared, but that feeling of deep frustration has stayed with me.	<p>i) It is to make her writing <u>engaging</u>.</p> <p>ii) It serves as a <u>hook</u> to draw readers' <u>interest</u>.</p> <p>iii) Not only does she intend for it to be an <u>interesting</u> opening/ attract the readers' <u>attention</u>, she hopes that the description of her overwrought reaction will <u>set the context</u> for the subsequent discussion on perfectionism.</p> <p>iv) She hopes that her narration of her excessive reaction will <u>pique readers' interest</u> in the ills of perfectionism and thus <u>anticipate</u> the discussion to come/ want to read on/ more.</p> <p>v) It is to <u>convince</u> readers that she has <u>relevant personal experience</u> and will therefore offer a <u>reasonable/ credible</u> case for her case against perfectionism.</p> <p>NB: Given her exaggerated response, it is odd to posit that readers can relate to it ('it' here being the reaction rather than drawing).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NB: Any 1 point for (1m)</p>

2. What does the phrase "it takes no prisoners" (line 8) tell us about the behaviour of perfectionists and the nature of perfectionism? Use your own words as far as possible. (2)

Passage	Answer
... <u>something inconsequential</u> will trigger the same <u>unyielding</u> quest to be perfect.	<p><u>The behaviour of perfectionists</u></p> <p>i) A perfectionist will be obsessive/ruthlessly aggressive/ uncompromising/ engage in cutthroat/ merciless/ callous, pitiless tactics to achieve his objectives/ goals.</p> <p>OR Perfectionists will not care about what he sacrifices in the process of completing a task. (1m)</p>
That is the thing about perfectionism: it <u>takes no prisoners</u> .	<p><u>The nature of perfectionism</u></p> <p>ii) The effects of perfectionism are pervasive in all areas of a perfectionist's life. (1m)</p>

3. Why has the author placed brackets around her explanation of the "magic tips" in line 23? Use your own words as far as possible. (1)

Passage	Answer
Beauty advertisements promise us flawless skin, diets grant us 'ideal bodies' and gurus offer <u>magic tips</u> (list-making, email-answering, desk-tidying...) to make our lives exemplary.	<p>The writer is indicating that perfectionists feel the need to learn strategies to manage their time more efficiently <u>even for the less important/ minor/ inconsequential/ mundane</u> areas of their lives.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NB: (1m) or (0) No (½) awarded.</p>

4. Using material from paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, summarise what the author has highlighted as the negative effects of perfectionism. 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)

Perfectionism is harmful because ...

Passage	Answer
Paragraph 3 Perfectionism has not made humanity more accomplished;	1) It has not allowed/ enabled mankind to become consummate / more capable / adroit at their endeavours.
rather it has made us excessively demanding of ourselves and others	2) We become too/ overly tough/ insistent on high/ unreasonable expectations/ standards for everyone.
perfectionism is a self-defeating way to navigate the world	3) Perfectionists sabotage/ thwart/ foil their own aims of becoming perfect/ render the desired outcomes impossible.
pursuit of perfection sows discord within our families as	4) It also introduces/ plants/ causes/ establishes/ institutes/ starts tension/ arguments/ disagreements with our kin/ relations/ loved ones.

it consumes our leisure hours	5) Perfectionism occupies/ devours all our spare/ free time/ idle hours OR We have no time for ourselves/ fun OR We become so engrossed/ obsessed with perfectionism.
squeezes the enjoyment out of all our activities	6) Perfectionism wrings/ drains all the fun/ pleasure/ amusement/ satisfaction/ gratification from all pursuits/ experiences/ endeavours. OR ... devoid of ...
The thought of not succeeding distresses us so much ...	7) Fear of failure upsets/ troubles/ torments/ bothers us to the extent OR leaves us so anguished, ...
that we develop a more exacting routine to cope.	8) ... that we cultivate/ acquire/ take on a more punishing pattern/ regime (to deal with it) OR we make further gruelling / harsher demands on ourselves.
In fact, this behaviour becomes so ingrained	9) This action/ conduct becomes entrenched/ deep-rooted/ deep-seated ...
that it degenerates into an addiction.	10) ... and worsens/ deteriorates into a compulsion/ destructive overreliance. OR ... devolve into ...
Paragraph 4 Multiple studies have also found a correlation between perfectionism and performance anxiety.	11) There is a connection/ association/ link/ relationship between the inability to execute a task under pressure and perfectionism/ perfectionism and achievement.
In sports, perfectionist athletes tend to deliver second-rate performances regardless of their talent	12) Perfectionistic sportsmen put up inadequate/ middling/lacklustre displays/ showings OR make mediocre attempts/ tries.
When such athletes equate performance to self-worth,	13) They regard their results/ showings/ presentations as equivalent to/ as a measure of their personal value/ self-esteem.
they do not just feel disappointed when they fail to meet their sporting goals	14) When they are unable to achieve their objectives/ targets/ aspirations, they are demoralised/ disheartened/ discouraged ...
they are mortified	15) ... to the point that they feel ashamed/ humiliated/ feel they have let themselves down...
Their pursuit of perfection traps them in a repeated pattern	16) ... and are locked/caught/ensnared in a vicious cycle/ recurring sequence / loop ...
of self-induced setbacks,	17) ... of self-inflicted/ self-perpetrated obstacles/ hindrances OR ... of their own doing ...
disproportionate expectations and	18) ... intemperate/ unrealistic hopes/ aspirations ...
inordinately rigorous training regimes	19) ... and excessive/ undue/ unwarranted/ gruelling/ exhausting routines/ schedules/ practices.
Their critical inner voice that chides them to be "swiftest, highest and strongest"	20) Perfectionists relentlessly berate/ scold/ nit-pick/ find fault with themselves for not being the best, ...
always leaves a bitter sense of dissatisfaction and	21) ... which invariably results in feelings of discontentment / disgruntlement ...
inadequacy, even in times of victory	22) ... and incompetence despite their success/ triumph OR makes them feel that they are found wanting.
Paragraph 5 The latter ignores achievements as long as they fall short of perfection	23) Perfectionists register/ recognise/ focus/ centre on/ concentrate on flawless/ impeccably executed feats/ attainments/ success/ accomplishments only.
Perfectionists are adroit at stirring a squall into a snowstorm and whipping a brief ill wind into a category-five hurricane	24) They overreact when facing minor problems OR They exaggerate the depth/ level of difficulty/ hardship they face OR They engage in histrionics.
Inept at handling failures	25) They are incompetent / poor at tackling / dealing with disappointments/ flops
they boil with self-rage	26) They become consumed with/ seethe in/ overcome by anger/ fury/ rant and rave at the outcome ...
or slump into melancholic despair	27) ... or lapse into/ give in to gloom/ wallow in hopelessness/ depression/ despondency ...
when success is not as instant nor as tangible as they wish	28) ... when their accomplishments are not immediate nor substantial as hoped.
To make matters worse, perfectionists	29) They will not ask for assistance/ support/ aid ...

are also unlikely to verbalise their need for help	
as they cannot admit that they are less than perfect	30) ... as they cannot acknowledge their shortcomings/ flaws/ limitations. OR ... not faultless/ flawless ...
They might even develop depressive symptoms over perceived failures	31) This can result in psychiatric/ mental/ psychological disorders/ problems ...
which can then spiral into constant self-recrimination	32) ... that escalates/ degenerates/ worsens into incessant/ unending self-blame / self-reproach, ...
and a total depreciation of self-worth	33) ... and a complete destruction/ obliteration of self-esteem / confidence / self-respect. (NB: a paraphrase of 'total' is essential)

1-2 pts	3-4 pts	5-6 pts	7-8 pts	9-11 pts	12-14 pts	15-17 pts	18+ pts
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

5. **“However, the distinction is lost on those who continue to misconstrue perfectionism as an admirable character flaw at the workplace.” (lines 45-46). How does the example of Steve Jobs support the above argument? Use your own words as far as possible. (3)**

Answer
<p>a) The example of Steve Jobs is used to show that we <u>tend to</u> view/regard perfectionism as a <u>positive</u> trait/quirk/ <u>superlative</u> work ethic <u>even though</u> it is not. (1)</p> <p>b) i) Perfectionists like Jobs will <u>over-focus/ fixate</u> on <u>all</u> aspects of a task (to the point of being compulsive/ fanatical/ obsessive).</p> <p>ii) Such behaviour is <u>seen as/ perceived as/ mistaken to be adding value</u> to the organisation.</p> <p>iii) Such a behaviour is <u>actually pointless/ futile/ meaningless/ needless/ in vain</u> in the end.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NB: For (b), any 2 for (1m) <u>each</u>. Words in brackets not necessary.</p>

6. **“Perfectionism purportedly results in amazing ideas, amazing works of art and even more amazing products.” (lines 51-52) Suggest two reasons why the author repeats the word ‘amazing’ in the above sentence. Use your own words as far as possible. (2)**

Answer
<p>i) She is emphasising/ highlighting that some believe perfectionism has a positive impact <u>although this is erroneous</u>.</p> <p>ii) She is <u>deliberately exaggerating</u> (in a tongue-in-cheek manner) the positive effects of perfectionism.</p> <p>iii) She is hinting she <u>means the opposite</u> of what she has apparently said about the positive effects of perfection.</p> <p>iv) She is <u>being sarcastic/ mocking</u> as perfectionism is mistakenly thought of as being helpful in bringing about wonderful art, ideas and products.</p> <p>NB: Students should note the use of the word “purportedly” and realise that the author does not truly believe in the positive effects of perfectionism. They should pick up the veiled sarcasm in the tone.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NB: Any 2 for (1m) <u>each</u>. Words in brackets not necessary.</p>

7. **“Perhaps the more pertinent question should be: where is perfectionism not coming from?” (line 64). What is the author implying in the above question? Use your own words as far as possible. (1)**

Passage	Answer
<p>Perhaps the more pertinent question should be: where is perfectionism <u>not</u> coming from? <u>Living in societies that only embrace accomplishments and frown upon failures, it is no surprise that we feel compelled to meet such impossible standards in our lives.</u> The fear of being less than perfect is <u>especially severe in market-based societies</u> where governments have removed social safety nets. Competitiveness to be the best has also become <u>the DNA of all schools</u>. Standardised testing and high-pressure university entrance requirements have resulted in <u>parents</u> putting more pressure on themselves and their children to become overachievers.</p>	<p>The author is implying perfectionism originates / emanates / hail from <u>all aspects / is systemic in society</u>.</p> <p>OR Demands for perfectionism seem to be <u>everywhere/ ubiquitous/ omnipresent</u>.</p> <p>OR Society demands perfectionism from us to the point that it will probably be easier to find out the minor areas in our lives that do not demand it.</p>

8. **“Competitiveness to be the best has also become the DNA of all schools.” (line 68) Explain what the author means in the above statement. Use your own words as far as possible. (2)**

Answer
i) Vying or contending to be the best (allow lift)/ tops /to trump others is now the core value/ the key attribute/ main feature/ character/ identity/ ethos of every education institution ... (1)
ii) ... similar to how someone’s genetic make-up/DNA (allow lift) determines his or her traits/ characteristics. (1)

9. **(a) According to the author in paragraph 9, what do social media users see online that depresses them? Use your own words as far as possible. (1)**

Passage	Answer
All those glossy feeds of picture-perfect people living it up, <u>lock everyone into a game of mutually assured depression.</u>	Social media users are demoralised by other social media users: i) Posting sleek /polished airbrushed images / photos of themselves. ii) Constructing perfect representations of themselves iii) Uploading photos of themselves having the time of their lives iv) Publicising/Showcasing the successes in their lives. NB: Any 1 point for (1). Allow use of ‘social media users’

- (b) Why does the author claim social media users are “lock[ed]...into a game of mutually assured depression” (line 80)? (2)**

Passage	Answer
We all know how it feels to <u>envy others</u> – their celebrations, holidays and achievements. <u>Mired in the perfectionist paradox</u> , we <u>crave validation</u> which drives us not only to meet the established standards but to <u>trump them</u> . A lot of participants on social media <u>aspire to “measure up”</u> to their peers and judge others harshly too. Ask anyone with an Instagram account! All those glossy feeds of picture-perfect people living it up, <u>lock everyone into a game of mutually assured depression.</u>	The online behaviour of social media users... i) perpetuates a vicious cycle of compulsive comparison and competition / engaging in repeated one up-manship behaviour / repetitive attempts to surpass the achievements / successes of others ... (1) ii) ... which reinforces the feelings of inadequacy / sense of being wanting in some way as everyone else appears to be living ideal/ picture-perfect lives except themselves / never able to exceed/ outclass the standards set by others. (1) (This reinforces their depressive state as they feel they feel deficient in some way or another in comparison.) NB: Words in brackets not necessary

10. **Explain why the author claims “It is a Herculean task to convince perfectionists that they have an attribute that needs to be moderated.” (lines 81-82). Use your own words as far as possible. (2)**

Passage	Answer
It is a <u>Herculean task</u> to convince perfectionists that they have an attribute that <u>needs to be moderated</u> . Perfectionists <u>disregard the oceans of tears</u> that their stellar role models had shed to attain success and the <u>countless sacrifices</u> the latter had made to become ‘perfect’. They <u>habitually belittle</u> their own accomplishments, big and small, <u>blinded by their insistence</u> on being <u>impossibly perfect</u> in an imperfect world.	The author claims that it is enervating/ requires excessive effort to persuade perfectionists to moderate their tendencies because they ... i) ... choose to ignore that ‘perfect’, successful people had to conquer/ prevail over difficulties/ overcome difficulties/ hurdles/ pay a high price. ii) ... are used to denigrating their achievements regardless of the significance. iii) ... are deluded by their stubbornness as they are unaware that this is not the case in the real world. NB: Any 2 for (1) <u>each</u>

11. Amanda Ruggeri claims that perfectionism is on the rise in modern societies and this has detrimental effects on people. How far do you agree with her views? Relate your arguments to your own experiences and those of your society. (10)

Amanda Ruggeri takes the position that perfectionism is on the rise in modern societies but most people are unaware that it has a deleterious impact on the individual and society. Students can disagree with the author's arguments by identifying and criticising inherent flaws (say making dubious claims on perfectionism) in the passage. They can also agree/disagree with the author's arguments by examining the relevance of her arguments to their society.

Good answers will:

- Evaluate the persuasiveness of the writer's claims by considering their credibility
- Provide balance for their arguments: If students adopt the perspective that perfectionism has deleterious effects on individuals and their society, they will need to articulate why in certain circumstances, healthy perfectionism can serve as a motivating force for attaining excellence. If students adopt the perspective that high standards plays a positive role in their lives, they need to consider why perfectionism might not be desirable under certain circumstances. While it might be possible for them to be influenced by their personal experiences; they should remember that these may not fully reflect the situation of other young people in their country.

A very good answer will demonstrate a nuanced appreciation of the writer's arguments.



JURONG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2018

CANDIDATE NAME

GP TUTOR NAME

CLASS

General Certificate of Education

GENERAL PAPER

8807/1

Paper 1

24 August 2018

Additional Materials: Writing 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 **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. Does truth still have any value in today's world?
2. 'War no longer ends with winners and losers.' Discuss.
3. How far should a government interfere in the personal decisions of its people?
4. Is censorship of the arts ever justified?
5. Evaluate the claim that achieving an inclusive society is a desirable but unrealistic goal.
6. 'Celebrity activism does more harm than good.' What is your view?
7. Do you agree that we live in an increasingly dangerous world?
8. 'The youth of today have no sense of adventure.' How far is this true in your society?
9. Is the protection of privacy worthwhile?
10. Assess the view that the individual is helpless in the face of environmental degradation.
11. Do schools in your society provide students with enough opportunities to be creative?
12. In your society, to what extent is it acceptable for public money to be used to fund sport?



JURONG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2018

CANDIDATE NAME

GP TUTOR NAME

CLASS

General Certificate of Education

GENERAL PAPER

8807/2

Paper 2

24 August 2018

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 passages 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.

EXAMINER'S USE

Content	/ 35	Comments:
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. 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 passages.

From Passage 1

1 In lines 4-5, what does the author claim is the function of gossip in its 'rawest form'? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

2 Explain the author's use of the word 'surely' in line 8.

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

3 In lines 10-14, what does the author claim are the roles of gossip and the consequences for those who 'cannot do it well'? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

4 What is the author implying by the phrase 'like it or not' in line 15? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

5 According to lines 21-22, how did our ancestors use gossip to become successful? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

From Passage 2

7 In paragraph 2, how does the author illustrate his claim that 'gossip is most often derogatory and slanderous'? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

8 Suggest **one** reason why gossip is 'most often told about someone who is not present' (line 22).

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

9 Explain the author's use of the word 'even' in the phrase 'even their livelihood' (line 26).

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

10 Why do you think the author uses the pronoun 'you' in line 27?

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



JURONG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2018

CANDIDATE NAME

GP TUTOR NAME

CLASS

General Certificate of Education

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

24 August 2018

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the passages for Paper 2.

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

Passage 1. *Frank T. McAndrew discusses the role of gossip.*

- 1 Let us face it: gossips get a bad rap. Smugly looking down from a moral high ground – and secure in the knowledge that we do not share their character flaw – we often dismiss those who are obsessed with the doings of others as shallow.
- 2 Indeed, in its rawest form, gossip is a strategy used by individuals to further their own reputations and interests at the expense of others. Studies that have been conducted confirm that gossip can be used in cruel ways for selfish purposes. At the same time, how many can walk away from a juicy story about one of their acquaintances and keep it to themselves? Surely, each of us has had first-hand experience with the difficulty of keeping spectacular news about someone else a secret. When disparaging gossip, we overlook the fact that it is an essential part of what makes the social world tick; the nasty side of gossip overshadows the more benign ways in which it functions. In fact, gossip can actually be thought of not as a character flaw, but as a highly evolved social skill. Those who cannot do it well often have difficulty maintaining relationships, and can find themselves on the outside looking in.
- 3 Like it or not, we are the descendants of busybodies. According to scientists, because our prehistoric ancestors lived in relatively small groups, they knew one another intimately. In order to ward off enemies and survive in their harsh natural environment, our ancestors needed to cooperate with in-group members. But they also recognised that these same in-group members were their main competitors for mates and limited resources. Living under such conditions, our ancestors faced a number of adaptive social problems: Who is trustworthy? Who would make the best mate? How can friendships, alliances and family obligations be balanced? In this sort of environment, an intense interest in the private dealings of other people would have certainly been handy. People who were the best at harnessing their social intelligence to interpret, predict and influence the behaviour of others became more successful than those who were not.
- 4 Today, good gossipers are influential and popular members of their social groups. Sharing secrets is a way people bond, and sharing gossip with another person is a sign of deep trust: you are signalling that you believe that the person will not use this sensitive information against you. Therefore, someone skilful at gossip will have a good rapport with a large network of people. At the same time, they will be discreetly knowledgeable about what is going on throughout the group. On the other hand, someone who is not part of the gossip network is an outsider – someone neither trusted nor accepted by the group. Presenting yourself as a self-righteous soul who refuses to participate in gossip will ultimately end up being nothing more than a ticket to social isolation.
- 5 In the workplace, studies have shown that harmless gossiping with one’s colleagues can build group cohesiveness and boost morale. Gossip also helps to socialise newcomers as listening to the judgements that people make about the behaviour of others helps the newbie figure out what is acceptable and what is not. On the flip side, the awareness that others are likely talking about us can keep us in line. Among a group of friends or co-workers, the threat of becoming the target of gossip can actually be a positive force: it can deter “free-riders” and cheaters who might be tempted to slack off or take advantage of others.
- 6 Belgian psychologist Charlotte de Backer makes a distinction between strategy-learning gossip and reputation gossip. When gossip is about a particular individual, we are usually interested in it only if we know that person. However, some gossip is interesting no matter whom it is about. This sort of gossip can involve stories about life-or-death situations or remarkable feats. We pay attention to them because we may be able to learn strategies that we can apply to our own lives. Indeed, de Backer discovered that our interest in celebrities may feed off of this thirst for learning life strategies. For better

or for worse, we look to celebrities in the same way that our ancestors looked to role models within their tribes for guidance. 50

- 7 The bottom line is that we need to rethink the role of gossip in everyday life; there is no need to shy away from it or to be ashamed of it. Successful gossiping entails being a good team player and sharing key information with others in ways that will not be perceived as self-serving. It is about knowing when it is appropriate to talk, and when it is probably best to keep your mouth shut. 55

Passage 2. *Nicholas DiFonzo argues that gossip is harmful.*

- 1 Think for a moment of someone you know whom you would consider “a gossip”. The image that comes to mind is that of a tale-bearer: someone who gleefully whispers to you the failures of other people in your community. The person who, when they leave your office cubicle, you feel just a little bit soiled from the experience. The individual who seems to revel in spreading dirt about persons whom you previously had a good or neutral opinion of. The man or woman whose specialty is trafficking in personal information about others – they collect it, trade it, and perhaps use it as a commodity to enhance their prestige, advance their own agenda, or feel better about their own moral peccadilloes. In this popular image of gossip, gossip is driven by self-serving motives and is ultimately harmful to the social fabric of the community. 5
10
- 2 Indeed, there is some evidence that gossip is most often derogatory and slanderous. Social psychologist Charles Walker collected gossip on the campus of St. Bonaventure University in New York, and then categorised it as “shame gossip” or “veneration gossip”. Walker found that a much greater percentage of gossip was critical rather than laudatory. 15
- 3 A typical middle school set of gossip statements would constitute negative social commentary such as “Giuseppe dropped out of school and is on drugs”, “Juliet’s parents are not very nice”, “Anne got pregnant and had an abortion”. Some gossip is positive: “Philomena’s grandparents have lots of money and are very generous”; “Dominic is a really sweet guy”. However, there seems to be a greater demand in the social marketplace for tittle-tattle than for tribute. Given the characteristically negative nature of gossip, it is not surprising that it is most often told about someone who is not present. 20
- 4 This often-slanderous aspect of gossip is one reason it has been frequently condemned in religious and ethical writings. The reason is clear to anyone who has ever been the victim of slanderous gossip: a person’s reputation – upon which their social standing or even their livelihood depends – is damaged. The thought that one’s social community has heard that you are lazy, loose, or that you habitually lie is, after all, very hurtful. And such stories have harmful effects. After hearing that someone is addicted, disloyal, dishonest, hypocritical, unlikable, criminal, aggressive, or carries a disease, it is difficult to interact with that person with an open mind and to trust them. 25
30
- 5 Yet, there is an old saying that one should not try to defend oneself against slander; your enemies will not believe you anyway and your friends do not need to hear your defence.

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**JJC 2018 Preliminary Examination
General Paper
Paper 2 Answer Scheme**

From Passage 1

1. In lines 4-5, what does the author claim is the function of gossip in its 'rawest form'? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
Indeed, in its rawest form, gossip is a strategy used by individuals to further their own reputations and interests at the expense of others.	<p>The author claims that gossip</p> <p>a) is a <u>tool/method/plan/way</u> employed by people</p> <p>bi) to <u>promote/advance/develop/boost</u> their <u>image/status</u> and</p> <p>bii) <u>aims/goals</u> Do not accept: 'preferences'/'what they like'</p> <p>c) <u>at the cost of/with the sacrifice of</u> others/putting others down/exploiting others/making use of others (BOD). (Note: Any idea of causing harm to others will be accepted.)</p>

1-2=1m, 3=2m

2. Explain the author's use of the word 'surely' in line 8. [1]

Lifted	Paraphrased
At the same time, how many can walk away from a juicy story about one of their acquaintances and keep it to themselves? Surely, each of us has had first-hand experience with the difficulty of keeping spectacular news about someone else a secret.	<p>a) The author is emphasising <u>his firm belief that/ is confident that</u> (Note: Answer must capture author's certainty about his belief.) (Note: if answer is phrased as a probability even high probability will not be accepted as the word surely indicates certainty.)</p> <p>b) <u>everyone would have personally encountered/gone through</u> the struggle/agonny of concealing/keeping quiet about/not breathing a word about the exciting/interesting private affairs of others. (Note: Context is required and the idea of 'difficulty' (of keeping info about someone) in the context must be captured/paraphrased.)</p>

2=1m

3. In lines 10-14, what does the author claim are the roles of gossip and the consequences for those who 'cannot do it well'? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Lifted	Paraphrased
it is an essential part of what makes the social world tick	<p>The author claims that gossip</p> <p>a) (role) is <u>very important/necessary/crucial</u> in allowing communities/social circles to <u>work</u> (Note: Do not accept "function". Lifted from line 11.)</p>

<p>In fact, gossip can actually be thought of not as a character flaw, but as a highly evolved social skill.</p> <p>Those who cannot do it well often have difficulty maintaining relationships,</p> <p>and can find themselves on the outside looking in.</p>	<p>(Note: Must capture degree for the word "essential."</p> <p>b) (role) and is a <u>much developed/sophisticated ability</u> in communication. [Degree must be captured]</p> <p>c) (consequence) Those not adept at gossiping frequently <u>struggle</u> at <u>keeping/preserving/sustaining ties/bonds/connections</u></p> <p>d) (consequence) and <u>may be left out of social groups/excluded/marginalised/isolated/outcast</u>. (Note: Do not accept "discriminated"/"alone") Do not accept if the point is about individuals who <u>voluntarily exclude themselves from the group</u>.</p>
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1=1m, 2-3=2m, 4=3m

4. What is the author implying by the phrase 'like it or not' in line 15? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Like it or not,</p> <p>we are the descendants of busybodies.</p>	<p>The author is implying that</p> <p>a) regardless/no matter what our beliefs are OR despite our discomfort/uneasiness with the idea,</p> <p>b) we have to <u>accept</u> that/ we cannot escape the reality that/it is undeniable</p> <p>c) gossip is <u>part of us/</u> gossip is <u>inherent</u> in us/ we are <u>born to</u> gossip. Note: (i) Subject must be correct. (ii) 'descendants' must not be literally paraphrased; eg we are the new generation of busybodies iii) Award if point is paraphrased as 'We are all busybodies' (BOD).</p> <p>0 mark for entire question if context is wrongly captured. (Refer to Script D)</p>

1-2=1m,3=2m

5. According to lines 21-22, how did our ancestors use gossip to become successful? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Who is trustworthy?</p> <p>Who would make the best mate?</p> <p>How can friendships, alliances and family obligations be balanced?</p>	<p>a) Our ancestors used gossip to identify <u>reliable</u> people,</p> <p>b) to get information about who might be their <u>most ideal</u> partner [Do not accept: most ideal friend/buddy]</p> <p>c) and to <u>manage/juggle/handle</u> their <u>relationships</u> with others well. ['maintain relationships': BOD]</p>

1-2=1m, 3=2m

6. Using material from paragraphs 4-6 only (lines 26-51), summarise what the author has to say about the benefits of gossip. 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]

Gossip helps people to...

	Lifted	Paraphrased
1	good gossipers OR someone skilful at gossip (Line 29)	If they are adept at it
2	are influential (Line 26)	gain <u>power/control</u> over people
3	(good gossipers are) popular members of their social groups (Line 26) OR will have a good rapport with a large network of people (Line 29 – 30)	gain the <u>admiration/support</u> by others OR experience <u>close/harmonious relationships/ties</u> with <u>many</u> people [note : this point is about gaining <u>more</u> support or friends but point 4 is about building stronger ties/fostering relationships]
4	sharing secrets is a way people bond (Line 27)	Gossip <u>unites</u> people
5	sharing gossip with another person is a sign of deep trust (Line 28) OR someone who is not part of the gossip network is an outsider – someone neither trusted nor accepted by the group (Line 32) OR (Inferred) will ultimately end up being nothing more than a ticket to social isolation . (for self-righteous people) (Line 34)	and is a <u>display/symbol</u> of <u>strong faith/confidence</u> [<u>'deep'</u> need not be captured] OR Those who do not gossip are <u>foreigners/strangers/unwelcomed by the group/are considered unreliable</u> . (Note: any one word as meanings are similar)
6	you are signalling that you believe that the person will not use this sensitive information against you (Line 28)	that others will not <u>utilise</u> your <u>personal/confidential</u> details to <u>attack/harm</u> you.
7	they will be discreetly knowledgeable about what is going on throughout the group (Line 30)	and will be <u>careful/judicious/discerning with the information</u> they have. or and will be <u>quietly perceptive</u> .
8	Presenting yourself as a self-righteous soul who refuses to participate in gossip (Line 33)	(Inferred) Only those who are not overly <u>moral/virtuous/prudish</u> , can benefit from gossip.
9	in the workplace... harmless gossiping with one's colleagues (Line 35)	At work, <u>innocent/innocuous/inoffensive</u> tales/stories/tattle/rumours among co-workers
10	can build group cohesiveness (Line 36)	can <u>foster/grow/develop/strengthen</u> their <u>unity/ties/togetherness/bond</u>

		<i>(Context of workplace must be captured for this point. Students may use words like 'synergy', 'teamwork' to suggest workplace)</i>
11	and boost morale (Line 36)	and <u>increase confidence/optimism/ efficiency/ productivity/willingness to work hard</u>
12	helps to socialise newcomers as listening to the judgements that people make about the behaviour of others helps the newbie figure out what is acceptable and what is not (Line 36 – 38)	Gossip also teaches new employees <u>how to best interact/mingle/associate with fellow colleagues.</u> or Gossip also teaches new employees <u>the norms of their workplace.</u>
13	On the flip side, the awareness that others are likely talking about us can keep us in line (Line 39)	Knowing that others may gossip about us <u>ensures that we behave appropriately.</u>
14	Among a group of friends or co-workers, the threat of becoming the target of gossip can actually be a positive force (Line 40)	The <u>fear of being the subject of</u> gossip can be <u>advantageous</u> as [‘threat’ must be captured- See Script B]
15	it can deter “ free-riders ”... who might be tempted to slack off (Line 41)	it <u>prevents/stops/discourages laziness/idleness</u>
16	and cheaters ... take advantage of others (Line 41 – 42)	and <u>dishonesty/ unfair treatment/exploitation of colleagues.</u>
17	When gossip is about a particular individual, we are usually interested in it only if we know that person. (Line 45)	It <u>satisfies our curiosity</u> about an individual we are <u>familiar/acquainted</u> with.
18	However, some gossip is interesting no matter whom it is about. (Line 45 – 46)	though at times gossip is <u>fascinating/entertaining regardless of the subject.</u>
19	This sort of gossip can involve stories about life-or-death situations (Line 46)	Such gossip may be about <u>extremely important/critical/serious events</u>
20	or remarkable feats . (Line 47)	or <u>extraordinary/exceptional achievements.</u>
21	We pay attention to them because we may be able to learn strategies that we can apply to our own lives. (Line 48)	We take notice of gossip to <u>gain knowledge</u> that we can <u>use</u> in our own lives.
22a	For better or for worse,	<u>Whether the outcome is good or bad,</u> [22(a) will be awarded only if 22(b) is captured.]
22b	we look to celebrities ... for guidance . (Line 49 – 50)	we turn to <u>famous people</u> for <u>inspiration/direction</u>
23	in the same way that our ancestors looked to role models within their tribes (Line 50 – 51)	<u>like</u> how our <u>predecessors</u> turn to leaders/emulate fine individuals in their communities. <i>(Accept if student collapses “role models” with the previous point.)</i>

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

From Passage 2

6. In paragraph 2, how does the author illustrate his claim that ‘gossip is most often derogatory and slanderous’? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2] (Direct/literal)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Indeed, there is some evidence that gossip is most often derogatory and slanderous. Social psychologist Charles Walker collected gossip on the campus of St. Bonaventure University in New York, and then categorised it as "shame gossip" or "veneration gossip". Walker found that a much greater percentage of gossip was critical rather than laudatory.</p>	<p>The author illustrates his claim by</p> <p>a) providing an <u>example</u> of a psychologist... OR a <u>statistic/data/study/quoting the research</u> of a psychologist</p> <p>b) that shows <u>significantly higher instances</u> of gossip <i>(Note: Allow lifting of "much"; Degree must be captured accurately. Accept: 'majority', 'most')</i></p> <p>c) being <u>demeaning/ discriminating/ condemning</u> instead of being <u>affirmative/ complimentary.</u> <i>(Note: Do not accept good/bad, positive/negative. Accept: Harmful /Beneficial. Contrast must be captured.)</i></p>

(only (c) = 0m) 1-2=1m,3=2m

7. Suggest **one** reason why gossip is ‘most often told about someone who is not present’ (line 22). [1] (Inferential)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Given the characteristically negative nature of gossip,</p> <p>it is not surprising that it is most often told about someone who is not present.</p>	<p>People are usually <u>not comfortable</u> being critical in front of the person in question.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Gossip takes place behind a person's back to <u>avoid retaliation/trouble.</u></p> <p>OR</p> <p>Gossip takes place behind a person's back to <u>harm his/her reputation covertly.</u></p> <p>Do not accept: (i)It is rude (ii)It will hurt the person (iii) .. so that the victim cannot rebut gossip</p>

1=1m

8. Explain the author's use of the word 'even' in the phrase 'even their livelihood' (line 26). [2] (Inferential)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>The reason is clear to anyone who has ever been the victim of slanderous gossip: a person's reputation - upon which their social standing or even their livelihood depends - is damaged.</p>	<p>The author is highlighting that malicious gossip</p> <p>a) is so harmful that <i>(Note: Answer should capture the extent/severity of consequences.)</i></p> <p>b) it hurts not only one's status in society</p> <p>c) but also one's economic well-being/ means to secure a living. Accept: Survival/ ability to survive</p> <p><u>Note</u></p> <p>An example of 1 mark answer awarded only for (a): 'The writer uses the word to show that the extent of havoc that gossip can wreck on one's life is overwhelming.'</p> <p>0 mark for entire question if (a) is captured but 'livelihood' (found in the phrase given in the qn) is misinterpreted as "lives being endangered"/ the possibility of killing themselves'</p>

1-2=1m, 3=2m

9. Why do you think the author uses the pronoun 'you' in line 27? [2] (Inferential)

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>The thought that one's social community has heard that you are lazy, loose, or that you habitually lie is, after all, very hurtful.</p>	<p>a) (<i>stylistic function</i>) The author wants readers to put themselves in the shoes of those at the receiving end of gossip</p> <p>AND</p> <p>b) (<i>purpose</i>) to understand the harm that gossip brings</p> <p>OR</p> <p>c) (<i>purpose</i>) to discourage them from gossiping.</p> <p>OR ANY OTHER LOGICAL ANSWER Note: Do not accept if the answer focuses on the fact that gossip affects everyone/ no one can escape from gossip (as this does not capture the main idea of paragraph 4)</p>

1=1m, 2=2m

Application Question

10. Frank T. McAndrew claims that gossip serves important functions in society while Nicholas DiFonzo argues that gossip is harmful.

How far do you agree with the opinions expressed in these **two** passages? Support your answer with examples drawn from your own experience and that of your society. [10]

Reference from Text	Response	Further evaluation and questions raised
<p>+ Gossip is needed to fit in. Avoiding gossip (on a moral basis) or not gossiping well may have disastrous consequences.</p> <p>'but as a <u>highly evolved social skill</u>. Those who cannot do it well often have difficulty maintaining relationships, and can find themselves on the outside looking in' (Passage 1, Para 2, Lines 12-14)</p> <p>'Presenting yourself as a <u>self-righteous soul who refuses to participate in gossip</u> will ultimately end up being nothing more than a ticket to <u>social isolation</u>' (Passage 1, Para 4, Line 34)</p>	<p>Perhaps this is most visible amongst teenagers who are in the cusp of adulthood. As they form cliques and an important part of it is distinguishing themselves from their peers and this often involves gossip.</p> <p>People who lack social skills, for example, can use celebrity gossip and fandom as a base to bond with others with the same interests. E.g. K Pop fangirls in Singapore</p> <p>Gossip about others is a common topic for coffee shop talk!</p>	<p>Perhaps gossiping about celebrities (on whom this gossip largely will not have an effect), particularly about their romantic involvements helps to build a sense of kinship/i.e. bonds the fandom.</p> <p>But does the effect still hold when the others one is gossiping about are mere mortals?</p> <p>Is gossiping about a celebrity less unethical than gossiping about a peer?</p>
<p>+ It is in human nature to gossip. So it might not be that terrible. / Might be inevitable.</p> <p>'Like it or not, we are the descendants of busybodies.' (Passage 1, Para 3, Like 15)</p>	<p>Funnily enough, there is even a commonly used word in Singlish that approximates to busybody: 'kaypoh'</p> <p>One cannot deny that intrinsically we are all curious about happenings in others' lives. When people find themselves actually faced with a juicy morsel about someone they know, they are undeniably curious.</p> <p>Popular tabloid newspapers and magazines often include gossip.</p> <p>E.g. The New Paper is an eye-catching tabloid journalism featuring sensational headlines. It tends to focus on local human-interest stories, with extensive sections on entertainment, fashion and sports.</p> <p>E.g. Lianhe Wanbao is often regarded more of a tabloid published in broadsheet form, and the veracity of some reports (mostly reproduced from tabloids or gossip magazines from Hong Kong or Taiwan) is sometimes questioned.</p> <p>E.g. Other magazines printed locally with gossip columns including 8 Days, Teenage, etc.</p>	
<p>+ Even today, gossip helps us be more successful in aspects of our lives.</p>	<p>Online magazines abound with headlines like these:</p>	<p>Even if this type of gossip about high-status</p>

<p>'Indeed, de Backer discovered that our interest in celebrities may feed off of this thirst for learning life strategies. For better or for worse, we look to celebrities in the same way that our ancestors looked to role models within their tribes for guidance.' (Passage 1, Para 6, Line 48)</p>	<p>E.g. "YouTube Star Tan JianHao Is Only 24 And Drives A Swanky Maserati GranTurismo" on 8Days / Jan 2018,</p> <p>E.g. "I Never Used Skincare Or Sunblock Till My Mid-30s", Says Michelle Chia, 43. So What's Her Anti-Ageing Secret? TODAY / July 2018</p> <p>Advertisements perhaps make use of this fact!</p>	<p>individuals does not provide tangible benefits in terms of better strategies for dealing with life, maybe the least it does is to bond a group of individuals?</p>
<p>+ Strategy-learning gossip is useful in that we can learn survival skills and strategies from it.</p> <p>'This sort of gossip can involve stories about life-or-death situations or remarkable feats. We pay attention to them because we may be able to learn strategies that we can apply to our own lives.' (Passage 1, Para 6)</p>	<p>At the most trivial level, this can strategy-learning gossip can come in the form of 'Best' & 'Worst Dressed' lists at major events. Many individuals may then take cues from these celebrities to remake their fashion choices.</p> <p>Various media keep us in touch not only with the fate of the notorious and celebrated, but also with the ever-shifting ideas that form the basis of social discourse. The media give us material to discern our own position on the social ladder. As social animals, navigating these pathways with ease is of utmost importance to us.</p>	
<p>+ Gossip is needed to be popular</p> <p>'good gossipers are <u>influential and popular members of their social groups</u>. Sharing secrets is a way people bond, and sharing gossip with another person is a sign of deep trust' (Passage 1, Para 4)</p>	<p>e.g. Good gossipers perhaps maybe include social media influencers like Xixue who talk about brands, and other bloggers etc.</p>	<p>Maybe one aspect with which one could disagree with the author is that it is hard to be discreetly knowledgeable today in this digital age.</p> <p>Also, what social capital does gossip serve if others do not know that one is in the loop / in the know so to speak.</p>
<p>+ Gossip can build trust.</p> <p>'In the <u>workplace</u>, studies have shown that harmless gossiping with one's colleagues can <u>build group cohesiveness and boost morale</u>.' (Passage 1, Para 5)</p>	<p>Where there is mutual trust amongst group members and gossip is done about others excluded from the group, perhaps it may build cohesiveness and boost the morale of the team.</p>	<p>It may be difficult to draw the line between 'harmful' and 'harmless' gossip.</p>
<p>+ The fear of gossip can keep us from engaging in undesirable acts.</p> <p>'helps the newbie figure out what is acceptable and what is not'</p> <p>'the awareness that others are likely talking about us can keep us in line'</p> <p>'Amongst co-workers as well as friends'</p> <p>(Passage 1, Para 5)</p>	<p>Perhaps in Singapore many may fear to do anything illegal for fear of being "STOMP"-ed, which refers to the fear of ending up on the citizen journalism website essentially designed to report unsavoury behaviour.</p> <p>The driver who speeds past the red light, a disagreeable commuter bickering with an old lady on the train, ... The list goes on. These incidents can now be videotaped and photographed providing plenty of fodder for gossip.</p>	
<p>-- Gossip is destructive to the larger society.</p> <p>'ultimately harmful to the social fabric of the community' (Passage 2, Para 1)</p>	<p>In Singapore, the rampant individualism, the fragmentation of our lifestyle and the pervasiveness of competitive striving can drive gossip and rumour down more poisonous channels.</p>	

<p>-- More often gossip is derogatory / critical and told behind someone's back.</p> <p><u>'much greater percentage of gossip was critical rather than laudatory'</u></p> <p>'most often told about someone who is not present'</p> <p>(Passage 2, Para 2)</p>	<p>E.g. Beauty pageant Miss Singapore 2017 finalists' photos drew plenty of flak online. Many of the contestants reported to have felt extremely hurt by some of the remarks made which were extremely critical even to the point of being nasty.</p> <p>The fact that gossip is a social act may reinforce certain ideologies / norms that we do not question. It may be easier to join in the gossiping without considering to think about the impact of one's words, or if the gossip has any sort of legitimate basis.</p> <p>The anonymity of social media has also made it easier to gossip.</p>	<p>Is this type of gossip more common than strategy-learning gossip that McAndrew presents?</p>
<p>-- Gossip can seriously undermine a person's reputation.</p> <p><u>'victim of slanderous gossip: a person's reputation - upon which their social standing or even their livelihood depends - is damaged'</u></p> <p>(Passage 2, Para 4)</p>	<p>No matter if the gossip/rumour is true, it can have serious repercussions on the individual involved.</p> <p>Earlier in May, a viral video clip depicted an SBS driver nodding his head downwards, jerking along to the bumpy movements of the bus — actions visibly similar to individuals struggling to stay awake. The fact that he seemed to be catching some Zs while driving a bus with actual passengers was clearly alarming.</p> <p>That could have had tremendous repercussions for said bus driver (regarding his unprofessionalism) if the issue had not been further clarified by SBS that the driver had been in fact suffering from neck pains.</p> <p>Perhaps when gossip is spread about people and when it includes details which have not been confirmed as true, it could prove detrimental for all involved.</p>	<p>The advent of social media platforms has made gossip (and other types of fake news) easier to spread.</p>



MERIDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 Preliminary Examination
Higher 1

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 1

8807/1

10 September 2018

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 all your work **securely** together.
You do **not** need to submit this Question Paper with your Answer Script.

All questions in this paper 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. How far is a knowledge of the past important in shaping the future of your society?
2. Assess the view that good character is more important than intelligence in today's world.
3. 'International cooperation has not made the world a more peaceful place.' Discuss.
4. To what extent should artistic freedom be regulated?
5. Given the growing global demand for food, is it possible to conserve the environment?
6. 'The media has enslaved us.' Do you agree?
7. How far should a state have a right to interfere in family matters?
8. 'For the majority of people, Literature is irrelevant to their daily lives.' How true is this of your society?
9. 'Sports cannot change the world but it makes it more exciting.' Discuss.
10. Evaluate the view that the protection of workers' rights is a desirable, but unrealistic, goal.
11. Should there be restrictions placed on scientific research when the need for development is so great?
12. Assess the view that attempts to tackle global health threats can never be truly effective.

Candidate Name	Civics Group	General Paper Tutor



MERIDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination
Higher 1

H1 General Paper

Paper 2

8807/02

10 September 2018

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.

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, give three differences the author sees between normal work and telecommuting. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

2 According to the author, what scenario do futurists envisage that can be described as "science fiction" (line 11)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

3 What is the author implying about the "traditional office setting" (line 20) by citing its "water cooler gossip and office politics" (line 20-21)?

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

4 Suggest why telecommuting would be an ideal solution for "parents of young children" (line 24) and "artists" (line 25).

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

7 Why has the author written “invisible” in inverted commas (line 62)?
.....
.....[1]

8 **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain the irony found in lines 63 - 65.
.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

9 Explain how loyalty is a “two-way street” (line 73). **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

10 According to the author, why is the line that separates what is work from what is not “becoming increasingly blurred” (lines 75-76)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

11 Identify the word in paragraph 1 that reflects the author’s view of “working alone while surrounded by talking holograms” (line 80-81) being an “improbable scenario” (line 80).
.....
.....[1]

.....[10]

This Insert consists of 2 printed pages.

Brad Winner considers the advantages and disadvantages of working from home.

- 1 The thought of another week at work evokes everything from dread to boredom. The misery of work is compounded by the long commute to work and the hours spent in back-to-back meetings with co-workers whom we spend more time with than our families. Yet, a solution is in sight: working from home. The rise of the “gig economy” has created a surge of skilled freelancers and remote workers who can be found in trendy cafés in any major city hunched over laptops and cups of coffee. Coined as “telecommuting”, the worker “travels” via telecommunication links rather than commuting to the office, easily keeping in touch with co-workers and employers. While such an employee may occasionally enter the office to attend meetings, one could easily spend an entire day without meeting another colleague face-to-face. Futurists envisage something a lot more like science fiction in decades to come. The working day could start, for instance, by uploading one’s schedules and daily goals into virtual reality doppelgangers – representations of ourselves that are then dispatched to online meetings in our stead. While far-fetched, this kind of self-imposed isolation could very well become standard working practice in the future, having a significant impact on our physical and mental health, the way our companies run and even our relationships. 5
- 2 Not surprisingly, the mere opportunity to work from home plays a major role in an employee’s decision to take or leave a job. A 2015 YouGov study found that 30% of UK office workers say they feel more productive when they work outside their workplace. With none of the typical features of a traditional office setting, such as water cooler gossip and office politics, telecommuting drives up employee efficiency. Removing something as simple as a twenty-minute commute to work can also make a world of difference. Greater control over one’s schedule and location is yet another benefit, making telecommuting an ideal solution for parents of young children, avid travellers, artists, and others whose lifestyles do not fit neatly into the traditional 9 to 5. Remote workers also report a 25% decrease in stress, which has innumerable physical and emotional benefits. 20
- 3 At first glance, it looks like firms will stand only to gain from granting more employees flexible working. They can potentially save massive amounts of money from cost savings in areas like property rental, furniture and operating costs, boosting their bottom line. Furthermore, telecommuting can reduce job attrition rates, being extremely attractive to workers. A study found that with the option for remote work and telecommuting, 76% of employees were willing to work overtime and felt more loyal to their company. 30
- 4 However, the reality of managing an entire workforce that are out-of-office could have significant unforeseen costs. Last year, IBM reversed its position on flexible working when it called employees back to offices in-person despite being a pioneer of telework in the 1970s. Yahoo did something similar in 2013 as well. Some believe the increase in telecommuting will inevitably lead to employee ennui at best, and a rise in depression at worst. With our compulsion to escape somewhere to find some amusement, a human-free, remote-only workplace may inevitably prompt some employees to go on “fantasy adventures”: anything from excessive holidays and retreats to immersive virtual reality worlds to even unhealthy internet addiction. For some people, the lack of informal interactions with co-workers throughout the day wears on them. The lack of structure, when left to their own devices at home or in a remote setting, could make it harder to stay organised. 45

- 5 While attending board meetings in our pyjamas sounds rather fun, going through the cycles of the workweek entirely alone might not. It will likely make it harder for workers and their managers to build a collaborative team. In the end, there is nothing that can really replace face-to-face interaction and connection. A leaked memo to Yahoo staff was reported to suggest that some of the best decisions and insights at the firm came from "hallway and cafeteria discussions, and impromptu team meetings in the office." The things we pick up from meeting someone in person – such as gestures, intonation, or the intuition that senses when someone is upset or something is off in a conversation – are the advantages that humans use at work that technology cannot. After all, the Caps Lock can only convey so much. 50
- 6 More people working from home is an inevitability, if recent statistics are to be believed. The onus will therefore be on managers to adapt to the new environment. Experts believe that part of the problem is that workers are still being managed the way they were in the Industrial Revolution. When people were seen working on an assembly line, it was assumed that they were being productive. However, with telecommuting, monitoring an "invisible" workforce and keeping tabs on their productivity presents a tricky problem. It does not help that workers being out of sight may ironically mean they are constantly on the boss's mind: Is Tim slacking off? Is Bob gaming? Is Stacy busy running her own start-ups on company time? 60
- 7 Employers need to stop assuming the worst and instead channel their energy towards cultivating a positive work atmosphere online. As telecommuting often focuses too much on the technology and not enough on the process, the solution is an emphasis on basics like communication and coordination. Managers must still be able to explain complex ideas to employees, even in a virtual setting. It is also suggested that managers also be readily available to all employees in all time zones to build trust and efficiency. Clear expectations for work hours also need to be set and respected. Loyalty is a two-way street: employers need to give employees the freedom to complete their assigned jobs while employees need to be responsible to get work done. 70
- 8 An already blurred line separating what is work from what is not is becoming increasingly blurred as working remotely becomes more popular. We might end up with the freedom to work where we want, but those technologies that grant us mobility will simultaneously chain us more to our jobs, as we become instantly and freely accessible, regardless of time or place. Those are the real challenges that could develop, rather than the improbable scenario of working alone while surrounded by talking holograms. 80

MJC Prelims 2018

Paper 2 Answers

1. From paragraph 1, give three differences the author sees between normal work and telecommuting. UYOWAFAP. (3m)

Lifted	Paraphrased
long commute to work VS “travels” via telecommunication links	<u>time spent for travel</u> In normal work, workers have to spend much time to travel to the workplace , whereas telecommuting does not require the worker to travel at all / any physical movement . OR <u>Need for travel</u> Having to travel to the workplace vs working from a remote location / home / cafes without the need to travel
hours spent in back-to-back meetings VS occasionally enter the office to attend meetings	<u>Time spent in office</u> Normal work entails a lot of time spent in the office / frequent meetings, whilst with telecommuting workers hardly / only report to the office from time to time .
with co-workers whom we spend more time VS one could easily spend an entire day without meeting another colleague face-to-face	<u>Time spent with colleagues</u> With normal work we see our colleagues frequently , while telecommuting can mean we do not see them at all for the day. OR <u>Face-to-face interaction/meetings</u> With normal work, we see our colleagues in real-life/physical presence at meetings, while telecommuting allows us to meet them virtually/attend discussions in cyberspace.

2. According to the author, what scenario do futurists envisage that can be described as “science fiction” (line 11)? UYOWAFAP. (2m)

Lifted	Paraphrased
The working day could start, for instance, by uploading one’s schedules	We transfer/share/post/put up/send our agendas/itineraries /timetables/ plans
and daily goals	and everyday objectives/targets
into virtual reality doppelgangers – representations of ourselves that are then dispatched to online meetings in our stead	into avatars/online images of ourselves/ replications that can be sent to attend online engagements on our behalf .

1-2 points = 1m, 3 points = 2m

6. Using material from paragraphs 3 – 5 only (lines 28 – 56), summarise what the author has to say about the merits and demerits of telecommuting for firms and workers. Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. UYOWAFAP.

Telecommuting can help to ...

N	Lifted	Paraphrased						
1	They can potentially save massive amounts of money from cost savings in areas like property rental, furniture and operating costs , (L29-30)	reduce companies' maintenance expenses						
2	boosting their bottom line (L30-31)	adding to their profit margin / revenue						
3	telecommuting can reduce job attrition rates, (L31)	Telecommuting lowers resignation rates,						
4	being extremely attractive to workers. (L31-32)	being appealing to employees						
5	76% of employees were willing to work overtime . (L33)	Workers gladly/readily work beyond/after working hours / work longer hours						
6	and felt more loyal to their company (L34)	and are more faithful/devoted/committed/dedicated to the company.						
7	the increase in telecommuting will inevitably lead to employee ennui at best (L39)	However, employees may feel restless/ bored						
8	a rise in depression at worst (L39-40)	...or even miserable/sad/unhappy						
9	With our compulsion to escape somewhere to find some amusement (L40-41) ...prompt some employees to go on " fantasy adventures ": anything from excessive holidays and retreats to immersive virtual reality worlds to even unhealthy internet addiction	Workers may run away from the real world / take a trip / go on a journey/getaway for fun / go on vacation						
10	a human-free , remote-only workplace may inevitably (L41-43)	...due to the lack of co-workers (inferred).						
11	...the lack of informal interactions with co-workers throughout the day wears on them. (L44-45)	The lack of company makes workers tired/weary/drained/burned out/stressed .						
12	The lack of structure , when left to their own devices at home or in a remote setting, could make it harder to stay organised (L45-46)	When left alone to work , they become disorderly/haphazard in their work						
13	While attending board meetings in our pyjamas sounds rather fun , (L47)	Although being able to dress comfortably/casually (inferred) while working sounds novel/interesting/attractive						
14	going through the cycles of the workweek entirely alone might not (be fun) (L47-48)	Working by oneself all the time is unenjoyable/unpleasant/dreary .						
15	It will likely make it harder for workers and their managers to build a collaborative team (L48-49)	It is difficult for companies to build a sense of togetherness/unity/cooperative team						
16	In the end, there is nothing that can really replace face-to-face interaction and connection . (L49-50)	Nothing can take the place of communicating/meeting in person/ personally ,						
17	...some of the best decisions and insights at the firm came from "hallway and cafeteria discussions, and impromptu team meetings in the office. (L51)	The synergy/creative ideas that emerge from informal/unplanned interactions in the office is lost (inferred).						
18	The things we pick up from meeting someone in person – such as gestures, intonation, or the intuition that senses when someone is upset or something is off in a conversation –	Our ability to discern/sense/perceive others' moods / body language						
19	are the advantages that humans use at work that technology cannot (L53-55)	cannot be replaced by automation/machines/computers/artificial intelligence at the workplace. (must unpack 'technology')						
Marks	1m	2m	3m	4m	5m	6	7	8
Points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9	10-11	12-13	>= 14

7. Why has the author written “invisible” in inverted commas (line 62)? (1m)

Lifted	Paraphrased
monitoring this “invisible” workforce	The workers are not physically present / The employer cannot see them / But the employees are nevertheless still doing the work / still working.

8. UYOWAFAP, explain the irony found in lines 63 – 65. (2m)

Lifted	Paraphrased
It does not help that workers being out of sight	Expected: One would assume that not being seen by the boss would mean the latter does not think/wonder about what the worker is doing
may ironically mean they are constantly on the boss’s mind : Is Tim slacking off? Is Bob gaming? Is Stacy busy running her own start-ups on company time?	Reality: In actual fact, not being seen would result in the boss being more suspicious about the worker OR In reality, the boss is regularly/often wondering/thinking whether or not they are doing the work they have been tasked to do.

An attempt must be made at comparing expectation and reality, otherwise give 0m. 1m for vague answers.

9. Explain how loyalty is a “two-way street” (line 73). UYOWAFAP (2m)

Lifted	Paraphrased
Loyalty is a two-way street :	Both sides must display loyalty in order to achieve it as a team / works both ways OR Loyalty is a reciprocal act.
employers need to give employees the freedom to complete their assigned jobs	Employers need to be able to trust their employees to get the work done OR entrust their employees with the flexibility/ autonomy/privilege to do their work however they wish,
while employees need to be responsible to get work done.	while employees need to be accountable for their jobs.

1-2 points = 1m, 3 points = 2m

10. According to the author, why is the line that separates what is work from what is not “becoming increasingly blurred” (lines 75-76)? UYOWAFAP (2m)

Lifted	Paraphrased
We might end up with the freedom to work where we want ,	Telecommuting will give us the flexibility to work wherever we choose,
but those technologies that grant us mobility will simultaneously chain us <u>more</u> to our jobs ,	yet that very same technology that enables us to do so will shackle/enfetter/bind us <u>more</u> tightly to our work
as we become instantly and freely accessible , regardless of time or place .	as we are immediately and openly available , no matter when or where .

1-2 points = 1m, 3 points = 2m

11. Identify the word in paragraph 1 that reflects the author’s view of “working alone while surrounded by talking holograms” (line 80-81) being an “improbable scenario” (line 80). [1]

Lifted	Answer:
While far-fetched, this kind of self-imposed isolation could very well become standard working practice in the future	Far-fetched OR Fiction Science fiction – be nice. (BOD)

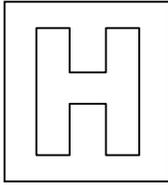
12. Brad Winner highlights both the benefits and costs of telecommuting. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own society.

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.

Candidate Name: _____

Class	Adm No



2018 Preliminary Exams Pre-University 3

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

29 August 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

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 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 question paper consists of 2 printed pages.

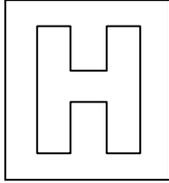
Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 To what extent can a country's past determine its future?
- 2 Should endangered animals be held in captivity at all?
- 3 Is there any point in defending the freedom of expression?
- 4 Are international organisations still necessary for maintaining peace and cooperation between countries?
- 5 Assess the view that overseas travel should be discouraged rather than encouraged.
- 6 To what extent is the internet an effective tool for fighting crime?
- 7 'Sport unites more than it divides.' How true is this in your society?
- 8 Should the government fund the medical expenses of individuals who do not take care of their own health?
- 9 Has your society become too critical of itself?
- 10 Considering the need for urban development, to what extent should green spaces be protected in your country?
- 11 Has modern science worsened, rather than eased, the problems associated with ageing?
- 12 'A pursuit for the elites, not the masses.' To what extent is this a fair view of the Arts?

Class	Adm No

Candidate Name: _____



2018 Preliminary Exams Pre-University 3

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

29 August 2018

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.

From Passage 1

1 Why, according to the author, does gender appear to us “to be completely natural” (line 4)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

2 Explain what the author means by “unremarkable view” in line 15. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

3 In what ways are women’s occupations extensions of their “domestic roles” (line 54)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

From Passage 2

*For
Examiner's
Use*

6 How did “financial necessity” (line 4) lead to the change in gender norms? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

7 Explain what is meant by “primeval notion of gender differentiation” (line 12). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

8 In paragraphs 2-3, what does the author see as concerns for men given the changes to gender norms and the status quo? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

9 Explain why “to be a male adult today is to be ambivalent” (line 36). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

10 In the concluding paragraph, what does the author suggest we do to handle the issue of gender?

*For
Examiner's
Use*

.....

.....

.....

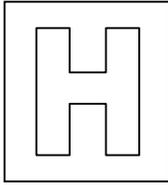
.....[2]

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Class Adm No

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Candidate Name: _____



2018 Preliminary Exams Pre-University 3

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

29 August 2018

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 passages for Paper 2.

This insert consists of 4 printed pages.

Passage 1. *Keith Long challenges the notion of gender that we have come to accept.*

- 1 We are surrounded by gender lore from the time we were very young. It is ever-present in conversation, humour, and conflict, and it is used to explain everything from driving styles to food preferences. Gender is embedded so extensively in our institutions, our actions, our beliefs, and our desires, that it appears to us to be completely natural. The world swarms with ideas about gender; these ideas are so commonplace that we take it for granted that they are true, accepting common adage as scientific fact. Rarely do we — but we should — look beyond what appears to be common sense to find not simply what truth might be behind it, but how it came to be common sense. 5

- 2 It is frequently argued that biological differences between males and females determine gender by causing enduring differences in capabilities and dispositions. Higher levels of testosterone, for example, are said to lead men to be more aggressive than women; and left-brain dominance is said to lead men to be more rational while their relative lack of brain lateralisation should lead women to be more emotional. As an example, consider the obvious biological fact that women bear and nurse children and men do not. Couple this with the unremarkable view that women are also more gentle and nurturing than men, and, hey presto, we end up with a “biological recipe” for women to be the primary caretakers of children. 10
15

- 3 Many people accept that this means women are therefore much better suited than men to take care of children once they are born, and that the family might be harmed if mothers work outside the home or if fathers are the primary caretakers. As long as this belief exists, women may not want to work outside the home or, if they choose to do so, they face opposition from employers, family, and friends. Conversely, men may not even think about wanting to stay at home and may themselves face misgivings from colleagues, relatives and peers if they want to do so. A belief in a strong biological basis for differences between women and men implies, then, that there is little we can or should do to change these differences. It implies that “anatomy is destiny,” and destiny is, of course, by definition inevitable. 20
25

- 4 Be that as it may, in the famous words of Simone de Beauvoir, “Women are not born, they are made.” The same is true of men. From infancy, male and female children are interpreted differently, and interacted with differently. Experimental evidence suggests that adults’ perceptions of babies are affected by their beliefs about the babies’ sex. It was found that adults watching a film of a crying infant were more likely to hear the cry as expressing frustration if they believed the infant was a boy, and as plaintive or expressing insecurity if they believed the infant was a girl. In a similar experiment, adults judged a 24-hour-old baby as bigger if they believed it to be a boy, and finer-featured if they believed it to be a girl. Such perceptions then enter into the way people interact with infants and small children. People handle infants more gently when they believe them to be female, more playfully when they believe them to be male. 30
35

- 5 Educational institutions also reproduce the gender norms in myriad ways. As prime sites for socialisation, schools are key institutions for the construction of gender. Elementary schools not long ago were known for keeping girls and boys separate — lining them up separately to move about the school, pitting them against each other in competitions, separating them for physical education. Looking at how schools tackle the more formal aspects of education it is clear that here too sexism is prevalent. One academic research shows that the majority of schools fail to encourage subject choices in a gender neutral way. Boys are less likely to take stereotypically girls’ subjects such as Psychology or English, whereas girls are opting not to take Physics or Economics, stereotypically identified as “for boys”. 40
45

- 6 All this has great consequences for the roles adopted by the different genders when children become adults. Women are generally expected to be in charge of caring for people's everyday needs — clothing, feeding, cleaning, caring for them. Until recently, this expectation has kept many women out of the public workplace, and while nowadays most women in the west do work outside of the home, many of their occupations are extensions of their domestic roles. Traditional women's jobs are in the service sector, and often involve nurturing, service, and support roles: teachers of small children, nurses, secretaries, flight attendants. 50 55
- 7 A woman's time is traditionally controlled by the continual needs of other people. The tasks that men traditionally do in the middle-class domestic sphere, on the other hand, are cyclical. Taking out the trash, tending the yard, doing repairs — these are things that can be scheduled in advance, to fit around the rest of one's activities. But not only do these dichotomies go unnoticed, they are imbibed as the way things should be. They are seen as instinctive rather than learned, effortless, commonplace, and therefore, based on common sense. But this sense of things has to be periodically challenged. 60

Passage 2. *Stephanie Low examines the implications of changing gender norms.*

- 1 Unlike the generations before them, a majority of millennials surveyed argued that gender should not define people the way it has historically, and society and individuals should not feel pressured to conform to traditional gender roles or behaviours. One reason for this change in norms is financial necessity. Traditionally, all women were expected to stay at home and look after the children and the house. She would have been given a housekeeping allowance by her husband to pay for food and clothes, and perhaps a little extra for herself. But with the increasingly high cost of living, such an arrangement no longer sufficed. Over time, and since women started joining the workforce, they have climbed the ladder of success, studying and training in well-paid roles, such as doctors and lawyers, with high responsibilities. In turn, this has led to greater visibility of women at the workplace. Thus, from the abyss that sprang the primeval notion of gender differentiation emerges the manifesto of equal opportunities and expectations. 5 10
- 2 This displacement in gender norms and the changes in societal expectations have brought about long-overdue tackling of issues of inequality and unfair treatment, especially for women. Powerful men are being held accountable in cases of sexual harassment and assault. Most of them are swiftly losing their social standing and jobs, and facing harsh public backlash. Corporations and media entities are issuing strong statements and demonstrating zero tolerance for sexual misconduct, and politicians accused of abuse are also being pushed to resign. More importantly, men are becoming a part of this cultural revolution. Many men are freshly reflecting on their own and their colleagues' behaviour, and starting conversations about the abuse of power and privilege, the socialisation of men and boys, the objectification of women and a culture of toxic masculinity. Because of these changes, the erstwhile esteemed notion of the gentlemen has never been so ungently nudged away. 15 20 25
- 3 But, ungentle or not, the disruption of the status quo cannot be without distress. While women may be seen as building a better world for themselves, men are seen to have been left behind in a way that will have negative repercussions for everyone. With the gender pay gap still yawning wide and men showing no sign of relinquishing the top spots in salary scales around the world, it is easy to scoff at the very idea of them being — woefully — at a disadvantage. But the fact remains that, in some crucial areas, they are. Take, for example, the well-corroborated research finding that a boy born today is less likely to attend university than his sister if the present trends in education continue. It is a terrifying prediction which will have widespread ramifications, not just for men in the workplace, but for relationships between men and women as well. 30 35
- 4 To be a male adult today is to be ambivalent: on the one hand, they are encouraged to look like pumped-up superheroes, because for girls today, nothing less than a Dwayne Johnson lookalike will do. On the other, they must be kind and sensitive. They must also be brilliant fathers — and put in as much work as women when it comes to parenting — but when it comes to break-ups, it is mothers who often have the upper hand. The perceived silencing of and unfairness meted out to men, particularly when it comes to parental access and financial support after divorce, has led to an increasingly vociferous alliance of men who blame a conspiracy of vengeful women, bias in the courts and feminist-dominated social services for ruining their lives and their relationships with their children after separation. 40 45
- 5 How then do we get out of this predicament? Do we ask more complex questions and brace ourselves for the answers that we cannot handle? While we no longer accept anatomical differences as the justification for gender inequality, the path to social progress is one we should tread carefully.

From Passage 1

Q1 Why, according to the author, does gender appear to us “to be completely natural” (line 4)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Gender is embedded so extensively in <u>our institutions, our actions, our beliefs, and our desires</u> , that it appears to us to be completely natural.	<p>[embedded] a. The idea of gender is entrenched / deeply rooted in... [1]</p> <p>[extensively] b. ...all aspects of <u>our lives</u> [1]</p> <p><i>*Degree needs to be shown.</i></p> <p>OR (b) We are everywhere surrounded by the idea of gender. [1]</p> <p>OR (b) The idea of gender is found in our systems, what we do, what we hold dear and what we seek. [1]</p> <p><i>** Accept any attempt to avoid lifting fully from the passage. Accept any two of the four items paraphrased.</i></p>

Q2. Explain what the author means by “unremarkable view” in line 15. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Couple this with the unremarkable view that women are also more gentle and nurturing than men...	<p>He means that</p> <p>a. the idea/notion that <u>women are more gentle and nurturing than men</u></p> <p><i>*Context is needed.</i></p> <p>b. is widely/ commonly accepted.</p> <p><i>*Do NOT accept direct substitution – “unsurprising”, “not obvious”</i></p> <p>(a+b) = 1m</p>

Q3. In what ways are women's occupations an extension of their "domestic roles" (line 53)?
Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>...many of their occupations are extensions of their domestic role.</p> <p>Traditional women's jobs are in the service sector, and often involve nurturing, service, and support roles: teachers of <u>small children, nurses, secretaries, flight attendants</u>.</p>	<p>In both their occupations and their roles at home, women have to</p> <p>a. take care of <u>children/ and the sick/ those with needs</u> [1]</p> <p>b. and provide assistance to others. [1]</p> <p><i>*Do NOT accept 'service' and 'support' – lifted.</i> <i>** (a) and (b) should NOT be combined. If combined, give 1m only.</i></p>

Q4. Explain the difference between the demands on women and men in lines 57-60. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>A woman's time is traditionally controlled by the continual <u>needs of other people</u>.</p> <p>The tasks that men traditionally do in the middle-class domestic sphere, on the other hand, are cyclical. Taking out the trash, tending the yard, doing repairs – these are things that can be scheduled in advance, to <u>fit around the rest of one's activities</u>.</p>	<p>a. While the demand on women's time is determined/ dictated by others, [no mark]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>a. While how women use their time hinges on others' expectations of them, [no mark]</p> <p><i>*Point (a) is needed for any answer.</i> <i>**If (a) is not shown, a marker showing <u>contrast</u> (eg. 'but') is needed.</i></p> <p>b. men have greater control over their tasks / greater autonomy.</p> <p>c. as their tasks are predictable/ routine,</p> <p>d. and they can <u>plan</u> for/ determine them ahead of time.</p> <p>1 mark each for (b), (c), (d).</p>

Q5. Using material from Passage 1, paragraphs 3 to 5 (lines 18-48), summarise what the author has to say about the beliefs regarding the differences between men and women, and how these beliefs are formed.

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]

People believe that...

	From the passage	Suggested answer
Para 3		
A1	Many people accept that this means women are therefore much better suited than men to <u>take care of children</u> once they are born,	...it is more fitting for women rather than men to <u>look after</u> the interests of the family *Comparison must be shown.
A2	and that the family might be harm ed if mothers work outside the home or if fathers are the primary caretakers.	...Otherwise, they think that the family's interests would be hurt OR ...Otherwise, it would be detrimental to the family
B3	To the extent this belief exists, women may <u>not want to work outside the home</u> or,	As a result, women chose to <u>stay at home</u>
B4	if they choose to do so, they face adversities from <u>employers, family, and friends</u>to avoid objections from/ difficulties posed by <u>those around them</u>
C5	Conversely, men may <u>not</u> even think about <u>wanting to stay at home</u>	...while men feared <u>staying at home</u>
C6	and may themselves face misgivings from <u>colleagues, relatives and peers</u> if they want to do so.	...for the same reasons (given that others would question them)
<p><i>Note: B3, B4, C5, C6 may be combined.</i> <i>Eg. As a result, both men and women may not want to be a house husband and career women respectively (2 points) as they face objections and obstacles from <u>people around them</u>. (1 point)</i></p>		
D7	A belief in a strong <u>biological basis</u> for differences between women and men implies, then, that there is little we can or should do to change these <u>differences</u> .	Some people also accept that
D8	It implies that " <u>anatomy is destiny</u> ," and destiny is, of course, by definition inevitablethe <u>physical differences</u> between men and women are immutable/ a given/ fixed .
Para 4		
E9	Be that as it may, in the famous words of Simone de Beauvoir, "Women are not born , they are made ." The same is true of men.	In contrast , others believe that these differences are nurtured
E10	From infancy, male and female children are interpreted differently, and interacted with <u>differently</u> .	[interpretation/perceptions] How adults view male and female children...

E11	Experimental evidence suggests that adults' perceptions of babies are affected by their beliefs about the babies' sex.	[response/interacted/affected] ...shaped the way they treat/ mingle with/ respond to / communicate with / play with them
E12	It was found that adults watching a film of a crying infant were more likely to hear the cry as expressing frustration if they believed the infant was a <u>boy</u> ,	<u>For the same behaviour / When they see babies crying</u> , adults see anger/ aggression in boys ...and fear/ helplessness in girls.
E13	and as plaintive or expressing insecurity if they believed the infant was a <u>girl</u> .	*E12/E13 – comparison must be shown (eg. but not in girls)
E12 and E13 may be combined (eg. "people's thoughts about the emotions of infants"), but the idea of "depending on the sex/gender of the baby" must be shown. – 2 points		
*E12/E13 – comparison must be shown		
E14	In a similar experiment, adults judged a 24-hour-old baby as bigger if they <i>believed</i> it to be a boy, and finer-featured if they believed it to be a girl.	Similarly, their view/ judgement of the physical appearance of the babies are affected by their knowledge of their gender. *Contrast must be shown. *Accept itemising. Accept partial lifting.
R	Such perceptions then enter into the way people interact with infants and small children.	Repeated point – E10, E11
F15	People handle infants more gently when they believe them to be female,	Similar to E11; but F15 focuses on the specific differences
F16	more playfully when they believe them to be male.	They treat female infants with care , but are rough (or idea of mischief/teasing) with the male ones.
Para 5		
G17	Educational institutions also reproduce the gender order in myriad ways. As prime sites for <u>socialization</u> , schools are key institutions for the construction of gender.	Such social beliefs are instilled/ reinforced (either degree or scope) in <u>schools</u>
G18	Elementary schools not long ago were known for keeping girls and boys separate — lining them up separately to move about the school, pitting them against each other in competitions, separating them for physical education.	...where girls and boys are often segregated
G19	Looking at how schools tackle the more formal aspects of education it is clear that here too sexism is prevalent (G17)	...based on chauvinist notions/ prejudice ... *Idea of gender bias must be clear.

G20	One academic research shows that the majority of schools <u>fail to encourage subject choices</u> in a gender neutral way (G19).	...which affect <u>even the subjects the students study</u> .
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Points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9	10-11	12-13	14-20
Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

People believe that... it is **more fitting** for women rather than men to look after and **safeguard** the interests of the family. As a result, women **choose** to stay at home to avoid **objections** posed by those around them, while men **fear** staying at home for the same reasons. Some people also **accept** that the physical differences between men and women are **fixed**. In contrast, others believe that these differences are **nurtured**. How adults **view** male and female children shaped the way they **mingle** with them. For the same behaviour, adults see **anger** in boys and **fear** in girls. Similarly, their judgement of the **physical appearance** of the babies are affected by their knowledge of their gender. They treat female infants with **care**, but are **rough** with the male ones. Such social beliefs are **reinforced** in schools where girls and boys are often **segregated** based on **chauvinist** notions which affect even what subjects the students study.

From Passage 2

Q6. How did “financial necessity” (line 4) lead to the change in gender norms. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>But with the increasingly high <u>cost of living</u>, such an arrangement <u>no longer sufficed</u>.</p> <p>Over time, and since women started joining the workforce, they have climbed the ladder of success, studying and training in well-paid roles with high responsibilities, such as doctors and lawyers.</p> <p>In turn, this led to greater visibility of women at the workplace.</p>	<p>a. When families could <u>no longer cope</u> with <u>household expenses</u>, women had to find employment/ started working. [1]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>When a <u>single income</u> was <u>not enough</u>, women had to find work.</p> <p>b. At the workplace, they became accomplished/ made significant achievements</p> <p>c. and it became normal to see women at work. / Women became more prominent at the work place.</p> <p>(b+c = 1m)</p> <p><i>*Question must be answered – ‘normal’, ‘expected to see’ – to get 2 marks</i></p>

Q7. Explain what is meant by “primeval notion of gender differentiation” (line 12). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Thus, from the abyss that sprang the primeval notion of gender differentiation emerges the manifesto of equal opportunities and expectations.	It means a a. basic/ instinctive/ primitive idea of <i>*Do NOT accept ‘prehistoric’, ‘traditional’ (not about time period)</i> b. gender distinction/ segregation/ discrimination.

Q8. In paragraphs 2-3, what does the author see as concerns for men given the changes to gender norms and societal expectations? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>Para 2</p> <p>Invariably, through these changes, the erstwhile esteemed notion of the gentlemen has never been so ungently nudged away.</p> <p>Para 3</p> <p>...men are seen to have been left behind (b) in a way that will have negative repercussions for <u>everyone</u>. (c)</p> <p>...it is easy to scoff at the very idea of them being — woefully — at a disadvantage. (b repeated) But the fact remains that, in some crucial areas, they are.</p> <p>...will have widespread ramifications, not just for men in the workplace, but for relationships between men and women as well. (c repeated)</p>	<p>a. She is concerned that men would lose the <u>respect/ status</u> they enjoyed.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>She is concerned that the change in <u>status</u> for men would be a painful one.</p> <p><i>*Do NOT accept ‘rude’/‘harsh’ (too literal). Focus is not on the action but the effect.</i></p> <p>b. She is also worried that the disruption will leave men stagnating/ worse off than women,</p> <p>OR</p> <p>She is worried that men will not be able to progress,</p> <p><i>*Do NOT accept itemising. <u>Key idea is “disadvantage”.</u></i></p> <p>and</p> <p>c. this will have a severe impact on <u>society/ men and women/ everyone</u>.</p> <p><i>*Degree must be shown. Either ‘severe’ or ‘everyone’ will suffice.</i></p>

Q9. Explain why “to be a male adult today is to be ambivalent” (line 36). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
To be a male adult is to be ambivalent: on the one hand, they are <u>encouraged to look like pumped-up superheroes</u> , because for girls today, nothing less than a Dwayne Johnson lookalike will do. On the other, they must be kind and sensitive .	This is because he has a. to appear macho/ manly , and b. yet show a caring side. <i>*Do NOT accept “handsome”.</i> <i>Contrast of the two natures/ expectations must be clear.</i> <i>**Please note that a good answer should explain ‘ambivalent’.</i>

Q10. In the concluding paragraph, what does the author suggest we do to handle the issue of gender? [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
How then do we get out of this predicament: Do we ask more complex questions and brace ourselves for the answers that we cannot handle ? While we no longer accept anatomical differences as the justification for gender inequality, the path to social progress is one we should tread carefully .	She suggests that we should a. <u>not</u> ask more difficult questions which lead to answers we <u>cannot deal with/ accept</u> . [1] b. Instead, we should proceed cautiously on this matter. [1]

Q11. While Keith Long makes the point that we should question our common notion of gender, Stephanie Low is of the view that we should be mindful of the implications of changing gender norms.

How far would you agree or disagree with the concerns expressed in these two passages? Support your answer with examples drawn from your experiences and that of your society. [10]



NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 Preliminary Examination 2018

GENERAL PAPER

8807/1

PAPER 1

29 August 2018

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. 'It is more important for political leaders to be feared than to be popular.' Do you agree?
2. 'Bad art does not exist.' What do you think?
3. 'The responsibility of looking after one's health belongs to the individual, not the government.' Discuss with reference to your society.
4. Is there any point in fighting terrorism when there has been limited success?
5. 'We are more connected than ever and yet we are feeling more alone.' Discuss.
6. Can the use of genetic modification in human reproduction be justified?
7. 'Increasing access to education will lead to greater social equality.' Do you agree?
8. How beneficial are fairy tales to children?
9. How far are the conflicts over natural resources a threat to world peace?
10. 'It is harder than ever to separate fact from fiction in the media today.' What is your view?
11. 'Nostalgia has no place in the world today.' Do you agree?
12. 'Wealth is a good measure of success of a nation.' Discuss this with reference to your society?



NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018

Candidate Name: _____ Class: _____ GP Tutor: _____

GENERAL PAPER

PAPER 2:

8807/2

Wednesday 29 August 2018

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. How does the author illustrate his opinion in lines 10 to 11 that weddings today appear to be mostly 'a frivolous display of pomp and vanity'?

[1]

2. Suggest how traditional marriage could be undermined by blasé attitudes to (a) 'premarital sex', (b) 'cohabitation', (c) 'divorce', and (d) 'the legalisation of gay marriage'. (lines 15-16). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[3]

3. Why has the author written 'maids' and 'lads' in inverted commas in line 19?

[1]

4. What is the author's purpose in describing mid-20th century marriage as being like 'a steamroller that crushed every alternative view' in lines 22 to 23? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

5. What are three differences in the ways people view marriage today, as suggested by the author in paragraph 4, and the marriage-mad era in the past in paragraph 3? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[3]

6. Why does the author use the word 'wrenched' in line 43? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

7. In line 59, explain the author's use of the word 'even'. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

8. Explain how 'women becoming economically self-sufficient' in line 63 might be related to divorce becoming more common. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

9. In paragraph 8, what are the reasons for the author's optimism regarding marriage? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[3]

10. What similarity does the author see in the 'marrying classes of the West' in line 91 to 92 and 'the dutiful ones found in poorer countries' in lines 92 to 93? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

Joel Budd writes about the state of marriage as an institution today.

1	<p>“THIS IS SO exciting!” trills a young woman, squeezing her friend’s arm. Laid out before her, in the Olympia exhibition centre in west London, is the National Wedding Show. Some 300 merchants have turned up to sell everything that is needed to throw a wedding, and a great many things besides. There are ice-sculptors, harpists, a fireworks firm, teeth-whiteners, tiara-sellers, and more than a dozen photographers. A new company, Hitch and Pooch, arranges for people’s dogs to play a role in their weddings—as ring-bearers, say. Every two hours a blast of music announces a catwalk show consisting entirely of wedding dresses and grooms’ suits. Women, mostly, browse arm-in-arm with their best friends and female relatives, abuzz with delight at all the sumptuous choices to be made. Weddings today appear to be mostly a frivolous display of pomp and vanity</p>	5 10
2	<p>Despite the spectacle and extravagance (hordes of doves released to the sky upon the entrance of the couple), marriage is often said to be ailing. It is “fashionably dismissed” and “taken for granted”. Social conservatives argue that a once-great institution has been undermined by ever more blasé attitudes to premarital sex, cohabitation and divorce—and, in the past few years, by the legalisation of gay marriage.</p>	15
3	<p>In some ways the worriers are right. For hundreds of years marriage was an essential step on the road to full adulthood in Western countries. In pre-industrial England, no matter how old, all single women were “maids”, and all single men were “lads”. Marriage was revered as the crucial bond holding together the household, which was, in turn, the foundation of society. By the mid-20th century marriage was almost unavoidable. The idea that people ought to wed and then form a household with a primary male breadwinner was like a steamroller that crushed every alternative view. Offspring were to be had strictly within wedlock. People tied the knot at ever younger ages: in the 1950s and 1960s the average American bride was too young to consume alcohol at her own wedding. Europe was almost as marriage-mad. As late as 1972, 87% of French women aged between 30 and 34 were married.</p>	20 25
4	<p>However, there is a marked difference these days. Just 43% of French women in their early 30s are married. That is part of a broad retreat. In countries like Argentina, fewer and fewer couples are tying the knot. According to some estimates, marriage rates are down 60 per cent since 1990. The decline of marriage has turned wedding invitations into a scarce commodity — and while they might not want to marry, many Argentinians still want to go to the party, leading to the rise of ‘falsa bodas’; wedding-themed parties where the wedding cake is real but the bride and groom are not. The entire wedding entourage is made up of actors, and somebody almost always gets jilted at the altar. In many other countries marriage has become unmoored from parenthood. In 2015, two-fifths of all American babies were born to unwed mothers. In France the proportion is 59%; in Colombia it is 84%. Just 21% of Britons now agree that people who want children should get married, half the share in 1989.</p>	30 35 40
5	<p>Marriage is being transformed almost everywhere, and in many of the same ways. From west London to Chinese villages to Indian slums, three great changes are afoot. The first is that marriage decisions are being wrenched out of the hands of parents and relatives and made by the young people themselves. The clearest sign of this is the almost universal rise in the average age of marriage. Even though there is still a large gap between Norway, where women marry at an average age of 32, and Bangladesh, where they wed at 19, there is also a crucial difference between marrying at 19 and at 16, which was the average for Bangladesh in 1974.</p>	45
6	<p>The second change is the emphasis on conjugal love. For much of Western history romantic love was held not only to be unnecessary for a strong marriage but antithetical</p>	50

	to it. However, today, love is triumphant. The merchants at the National Wedding Show invariably report that every couple insists on their wedding being romantic and special. “You don’t have to get married these days,” explains Anna Muckart, who makes charming wedding invitations. And because weddings are no longer obligatory, they must be extraordinary. Marriage has changed from being a rite of passage to a celebration of love and commitment—a sign that two people who already live together are ready to commit themselves further. Asian brides and grooms often disagree, arguing that marriage should be entered with a cool head and that weddings join families, not just couples. But even they now stress what they call “compatibility”.	55 60
7	When love is the basis for marriage, it follows that a marriage without love should be put asunder. The third great global change is the growing acceptance of divorce. It is now more common in many countries, especially fast-modernising ones where women are becoming economically self-sufficient. These days China and South Korea have divorce rates above the European and OECD averages. Churches and governments have often tried to resist these changes. Usually they have been humiliated. In America, even government-funded studies conclude that federal programmes aimed at strengthening marriage have almost no effect. Attempting to preserve unions by making divorce more difficult might just lead to fewer marriages. In Chile divorce was almost impossible until 2004 and is still not easy. Probably not coincidentally, Chile has the highest proportion of births outside marriage among the 35 members of the OECD ¹ .	65 70
8	Almost everywhere marriage is becoming less obligatory, less coercive and less dutiful. But even though duty and obligation are no longer reasons to get and stay married, marriage does not appear to have lost appeal or binding power. A recent survey of young Britons found that 93% of them aspire to marry. Even in countries where divorce is socially acceptable, people still believe that marriage is a special bond, not to be made or broken lightly. Study after study testifies that married people are healthier, wealthier and happier than unmarried ones. It is hard to tell how much of this is because they are married and how much is a selection effect—happy, healthy people in strong relationships being more likely to get married in the first place. But academics who have tried to control for those things still tend to find a marriage effect. Wedlock seems to increase human happiness even allowing for the fact that many marriages fall apart.	75 80
9	We may note that marriage seems more uncertain among the working classes. They are much less likely to marry than the middle and upper classes, and when they do, their unions are more liable to break down quickly. However, most working-class people still idealise marriage, just that they think of it as something to be undertaken at some point in the future. Enthusiasm and willingness regarding marriage is even more marked among those more fortunate, where the institution of marriage increasingly confers advantages on people who already have many. Affluent, highly educated men and women marry late and after careful consideration. Their marriages are highly successful—on average, almost certainly the happiest and most fulfilling that the world has ever seen. Among this privileged group, divorce is increasingly rare. The marrying classes of the West are building unions as resilient as the dutiful ones in poorer countries where old practices are still a part of life. The vows of ‘for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part’ have withstood the test of time regardless of strata or creed. The fact that pooches and tiaras are now an integral part of the wedding proceedings does not detract from its age-old sanctity. Or does it?	85 90 95

¹ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 35 member countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

NYJC J2 Prelim Exam 2018

Suggested Answer Scheme

- 1) How does the author illustrate his opinion that weddings today appear to be mostly “a frivolous display of pomp and vanity”? (line 10-11)? [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Some 300 merchants have turned up to sell everything that is needed to throw a wedding, and a great many things besides. There are ice-sculptors, harpists, a fireworks firm, teeth-whiteners, tiara-sellers, and more than a dozen photographers. A new company, Hitch and Pooch, arranges for people’s dogs to play a role in their weddings—as ring-bearers, say. Every two hours a blast of music announces a catwalk show consisting entirely of wedding dresses and grooms’ suits. ...</p>	<p>He <u>cites examples</u> of retailers that sell wedding services and merchandise which are non-essential to a wedding (frivolous) and which focus on showy forms of display. (pomp and vanity)</p>

2. Suggest how traditional marriage could be undermined by blasé attitudes toward (a) 'premarital sex', (b) 'cohabitation', (c)'divorce', and (d) the legalization of gay marriage. (lines 15-16). Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

From the text	Suggested Answer
	<p>Traditional marriage could be undermined because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) people no longer think it is a necessary pre-condition for sexual intimacy b) and living together. c) marital bonds/vows can be broken <u>easily/strength</u> of marital bond/vows have <u>declined</u>. d) People no longer adhere/follow the traditional structure of marriage. <p>(In every answer, it must be evident how the new changes can bring about the WEAKENING of the marriage institution)</p> <p>Award 0 marks if the answers are mere paraphrases of the new changes:</p> <p><i>ie:</i> Traditional marriage is undermined because now people have sex before marriage = 0m</p> <p>Traditional marriage is undermined because now gays can get married = 0m</p>

3. Why has the author written “maids” and “lads” in inverted commas (line 20)? [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
In some ways the worriers are right. For hundreds of years marriage was an essential step on the road to full adulthood in Western countries. In pre-industrial England, no matter how old, all single women were “maids”, and all single men were “lads”.	The “maids” and “lads” are not really young in age (function) but are referred to as young girls and boys because they are not married . (authors’ point)

4. What is the author’s purpose in describing mid-20th century marriage as being like ‘a steamroller that crushed every alternative view’ (lines 19-24-25)? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

From the text	Suggested Answer
By the mid-20th century marriage was almost unavoidable. The idea that people ought to wed and then form a household with a primary male breadwinner was like a steamroller that crushed every alternative view. Offspring were to be had strictly within wedlock. ...	a) He (any of the following) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creates an analogy we can all recognize and understand - is drawing a parallel/ showing the similarities - using a metaphor/figurative expression (purpose) b) to emphasise that just as a steamroller flattens everything in its path (literal), similarly the view on marriage’s importance was so powerful/dominant that it obliterated / decimated / destroyed all opposing views (figurative). Purpose + figurative (without literal) will get FULL MARKS

5. What are three differences in the ways people view marriage today, as suggested by the author in paragraph 4, and the marriage-mad era in the past, in paragraph 3? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

From the text	Suggested Answer
However, there is a marked difference these days. Just 43% of French women in their early 30s are married. That is part of a broad retreat. In countries like Argentina, fewer and fewer couples are tying the knot. According to some estimates, marriage rates are down 60 per cent since 1990, indicative of how marriage is now a matter of option. ... many Argentinians still want to go to the party, leading to the rise of ‘falsa bodas’; wedding-	a) Much fewer people get married today, showing marriage is seen as a choice whereas marriage was obligatory in the past <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (NO CONTRAST OF NUMBERS OF MARRIAGES as this alone does not suggest the way they view it) b) The rise of wedding-themed parties suggests a trivialized treatment of marriage whereas marriage was seen as the unifying force of the family, which was the basis of society, suggesting that marriage was seen to be sacrosanct, very important. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (attitude must be seen, cannot just paraphrase ‘unify family’ vs ‘have parties’)

<p>themed parties where the wedding cake is real but the bride and groom are not. ... In many other countries marriage has become unmoored from parenthood. ...</p>	<p>c) Parenthood is no longer anchored to marriage, suggesting that <i>marriage is no longer seen as a necessary criterion for parenthood today whereas in the past, parenthood had to be tied to marriage</i>/children could only be had within wedlock</p>
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6. Why does the author use the word 'wrenched' in line 43? Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>... From west London to Chinese villages to Indian slums, three great changes are afoot. The first is that marriage decisions are being wrenched out of the hands of parents and relatives and made by the young people themselves. . .</p>	<p>He wants to suggest that parents and family members do not relish/are not in favour of / not willing (interpretation of 'wrenched')</p> <p>to let go of the power to determine their offspring's marriages. (context)</p>

7. In line 59, explain the author's use of the word 'even'. Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>For much of Western history romantic love was held not only to be unnecessary for a strong marriage but antithetical to it. However, today, love is triumphant . . . And because weddings are no longer obligatory, they must be extraordinary. Marriage has changed from being a rite of passage to a celebration of love and commitment—a sign that two people who already live together are ready to commit themselves further. Asian brides and grooms often disagree, arguing that marriage should be entered with a cool head and that weddings join families, not just couples. But even they now stress what they call "compatibility".</p>	<p>a) Asian couples are seen to be more level-headed/ place less emphasis on romantic love/more emphasis on duty and less on individualism, hence are perceived to place less significance on notions of compatibility.</p> <p>b) The fact that they now do is a testament to how pervasive/influential/common the notion now is.</p> <p>2 points for 1 mark, no exceptions.</p>

8. Explain how 'women becoming economically self-sufficient' (line 64) might be related to divorce becoming more common. Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
	<p>When women are financially independent, they no longer need to depend on a man/husband for their own survival. Hence they need no longer tolerate a marital relationship that is not satisfying for them, resulting in the prevalence of divorce.</p>

	<p>Award 0 marks for answers that merely paraphrase the cause and the effect. <i>Eg: When women are able to be financially independent, more marriages will break up.</i></p>
--	--

9. In paragraph 8, what are the reasons for the author's optimism regarding marriage? Use your own words as far as possible. [3m]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>...marriage does not appear to have lost appeal or binding power. A recent survey of young Britons found that 93% of them aspire to marry.</p> <p>Even in countries where divorce is socially acceptable, people still believe that marriage is a special bond, not to be made or broken lightly.</p> <p>Study after study testifies that married people are healthier, wealthier and happier than unmarried ones. ... Wedlock seems to increase human happiness even allowing for the fact that many marriages fall apart.</p>	<p>The author gives evidence showing that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a majority of young Britons still want to get married. 2) Even when divorce is not frowned upon/common, people still believe marriage has an exceptional importance / highly significant. 3) Studies show that married people have better quality of life as compared to singles <p><i>Answers should give reasons for why the author feels marriage is still an appealing/strong/sustainable / beneficial institution (optimism regarding marriage)</i></p>

10. What similarity does the author see in the "marrying classes of the West" (line 95) and "the dutiful ones found in poorer countries"? (lines 95-98)? Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Enthusiasm and willingness regarding marriage is even more marked among those more fortunate, where the institution of marriage increasingly confers advantages on people who already have many. Affluent, highly educated men and women marry late and after careful consideration. Their marriages are highly successful—on average, almost certainly the happiest and most fulfilling that the world has ever seen. Among this privileged group, divorce is increasingly rare. The marrying classes of the West are building unions as resilient as the dutiful ones in poorer countries where old practices are still a part of life. The vows of 'for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part' have withstood the test of time regardless of strata or creed.</p>	<p>For both groups, marriages are strong and last a lifetime.</p> <p>(all the parts about the advantages, happiness, fulfilling-ness that the privileged, highly educated people feel are NOT part of the answers as it is <u>not</u> mentioned these apply to the dutiful people in poor countries. The only similarity they share is that their marriages are very lasting and rarely end in divorce)</p>

11. Summarise the ways in which marriage is being transformed throughout the world. 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]

Marriage is being transformed almost everywhere, as seen by ...

	From the Text	Suggested Answer
1	marriage decisions are being wrenched out of the hands of parents and relatives	...how a couple's elders no longer have the final say over whom they marry (accept lift for 'marriage', 'parents', 'relatives')
2	and made by the young people themselves.	This choice now lies with the couple themselves.
3	universal rise in the average age of marriage.	This has resulted in people getting married later worldwide
4	The second change is the emphasis on conjugal love.	Next, there is now a focus on romantic love / spousal love
5	For much of Western history romantic love, or "familiarity", was held not only to be unnecessary for a strong marriage	In the past, romantic feelings was not considered a criterion for a lasting union
6	but antithetical to it	And was even seen as detrimental to it.
7	However, today, love is triumphant.	But today romantic love is seen as all-important.
8	And because weddings are no longer obligatory, they must be extraordinary.	Because now weddings are not a matter of duty, they have to be spectacular/outstanding/exceptional.
9	Marriage has changed from being a rite of passage	Marriage is no longer an mandatory/requisite custom to adulthood
10	to a celebration of love	but is now a glorification/recognition of the couples' devotion / tenderness
11	and commitment	And responsibility toward each other
12	(in the past) ...arguing that marriage should be entered with a cool head	In the past, marriage was should be approached in a logical / levelheaded way
13	...and that weddings join families, not just couples	..and that it was a union of the couples' respective clans / households / involved all their kin Or it was seen to involve more familial duty (inferred)
14	But even they now stress what they call "compatibility".	But now the focus is on how suited the couple is for each other only. (difference with the past should be evident: joining families vs joining individuals)
15	When love is the basis for marriage, it follows that a marriage without love should be put asunder	When love is the foundation for matrimony, one bereft of love/affection ought to be broken / dissolved.

16	The third great global change is the growing acceptance of divorce.	The next worldwide transformation is the increasing normalization of divorce / how less and less people disapprove/frown upon divorce
17	It is now more common in many countries,	It is now increasingly prevalent in many countries / numbers have increased in many countries
18	especially fast-modernising ones where women are becoming economically self-sufficient.	Especially in countries with many financially independent women
19	Churches and governments have often tried to resist these changes.	Religious institutions and the authorities have tried to prevent this occurrence / shift / trend (accept lift of ' church' and 'government')
20	Usually they have been humiliated	But they have not succeeded in doing so. (0m for literal paraphrase of 'humiliate' – shame, embarrass, etc)
20	Attempting to preserve unions by making divorce more difficult might just lead to fewer marriages.	Any bid to make it tougher to dissolve one's marriage could lead to less people opting to get married (accept lift of 'marriage' and 'divorce')

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. Joel Budd discusses the state of marriage today. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own society? [10]

Candidate Name:	
Registration Number:	Civics Class:

NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE
SH2 Preliminary Examination
GENERAL PAPER **8807/01**
 Paper 1 **17 August 2018**
1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your full name, registration number and civics 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, 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.

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

PAPER 1

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 Assess the view that image is more important than integrity.
- 2 'Diets today are more about being trendy than being healthy.' How far is this true in your society?
- 3 Consider the view that museums are developed for tourists and not for the local community.
- 4 To what extent should we give up our privacy for the sake of security?
- 5 Assess the impact of local literature or local television programmes in your society.
- 6 'There is too much emphasis on the needs of an ageing population in medical science.' Do you agree?
- 7 'Traditions impede progress in the modern world.' Is this a fair comment?
- 8 Can poverty ever be eliminated?
- 9 'We are more likely to repeat history than to learn from it.' Is this a fair comment?
- 10 'Politics is no longer about serving the interests of the people.' Is this true?
- 11 Will technological advancement be the death of education in your society?
- 12 'The preservation of the environment has become too commercialised.' Do you agree?

Candidate Name:

Registration Number:

Civics Class:

NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE

SH2 Preliminary Examination

GENERAL PAPER

PAPER 2

Answer Booklet

8807/02

17 August 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your full name, registration number and civics 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 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	
Question No.	Marks
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9a	
9b	
10	
11	
Content	/ 35
Language	/ 15
Total	/ 50

This paper consists of 7 printed pages, including this cover 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.

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 author's purpose in introducing the examples in paragraph 1?

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

2 Explain the author's use of the word "hard-pressed" (line 6).

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

3 What is the author implying by "droplets of a rainy season" (line 10)?

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

4 Why does the author say "political dressing is trending" (line 15)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

For
Examiner's
Use

6 Explain the author's use of the phrase "fine-comb historical records" (line 50).
.....
.....
.....
.....[2]

7 According to the author, what is causing the "confusion about political dressing as fashion" (line 53)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....[3]

8 In paragraph 7, why does the author believe that political dressing is a fashion trend?
.....
.....[1]

9 a. According to the author in paragraph 8, what are the negative consequences of political dressing being co-opted into fashion? **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....
.....[2]

b. What can the readers be optimistic about despite these negative consequences? **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....[1]

10 How does the author conclude his argument in paragraph 9?

.....

.....

.....

.....[2]

Candidate Name:

Registration Number:

Civics Class:

NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE

SH2 Preliminary Examination

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

PAPER 2

17 August 2018

Insert

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your full name, registration number and civics class on all the work you hand in.
This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This paper consists of 3 printed pages, including this cover page.

Henry Delgado discusses the problem with political fashion.

- 1 Celebrities and stars turned up dressed in black at the 75th Golden Globes Award ceremony in January this year. Instantly, the media was in a frenzy over what they dubbed “political fashion statements on the red carpet.” In Britain, celebrities and royalty can be seen accessorising their outfits with poppy brooches of all shapes and sizes, as a tribute to those who perished in the First World War. Remembrance Day (affectionately known as Poppy Day), is commemorated on the 11th of November every year. On other days, one will be hard-pressed to spot ribbons of every colour pinned on various articles of clothing; from the pink ribbon to celebrate cancer survivors, to the black and “pride-coloured” ribbon worn to show solidarity with LGBTQ+ community members who are victims of brutality. 5
- 2 These are but a few of the most recent droplets of a rainy season of purportedly political fashion. It all arguably became more pronounced with the pantsuit parties in solidarity with U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016. It then progressed with white supremacists uniformed in polo t-shirts and khaki pants during their infamous Charlottesville demonstrations last year. As the effects of Brexit, a Donald Trump White House, and the rise of so-called alt-right activism in Europe and North America ripple through the cultural waters, political dressing is trending. Protesters of all stripes – feminists, white supremacists, anti-fascists, nationalists, and social justice advocates – are outfitting themselves to match their political mindsets. This type of political dressing is not the dress code of politicians, but individuals and groups using normal dress to express their political outlook. The problem is that often, participants and commentators, reporters and scholars, quickly rush to label it fashion. But is political dressing fashion? 10 15 20
- 3 The political dimension of clothing is intuitively understood from the moment individuals are born, because essentially, human society equals dressed society. What one wears, how one wears it, and when one wears it constitutes expressions of degrees of social freedoms and influences. Dress expression ranges the full political gamut from conformity to rebellion. Simply put, dress style that challenges – or is perceived as challenging, or offering an alternative to the status quo – spontaneously acquires political meaning; hence, the social power of dress and the political impact of seeing many people dressed in an agreed-upon mode. During the counter-demonstrations in Charlottesville, Virginia, last summer, anti-fascist protesters opposing white supremacists wore “black bloc” – an all-black uniform of sorts, meant to show a unified hard stance against anti-Black racist discourse. Simultaneously, “black bloc” dress indicated a willingness to resort to violence if necessary, much like the Black Panthers did in the 1960s and 70s. The Panthers took advantage of a loophole in the second amendment of the U.S. constitution that made it lawful to wear unconcealed firearms in public. 25 30
- 4 Political dressing is a concerted effort by a group of individuals to call attention to a social issue. They do so by dressing in a codified style. The recipe of political dressing has all the ingredients of fashion, but not in the right proportions. Fashion, as it is defined, occurs when a society at large agrees to a style, aesthetic, or cultural sensibility for a period of time. Fashion’s sizeable social scope and requisite expiration date is what makes it extremely useful as a marker of time. One sees it used in film, literature, or social science research. Thus, fashion means timed changes in taste at a social scale. Fashion occurs in any realm of human pursuits including the arts, music, technology, even scholarly discourse and of course, dress. 35 40
- 5 We could blame the political dressing in relation to fashion confusion on the ubiquitous and pervasive public presence of the contemporary fashion industry. From the 18th century onwards, a large sector of industry has been occupied with manufacturing what dresses us: This includes garments, accessories, beauty services, and products. This industry, along with advertisers, coalesced into an all-encompassing fashion industry. It is not surprising then, that in today’s globalised world, most people automatically identify clothes with fashion. After all, they are one of the most visible outputs of the fashion industry. Of course, the fashion industry would do nothing to clarify this; it is in their best 45

interest to be perceived as the source of fashion.

- 6 That same fashion industry employs a global army of trend forecasters to fine-comb historical records and a multiplicity of current cultural sources and happenings. They use this data to identify what colours, styles, and products people would want next season. More concerning, though, is that fashion scholars are contributing to the public confusion about political dress as fashion. They are interchangeably using the terms dress, style and fashion without regard for their fundamental semantic difference. There is a cultural explanation for this too. Fashion is an emerging scholarly discipline, which makes it very fashionable right now. Slap the word fashion to the title of an academic article or book and readership is likely to follow. 50
55
- 7 Is political dressing a fashion trend? The #tiedtogether movement used white bandanas to indicate the 'common bonds of humanity' courtesy of The Business of Fashion. Could it be that like fashion studies, political dressing is a fashion trend? Based on the number of collections that included political statements during the 2017 fashion weeks, the answer would be a rotund yes. Several collections during the last season of fashion weeks employed political statements. 60
- 8 Political runway antics included pink pussy hats at Missoni. There were white bandanas as a symbol of inclusion in Tommy Hilfiger, Thakoon, Prabal Gurung, Phillip Lim, Dior, and Diane von Furstenberg. Meanwhile, black berets à la guerrilla or Black Panther uniforms were shown at Dior. In addition, all sorts of slogans printed or embroidered in a diversity of garments popped up at Ashish Gupta, Public School, and Christian Siriano, punctuated by graphic underwear in LRS's collection. This, however, is not necessarily good news. The fashion industry has a solid record of co-opting political and countercultural movements, marginalised groups and non-Western cultures, then making a good profit out of it. There would be nothing wrong with making money this way, except that the aftermath of co-option by the fashion industry is cultural irrelevance. Just like other goods, fashion must be consumed before its expiration date. The good news is that political dressing may be fashionable, but it is not fashion. Not even the global fashion industry can prevent individuals from using their dressed bodies as a tool for political discourse. 65
70
- 9 So go ahead, pick your preferred political graphic t-shirt or wear the colours of your party of choice. Just remember that it is not fashion, unless almost everybody else decides to dress the same for a while. In which case, your options are: Embrace your fashionable status or change either your outfit or political affiliation. 75

NJC English Department
H1 General Paper
Paper 2 Prelims 2018
Suggested Answers

1. What is the author’s purpose in introducing the examples in paragraph 1? [1]

From the passage	Suggested Answer	Marks
<p>Celebrities and stars turned up dressed in black at the 75th Golden Globes Award ceremony in January this year. ... In Britain, celebrities and royalty can be seen accessorising their outfits with poppy brooches of all shapes and sizes, as a tribute to those who perished in the First World War. Remembrance Day (affectionately known as Poppy Day), is commemorated on the 11th of November every year. ... from the pink ribbon to celebrate cancer survivors, to the black and “pride-coloured” ribbon worn to show solidarity with LGBTQ+ community members who are victims of brutality. (lines 1-9)</p>	<p><u>Purpose</u> He wants to suggest/ illustrate/ highlight/ emphasise to readers to consider/ think about</p> <p><i>Do not accept: show / support / justify / exemplify</i></p> <p><u>Context</u> how prevalent political dressing is/ all the many instances of individuals putting across a political message across through their clothing choices.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>that there are many ways for individuals to express their political inclinations through what they wear.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Learning Point:</p> <p>1. Students need to understand that examples may be utilised in various ways, and may not necessarily be used to support an idea, especially if a point has not explicitly been made</p>		

2. Explain the author's use of the word "hard-pressed" (line 6). [1]

From the passage	Suggested Answer	Marks
<p>On other days, one will be hard-pressed to spot ribbons of every colour pinned on various articles of clothing (lines 6-7)</p>	<p>The author means that one will find it difficult / have trouble / be unable to</p> <p>find ribbons of a variety of colours on a typical day</p> <p>OR</p> <p>see accessories that are symbolic of the different causes / various social movements on a typical day.</p> <p><i>Accept lift: ribbons, colours</i> <i>Do not accept: ribbons of every colour</i></p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Learning points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students need to be sensitive to context that is given in the passage - in this question, "other days" is an important part of the context 		

3. What is the author implying by “droplets of a rainy season” (line 10)? [2]

From the passage	Suggested Answer	Marks
These are but a few of the most recent droplets of a rainy season of purportedly political fashion. (line 10)	Just as water droplets are part of a prolonged period of rain	1
	so these examples / instances of political dressing are part of a larger / global trend / movement / are globally prevalent/ widespread <i>Accept: these examples are numerous and that they are happening in many parts of the world</i>	1
Learning points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Metaphor question 2. Students need to be sensitive to the choice of word - here, “season” indicates a trend/pattern 3. “Droplets of a rainy season” does not refer to a sense of foreboding / precursor 		

4. Why does the author say “political dressing is trending” (line 15)? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

From the passage		Suggested Answer	Marks
1	Protesters of all stripes - feminists, white supremacists, anti-fascists, nationalists, and social justice advocates (line 16)	Many people who support various movements	1
2	are outfitting themselves to match their political mindsets (line 17)	are dressing to reflect/represent / that aligns with/ their civic/political ideals/preferences/inclinations <i>Accept lift: Political</i>	1
Learning point: 1. Line 15 answers the question “What is the reason for political dressing to be trending?” instead.			

5. Using material from paragraphs 3 – 5 only, summarise what the author says about the political dimension of clothing and how it is related to fashion. [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.**

The political dimension of clothing is ...

From the passage		Suggested Answer
1	intuitively understood from the moment individuals are born (line 22)	instinctively/inherently/implicitly known/comprehended to one at birth
2	essentially, human society equals dressed society (line 23)	Fundamentally, people see themselves as clothed/ being clothed is part of being in a human/civilised community/humanity <i>Accept lift: human, society</i>
3	What one wears, how one wears it, and when one wears it (lines 23-24)	The choices, appearance, and timing / occasion of our dressing OR Whatever we do with our clothes/attire / the way we dress
4	constitutes expressions of degrees (line 24)	are parts of / makes up the nuances/different extents/levels <i>Accept: shows/reflects</i>
5	of social freedoms (line 24)	of social liberty/rights <i>Accept lift: social</i>
6	and influences	and significance/power/inspirations
7	Dress expression ranges the full political gamut from conformity to rebellion (lines 24-25)	Clothes reflect the whole/entire political spectrum OR from acquiescence/ obedience/ compliance/ to insurgence/ disobedience/ subversion
8	dress style that challenges ... or offering an alternative to the status quo (line 25)	Fashion that provides an opposite/different option/choice/possibility to the existing conditions

9	- or is perceived as challenging , (lines 24-25)	or appears/seems to be/is deemed as threatening/defiant ,
10	spontaneously acquires political meaning (line 26)	automatically/naturally gains political context/significance , <i>Do not accept: instantaneous for spontaneous</i> <i>Do not accept: message for meaning</i>
11	hence , the social power of dress and the political impact of (lines 26-27)	leading us to see the capability/strength/potential/might/force that dress has to influence society <i>Allow lift for political</i>
12	seeing many people dressed in an agreed-upon mode (line 27) OR They do so by dressing in a codified style (lines 34-35)	when witnessing a large number/group wearing prearranged/coordinated clothes / clothes of a prearranged style OR by dressing in an institutional/organised/coordinated manner <i>Do not accept: same/uniform (intent must be clear)</i>
13	Political dressing is a concerted effort by a group of individuals to call attention to a social issue (line 34)	Political dressing is planned/jointly carried out by a band of people to raise awareness of a problem .
14	The recipe of political dressing has all the ingredients of fashion, but not in the right proportions . (lines 35-36)	Political dressing seems to constitute fashion but on an inaccurate/the wrong dimension/scale/measurements .
15	Fashion, as it is defined , occurs when a society at large agrees to a style, aesthetic , or cultural sensibility for a period of time. (lines 36-37)	Fashion refers to when society reaches a consensus on dressing, beautiful/ tasteful/ pleasing , and culturally appropriate/acceptable social norms over a certain duration. OR Fashion refers to when society reaches a consensus in preferences/taste/judgement over a certain duration <i>Allow lift for culture</i>

16	<p>Fashion's sizeable social scope (lines 37)</p> <p>Fashion occurs in any realm of human pursuits including the arts, music, technology, even scholarly discourse, and of course, dress. ...(lines 40-41)</p> <p>One sees it used in film, literature, or social science research. (lines 38-39)</p>	<p>Fashion's huge reach //</p> <p>Fashion is present in all aspects of life.</p>
17	and requisite expiration date (line 37)	and necessarily short-lived/finite nature
18	<p>is what makes it extremely useful as a marker of time. (line 37)</p> <p>Thus, fashion means timed changes in taste at a social scale. (lines 39-40)</p>	<p>results in it being a significant indicator of an age/season.</p> <p>Accept lift: time</p>
19	We could blame the political dressing in relation to fashion confusion (line 42)	<p>We could place the responsibility of people's inability to tell political dressing from fashion</p> <p><i>Accept: "due to" for blame</i></p>
20	on the ubiquitous and pervasive public presence of the contemporary fashion industry (lines 42-43)	on the far-reaching/ predominant/ widespread existence of the latest /today's fashion business
21	today's globalized world, most people automatically identify clothes with fashion. After all, they are one of the most visible outputs of the fashion industry. (lines 46-47)	<p>In our interconnected realm, people naturally classify clothes with fashion / assume that clothes are the same as fashion</p> <p><i>Allow lift for world, clothes and fashion</i></p>
22	Of course, the fashion industry would do nothing to clarify this;	The fashion industry is unlikely to correct this misconception
23	it is in their best interest to be perceived as the source of fashion.	because it benefits them/brings them profits

The political dimension of clothing is ... instinctively comprehended, as being clothed is part of a humanity. The way we dress makes up the different levels of liberty and significance. Clothes reflect the entire political spectrum, and fashion that provides an option to, or appears to threaten, the norm automatically gains political significance, leading us to see the potential that dress has to influence society. A group of people can plan to dress in a coordinated manner to raise awareness of a problem. While political dressing seems to constitute fashion, it is of the wrong dimensions. Fashion refers to when society reaches a consensus in preferences, and its huge reach and necessarily short-lived nature results in it being a significant indicator of an age.

(18 points, 117 words)

No. of points	Marks allocated
16 and above	8
13 - 15	7
11-12	6
9-10	5
7-8	4
5-6	3
3-4	2
1-2	1

6. Explain the author's use of the phrase "fine-comb historical records" (line 50). [2]

From the passage		Suggested Answer	Marks
1	<p>That same fashion industry employs a global army of trend forecasters to (line 50)</p> <p>...</p> <p>They use this data to identify what colours, styles and products people would want next season (line 52)</p>	<p>He is suggesting that those who work to predict fashion trends do so</p>	1
2	<p>fine-comb historical records and a multiplicity of current cultural sources and happenings (lines 50-51)</p>	<p>by scrutinising / detailed/thorough analysis the smallest details of history / past historical accounts</p> <p><i>Allow lift: history</i></p>	1
<p>Learning point:</p> <p>1. Students must represent the context thoroughly - here, the explanation of "historical records" is necessary</p>			

7. According to the author, what is causing the “confusion about political dressing as fashion” (line 53)? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

	From the passage	Suggested Answer	Marks
1	They are interchangeably using the terms dress, style, and fashion without regard for their fundamental semantic difference . There is a cultural explanation for this too. (lines 53-55)	Many scholars who write about fashion are using the words “dress”, “style” and “fashion” indiscriminately/carelessly without truly understanding the essential/ important/ basic differences of these concepts	1
2	Fashion is an emerging scholarly discipline , which makes it very fashionable right now . (lines 55-56)	Fashion has become an area of interest for many academics / it has become very popular as a topic of academic discourse.	1
3	Slap the word fashion to the title of an academic article or book and readership is likely to follow . (lines 56-57)	Because of this, many writers and scholars add the word “fashion” to their written work in order to gain more interest . <i>Accept lift: read</i>	1

8. In paragraph 7, why does the author believe that political dressing is a fashion trend? [1]

From the passage		Suggested Answer	Marks
1	<p>Based on the number of collections that included political statements during the 2017 fashion weeks, the answer would be a rotund yes. Several collections during the last season of fashion weeks employed political statements. (lines 60-62)</p>	<p>Many instances of recent fashion shows evidence the political affiliations to various organisations / have been inclusive of political dressing.</p> <p>Do not accept: Political statement</p>	1
<p>Learning point:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students need to see the repetition of ideas in the passage and make an inference from there 2. Students should make it a habit not to lift even if the question doesn't explicitly instruct them to use their own words 			

9a. According to the author in paragraph 8, what are the negative consequences of political dressing being co-opted into fashion? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

	From the passage	Suggested Answer	Marks
1	except that the aftermath of co-option by the fashion industry is cultural irrelevance . (lines 71-72)	The consequence of combining the two/ integrating politics into fashion is the loss of cultural/ political significance/ meaning/ symbolism/ importance . Allow lift for <i>cultural</i>	1
2	Just like other goods, fashion must be consumed before its expiration date (lines 71-72)	There is a limited time before it is no longer the trend / in vogue .	1
Learning points: 1. Read passage carefully - students must be careful not to ignore the context of the word(s) being used			

9b. What can the readers be optimistic about despite these negative consequences? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the passage	Suggested Answer	Marks
<u>Not even</u> the global fashion industry can prevent individuals from using their dressed bodies as a tool for political discourse . (lines 73-74)	People will continue to/can still choose to express / not be deterred from expressing their political opinions through clothing/their attire, <u>even</u> if the attire is not deemed fashionable / part of the latest trend.	1
Learning point: 1. Students must take into account the idea that obstacles to expressing one's political beliefs through their clothing can be overcome		

10. How does the author conclude his argument in paragraph 9? [2]

	From the passage	Suggested Answer	Marks
1	In which case, your options are: Embrace your fashionable status or change either your outfit or political affiliation. (lines 77-78)	The author appeals to the reader / provides two choices to the reader	3 pts = 2m
2		to accept being seen as being part of a trend when we express our political beliefs	1-2 pts = 1m
3		or to rethink our dress choices or political stance	
Learning point: 1. Students must pay attention to the connector “in which case” and draw a link to the earlier part of the paragraph to make sense of the statement.			

11. Henry Delgado makes several observations of the political dimension of clothing. How far do you agree with the opinions expressed? Support your answer with examples drawn from your own experience and that of your society. [10]

Possible ideas from the passage to discuss

- political dressing is trending. Protesters of all stripes – feminists, white supremacists, anti-fascists, nationalists, and social justice advocates – are outfitting themselves to match their political mindsets (lines 15-17)
- This type of political dressing is not the dress code of politicians, but individuals and groups using normal dress to express their political outlook. (lines 18-19)
- one wears, how one wears it, and when one wears it constitutes expressions of degrees of social freedoms and influences (lines 22-23)
- Dress expression ranges the full political gamut from conformity to rebellion. (lines 23-24)
- Simply put, dress style that challenges – or is perceived as challenging, or offering an alternative to the status quo – spontaneously acquires political meaning (lines 24-25)
- Political dressing is a concerted effort by a group of individuals to call attention to a social issue. They do so by dressing in a codified style. (lines 34-35)
- political dressing (is a) fashion trend (line 58)
- the aftermath of co-option by the fashion industry is cultural irrelevance (line 71)
- Not even the global fashion industry can prevent individuals from using their dressed bodies as a tool for political discourse. (lines 73-74)
- pick your preferred political graphic t-shirt or wear the colours of your party of choice (line 75)

Examples to use as support for the presence of political dressing in Singapore

The annual Pink Dot – where advocates for LGBTQ+ rights come together dressed in pink
<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/pink-dot-celebrates-10th-edition-10551414>

The Wear White Movement, a response to Pink Dot
<https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/network-churches-revives-campaign-wear-white-pink-dot-weekend>

The Yellow Ribbon Project – Students should understand that the project has evolved from a superficial demonstration of support for ex-convicts to an entire social movement that is pervasive and well-sustained.
<https://www.yellowribbon.org.sg/>

Orange Ribbon Run – where individuals take a stand against racism and reflect on the importance of racial harmony in Singapore
<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/record-7000-join-orange-ribbon-run-to-make-a-stand-against-racism>

The Purple Parade – to celebrate individuals who have special needs
<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/a-purple-parade-at-suntec-city-to-celebrate-those-with-special-needs>

The green-and-white Anti-drug Ribbon to show support for the anti-drug abuse movement
<https://www.ncada.org.sg/get-involved/adopt-the-anti-drug-ribbon>

The 'Black Sunday' incident in 2011
<https://www.theonlinecitizen.com/2011/06/13/black-sunday-movement-under-police-investigation/>

Members of Parliament adopting a new dress code of wearing red and white instead of party colours when attending the National Day Parade
<https://jentrifiedcitizen.wordpress.com/2012/08/10/singapore-ndp2012-seeing-red/>

Singaporeans jailed for questioning the legitimacy of the judicial system with their t-shirts
<https://uk.reuters.com/article/oukoe-uk-singapore-kangaroo-idUKTRE4AQ1V920081127>

A Singaporean's view on how people should dress in public
<https://www.straitstimes.com/forum/letters-in-print/mind-how-we-dress-in-public>

Pink Ribbon Singapore – to raise awareness and educate the public on breast cancer
<http://pinkribbonsingapore.org/>

Political Party colours in Singapore

Party	Shirt Colour
 People's Action Party	White
 Workers' Party	Light Blue
 Singapore People's Party	Purple
 Singapore Democratic Party	Red
 National Solidarity Party	Orange
 Reform Party	Yellow
 Singapore Democratic Alliance	Bright Green
 Democratic Progressive Party	White and Orange
 Singaporeans First	Blue
People's Power Party	Light Purple



PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Higher 1

Paper 1

10 September 2018
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.

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[Turn over]

Answer **ONE** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. 'The individual, rather than the state, should take more responsibility in combatting fake news.' To what extent do you agree?
2. 'Seeking wealth is the most important pursuit in life.' Comment.
3. With reference to your society, can a small state have real influence in the world today?
4. Is it always fair to give rewards and opportunities to people based on merit?
5. Can and should humour be used as a tool for discussing serious issues?
6. Is there any value in religion when the world is more educated in the sciences today?
7. Can automation be justified in the light of its impact on people?
8. 'With the advancement of modern technology, formal education is no longer essential to a society.' Do you agree?
9. To enable the sustaining of local culture, should your society's government limit access to foreign entertainment?
10. Is there an over-emphasis on maintaining one's image or reputation these days?
11. Can the problem of plastic pollution be solved through individual actions alone?
12. Is it really important for your society to use public spaces for art displays?



PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER
Higher 1

8807/2

Paper 2

10 September 2018
1 hour 30 minutes

ANSWER BOOKLET

Candidate's Name: _____ CT Group: _____

GP Tutor: _____

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

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 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 **8** printed pages including **1** cover page, and an **Insert** comprising **2** printed pages.

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[Turn over]

PAPER 2 (50 marks)

For
Examiners
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 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 passage.

- 1 According to paragraph 1, why are people 'longing for earlier decades' (line 4)? Use your own words as far as possible.

[2]

- 2 Explain what the author means by the phrase '... compare bleeding headlines of the present with rose-tinted images of the past' (lines 5-6). Use your own words as far as possible.

[2]

- 3 Suggest why the author claims that 'intellectuals who call themselves progressive really hate progress' (lines 17-18).

[1]

4 What is suggested by the claim that most academics and pundits 'would rather have their surgery with anaesthesia than without it' (lines 19-20)?

[1]

5 According to paragraph 4, what is the author's argument in demonstrating that progress has taken place? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

6 Explain how the headline in paragraph 5 is satirical.

[1]

7 What does the phrase 'capitalises on our morbid interests' (lines 42-43) suggest about news organisations? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

8 What are the author's concerns about 'fatalism' (line 48)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

9 **In your own words as far as possible,** explain what the author's message is in the first two sentences of paragraph 11.

[3]

10 Suggest why the author makes a list of comparisons in the concluding lines.

[1]

Insert

Steven Pinker argues that the world is getting better than what most people think.

- 1 Many people face the news each morning with trepidation. Every day, we read of shootings, inequality, pollution, dictatorship and war. These are some of the reasons that 2016 was called the 'Worst. Year. Ever.' until 2017 claimed that record and left many people longing for earlier decades, when the world seemed safer, cleaner and more egalitarian. You can always fool yourself into seeing a decline if you compare bleeding headlines of the present with rose-tinted images of the past. But what does the trajectory of the world look like when we measure well-being over time using a constant yardstick? 5
- 2 Compare the most recent data on the present with the same measures over time about the world? Last year, there were 12 ongoing wars, 60 autocracies and 10 percent of the population in extreme poverty. But 30 years ago, there were 23 wars, 85 autocracies, and 37 percent of the world population in extreme poverty. True, last year was a terrible year for terrorism, with 238 deaths, but 1988 was worse with 440 deaths. 10
- 3 So, was 1988 a particularly bad year? Or are these improvements a sign that the world is getting better over time? Might we even invoke the admittedly old-fashioned notion of progress? To do so is to court a certain amount of derision, because I have found that intellectuals hate progress and intellectuals who call themselves progressive really hate progress. Now, it is not that they hate the fruits of progress. Most academics and pundits would rather have their surgery with anaesthesia than without it. It is the idea of progress that rankles them. A belief that humans can improve their lot means that blind faith in the superstition and false promise of the myth drives the onward march of inexorable progress. 15
- 4 But all of this is irrelevant, because the question of whether progress has taken place is not a matter of faith or having an optimistic temperament. It is a testable hypothesis. People largely agree on what goes into human well-being: life, health, sustenance, prosperity, peace, freedom, safety, knowledge, leisure, happiness. All these things can be measured. If they have improved over time, that, is progress. Empirically, it can be shown that in all these measures humanity has seen significant progress. And do all the provable gains make us any happier? The answer is yes. In 86 percent of the world's countries, happiness has increased in recent decades. 20
- 5 With all the evidence indeed evident, why do people not appreciate progress? Part of the answer comes from our cognitive psychology. The easier it is to recall something from memory, the more probable we judge it to be negative. The other part of the answer comes from the nature of journalism, captured in a satirical headline, which stated 'CNN Holds Morning Meeting to Decide What Viewers Should Panic About for Rest of Day.' 25
- 6 News is about things that happen, not things that do not happen. You never see a journalist who says, 'I'm reporting from a country that has been at peace for 40 years.' Also, bad things can happen quickly, but good things are not built in a day. The papers could have run the headline, '137,000 people escaped from extreme poverty yesterday' every day for the last 25 years. That is one and a quarter billion people leaving poverty behind, but you never read about it. Also, the news capitalises on our morbid interests, if you combine our cognitive biases with the nature of news, you can see why the world has been coming to an end for a very long time indeed. 30

- 7 However, is it not good to be pessimistic to safeguard against complacency? Well, not exactly. It is good to be accurate. Of course we should be aware of the bad, but we should also be aware of how it can be reduced, because there are dangers to indiscriminate pessimism. One of them is fatalism. If all our efforts at improving the world have been in vain, why keep at it? Since the world will end soon, a natural response is to enjoy life while we can; eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die. 45
- 8 If there is such a thing as progress, what causes it? Progress is not a mysterious arc of history bending towards justice. It is the result of human efforts governed by an idea, that if we apply reason and science to enhance human well-being, we can gradually succeed. These ideals can be cast as stirring narrative, going something like this: we are born into a pitiless universe, facing steep odds against life-enabling order and in constant jeopardy of falling apart. Even as the spiral of recursive improvement gathers momentum, we are shaped by a process that is ruthlessly competitive. We are made from crooked timber, vulnerable to illusions, self-centeredness and at times astounding stupidity as we eke out victories against the forces that grind us down, not least, the darker parts of our own nature. 55
- 9 Yet reason and science have blessed humanity with the resources that open a space for a kind of redemption. We are endowed with the power to combine ideas recursively, as we penetrate the mysteries of the cosmos, including life and mind, to have thoughts about our thoughts. We have an instinct for language, allowing us to share the fruits of our ingenuity and experience even though much suffering and tremendous peril remain, but ideas on how to reduce them have been voiced, and an infinite number of others are yet to be conceived. 65
- 10 We are deepened with the capacity for sympathy, for pity, imagination, compassion, commiseration, so that fewer of us are killed, exploited or oppressed by others. These endowments have found ways to magnify our own power. The scope of language has been augmented by technology allowing humanity to accumulate ages of wisdoms to transform society, teaching us with the heroic myth of our predecessors. But while myths may be fiction, the outcomes of our learning of them are true. Our circle of sympathy has been expanded by history, journalism and the narrative arts, entrenching the values of compassion to better humanity. And institutions of reason, intellectual curiosity, open debate and the burden of proof multiply our puny rational faculties to verify ideas by confronting them against reality, allowing us to make necessary or even radical changes to society. 70
- 11 We will never have a perfect world, and it would be dangerous to seek one. But there's no limit to the betterment we can attain if we continue to apply knowledge to enhance human flourishing. As we learn more, we can show which parts of the story continue to be true and which are false, as any of them might be and any could become. And this story belongs to all of humanity, to any sentient creature with the power of reason and the urge to persist in its being, for it requires only the convictions that life is better than death, health is better than sickness, abundance is better than want, freedom is better than coercion, happiness is better than suffering and knowledge is better than ignorance and superstition. 75

According to original paragraphing:

- 1) According to paragraph 1, why do people ‘long for earlier decades’? (line 4) **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>...and left many people longing for earlier decades, when the world</p> <p>a. <u>seemed safer</u>, b. <u>cleaner</u> c. and <u>more egalitarian</u>. (line 4-5)</p>	<p>The past appeared to be</p> <p>a) less dangerous/harmful/more secured/protected b) less polluted/contaminated/more pure/natural c) more uniform/commensurate/consistent/just/equal/unbiased/impartial/</p> <p>1-2=1m, 3=2m</p>

- 2) Explain what the author means by the phrase ‘... compare bleeding headlines of the present with rose-tinted images of the past.’ **Use your own words as far as possible.** (line 5-6) [2m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>“...fool yourself into seeing a decline if you compare...</p> <p>a) Compare <u>bleeding</u> headlines of the <u>present</u></p> <p>b) with <u>rose-tinted images</u> of the <u>past</u>.” (line)</p>	<p>The author means that people</p> <p>a) evaluate/contrast the devastation/hurt/grief/destruction/pain/ pessimism in the events // found on the front pages of newspapers today / the today/modern world [1]</p> <p>b) with those in previous years/ the time before, where the world was remembered/viewed/seemed as idyllic/ ideal/ pleasant/ peaceful/optimistic/ remembered as better. [1]</p>

- 3) Suggest why the author claims that ‘intellectuals who call themselves progressive really hate progress’ (line 19-20). [1m]

Lifted	Inference / Suggested Answer
<p>...because I have found that intellectuals hate progress and intellectuals who call themselves progressive really hate progress.</p> <p>[inference: from line 19-21] It is <u>the idea of progress that rankles them</u>. A <u>belief</u> that humans can improve their lot means that <u>blind faith in the superstition and false promise of the myth</u> drives the onward march of progress.</p>	<p>The author thinks intellectuals believe people will rest on their laurels/be complacent and not try for future progress.</p> <p><u>OR</u> The author believes that if the world has progressed as far as it has, then people will not have reason to continue working for progress.</p> <p><u>OR</u> The author believes that they think that the progress the general public see are based upon belief, faith or myth and not reality. // Because the progressive intellectuals believe that improvement cannot really occur / the idea of progress is baseless.</p> <p>Accept other plausible answers.</p>

- 4) What is suggested by the claim that most academics and pundits 'would rather have their surgery with anaesthesia than without it' (line 19-20)? [1m]

Lifted	Inferential/ Suggested Answer
Most academics and pundits would rather have their surgery with anaesthesia than without it (line 18-19)	They indeed would prefer the gifts of the modern world than the realities of an idyllic / painful / less advanced past OR They cannot live without the benefits of progress, despite not liking the idea of it / believing it is not actually happening. (1m)

- 5) According to paragraph 4, what is the author's argument in demonstrating that progress has taken place? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
the question of whether progress has taken place is not a matter of faith or having an optimistic temperament. a) It is <u>a testable hypothesis</u> . b) ... what goes into human well-being: life, health, sustenance, prosperity, peace, freedom, safety, knowledge, leisure, happiness. All these things <u>can be measured</u> . c) If they have improved <u>over time</u> , that, is progress. (line 22-27) d) Empirically, it can be shown that in all these measures humanity has seen <u>significant progress</u>	Progress a) can be proven / verified as b) the state of people's lives can be deliberately calculated/quantified... c) across a period / today compared to the past d) And based on evidence/observations , they are seen to have remarkably improved . 1-2=1m, 3-4=2m

- 6) Explain how the headline in paragraph 5 is satirical. [1m]

Lifted	Inferential/ Suggested Answer
...captured in a satirical headline which stated 'CNN Holds Morning Meeting to Decide What Viewers Should Panic About for Rest of Day.' (line 33-36)	(Function) It is satirical because it derides/pokes fun at/ is ironic/ sarcastic/mocks + (context) news outlets for scaring people Function + context = 1 m Other contexts: - showing how they <u>have already decided</u> on the agenda. - Showing how they are intentionally trying to scare people Which goes against the ethical principles of what news organisations should do.

7) What does the phrase 'capitalises on our morbid interests' (lines 42-43) suggest about news organisations? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

Lifted	Suggested Answer
<p>a. <u>capitalises</u> on our</p> <p>b. <u>morbid interests</u>... (line 42-43)</p>	<p>Media agencies</p> <p>a) Exploit /Take advantage of their / Increase their audience size / profit [1m]</p> <p>b) By tapping on audience's fears /curiosity in unpleasant things [1m]</p> <p>Note: pt b must be linked to pt a. to get maximum marks.</p>

8) What are the author's concerns about fatalism (line 48)? **Use your own words as far as possible** [2m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>... should also be aware of</p> <p>how it can be reduced, because there are dangers to indiscriminate pessimism. One of them is <u>fatalism</u>.</p> <p>a) If all our <u>efforts</u> at improving the world have been in <u>vain</u>,</p> <p>b) <u>why keep at it?</u> (how it can be reduced)</p> <p>c) Since the world <u>will end</u> soon a natural response is to enjoy life while we can; eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die</p>	<p>He is worried that fatalism</p> <p>Would give us the thinking that</p> <p>a) all our hard work will be ineffective / useless</p> <p>b) so there would be no reason to continue doing so / to improve</p> <p>c) as the world will surely be destroyed ultimately.</p> <p>1-2 pts – 1m 3pts – 2m</p>

9) **In your own words as far as possible**, explain what the author's message is in the first two sentences of paragraph 11. [3m]

Lifted	Suggested Answer
<p>We will</p> <p>a. <u>never</u> have a <u>perfect world</u>,</p> <p>b. and it would be <u>dangerous</u> to seek one.</p> <p>c. But there's no <u>limit</u> to the <u>betterments</u> we can attain if</p> <p>d. we continue to <u>apply knowledge</u> to enhance human flourishing... we can show which parts of the story continue to be true and which one's false, as any of them might be and any could become. (line 77-79)</p>	<p>It is humanity's quest to</p> <p>a) Despite the impossibility</p> <p>b) and perils of creating a utopic/ideal/completely blissful place</p> <p>c) there is no ceiling to improvements / progress</p> <p>d) as humankind uses their intelligence/ what they know to keep on improving.</p> <p>1 pt – 1m 2 pts – 2m 3-4 pts – 3 m</p>

10) Suggest why the author makes a list of comparisons in the concluding lines. [1m] (Inferential qn)

Lifted	Suggested Answer
“it requires only the <u>convictions</u> that life is better than death, health is better than sickness, abundance is better than want, freedom is better than coercion, happiness is better than suffering and knowledge is better than ignorance and superstition” (line 85-88)	He does this to emphasise how we have a choice(s) between making the world better or worse. OR ...to emphasise that working (progressing) towards these ideals is worthwhile.

11. From paragraphs 8-10, summarise the points the author makes regarding the conditions mankind finds itself in, the things it is blessed with and how those things are transformative.

We are born into....

Lifted	Paraphrased
How mankind is born	
1. a <u>pitiless</u> universe (line 55)	Ruthless/merciless/harsh/cruel/austere/severe world
2. <u>facing steep odds</u> against life-enabling order (line 55) forces that <u>grind us down</u>	Confronting difficult challenges/travails/ strong unlikelihood to succeed
3. in <u>constant jeopardy</u> of <u>falling apart</u> (line 56)	Unyielding/unrelenting threat/danger of disintegrating/breaking down/malfunctioning/ destruction
4. <u>shaped</u> by a process that is <u>ruthlessly competitive</u> . (line 57-58)	Determined/moulded by merciless rivalry/opponents
5. made from <u>crooked timber</u> (line 58)	(Inferred) we are imperfect
6. <u>vulnerable to illusions</u> (line 58)	Susceptible to falsehoods/misinterpretations/untruths/deceptions
7. <u>self-centeredness</u> (line 58-59)	Individualistic / uncaring of others / ego-centric
8. and <u>at times astounding stupidity</u> (line 59)	And occasional shocking/surprising foolishness/ignorance
The things it is blessed with	
9. <u>Reason</u> and science have blessed humanity...	We are born logical
10. but man has been blessed with resources that open a space for a kind of <u>redemption</u> (line 62)	However, we have the opportunity to absolve/save/vindicate/free ourselves
11. We are endowed with the power to <u>combine ideas recursively</u> (line 62-63)	We can join/connect/link concepts repeatedly/continuously
12. to <u>have thoughts about our thoughts</u> (line 63-64)	Be self-reflexive/to reflect on how we think/ meta-cognition
13. We <u>have an instinct for language</u> , allowing us (line 64)	We have a inclination/able/ with the ability to communicate
14. to <u>share</u> the fruits of our <u>ingenuity and experience</u> . (line 65) paraphrase of either ingenuity or experience	Distribute/divide our talents/cleverness and intelligence/knowledge/wisdom/ understanding
15. <u>deepened</u> with the capacity for <u>sympathy</u> (line 68) <u>Pity</u> (line 68)	Amplified/made more meaningful by our ability to understand/Feel sadness/regret/sorrow for others
16. <u>Imagination</u> (line 68)	Have vision/originality/creativity/innovation/ inventiveness/insightfulness/resourcefulness
17. <u>Compassion</u> (line 68) <u>Commiseration</u> (line 69)	(Action) show care/concern/kindness Comfort/solace/consolation
... how they are transformative	

18.	The scope of language has been <u>augmented</u> by technology... (line 74-75)	We have improved/magnified/increased/ enhanced how we communicate using gadgets *Allow lift for technology.					
19.	... <u>accumulate</u> ages of <u>wisdom</u>	And accrue knowledge					
20.	<u>Teaching us with the heroic myth of our predecessors</u>	Inspired by our forebears					
21.	Our circle of <u>sympathy</u> has been expanded by history, journalism and the narrative arts (line 70-71) <u>Entrenching the values of compassion to better humanity</u>	The idea of putting people first amplified through literature / the arts / the media					
22.	Fewer of us are killed, exploited... (line 69) entrenching the values of compassion <u>to better humanity</u> (line 73-75)	To reduce human suffering					
23.	<u>Institutions of reason</u>	Establishment of universities/schools/colleges					
24.	<u>intellectual curiosity</u> (line 75)	Spirit of enquiry/wonder/eagerness to acquire more knowledge					
25.	<u>open debate</u> (line 75)	Freedom to argue/discuss/exchange views					
26.	<u>burden of proof to multiply our puny rational faculties to verify ideas</u> by confronting them against reality. (line 75-76)	Ascertain facts/ensure evidence to confirm information					
1-2 p – 1m	3-4 – 2m	5-6 – 3m	7-8 – 4m	9-10 – 5m	11-12 – 6m	13-14 – 7m	> 15 – 8m

12. Steven Pinker argues that contrary to what most people think, the world is progressing and can continue to progress as long as people recognise it and continue to work towards it.

To what extent do you agree with Pinker's arguments, and are you and your society more optimistic or pessimistic of the future?



RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
Year 6 Preliminary Examination

General Paper
PAPER 1

AUG 2018
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]

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 Do you agree that progress creates new challenges and worsens old problems?
- 2 'Schools teach too much.' How far is this true in your society?
- 3 'There is no democracy without dissent.' Comment.
- 4 In your society, should more be done to preserve heritage?
- 5 To what extent has technology had a negative impact on young people?
- 6 'Integrity is no longer a valued trait.' To what extent is this true of your society?
- 7 How far do you agree that greed is the source of the world's problems today?
- 8 'The environmental movement is just a tool for politicians.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?
- 9 Is there still a need for military defence in today's world?
- 10 'Modern lifestyles are incompatible with the attainment of happiness.' Discuss.
- 11 How effective are international efforts in eradicating global problems?
- 12 'There is little value in the sport industry today.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER



RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Year 6 Preliminary Examination

GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 2

8807/02
AUGUST 2018
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. Suggest reasons for the author beginning the passage with a reference to Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics.

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.....[2]

- 2. Why does the author use the word 'enshrines' (line 6) with reference to happiness?

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.....[1]

- 3. In lines 15-17, how does the author support his idea that people are now more interested in a 'self-gratifying version of happiness than in the disciplined search for meaning' (lines 12-13)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[3]

4. Suggest why the author uses the word 'unsurprisingly' in line 18.

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

5. What is the author's purpose in using the word 'very' in line 23?

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

6. Why has the author placed the term 'quick fixes' (line 28) in inverted commas?

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

*For
Examiner's
Use*

8. Explain why the author says that work is 'less intuitive' (line 75) than faith, family, and community in achieving happiness? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

9. In lines 76-78, what reasons does the author give to explain why our work can bring about happiness today? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....[2]

10. In lines 81-86, what contrasts does the author make between what happiness should be and what it is today? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2
INSERT

8807/02
August 2018

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]

Hugh Gugh writes about happiness.

- 1 More than two thousand years ago, Aristotle begins the *Nicomachean Ethics*, one of his most widely read and influential works, by asking what the final good for human beings is. He identifies this final good with happiness, and claims that human good (that is, happiness) is activity of the soul in accordance with the best and most perfect virtue. He believes that happiness depends on the cultivation of virtue, though his virtues are somewhat more individualistic than the essentially social virtues of the Confucians. Hence, Aristotle enshrines the ultimate goal of human life, which is simply happiness: finding a purpose in order to realise your potential, and working on your attitude to attain excellence so that we can find happiness. 5
- 2 Our current obsession with finding happiness today may not be too different from Aristotle's quest for meaning. Today, however, the emphasis on meaning and virtue seems to be at odds with our culture. Modern attitudes reveal that we no longer appreciate the cultivation of virtues. Instead, we are now more interested in the frenetic pursuit of a self-gratifying version of happiness than in the disciplined search for meaning, even if contemporary research constantly reminds that having purpose and meaning in life increases overall well-being and life satisfaction. Happiness without meaning characterises a relatively shallow and self-absorbed life. This life typically allows things to go well as our needs and desires are easily satisfied, and difficult or taxing entanglements are also conveniently avoided. On top of that, the single-minded pursuit of happiness today is unsurprisingly leaving people less happy, and it is this very pursuit of happiness that thwarts happiness. 15
- 3 This desperate attempt to be happy has led to the rise of the billion-dollar self-help industry. We seem to think that happiness is an object that can be purchased, whether in a book, a pill, a work-out plan, or a simple to-do list prescribed by a life coach. The self-help industry will pour forth books promising to make us happier. But the very demand for such books is a strong indication that they are not working. Here is an important fact: unhappy people make these companies a lot of money. This is because unhappy people are easy to control. Our society's emphasis on productivity and work ethic – two by-products of a capitalist and materialist system – keeps people unhappy and then convinces them that the only way out is to spend their money on "quick fixes". The truth is that you create suffering each time you imagine that happiness is an object. You elicit unhappiness each time you search for happiness. And the mechanism of this seeking for happiness is what reinforces your isolation from its presence. 25
- 4 Perhaps, instead of sending people out on a wild goose chase for happiness, we should acknowledge that they just need to be treated better. There are benefits to being happy, and economists, behavioural scientists, policy makers and employers are starting to realise that happiness is actually good for business because it makes people more productive. When researchers took *Fortune's* annual list of 'Best Companies to Work For' and compared it over time with how peer companies performed on the stock market, they found that the top best-to-work-for firms outperformed the others, and also that investors often undervalued the intangibles of employee well-being. It is an important piece of research because it shows that the potential cost of raising well-being is more than matched by productivity and increased performance. 40
- 5 With this awareness, a number of modern workplaces that offer fun things to do during their lunchbreak have also started growing from strength to strength, often citing the 'work hard play hard' work ethic as part of their success. Google was among the first large firms to incorporate games tables and fun distractions into its offices. Apart from improving 45

- productivity levels, happiness has also helped software developers get better at problem-solving – a skill highly-prized by businesses today. Another way to nurture happiness is to have bosses who value their employees, which in turn generates trust. Google’s willingness to trust their employees is the factor that has resulted in a small search engine company developing into the global conglomerate it is today. More companies can start targeting melancholy at work. There can be a stronger engagement of employees to tackle the problem of a lack of purpose at work, and a sense that work is impinging too much on other aspects of life. 50
- 6 The realisation of the importance of happiness in modern societies can also prompt policymakers to shift their priorities from the creation of wealth to the creation of good feelings. As we study the World Happiness Report each year and marvel at Denmark’s remarkable achievement, we inevitably start to wonder if the Danes have the formula for happiness. The rising popularity of Hygge, a Danish concept for a feeling of comfort and wellness, is indeed hard to miss, and it has become a notable cultural movement with Hygge-lovers all around the world. But perhaps happiness is not found in an abstract and foreign concept. Happiness can instead be measured using objective indicators, such as data on crime, civic engagement, and health. Not only do the Danes have Hygge, they have a stable government, low levels of corruption, and access to high-quality education and healthcare. Even if the country has the highest taxes in the world, the vast majority of Danes happily pay these taxes as they believe higher taxes can create a better society. Indulging in abstract ideas can be fun. But policies that are empowering and inclusive can help us in more tangible ways. 55
60
65
- 7 But we cannot confuse such systemic unfairness with self-imposed misery. Some choose to believe that there is nothing they can do to solve their problems and this victim mentality leads them to blame others for their problems, or blame outside circumstances. What if we all had a very practical formula for happiness? After 40 years of research, social scientists can now attribute happiness to three major sources: genes, events, and values. Before we start blaming our parents and the society for our misery, we should ask ourselves if we have worked hard enough to cultivate personal values. It turns out that choosing to pursue four basic values of faith, family, community and work is the surest path to happiness. While the first three are fairly uncontroversial, work, though, seems less intuitive. Popular culture insists our jobs are drudgery. However, throughout our history, flexible labour markets in developed countries and the dynamic society have also given us a unique say over our work – and made our work uniquely relevant to our happiness. With greater say over our work, we learn that it is unbelievably important for work to be rewarding, and this is emphatically not about money but about a sense of fulfilment. 70
75
80
- 8 Aristotle’s practical recipe for happiness is ripe for rediscovery. The challenge for society as we move forward will be how to ensure that people are patient in their pursuit of happiness. We need to develop happiness as a virtue, because today’s frenzied quest for happiness will fail us for the simple reason that emotions never last. Perhaps it’s time to hop off the hedonic treadmill and gain some perspective. After all, overinvesting in the search for happiness will not result in any real change. This is a difficult pill to swallow. We like the idea that there’s some form of ultimate happiness that can be attained (we just need to go to the self-help section, or let our governments and employers create happiness for us). We like the idea that we can alleviate all of our suffering permanently. We like the idea that we can be fulfilled and satisfied forever. But we cannot – and it’s time to embrace a counterintuitive approach to happiness. Work for it. 85
90

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**2018 Y6 Prelim II
Paper 2 Answer Scheme**

1. Suggest reasons for the author beginning the passage with a reference to Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics? [2]

From passage	Inferred
More than two thousand years ago, Aristotle begins the Nicomachean Ethics, one of his most widely read and influential works ...	He wants to convey the point that happiness has been a topic of debate for a very long time / convey the idea that the discussion of happiness is not a new one [1] and the text is highly regarded [1].

2. Why does the author use the word ‘enshrines’ (line 6) with reference to happiness? [1]

From passage	Inferred
Hence, Aristotle enshrines the ultimate goal of human life, which is simply happiness: finding a purpose in order to realise your potential, and working on your attitude to attain excellence so that we can find happiness.	He wants to convey the perception of happiness as an extremely revered outcome/of utmost importance/main objective [1]

3. In lines 15-17, how does the author support his idea that people are now more interested in a ‘self-gratifying version of happiness than in the disciplined search for meaning’ (lines 12-13)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From text	Paraphrased
Happiness without meaning characterizes a relatively shallow and self-absorbed life.	a) Superficial
This life typically allows things to go well as our needs and desires are easily satisfied ,	b) Want their own agenda fulfilled / selfish
and difficult or taxing entanglements are also conveniently avoided .	c) Their demands/expectations are met without much effort
	d) and hard/demanding/strenuous predicaments are evaded. 1-2points = 1m 3 points = 2m 4 points = 3m

4. Suggest why the author uses the word 'unsurprisingly' in line 18.

[2]

From text	Inferred
On top of that, the single-minded pursuit of happiness today is, unsurprisingly , leaving people less happy, and it is this very pursuit of happiness that thwarts happiness.	<p>It is expected that they will be constantly denied of happiness...[1]</p> <p>Because culture today is such that people seek convenient/easy solutions or are unwilling to put in effort to attain happiness. [1]</p> <p><i>(accept any reasonable answer)</i></p>

5. What is the author's purpose in using the word 'very' in line 23?

[2]

From text	Inferred
The self-help industry will pour forth books promising to make us happier. But the very demand for such books is a strong indication that they aren't working.	<p>It is to highlight the irony of the situation [1]</p> <p>as the continued sale/success of these books actually reveal how inadequate the self-help industry has been in helping us attain happiness. [1]</p> <p>or</p> <p>the demand of such books should allow more people to find happiness, but they are in fact still desperately seeking happiness. [1]</p> <p><i>(2 marks as long as student accurately points out irony. 1 mark if irony is highlighted without context)</i></p> <p><i>Note: this is a question about 'author's purpose', not just 'explain the irony'.</i></p>

6. Why has the author placed the term 'quick fixes' (line 28) in inverted commas?

[1]

From text	Inferred
Our society's emphasis on productivity and work ethic – two by-products of a capitalist and materialist system – keeps people unhappy and then convinces them that the only way out is to spend their money on "quick fixes".	<p>The author does not trust/sceptical about the efficacy of the proposed solutions</p> <p>Or</p> <p>is implying that those convenient methods/strategies / easy solutions that often do not work</p>

7. Using material from paragraphs 4 to 6 only (lines 32–66), summarise how and why happiness is significant to society.

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.**

Happiness is significant because ...

	From text	Paraphrased/ Inference
A	happiness is actually good for business	... it is beneficial for the economy
B	because it makes people more productive.	as work output is boosted / people become more efficient / effective.
C	When researchers took Fortune's annual list of ' Best Companies to Work For '	<i>(inferred)</i> It also improves the reputation of firms
D	and compared it over time with how peer companies performed on the stock market	and these firms do better than their competitors.
E	that the potential cost of raising well-being is more than matched by productivity and increased performance.	Money invested in making people happy brings about higher returns in profits / work environment is improved.
F	a number of modern workplaces that offer fun things to do during their lunchbreak have also started growing from strength to strength	Promoting happiness at work is gathering momentum / More companies are now interested in promoting happiness
G	Apart from improving productivity levels, happiness has also helped software developers get better at problem solving	as it leads to increased capabilities of staff in overcoming challenges
H	– a skill highly-prized by businesses today.	which is treasured/prioritised by companies.
I	Another way to nurture happiness is to have bosses who value their employees	Workers are recognised/seen as important and this
J	which in turn generates trust	develops (mutual) assurance/confidence
K	Google's willingness to trust their employees is the factor that has resulted in a small search engine company developing into a global conglomerate it is today	and can bring about tremendous success for companies. or and can help companies expand in scale

L	More companies can start targeting melancholy at work.	Companies can help to fight gloominess/dejection/desolation/low spirits,
M	There can be a stronger engagement of employees to tackle the problem of a lack of purpose at work	cultivate motivation and
N	and a sense that work is impinging too much on other aspects of life.	help employees attain balance between work and personal life.
O	The realisation of the importance of happiness in modern societies can also prompt policymakers to shift their priorities from the creation of wealth to the creation of good feelings.	Governments should do more to encourage happiness instead of focusing on economic success.
P	As we study the World Happiness Report each year and marvel at Denmark's remarkable achievement,	We admire countries that consistently manage to attain happiness
Q	The rising popularity of Hygge , a Danish concept for a feeling of comfort and wellness, is indeed hard to miss, and it has become a notable cultural movement with Hygge-lovers all around the world.	and the concept of happiness has been getting more support / people are becoming more interested in the idea of happiness.
R	But perhaps happiness is not found in an abstract and foreign concept.	Happiness is not out of reach / is attainable / is practical
S	Happiness can instead be measured using objective indicators,	and can be tracked/quantified easily.
T	such as data on crime, civic engagement, and health	It requires attention to basic needs of people. <i>note: or paraphrase all 3 (poor strategy)</i>
U	Even if the country has the highest taxes in the world, the vast majority of Danes <i>happily pay these taxes</i> as they believe higher taxes can create a better society.	(inferred) With happiness, people can have the right mentality / understand the rationale and support government effort
V	But policies that are empowering and inclusive can help us in more tangible ways.	Happiness can address inequality in society.

24 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

8. Explain why the author says that work is 'less intuitive' (line 74) than faith, family, and community in achieving happiness? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From quote	Paraphrased
While the first three are fairly uncontroversial, work, though, seems less intuitive . Popular culture insists our jobs are drudgery .	It is not natural (1) for us to believe that our jobs will lead to happiness as we usually see/are conditioned to perceive it as something dull and difficult/tedious/burdensome (1) that instead decreases our level of satisfaction.

9. In lines 76-78, what reasons does the author give to explain why our work can bring about happiness today? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From quote	Paraphrased
However, throughout our history, flexible (1) labour markets in developed countries and the dynamic (2) society have also given us a unique say over our work (3) – and made our work uniquely relevant to our happiness (4) .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One reason is an adaptable/versatile job market (accept labour market) 2. And a constantly-changing society 3. That allow us greater influence/clout / power/control at work 4. Therefore making our work even more significant/pertinent to our happiness. (note: degree is essential for this point) <p>1-2 points = 1 mark 3-4 points = 2 marks</p>

10. In lines 81-86, what contrasts does the author make between what happiness should be and what it is today? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From text	Paraphrased
The challenge for society as we move forward will be how to ensure that people are (A2) patient in their pursuit of happiness . We need to develop happiness as a (B2/C2) virtue , because today's (A1) frenzied quest for happiness will fail us for the simple reason that (B1) emotions never last . It is time to hop off the (A1) hedonic treadmill and gain some perspective. After all, overinvesting in the search for happiness (C1) will not result in any real change .	<p>People's pursuit of</p> <p>A1: Happiness today is frantic A2: when it should be cultivated slowly</p> <p>B1: it is also about good but fleeting feelings B2: when it should be pursued as part of a moral endeavour</p> <p>C1: The pursuit of happiness today is fleeting / temporal C2: when it should be pursued as a long-term development of character</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 pair 1 mark!</p>

11. In this article, Hugh Gugh makes a number of observations about happiness. How applicable do you find his observations to yourself and your society? [10]

Question Number:

Candidate's Name:

Civics Group:

GP Tutor:

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SERANGOON JUNIOR COLLEGE

2018 JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER

8807/1

PAPER 1

27th August 2018

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

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

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 to 800 words in length.

1. 'Only the privileged can venture into the Arts.' Is this true in your society?
2. To what extent is differing ideology the cause of armed conflicts today?
3. 'We have given up too much of our humanity for the sake of scientific progress.' Do you agree?
4. Given the rise of nationalism in the world today, can international agreements be really effective in tackling major challenges?
5. Does capital punishment still have a place in your society?
6. How justifiable is it for a country to close its border to migrants?
7. 'Religion divides more than unites.' Is this true?
8. 'It is impossible to truly regulate the media in the modern world.' Is this true?
9. To what extent should a government be held responsible for the insecurities in the country?
10. 'Genetic engineering causes more problems than benefits.' Do you agree?
11. How relevant is formal education today?
12. 'Morality is an essential trait of an effective political leader.' Do you agree?

Candidate Name:	Civics Group:	GP Tutor:
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SERANGOON JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination 2018

GENERAL PAPER
Paper 2

8807/02

27 August 2018
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 **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

[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. Explain the author's use of the word "impressive" in line 1.

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

2. In paragraph 1, what complaints are made against wealthy immigrants by citizens in the receiving countries? Use your own words as far as possible.

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

3. What does the author mean by "simply expressions of unthinking resentment" (line 7)?

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

4. Why does the author use the metaphor "shackles" (line 10)?

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

[Turn over

5. In paragraph 4, how does the author illustrate that immigration has caused citizens in Western liberal democracies unhappiness in recent years? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

6. Suggest how "some migrants would get through illegally" (line 39).

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

7. In paragraph 9, what contrasts does the author draw between the perceived and the actual impacts of migration in Britain? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

8. Why has the author placed his comment about East European migrants in brackets (line 71)?

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

9. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain what is ironic about the sentences "Closed borders don't create jobs. Open borders do." (line 76).

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

10. What does 'tribal instincts" (line 78) suggest?

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

[Turn over

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Candidate Name:	Civics Group:	GP Tutor:
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SERANGOON JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination 2018

GENERAL PAPER
Paper 2
INSERT

8807/02
27 August 2018
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.

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

Philippe Legrain calls for the acceptance of migrants.

- 1 The ingenuity and diversity of arguments against immigration and immigrants are impressive. Unless they are manifestly wealthy, they are dirty and noisy, they steal, they fill up the hospitals, they crowd out the schools, they will not adopt our ways, they live in overcrowded houses and the government does more for them than it does for us. If they are wealthy, a new set of stock complaints is made: they are buying everything up, they make prices rise, they look down on us, they think they are too good for us and they have the ear of the government. These are not observations of reality, simply expressions of unthinking resentment. 5
- 2 The world has changed dramatically over the past fifty years. Technology has brought distant people closer, while individualism has set neighbouring people apart. Together, they have undermined the tyranny of geography which tied people to a place and loosened the shackles of nationalism which dictated that people in one place should all be alike. Rejoice: people can increasingly break free from the stifling confines of cloistered uniformity. Yet, even as we roam our newly open world more freely than before, we cling tenaciously to some boundaries: mental boundaries – Them and Us, poor and rich, black and white – as well as physical ones: barbed-wire fencing, fortified walls, gunships on patrol. The world is Our oyster, but it is gritty for Them. 10 15
- 3 Our new mobility and that of products, money and information, jar with our efforts to hold people in poor countries in place. We sun ourselves on their beaches, peddle them aspirations to a better life through a soft drink or a baseball cap, broadcast alluring images of our munificent Eldorado – and then expect them to stay put. Our efforts to keep poor people out while the rich and the educated circulate freely are a form of global apartheid. And like apartheid, they look increasingly unsustainable. The sheer weight of numbers is against us; and if our conscience is not sufficient to persuade us to change course, then our self-interest surely ought to. 20
- 4 Already, over a million immigrants manage to enter Europe and North America illegally each year by hook or by crook and few things have caused citizens in Western liberal democracies more angst in recent years. In the United States, voters chose a president in 2016 who promised to build a wall to stem the flow of migrants from Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America and sought to ban people from several Muslim-majority countries from travelling to America. Concerns about immigration played a major role in the British vote to leave the European Union in the summer of 2016. When Angela Merkel, Germany’s chancellor, opened her country to hundreds of thousands of refugees from the Syrian war in the summer of 2015, she was applauded for her humanitarian impulse. But two years later, German voters punished her party at the polls for what many now argue was a rash and irresponsible decision. 25 30
- 5 However, to stem the flow would require not only a new degree of ruthlessness – shooting people who try to cross our borders - which would violate our domestic and international commitments to human rights. It would also entail a costly isolationism – a clampdown on the vast majority of people who cross borders briefly for tourism or business, to visit friends or to study – as well as rigorous internal checks on people’s right to be there. In effect, the land of the free would have to become a police state. By trying to keep out foreigners, we would lose to ourselves. And even then, some migrants would get through illegally. So long as there is work to be done in rich countries for wages higher than in poor ones, they will come. 35 40
- 6 So why not make a virtue of it? After all, we need them. We need them to care for the old and to look after the young, to allow mothers back to work and free up time in our busy lives. We need them even more because every talented foreigner we recruit adds to the demand for people willing to do menial work. Indeed, because low-skilled workers are in relatively short supply in rich countries, while highly skilled workers in general are not, we potentially have most to gain from letting them in. 45
- 7 Perhaps most importantly, in a world where different perspectives are at a premium, immigrants stimulate innovation and economic growth. Just look at flourishing cosmopolitan cities like London and New York. They are the future. Allowing people to come and work in rich countries legally

- would have other big benefits too. It would save lives: more migrants have died trying to cross the US-Mexico border since 1995 than were killed in the 9/11 attacks. It would put the people smugglers out of business. It would reduce tax evasion, labour-law dodges and other manifestations of grey and black economies. It would shrink the shadow world where illegal immigrants live in fear and isolation. 50
- 8 'Make Poverty History' is the rallying cry for a new generation of campaigners for global justice. Their key demands include fairer trade, debt relief, more and better aid, and action against AIDS and corruption. Yet one thing that is not on their list could make a bigger dent in global poverty than all of those combined: freer international migration. The positive spillovers that the returnees would generate for their home countries – the entrepreneurship and work ethic they would bring back with them and put to work. And the biggest gains would go to the poorest countries; while the typical immigrant would see her living standards treble, those from sub-saharan Africa could see them increase more than sevenfold because their wages in Africa are so much lower. Likewise, the money that migrants from Africa send home gives the biggest boost to the desperately poor people there. 55
- 9 Opponents of immigration claim that allowing in foreign workers freely would cause all manner of ills: they would steal our jobs, place an unsustainable burden on the welfare state and over-run our country. In short, they see immigrants as a drain on our resources and a threat to our way of life. If they are right, by allowing anyone in the eight relatively poor new members of the EU such as Poland to come and work freely, unemployment should be soaring and Britain should now be deluged with East Europeans. But it isn't. In fact, only a small percentage of East Europeans have so far applied to work in Britain (many of whom were already in the country illegally) – and most stay only briefly. Fears that cheap workers from the east would drive out local workers had so far proved unfounded. Unemployment remains at thirty-year lows and jobs that British people no longer want to do are being filled. In contrast, France issued only 1,600 work permits to Poles in the eleven months of EU enlargement. Today, France's unemployment rate is double Britain's. Closed borders don't create jobs. Open borders do. 65
- 10 Inevitably, if we open our borders, some people will end up settling – and there is no denying that this can cause friction. When different people are thrown together, our tribal instincts tell us to view the foreigners with suspicion. The unknown is potentially a threat. But fears about being swamped are unjustified: most people do not want to leave their homes temporarily, let alone forever. A more open migration policy, and one that is seen to be transparent, fair and effect, would do wonders for defusing tensions. Israel's example shows that vigorous efforts to integrate newcomers into society are compatible with a respect for their cultural distinctness. America's long tradition of immigration testifies to the power of newcomers to forge a dynamic economy and society. 70
- 11 Our Open World is riven between those who are free to move and those still tied to one place. This is morally wrong, economically and politically unsustainable. Opening our borders offers huge opportunities for all. Our rallying cry for a better world must be 'Let Them In'. 75

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2018 SRJC GP Paper 2 Prelim Exam

Suggested Answer Scheme

1. Explain the author's use of the word "impressive" in line 1. [1m] – Author's Intention

Text	Suggested Answer
<p>The <i>ingenuity and diversity of arguments against immigration and immigrants are impressive</i>. Unless they are manifestly wealthy: they are dirty and noisy, they steal, they fill up the hospitals, they crowd out the schools, they will not adopt our ways, they live in overcrowded houses and the government does more for them than it does for us. If they are wealthy, a new set of stock complaints is made: they are buying everything up, they make prices rise, they look down on us, they think they are too good for us and they have the ear of the government. These are not observations of reality: simply expressions of unthinking resentment. (lines 1 – 7)</p>	<p>The author is expressing his a) disbelief / shock / incredulity / sarcasm / is mocking <i>Note: Do not accept if presented with positive connotation e.g. "amazed"</i></p> <p>b) (over) the creativity/ability to craft/different/many</p> <p>c) arguments <i>against</i> the immigrants. <i>Note: Context of anti-immigrants arguments against immigrants can be lifted</i></p> <p>(a)+(b)+(c) = 1m</p>

2. According to the author, in paragraph 1, what complaints are made against wealthy immigrants by citizens in the receiving countries? Use your own words as far as possible. [3m] - DLQ

Text	Suggested Answer
<p>If they are wealthy, a new set of stock complaints is made: (a) they are buying everything up, (b) they make prices rise, (c) they look down on us, (d) they think they are too good for us and (e) they have the ear of the government. (lines 4-6)</p>	<p>(a) They are purchasing all the products / purchase so much that it leaves the local with very little</p> <p>(b) They make things more expensive/unaffordable /drive costs up</p> <p>(c) They think poorly/lowly of us</p> <p>(d) And that they perceive/feel/believe themselves to be superior/better than us <u>OR</u> overly confident in their own ability / arrogant (needs a negative connotation)</p> <p>(e) They have influence over the government/the government/leaders listen to them / respond to their demands (Allow lift of "government") <i>Note: Needs to show that the government are listening to something migrants have expressed.</i></p> <p>1-2 points = 1m, 3-4 points = 2m, 5 points = 3m</p>

3. What does the author mean by "simply expressions of unthinking resentment" (line 7)? [2m] - IQ

Text	Suggested Answer
<p>The ingenuity and diversity of arguments against immigration and immigrants are impressive... These (subject) are not observations of reality, (a) simply (b) expressions of (c) unthinking (d) resentment. (lines 1 – 7)</p>	<p>The <u>arguments against/perceptions of immigration/immigrants</u> (necessary subject) (a) just/merely/only (b) manifestations (d) of hate (c) without much rationale/consideration</p> <p>1pt = 0m, 2-3pts = 1m, 4pts = 2m. No subject = 0m</p>

4. Why does the author use the metaphor "shackles"? [2m] – Author's Intention

Text	Suggested Answer
<p>The world has changed dramatically over the past fifty years. Technology has brought distant people</p>	<p>Literal: Shackles are used to constrain/imprison a prisoner (1m)</p> <p>Intention:</p>

<p>closer, while individualism has set neighbouring people apart. Together, they undermined the tyranny of geography which tied people to a place and loosened <u>the shackles</u> of nationalism which dictated that people in one place should all be alike. (lines 8 – 11)</p>	<p>the author intends to</p> <p>i) draw a parallel/show a similarity/highlight/emphasise/show that</p> <p>ii) we are trapped/enslaved</p> <p>iii) by nationalism <u>which dictated that people in one place should all be alike</u> (necessary context that does not need to be paraphrased).</p> <p><i>Note: "nationalism" on its own is insufficient as a context as it is the belief/mindset of homogeneity which constrains us. Without this context it does not reflect an adequate understanding of what we are trapped by.</i></p> <p>(bi)+(bii)+(biii) = 1m</p>
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5. How does the author illustrate that immigration has caused citizens in Western liberal democracies unhappiness in recent years in paragraph 4? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m] – Author's Illustration of X

Text	Suggested Answer
<p>...few things have caused citizens in Western liberal democracies more angst in recent years. b1) In the United States, voters chose a president in 2016 who promised to build a wall to stem the flow of migrants from Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America and sought to ban people from several Muslim-majority countries from travelling to America. b2) Concerns about immigration played a major role in the British vote to leave the European Union in the summer of 2016. b3) When Angela Merkel, Germany's chancellor, opened her country to hundreds of thousands of refugees from the Syrian war in the summer of 2015, she was applauded for her humanitarian impulse. But two years later, German voters punished her party at the polls for what many now argue was a rash and irresponsible decision. (lines 23 – 32)</p>	<p>He (a) uses three / a list of examples (1m for technique)</p> <p><u>Summary of Examples</u> of citizens in Western countries who were frustrated with migration and showed it in their act of</p> <p>(b1) voting/picking/wanting/electing/supporting for <u>leaders</u> who are anti-immigrants / enforce anti-migration policies</p> <p>(b2) vote against <u>policies</u> that are pro-migration / vote for <u>policies</u> that are anti-migration</p> <p>(b3) vote/went against <u>leaders</u> who are pro-migration</p> <p>(1 pt = 0m, 2-3 pts = 1m)</p>

6. Suggest how "some migrants would get through illegally" (line 39). [1m] - Suggest

Text	Suggested Answer
<p>In effect, the land of the free would have to become a police state. By trying to keep out foreigners, we would lose to ourselves. And even then, some migrants would get through illegally. So long as there is work to be done in rich countries for wages higher than in poor ones, they will come. (lines 37 – 40)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel documents/passports can be forged. • People can be smuggled / pay human traffickers. • Officials could have been bribed. <p><i>Accept any logical answer that carries an element of illegal action.</i></p>

7. In paragraph 9, what contrasts does the author draw between the perceived and the actual impacts of migration in Britain? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Text	Suggested Answer
<p>They would (c1/d1) steal our jobs, place an unsustainable burden on the welfare state and (b1) over-run our country. In short, they see immigrants as a drain on our resources and a threat to our way of life. If they are right, by allowing anyone</p>	<p>(a1) It was thought that migration would cause many (degree necessary) to be unable to find jobs, however (a2) the reality is that there are [time comparison] fewer people without a job now than ever in the past three decades OR [degree] number of people without a job has dropped significantly.</p>

<p>in the eight relatively poor new members of the EU such as Poland to come and work freely, (a1) unemployment should be soaring and Britain (b1) should now be deluged with East Europeans. But it isn't. <i>In fact,</i> (b2) only a small percentage of East Europeans have so far applied to <u>work</u> in Britain (many of whom were already in the country illegally) – and most stay only briefly. Fears that cheap workers from the east would (c1/d1) drive out local workers had so far proved unfounded. (a2) Unemployment remains at thirty-year lows, and (c2/d2) jobs that British people no longer want to do are being filled.</p>	<p>(b1) It was thought that migration would cause a huge influx (degree necessary) of East European <u>migrants workers</u> in Britain, (b2) but actually, very few East Europeans who have tried to find <u>work</u> / are working in Britain.</p> <p>(c1) It was thought that immigrants would take the jobs that locals do / replacing us in our jobs but (c2) the reality is that they are merely taking up jobs that locals did not do anyway. OR (d1) It was thought that immigrants would take the jobs that locals desire, but (d2) the reality is that they are merely taking up jobs locals did not desire.</p> <p><i>Note: Answers must be matched in order for the marks to be awarded. Each contrast = 1m. Either (c1/c2) or (d1/d2) can be awarded.</i></p>
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8. Why has the author placed his comment about East European migrants in brackets (line 71)? [1] – AI

Text	Suggested Answer
<p>...unemployment should be soaring and Britain should now be deluged with East Europeans. But it isn't. In fact, only a small percentage of East Europeans have so far applied to work in Britain (many of whom were already in the country illegally) – and most stay only briefly. (lines 67 - 73)</p>	<p>The author uses brackets to (a) provide extra/additional information/a side note to (b) emphasise/support/strengthen/reiterate (c) <u>his argument that few East Europeans have applied to work in Britain / foreign workers should be allowed in freely as they are not taking up our jobs / his argument that Britain will not be overcrowded with East Europeans (context).</u></p>

9. Using your own words as far as possible, explain what is ironic about the sentences "Closed borders don't create jobs. Open borders do." (line 76). [2] - Irony

Text	Suggested Answer
<p>If they are right, by allowing anyone in the eight relatively poor new members of the EU such as Poland to come and work freely, unemployment should be soaring and Britain should now be deluged with East Europeans. But it isn't. In fact, only a small percentage of East Europeans have so far applied to work in Britain (many of whom were already in the country illegally) – and most stay only briefly. Fears that cheap workers from the east would drive out local workers had so far proved unfounded. Unemployment remains at thirty-year lows, tax receipts are up and jobs that British people no longer want to do are</p>	<p>Approach 1 Expectation (inferred): (a1) One would expect that when people are not allowed to move between countries, and thus more job opportunities for citizens, (b1) while when movement is allowed, there will be fewer job opportunities for citizens.</p> <p>Reality (a paraphrase of "Closed borders don't create jobs. Open borders do"): (a2) However, the reality is that when people are not allowed to move between countries, there are fewer job opportunities, (b2) and only when people are allowed to move between countries will there be new opportunities.</p> <p>(a1)+(b1)+(a2)+(b2) = 2m</p> <p>Approach 2 Expectation + Explanation: (c1) One would expect that when people are not allowed to move between countries, due to less competition, and thus more job opportunities for citizens. OR (d1) One would expect that when</p>

being filled. In contrast, France issued only 1,600 work permits to Poles in the eleven months of EU enlargement. Today, France's unemployment rate is double Britain's. <u>Closed borders don't create jobs. Open borders do.</u> (lines 65 – 76)	<p>movement is allowed, there will <u>increased competition</u>, and thus fewer job opportunities for citizens.</p> <p>Reality: (c2) However, the reality is that when people are not allowed to move between countries, there are fewer job opportunities instead. OR (d2) In reality, when people are allowed to move between countries, there will there be new opportunities instead.</p> <p>(c1)/(d1) + (c2)/(d2) = 2m</p>
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10. What does “tribal instincts” suggest (line 78)? [1m] – X about Y

Text	Suggested Answer
When different people are thrown together, our (a) tribal (b) instincts tell us to view the foreigners with suspicion. (lines 88 – 89)	<p>(Necessary subject/Y) The locals' suspicion <u>of others</u> is due to their</p> <p>(b) natural urge/innate tendency/intuition to</p> <p>(a) want to be with / maintain a group of people who share the same characteristics/culture/language as us / want to be with their own people.</p> <p>(a)+(b) = 1m, No subject/Y = 0m</p>

11. Using material from paragraphs 6 - 8 summarise what the author has to say about the benefits that both receiving and sending countries gain from migration.

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 benefit of migration is ...

	Lifted	Paraphrased
a	We need them to care for the old and to look after the young (lines 41-42)	migrants help to tend / attend to to the elderly and children
b	to allow mothers back to work (line 42)	so that mothers can choose to return to their job / be reemployed / have a job again
c	and free up time in our busy lives (line 42)	and leisure time is made available in our hectic life
d	every talented foreigner we recruit (line 43) - For d to be considered attempted: 'talented' must be captured. - [e must be attempted for d to be awarded]	Each skilled migrant we hire
e	adds to the demand for people willing to do menial work (lines 43-44) - For e be considered attempted 'demand' must be captured. - [d must be attempted for e to be awarded]	contributes to the need for blue collar workers / workers willing to do tedious / boring / labour-intensive jobs
f	because low-skilled workers are in relatively short supply in <u>rich countries</u> (lines 44-45), - Compulsory Context = rich countries - "Low-skilled" need not be paraphrased if "menial" has been paraphrased in (e)	as <u>these workers</u> are insufficient in <u>rich countries</u>
g	In a world where different perspectives are at a premium (line 47)	Given that having a variety of views is valuable ,

	<p>- [if g is not attempted, penalize (h) & (i) for the 1st correct answer] - For g to be considered attempted: 'perspectives' must be captured.</p>	
h	<p>immigrants stimulate innovation (line 48) - [g must be attempted]</p>	migrants fuel creativity / invention
i	<p>(Immigrants stimulate) economic growth (line 48). - [g must be attempted]</p>	financial development / advancement progress in trade / industry
j	<p>(Inferred point) Just look at flourishing cosmopolitan cities like London and New York. They are the future. (line 48)</p>	Migrants create thriving multicultural societies
z	<p>Allowing people to come and work in rich countries legally would have other big benefits too. (lines 49-50) - [if z is not attempted for (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), penalize for the 1st correct answer] - For z to be considered attempted, the word "legally" must be captured</p>	Making immigration lawful
k	<p>(Condition - legally...) It would save lives (lines 50) - [z must be attempted]</p>	reduces death,
l	<p>(Condition - legally...) It would put the <u>people</u> smugglers out of business (lines 51-52) - [z must be attempted]</p>	eliminates/reduces the illegal transportation of people.
m	<p>(Condition – legally...) It would reduce tax evasion (line 52) - [z must be attempted]</p>	cuts down cases of tax avoidance,
n	<p>(Condition – legally...) labour-law dodges and (line 52) - [z must be attempted]</p>	<p>and <u>employers/employees</u> side-stepping legal requirements</p> <p>OR</p> <p>side-stepping legal <u>employment/work</u> requirements</p> <p>Note: Context must include employment/work</p>
o	<p>(Condition – legally...) other manifestations of grey and black economies (line 53) - [z must be attempted]</p>	and ways in which the buying and selling of goods / services is done unlawfully
p	<p>(Condition – legally...) It would shrink the shadow world where <u>illegal immigrants</u> live in fear and isolation. (lines 53-54) - [z must be attempted] - [compulsory context – illegal migrants]</p>	Making migration legal also reduces the anxiety / worry and loneliness / seclusion of <u>illegal migrants</u>
q	<p>Yet one thing that is not on their list could make a bigger dent in global poverty than all of those</p>	Migration results in a greater reduction in impoverishment / destitution faced by people

	combined: freer international migration (lines 55-58)	worldwide compared to the combined efforts of other measures to alleviate it.
r	The positive spillovers that the <u>returnees</u> would generate for their <u>home countries</u> – the entrepreneurship (line 59) and - <i>Compulsory context of home/sending countries and returnees</i>	It results in unexpected benefits of migrants setting up business in their <u>homes countries</u> <u>when they go back</u>
s	work ethic they would <u>bring back</u> with them and put to work. (line 59) - <i>Compulsory context of home/sending countries and returnees</i>	<u>Bring back</u> and apply in their job positive principles / values / hard work and diligence
t	And the biggest gains would go to the poorest countries ; (line 60)	The largest / greatest benefits attained would be the most deprived / impoverished / needy countries . Note: superlative is needed for both “biggest” and “poorest”
u	while the typical immigrant would see her living standards treble (line 61)	Meanwhile the average / regular immigrant’s level / degree of wealth and material comfort available to a person increase threefold / three times/ significantly
v	those from Sub-Saharan Africa could see them increase more than sevenfold because their wages in Africa are so much lower (line 62)	The salaries earned by people living in Sub-Saharan African could grow larger than seven times/ significantly* <i>*Note: If (u) is attempted, the degree of change in (v) should be much more than (u) e.g. significantly is no longer accepted, need “more significantly”.</i>
w	Likewise, the money that migrants from Africa send home (line 63) - <i>[x must be attempted]</i>	It is the same as the cash / currency that migrants from Africa remit / despatch to their family / household / residence
x	gives the biggest boost to the desperately poor people there (lines 63-64) - <i>For x be considered attempted, the word “boost” must be captured</i> - <i>[w must be attempted]</i>	Results in the largest / greatest improvement to the destitute / impoverished people / abject/severe/hopeless poverty

12. Phillippe Legrain discusses responses to migration and thinks that we should embrace migrants. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your society?

Suggested Responses:

Identified Point	Applicable	Not Applicable
Unless they are manifestly wealthy, they are dirty and noisy, they steal, they fill up the hospitals, they crowd out the schools, they will not adopt our ways, they live in	The general perception that migrant workers are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime is applicable in Singapore. As they come from lower income groups and from less developed countries such as the	

<p>overcrowded houses and the government does more for them than it does for us. (lines 2-4)</p> <p><i>Note that this point should be evaluated as other people's responses to migration, not the author's view of migration.</i></p>	<p>Philippines, India, Bangladesh and China, Singaporeans stereotype them as being more likely to offend. In 2008, some residents in the Serangoon Gardens area expressed their opposition to a dormitory for migrant workers being set up in the neighbourhood and statements were made that it would be unsafe for children to travel alone, that old people could not safely be left by themselves inside their homes and that women would be at risk of sexual assault. The concern was also that it would lower the prices of their properties. Following several meetings with their MPs, even though evidence was released which suggested that high crime rate was not prevalent among foreign workers, various changes were made to the development plan to appease the worried residents, including building a \$2 million access road so that buses transporting the workers to the dormitory could bypass the congested Serangoon Gardens.</p>	
<p>If they are wealthy, a new set of stock complaints is made: they are buying everything up, they make prices rise, they look down on us, they think they are too good for us and they have the ear of the government. (lines 4-6)</p> <p><i>Note that this point should be evaluated as other people's responses to migration, not the author's view of migration.</i></p>	<p>The complaint that foreigners "buy up everything" especially applies to their purchase of private property in Singapore. The rapidly escalating property prices experienced in the years prior to the government's Property Cooling Measures were blamed on foreigners' purchase of private property. Despite articles in The Straits Times which detailed speculative action by local investors, who flipped property overnight for tens of thousands of dollars, most of the blame was still pinned on the small percentage of foreigners who made purchases. Two years after the first Cooling Measures in 2009 were announced, the government specifically targeted foreign buying sentiment by adding a 10% stamp duty on purchases made by foreigners.</p>	<p>This is largely not applicable as foreigners are disqualified from buying subsidised public housing, ie HDB flats, and are not allowed to buy landed property without first seeking approval from the government. Those who buy private residential (non-landed) property have to pay Additional Buyers' Stamp Duty of 20%, up from the previous 15%, under the Property Cooling Measures announced in July 2018. Singaporeans and PRs buying their first residential property are not subject to such a duty. So far, stringent stamp duties have helped dampen speculative overseas demand, with foreign buyers accounting for just 6 per cent of purchases in the first half of 2018 compared with 9 per cent in 2013.</p>
<p>Few things have caused citizens in Western liberal democracies more angst in recent years. (lines 24-25)</p>	<p>This is most applicable in Singapore's context. Although Singapore has always recognised the value of migrants in how they can contribute to helping our small nation grow at a more exponential rate, citizens have</p>	

	<p>started to show displeasure at our rather open-door immigration policy in recent years. This is large part due to the overcrowding and greater competition that citizens perceive is a result of too many migrants or foreign workers. The 2013 Population White Paper protest, where over 4000 Singaporeans turned up at Hong Lim Park to protest the government's projection of a 6.9 million population size showed the extent of citizens' unhappiness at the direction the country was taking. Many voiced their concerns that the government was too focused on merely trying to develop the economy, with little concern about how that would affect the everyday Singaporean who had to face competition not only for jobs but also housing due to the increased numbers of new citizens. As a result of the protest, the government has since taken a more cautious approach to immigration, having rolled back immigration and tightened the inflow of foreign labour.</p>	
<p>“Inevitably, if we open our borders, some people will end up settling – and there is no denying that this can cause friction.” (line 78-79)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>“When different people are thrown together, our tribal instincts tell us to view the foreigners with suspicion.” (line 80)</p>	<p>Before Singapore starts to quietly tighten its borders, there were years when the influx of foreign talent was apparent. Especially after the Population White Paper was released in 2013 which propose a 30,000 new permanent residents and 25,000 naturalised citizens needed each year to help aid Singapore's population due to falling birthrates, Singaporeans showed their discontentment overtly through comments on social media and even organized a public protest at Hong Lim Park. There were concerns about jobs, particularly the higher-skilled ones, being taken up and dominated by the foreigners, resulting in the locals losing out. Foreigners, who made up about two out of five people living in Singapore, were also blamed for the rising cost of living, stagnation of wages and crowding in public transport. Whenever there is a train delay, Singaporeans will show their angst on Facebook or Twitter posts, making nasty comments about how the foreigners are at fault for crowding the trains.</p>	<p>In view of the increase in foreigners settling down in Singapore, a National Integration Council was set up in 2009 to to drive integration efforts in a comprehensive, sustainable and ground-up manner through the partnership of the public, people and private (3P) sectors. Many foreigners from China, India, Philippines and particularly Malaysia become permanent residents or Singapore citizens here because of transnational marriage or work. Therefore, the NIC is establish to ease their transition to Singapore as well as to reduce possible tensions or conflicts that they might have with the local culture. One of the targets that NIC is pushing for is to grow common spaces and provide platforms for Singaporeans and new immigrants to interact and facilitate the formation of friendships and shared experiences among Singaporeans and non-locals, so as to foster mutual understanding and acceptance through their</p>

		<p>interactions. They do not demand that the new immigrants abandon their own beliefs and culture. Rather, they expect them to share commonalities, values and experiences with fellow Singaporeans so that we can all work together to achieve our aspirations and build the best home for ourselves and our children.</p>
<p>“After all, we need them. We need them to care for the old and to look after the young to allow mothers back to work and free up time in our busy lives.” (line 42-43)</p>	<p>Since Singaporeans are mostly from dual-income households and that many are the sandwiched generation where they have both children and elderly parents to look after, hiring a domestic helper is a necessity. It is unheard of to have locals working as domestic helpers and hence, hiring helpers from Indonesia and Philippines, and recently Myanmar, is the common solution for local families to help with the caregiving duties. As new mothers are only given 4 months of paid maternity leave, they will need someone to be home to take care of the baby. As most of us are brought up based on Asian values which include gratitude to parents, children do not usually opt for the option to send their elderly or sick parents to the old folks’ home. Most elderly parents either live with their children or live on their own. Hence, to ensure that their parents are well taken care of when the children are working in the day, a helper needs to be around to ensure the safety and well-being of the elderly. To reduce the financial burdens of families who need to hire helpers, the government is providing grants or levy concession for the locals.</p>	<p>To support new parents who are both working, the government has been launching mega childcare facilities in new towns such as Sengkang and Punggol where many young families reside. Such facilities include infant care, where parents can apply for a spot so that mothers can go back to work after the 4th month of paid maternity leave. As Singapore continues to face an ageing population, the demand for elderly care facilities is higher too. There have been more nursing homes built in the recent years. For example, The 470-bed Ren Ci Ang Mo Kio is the biggest departure yet from the medicalised dormitory-style accommodation, which has long been the norm for nursing homes here. Instead of wards, the new Ren Ci has "households", each comprising 16 residents, who share bright and airy four-bedded rooms. Each household has its own living and dining areas, kitchenette and bedrooms, resembling a Housing Board flat. There are bright and breezy corners filled with bougainvillea. Fixtures include bookcases, welcome mats, mirrors at the height of wheelchairs and condo-style floor-to-ceiling windows. At Kampung Admiralty, an 11-storey HDB complex being billed as the country's first "retirement kampung". The project combines 100 studio flats for the elderly with medical and senior-care centres, a foodcourt, shops and community gardens, among other amenities. It hopes to empower seniors - particularly those who live alone or with an elderly</p>

		<p>spouse - to function independently in the community for as long as they can. New "active-ageing hubs", where seniors can join wellness programmes or get help with care, rehabilitation and even grocery shopping, are also being opened islandwide.</p>
<p>“Indeed, because low-skilled workers are in relatively short supply in rich countries, while highly skilled workers in general are not, we potentially have most to gain from letting them in.” (line 45-46)</p>	<p>This is extremely applicable in the Singapore context. Singapore has developed into a largely affluent nation with a GDP per capita in the top ten in the world. Singaporeans are also largely educated, thanks to the government’s heavy emphasis on education for all. As a result, low-skilled workers are indeed in short supply as many Singaporeans deem these jobs too beneath them. On top of that, Singapore’s ageing population has resulted in a shrinking workforce, which demands external help in order for us to keep up with our pace of economic development. This is why Singapore depends so heavily on foreign workers to help sustain the nation. Foreign workers such as construction workers from countries like Bangladesh and China have largely been drivers of the constant development in Singapore, without whom, we would not have been able to develop as quickly. Other than that, many Singaporean households depend heavily on foreign domestic helpers from countries like Indonesia and Philippines to help the busy working parents cope with housekeeping and caring for the children. According to numbers from the Ministry of Manpower, Singapore currently has more than half a million foreign domestic workers and construction workers, highlighting just how much we depend on and have gained thanks to these low-skilled migrant workers.</p>	

ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS



GENERAL PAPER

8807/1

PAPER 1

27 August 2018

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. 'A common language is key to a cohesive society.' How far is this true?
2. 'The pursuit of success is always at the expense of happiness.' Do you agree?
3. 'National needs before international cooperation.' Should this be the motto of every nation?
4. 'Man's interest in the environment is purely selfish.' Discuss.
5. 'Arts education has been neglected in your society.' Do you agree?
6. 'Regulation stifles innovation.' To what extent do you agree?
7. Consider the view that fake news is a necessary evil.
8. 'The education system has failed to teach values.' To what extent is this true of your society?
9. 'Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.' Discuss.
10. 'The well-being of a society is more important than the freedom of the individual.' Do you agree?
11. Should parents in your society let their children take risks today?
12. 'Robotics and artificial intelligence are threats to our lives.' Is this true?

ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION



CANDIDATE NAME

CIVICS GROUP

INDEX NUMBER

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

Monday, 27 August 2018

Comprehension Answer Booklet

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates are to 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/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, 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.

Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow below. Note that up to 15 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. Suggest one reason why children today 'eat more and move less' (line 5).
.....
.....[1]

2. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain what the author means by the phrase 'bringing these cogs of the teenage mind into sync once again' (lines 16-17).
.....
.....[2]

3. In paragraph 5, what do the findings of recent studies at Cornell University reveal about adolescents' reckless behaviour? **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....
.....[3]

4. The author writes that 'from an evolutionary point of view, this all makes perfect sense' (line 31). What does the word 'this' refer to? **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....[1]

5. Without 'our unusually long, protected childhood' (line 32), what possible disadvantages would we face? **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....[2]

8. In line 73, what is the attitude of the old towards the young?
.....
.....[1]

9. What does the word 'fortunately' in line 80 suggest about the author's attitude towards modern adolescence?
.....
.....[1]

10. According to the author in paragraph 12, how has the view of the adolescent brain changed? **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....
.....[2]

11. Why does the author claim that apprenticeships are more effective than school experiences in paragraph 13? **Use your own words as far as possible.**
.....
.....
.....[2]

INSERT

**ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**



Name: _____ ()

Civics Group: _____

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

Monday, 27 August 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

Alison Gopnik writes about how we might readjust adolescence.

- 1 “What was he thinking?” It is the familiar cry of bewildered parents trying to understand why their teenagers act the way they do.
- 2 Adolescence has always been troubled, but for reasons that are somewhat mysterious, puberty is now kicking in at an earlier and earlier age. A leading theory points to changes in energy balance as children eat more and move less. At the same time, first with the industrial revolution and then even more dramatically with the information revolution, children have come to take on adult roles later and later. 5
- 3 What happens when children reach puberty earlier and adulthood later? The answer is: a good deal of teenage weirdness. Fortunately, developmental psychologists and neuroscientists are starting to explain the foundations of that weirdness. The crucial new idea is that there are two different neural and psychological systems that interact to turn children into adults. Over the past two centuries, and even more over the past generation, the developmental timing of these two systems has changed. That, in turn, has profoundly changed adolescence and produced new kinds of adolescent woe. 10
- 4 The big question for anyone who deals with young people today is how we can help them manage their emotions and regain a sense of control, bringing these cogs of the teenage mind into sync once again. The first of these systems has to do with emotion and motivation. It is very closely linked to the biological and chemical changes of puberty and involves the areas of the brain that respond to rewards. This is the system that turns placid 10-year-olds into restless, exuberant, emotionally intense teenagers, desperate to attain every goal, fulfil every desire and experience every sensation. Later, it turns them back into relatively placid adults. 15 20
- 5 Recent studies at Cornell University suggest that adolescents are not reckless because they underestimate risks, but they find rewards more rewarding than adults do. The reward centers of the adolescent brain are much more active than those of either children or adults. Think about the incomparable intensity of first love, the never-to-be-recaptured glory of the high-school basketball championship. What teenagers want most of all are social rewards, especially the respect of their peers. In another study at Temple University, teenagers did a simulated high-risk driving task while they were lying in an fMRI brain-imaging machine. The reward system of their brains lighted up much more when they thought another teenager was watching what they did—and they took more risks. 25 30
- 6 From an evolutionary point of view, this all makes perfect sense. One of the most distinctive evolutionary features of human beings is our unusually long, protected childhood. Human children depend on adults for much longer than those of any other primate. That long protected period also allows us to learn much more than any other animal. But eventually, we have to leave the safe bubble of family life, take what we learned as children and apply it to the real adult world. Becoming an adult means leaving the world of your parents and starting to make your way toward the future that you will share with your peers. Puberty not only turns on the motivational and emotional system with new force, it also turns it away from the family and toward the world of equals. 35
- 7 The second crucial system in our brains has to do with control; it channels and harnesses all that seething energy. In particular, the prefrontal cortex reaches out to guide other parts of the brain, including the parts that govern motivation and emotion. This is the system that inhibits impulses and guides decision-making that encourages long-term planning and delays gratification. This control system depends much more on learning. It becomes increasingly effective throughout childhood and continues to develop during adolescence and adulthood, as we gain more experience. You come to make better decisions by making not-so-good decisions and then correcting them. You get to be a good planner by making plans, implementing them and seeing the results again and again. Expertise comes with experience. 40 45

- 8 In the distant (and even the not-so-distant) historical past, these systems of motivation and control were largely in sync. In the past, to become a good gatherer or hunter, cook or caregiver, you would actually practice gathering, hunting, cooking and taking care of children all through middle childhood and early adolescence—tuning up just the prefrontal wiring you would need as an adult. But you would do all that under expert adult supervision and in the protected world of childhood, where the impact of your inevitable failures would be blunted. When the motivational juice of puberty arrived, you would be ready to go after the real rewards, in the world outside, with new intensity and exuberance, but you would also have the skill and control to do it effectively and reasonably safely. 50
- 9 In contemporary life, the relationship between these two systems has changed dramatically. Puberty arrives earlier, and the motivational system kicks in earlier too. At the same time, contemporary children have very little experiences with the kinds of tasks that they will have to perform as grown-ups. Children have increasingly little chance to practice even basic skills like cooking and caregiving. Contemporary adolescents and pre-adolescents often do not do much of anything except go to school. Even the newspaper boy and the baby-sitter jobs have largely disappeared. 60
- 10 All that school means that children know more about more different subjects than they ever did in the days of apprenticeships. Becoming a really expert cook does not tell you about the nature of heat or the chemical composition of salt—the sorts of things you learn in school. But there are different ways of being smart. Knowing physics and chemistry is no help with a soufflé. Wide-ranging, flexible and broad learning, the kind we encourage in high-school and college, may actually be in tension with the ability to develop finely-honed, controlled, focused expertise in a particular skill, the kind of learning that once routinely took place in human societies. For the most of our history, children have started their internships when they were seven, not 27. 70
- 11 The old have always complained about the young, of course. But this new explanation based on developmental timing elegantly accounts for the paradoxes of our particular crop of adolescents. There do seem to be many young adults who are enormously smart and knowledgeable but directionless, who are enthusiastic and exuberant but unable to commit to a particular kind of work or a particular love until well into their 20s or 30s. And there is the graver case of children who are faced with the uncompromising reality of the drive for sex, power and respect, without the expertise and impulse control it takes to ward off unwanted pregnancy or violence. 75
- 12 Fortunately, dealing with modern adolescence is not as hopeless as it might sound. New research indicates that our experiences and our environment shape the way our brains develop. Though we are not likely to return to an agricultural life or to stop feeding our children well and sending them to school, the very flexibility of the developing brain points to solutions. Brain research is often taken to mean that adolescents are really just defective adults—grown-ups with a missing part. Public policy debates about teenagers thus often turn on the question of when, exactly, certain areas of the brain develop, and so at what age children should be allowed to drive or marry or vote—or be held fully responsible for crimes. But the new view of the adolescent brain is not that the prefrontal lobes just fail to show up; it is that they are not properly instructed and exercised. 85
- 13 Simply increasing the driving age by a year or two does not have much influence on the accident rate, for example. What does make a difference is having a graduated system in which teenagers slowly acquire both more skill and more freedom—a driving apprenticeship. Instead of simply giving adolescents more and more school experiences—those extra hours of after-school classes and homework—we could try to arrange more opportunities for apprenticeship. 90
- 14 “Take your child to work” could become a routine practice rather than a single-day annual event, and college students could spend more time watching and helping scientists and scholars at work rather than just listening to their lectures. Summer enrichment activities like camp and travel, now so common for children whose parents have means, might be usefully alternated with summer jobs, with real responsibilities. The good news, in short, is that we do not have to just accept the developmental patterns of adolescent brains. We can actually shape and change them. 95

2018 JC2 General Paper Prelim Exam Paper 2 Answer Scheme

1. Suggest one reason why children today ‘eat more and move less’ (line 5). [1]

Lifted	Inferred
Adolescence has always been troubled, but for reasons that are somewhat mysterious, puberty is now kicking in at an earlier and earlier age. <i>A leading theory points to changes in energy balance as children eat more and move less.</i>	<p>A possible reason for this could be:</p> <p>A: the use of technology/smart phones (1)</p> <p>B: affluence (1)</p> <p>C: sedentary / inactive / unhealthy lifestyle (1)</p> <p>Note: Accept any logical answer.</p> <p>X: Should <u>not</u> directly paraphrase ‘eat more’ (e.g. eat junk food) or ‘move less’ (e.g. do not exercise).</p>

2. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain what the author means by the phrase ‘bringing those cogs of the teenage mind into sync once again.’ (lines 16-17)? [2]

Lifted	Inferred
The big question for anyone who deals with young people today is how we can help them manage their emotions and regain a sense of control, <i>bringing these cogs of the teenage mind into sync once again.</i>	<p>A: To balance / harmonise/ stabilise the teenage mind/make it work together (1)</p> <p>X: adjust/ change/ recalibrate</p> <p>B: to enable them to manage their feelings (context) (1)</p>

3. In paragraph 5, what do the findings of recent studies at Cornell University reveal about adolescents’ reckless behaviour? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Lifted	Paraphrased
Recent studies at Cornell University suggest that	Adolescents are not reckless because they...
(A) adolescents are not reckless because they underestimate risks	A: undervalue / underrate the dangers / threats / perils involved
(B) but they find rewards more rewarding than adults do.	B: But because they see rewards as <u>more</u> worthy / <u>more</u> worthwhile / <u>more</u> satisfying than adults do.
(C) What teenagers want most of all are social rewards , especially the respect of their peers.	C: Most of all, they want acceptance / recognition / acknowledgement / affirmation, especially from their friends. (BOD if ‘especially...’ portion is absent)
	Note: For B, simply stating that “the reward centers of the adolescent brain are much more active than those of children or adults” is not sufficient.

4. The author writes that ‘from an evolutionary point of view, this all makes perfect sense’ (line 31). What does the word ‘this’ refer to? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
<p><u>Paragraph 5</u> – In another study at Temple University, teenagers did a simulated high-risk driving task while they were lying in an fMRI brain-imaging machine. The reward system of their brains lighted up much more when they thought another teenager was watching what they did—and they took more risk.</p> <p><u>Paragraph 6</u> – <i>From an evolutionary point of view, this all makes perfect sense.</i></p>	<p>It refers to...</p> <p>teenagers’ risk-taking behaviour</p> <p>OR</p> <p>teenagers’ need to gain social acceptance</p> <p>Note: Reference has to be made to the preceding paragraph to locate the answer.</p>

5. Without ‘our unusually long, protected childhood’ (line 32), what possible disadvantages would we face? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>That long protected period also allows us to learn much more than any other animal.</p> <p>But eventually, we have to leave the bubble of family life, take what we learned as children and apply it to the real adult world.</p>	<p>This is a flip question.</p> <p>A: We would not be able to learn as much.</p> <p>X: study</p> <p>B: We will not be prepared / well-equipped to deal with the challenges of the real world/the future. (Include context)</p>

6. In line 48, the author writes that ‘expertise comes with experience.’ Which phrases in paragraph 7 illustrate this? [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>This control system depends much more on learning. It becomes <u>increasingly effective throughout childhood and continues to develop during adolescence and adulthood, as we gain more experience. You come to make better decisions by making not-so-good decisions and then correcting them. You get to be a good planner by making plans, implementing them and seeing the results again and again. Expertise comes with experience.</u></p>	<p>A: <u>increasingly effective throughout childhood and continues to develop</u></p> <p>B: <u>make better decisions by making not-so-good decisions and then correcting them</u></p> <p>C: <u>be a good planner by making plans, implementing them and seeing the results again and again</u></p> <p>Any two points.</p> <p>Note: Lifting is allowed for this question, but student should only give phrases. Do not accept full sentences lifted from the passage.</p>

7. Using material from paragraphs 8 – 9 only (lines 49-64), summarise how the two systems in teenagers' brain were kept in sync in the past, and why they have been thrown off balance in the present.

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.**

(Answer scheme for Summary is in a separate document.)

8. In line 73, what is the attitude of the old towards the young? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
The old have always complained about the young, of course.	It is that of intolerance / resentment / annoyance / disapproval / critical / pessimism... X: impatience, sceptical, cynical, dislike, negative, unhappy, despise, condescending

9. What does the word 'fortunately' in line 80 suggest about the author's attitude towards modern adolescence? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
<i>Fortunately</i> , dealing with modern adolescence is not as hopeless as it might sound.	The author is optimistic / confident / relieved/ hopeful (1) X: "Positive" is too vague

10. According to the author in paragraph 12, how has the view of the adolescent brain changed? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrase
Brain research is often taken to mean that adolescents are really just defective adults—grown-ups with a missing part . Public policy debates about teenagers thus often turn on the question of when, exactly, certain areas of the brain develop, and so at what age children should be allowed to drive or marry or vote—or be held fully responsible for crimes. But the new view of the adolescent brain is not that the prefrontal lobes just fail to show up; it is that they are not properly instructed and exercised .	A: [<i>context</i>] <u>Initially, it was believed that the adolescent brain...</u> did not function well / was lacking specific components / was undeveloped. [1] However, research has shown that adolescent brains are not... B1: [<i>properly</i>] adequately / correctly / appropriately / suitably / accurately / effectively / well B2: [<i>instructed</i>] guided / trained / coached / taught / educated / shaped and B3: [<i>exercised</i>] employed / applied / stimulated / used / utilised / exerted / practised / trained. [B1+B2+B3=1]

11. Why does the author claim that apprenticeships are more effective than school experiences in paragraph 13? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Inferred
<p>What does make a difference is having a graduated system ...</p> <p>in which teenagers slowly acquire both more skill and more freedom—a driving apprenticeship.</p>	<p>Apprenticeships are more effective than school experiences because the training provided is...</p> <p>A: incremental / slowly increases in difficulty / at a suitable pace; complexity is adjusted / regulated / modified [1]</p> <p>Which provide teenagers with...</p> <p>B1: practical experience / abilities</p> <p>B2: autonomy / liberty / fewer restrictions</p> <p>[B1+B2=1]</p>

12. Summary question:

Point	Paraphrase	Key Point
How the two systems in teenagers' brain were kept in sync in the past ...		
1. ... to become good hunter, cook or caregiver, you would actually practice hunting, cooking and taking care of children all through middle childhood and early adolescence ...	Children learned essential / vital / indispensable / important / crucial / critical / necessary skills Or Skills were practised over long periods of time	Skills were practised over long periods of time
2. tuning up just the prefrontal wiring you need as an adult.	activating / altering / modifying / stimulating / exercising / adjusting their thinking.	Altering
3. But you had do all that under expert adult supervision	All these were carried out under <u>expert</u> - professional / skilled <u>supervision</u> - direction / observation / guidance / care / charge	Skilled guidance
4. and in the protected world of childhood,	and in the secured / sheltered / shielded / safeguarded / guarded childhood environment	Safe environment
5. where the impact of your inevitable failure would be blunted .	where the effects of you <u>inevitable</u> - unavoidable / certain / inescapable failure were <u>blunted</u> - dulled / dampened / reduced / lessened	Impact of unavoidable failure reduced
6. When the motivational juice of puberty arrived,	When the independence / drive of puberty came,	Drive
7. you had be ready to go after the real rewards in the world outside	they would be <u>ready</u> - prepared / equipped / competent to pursue <u>real rewards</u> - what matters / actual benefits	Prepared to pursue what matters
8. with new intensity and	with renewed focus / power / concentration	Focus
9. and exuberance ,	enthusiasm / excitement / liveliness / energy / cheerfulness	Enthusiasm
10. but you had also have the skill and	considering their ability / expertise / proficiency / competence / aptitude /	Ability
11. control (noun, not verb)	discipline / restraint / moderation / prudence	Restraint
12. to do it effectively and	to do it competently / successfully / well / efficiently / productively	Well
13. reasonably safely .	<u>reasonably</u> – rather / moderately / relatively <u>safely</u> – carefully / reliably / dependably / cautiously	Relatively cautiously
Why the teenagers have been thrown off balance in the present ...		
14. Puberty arrives earlier ,	Physical maturity arrives at a younger age/ faster / more quickly	Faster
15. and the motivational system kicks in earlier too.	and exuberance / passions / enthusiasm / excitement sets in.	Passions

16. At the same time, contemporary children have very little experience	Modern children have little knowledge / skill / understanding / proficiency / practice/	Exposure
17. with the kinds of tasks that they will have to perform as grown-ups.	<u>tasks</u> - work <u>perform</u> - do	Work they do as adults
18. Children have increasingly little chance	<u>little</u> – Children have fewer / insufficient / inadequate <u>chance</u> – options / opportunities / likelihood / possibility / ability / prospect / occasion	Fewer opportunities
19. to practise even basic skills like cooking and caregiving.	<u>practise</u> - to apply / exercise / hone <u>basic</u> - essential / necessary / indispensable / vital / key / fundamental skills	Try fundamental skills
20. Contemporary adolescents and pre-adolescents often do not do much of anything except go to school.	only go to school ; focus on nothing but studies / academics / assignments	Only study
21. Even newspaper boy and baby-sitter jobs have largely disappeared.	and they do not even work part-time / get temporary jobs	Do not work part-time

13. Application Question:

From the Passage	Thinking Questions
<p>P9: At the same time, contemporary children have very little experience with the kinds of tasks that they will have to perform as grown-ups. Children have increasingly little chance to practice even basic skills like cooking and caregiving. Contemporary adolescents and pre-adolescents often do not do much of anything except go to school. Even the newspaper boy and the baby-sitter jobs have largely disappeared.</p> <p>P10: All that school means that children know more about more different subjects than they ever did in the days of apprenticeships. Becoming a really expert cook does not tell you about the nature of heat or the chemical composition of salt—the sorts of things you learn in school. But there are different ways of being smart... Wide-ranging, flexible and broad learning, the kind we encourage in high-school and college, may actually be in tension with the ability to develop finely-honed, controlled, focused expertise in a particular skill, the kind of learning that once routinely took place in human societies.</p>	<p>Why are children today lacking basic skills?</p> <p>What are the consequences of this when they grow up?</p> <p>Do schools really teach our students to be independent holistic thinkers?</p> <p>Do schools really prepare our students to survive in the real, technologically-driven and competitive working world of ours?</p>

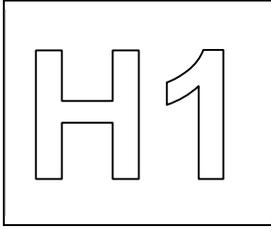
P11: The old have always complained about the young, of course. But this new explanation based on developmental timing elegantly accounts for the paradoxes of our particular crop of adolescents. There do seem to be many young adults who are enormously smart and knowledgeable but directionless, who are enthusiastic and exuberant but unable to commit to a particular kind of work or a particular love until well into their 20s or 30s. And there is the graver case of children who are faced with the uncompromising reality of the drive for sex, power and respect, without the expertise and impulse control it takes to ward off unwanted pregnancy or violence.

What are the current grouses that the old have towards the young in Singapore today? Are these complains justified?

How far do young Singaporeans fit the criteria given in this argument (“enormously smart and knowledgeable but directionless; enthusiastic and exuberant but lacking in commitment to work”?)

Are the above traits necessarily a cause for concern?

<p>P12: Fortunately, dealing with modern adolescence is not as hopeless as it might sound. New research indicates that our experiences and our environment shape the way our brains develop. Though we are not likely to return to an agricultural life or to stop feeding our children well and sending them to school, the very flexibility of the developing brain points to solutions. Brain research is often taken to mean that adolescents are really just defective adults—grown-ups with a missing part. Public policy debates about teenagers thus often turn on the question of when, exactly, certain areas of the brain develop, and so at what age children should be allowed to drive or marry or vote—or be held fully responsible for crimes. But the new view of the adolescent brain is not that the prefrontal lobes just fail to show up; it is that they are not properly instructed and exercised.</p>	<p>What opportunities/ platforms have young Singaporeans been given to 'instruct and exercise' their brain?</p> <p>Can our education policies be adapted to include training the adolescent brain?</p> <p>What factors allow for this shift?</p> <p>How effective is this?</p>
<p>P13: Simply increasing the driving age by a year or two does not have much influence on the accident rate, for example. What does make a difference is having a graduated system in which teenagers slowly acquire both more skill and more freedom—a driving apprenticeship. Instead of simply giving adolescents more and more school experiences—those extra hours of after-school classes and homework—we could try to arrange more opportunities for apprenticeship.</p> <p>P14: "Take your child to work" could become a routine practice rather than a single-day annual event, and college students could spend more time watching and helping scientists and scholars at work rather than just listening to their lectures. Summer enrichment activities like camp and travel, now so common for children whose parents have means, might be usefully alternated with summer jobs, with real responsibilities. The good news, in short, is that we do not have to just accept the developmental patterns of adolescent brains. We can actually shape and change them.</p>	<p>Do young Singaporeans have the opportunities to gradually acquire skill and freedom?</p> <p>Are they too bogged down by school work to gather real world experience?</p> <p>Is it realistic to expect practices like "Take your child to work" and summer jobs to become the norm in Singapore? Is this already being done?</p>



**TAMPINES JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**



CANDIDATE
NAME

CIVICS GROUP

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TUTOR

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

27 August 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional Materials: Writing 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.

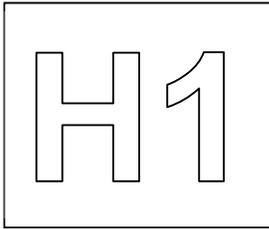
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 In your society, how important is the study of Literature?
- 2 Assess the view that society has become too politically correct.
- 3 Should there be limitations on the development of artificial intelligence?
- 4 'Regulation is the only way to combat fake news.' How far do you agree?
- 5 Recycling all waste is a desirable but unrealistic goal. How far is this true in your society?
- 6 Fame is a double-edged sword. Comment.
- 7 Consider the claim that the world today is characterised by disintegration rather than integration.
- 8 In a society marked by a widening income gap, can education really be the social leveller?
- 9 'The war on terror is an attack on our liberties.' To what extent do you agree?
- 10 Is having an ambition always desirable?
- 11 'Modern living necessitates a dose of humour.' Discuss.
- 12 Does life in today's society offer us too many choices?



TAMPINES JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION



CANDIDATE
NAME

CIVICS GROUP

1	7			
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TUTOR

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

27 August 2018

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		Qn 12			
Sub-total	 / 35		AVE LANG MARK / 15

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.

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 Explain why the author uses the words “almost unanimously” in line 1.

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

2 Why is freedom “linked to goodness and moral responsibility” (lines 6-7)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

3 a) Explain what the author means by the phrase ‘gaining popular currency’ (line 10)?

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

b) Identify another phrase in paragraph 2 that best captures this meaning.

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

4 What is the author's purpose in asking the last two questions in paragraph 2?

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

5 From Smilansky's illustration in paragraph 5, explain why "we cannot afford for people to internalise the truth about free will" (lines 42-43).

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

6 From paragraph 8, explain why the author repeats the phrase, "they did not".

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

7 How does being "dispassionate" (line 70) help us to manage offenders? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

8 What does the word 'airy-fairy' (line 73) suggest about the author's belief and attitude towards the notion of free will?

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

9 Explain the author's use of the metaphor "cornerstone" (line 75).

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

*For
Examiner's
Use*

Stephen Cave believes that there is no such thing as free will.

- 1 For centuries, philosophers and theologians have almost unanimously held that civilisation as we know it depends on a widespread belief in free will and that losing this belief could be calamitous. Our codes of ethics assume that we can freely choose between right and wrong, that we possess “moral liberty”, which refers to the capacity to discern and pursue the good, instead of merely being compelled by appetites and desires. If we are not free to choose, then it would make no sense to say we ought to choose the path of righteousness. Freedom is therefore linked to goodness and moral responsibility. 5
- 2 Yet increasingly, we see that faith in the freedom to choose is eroding. Free-will scepticism, or determinism (to one degree or another), is gaining popular currency. The sciences have grown steadily bolder in their claim that all human behaviour can be explained through cause and effect. Chiefly, it has championed the view that our ability to choose our fate is not free, but instead depends on our biological inheritance. From court cases premised on neuroscientific explanations of criminal actions, to the flurry of books and articles purporting to explain “your brain” on everything from music to magic—free-will scepticism is without a doubt, permeating the present-day belief. Why is this of any concern, one may ask? Such a development raises uncomfortable questions, with increasingly real implications: If moral responsibility depends on faith in our own agency, then as belief in determinism spreads, will we become morally irresponsible? If we increasingly see belief in free will as a delusion, what will happen to all those institutions that are based on it? 10 15 20
- 3 Analysis of various experiments show that when people stop believing they are free agents, they stop seeing themselves as blameworthy for their actions. Consequently, they act less responsibly and give in to their baser instincts. This result is not limited to the contrived conditions of a lab experiment. The same effects can be seen in people who naturally believe more or less in free will. In a study, for instance, the extent to which a group of day labourers believed in free will was measured, then their performance on the job was examined by looking at their supervisor’s ratings. Those who believed more strongly that they were in control of their own actions showed up on time for work more frequently and were rated by supervisors as more capable. In fact, belief in free will turned out to be a better predictor of job performance than established measures such as self-professed work ethic. 25 30
- 4 Further studies have linked a diminished belief in free will to stress, unhappiness and a lesser commitment to relationships. They found that when subjects were induced to believe that all human actions follow from prior events and can ultimately be understood in terms of the movement of molecules, those subjects came away with a lower sense of life’s meaningfulness. The list goes on: believing that free will is an illusion has been shown to make people less creative, more likely to conform, less willing to learn from their mistakes, and less grateful toward one another. In every regard, it seems, when we embrace determinism, we indulge our dark side. 35 40
- 5 Saul Smilansky, a philosophy professor at the University of Haifa, in Israel, has therefore come to a painful conclusion: “We cannot afford for people to internalise the truth” about free will. He is convinced that free will does not exist in the traditional sense, that it would be very bad if most people realised this. To illustrate this, Smilansky says, “Imagine that I am deliberating whether to do my duty, such as to parachute into enemy territory, or 45

- something more mundane like to risk my job by reporting on some wrongdoing. If everyone accepts that there is no free will, then I will know that people will say, 'Whatever he did, he had no choice, we cannot blame him.' So I know I am not going to be condemned for taking the selfish option." This, he believes, is very dangerous for society, and "the more people accept the determinist picture, the worse things will get." 50
- 6 Determinism not only undermines blame, Smilansky argues; it also undermines praise. Imagine I risk my life by jumping into enemy territory to perform a daring mission. Afterward, people will say that I had no choice, that my feats were merely, in Smilansky's phrase, "an unfolding of the given," and therefore hardly praiseworthy. Just as undermining blame would remove an obstacle to acting wickedly, so undermining praise would remove any incentive to do good. Our heroes would seem less inspiring, he argues, our achievements less noteworthy, and soon we would sink into moral bankruptcy and desperation. 55
- 7 Smilansky therefore advocates a view he calls illusionism—the belief that free will is indeed an illusion, but one that society must defend. Yet there is something drastic, even terrible, about this idea. An added dilemma is raised by illusionism: if the choice is between the true and the good, then for the sake of society, the true must go. 60
- 8 Yet not all scholars agree with Smilansky. It is presumptuous to believe that our lack of free will would lead to the collapse of civilisation. Indeed, there is no such thing as free will. In fact, we are better off without the whole notion of it. We should acknowledge that even the worst criminals, murderous psychopaths, for example, are in a sense unlucky. They did not pick their genes. They did not pick their parents. They did not make their brains, yet their brains are the source of their intentions and actions. In a deep sense, their crimes are not their fault. 65
- 9 Recognising this, we can be dispassionate in considering how to manage offenders in order to rehabilitate them, protect society, and reduce future offending. In time, it might even be possible to cure something like psychopathy, but only if we accept that the brain, and not some airy-fairy free will, is the source of the deviancy. Accepting this would also free us from hatred. Holding people responsible for their actions might sound like a cornerstone of civilised life, but we pay a high price for it: Blaming people makes us angry and vengeful, and that clouds our judgement. 75
- 10 While social problems may arise from seeing our own actions as determined by forces beyond our control—weakening our morals, our motivation, and our sense of the meaningfulness of life, social benefits will result from seeing other people's behaviour in the very same light. From that vantage point, the implications of determinism are a lot better. 80

TPJC 2018 Prelim P2 Answers

1. Explain why the author uses the words “almost unanimously” in line 1. [1]

For centuries, philosophers and theologians have almost unanimously held that civilization as we know it depends on a widespread belief in free will and that losing this belief could be calamitous.	Not all scholars agree that society will fall apart without the belief in free will. [1] OR The notion that the belief in a lack of free will may lead to the disintegration of society is debatable / questionable. [1]
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2. Why is freedom “linked to goodness and moral responsibility” (lines 6-7)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Our codes of ethics assume that we can make moral judgements freely, which means having the capacity to discern and pursue the good, instead of merely being compelled by our instinctive desires. (lines 3 to 6)	Either a) As our morality is based on our ability to choose between right and wrong independently, [1] OR b) rather than being motivated by our inherent/innate cravings/wants/yearning/appetites, [1]
If we are not free to choose, then it would make no sense to say we ought to choose the path of righteousness. (lines 6 and 7)	c) ... not having free will makes it illogical for one to have / feel compelled to do good / uphold morals. [1] *students have to convey the meaning of ‘ought to’ in their answer

- 3 a) Explain what the author means by the phrase ‘gaining popular currency’ (line 10)? [1]

Determinism is becoming more widespread in current times / more valuable. [1]

- b) Identify another phrase in paragraph 2 that best captures this meaning. [1]

The phrase is “permeating the present-day belief”. [1]

4. What is the author's purpose in asking the last two questions in paragraph 2? [1]

<p>Why is this of any concern, one may ask? Such a development raises uncomfortable questions, ... (lines 16 & 17) ... with increasingly real implications ... (line 18)</p>	<p>The author's purpose is to emphasise / highlight the far-reaching / significant / extensive / tangible consequences of believing in determinism / free-will scepticism. [1]</p> <p>*Student must have both the generic purpose of the questions and the contextual meaning conveyed for full credit.</p>
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5. From Smilansky's illustration in paragraph 5, explain why "we cannot afford for people to internalise the truth about free will" (lines 42-43). [2]

<p>If everyone accepts that there is no free will, then I'll know that people will say, 'Whatever he did, he had no choice, we can't blame him.' ... (lines 47 & 48) ... So I know I'm not going to be condemned for taking the selfish option. (line 48).</p>	<p>We cannot afford to do so because internalising the truth about free will tends to encourage people to shirk responsibility or absolve them from blame. [1]</p> <p>This can lead to self-centred and egocentric behaviour which is detrimental to society. [1]</p>
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6. From paragraph 8, explain why the author repeats the phrase, "they did not". [2]

<p>They did not pick their genes. They did not pick their parents. They did not make their brains... (lines 67 and 68) ... in a sense unlucky... (line 66)</p>	<p>The author repeats to highlight / emphasize that criminals are not in control of their situation, [1]</p>
<p>In a deep sense, their crimes are not their fault. (lines 68 and 69)</p>	<p>and cannot be blamed. [1]</p>

7. How does being "dispassionate" (line 70) help us to manage offenders? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

we can be dispassionate in considering how to manage offenders in order to rehabilitate them, protect society, and reduce future offending.	By being 'dispassionate', we are putting aside emotions [1]
	in order to reform criminals, safeguard the community, and minimise repeated / recalcitrant crimes / recidivism 1-2 points 1m 3 points 2m

8. What does the word 'airy-fairy' (line 73) suggest about the author's belief and attitude towards the notion of free will? [2]

'airy-fairy' (line 73)	The author believes that the idea is rather impractical and foolishly idealistic. [1] Therefore, he is dismissive of / disdainful towards the notion of free will. [1]
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9. Explain the author's use of the metaphor "cornerstone" (line 75). [2]

'cornerstone' (line 75)	Literal meaning: Just as cornerstone is the most important quality or feature on which a particular thing depends on or is based, [1]
Holding people responsible for their actions might sound like the cornerstone of civilised life... (lines 74 and 75)	Contextual meaning: similarly, the author is saying that individual accountability is fundamental to the functioning of society [1]

10. Using material from paragraphs 3,4 and 6, summarise why the lack of belief in free will is problematic.

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 lack of belief in free will is problematic as...

Passage		Paraphrase
Paragraph 3		
1	... they stop seeing themselves as blameworthy for their actions. (line 23) OR ... they act less responsibly... (line 24)	People are no longer answerable/ accept responsibility/ownership for their deeds/ conduct Behave with less accountability
2	... and give in to their baser instincts. (line 24)	And submit to/primal / immoral/ corrupt / bestial / animalistic impulses
Paragraph 4		
3	Further studies have linked a diminished belief in free will to stress... (line 33)	Lack of free will may lead to anxiety / pent-up tensions
4	... unhappiness... (line 33)	misery/ sadness/ gloom/ joylessness / dissatisfaction
5	... a lesser commitment to relationships (line 34)	Reduce the belief in/ pledge to alliances/ connections/ kinship / loyalty become more fickle
6	... those subjects came away with a lower sense of life's meaningfulness (line 36 & 37)	And reduced significance of life / lack of purpose in life
7	... believing that free will is an illusion has been shown to make people less creative... (line 38)	Be less inventive/ innovative / groundbreaking
8	... more likely to conform... (line 38)	Be more compliant / subservient / abide by
9	... less willing to learn from their mistakes... (line 38 & 39)	Resistant to being taught / corrected Unteachable

10	... less grateful toward one another. (line 39)	Not be as thankful to others / less appreciative of others
11	... when we embrace determinism, we indulge our dark side. (line 39 & 40)	We satisfy/ pander / give in to immoral / evil / wayward / deviant desires
Paragraph 6		
12	Determinism not only undermines blame... (line 51)	Erodes / weakens culpability/ reduces responsibility
13	... it also undermines praise. (line 51)	And commendation/ acknowledgement / recognition / approval / endorsement / compliment
14	... so undermining praise would remove an incentive to do good. (line 55 & 56)	Which would also take away any motivation / enticement / impetus / reason to do what is right/ positive
15	Our heroes would seem less inspiring (line 56)...	Notable persons / Our role models / exemplars are no longer seen as motivational/ stirring/ encouraging
16	... our achievements less noteworthy... (line 57)	Accomplishments seem commonplace/ ordinary / insignificant/ less exceptional / outstanding
17	... and soon we would sink into moral bankruptcy... (line 57 & 58)	Leading us down the path of decadence
18	... and desperation. (line 58)	And anxiety/ despair / panic

No. of points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13	14 +
Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

11. Stephen Cave establishes that there is no such thing as free will and that ‘the implications of determinism are a lot better.’

How far do you agree with this view? Support your answer with examples drawn from your own experience and that of your society. [10]

References from Passage:

Author’s points which address ‘there is no such thing as free will’:

Reference	Possible Evaluation Approach
[A] Para 1: “If we are not free to choose, then it would make no sense to say we ought to choose the path of righteousness.”	Students can use this point to further assess the implications of determinism proposed by the author
[B] Para 2: “[The sciences have] championed the view that our ability to choose our fate is not free, but instead depends on our biological inheritance.”	Students need to be able to infer the concept of determinism for a country like Singapore, which may be limited by geographical conditions, but strives to make the best out of it. Students may also bring in elitism, the problem with meritocracy for individuals who are born with cultural capital vs. those who come from less financially advantageous backgrounds.
[C] Para 2: “free-will scepticism is, without a doubt, permeating the present-day belief.”	Students may challenge the view that determinism is widely embraced by Singaporeans, suggest reasons why and how this is evident, based on our societal characteristics.

Author’s points which address the ‘implications of determinism are a lot better’:

Important Note: It is important to note that points D to L are **negative** implications of determinism (i.e. of not believing in free will). This implies that if one is to ‘agree’ with these statements/references, they are in fact **disagreeing** with the author’s view of ‘implications of determinism are a lot better’. Therefore, if students are agreeing with the author, they should be disagreeing with these statements/references. For the sample paragraphs, ‘agree’ and ‘disagree’ labels refer to the agreement with the statement/reference, not the author.

On a different note, as the points below are about implications of a belief in free will (or the lack thereof), so the main way to evaluate is to determine whether the causal relationship between the belief and the implication is true or not.

Reference	Possible Evaluation Approach
[D] Para 3: “when people stop believing they are free agents, they stop seeing themselves as blameworthy for their actions...they act less responsibly and give in to their baser instincts”	Students may examine youth delinquency in Singapore, consider if these crimes are a result of the young seeing themselves as a victim of social conditions (i.e. not having or not believing in ‘free will’). Alternatively, students can argue by way of the converse, i.e. they may also examine whether having a sense of agency (i.e. having control and believing in free will) necessarily leads to a greater sense of responsibility.
[E] Para 3: “Those who believed more strongly that they were in control of their own actions showed up on time for work more frequently and were rated by supervisors as more capable.”	Not accepted if students take this as a point literally/directly. They must infer the point from this example – that those who believe that they have free will not only acted more responsibly but were also perceived as being more responsible and capable. This is essentially the converse of point D.
[F] Para 4: “Further studies have linked a diminished belief in free will to stress, unhappiness and a	Students may examine whether or not stress, unhappiness, lesser commitment in relationships and/or lower sense of life’s meaningfulness is a result of a diminished belief in free

<p><i>lesser commitment to relationships.” / “came away with a lower sense of life’s meaningfulness”</i></p>	<p>will. They should also consider the converse, whether believing in free will can eliminate these negative implications of determinism. Students should evaluate in the context of Singapore being a highly competitive society where Singaporeans struggle with their work-life balance despite the government’s effort to cultivate greater quality of life.</p>
<p><i>[G] Para 4: “believing that free will is an illusion has been shown to make people less creative”</i></p>	<p>Students can examine the state of creativity in Singapore. It is possible for them to discuss the government’s efforts to rewire society to be less booksmart, more entrepreneurial and less risk-averse and hence conclude to what extent Singapore / Singaporeans believe in free will as an illusion.</p>
<p><i>[H] Para 4: “more likely to conform”</i></p>	<p>Students can examine to what extent Singaporeans conform or and restricted / constrained and therefore reflect how much Singaporeans believe in free will or to what extent they believe in their own agency. Students can discuss restricted LGBT rights, strict legislations, or societal expectations contributing to a sense that there is no free will which encourages herd mentality – conformity as a societal level.</p>
<p><i>[I] Para 4: “less willing to learn from their mistakes”</i></p>	<p>Students can examine the extent Singaporeans learn from past mistakes and have the desire to improve and progress. This analysis should be linked to the extent of how such an attitude reflects (or does not reflect) Singaporeans’ belief in free will. For example, students can discuss how Singapore as a nation repeatedly looks back at its past mistakes to ensure history does not repeat itself such as current racial harmony policies that were a response to historical racial tensions and riots. Such an example illustrates that Singapore does believe in free will and it is beneficial as opposed to determinism where one is less willing to learn from their mistakes.</p>
<p><i>[J] Para 4: “less grateful toward one another” / Para 6: “undermines praise...remove any incentive to do good”</i></p>	<p>Students can examine the state of altruism and gratefulness in Singapore and therefore conclude how this reflects the extent of which they believe in free will. For example, students can argue that there is rising youth volunteerism overseas by young Singaporeans and more people are taking initiative to show consideration for others (e.g. during the haze situation, several youth took the initiative to give out free masks especially to the needy such as the elderly). These examples show that Singaporeans do believe they have control over their lives and have the choice to (positively) influence others and hence reflects that Singaporeans do believe in free will and implies that determinism is not desirable.</p>
<p><i>[K] Para 5: “Imagine that I am deliberating whether to do my duty, such as to parachute into enemy territory, or something more mundane like to risk my job by reporting on some wrongdoing. If everyone accepts that there is no free will, then I will know that people will say, ‘Whatever he did, he had no choice, we cannot blame him.’ So I know I am not going to be</i></p>	<p>This point is essentially the converse of the previous point [L] – that determinism encourages selfish or self-centred behaviour that would be accepted in a world that believes in determinism. Students can therefore examine the state of selfish or self-centred behaviour in Singapore and to what extent it is condoned or accepted. If there is selfish and self-centred behaviour does exist and is accepted, then this would imply that there is a sense of determinism in Singapore. However, there seems to be more evidence to argue against this conclusion. Students can draw from the backlash several social media personalities face (such as</p>

<p>condemned for taking the selfish option.” [It is acceptable for individuals to be selfish and others will not hold them accountable for their actions.]</p>	<p>Amos Yee) as well as the presence of many online vigilantes on STOMP and other similar platforms. These examples illustrate that Singaporeans do have a sense of right and wrong and are against selfish or self-centred behaviour. In other words, Singaporeans by and large do not condone undesirable behaviour and implicitly believe that people who behave in such a way have the freedom of choice and free will to determine their own behaviour and are thus accountable for their actions.</p>
<p>[L] Para 6: “Our heroes would seem less inspiring, he argues, our achievements less noteworthy, and soon we would sink into moral bankruptcy and desperation.” [Losing a sense of who / what represents our core values / exemplars]</p>	<p>This point is an extension of point [J]. As determinism undermines praise as well as blame, achievements would be perceived as a ‘given’ since people had ‘no choice’ in process – it is the situation or innate abilities or being blessed with the resources that has led to one’s success, not his or her own will and determination. Students can thus examine cases of where local ‘heroes’ and Singaporeans’ achievements are perceived as not as significant because of the belief that these are ‘given’. For example, students can discuss how Singaporeans’ doubt the current 4th generation of political leaders as demonstrating promising calibre as much as their predecessors because the achievement by their political party can be argued to be not of their own.</p>
<p>[M] Para 9: “we can be dispassionate in considering how to manage offenders in order to rehabilitate them, protect society, and reduce future offending. In time, it might even be possible to cure something like psychopathy, but only if we accept that the brain, and not some airy-fairy free will, is the source of the deviancy.”</p>	<p>Students can examine the current state of crime and rehabilitation in Singapore and whether or not the approach to crime and rehabilitation has an underlying belief that offenders are to be blamed for their actions (in support of free will) or if it is because of their situation, circumstances or even biology/psychology that has caused them to commit a crime (in support of determinism). Students can discuss areas such as rehabilitation, youth crimes, drug and human trafficking or religious radicalisation and how society and government have responded to manage these issues.</p>
<p>[N] Para 9: “Accepting this would also free us from hatred. Holding people responsible for their actions might sound like a cornerstone of civilized life, but we pay a high price for it: Blaming people makes us angry and vengeful, and that clouds our judgement.”</p>	<p>Students can examine to what extent people in Singapore are held accountable for their actions and whether there is a ‘blame culture’ in Singapore; or whether Singaporeans are more accepting of people’s situation and circumstances and do not entirely blame people for errors they commit. Students can provide illustrations from social media spheres, political-legal spheres and even examples from the work and place schools.</p>

Samples of Evaluation with Examples

<p>Sample 1 [Point B] Para 2: <i>"[The sciences have] championed the view that our ability to choose our fate is not free, but instead depends on our biological inheritance."</i></p>	
<p>Reference & Explanation</p>	
<p>In paragraph 2, the author explains that the sciences argue that our ability to choose depends on our biological inheritance and therefore we do not truly have free will.</p>	
<p>Evaluation, Example & Link Back to Question</p>	
<p>Agree: Indeed, some people may argue with the support of scientific evidence that certain abilities and talents are innate or predispose people to be successful in certain areas. In this way, it can then be argued that people do not have the ability to choose their fate in terms of achieving success in their future because of these 'inherited' characteristics. This is especially significant in a meritocratic society like Singapore where certain talents or abilities that can be largely attributed to genetic factors are good determinants of future success. For example, several studies have suggested that about 50% of a person's intelligence is influenced by genetic factors [1]. If this is indeed true, then success in a heavily academic meritocratic system is already significantly determined rather than having a true freedom to choose our fate. This not only applies to intelligence but even physical or physiological characteristics. For example, Michael Phelps's body specifications has been well-analysed by science to explain why he is such a good swimmer – it is because of unique body structure such as having an unusually wide wingspan amongst other characteristics [2]. Likewise, the converse also holds. Some people may be genetically, biologically and psychologically predisposed for criminal and anti-social behaviour [3]. Therefore, from these examples, we can see how one's fate and success (or lack thereof) can be determined by biological inheritance. Hence, I would tend to agree with the author that there is no such thing as free will.</p> <p><i>References:</i> [1] https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/primer/traits/intelligence [2] https://www.scienceabc.com/sports/michael-phelps-height-arms-torso-arm-span-feet-swimming.html [3] https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1050752/pdf/medgene00263-0087c.pdf</p>	<p>Disagree: Granted that there may be scientific evidence that one's ability depends on genetics and biology, I would argue that people still do have choice and hence free will in how to make use and respond to these inherited or innate characteristics. Even if one may be predisposed to be intelligent or physically superior, it is still up to the individual to decide whether to fully utilise these abilities that they have been naturally blessed with or otherwise. To illustrate, one can use their intelligence for criminal or unlawful activity. In fact, in Singapore, a recent report has claimed that there has been an increase in white-collar crimes in Singapore [4]. If we presume that white-jobs are correlated with more intelligent people, then indeed such people who have committed such crimes have made immoral or unethical choices despite their capacity for intelligence and make positive contributions to society. In this way, they have had the ability to choose their fate even if they had beneficial innate resources to begin with. Likewise, we can see many examples of people who have been biologically disadvantaged but have overcome such challenges and become successful in their own right. One textbook example is Nick Vujicic who was born with tetra-amelia syndrome that had left him with no arms or legs from birth. Despite this, he is now a very successful and well-known motivational speaker [5]. An example closer to home would be Yip Pin Xiu, born with muscular dystrophy, who is a three-time Paralympic Gold medallist [6]. Evidently, these examples illustrate that despite biological determinants, people still have a choice and free will to influence their fates. Therefore, I would argue against the notion that there is no free will.</p> <p><i>References:</i> [4] https://www.msn.com/en-sg/money/topstories/reported-white-collar-crime-hits-record-high-in-singapore/ar-AAxoH3z [5] https://www.lifewithoutlimbs.org/about-nick/bio/ [6] https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/yip-pin-xiu-sets-two-world-records-gold-medal-swim-paralympics</p>
<p>Note: The sample response interpreted the passage directly and literally, i.e. biological inheritance. However, as suggested in the approach, students can make a parallel argument of geographical circumstances of Singapore and despite the natural geographical constraints, Singapore has been</p>	

able to determine its own fate. Likewise, a further extension of this line of argument would making parallels with one's social-economic situation that he or she has been born into. One can argue that social and economic status does not determine one's future and that one has the autonomy to influence their 'fate'. However, it can also be equally and validly argued that one's socio-economic situation of which one is born into has a significant influence on future outcomes.

Sample 2 [Point C] Para 2:

"free-will scepticism is, without a doubt, permeating the present-day belief."

Reference & Explanation

In paragraph 2, the author claims that many people in today's world hold scepticism about free will.

Evaluation, Example & Link Back to Question

Agree: One can argue that many Singaporeans hold the belief that the government or 'system' has the final say in many aspects of one's life. It is not uncommon to hear defeatist sentiment and even resentment towards many government policies that restrict choice and freedom for people living in Singapore in areas such as freedom of speech, retirement savings (i.e. CPF) and even in decisions regarding housing, marriage and having children. This is evident from the criticisms from both local and foreign political analysts and journalists as well as from human rights watchdogs such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch that one's freedom is rather restricted in Singapore. Given these trends and observations, one can reasonably conclude that it is possible for Singaporeans to hold beliefs similar to free-will scepticism because of the lack of autonomy they feel over their lives.

References:

- [1] <https://www.sos.org.sg/learn-about-suicide/quick-sin>
- [2] <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/more-than-1-in-3-suicides-committed-by-elderly-as-singapore-population-ages>

Disagree: By and large, I think Singaporeans have a strong sense of agency and locus of control. This is already obvious in the pragmatic and 'kiasu' or competitive culture in Singapore. The behaviour of Singaporeans tend to be action-oriented and goal-oriented and hence in many ways is a manifestation of their belief that their actions have influence over outcomes rather than a disbelief in existence of free will. For example, it is not unheard of for parents to make significant effort in ensuring that their child gets into a good primary school – from volunteering as part of the Parents' Support Group or to moving residence nearer the desired school to increase the chances of getting admitted. The same logic can be extended to those parents who send their children for tuition or students who invest a lot of time in their studies. All these are indicative of the belief that people have control over their lives and their outcomes. Moreover, despite the shortcomings of a meritocratic system, many Singaporeans still have confidence that it allows for social mobility – as long as one works hard and has the results to show, he or she will be rewarded accordingly. Having such confidence in such a system assumes that one believes in free will and that one has control over one's life, rather than letting 'fate' or the 'system' decide for them. Therefore, in the context of my society, Singapore, I would argue that free-will scepticism does not significantly permeate Singaporean's present-day beliefs.

Sample 3 [Point F] Para 4:

"Further studies have linked a diminished belief in free will to stress, unhappiness and a lesser commitment to relationships." / "came away with a lower sense of life's meaningfulness"

Reference & Explanation

In paragraph 4, the author argues that studies have suggested that those who have a diminished belief in free will would also experience stress, unhappiness and a lesser commitment to relationships. Such people also may find less meaning in their lives.

Evaluation, Example & Link Back to Question

Agree: Certainly, if one does not believe he or she has control over their lives, they would feel a sense of helplessness when they are in an undesirable situation. They may feel like they are victims of the situation and lack the agency to do anything about it. In extreme cases, the lack of agency especially in a difficult time in one's life can lead to depression and even suicide. We have definitely heard of several cases of youth suicide in Singapore as well as reports of increasing suicide amongst the elderly. These trends suggest that there are a significant group of people that feel that they do not have control of their lives and lack the free will and agency to overcome the challenges they are facing. Moreover, this phenomenon may be worsened due to the competitiveness of Singapore society which has led to increased stress for these groups of people. So, despite efforts by the government to address these issues, these efforts may be ineffective or even futile because these people feel that they are at the mercy of the system. Therefore, there is certainly a group of people in Singapore who are holding the belief that they do not have free will.

Disagree: Although it is reasonable to believe these studies that link a diminished belief in free will to stress and unhappiness, I would argue that a belief in free will also can lead to stress and unhappiness as well. Knowing that one's actions determines one's outcomes can cause stress because one would want not want to make a mistake and lead to undesirable consequences. Moreover, if one does make a mistake, a belief in free will means that he or she can blame themselves for their own poor choices. This is probably the very reason why many Singapore students are stressed – they fully acknowledge that their effort in their studies significantly determine their future results in examinations as well as their future prospects. Therefore, not succeeding academically, many students would blame themselves and be hard on themselves which can also lead to unhappiness and, unfortunately, even depression. This then suggests that Singaporeans do have a belief in free will because of the sense of accountability and responsibility. In Singapore the majority of people do have a sense of responsibility for their own actions. Moreover, at a societal level, the stress and unhappiness levels in Singapore are rather high. Hence, due to this, the government and many agencies have made efforts to reduce stress in the work place and improve work-life balance. Such efforts indicate that there is a belief that we do have control or choice over our lives. Therefore, in Singapore, one can argue that despite the stress and unhappiness levels, people do believe that they have free will and can exercise control over their lives.

Sample 4 [Point M] Para 9:

“we can be dispassionate in considering how to manage offenders in order to rehabilitate them, protect society, and reduce future offending. In time, it might even be possible to cure something like psychopathy, but only if we accept that the brain, and not some airy-fairy free will, is the source of the deviancy.”

Reference & Explanation

In paragraph 9, the authors argues that our efforts in managing offenders can be more effective if we become more rational and accept that the limitations of a belief in free will, thereby accepting that crime and deviant behaviour is caused by uncontrollable factors such as the brain.

Evaluation, Example & Link Back to Question

Agree: Although there is still a long way to go, there is progress in this area in Singapore, especially with the well-known Yellow Ribbon Project that seeks to integrate former offenders back into society and to lessen the stigma associated with former offenders. Following the author’s argument, this approach can reflect how Singapore society has accepted to some extent that criminal behaviour could be attributed to circumstances and may not have been in the total control of the offender. This is because we are recognising that the environment has a role to play and aim of the Yellow Ribbon Project is to influence that environment – to make society more conducive for these people. Thus, this effectively shifts the focus of responsibility from the individual to other factors and the situation and therefore implying that the crime is not necessarily the offender’s fault – society too plays a part. This conclusion stems from the assumption that there is no true free will as, the author argues in previous paragraph (paragraph 8), that “in a sense [the criminals are] unlucky” because they did not ‘pick their genes’ or ‘their parents’ or neither did they ‘make their brain’ and therefore, we cannot really fully blame the offender. In conclusion, as illustrated by the Yellow Ribbon Project in Singapore, a belief that we do not truly have free will enables us to think more rationally and objectively regarding people’s deviant behaviour and consequently approach these issues more effectively.

e.g. Eighteen Chefs

Disagree: Certainly, like other developed nations, Singapore has made improvements in its management of crime and offenders. Advancements in science and research regarding human behaviour as informed many of the policies in dealing criminal behaviour. However, it is difficult to claim that all criminal behaviour can be attributed to factors that are beyond the control of a person. If people do have psychological issues, they can still choose to seek professional help or if they are in a difficult position, they can always seek support from many sources – from family and friends to many professional organisations and even help hotlines available in Singapore such the Samaritans of Singapore (SOS). Although there are efforts such as the Yellow Ribbon Project to remove the stigma associated with offenders as well as help them reintegrate into society, much of the stigma still exists. The fact that this stigma still exists in society shows that people still believe that the offender is still largely to blame. This belief stems from the assumption that people have free will and it was within their choice to commit a crime or not. Also, the fact that there are various rehabilitation and crime prevention programmes suggests that people can choose to the right thing and not engage in any criminal behaviour. This general belief that people have the free will to decide their own actions can be extended to other areas of life – from school to the workplace. It is evident in Singapore society because Singaporeans believe that character, ethics and morality are important and that these shapes one’s decision making. The emphasis on values and integrity permeates through the various institutions in Singapore. Therefore, these examples and observations are reflective that, in general, Singaporeans believe that people have the capacity to choose and are called to choose ethically and morally.

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

23 August 2018

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

2

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 'Fiction is enjoyable but of little value.' Is this a fair comment?
- 2 Should criminals be given a second chance?
- 3 Do you agree that animals should never be kept in captivity?
- 4 How important is it for politicians in your society to listen to the citizens?
- 5 To what extent has science become a profit seeking industry?
- 6 With the growth of online commerce, are traditional businesses becoming obsolete?
- 7 Consider the claim that the study of the humanities has little relevance in a technologically advanced world.
- 8 Is freedom of access to information always desirable?
- 9 How far should tourism in developing countries be encouraged?
- 10 Are women still less privileged than men today?
- 11 'The sport industry in your society should focus more on local than foreign talent.' What is your view?
- 12 'Adversity brings out the worst in human nature.' Discuss.

**TEMASEK JUNIOR COLLEGE
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018**

CANDIDATE'S NAME

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CLASS

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GP TUTOR'S NAME

--

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

23 August 2018

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 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

This document consists of **6** printed pages.

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 or phrases from the passage.

From Passage 1

1 Using your own words as far as possible, explain Dickens's observation in lines 2–3.

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

2 What does the phrase 'falling over each other to proffer unedifying soundbites' (lines 9–10) tell us about politicians?

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

3 What reasons does the author give to support his description of immigrants as 'vital engines of innovation and growth' (lines 19–20)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

4 Explain the phrase 'national suicide' in line 25.

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

5 What is the writer implying when he asks 'but has that ship not sailed?' (lines 36–37)?

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

6 What are the various impact of immigration on British society as illustrated by the examples in lines 39–42? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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

7 Explain the paradox in lines 45–46.

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

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

23 August 2018

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passages for Paper 2.

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

[Turn over

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Passage 1. Tommy Stadlen argues for the benefits of immigration

- 1 There is a moment in Charles Dickens's travelogue, 'American Notes', when the author comes to realise the greatness of immigrants. "It would be hard to keep your model republics going, without the countrymen and countrywomen of those two labourers," he reflects, watching a pair of Irish immigrants. Modern Britain does not lack for such insight. The evidence in favour of immigration is too compelling for political elites to misunderstand. Our problem is that today's Dickenses are drowned out by xenophobic chants that say voters dislike immigrants. 5
- 2 Recently, a political consensus has emerged around the notion that immigration is out of control and detrimental to Britons' economic well-being. Politicians are falling over each other to proffer unedifying soundbites such as "England belongs to the English". Few are willing to say what they all know to be true: that immigration is not only beneficial but absolutely necessary for Britain to thrive. 10
- 3 Research at University College London found that eastern European migrants pay far more taxes than they receive in benefits and services. The net benefit of almost 40 per cent that they contribute contrasts heavily with British born citizens who pay in taxes 20 per cent less than they receive in public services and benefits. A similar story of foreigners subsidising Britons is apparent in universities. With their inflated fees, visitors and would-be citizens prop up an education system neither the government nor students appear willing to fund. In their disproportionate entrepreneurialism, immigrants are vital engines of innovation and growth. Countries with more start-ups grow faster, and immigrants are more likely to be self-employed than natives. This is particularly true in mainland Europe but also in the UK and the US, where foreign-born pioneers are responsible for Google, Yahoo! and eBay. Over half of Silicon Valley companies were founded by immigrants. 15
20
- 4 Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York City, has warned against "national suicide" as America pushes for greater border controls and emerging economies offer incentives to tempt home highly skilled workers. "We ship them home, where they can take what they learned here and use it to create companies and products that compete with ours." We need more voices like Bloomberg in Britain. Politicians must acknowledge that immigrants represent an important part of the solution to our demographic time bomb. The proportion of western Europe's population aged 65 or older will almost double by 2050, according to UN projections. Increased immigration can mitigate an ageing population and ease the state burden. Success here is dependent on government action. 25
30
- 5 In the face of such strong economic arguments for immigration, some oppose it on social grounds. They claim endless new arrivals corrode British identity. But has that ship not sailed? The Britain of cucumber sandwiches and village cricket remains part of this country's identity, but only one part. Each of the main immigrant groups is woven into Britain's fabric. The Indian community alone has provided the UK's richest man, an England cricket captain and a new national cuisine. In their leadership of organisations like Liberty and New Look, people of Indian descent have shaped both our values and our spending habits. 35
40
- 6 No one doubts that immigration poses challenges for communities. Of course, integration is critical to social cohesion. But these are challenges we can and must meet. It is not good enough for David Cameron to criticise immigrants' failure to integrate while his government slashes funding for their English lessons. Welcome immigrants warmly and most will respond in the spirit of our most famous literary import, T.S. Eliot – "Remember I am... a foreigner, and that I want to understand you, and all the background and tradition of you." Politicians need not appeal to our better selves to support immigration – our self-interest will do. 45
50

Passage 2. *David Goodhart raises several arguments against immigration*

- 1 The Brexit vote was evidently not just about immigrants. It is the seething discontent of a large slice of the public created by twenty years of historically unprecedented immigration and the nonchalant response of the political class to this change – one that never appeared in an election manifesto and was never chosen by anyone.
- 2 Around 75 per cent of the population (including more than half of ethnic minority citizens) has consistently lamented that immigration is too high. Immigration is also a metaphor for the larger disruptions of social and economic change, especially for those who have done least well out of them. In the quiet of their living rooms, most people have quite nuanced views on different forms of immigration and tend to be more positive about the local story. Yet, immigration overall still stands for “change as loss.”
- 3 It is a basic human instinct to be wary of strangers and outsiders. In rich, individualistic societies, tribal and ethnic instincts may have abated but they have not disappeared completely and have been supplemented by anxiety about sharing economic space and public services with outsiders. Many still do not like the macro changes to their city or country and worry that too many newcomers fail to integrate. Although chauvinistic nationalism is much rarer in modern Britain than it was a couple of generations ago, the belief that citizens should be first in the queue remains as strong as ever. State welfare has extended its reach via tax credits and housing benefit and although state employment overall has been in decline, if you live in some of the most run-down parts of Britain, you will probably be employed by the state. This does not necessarily make you a flag-waving nationalist but it might make you more sensitive to competition with outsiders for school places, hospital beds or social housing.
- 4 In areas of high immigration, people doing blue-collar jobs can come to feel even more like a replaceable cog in the economic machine as they are exposed to greater competition of various kinds with outsiders. Instead of the “one nation” they are beseeched to sign up for they will often see a political class casting aside the common-sense principle of fellow-citizen favouritism. Areas of low immigration are often depressed former industrial areas or seaside towns where people feel that the national story has passed them by, as it has. Opposition to immigration in these areas is more about the changing priorities of the country and its governing class, priorities that no longer seem to include them.
- 5 Anxieties about integration exacerbate opposition to immigration, and with some reason. There is a growing separation in neighbourhoods and schools in some areas between the white British majority and some minority groups. In recent years, a second integration problem has been added: people from the poorer countries who have no desire to integrate into British society because they are here for a short period to earn money.
- 6 A guest citizen is not a full member, does not have full access to social and political rights and leaves after a few years. Formalising guest citizenship would mean that we could concentrate rights, benefits and integration efforts on those who are making a commitment to this country. There is a trade-off between migration and citizenship. If we want to continue with relatively high inflows, we have to guard full citizenship more jealously.

**2018 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
GENERAL PAPER
Paper 2 Suggested Answers**

From Passage 1

1. Using your own words as far as possible, explain Dickens’s observation in lines 2–3. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would be hard to keep your model republics going (l.2–3), ▪ without the countrymen and countrywomen of those two labourers (l.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dickens points out that it would be challenging/ impossible/ difficult for nations/ states/ democracies/ systems to develop/ [1] ▪ without immigrants who take up jobs involving menial/ toiling work/ sweat/ blue-collar jobs/ building infrastructure. [1] <p align="center">or</p> ▪ Dickens points out that immigrants play a huge/ large role/ are the pillars/ foundation/ essential/ critical/ important/ fundamental for nations/ states/ democracies/ systems to develop [1] ▪ as they take up jobs involving menial/ toiling work/ sweat/ blue-collar jobs/ building infrastructure [1] <p><i>*build the country/ nation = 0</i> <i>**answer that does not capture the idea of physical work = 0</i></p>

2. What does the phrase ‘falling over each other to proffer unedifying soundbites’ (lines 9–10) tell us about politicians? [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘falling over each other’ (l.9–10) ▪ to proffer unedifying soundbites’ such as “England belongs to the English” (l.10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The phrase shows that politicians are competing/ fighting with each other/ ever-ready/ eager/ enthusiastic [1] <p><i>*challenging = 0 (without any clear sign that they are in the same direction)</i> <i>**unscrupulous = 0, fighting and arguing = 0</i></p> ▪ to jump on the bandwagon/ join in the call against immigrants/ for anti-immigration/

	<p>to keep immigrants out/ tell immigrants that they have no place in the country. [1] <i>*we will accept negative perceptions about the immigrants/ condemn immigration/ immigration is harmful/ bad</i></p>
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3. What reasons does the author give to support his description of immigrants as ‘vital engines of innovation and growth’ (line 19–20)? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In their disproportionate entrepreneurialism (l.19) ... immigrants are more likely to be self-employed than natives (l.21) ... ▪ countries with more start-ups grow faster (l.20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immigrants have a higher inclination/ probability/ greater tendency/ likelihood to venture into new businesses/ take risks by setting up their own businesses/ contribute more to the rise of new businesses than locals [1], and <i>* the element of ‘greater’ or ‘higher’ doesn’t have to be there to be awarded the mark</i> <i>** chance/ opportunity/ ability = 0</i> ▪ this enables their host countries to develop/ progress more quickly/ rapidly. [1] <i>** the element of ‘more start-ups’ doesn’t have to be there to be awarded the mark</i> <i>*** answers must attempt to rephrase ‘grow’ or ‘faster’</i>

4. Explain the phrase ‘national suicide’ in line 25. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ... as America pushes for greater border controls ... (l.26) ... We ship them home ... where they can use what they learned here and use it to create companies and products that compete with ours (l.27–28) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Just as suicide occurs when a person kills himself/ ends his own life, [1] ▪ by restricting immigration/ imposing limitations on immigration, America is causing its own economic downfall/ decline. [1] <i>*to be awarded any mark, student’s answer must attempt to explain both the literal and contextual meaning</i>

5. What is the writer implying when he asks 'but has that ship not sailed?' (lines 36-37)? [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They claim endless arrivals corrode British identity. But has that ship not sailed? (l.36-37) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writer is implying that it is too late/ not useful/ pointless to worry about the dilution/ erosion/ weakening of British identity/ what it means to be British due to immigration, [1] <i>*can still award the mark even if they don't address 'endless arrivals'</i> as the pure British identity has been lost a long time ago/ the British identity today is now a mix of different cultures/ has been diluted/ changed due to foreigners/ foreigners are now an ingrained part of British culture. [1]

6. What are the various impact of immigration on British society as illustrated by the examples in lines 39-42? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian community alone has provided the UK's richest man (l.39), an England cricket captain (l. 39-40) a new national cuisine (l. 40) In their leadership of big businesses like Liberty and New Look (l. 40-41) have shaped both our values (l. 41) and spending habits (l. 42) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigrants are wealthy/ have contributed to the economy/ wealth of the nation/ the wealthiest man in the country/ UK. They have also brought sporting glory to the nation/ leaders in sport. In addition, they have influenced/ changed/ introduced original/ fresh/ novel elements to British food culture And are influential/ have helmed/ had a hand in managing/ taking charge of/ directing corporations and companies in Britain. They have also brought about changes to/ affected the ethics/ moral standards/ principles/ sense of right and wrong held by British society. <i>*attributes = 0</i> and introduced new consumer trends/ changed the way people spend their money/ how they consume/ buy things.

	<p>* <i>Tiered mark scheme</i> 1 point – 1 mark 2–3 points – 2 marks 4 or more points – 3 marks</p> <p><i>**Students should not merely summarise the areas of impact (e.g. contribute to the economy, sports and food)</i></p>
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7. Explain the paradox in lines 45–46. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ David Cameron ... criticise immigrants’ failure to integrate (l. 45-46) ▪ while his government slashes funding for their English lessons (l. 45–46) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immigrants are looked upon with disapproval for/ accused of not assimilating into/ adjusting to their new country, [1] ▪ However, it is paradoxical/ contradictory that government spending/ grants/ subsidy is being cut, despite English lessons being crucial/ essential for assimilation. [1] <p><i>* first bullet should capture the criticism, and not just expectation that they should help</i></p> <p><i>**second bullet point must explain that English lessons are fundamental to assimilation. Policies/ measures/ anything vague = 0</i></p> <p><i>*** if a student lifts ‘integrate’, punish only once</i></p> <p><i>****if only one part is attempted = 0 mark</i></p> <p><i>***** if both parts are attempted, award 1 mark for whichever part is correct</i></p>

From Passage 2

8. Why does the author claim that ‘The Brexit vote was not just about immigration.’ (line 1)? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The seething discontent of a large slice of the public created by 20 years of historically unprecedented immigration (1.2–3) 	<p>This is because there are other reasons which include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the dissatisfaction/ unhappiness about the massive number/ influx of immigrants not seen before over the years, [1]

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and the nonchalant response of the political class to this change (l.3–4). 	<p><i>*if 'massive' or 'not seen before' is not captured = 0 mark</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> and over the politicians' indifference/ lack of concern/ failure to address/ action towards citizens' worries. [1]
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9. Using material from paragraphs 3–5 (lines 11–37) only, summarise why the British may not support immigration.

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 British may not support immigration because...

Lifted Answer		Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a basic human instinct to be wary of strangers and outsiders (l.11) 	A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it is natural/ innate to be suspicious of those who do not belong/ people we do not know/ not familiar with. <p><i>**do not accept 'other people', but accept 'aliens'</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tribal and ethnic instincts have abated but they have not disappeared completely (l.12–13) 	A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They want to safeguard their cultural identity/ their suspicions still remain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> anxiety about sharing economic space (l.13) 	A3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and worry about competing with immigrants for jobs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many still do not like the macro changes to their city or country (l.14–15) 	A4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are uncomfortable with the big/ expansive alterations/ transformations that are happening <p><i>*do not need to paraphrase 'changes'</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> worry that too many newcomers fail to integrate (l.15) anxieties about integration (l.32) 	A5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and are afraid that immigrants will not assimilate/ co-exist/ blend in well.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the belief that citizens should be first in the queue remains as strong as ever (l.16–17) 	A6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They also firmly believe that British citizens should be given priority/ privileges.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> if you live in some of the most run-down parts of Britain (l.19–20), 	A7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The poorer British/ Those who are destitute/ financially less well-off/ wealthy/ affluent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more sensitive to competition with outsiders (l.21–22) 	A8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> are more affected by the fight with immigrants for/ more vulnerable to the struggle/ tussle with immigrants for
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> anxiety about sharing... public services with outsiders (l.13–14)... for school places, hospital beds or housing (l.22) 	A9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> public amenities/ social services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> people doing blue-collar jobs (l.23) 	B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowly-skilled workers/ workers doing manual work/ labour

▪ feel even more like a replaceable cog (l.23–24)	B2	▪ perceive themselves as dispensable/ not being valued, <i>*accept job insecurity</i>
▪ They... see a political class casting aside the common-sense principle of fellow-citizen favouritism (l.26–27)	B3	▪ They feel/ perceive that the government does/ authorities do not believe in/ are not/ are no longer putting locals/ citizens first/ giving privileges to locals/ citizens.
▪ Areas of low immigration are... depressed former industrial areas or seaside towns (l.27–28)	B4	▪ In places where there is economic stagnation/ decline,
▪ where ... the national story has passed them by (l.28–29)	B5	▪ people feel that they have been forgotten/ sidelined/ forsaken/ abandoned/ are not enjoying benefits of the country's economic development
▪ priorities that no longer seem to include them (l.30–31)	B6	▪ as they are not featured/ not considered/ part of/ feel excluded from
▪ ... changing priorities of the country and its governing class (l.30)	B7	▪ the government's altered/ new plans/ goals/ objectives/ agenda
▪ growing separation... between white British and some minority groups (l.33–34)	C1	▪ There is a widening/ increasing divide between locals and immigrants <i>*no need for 'growing' to be paraphrased</i>
▪ ... in neighbourhoods (l.33)	C2	▪ in communities/ residential areas
▪ and schools (l.33)	C3	▪ as well as in educational institutions/ among students.
▪ people from poorer countries have no desire to integrate (l.35-36)	C4	▪ People from less developed/ impoverished countries show no interest in assimilating
▪ because they are here for a short period (l.36)	C5	▪ as they stay long enough only
▪ to earn money (l.36–37)	C6	▪ to make a living/ salary/ wage.

Total - 22 points

Summary Mark Scheme

1 point	1 mk	3–4 points	3 mks	7–8 points	5 mks	11–12 points	7 mks
2 points	2 mks	5–6 points	4 mks	9–10 points	6 mks	≥ 13 points	8 mks

10. Tommy Stadlen argues for the benefits of immigration, while David Goodhart raises several arguments against it. How far would you agree or disagree with the opinions expressed in these two passages, relating your arguments to your society?

QUESTION ANALYSIS

benefits of immigration

- Stadlen argues that immigration is beneficial and supports his observation by giving reasons
- Students need to identify the reasons that Stadlen gives in support of his stand

raises several arguments against it

- Goodhart believes that immigration brings about drawbacks.
- Students need to identify the reasons that Goodhart gives in support of his stand → i.e. negative impact and implications caused by immigration.

How far do you agree or disagree with the opinions expressed in these two passages

- **how far** → students should clearly state the degree of agreement/ disagreement with the author's stand, using appropriate qualifiers.
- **the opinions expressed in these two passages** → students should identify BOTH the authors' overall stands in the two passages + reasons given to support their respective stands.

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 far you agree with* the authors' opinions in relation 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 you agree with Stadlen about immigration being beneficial and Goodhart on the arguments against it.

OB1–5: Observations made by each author 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. You should pick one observation from each passage for discussion.

EX, EV: Explaining, developing and evaluating arguments with reference to yourself and 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.

***While the AQ asks for the benefits and drawbacks of immigration, expatriates and foreigners will also be accepted for this AQ as the authors also made references to them in the passages.*

INTRODUCTION

Since the founding of modern Singapore in the early 19th century, immigrants have largely contributed to our nation building efforts. However, the rapid influx of immigrants today has raised much concern amongst Singaporeans. **As such, I do acknowledge that the drawbacks raised by Goodhart are also relevant to Singapore. Nevertheless, I am more in agreement with Stadlen’s assertion that immigration is beneficial in the context of my society** as government policies have managed to allay many of these fears, and immigrants have, on the whole, contributed greatly to Singapore’s survival and success.

From Passage 1

OBSERVATION 1

Stadlen posits that immigrants contribute towards the country they move to because they ‘pay far more taxes’ (lines 13–14) as well as ‘inflated fees’ (line 17). This observation has an element of truth in relation to Singaporean society at present.

- With land constraints, as well as the need to placate unhappy Singaporeans, the government has taken steps to ensure that taxes and fees for immigrants are clearly higher as compared to those for local citizens.
- Singapore’s population is expected to grow by a third in the next two decades, and a large part of that will come from immigrants. This would mean that land will only become more scarce and sought after. As Singapore aims to keep to its land management objectives of promoting growth and a comfortable living environment, the inflow of foreigners has to be controlled. Singaporeans’ displeasure at the 2013 Population White Paper, illustrated by a rare mass rally over its liberal immigration policies, has also urged the government to respond. In order to keep numbers manageable and placate the citizenry, they have since come up with several measures to make foreigners pay more taxes and higher fees.
- According to a 2017 survey by ECA International, expatriates in Singapore are among the top-20 best paid ones in the world, and are top in Asia Pacific. Naturally, the progressive income tax system adopted by Singapore, along with the lack of tax reliefs, would tax these high-earning expatriates here more. Tax rates specially implemented for top-level management also saw a 2 per cent jump from 20 per cent to 22 per cent in 2017.

- On top of taxes, Singapore has also introduced an increase in fees for non-locals. In education, the government followed a waiver of national examination fees for Singaporeans in government funded schools in 2015 with a gradual hike in school fees for not only foreigners, but also permanent residents (PRs). Monthly fees for PRs attending a primary school, for example, will see an increase from \$130 to \$205 by 2020. International students at pre-university schools will have to pay \$1750 a month from 2020, compared to \$1300 back in 2017.
- **However, this does not mean that Singapore and Singaporeans do not contribute to tax income and have to rely heavily on their contributions.**
- Although high-earning foreign talent are taxed more, Singaporeans are also subject to the same progressive tax structure, and also contribute to the nation. In addition, other taxes, such as the Goods and Services Tax, also apply to citizens.
- The running of various social programmes and other aspects of governance are also not solely dependent on tax income too. To begin with, government expenditure goes into the billions. For example, \$12.8 billion was set aside for spending on education this year, and it would be silly to suggest that the nation expects or hopes for immigrants to fuel such an astronomical amount.
- The government uses its own funds to provide subsidies or fully run these programmes, and takes on the same approach across other areas of governance. This renders Stadlen's observations on how immigrants 'prop up' systems that 'neither the government nor students appear willing to fund' (lines 18–19) less applicable.
- **That said, while Singapore does not heavily depend on immigrants' contributions, the author's view on immigrants contributing towards the country through taxes and fees is clearly seen. There has certainly been a clear difference made by the government in its attempts to not only control foreigner inflow, but also to sharpen the differentiation in privileges between citizens and immigrants.**

OBSERVATION 2

Stadlen also raises the argument that immigration is beneficial because immigrants offer 'disproportionate entrepreneurialism' and are 'vital engines of innovation and growth' (lines 19–20). This observation resonates strongly with the Singaporean context today, which has a rather aggressive immigration policy to sustain and grow the economy. As such, I strongly agree with this observation.

- Singapore is facing a shrinking local workforce due to its ageing population woes. As such, remaining open to foreigners allows us to keep our modern economy moving forward through not only the various new businesses and injection of ideas and innovations, but also through their skill sets that contribute to our industries.
- In recent years we have seen more bankers, businessmen and entrepreneurs making Singapore their home, as they help build the Singapore-brand associated with creativity, efficiency and reliability.
- Brazil-born Eduardo Saverin, co-founder of Facebook who moved to Singapore in 2012, is worth about US\$4 billion. He started RedMart, a Singapore-based online grocery store offering an unprecedented selection of high quality fresh food, household essentials and premium speciality products. RedMart's estimated annual revenue is S\$6.5 million. Saverin's other businesses include a software development firm called Anideo, which develops revolutionary mobile applications, Nitrous.IO, a 500 Startups-backed backend development platform and property

portal 99.co. These companies provide jobs and open new doors of opportunities for Singaporeans.

- Two out of three Singapore banks are helmed by immigrants. Piyush Gupta of DBS Bank was born in India and came to Singapore in 2009. Under his leadership, DBS Bank was named 'World's Best Digital Bank' by Euromoney. Samuel N. Tsien of OCBC Bank was born in China. In 2016 OCBC Bank was named 'Best Managed Bank' in Singapore and Asia Pacific. Clearly, these two men have helped innovate and grow the banking sector and put Singapore clearly on the world map.
- New Zealand-born businessman, Richard Chandler's net worth is estimated to be worth US\$3 billion by Forbes magazine. Since 2008, Chandler has been a Singapore permanent resident. His Singapore-based Chandler Corporation invests in public and private companies across a range of industries, including energy, financial services, consumer, and healthcare.
- In addition, even as a renowned education system continues to produce a relatively educated workforce, its small size means that Singapore simply does not have the quantity required to drive a modern economy forward. As such, immigrants help to fill in the numbers in low and middle-skill jobs that many Singaporeans, partially due to their high educational levels and expectations, are unwilling to take up.
- At the other end of the spectrum, attracting top talent from all over the world helps to drive the industries it wants to focus on. Skilled foreign manpower not only fill the labour gap, but also facilitate the transfer of skills to locals. This allows Singapore to anchor new, innovative industries such as biomedical sciences, digital media animation and aerospace engineering.
- Every day, more than 2,500 researchers, mostly immigrants, work at the Biopolis to tackle tropical diseases, conduct stem cell research, develop new drugs and study skin ageing - among many other scientific endeavours. The pharmaceutical sector in Biopolis remains an important innovation hotspot for growing the Singapore economy.
- **However, the contributions of entrepreneurial immigrants do not necessarily overshadow that of Singaporean entrepreneurs and businesses. There is still a strong entrepreneurial spirit among the locals, even among the young, today as they are encouraged to seize business opportunities offered by the new economy.**
- The once-popular mindset of wanting to work for big multinational corporations is now changing as Singaporeans are increasingly open to taking the risk and test their mettle by starting their own businesses. This encouraging change is also evident amongst the younger generation here, as universities like Nanyang Technological University and polytechnics such as Ngee Ann Polytechnic offer entrepreneurship education, mentorship programmes and seed funding.
- From Ngee Ann Polytechnic graduates co-founders Quek Siu Rui, Lucas Ngoo, and Marcus Tan who founded Carousell, a popular mobile classifieds app in Asia Pacific, to Joseph Phua who created Paktor, a dating website with its own app, was launched in 2013, there are several examples of local entrepreneurs and start-ups we have in Singapore.
- GoDaddy, the world's leading internet domain registrar and web hosting company, conducted a study on entrepreneurs in 2016, and found that 32 per cent of millennial entrepreneurs in Singapore started their businesses when they were in school.
- There are numerous businesses helmed by local Singaporeans from hawkers to owners of eateries and retailers too numerous to mentioned; but a famous few are

Mustafah Kamal, the local owner of Penny University Café and Charles and Keith, the Singaporean fast-fashion footwear and accessories retailer.

- The allowance for free but fair business dealings fostered an entrepreneurial culture among locals and migrant groups to pursue their preferred trades whether it be in food, retail or other types of business ventures.
- This is witnessed in the economic sphere where a capitalistic, regulated, approach is taken to allow businesses to be initiated, to flourish. A pro-business environment has been facilitated, where locals and foreigners are given equal chances to do well in their economic pursuits. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in the retail and the food industry. A free-market competitive economy enables entrepreneurs, whether local or foreign, to legally set up shop. The diversity of retail businesses and food outlets all over the island republic, whether it is at Orchard Road, Chinatown or Kampong Glam, testify to locals and migrants freely competing to gain market share and customers. These various businesses regardless of their race, language or ethnicity are given free rein to pursue their profits by providing their services. This allows them access to the shared economic space, without restrictions.
- **As such, the benefits of entrepreneurialism that immigrants offer are indeed undeniable to Singapore but I do not think it is fair to generalise that this is 'disproportionate' to local efforts as there is great synergy between businesses owned by locals and immigrants. Both groups are certainly 'vital engines of innovation and growth in Singapore.**

OBSERVATION 3

Stadlen argues that immigration is beneficial in forming part of 'the solution to our demographic time bomb' (line 30). I strongly agree with Stadlen's observation, when considering the situation in Singapore.

- Experts have longed warned that Singapore is facing a ticking demographic time bomb in the form of increasingly ageing population, in view of its low birth rates and longer life expectancy.
- The suite of measures implemented by the Singapore government to provide incentives to Singaporean couples to have more children have not had much impact.
- Singapore's birth rate in 2017 was 1.16, which is far from the replacement rate of 2.1. According to the United Nations World Population Prospects (UNWPP), Singapore will become a super-aged society in 2026. By then, one in five persons in the country will be aged 65 or above.
- **Immigration is therefore essential and highly beneficial in helping Singapore manage the issues that arise from this demographic time bomb.** With fewer Singaporeans being born each year, immigration is much needed to boost population numbers at a faster rate, so that we can maintain a suitable level needed to sustain key areas of the nation.
- These include beefing up the workforce, to ensure an optimal number of workers in Singapore's diverse industries. This is particularly so as Singapore's domestic workforce is expected to decline from 2020.
- As of 2017, the non-resident workforce made up a significant 29.8% of Singapore's total workforce. While not strictly considered immigrants, these non-resident members of the workforce help to mitigate the shortfall due to a decreasing birth rate over the last few decades. As part of Singapore's long-term immigration plans, it seeks to attract the well-educated and talented segment of this migrant work

force to take up citizenship, so that Singapore can reap the benefit of augmenting the nation's human resource capability.

- In 2017, the ratio of citizens aged 20 to 64 to every citizen aged 65 and older, dropped to 4.4, from 4.7 in 2016. According to the National Population and Talent Division, ratio could drop to as low as 2.4 by 2030. As such, immigration is definitely needed to ensure that this ratio does not fall too low, and to reduce the financial burden of supporting the elderly.
- Immigration is also helpful in slowing down the rate at which Singapore's defence forces are shrinking in numbers due to the declining birth rate. An average of 20,000 people become new Singapore citizens annually, and an average of 30,000 are granted permanent residency annually. They and/or their male descendants are much needed additions to our defence forces.
- **However, there is a limit to how much immigration can benefit Singapore in helping to mitigate the effects of its demographic time bomb, since there is realistically only so many immigrants that the nation can accept. As such, to complement the benefits of immigration, Singapore has had to rely on technology to make up for the shortfall in terms of manpower.**
- The Singapore Armed Forces makes use of technology to develop military systems and platforms which require fewer men to operate. These include unmanned systems and robotics, as well as the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to utilise less manpower and still deliver the same or even more combat power.
- **Furthermore, while immigration does play an important part due to the benefits that it offers in managing Singapore's demographic time bomb, its implementation is not without difficulties.**
- Singaporeans have been voicing their concerns regarding the nation's immigration policy. Such concerns include the competition that Singaporeans face from foreigners and new immigrants in the job market and education landscape, and the fears that quality of life will be affected with more people sharing our limited public resources such as transport and medical care.
- Singaporeans were especially vocal about these concerns when the government unveiled its Population White Paper in 2013, which projected a population of 6.9 million by 2030. It proposed that up to 30,000 new permanent residents and 25,000 naturalized citizens would be needed each year to boost population numbers.
- Due to the strong protest from Singaporeans, the government has since then scaled back on its immigration policy and taken steps to manage the situation, by ramping up public housing, tightening the inflow of migrant workers and improving public transportation.
- **Thus, despite the benefits that immigration potentially has for Singapore's demographic time bomb, the government has had to handle the issue sensitively and take into consideration the concerns of Singaporeans.**

From Passage 2**OBSERVATION 4**

Goodhart raises the concern that ‘too many newcomers fail to integrate’ (line16). I acknowledge that there is some truth in his claim that some newcomers prefer to stick to their own culture and community and make little effort to understand or assimilate into the mainstream local culture.

- There have been several instances where newcomers have earned the ire of locals as they are perceived to be unable to adapt to the multi-cultural way of life here. This could be due to differences in cultural practices and values. Perhaps, some newcomers who come from more homogenous cultures like China and India may find it more difficult to adapt quickly to a uniquely multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious Singaporean environment.
- One prominent example is the incident where a family from China made a complaint against a local Indian neighbour about the smell when they were cooking curry. It escalated up to the Community Mediation Centre (CMC) who intervened. It was decided that the Indian family would not cook curry when the Chinese family was around. This angered many netizens who saw the newcomers as failing to integrate and insisting that locals change to suit them. The Law Minister, K Shanmugam’s encouraged Singaporeans to accommodate foreigners which further angered netizens who demanded that foreigners learn to respect our traditions and adapt to our local customs instead. Their intolerance towards local way of life is seen as their failure to integrate.
- There is also a growing concern among Singaporeans about the housing enclaves centred around particular nationalities growing all over the island. Newcomers tend to buy property where people from their home country choose to live. Naturally though, this should be expected, yet there is a disquiet still. For example, relatively affluent Indians live in the Tanjong Rhu area while affluent Caucasians tend to live in District 10. In the heartlands, many condominiums have a sizeable immigrant community who tend to keep to themselves. This leads to concerns that immigrants are not making sufficient effort to integrate into the mainstream.
- There are also immigrant associations which help members overcome social isolation and hardship in the new country. However, some scholars, like Joao Sardinha, criticise these associations for preventing immigrants from integrating into society. They claim these organisations form exclusive and concentric social spaces that dis-incentivise immigrants from interacting with the local community. In the last two decades, the inflow of foreign migrants into Singapore has caused a proliferation of new immigrant associations, numbering almost 80.
- **Nevertheless, it is not fair to assume that immigrants are resistant to integrate into the mainstream. Singaporeans, too, must also be held accountable for they, too, may not be reaching out to the newcomers. In the end, integration is a two-way street. Both immigrants and locals need to be invested in building a harmonious Singapore.**
- **In fact, I am of the opinion that most newcomers do integrate into the local setting, with the pro-active help from many government and community-led initiatives.**
- The National Integration Council (NIC) disburses money through the Community Integration Fund (CIF) to support learning journeys, field trips, seminars, publications, and productions that raise awareness of local history, cultures, as well as social norms among immigrants. Activities that offer platforms for people to

interact and build relationships around common interests, like sports or arts can also be funded by CIF.

- To encourage emotional attachment to and involvement in Singapore, NIC run projects that introduce immigrants to volunteerism opportunities and ways to connect with the wider Singaporean society to deepen mutual understanding. On the part of the newcomers, many have also been involved in volunteer work that help locals. Bangladeshis are well known for doing volunteer work at local mosques not just during Ramadhan but also on Fridays and over the weekends.
- In addition, there are also local Singaporeans who make the effort to help integrate newcomers into society. With the help of the Migrant Workers' Centre, a group of Singaporeans started an initiative called 'Come Makan With Me' in 2017, where volunteer hosts put together meals and allow for interaction as equals and enjoyment of one another's company.
- **As such, while I agree that some newcomers may have failed to integrate, most have adapted well to the cosmopolitan way of life here due to their open mindset and the initiatives put in place to help them adapt.**

OBSERVATION 5

In the context of Singapore, I generally agree with Goodhart's pessimistic view that being 'exposed to greater competition of various kinds with outsiders' (lines 24-25) has made Singaporeans harbour 'anxiety about sharing economic space and public services with outsiders' (lines 14-15).

- Recently, the competition that the immigrants pose has inadvertently stoked a sense of anxiety among locals. The release of the government Population White Paper in 2013 sparked heated debate among Singaporeans both online and offline over the government's projection that the city-state's population by 2030 could hit nearly 7 million. Without a doubt, the fervent protests that greeted the government initiative were clear and unequivocal testimony of a seething undercurrent of dissatisfaction against the tide of migrants streaming into the republic. This is evident from the estimated crowd of 4,000 people, of all age ranges and races who gathered at the Speakers' Corner at Hong Lim Park to protest against the Population White Paper.
- Local opposition politician Nicole Seah, who ran as the youngest female candidate in the 2011 general elections, said that the "Singapore Inc" brand cultivated by the government has created a "transient state where people from all over come, make their fortunes and leave". This seems to highlight an issue with xenophobia with news reporting friction between Singaporeans and foreign workers in our tiny, multi-ethnic city-state.
- This xenophobia can be attributed to concerns that the Singapore population has increased dramatically in recent decades thanks to an influx of foreigners, who now make up around two out of five residents. This has put a growing strain on jobs, housing, healthcare and infrastructure, including a concern about a recent hospital bed crunch at public hospitals and over-crowding in the public transport system. This has also raised fears about the dilution of the Singaporean national identity. This has resulted in an angry backlash, with many citizens taking to social media to disparage foreign workers, from highly paid 'foreign talent' to heavily exploited labourers from China and the Indian sub-continent. Local job seekers are also stridently articulating that their jobs have been taken over by migrants who are prepared to accept lower pay and work longer hours. While S-Pass work permit holders require only a base salary of \$2200, fresh local university graduates look

towards the \$3400 figure that MOE Graduate Employment Survey gets them to expect.

- The anti-immigrant sentiments are evidently palpable in many spheres ranging from education to transport to employment. In schools and tertiary institutions, there are anecdotes of and postings on student forums where locals lament the ever-growing presence of foreign students in their midst who sometimes usurp their achievements in subjects such as Mathematics and Literature. There is also resentment at the number of scholarships given to foreign students and some locals feel that such resources should be invested in local students who are equally bright.
- Anti-immigrant sentiments began to worsen when the global economy collapsed in 2008-2009, and not even the record 14.5 per cent economic growth in 2010 was enough to assuage Singaporeans' fears of being swamped by foreigners. Vincent Wijesingha of the Singapore Democratic Party, said "The [government] never asked us whether we wanted a huge increase in our population. They never asked us if we expected such large numbers of people working for such low salaries so that salaries [of the locals] will also be pulled down."
- Even the external media has detected such anti-immigrant inclinations. A foreign publication, Quartz India noted an unwelcoming sentiment toward Indians which has been pervading the city-state with a rise in discrimination against prospective home renters of Indian-origin.
- Observers and experts have suggested that these attitudes may be due to anxiety as Singaporeans feel suspicious of foreigners because they compete for space, resources and jobs. Two studies seem to bear this out. The 2015 National Values Assessment, which surveyed 2,000 Singapore residents, found that respondents consider family to be the top personal value, but perceive society to be competitive, self-centred and eager to blame others. These perceptions could thus be impeding multiculturalism and immigrant integration in Singapore. Findings from the 2012 IPS survey on Social Markers of Integration, which polled 2,000 Singapore residents, found that respondents felt more threatened by the presence of foreigners.
- In this ongoing debate about 'us versus them', Singaporeans, by and large, are more concerned about things like job displacement, loss of culture and identity. It worried many that the government appears to be bending over backwards to accommodate foreigners, with the potential of welcoming more foreigners to our island state. Many citizens feel they are no longer citizens in their own home, and this has a destabilising effect. And increasingly, they see their views ignored in favour of the extremes. Naturally, the response would be one of anguish and resentment.
- **Despite this, the government is putting in much effort to reduce the anxiety of Singaporeans, especially after the aftermath of the White Paper, and to show that locals still have more privileges than permanent residents and foreigners.**
- This can be seen in the government tightening the immigration policy, implementing cooling down measures for property prices to prevent rich foreigners from snapping up local property and imposing a 15 percent quota of work permit holders in the company's total workforce in the services sector, and 20 percent in all other sectors. The government has also waived all examination fees for local students.
- Undeniably, the incoming migrant population needs to be carefully managed to achieve an optimal balance that allows maximal socio-politico-economic development, yet ensure that the interests of Singaporeans are not compromised and their anxiety allayed.

- **With the land constraints and social challenges faced by Singapore, I do concur that Singaporeans are increasingly anxious about the competition posed by immigrants and foreigners but I also believe this is unlikely to reach crisis proportion any time soon and that Singapore will still continue to greatly benefit from the contributions of immigrants.**

CONCLUSION

Given that policies to boost the fertility rate in Singapore have not been the most effective, immigration seems to be the way to go for the foreseeable future, as far as the government is concerned. As such, while Singaporeans' strong sentiments towards the country opening its doors to foreigners can be understood, they need to understand the situation and work out the differences so that the nation can continue to prosper and thrive.



**VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018
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

2

Answer **one** question from this Paper.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. Has global interconnectedness made the world a better place?
2. How far does the state have the right to restrict the freedom of the individual?
3. 'Far too much attention is given to image in today's world.' Do you agree?
4. Is an ageing population necessarily a ticking time bomb?
5. 'Contrary to popular belief, artificial intelligence will not improve our lives.'
What is your view?
6. 'For the majority of people, the Arts are a waste of time.' How true is this of your society?
7. Examine the claim that work and happiness do not mix.
8. Has the commercialisation of sport done more harm than good?
9. How effective are prisons in addressing the problem of crime?
10. Is there truth to the claim that inequality is the greatest threat to your society today?
11. 'Less is more.' Is this sound advice?
12. Assess the view that pop music today is frivolous.

Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

Candidate's Name: _____

Candidate's Civics Class: _____

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 In lines 5-6, what parallel does the author draw between the movie 'A Quiet Place' and certain fairy tales and fables? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

2 **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain why the author claims that the problem of noise 'got exponentially worse' (lines 9-10).

[2]

3 From lines 11-13, explain how and why people in the past thought noise affected 'thinkers' and 'stupid people' differently. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

4 Explain the author's use of the word 'cocoon' in line 44. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

5 In what two ways is the final sentence an effective conclusion to the author's argument?

[2]

From Passage 2

7 In what ways are cities 'filthy' (line 1)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

8 What does the word 'deluge' (line 4) tell us about noise and what does the author think is its consequence? **Use your words as far as possible.**

[2]

9 Explain why the author thinks that noise is 'ugly' (line 25).

[1]

10 Why has the author placed brackets around the comment in lines 26-27?

[2]

11 What contrast is found in the arguments put forth by critics and the author in lines 33-36? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]



VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018
HIGHER 1

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

1 hour 30minutes

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]

Passage 1. *Mathew Jordan writes about the war against noise.*

- 1 The new film “A Quiet Place” is an edge-of-your-seat tale about a family struggling to avoid being heard by monsters with hypersensitive ears. Conditioned by fear, they knew the slightest noise would provoke a violent response – and almost certain death. Audiences have come out in droves to dip their toes into its quiet terror, and they are loving it: the film has raked in over US\$100 million at the box office. Like fairy tales and fables that dramatise cultural phobias or anxieties, the movie may be resonating with audiences. For hundreds of years, Western culture has been fanatically at war with noise. 5
- 2 As long as people have lived in close quarters, they have been complaining about the noises other people make and yearning for quiet. But in the 19th century, the problem got exponentially worse. During the Industrial Revolution, people swarmed to cities roaring with factory furnaces and shrieking with train whistles. The cacophony was seen as a torture for intellectual people, and thinkers argued that they needed quietness to do good work. Only stupid people, it seemed, could tolerate noise. 10
- 3 By the 20th century, governments all over the world were engaged in an endless war on noisy people and things. Anti-noise organisations sprang up around the globe in order to combat what the activists considered to be “one of the greatest banes of city life”. These groups, counting governors among their members, used their political clout to get “quiet zones” established around hospitals and schools. Violating a quiet zone was punishable by fine, imprisonment or both. After World War I, with ears across Europe still ringing from explosions, the transnational war against noise really took off. 15 20
- 4 Cities all over the world targeted noise technologies, like the Klaxon automobile horn, which was banned in London, Paris and Chicago in the 1920s. In the 1930s, the New York mayor launched a “noiseless nights” campaign aided by sensitive noise-measuring devices stationed throughout the city. Planes were forced to fly higher and slower around populated areas, while factories were required to mitigate the noise they produced. 25
- 5 Yet, legislating against noisemakers rarely satisfied people’s growing demand for quietness, so products and technologies emerged to meet the demands of increasingly noise-sensitive consumers. In the early 20th century, sound-muffling curtains, softer floor materials, room dividers and ventilators kept the noise from coming in, while preventing sounds from bothering neighbours or the police. However, no matter how thoughtful the design, unwanted sound continued to be part of everyday life. Unable to suppress noise, disquieted consumers started trying to mask it with wanted sound, buying gadgets like the Sleepmate white noise machine or by playing recorded sounds of nature, from breaking waves to rustling forests, on their stereos. Today, the quietness industry is a booming international market. There are hundreds of digital apps and technologies created by psychoacoustic engineers for consumers, including noise cancellation products with adaptive algorithms that detect outside sounds and produce anti-phase sonic waves, rendering them inaudible. Headphones like Beats by Dr. Dre promise a life “Above the Noise”. 30 35
- 6 The marketing efforts of these products aim to convince us that noise is intolerable and the only way to be happy is to shut out other people and their unwanted sounds. In a Sony advertisement for their noise cancelling headphones, the company depicts a world in which the consumer exists in a sonic bubble in an eerily empty cityscape. Content as some may feel in their ready-made acoustic cocoons, the more people accustom themselves to life without unwanted sounds from others, the more they become like the family in “A Quiet Place”. To hypersensitive ears, the world becomes unbearably noisy and hostile. 40 45
- 7 Perhaps, it is this intolerant quietism that is the real monster.

Passage 2. *Neel Patel writes about noise as the next great public health crisis.*

- 1 Cities do not just get filthy in the visual sense – urban spaces can often be a raging mess of sound. The blaring car horns, the police sirens screaming through the usual waves of traffic, the clatter of passing trains, the constant cacophony of voices rising and falling as a strange melody – this deluge of noise can be devastating to the human psyche. As a society, we are becoming much more aware of the noise around us, how excessive noise has detrimental effects on us, and realising how those effects add up. 5
- 2 By 2100, 84 percent of the world’s estimated 10.8 billion people will likely live in cities. That means noise pollution will escalate in those areas and beyond, in surrounding suburbs and rural spaces. It is impossible to overstate how much noise pollution can wreak havoc on human health and safety. High noise levels can exacerbate hypertension, cause insomnia or sleep disturbances, result in hearing loss, and worsen a plethora of other medical conditions. All of these problems can aggravate other health issues by inducing higher levels of stress, which can cascade into worsened immune systems, heart problems, increased anxiety and depression ... These health effects, in turn, can lead to social handicap, reduced productivity, decreased performance in learning, absenteeism in the workplace and school, increased drug use, and accidents. There is enough literature for everyone to agree that noise pollution is a public health hazard. 10 15
- 3 Where is most of this noise coming from? Traffic is the biggest contributor to noise pollution. A diesel truck at 50 feet away, for instance, generates up to 90 decibels of noise. Generally speaking, prolonged exposure to anything over 85 decibels puts someone at risk for temporary or permanent hearing loss. 20
- 4 But noise pollution is more than just automobiles. Increased development – in the big city or in a quaint suburb – means construction sites, where heavy machinery creates a fitful, ugly noise that can echo into the placid surrounding areas. People living close to train tracks or airports are bludgeoned with noise (and usually accompanying vibrations and shakes) at all hours. Air traffic can be a major headache. All these factors are exacerbated by poor city planning and community zoning, which fail to mitigate noise for residents. 25
- 5 We need to do much more to keep future society from turning into a deaf, noise-addled dystopia. More than just awareness, cities need a responsible combination of technological innovations and more radical policy measures, as the problem is bound to get worse. Critics may decry all this spending and attention as premature, particularly on an issue that does not seem immediately hazardous. But solving noise pollution is a pre-emptive measure that can forestall bigger physiological and learning issues people may develop much later. No one who wants to fight the war against noise should be called intolerant. 30 35

VJC 2018 Prelim GP Paper 2 Answers

From Passage 1

1. In lines 5-6, what parallel does the author draw between the movie 'A Quiet Place' and certain fairy tales and fables? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase
Like fairy tales and fables that dramatise cultural phobias or anxieties ...	Both blow up/ exaggerate [1] fears/ worries/ insecurities. [1] Note: 'Show', 'portray', 'depict' were not accepted as these words are too neutral. Students who mentioned that these worries were put into a 'plot', 'narrative' or 'story' were given the mark for the first point.

2. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain why the author claims that the problem of noise 'got exponentially worse' (line 10). [2]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase and inference
During the Industrial Revolution, people swarmed to cities... ... roaring with factory furnaces and shrieking with train whistles	The large influx of people into densely-packed cities/ people flocked to cities in droves . [1] Cities house transportation networks and industries which produce a lot of noise . [1] Note: Students who wrote that people 'migrate' or 'move to cities' were not given the mark as the <i>quantity</i> of people is important in this context. In the second part of the answer, students were not expected to paraphrase 'factory' and 'train'. However, they should make some reference to these noise sources in their answer.

3. From lines 11-13, explain how and why people in the past thought noise affected 'thinkers' and 'stupid people' differently. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase and inference
The cacophony was seen as a torture for intellectual people... ...and thinkers argued that they needed quietness to do good work.	Noise was unbearable to the 'thinkers' but did not bother 'stupid people' [1] because 'thinkers' needed silence to be able to concentrate and work effectively whereas 'stupid people' did not need this since they do not use their brains. [1] Note: Students need to capture the pair of ideas under the sections on 'how' and 'why' to get 1 mark. In the first

	part of the answer, 'negative effects', 'punished' and 'affected' were not accepted as paraphrases for 'torture'. Those who mentioned that stupid people did manual work in noisy industries were also not credited because they were reading too much into the author's point.
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4. Explain the author's use of the word 'cocoon' in line 44. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible inference
Content as some may feel in their ready-made acoustic cocoons, the more people accustom themselves to life without unwanted sounds from others...	Just like how a caterpillar uses a cocoon to protect itself while it morphs into a butterfly [1], these products help to protect/ shield us from /block out noise from our surroundings [1]. Note: 'Isolated' and 'entrapped' were not accepted and many missed out the reference to the caterpillar. Students should also not use other metaphors (e.g. bubbles or capsules) to unpack this one.

5. In what two ways is the final sentence an effective conclusion to the author's argument? [2]

From the Text	Possible inference
	The author ties back to the example of the monster referenced at the start of the passage. [1] He conveys his disapproval of the people who are now overly sensitive towards noise. [1] He provides a neat summary of his stand that the fight against noise has gone too far OR the growing culture that only accepts silence should be antagonised and not noise itself. [1] Note: Any 2 out of 3 for 2 marks. Students should look at the whole sentence and not just the specific word 'perhaps'. Some students misinterpreted 'quietism' as 'quietness'.

6. Using material from paragraphs 3-5, summarise the efforts and measures taken to control noise and the challenges faced in doing so.

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]

In the endless war on noisy people and things...

	From the text	Possible paraphrase
a	Anti-noise organisations	Anti-noise institutions/ associations
b	sprang up around the globe	emerged worldwide/ across countries. Note: International organisations not accepted.
c	...used their political clout	Politicians/ governors used their influence/ authority
d	to get 'quiet zones' established	to create noise-free areas/ demarcations
e	around hospitals and schools .	around educational and healthcare institutions.
f	Violating a quiet zone, was punishable by fine	Violators faced a monetary/ financial penalty
g	imprisonment or both.	or incarceration/ were jailed/ put behind bars
h	Cities all over the world targeted noise technologies	Governments focussed/ zeroed-in on noise technologies
i	... which was banned	outlawing them/ making them illegal/ prohibited/ disallowed.
j	launched a 'noiseless nights' campaign	They also started a 'noiseless nights' drive/ movement
k	aided by sensitive noise-measuring devices	assisted by precise noise-measuring gadgets/ technology
l	stationed throughout the city.	placed everywhere/ across urban areas.
m	Planes were forcedfactories were required	Planes had to comply with/ were made to/ mandated to
n	to fly higher and slower	fly at greater altitudes and lower their speeds
o	around populated areas	around crowded areas/ living settlements Note: 'Cities', 'urban areas' not accepted
p	while factories were required to mitigate the noise they produced.	while industries had to reduce noise. Note: 'Regulate', 'managed' not accepted.
q	Yet, legislating against noisemakers	However, punishing noisemakers according to the law
r	rarely satisfied	hardly/ barely/ seldom appeased Note: 'Never', 'could not', 'discontented' not accepted.
s	people's growing demand for quietness... OR ...to meet the demand of increasingly noise-sensitive consumers.	people's expanding appetite/ need/ requirement for less noise OR their rising aversion to noise.
t	so products and technologies emerged... OR There are hundreds of digital apps and technologies created...	So modern gadgets and software were created
u	In the early 20 th century, sound-muffling curtains, softer floor materials, room dividers and ventilators	on top of home furnishings that already existed to
v	kept the noise from coming in	stop/ block noise from entering the house
w	while preventing sounds from bothering neighbours or the police.	or going out/ disturbing others outside.
x	No matter how thoughtful the design	Even with highly intuitive/ user-centric designs,

y	unwanted sound continued to be part of everyday life. OR Unable to suppress noise...	noise was still/ persistently present/ could not be eradicated/ snuffed out.
z	disquieted consumers started trying to mask it with wanted sound OR ...noise cancellation products... rendering outside sounds inaudible .	Unsettled consumers covered noise with pleasant/ desired sounds OR used products that mute external noise. Note: 'Replace', 'substitute' not accepted for 'mask'

No. of points	Marks allocated
≥ 15	8
13-14	7
11-12	6
9-10	5
7-8	4
5-6	3
3-4	2
1-2	1

From Passage 2

7. In what ways are cities 'filthy' (line 1)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase
Cities do not just get filthy in the visual sense - urban spaces can often be a raging mess of sound .	They look/ appear untidy/ disorganised/ are filled with rubbish and are noisy. Note: Many students missed out the 'visual' aspect of filth.

8. What does the word 'deluge' (line 4) tell us about noise and what does the author think is its consequence? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase and inference
...can be devastating to the human psyche .	It tells us that there is an excessive/ overwhelming amount of noise [1] and that it is very damaging/ disastrous/ creates serious problems for the mind/ mental well-being. [1] Note: In the first part of the answer, students needed to show that noise is present in <i>excessive</i> quantities. It is not enough to say that noise is present in 'great quantities' or that it is 'widespread' and 'common'. For the second part of the answer, 'negative' and 'detrimental' did not accurately capture the intensity of the word 'devastating'.

9. Explain why the author thinks that noise is 'ugly' (line 25). [1]

From the Text	Possible inference and paraphrase
...means construction sites, where heavy machinery creates a fitful, ugly noise that can echo into the placid surrounding areas.	It tells us that the noise is detested/ perceived as unpleasant/ unwanted as it disrupts the peace/ tranquillity of a place. Note: Both parts required for 1 mark.

10. Why has the author placed brackets around the comment in lines 26-27? [2]

From the Text	Possible inference
	It is to comment that noise is not the only problem caused by train tracks and airports, but ground movements as well. [1] This is not central to his point on noise and serves as an additional comment. [1] Note: Many students lost the first mark because they did not specifically refer to 'vibrations and shakes'. Some also misinterpreted these ground movements to be the source of noise.

11. What contrast is found in the arguments put forth by critics and the author in lines 33-36? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase and inference
Critics may decry all this spending and attention as premature ... But solving noise pollution is a pre-emptive measure OR particularly on an issue that does not seem immediately hazardous... that can forestall bigger physiological and learning issues people may develop much later .	The critics look at the present or short term situation while the author is concerned with the long term/future impact of noise pollution OR Critics think it is too soon/ early to put money and effort into tackling noise but the author wants to take a preventive approach.

12. Matthew Jordan details the war against noise and believes that the fight has gone too far. On the other hand, Neel Patel believes that the concern over noise is a legitimate one. How serious is the problem of noise for you and your society, and how far would you agree or disagree with the views expressed in both passages? [10]

Mark Range	Descriptor
<p>Band 1</p> <p>8-10</p>	<p>REQUIREMENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Students must make systematic reference to the requirements of the question, with evidence of a balanced treatment. Students must also refer to the ideas from both passages: <p><u>Points from Passage 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-noise organisations sprang up to combat get ‘quiet zones’ established around hospitals and schools. Planes were forced to fly higher and slower around populated areas, while factories were required to mitigate the noise they produced. Cities all over the world targeted noise technologies and launched ‘noiseless nights’ campaigns. Home furnishings dampened external noise and prevented sound from escaping the house. Products and technologies emerged to meet the demands of increasingly noise-sensitive consumers. Unable to suppress noise, disquieted consumers started trying to mask it with wanted sound or use technology to rendering external noise inaudible. The more people accustom themselves to life without unwanted sounds from others, the more they become like the family in ‘A Quiet Place.’ To hypersensitive ears, the world becomes unbearably noisy and hostile. <p><u>Points from Passage 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise pollution can wreak havoc on human health and safety. High noise levels can worsen a plethora of other medical conditions and aggravate other health issues. These health effects, in turn, can lead to social handicap, reduced productivity, decreased performance in learning, absenteeism in the workplace and school, increased drug use, and accidents. Solving noise pollution is a pre-emptive measure that can forestall bigger physiological and learning issues people may develop much later. <p>EXPLANATION Shows <u>a good or very good understanding</u> of the terms and issues in both passages.</p> <p>EVALUATION Students 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 of Singapore.</p> <p>COHERENCE Very clear shape and paragraph organisation and cogent argument.</p>

<p>Band 2</p> <p>4-7</p>	<p>REQUIREMENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students cover requirements of the question adequately but not necessarily a balanced treatment. 2. They identify ideas from the passage, possibly with minor misrepresentation of the points. 3. They raise issues, but discussion is limited or superficial. <p>EVALUATION</p> <p>Student attempts to evaluate the extent to which the ideas are an accurate reflection of the situation in Singapore, but the evaluation is always convincing, and tends to be superficial with limited development of ideas, and is not as thorough in support.</p> <p>EXPLANATION</p> <p>Shows adequate level of understanding of terms and issues raised in the passage (which may include minor distortion).</p> <p>COHERENCE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraphing is sometimes helpful. 2. There is a recognizable overall shape to the answer. 3. Arguments are generally cogent.
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Main Arguments & Explanations	Evidence / Examples
<p style="text-align: center;">From Passage 1</p> <p>Anti-noise organisations sprang up to combat get 'quiet zones' established around hospitals and schools. Planes were forced to fly higher and slower around populated areas, while factories were required to mitigate the noise they produced. Cities all over the world targeted noise technologies and launched 'noiseless nights' campaigns. Home furnishings dampened external noise and prevented sound from escaping the house.</p>	<p>Agree to a large extent</p> <p>In densely populated Singapore, common amenities like shopping malls, hawker centres and playgrounds all contribute to community noise, on top of that created by traffic. To try to mitigate against noise pollution, the Government has put in place several measures.</p> <p>NEA regulates noise levels from construction sites and industrial operations based on a set of permissible noise limits. NEA has also implemented rules which prohibit work on Sundays and public holidays for construction sites located within 150m of residential premises and noise-sensitive premises. The Quieter Construction Fund, a \$10 million co-funding scheme, allows construction firms to be reimbursed for up to half of the cost of purchasing or leasing quieter construction equipment, noise control equipment and other innovative noise-reduction solutions not yet readily adopted by the industry.</p> <p>Noise emission standards for vehicles have also been set. The LTA clamps down on vehicles with illegal modifications, which include modified exhausts. It is also looking at ways to use a material on roads that can reduce the noise generated from the friction between surfaces and vehicle tyres.</p>

	<p>At MRT tracks, around 10km of noise barriers have been put up at 16 locations - including Admiralty, Marsiling, Sembawang, Ang Mo Kio, Pioneer and Yew Tee. Trains are fitted with noise-dampening wheels.</p> <p>Household appliances (e.g. washing machines and vacuum cleaners) are marketed based on the use of quiet technology.</p> <p>But some are concerned that these measures may not be able to keep pace with a growing nation. While there are no comparative studies, anecdotally, the city has become noisier over the years as it continues to develop - with more expressways, longer MRT lines and the cycle of construction and demolition playing out over and over again. The spate of en-bloc sale of private property has resulted in my construction noise as older properties are torn down and new condominiums are being constructed. The construction of numerous BTO projects around the island to cater to the housing needs of the growing population also add to urban noise.</p> <p>Due to limited land space in Singapore, the measures to combat in Singapore often involve the need to balance various trade offs and needs. For example, the Air Force has to repeatedly explain the need for it to train to ensure its operational readiness, while ensuring that the noise coming from its fighter planes do not affect the lives of those living in the North East and Western areas excessively. This involves aligning the flight training schedules with schedules such as the exam schedules of schools in the areas. In recent years, other mitigating efforts include the relocation of Paya Lebar Air Base and the commissioning of a noise study by the National Environment Agency (NEA) to guide the planning of new residential developments around the expanded Tengah Air Base.</p>
<p>Products and technologies emerged to meet the demands of increasingly noise-sensitive consumers. Unable to suppress noise, disquieted consumers started trying to mask it with wanted sound or use technology to render external noise inaudible.</p>	<p>Agree to a large extent</p> <p>Dropnoise, which produces noise reports for residents and condominium managements, has seen business boom since it started the monitoring service last year. Its reports can be used in court action against noisy neighbours, or submitted to regulatory bodies as proof of noise pollution. It also specialises in the sale of numerous noise conditioning products that moderate the noise level in an environment.</p> <p>According to Channel News Asia, a new noise cancelling device is being developed by researchers from Nanyang Technological University (NTU). When mounted onto window grilles, the device can reduce up to 50 per cent of noise from the surrounding environment - even when the windows are wide open. This is particularly helpful in Singapore where population density is so high and it is inevitable that one finds himself or herself in the vicinity of construction works which are necessary as the city seeks to ensure it stays relevant and revitalise its infrastructure.</p>

<p>The more people accustom themselves to life without unwanted sounds from others, the more they become like the family in 'A Quiet Place.' To hypersensitive ears, the world becomes unbearably noisy and hostile.</p>	<p>Agree to a large extent</p> <p>As privacy becomes increasingly important to people as our city gets increasingly dense, it is likely that people are increasingly becoming hypersensitive to noise and finding ways to insulate themselves from the noise. But these efforts usually come at a premium. For example, houses in tranquil areas tend to be more expensive, while houses located near MRT tracks are less appealing and priced lower.</p> <p>Agree to a small extent</p> <p>Singaporeans are not hypersensitive to noise and there are good reasons why more needs to be done fight noise pollution. A new study from the National University of Singapore (NUS) found that Singapore's average outdoor sound level throughout the day is 69.4 decibels, which is equivalent to the noise made by a vacuum cleaner. This exceeds the National Environmental Agency's recommendation of no more than 67 decibels averaged over an hour, and is a whisker shy of the World Health Organisation threshold of 70 decibels a day.</p> <p>Given our high population density, it is a necessity to accustom ourselves to some levels of noise instead of being hypersensitive to noise. Moreover, as Singapore is a multi-racial country, management of noise from cultural activities has to take into consideration cultural sensitivities. Failure to do will cause unnecessary social tension. For example, the Police acted swiftly to clarify why events like Lion Dance and Malay weddings do not need to be licensed.</p>
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<p>Main Arguments & Explanations From Passage 2</p>	<p>Evidence / Examples</p>
<p>Noise pollution can wreak havoc on human health and safety. High noise levels can worsen a plethora of other medical conditions and aggravate other health issues.</p>	<p>Agree to a large extent</p> <p>Singapore's Ministry of Manpower recognises the health impact of noise pollution in the workplace and has put in place the Workplace Safety and Health (Noise) Regulation to protect workers exposed to excessive noise from hearing loss. One example is the mandatory use of ear plugs and ear muffs in work such as air traffic control.</p> <p>Doctors in Singapore have also said residents should be more aware of ways to protect their hearing. These include the use of hearing protection, such as ear plugs and ear muffs, as a temporary solution, said the head of Singapore General Hospital's (SGH's) otolaryngology department, Dr Barrie Tan.</p> <p>Agree to a small extent</p>

	<p>Interestingly, many Singaporean youth enjoy listen to music at very high volume and tend to ignore the health warning on possible hearing loss, thinking it would not happen to them. A study conducted by biomedical engineering students in Temasek Polytechnic found that 1 in 6 young people are at risk of suffering from noise-induced hearing loss due to their use of personal music players.</p>
<p>These health effects, in turn, can lead to social handicap, reduced productivity, decreased performance in learning, absenteeism in the workplace and school, increased drug use, and accidents.</p>	<p>Agree to a large extent</p> <p>Noisy environments are not conducive for studies and many students choose to do their homework and revision in the quiet public libraries, especially approaching exam season. Students from low-income families often lack quiet study areas at home and this can affect their studies. Schools near expressways or major roads find that LTA's efforts to change the materials used on roads to reduce noise pollution has had little effect on mitigating noise pollution from the roads.</p> <p>Psychologist Nishta Geetha Thevaraja from the SGH department of psychiatry said personal and work relationships can be affected by irritability and anger issues brought about by noise pollution.</p>
<p>All these factors (automobiles, increased development, train and air traffic noise) are exacerbated by poor city planning and community zoning</p>	<p>Agree to a small extent</p> <p>In land scarce Singapore, there is only so much the government can do. The government has done much, for instance, by shifting the airport from Paya Lebar to Changi in the 1990s and situating heavy vehicle parks away from residential areas.</p>

Comments: Stronger candidates were able to consider the trade-offs when it came to the issue of noise, arguing that in multi-cultural and religious Singapore, tolerance and acceptance of some noise (related to festivities or traditional practices) is necessary to preserve harmony in society OR/AND that to progress holistically as a nation, noise is inevitable. On the other hand, the responses from weaker candidates contained a mix of these problems:

1. Picking ideas to evaluate that do not relate to the overarching argument of the author (i.e. that the fight has gone too far and that noise is a legitimate problem)
2. Evaluating the author's overarching argument and not the reasons that lead up to the author's conclusion
3. Evaluating ideas that were clearly not made by the author (e.g. the point on intellectuals and stupid people, and marketing efforts in Passage 1)
4. Lack of evaluation of the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate noise in Singapore OR lack of evaluation of how serious the problem is
5. No reference to personal experience

Candidate's Name	CTG
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**YISHUN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018**

**H1 GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 1**

**8807/01
17 August 2018
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.

[Turn over

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. 'The effectiveness of communication is being destroyed by social media.' What is your view?
2. 'Domestic issues, not foreign affairs, should be the main priority of modern day governments.' Discuss.
3. 'Violence is the most efficient solution to end violence.' How far do you agree?
4. 'Image is everything in today's entertainment industry.' How far is this true?
5. How important is it to preserve the heritage of your society?
6. Evaluate the claim that the justice system is fair to all.
7. 'The pursuit of happiness will cause more harm than good.' Discuss.
8. Is tourism desirable for the development of a country?
9. How realistic is it for your society to encourage more participation in the arts?
10. Does scientific advancement, rather than creative expression, enhance society's well-being?
11. Assess the view that regulating freedom of speech can never be truly successful in your society.
12. To what extent does history serve to give us hope?

Candidate's Name	CTG
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**YISHUN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018**

**H1 GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 2**

**8807/02
17 August 2018
1030h – 1200h**



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 1m	2 3m	3 2m	4 2m	5 2m	6 2m	7 2m	8 1m	9 2m	10 8m	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.

[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.

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. Give one similarity between the influence of Facebook and Google during the United States presidential election in 2016 in lines 1 – 4. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

2. In paragraph 1, what had Silicon Valley ‘preached about itself’ (line 5)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[3]

3. Using paragraph 2, identify the reason why people gave the earnest innovators ‘the benefit of the doubt’.

[2]

4. Why does the author use the phrase ‘wrecking ball’ in line 14 to describe Silicon Valley?

[2]

5. Why has the author written 'nothing had changed' in inverted commas (line 23)?

[2]

6. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain the irony which the author describes in paragraph 5.

[2]

7. Using lines 39 - 41, give the example and explain how programmers exploit computer users. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

8. What is the author implying about the state of Silicon Valley in the last sentence in paragraph 7?

[1]

9. What is the author implying by his use of the phrase '(logged) into' in line 61?

[2]

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**YISHUN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018**

**H1 GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 2**

**8807/02
17 August 2018**

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.

[Turn over

Noel Cohen considers the issues surrounding tech companies.

- 1 Facebook has endured a series of revelations concerning Russian operatives who used its platform to influence the United States presidential election in 2016 by stirring up racist anger. Google had a similar role in carrying inflammatory messages during the same election. These menacing turns of events have been quite bewildering to the public, running counter to everything Silicon Valley had preached about itself — to give people the power to build community, bring the world closer together and make the world's information universally accessible and useful. 5
- 2 Almost from its inception, the World Wide Web produced public anxiety but we nonetheless were inclined to give these earnest innovators the benefit of the doubt. They were on our side in making the web safe and useful, and thus it became easy to interpret each misstep as an unfortunate accident on the path to digital utopia rather than as a ruse meant to ensure world domination. Now, given that Google and Facebook have become world dominators, the questions of the hour are, can the public be convinced to see Silicon Valley as the wrecking ball that it is? And do we still have the regulatory tools and social cohesion to restrain the monopolists before they smash the foundations of our society? 10
- 3 By all accounts, these programmers turned entrepreneurs believed their lofty words and were at first indifferent to getting rich from their ideas. There was a crucial need for 'a competitive search engine that is transparent and in the academic realm', and Google's initial goal was to be that ivory tower internet tool. Until, that is, their co-founders were swept up by the entrepreneurism pervasive to Stanford — a meeting with a professor led to a meeting with an investor, who wrote a \$100,000 cheque before Google was even a company. Subsequently, Google announced a \$25 million investment of venture capital while insisting 'nothing had changed'. 20
- 4 Mark Zuckerberg took a similar tack back in the early days of Facebook. A social network was too important to sully with commerce, he told The Harvard Crimson in 2004. "I mean, yeah, we can make a bunch of money — that's not the goal," he said of his social network, then still called *thefacebook.com*. Zuckerberg insisted he would not give in to the profit seekers and that Facebook would stay true to its mission of connecting the world. Seven years later, Zuckerberg, too, had succumbed to Silicon Valley venture capital. 25
- 5 In both cases, it turns out that there were billion-dollar fortunes to be made by exploiting the foggy relationship between the public and tech companies. So much of what is happening between the public and Silicon Valley is out of view — algorithms written, controlled and manipulated by wizards who are able to profit from our identity in ways we could never do for ourselves. Ironically, the public did not seem to care. 30
- 6 Indeed, interactions between people and their computers were always going to be confusing, and that confusion would be easy for programmers to exploit. John McCarthy, the computer-science pioneer who nurtured the first generation of hackers and later ran Stanford's artificial intelligence lab, was worried that programmers did not understand their responsibilities. He felt that computers will end up with the psychology that is convenient to their designers and that they have a tendency to think of the users as idiots who need to be controlled. To add on, in Joseph Weizenbaum's epic anti-Artificial Intelligence work, *Computer Power and Human Reason*, he described the scene at computer laboratories. For Weizenbaum, 'Computer programmers exist, at least when so engaged, only through and for the computers. They are compulsive.' Weizenbaum was 35 40

- concerned about them as they were young students who lacked perspective about life and was worried that these troubled souls could be our new leaders. 45
- 7** What neither Weizenbaum nor McCarthy mentioned was that these programmers were nearly all men with a strong preference for people just like themselves. In a word, they were incorrigible, accustomed to total control of what appeared on their screens. No one person then, however powerful, has ever exercised such absolute authority over such unswervingly dutiful troops. Presently, anyone working in tech companies can do just that. Welcome to the Silicon Valley of today. 50
- 8** Current tech leaders have discovered that people trust computers too much and have licked their lips at the commercial possibilities. The examples of Silicon Valley manipulation are too much to list: push notifications, recommended friends and suggested films, among others, designed to capitalise on human relationships and create a false sense of security. Early on, Facebook realised there was a hurdle to getting people to stay logged on. Later, Facebook would design its site for new arrivals so that it was all about finding at least ten people to 'friend'. 55
- 9** The ten friends rule is an example of a favoured manipulation by tech companies; if everyone is (logged) into Facebook, then everyone is on Facebook. Tech companies need to do whatever it takes to keep people logging in, and if rivals emerge, they must be crushed or, if stubbornly resilient, acquired. Growth becomes the overriding motivation — something treasured for its own sake, not for anything it brings to the world. Facebook and Google can point to a greater utility that comes from being the central repository of all people and all information, but such market dominance has obvious drawbacks, and not just the lack of competition. As we have seen, the extreme concentration of wealth and power is a threat to our democracy and makes some people and companies unaccountable. 60
- 10** In addition to their power, tech companies can exploit something that other powerful industries do not possess: the generally benign feelings of the public. To oppose Silicon Valley can appear to be opposing progress, even if progress has been defined as online monopolies; propaganda that distorts elections; driverless cars and trucks that threaten to erase the jobs of millions of people; the disruption of work life, where each of us must fend for ourselves in a pitiless market. 65
- 11** As is becoming obvious, these companies do not deserve the benefit of the doubt. We need greater regulation, even if it impedes the introduction of new services. If we cannot stop their proposals — if we continue to get 'your recent notifications' and 'what people also searched for', to give just some examples — then are we in control of our own lives? More importantly, we need to break up these online monopolies because if these same few people make the decisions about how we learn the news and elect our leaders, are we really in control of our own society? 70

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GP PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018: PAPER 2 ANSWER SCHEME

1. Give one similarity between the influence of Facebook and Google during the United States presidential election in 2016 in lines 1 – 4. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

(1m)

(Adapted from A Levels 2015, Q1) *[Literal Transposition]*

From the passage	Inferred Answer
a) ... Russian operatives who used its platform... by stirring up racist anger (line 3-4)	Both Facebook and Google were used to incite outrage/conflict. (1m)
b) ... similar role in carrying inflammatory messages (line 4)	<i>Note: Award response only if there is an indication that Facebook and Google were used as platforms to incite outrage.</i> <i>(Answer should not reflect that Facebook and Google were the actors)</i>

2. In paragraph 1, what had Silicon Valley ‘preached about itself’ (line 5)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (3m)

(Adapted from A Levels 2016, Q5) *[Literal Transposition]*

From the passage	Inferred Answer
a) ... to give people the power to build community, (line 5)	<i>Silicon Valley preached that they can</i> a) provide the capacity/authority/influence to forge/bring together the people/to create social bonds/unity, (1m)
b) bring the world closer together (line 6)	b) increase global connectivity/connecting the international community and (1m)

<p>c) and make the world’s information universally accessible and useful. (line 7)</p>	<p>c) enable data/knowledge/facts to be easily retrieved/available to everyone, and beneficial. (1m)</p> <p><i>Note: For c), candidates must capture ‘universally accessible’ AND ‘useful’ in their answers to be awarded the mark.</i></p> <p><i>For b), the intensity of “closer” and the scope “the world” need to be present</i></p> <p><i>For a), candidates need to focus on the idea of empowerment (e.g. individuals being given the <u>ability</u>)</i></p> <p><i>For a), the focus should only be on the social element of building community. If students were to include additional information that muddles the community building element, they should not be awarded (e.g. the ability <u>to create a place to bring people together</u> VS the ability to bring people together)</i></p>
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3. Using paragraph 2, identify the reason why people gave the earnest innovators ‘the benefit of the doubt’. (2m)

(Adapted from A Levels 2017, Q3) **[Literal Transposition]**

From the passage	Inferred Answer
<p>a) ... They were on our side in making the web safe and useful (line 10)</p>	<p>a) They were supporting us to ensure that the internet was reliable and</p>

<p>b) ... So each misstep is an unfortunate accident on the path to digital utopia. (line 11)</p>	<p>beneficial. (1m)</p> <p>b) So any mistakes were dismissed/brushed aside/disregarded. (1m)</p> <p><i>Note: For (a), award the mark only if student gives both the reason (“on our side”) AND the context (“making the web safe and useful”).</i></p> <p><i>For (b), context needs to be accurately addressed to attain credit, with regard to the “misstep” and unfortunate accident”.</i></p> <p><i>Definition of “benefit of doubt”:</i> to decide that you will believe someone, even though you are not sure that what the person is saying is true</p>
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4. Why does the author use the phrase ‘wrecking ball’ in line 14 to describe Silicon Valley?
(2m)

(Adapted from A Levels 2013, Q7) [Figurative Language - Metaphor]

From the passage	Inferred Answer
<p>a) see Silicon Valley as the wrecking ball that it is</p>	<p>a) Just like a wrecking ball that has the ability to knock down/destroy, (1m)</p>
<p>b) And do we still have the regulatory tools and social cohesion to restrain</p>	<p>b) Silicon Valley has the ability to destroy the</p>

<p>the monopolists before they smash the foundations of our society? (line 15)</p>	<p>bedrock/groundwork/basis of our society. (1m)</p> <p><i>Note:</i></p> <p><i>For a), idea of destruction is what is crucial to the answer</i></p> <p><i>For b), answer needs to have</i></p> <p><i>(i) ability to destroy/demolish</i></p> <p><i>(ii) consequence upon destruction (destroy foundations of society/destroy society (BOD))</i></p>
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5. Why has the author written ‘nothing had changed’ in inverted commas (line 23)? (2m)

(Adapted from A Levels 2015, Q8) **[Figurative Language - Punctuation]**

From the passage	Inferred Answer
<p>a) ... Google’s initial goal was to be that ivory tower internet tool. (lines 18 – 19)</p>	<p>a) <i>[Function]</i> The author uses inverted commas to indicate/highlight/emphasise that in reality, quite the opposite had happened, (1m)</p>
<p>b) ... while insisting ‘nothing had changed’. (line 23)</p>	<p>b) <i>[Context]</i> in which Google’s original objective has actually been affected by the influx of money pumped into the company. (1m)</p> <p><i>Note: Acceptable to lift ‘change’.</i></p>

	<p><i>For a), the crux of the point is the contradiction;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - do not accept doubt/disagreement/irony - <i>do not accept sarcasm as this is not an author's tone/attitude question.</i> <p><i>For a), do not accept the function of quoting Google</i></p> <p>For b), the context, in which 'nothing has changed' needs to be offered for full credit</p>
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6. Using your own words as far as possible, explain the irony which the author describes in paragraph 5. (2m)

(Adapted from A Levels 2010, Q5) **Figurative Language – Irony**

From the passage	Inferred Answer
<p>a) ... algorithms written, controlled and manipulated by wizards who are able to profit from our identity (lines 32 – 33)</p> <p>b) Ironically, the public did not seem to care. (line 34)</p>	<p><i>It is expected that</i></p> <p>a) When our personal information is being exploited, we should be worried/mindful/concerned/outraged/angry. (1m)</p> <p><i>However, in reality,</i></p> <p>b) many people are not too concerned/indifferent about it. (1m)</p>

7. Using lines 39 - 41, give the example and explain how programmers exploit computer users. **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2m)

(Adapted from A Levels 2015, Q3) **(Point-Illustration)**

From the passage	Inferred Answer
<p>a) ... Computers will end up with psychology that is convenient to their designers (lines 39 – 40)</p>	<p>a) <i>[Example]</i> Computers will be engineered in ways that are advantageous to the programmers. (1m)</p>
<p>b) as they have a tendency to think of the users as idiots who need to be controlled. (line 40 – 41)</p>	<p>b) <i>[Explanation]</i> They regard consumers as foolish people who need to be managed/instructed/supervised/governed. (1m)</p> <p><i>Note:</i> <i>Exploit: to use someone or something unfairly for your own advantage</i></p>

8. What is the author implying about the state of Silicon Valley in the last sentence in paragraph 7? (1m)

(Adapted from A Levels 201, Q) **(Inferential-Semantics)**

From the passage	Inferred Answer
<p>a) Welcome to the Silicon Valley of today.</p>	<p>a) The author is implying that Silicon Valley today has changed for the worse.</p>

	<p><i>Note: Candidate needs to capture the idea that Silicon Valley has gone through a transformation (positive to negative) over the years/a period of time.</i></p> <p>Teacher's note: BOD for a semantic reference where a period of time has gone by, e.g. has reached (past continuous tense)</p>
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9. What is the author implying by his use of the phrase '(logged) into' in line 61? (2m)

(Adapted from A Levels 2015, Q6) **(Inferential-Semantics)**

From the passage	Inferred Answer
<p>a) ... if everyone is (logged) into Facebook, then everyone is on Facebook</p>	<p><i>The author is implying that</i></p> <p>a) everyone is directly signed in to/connected to/is using Facebook. (1m)</p> <p><i>Also,</i></p> <p>b) people are currently interested/keen/attracted to Facebook. (1m)</p> <p><i>Note: BOD for (b) if candidate indicates that Facebook is a latest trend/appealing to people.</i></p>

10. Using material from paragraphs 8-10 only, summarise what the author has to say about how tech companies assert their power over the people, and its effects. [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.**

Tech companies assert their power by...

Lifted from text	Paraphrased Equivalent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNA words in bold • <i>Accept lift: technology, tech companies, power</i> 	
<p>1) Current tech leaders have discovered that people trust computers too much (<i>line 53</i>)</p>	<p>a) Using the fact that people place excessive faith/belief in computers</p>
<p>2) licked their lips at the commercial possibilities (<i>line 54</i>)</p>	<p>b) (Tech companies) are eager/excited at taking advantage of the financial/monetary potential/promise</p> <p>Idea of “possibilities” needs to be present (i.e. potential/promise). No need for “licked their lips” (i.e. eager/excited).</p>
<p>3) The examples of Silicon Valley manipulation are too much to list: push notifications, recommended friends and suggested films, among others ... (<i>lines 55 – 56</i>)</p>	<p>c) (Tech companies) have an overwhelming number of ways to control/influence</p>

<p>4) designed to capitalise on human relationships (<i>line 56</i>)</p>	<p>d) created/devised/engineered to exploit/take advantage of human connections/ties</p> <p><i>Note: Allow lift for 'human'</i></p>
<p>5) create a false sense of security (<i>lines 56 – 57</i>)</p>	<p>e) build/establish a fake/untrue sense of assurance/peace of mind</p> <p><i>Note: Do not accept any answers related to physical safety.</i></p>
<p>6) Early on, Facebook realized there was a hurdle to getting people to stay logged on. Later, Facebook would design its site for new arrivals... (<i>lines 57-58</i>)</p>	<p>f) They make it easier for the individual to remain connected/online</p>
<p>7) need to do whatever it takes to keep people logged in (<i>lines 61-62</i>)</p>	<p>g) (Tech companies) need to carry out anything that is necessary</p>
<p>8) and if rivals emerge, they must be crushed (<i>lines 62 - 63</i>)</p>	<p>h) to destroy competitors/challengers that arise</p>
<p>9) or, if stubbornly resilient, acquired (<i>line 63</i>)</p>	<p>i) or take over unyielding/persistent competitors that would not concede</p> <p><i>Note: point is on the nature of the competitor</i></p>
<p>10) Growth becomes the overriding motivation (<i>line 63</i>)</p>	<p>j) [Effect] Power/Expansion turns into the main/prevaling reason/catalyst</p> <p><i>Note: The context of the growth needs to be addressed.</i></p>
<p>11) something treasured for its own sake, not for anything it brings to the world (<i>line 64</i>)</p>	<p>k) which is self-serving/based on self-interest/not for the greater good</p> <p><i>Note: Answer needs to have a negative</i></p>

	<i>connotation for full credit</i>
12) Facebook and Google can point to a greater utility that comes from being the central repository of all people and all information (<i>lines 64-66</i>)	l) Tech companies claim that it is useful to have a main archive/database/storage for everything
13) extreme concentration of wealth and power (<i>lines 67 – 68</i>)	m) (Tech companies cause) intense/severe consolidation/aggregation of wealth and power
14) threat to our democracy (<i>line 68</i>)	n) [Effect] risk/danger to freedom
15) making some people and companies unaccountable (<i>lines 68 – 69</i>)	o) driving/forcing everyone to deny responsibility/culpability
16) exploit something that other powerful industries do not possess: the generally benign feelings of the public (<i>lines 70 – 71</i>)	p) abuse positive sentiment/goodwill of the public
17) To oppose Silicon Valley can appear to be opposing progress (<i>lines 71-72</i>)	q) To go against tech companies can seem that we are going against advancement
18) even if progress has been defined as online monopolies; propaganda that distorts elections; driverless cars and trucks that threaten to erase the jobs of millions of people; the disruption of work life where each of us must fend for ourselves in a pitiless market (<i>lines 72 – 75</i>)	r) (inferred) which is bad/negative
19) market dominance ... lack of competition (<i>lines 66 – 67</i>)	s) [Effect] establish control/remove rivals

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:

Tech companies assert their power by ...

(a) using the fact that people place excessive faith in computers (b) and capitalising on this financial promise. (c) There are overwhelmingly many ways to establish control, (d) devised to exploit human connections with (e) assurances being untrue. (f) They create user-friendly platforms to connect individuals more easily. (g) They undertake anything necessary to retain users (h) to destroy or (i) incorporate unyielding competitors that arise. (j) Expansion is the main catalyst (k) which is self-serving. (l) Some claim it is useful for a main archive to include everything but effects include (m) intense aggregation of wealth and power, (n) creating risks to freedom and (o) forcing everyone to deny responsibility. (p) They abuse the positive sentiment of the public, since (q) going against tech companies suggests we resist advancement, (r) which is bad. (s) Rivals are also removed. (120 words)

11. Noel Cohen generally acknowledges some benefits to the presence of tech companies, but highlights concerns about its effects on individuals and society. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your society? [10]

Notes:

- Tech companies are firms that do not only focus on producing hardware or software per se; they also focus on innovation/research and development.
- Tech companies that are not local in origin can be used, so long the developments take place in the students' own society, and/or affect them in a similar context.

Points That Can Be Developed

Note: Singapore society is the point of reference with regard to the possible arguments/examples that are raised.

Text ideas	Possible arguments/examples that can be used
<p>To date, Facebook aims to ... 'give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together'. (Paragraph 1, lines 5 – 7)</p>	<p><u>Issue: Are platforms provided by tech companies able to build community and closeness?</u></p> <p>Last January, newly-wed blogger Lian Meiting wrote about deciding on a Build-To-Order flat as her first home, encouraging her Instagram followers to check out a video to learn more about BTOs. <u>Her post was accompanied by a hashtag #sp, suggesting that the post was sponsored.</u></p> <p>In 2016, musician Sandra Riley Tang, who is also a fitness influencer, invited her followers to a community run and boot camp in a post made <u>in partnership with the Health Promotion Board.</u></p>

Text ideas	Possible arguments/examples that can be used
	<p>According to estimates by media and analytics companies, over half of the people in Singapore who use Instagram, the photo-sharing social media platform, are aged between 18 and 34 years old.</p> <p>Ms Althea Lim, chief executive of influencer marketing company Gushcloud, said government agencies started using influencers as early as in 2013. Over the past three years, Gushcloud has worked with at least five government agencies here on various campaigns. It declined to reveal which were the agencies. Ms Lim said influencers are typically <u>engaged to create awareness about a topic instead of explaining it, as they are often not experts in the subject matter.</u></p> <p>The Government's use of influencers <u>extends beyond generating awareness and getting feedback.</u> Noting that social media can be an effective mobilising platform, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ministry of Communications and Information are working with social media influencers to <u>reach out to a wide cross-section</u> of the community in the event of an attack, said an MHA spokesman.</p> <p>Through responsible and objective reporting, they can help to play a part in <u>rallying the nation to stay united</u>, added the spokesman. He said: "(They) can help <u>encourage socially responsible online behaviour, such as not spreading false information and referring to official sources for information.</u>"</p>

Text ideas	Possible arguments/examples that can be used
<p>They (Tech companies) were on our side in making the web safe and useful, and thus it became easy to interpret each misstep as an unfortunate accident on the path to digital utopia rather than as a ruse meant to ensure world domination. (Paragraph 2, lines 9 – 12)</p> <p>Current tech leaders have discovered that people trust computers too much and have licked their lips at the commercial possibilities. (Paragraph 8, lines 53 – 54)</p>	<p><u>Issue: Are tech companies on our side in making our society a safer place?</u></p> <p>Representatives of technology companies Facebook, Twitter, Google as well as the Asia Internet Coalition appeared before Singapore's Select Committee.</p> <p>Particularly, Facebook admitted it should have told users earlier about a breach of its policies, when its Asia-Pacific vice-president of public policy appeared before Singapore's Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods in 2018 to address the Cambridge Analytica incident.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the incident, in their written submissions to the committee, Facebook and Twitter nevertheless expressed concerns about a possible move by Singapore to introduce new legislation to deal with the problem of fake news on the web.</p> <p>Ms Kathleen Reen, Twitter's director of Public Policy for Asia Pacific, wrote: "No single company, governmental or non-governmental actor, should be the arbiter of truth." She added: "Instead, we see journalists, experts and engaged citizens tweeting side-by-side to affirm, correct and challenge public discourse in seconds." Similarly, Mr Alvin Tan, Facebook's head of public policy for South-east Asia, said it does not believe legislation is the best approach, noting that Singapore already has laws to address hate speech and the spread of false news. "Prescriptive legislation and requirements would make it harder for us and other online platforms to find the right technical solutions, consumer messaging and policies to address this shared challenge," he said.</p>

Text ideas	Possible arguments/examples that can be used
<p>In both cases, it turns out that there were billion-dollar fortunes to be made by exploiting the foggy relationship between the public and tech companies. (Paragraph 5, lines 30 – 31)</p>	<p><u>Issue: Given the opportunity, would tech companies exploit or benefit people in our society?</u></p> <p>In other countries, including Singapore, facing lawsuits and consumer outrage after it said it slowed older iPhones with flagging batteries, Apple Inc is slashing prices for battery replacements and will change its software to show users whether their phone battery is good. The price of battery replacements - currently S\$118 here - will be lowered to S\$38. The special price will be offered from late January to December 2018 for anyone with an iPhone 6 or newer model.</p> <p>In a posting on its website Thursday (Dec 28), Apple apologised over its handling of the battery issue and said it would make the changes for customers "to recognise their loyalty and to regain the trust of anyone who may have doubted Apple's intentions". Earlier, on Dec 20, Apple acknowledged that iPhone software has the effect of slowing down some phones with battery problems. Apple said the problem was that ageing lithium batteries delivered power unevenly, which could cause iPhones to shut down unexpectedly to protect the delicate circuits inside.</p> <p>That disclosure played on a common belief among consumers that Apple purposely slows down older phones to encourage customers to buy newer iPhone models. While no credible evidence has ever emerged that Apple engaged in such conduct, the battery disclosure struck a nerve on social media and elsewhere. On its end, Apple denied that it has ever done anything to intentionally shorten the life of a product.</p>

Text ideas	Possible arguments/examples that can be used
	<p>At least eight lawsuits have been filed in California, New York and Illinois alleging that the company defrauded users by slowing devices down without warning them. The company also faces a legal complaint in France, where so-called "planned obsolescence" is against the law.</p>
<p>Tech companies need to do whatever it takes to keep people logging in, and if rivals emerge, they must be crushed or, if stubbornly resilient, acquired. (Paragraph 9, lines 61 – 63)</p> <p>Growth becomes the overriding motivation — something treasured for its own sake, not for anything it brings to the world. (Paragraph 9, lines 63 – 65)</p>	<p><u>Issue: Do tech companies, in gaining more power, create more value or more problems in our society?</u></p> <p>In the aftermath of the announced Grab-Uber merger, concerns over pricing, the availability of affordable transport options, and the impact on drivers have weighed on the minds of consumers and drivers. Despite Grab’s assurances, experts expect the firm to eventually raise its charges to recoup losses. There was little doubt that the Grab-Uber deal would reduce competition in point-to-point transport.</p> <p>Urban transport expert Park Byung Joon said Grab would have to find ways to recover its investments after years of splashing money to gain market share. “Otherwise, what’s the point? Their business has one (aim) — start recovering their money,” said Dr Park, who is with the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS).</p> <p>Grab has stressed that competition exists in many forms — from taxis to public transport and possible new entrants into the market. Grab’s country head (Singapore) Lim Kell Jay seeks to debunk the view that Grab was dominating the market. Among other things, he noted how customers still had various affordable</p>

Text ideas	Possible arguments/examples that can be used
<p>Facebook and Google can point to a greater utility that comes from being the central repository of all people, all information, but such market dominance has obvious drawbacks, and not just the lack of competition. (Paragraph 9, lines 64 – 67)</p>	<p>transport options to take them home safely, despite Grab’s major outage lasting four hours on Tuesday (Apr 3) night. It had another brief disruption on Friday (Apr 6).</p> <p>Addressing Grab’s arguments, NUS’s Business School Professor Lawrence Loh said the various transport modes may not be perfect substitutes. The MRT and bus networks differ in convenience, availability and accessibility, while traditional taxi operators are not entrenched enough in the digital space to compete with big players such as Grab. Also, Grab has an edge given its familiarity with local habits and customs and new players may not be able to hit the ground running immediately, he added.</p> <p>SUSS transport economist Walter Theseira said the question was whether the alternatives remained viable with Grab as the dominant ride-hailing service. “The general ambition of ride-hailing platforms is to completely subsume all traditional taxi services and indeed, other point-to-point services, under their umbrella,” he said. He also questioned whether there were “efficiency benefits” from having a dominant ride-hailing operator and how to ensure these were shared with parties such as commuters and drivers.</p>

Text ideas	Possible arguments/examples that can be used
<p>As we have seen, the extreme concentration of wealth and power is a threat to our democracy and making some people and companies unaccountable. (Paragraph 9, lines 67 – 69)</p>	<p>Ultimately, for commuters and drivers, the chief concern is the Grab takeover could lead to a dominant player jacking up prices and commission fees, experts reiterated. While Dr Park said prices will not be “infinitely high” even with a monopoly — as exorbitant fares will push commuters to other modes of transport — there was still cause for concern since prices will invariably be higher than when there is “intense competition”.</p>
<p><u>Consider the tech companies that are mentioned previously.</u></p> <p><u>In your society, do they</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exploit something that other powerful industries do not possess: the generally benign feelings of the public? • not deserve the benefit of the doubt (and that) we need greater regulation, even if it impedes the introduction of new services? <p><u>In your society, do we</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need to break up these online monopolies because if these same few people make the decisions about how we learn the news and elect our leaders, are we really in control of our own society? 	