

**NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE**

JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2021

GENERAL PAPER**8807/1****PAPER 1**

30 August 2021

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Write your name, class and GP Tutor's name on your answer scripts.

Answer **ONE** question from Paper 1.**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

In Paper 1, all questions carry equal marks.

[Note that 20 marks out of 50 will be awarded for the use of language.]

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. Should a country be run like a business?
2. 'Not enough attention is given to ensure that our use of language does not offend.' Do you agree?
3. Should your society safeguard against future shocks or focus on the now?
4. Do you agree that the police have too much power today?
5. 'Fashion is always frivolous.' What is your view?
6. 'The lack of trust in science today is unwarranted.' Do you agree?
7. To what extent can the regulation of technology companies be justified?
8. 'Lifelong learning is possible and should be encouraged for everyone.' Consider whether this is true in your society.
9. Do we still have a use for the workplace?
10. 'Celebrities have no business in politics.' What is your view?
11. 'People should have absolute authority over their own body.' Discuss.
12. Do you agree that public good, not profit, should be the focus of the media?



NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2021

GENERAL PAPER

8807/2

PAPER 2:

Monday 30 August 2021

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This insert consists of 3 printed pages.

David Vincent considers how solitude is both a blessing and a curse.

- 1 The Greek philosopher, Aristotle, argued that thanks to the gift of language, man is destined to be a social and political animal. Yet the human instinct to socialise has always been balanced by an urge to withdraw into solitude. A few hermits make their lives in isolation, but many ordinary folks believe society is only tolerable if punctuated by frequent spells on their own. "There are many modern thinkers who emphasise the individual's dependence upon society," John Cowper Powys, a writer and advocate of solitude, observed. "It is, on the contrary, only the cultivation of interior solitude, among crowded lives, that makes society endurable." 5
- 2 Industrial society brought a spate of solitary hobbies within reach by boosting living standards and enlarging personal space. Women, with a little time on their hands, took up pastimes that had once been necessities, such as cooking, dressmaking and embroidery. Men tried pigeon-breeding and stamp-collecting. People of both sexes took on jigsaw puzzles and, from the 1920s, crosswords. The cult of solitude also encouraged less healthy habits. Charles Kingsley, a British historian and novelist, regarded tobacco as the ideal accompaniment to the solitary life—'a lone man's companion, a bachelor's friend, a hungry man's food, a sad man's cordial, a wakeful man's sleep, and a chilly man's fire'. 10 15
- 3 Healthy or otherwise, these hobbies united a nation that was divided by class. Britain's allotment movement¹ meant that, by 1910, half a million working-class men could enjoy the pleasures of gardening. Such activities also married sociability with solitude. Smokers shared their solitary vice in dedicated rooms in clubs and pubs. Fishing encouraged people to collaborate on being alone. 20
- 4 Yet the more civilisation has advanced, the further people have had to go to achieve that sensation of solitude. And the more sophisticated civilisation has become, the more people have been willing to use its fruits to escape the enforced sociability that has mostly been humanity's lot. In 1900, just 5% of households comprised one person. Today a quarter do in America, along with a third in Britain and perhaps half in Sweden. Sometimes the solo life is a choice: people use their money to dump an unsatisfactory partner. Sometimes it is a tragedy: in Britain, a million older people say they routinely suffer from loneliness. Most feel unable to admit their plight to friends and relatives. 25 30
- 5 This points to the paradox that solitude can be both a blessing and a curse. However, when solitude is not a matter of choice, loneliness and its pernicious effects set in: you can feel lonely in a crowd—indeed loneliness is at its darkest when you are surrounded by people having fun—but they overlap. Unwanted solitude can lead to the most miserable sort of loneliness. "I'd like to meet," C.S. Lewis, Irish-born scholar and novelist, wrote to a friend after his wife died, "for I am—Oh God that I were not—very free now. One doesn't realise in early life that the price of freedom is loneliness. To be happy is to be tied." 35
- 6 This anxiety over involuntary solitude has become a big political issue, particularly in northern European and Anglo-Saxon countries, where the breakdown of the family has gone furthest. In 2016, the BBC released a television documentary on 'the age of loneliness'. In 2017, Vivek Murthy, America's surgeon general, declared an 'epidemic of loneliness'. In 2018, Theresa May appointed Britain's first 'Minister for Loneliness', declaring that 'up to a fifth of United Kingdom adults feel lonely most or all of the time'. 40

¹ This refers to the provision or rental of small pieces of land so that people can grow their own fruit, vegetables, and flowers.

- 7 Given its power to break the spirit, involuntary solitude has inevitably been used as a punishment. Pentonville, Britain's first model prison built on utilitarian principles, confined all prisoners in solitary cells, though it dropped the face masks that they were supposed to wear to stop them from communicating with one another during meals. The most extreme use of solitary confinement was in a wing of a state prison in Auburn, New York, where inmates were confined in total solitude, with no exercise and no human contact of any kind. 45
- 8 The history of solitude is thus partly a history of extremes—of people who have willingly sat on top of pillars for decades (Saint Simeon Stylites² sat on top of a pillar in order to be closer to heaven and the patient hermit expired without descending from his column), and of prison reformers who aim to use loneliness to break men's souls. But it is also a history of the quest for balance. Modern technology has made it both easier and harder to get the balance right. On the one hand, it has introduced 'networked solitude'. Just as Saint Jerome³ squatted in his cave surrounded by his library, modern hermits sit in their flats gorging on downloaded books and films or chatting with friends across the world. On the other hand, it has made it more difficult to enjoy the benefits of solitude. Distraction is always one click away. And the same technology that allows the solitary individual to engage remotely with society also allows society to engage remotely—and sometimes secretly—with the individual. Giant companies watch over you, whether you are alone or in a crowd. 55
- 9 There is also something disturbing about the way the boundaries between solitude and sociability are blurring. Visit a gym and you see sweaty individuals performing private workouts in public. On a train, many of your fellow passengers will be insulated by headphones. Those ubiquitous devices are double-edged: they can fill your head with babble or, thanks to noise-cancelling, leave you in silence. As the two categories mingle, so the quest for balance becomes more intense. 60
- 10 In 2020, the pandemic lockdown has put the question of solitude at the heart of politics. Social distancing has been a tragedy for those living and, in some cases, dying alone. But for others, it has proved a strange blessing. Overworked people have been able to take a break from the treadmill of commuting. Many have picked up long-abandoned hobbies, such as tending the garden or playing bridge. Indeed, solitude is both one of mankind's greatest blessings and greatest curses. Now, thanks to a virus that has been carried across the world by human sociability, more people than ever are getting the chance to experience both. 65

² *Saint Simeon Stylites was a Syrian Christian hermit and the first known pillar hermit. He achieved notability for living 37 years on a small platform on top of a pillar near Aleppo.*

³ *Saint Jerome, a Latin theologian and historian, sought solitude for his studies and joined a colony of Christian hermits in the desert for a period of time.*

**NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE**

JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2021

Candidate Name: _____ Class: _____ GP Tutor: _____

GENERAL PAPER
PAPER 2:**8807/2**
Monday 30 August 2021**1 hour 30 minutes**Candidates answer on the Question Paper.
No Additional materials are required.**ANSWER BOOKLET****INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**Write your Name, 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 staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.Answer **all** questions.

The Insert contains the passage for the 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	
SAQs	/17
Summary	/8
AQ	/10
Language	/15
TOTAL	/50

This answer booklet consists of 7 printed pages including this page

PAPER 2 (50 Marks)

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. Explain what the author means by 'thanks to the gift of language, man is destined to be a social and political animal' (lines 1-2). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

*For
Examiner's
use*

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- 2. Explain how the 'boost in living standards' could enable women to engage in solitary hobbies (lines 9-12). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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- 3. In lines 14-17, how does Charles Kingsley present 'tobacco as the ideal accompaniment to the solitary life'?

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*For
Examiner's
use*

4. Explain what the author means when he says that hobbies 'married sociability with solitude' (line 20). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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5. In paragraph 4, the author states that 'the more civilisation has advanced, the further people have had to go to achieve the sensation of solitude' (lines 23-24). Explain why this might be the case.

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6. In lines 57-60, what distinctions does the author draw between the ways in which hermits in the past and modern hermits isolate themselves?

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7. Why does the author include the information between the double dashes (lines 62-63)?

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8. Explain why the author thinks that the 'blurring' of 'boundaries between solitude and sociability' is disturbing (lines 65-66).

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9. In paragraph 10, how does the author show that 'solitude is both one of mankind's greatest blessings and greatest curses' (lines 75-76)?

*For
Examiner's
use*

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For
Examiner's
use

10. Using material from paragraphs 4-7, summarise what the author has to say about how solitude can be involuntary and what effect this can have on people and 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.

Sometimes, solitude can occur not by choice but due to

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[10]

2021 J2 Prelim: Suggested SAQ Answers

1. Explain what the author means by 'thanks to the gift of language, man is destined to be a social and political animal' (lines 1-2). (2m)

From the passage	Suggested answer
The Greek philosopher, Aristotle, argued that thanks to the gift of language, man is destined to be a social and political animal. Yet the human instinct to socialise has always been balanced by an urge to withdraw into solitude.	<p>(a) As we have been endowed with/given the ability to communicate,</p> <p>(b) we end up being fated to use it with one another for interaction/companionship</p> <p>(c) and affairs of the state.</p> <p>(a)+(b)/(c) = 1m (a)+(b) + (c) = 2m If (a) only, 0m (must show relationship)</p>

2. Explain how the 'boost in living standards' could enable women to engage in solitary hobbies (lines 9-12). (3m) [inference+paraphrase]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Industrial society brought a spate of solitary hobbies within reach by boosting living standards and enlarging personal space. Women, with a little time on their hands, took up pastimes that had once been necessities, such as cooking, dressmaking and embroidery.	<p>(a) With technological advancement/more use of machines that has led to a growth in wealth/improved convenience/efficiency,</p> <p>(b) **women were liberated/freed from essential (domestic) chores/duties</p> <p>[linked to (a), focus is that they have been freed from 'necessities', 'necessities should not be lifted]</p> <p>(c) and engaging in these activities for recreational purpose/for leisure</p> <p>1m each But must minimally show relationship between two parts (b) and (c). If only one part is stated, 0m.</p> <p>** (b) must be explicitly represented. (b) is core.</p>

3. In lines 14-17, how does Charles Kingsley present 'tobacco as the ideal accompaniment to the solitary life'? (Technique+context)

From the passage	Suggested answer
Charles Kingsley, a British historian and novelist, regarded tobacco as the ideal accompaniment to the solitary life—"a lone man's companion, a bachelor's friend, a hungry man's food, a sad man's cordial, a wakeful man's sleep, and a chilly man's fire".	<p>He stated (a) a list of situations (technique)</p> <p>in which tobacco is</p> <p>(b) a perfect /best /multi-faceted /all-purpose complement/support (inference to justify 'ideal accompaniment'; adjective and noun must be paraphrased)</p> <p>(c) to address a lone person's essential physical and emotional needs. (link) *must be about 'needs'</p> <p>(a)+(b)/(c)=1m (if context is not misinterpretation/language breakdown) (a)+(b)+(c)=2m (a) is essential but by itself with no/wrong context is 0m.</p>

4. Explain what the author means when he says that hobbies 'married sociability with solitude' (line 20). Use your own words as far as possible. (1m)

From the passage	Suggested answer
Such activities also married sociability with solitude. Smokers shared their solitary vice in dedicated rooms in clubs and pubs. Fishing encouraged people to collaborate on being alone.	<p>Sociability and solitude coexist in the pursuit of hobbies which means that people are engaging in their solo hobbies/hobbies alone/individually in a group setting. (1m)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context (the green text) needs to be explained No mark awarded if only the paraphrasing of 'married' is stated.

5. In paragraph 4, the author states that 'the more civilisation has advanced, the further people have had to go to achieve the sensation of solitude' (lines 23-24). Explain why this might be the case. (1m)

From the passage	Suggested answer
Yet the more civilisation has advanced, the further people have had to go to achieve that sensation of solitude. And the more sophisticated civilisation has become, the more people have been willing to use its fruits to escape the enforced sociability that has mostly been humanity's lot.	<p>(a) Due to the increase in population density/ people's schedules becoming busier / people having more responsibilities/ better connectivity among people leading to increased interactions,</p> <p>(Accept any logical answer that suggests how civilisation has advanced)</p> <p>(b) people need to do more/put in more effort to be by themselves.</p> <p>*(b) is necessary. **For (b), it's not enough to just say that it's difficult, since the quote says people have had to go 'further'. It should be 'more difficult'.</p>

6. In lines 57-60, what distinctions does the author draw between the ways in which hermits in the past and modern hermits isolate themselves? (2m)

From the passage	Suggested answer
Just as Saint Jerome squatted in his cave surrounded by his library, modern hermits sit in their flats gorging on downloaded books and films or chatting with friends across the world.	<p>(a) Hermits in the past <u>cut themselves off from the rest of the world</u> while modern hermits <u>retain connections with the outside world</u> even if they are physically alone. [connections]</p> <p>(b) Hermits in the past only had <u>books</u> while modern hermits have a <u>variety of online media</u> to keep them occupied. [type of media OR variety of media]</p> <p>** Answers <u>must be phrased in such a way that they convey HOW they isolated themselves (what they did), rather than WHY (what they wanted to do).</u></p> <p>Each pair of differences=1m</p>

7. Why does the author include the information between the double dashes (lines 62-63)? (2m)

From the passage	Suggested answer
Distraction is always one click away. And the same technology that allows the solitary individual to engage remotely with society also allows society to engage remotely—and sometimes secretly—with the individual. Giant companies watch over you, whether you are alone or in a crowd.	<p>Either:</p> <p>1a. He wants to emphasise/highlight his discomfort/unease (standalone function)</p> <p>1b. about the fact that our <u>devices/digital technology/companies</u> are actually surveilling us without our knowledge. (context)</p> <p>1(a) alone is 1m 1(a)+1(b)=2m</p> <p>Or:</p> <p>2a. He wants to <u>emphasise/highlight/add crucial/important information about</u> (function that requires an object)</p> <p>2b. the fact that our <u>devices/digital technology/companies</u> actually surveilling us without our knowledge (context)</p> <p>2(a)=0m 2(a)+2(b)=2m</p> <p>'society' will not be accepted as a subject as writer has specifically pointed out 'companies'.</p>

8. Explain why the author thinks that the 'blurring' of 'boundaries between solitude and sociability' is disturbing (lines 65-66). (2m)

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>There is also something disturbing about the way the boundaries between solitude and sociability are blurring. Visit a gym and you see sweaty individuals performing private workouts in public. On a train many of your fellow passengers will be insulated by headphones. Those ubiquitous devices are double-edged: they can fill your head with babble or, thanks to noise-cancelling, leave you in silence. As the two categories mingle, so the quest for balance becomes more intense.</p>	<p>*disturbing: upsetting/disquieting/dismaying Question is a test of understanding the implications of 'disturbing'. Need to look at it from author's POV.</p> <p>(a) There is now no clear distinction between private and public activities [Situation]</p> <p>(b) which we accept as normal or natural [Reality - 'disturbing']</p> <p>(c) but yet the author believes/expects that they should be kept separate. [Expectation]</p> <p>This is a 0 or 2m question. Student must be able to articulate the Situation-Reality-Expectation relationship.</p>

9. In paragraph 10, how does the author show that 'solitude is both one of mankind's greatest blessings and greatest curses' (lines 75-76)? (2m)

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>In 2020, the pandemic lockdown has put the question of solitude at the heart of politics. Social distancing has been a tragedy for those living and, in some cases, dying alone. But for others, it has proved a strange blessing. Overworked people have been able to take a break from the treadmill of commuting. Many have picked up long-abandoned hobbies, such as tending the garden or playing bridge. Indeed, solitude is both one of mankind's greatest blessings and greatest curses. Now, thanks to a virus that has been carried across the world by human sociability, more people than ever are getting the chance to experience both.</p>	<p>(a) The author uses the example of the pandemic lockdown in 2020/social distancing to show (technique)</p> <p>(b) how the spread of the virus forces people to be alone and be miserable/suffer in isolation.</p> <p>(c) However, there are also some who have found the enforced solitude a joy/relief/break from the stress of work <u>or</u> pleasure from being able to engage in hobbies in isolation.</p> <p>(b) and (c) are only awarded if (a) is correct. (a) alone=1m</p>

Sometimes, solitude can occur not by choice but due to...

	Lifted	Paraphrased
1	a tragedy (line 29)	extremely unfortunate (circumstances) (word must have some magnitude of effect)
2	older people (line 29)	The aged
3	routinely suffer from loneliness (line 30)	experience chronic social isolation, [idea: constant and persistent]
4	unable to admit their plight to friends and relatives (line 30)	Cannot confide their situation to anyone. It's about the capacity . NOT about the feelings that they have, or their motivations/reasons for not doing confiding etc.
5	when solitude is not a matter of choice, loneliness and its pernicious effects set in (line 32) (line 32)	Involuntary solitude becomes harmful/damaging
6	you can feel lonely in a crowd (line 32-33)	(lonely doesn't need to be paraphrased) causes one to feel isolated even when surrounded by people.
7	indeed loneliness is at its darkest (line 33) *Point 8 is about extent/intensity.	most intensely felt
8	When you are surrounded by people having fun (line 33-34)	when those around one are enjoying themselves (take note of the condition)
9	Unwanted solitude can lead to the most miserable sort of loneliness (line 34-35) *Point 10 is about the emotion.	Involuntary solitude can be depressing (word used to paraphrase 'miserable' must have some intensity)
10	[Inferred point: how solitude can be involuntary] ...the price of freedom is loneliness. To be happy is to be tied (line 37-38)	when one has lost a significant other.
11	involuntary solitude has become a big political issue (line 39)	('political' and 'big' must be paraphrased) Involuntary solitude is a serious concern for the government/authorities
12	particularly... where the breakdown of the family has gone furthest. (line 39-41)	especially among countries worst hit by the disruption of their family.

		'Gone furthest' must be in the superlative, when paraphrased.
13	Given its power to break the spirit (line 45)	It's about the <u>morale</u> and the <u>emotion</u> . Not the <u>soul</u> or the <u>mind</u> . Due to its ability to cause one to lose hope,
14	Involuntary solitude has inevitably (line 45)	Is not unexpected/surprising
15	Been used as a punishment (line 45-46)	that it is utilised to make people pay for their crimes 'Punishment' needs to be paraphrased
16	The most extreme use of solitary confinement...	The worst form (of punishment) (Points 17 and 18 are to be paired)
17	confined in total solitude (line 49) And no human contact of any kind (line 50-51)	being incarcerated in complete isolation

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