

TAMPINES MERIDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

H1 GENERAL PAPER

8881/01

Paper 1

26 August 2024

1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials

Answer booklet

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 staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

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 Booklet.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of 2 printed pages.



PAPER 1

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. Discuss the view that powerful nations should take the lead to address global issues.
2. 'The arts focus too much on grabbing attention.' To what extent is this true today?
3. 'Today's technological innovations have made work more productive and fulfilling.' Discuss.
4. 'If you are not with us, you are against us.' How far is this statement reflective of attitudes in modern society?
5. To what extent has entertainment today made the young increasingly out of touch with the real world?
6. How far does a country's geographic location influence its success in the modern world?
7. 'Education, not regulation, is key to keeping society safe from cybersecurity threats.' How far is this true in your society?
8. 'Environmental conservation efforts benefit the affluent at the expense of the poor.' Do you agree?



This Insert consists of 3 printed pages.

Passage 1. *An author considers the impact of the media on empathy and action.*

- 1 Our grandparents could afford a comforting distance from tragedy. Oceans and weeks separated them, allowing misfortune to remain a distant murmur, easily tuned out. But for today's generation, information floods our senses constantly – a child marriage in Chad, a drought in Delhi, a mine collapse in Mongolia ... Of course, this excess of information is often criticised for fuelling anxiety. Yet, it is the very spark that can ignite a global movement for positive change. 5

- 2 The internet has become the great equaliser for this generation. No longer is the power to inform solely in the hands of a privileged few. Social media platforms, with their algorithmic feeds and viral content, have made information more widely available to everyone. To give just one telling example, note how ferociously the Arab Spring swept through the Middle East in a series of revolutions. Information in the hands of the many is a powerful thing. The internet has levelled the playing field for ordinary youths in these countries, empowering them to transcend borders and coordinate protests, share grievances, and mobilise support through social media platforms – a feat unimaginable in the face of the information blackouts of previous generations. 10

- 3 What matters is that this newfound global consciousness fosters empathy that in turn, prompts collective action. The heart-wrenching image of a starving child in a war-torn nation, once confined to a blurry black and white photograph on a forgotten newsreel, now stares back at us from our smartphones in full, agonising colour, cultivating empathy worldwide. This sensitivity towards suffering enables us to channel our emotions to constructive acts such as donating to relief efforts or raising our voices in protest. 15

- 4 This multitude of information comes with challenges. In particular, we fall for misinformation more easily since fake news travels faster and more widely online than facts. But here too, awareness is the key in detecting misinformation. The internet has birthed a generation of fact-checkers and critical thinkers, essential players in a world saturated with information. By staying vigilant and knowledgeable about the means and methods of misinformation, individuals can better discern truth from falsehood. 20

- 5 Our grandparents might have preferred to act like the proverbial ostriches who stuck their heads in the sand to avoid danger. But we are not them. We can no longer afford to turn the page or switch off the radio when the news does not suit us. What we are doing instead is dissecting the noise to do what is necessary. Who knows? The rest of us may be emboldened to take similar actions to benefit the world we are living in. 25

- 5 Our grandparents might have preferred to act like the proverbial ostriches who stuck their heads in the sand to avoid danger. But we are not them. We can no longer afford to turn the page or switch off the radio when the news does not suit us. What we are doing instead is dissecting the noise to do what is necessary. Who knows? The rest of us may be emboldened to take similar actions to benefit the world we are living in. 30



Passage 2. *An author writes about the power of the media to desensitise.*

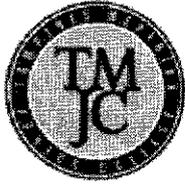
- 1 The media plays a significant role in shaping public perception and attitudes, but it also has the capacity to desensitise audiences; gradually numbing them to violence, tragedy and suffering around them. This desensitisation occurs through the constant exposure to graphic images. The 24-hour news cycle repeatedly shows violent incidents, natural disasters, and human suffering, which can lead to viewers becoming indifferent to these events. As the shock value diminishes, the audience may start to view these occurrences as routine, thereby reducing the emotional impact and urgency that should accompany such news. This phenomenon is compounded by the media's tendency to prioritise sensationalism over sensitivity, often focussing on the most shocking aspects of a story to maintain viewer engagement and ratings. 5
- 2 The impact of media desensitisation extends beyond individual emotional responses; it influences societal attitudes and behaviours. When people become accustomed to seeing violence and suffering without a corresponding emotional response, there is a risk that they may become less empathetic and more apathetic towards real-life situations. This can lead to a decreased willingness to engage in social or political action aimed at addressing these issues. For instance, continuous exposure to reports of war or poverty may result in the public perceiving these issues as intractable and less worthy of their concern or intervention. Moreover, this desensitisation can lead to a society becoming more accepting of these conditions as part of the status quo. 10 15
- 3 Furthermore, media desensitisation has profound implications for mental health. Constant exposure to traumatic content can lead to a lack of emotional response. Over time, this desensitisation may make individuals more susceptible to experiencing psychological stress because they no longer have the same emotional barriers in place to protect themselves from the effects of traumatic content. Additionally, the constant barrage of negative news can create a sense of fear or helplessness, contributing to overall psychological distress. This is particularly alarming for children and adolescents, who are more impressionable and may not have the emotional maturity to process such information appropriately. The cumulative effect of desensitisation can also lead to a phenomenon known as 'compassion fatigue', where individuals become so overwhelmed by the volume of distressing information that they emotionally shut down, becoming less likely to help those in need. Therefore, while the media plays a critical role in informing the public, there is a pressing need for responsible reporting practices that balance the necessity of conveying important information with the potential psychological impact on the audience. 20 25 30



Passage 3. *A doctor provides his perspective on the impacts of the media on public health today.*

- 1 As a physician, I navigate a world of facts, statistics, and clinical trials. Yet, stepping outside the sterile walls of the hospital, I encounter a very different landscape of information from the ever-churning media machine. It is a world with a profound impact on public health, and one I find myself viewing with a mix of hope and trepidation.
- 2 On the optimistic side, the sheer volume and accessibility of health information has empowered patients in a way I would not have imagined even a decade ago. For instance, news stories on groundbreaking research findings can spark hope in patients battling chronic illnesses. Social media campaigns can raise awareness about neglected diseases and connect patients with support groups. A well-crafted documentary can illuminate the struggles of those navigating a complex healthcare system, fostering empathy and understanding. This democratisation of information allows individuals to take charge of their well-being, a shift that can dramatically improve health outcomes. 5 10
- 3 However, it is not always a clear picture. The relentless barrage of information, particularly graphic visuals and emotionally charged reports, can create a constant state of anxiety. News outlets compete for attention, often resorting to sensationalism. This can distort our perception of risk, leading to fear mongering and a warped understanding of health threats. Furthermore, the focus on extreme cases can overshadow the countless success stories in medicine. 15
- 4 The solution lies not in restricting information, but in cultivating media literacy. Doctors need to be better equipped to communicate complex medical topics clearly and concisely. Journalists, in turn, have a responsibility to fact-check information and provide context. Perhaps most importantly, we as individuals need to develop a critical eye, scrutinising information for its source and evidence base. 20





TAMPINES MERIDIAN JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

CANDIDATE
NAME

CIVICS GROUP

H1 GENERAL PAPER

8881/02

Paper 2

26 August 2024

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

Additional material

1 Insert

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 ink on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, 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, 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 (Language)	
Marker 1	/15
Marker 2	/15

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

This document consists of 7 printed pages, 1 blank page and 1 Insert



Answer all questions.

For
Examiner's
Use

Your answers should be:

- written in **your own words as far as possible**. Where you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it.
- written in **continuous prose**.

From Passage 1

1 Explain the author's use of the phrase 'Of course' in line 4.

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..... [2]

2 In paragraph 2, how has the internet become the 'great equaliser' (line 6)?

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..... [3]



3 In paragraph 3, how does the author support the idea that 'global consciousness fosters empathy that in turn, prompts collective action' (lines 14–15)?

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[3]

4 In line 20, the author states 'This multitude of information comes with challenges.' What are **two** solutions to these challenges?

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[2]

5 Why does the author end the passage with a contrast between the response of our grandparents and the current generation to news?

.....
.....

[1]



From all the passages

*For
Examiner's
Use*

7 Passage 1 states that 'Information in the hands of the many is a powerful thing' (line 10).

Identify **one** specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer.

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.....[2]

8 Passage 2 states that 'The 24-hour news cycle repeatedly shows violent incidents, natural disasters, and human suffering, which can lead to viewers becoming indifferent to these events' (lines 3–5).

Identify **one** specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to undermine this statement. Justify your answer.

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



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Tampines Meridian Junior College
2024 JC2 General Paper Preliminary Examination Paper 2

From Passage 1

1. Explain the author's use of the phrase 'Of course' in line 4. [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
But for today's generation, information floods our senses constantly – a child marriage in Chad, a drought in Delhi, a mine collapse in Mongolia ... Of course , this excess of information is often criticised for fuelling anxiety (line 4).	<p>(a) The phrase "Of course" suggests that the statement is expected / obvious/ emphasise his agreement (Function) (1)</p> <p>(b) In this context, an abundance/ surplus of distressing/dreadful news/is expected to/ lead to/ be blamed for causing angst/ tension/ unease. (Context) (1) [Function (a) – 1m] [Context (b) – 1m]</p>

2. In paragraph 2, how has the internet become the 'great equaliser' (line 6)? [3]

From the passage	Suggested answer
(1) No longer is the power to inform solely in the hands of a privileged few. Social media platforms, with their algorithmic feeds and viral content, have made (2) information more widely available to everyone. To give just one telling example, note how ferociously the Arab Spring swept through the Middle East in a series of revolutions. Information in the hands of the many is a powerful thing. (3) The internet has levelled the playing field for ordinary youths in these countries, empowering them to transcend borders and coordinate protests, share grievances, and mobilise support through social media platforms- a feat unimaginable in the face of the information blackouts of previous generations.	<p>(a) The ability to communicate is not exclusively controlled by a select group of individuals (1)</p> <p>(b) Information is accessible to a broader audience. (1)</p> <p>(c) The common man/ young (collective noun) can now take serious actions to address injustices. (1) No action mentioned = 0 (the youngsters are given a voice to be heard)</p>

2024 JC2 Prelim Paper 2 Suggested Answers

3. In paragraph 3, how does the author support the idea that 'global consciousness fosters empathy that in turn, prompts collective action' (lines 14–15)? [3]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>What matters is that this newfound global consciousness fosters empathy that in turn, prompts collective action. The heart-wrenching image of a starving child in a war-torn nation, once confined to a blurry black and white photograph on a forgotten newsreel, now stares back at us from our smartphones in full, agonising colour, cultivating empathy worldwide. This sensitivity towards suffering enables us to channel our emotions to constructive acts such as donating to relief efforts or raising our voices in protest.</p>	<p>(a1) (How) The author uses the example of a well-defined/ sharper picture of a malnourished/suffering child in a conflict zone. (1) (as long as (a) is not just a picture instead describes the example- high-resolution/heart-breaking)</p> <p>(a2) How) The author uses the example of smartphones to show how the images of those suffering are more accessible to all of us (1).</p> <p>(b) (Empathy feeling) To make the pain/suffering more real/vivid to the people around the world (1)/ (Empathy feeling) This serves as a constant reminder of the existence of pain/suffering (1),</p> <p>(c) (Empathy to do something) Prompting them to help out of compassion/ to help the people who are suffering (1).</p>

4. In line 20, the author states 'This multitude of information comes with challenges.' What are **two** solutions to these challenges? [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>This multitude of information comes with challenges. In particular, we fall for misinformation more easily since fake news travel faster and more widely online than facts. But here too, awareness is the key in detecting misinformation. The internet has birthed a generation of fact-checkers and critical thinkers, essential players in a world saturated with information. By staying vigilant and knowledgeable about the means and methods of misinformation, individuals can better discern truth from falsehood.</p>	<p>The solutions are to</p> <p>(a) be alert/ remain watchful/ careful (b) to verify information for accuracy/ check validity (c) question assumptions/ examine and think deeply (d) and well-informed</p> <p>about the ways by which fake news is spread (Any 2 for 2 marks)</p>

2024 JC2 Prelim Paper 2 Suggested Answers

5. Why does the author end the passage with a contrast between the response of our grandparents and the current generation to news? [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Our grandparents might have preferred to act like the proverbial ostriches who stuck their heads in the sand to avoid danger . But we are not them. We can no longer afford to turn the page or switch off the radio when the news does not suit us . What we are doing instead is dissecting the noise to do what is necessary . Who knows? The rest of us may be emboldened to take similar actions to benefit the world we are living in .	(a) (Function) To reinforce the contrast he sets out in the introduction where he states that compared to the grandparents, the younger generation is taking active steps to change the world . (Link to the intro) OR (b) (Function) To give everyone the courage to take steps/ endeavours/ initiatives to better the world/positive impact to the world (Any 1 for 1 mark)

From Passage 2

6. Summarise how the media has desensitised society today and the impact this has on us. Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**. [8m].

From the passage	Rephrased
1. constant exposure to graphic images (line 3) / 24-hour news cycle repeatedly shows violent incidents, natural disasters and human suffering (line 4)	<u>Frequent encounters / intense contact with explicit content/ gory visuals</u>
2. As the shock value diminishes , the audience may start to view these occurrences as routine (lines 5-6)	<u>As the impact / outrage fades/ it becomes less alarming, the audience might begin to see these events as commonplace/ a norm.</u> (The process of lessening shock must be captured)
3. thereby reducing the emotional impact and urgency that should accompany such news (lines 6-7).	<u>Lessening/ decreasing the emotional response and sense of importance/ immediacy that such news should evoke.</u> (Awarded for either 'emotional impact' OR 'urgency')
4. media's tendency to prioritise sensationalism over sensitivity , often focusing on the most shocking aspects of a story to maintain viewer engagement and ratings (lines 8-9)	The media <u>emphasises the dramatic / startling elements over thoughtful reporting</u> to keep viewers engaged and boost ratings (Must show the idea of sensitivity in contrast to sensationalism)
5. extends beyond individual emotional responses; it influences societal attitudes and behaviours (lines 10-11)	<u>it shapes/ affects/ impacts how society thinks and acts.</u> (Awarded for either 'attitudes' OR 'behaviours')
6. When people become accustomed to seeing violence and suffering	<u>They might become less understanding / caring / sympathetic and more unconcerned</u>

2024 JC2 Prelim Paper 2 Suggested Answers

without a corresponding emotional response, there is a risk that they may become less empathetic and more apathetic toward real-life situations (lines 11-13).	<u>/ uninterested in what is happening around them.</u> (Awarded for either 'less empathetic' OR 'more apathetic')
7. decreased willingness to engage in social or political action aimed at addressing these issues (lines 13-14).	<u>There may be reduced inclination to participate in community / civic efforts/ movements/ causes to tackle these problems.</u> (Concept of collective action is required)
8. lead to a society becoming more accepting of these conditions as part of the status quo (lines 16-17).	<u>Which can result in a society that increasingly condones / endures / tolerates these problems / challenges as the norm.</u> (Active verb with society as subject is required to award mark)
9. Over time, this desensitisation may make individuals more susceptible to experiencing psychological stress because they no longer have the same emotional barriers in place to protect themselves from the effects of traumatic content (lines 19-22)	Continuous encounters with distressing material may <u>make people more vulnerable to mental strain / pressure as people are not equipped / have the defences to cope with complex emotions.</u>
10. Additionally, the constant barrage of negative news can create a sense of fear or helplessness , contributing to overall psychological distress (lines 22-23).	This may result in <u>feelings of powerlessness / insecurity / agitation / vulnerability/ anxiety</u> , leading to difficulties managing their mental well-being. (Awarded for either 'fear' OR 'helplessness')
11. particularly alarming for children and adolescents, who are more impressionable and may not have the emotional maturity to process such information appropriately (lines 23-25).	This is especially worrying for <u>children and teenagers, who are more easily influenced and may lack the emotional readiness/ competence</u> to handle such information effectively. (Awarded for either 'impressionable' OR 'may not have the emotional maturity')
12. individuals become so overwhelmed by the volume of distressing information that they emotionally shut down, becoming less likely to help those in need (lines 26-28).	People emotionally withdraw / disconnect from others and <u>not want to assist others.</u> (Reference to others is required)

Points	1-2	3-4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
Marks	1m	2m	3m	4m	5m	6m	7m	8m

Summary sample:

One way is through frequent encounters with explicit content (1). As the impact fades, the audience see these events as commonplace (2), lessening the sense of importance that such news should evoke (3). The media also emphasise the dramatic over thoughtful reporting (4). Media desensitisation shapes how society thinks and acts (5). When individuals are desensitised, they might become less understanding and uninterested in what is happening around them (6). There may be reduced inclination to participate in community efforts to tackle problems (7), which results in a society that increasingly condones these problems as the norm (8). Continuous encounters with distressing material may make people more vulnerable to mental strain as people are not equipped to cope with difficult emotions (9). This may result in feelings of powerlessness (10). (120 words)

From all the passages

7. Passage 1 states that 'Information in the hands of the many is a powerful thing' (line 10). Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer. [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>[Quote 1] On the optimistic side, the sheer volume and accessibility of health information has empowered patients in a way I would not have imagined even a decade ago (line 5-6).</p> <p>[Quote 2] This democratisation of information allows individuals to take charge of their well-being, a shift that can dramatically improve health outcomes (lines 10-12).</p>	<p>Identify: The specific idea from Passage 3 that supports the statement is that the</p> <p>[If Quote 1]: (a1) huge amount OR (a2) easy availability of information has given everyone the ability to make better health decisions today (1).</p> <p>[If Quote 2]: (a) ... everyone now has equal/ fairer opportunities to obtain/attain data on their health, which results in their having more in control of their welfare.</p> <p>Context of health must be provided in Identification and Justification.</p>
<p>Justify: This idea supports the statement because this enables them to (b1) find out more about diseases (b2) connect with others facing similar health issues (b3) take better care of their health (b4) gives people the means to be in an excellent physiological state/ have a healthier life (1).</p> <p><i>*Accept any logical justification even without the paraphrase of the statement.</i></p>	

2024 JC2 Prelim Paper 2 Suggested Answers

8. Passage 2 states that 'The 24-hour news cycle repeatedly shows violent incidents, natural disasters, and human suffering, which can lead to viewers becoming indifferent to these events. (lines 3–5). Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to undermine this statement. Justify your answer. [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>The relentless barrage of information, particularly graphic visuals and emotionally charged reports, can create a constant state of anxiety (13-14).</p>	<p>(a) The specific idea from Passage 3 that undermines the statement is the intense bombardment of news as well as explicit details of what we see in the media has created a continuous stream of unpleasant feelings of tension/ apprehensive thoughts (1).</p> <p>(b) This idea undermines the statement because the statement suggests that people are (b1) less likely to feel shocked or distressed from overexposure to such news but in fact people are (b2) concerned / fearful / alarmed by them (1). (b1+ b2 are required to show undermine)</p> <p><i>*Accept any logical justification even without the paraphrase of the statement.</i></p>

9. The reading passages cover a range of views on how the media today changes the way we think and behave.

How far do you agree or disagree with the view that the pervasive influence of the media benefits everyone in society?

Support your answer with reference to:

- the ideas and opinions from **at least** one of the reading passages
- examples drawn from your own experience and that of your society.