



# ANDERSON SERANGOON JUNIOR COLLEGE

## JC2 Preliminary Examination 2024

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**GENERAL PAPER**

**8881/01**

**PAPER 1**

**22 August 2024**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet

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### **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 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.

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This document consists of 2 printed pages.

**[Turn over**

## 2

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 'Individuals today can do more about global problems than ever before.' To what extent is this true?
- 2 'To ensure peace, it is vital to prepare for war.' To what extent is such a viewpoint justifiable?
- 3 'One united people, regardless of race, language or religion.' How true is this of Singapore?
- 4 Given that creative works can be generated using artificial intelligence, are human creators still necessary?
- 5 'It is better to conform than to challenge.' To what extent is this true in your society?
- 6 'Religion should have no place in politics.' Discuss.
- 7 'Education, not censorship, is the solution to misinformation.' To what extent do you agree?
- 8 'Nowadays, we care too much about what people think.' Discuss.



# ANDERSON SERANGOON JUNIOR COLLEGE

## JC2 Preliminary Examination 2024

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**GENERAL PAPER**

**8881/02**

**PAPER 2**

**27 August 2024**

**INSERT**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

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### **READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

This Insert contains the passages for comprehension.

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This document consists of 4 printed pages.

**[Turn over**

**Passage 1.** *An author writes about the benefits of idealism.*

- 1 In a world dominated by cynicism and practicality, being an idealist emerges as both a rebellion against short-sightedness and an affirmation of hope. Idealists dare to envision a better world as a tangible reality that can ultimately be achieved through the power of belief and human effort. The belief that one's ideals can be achieved, while frequently dismissed as naive or impractical, holds an intrinsic value that propels societies toward greater heights of justice and innovation. It is the idealists among us—those who dream of what might be—who often drive the wheel of progress, challenging the status quo and inspiring change. 5
- 2 While most people quibble over practical concerns, idealists, like a compass pointing to the north, guide public discourse and actions towards the moral principles that really matter. By adhering to their convictions without wavering, without compromise and without fail, idealists challenge others to prioritise what is right over what is convenient. Idealists not only dream of lofty moral principles but actively endeavour to construct a world governed by such principles, influencing both policy and personal behaviour towards greater ethical standards. 10 15
- 3 As a result of their convictions, idealists are often at the forefront of the fight for rights and justice. From the rarefied heights of their idealism, they enjoy a panorama of humanity's promise. Their vision of a fairer world compels them to challenge entrenched injustices and advocate for the marginalised. Their belief in human dignity and equality fuels relentless campaigns against oppression and discrimination. Take Malala Yousafzai, for example. A solitary lighthouse in Taliban-run Pakistan, she bravely spoke out for her right and the right of all girls to attend school. 20
- 4 Whether pushing for civil rights or championing gender equality, idealists inspire and mobilise others to join their cause, catalysing societal changes that might otherwise seem impossible. Nelson Mandela's civil resistance during apartheid-era South Africa was a symbol of hope. The anti-apartheid movement, fuelled by the collective idealism of millions, pressured international communities to impose sanctions and ultimately led to the dismantling of the apartheid regime in 1994. 25
- 5 Cynics may argue that great societal transformation can only be achieved by a select few trailblazers. Yet, must idealism revolutionise the world for us to see its value? Even for the everyman, holding firm to these lofty goals may be a way to encourage continued personal development. For realists, stark acceptance of the status quo may force them to mutely accept their own limits, but for idealists, an unwavering belief in their potential or the nobility of their goals can drive them relentlessly forward even in the face of rejection. 30
- 6 Being an idealist also carries profound emotional benefits. Idealists engage with life more joyfully, live with purpose, and tend to be more emotionally stable. Besides emotional benefits, idealists also enjoy being part of a community as they connect with like-minded individuals who share their aspirations. 35
- 7 On the face of it, being an idealist is often dismissed as daydreaming. However, it is anything but. It is a vital force that drives humanity forward, challenging us to rise above the status quo. Like how Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of his dream of equality and freedom, let us all be brave enough to dream and strive towards a future that aligns with our highest ideals. 40

**Passage 2.** *An author writes about the advantages of pragmatism.*

- 1 Pragmatists are no strangers to unsolicited criticisms – this is encountered as a natural consequence of their practical approach which often opposes idealistic or theoretical perspectives. Yet, the reality that pragmatism helps to address issues we face in nearly every facet of our lives validates this approach.
- 2 Unlike idealism which focuses on chasing a flawless solution akin to an elusive unicorn, pragmatism thrives on delivering tangible results. Unlike idealism which can get lost in theoretical perfection, pragmatism advocates the attainment of goals through achievable steps. This creates a sense of accomplishment and motivates further action. In the business world, a pragmatic entrepreneur might aim to establish a small but loyal customer base and achieve steady growth rather than pursue the untenable goal of becoming a billion-dollar company within a year. 5 10
- 3 The real world rarely aligns perfectly with our plans, but pragmatists are effective at using the resources available to them and generating creative solutions. An example of this can be seen in Kibera, a large slum in Nairobi, Kenya. Faced with limited resources and infrastructure, residents have adopted pragmatic solutions. They have built schools from recycled materials and created small businesses with minimal investment. Pragmatism is also key on the international stage, helping countries maintain amiable relations essential to securing their trade benefits. 15
- 4 Simultaneously, the upside of pragmatism is the consideration of diverse perspectives of stakeholders. This fosters the creation of solutions that are not only palatable but also more likely to be implemented. The Paris Agreement on climate change, for one, has seen its share of success because it considers the diverse economic and developmental needs of participating countries, allowing each nation to set its own realistic targets for reducing carbon emissions rather than imposing uniform standards. Negotiators rarely achieve perfect outcomes but, by considering the concerns of all parties involved, they can prevent conflict. 20 25
- 5 Ultimately, a healthy dose of pragmatism brings about a host of benefits. Without a pragmatic approach, our lofty ideals remain just that – ideals.

**[Turn over**

**Passage 3.** *An author considers why we need idealism now more than ever.*

- 1 From climate change to social inequality, the world faces a daunting array of challenges that can all too easily crush our spirits with a sense of defeatism. There are those amongst us who, claiming that they are just being realistic, have accepted that things are just the way they are.
- 2 Yet it is precisely in these times that idealism becomes even more crucial. While pragmatists fretfully agonise over the state of our world and argue about how to go about solving problems, idealists are already out there taking action. The history of humankind is replete with stories of inspirational figures who remind us that we are not in fact doomed and that we can fight against the seemingly overwhelming odds threatening our futures. Consider Fridays for Future, the climate movement involving students all over the world going on school strikes. This global environmental movement has forced governments to take action against exploitative corporations. 5
- 3 It is disconcerting that we often assume that the idealist and the pragmatist are at odds with each other when in fact, collectively, they work hand-in-hand to initiate change. One needs to look no further than the development of sustainable urban planning initiatives, where visionary goals for green spaces are realised through practical regulations and infrastructure projects. On a larger scale, problems in the world often involve complex, interconnected factors that span across various social, economic, and environmental realms, making simple solutions ineffective and grandiose visions impracticable. But when people embrace both idealism and pragmatism, they dream big and work incrementally, recognising that lasting progress is often made through a series of small victories and actionable goals. 10 15 20
- 4 In a world that can feel increasingly cynical, idealism is a precious commodity. It is the fuel that ignites our passions. It is the belief that a better world is possible. It is the seed that sows hope. 25

<b>Candidate's Name</b>	<b>Class</b> 24/	<b>GP Tutor's Name</b>
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**ANDERSON SERANGOON JUNIOR COLLEGE**  
**JC2 Preliminary Examination 2024**

**GENERAL PAPER**

8881/02

Paper 2

27 August 2024

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.  
No additional materials required.

**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.

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

Do not write in the margins.

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.

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

<b>For Examiner's Use</b>	
Short-Answer Questions	/11
Summary Question	/8
Cross-Passage Analysis Questions	/4
Application Question	/12
<b>Content</b>	<b>/35</b>
<b>Language</b>	<b>/15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>/50</b>

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[Turn over

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 What is the author implying about cynicism and practicality by their use of the phrase 'a rebellion against short-sightedness' (lines 1-2)?

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.....[2]

- 2 From lines 9-12, explain **two** ways in which the author uses language to convey their strong feelings about idealists.

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.....[2]

- 3 Explain what the writer means by 'a solitary lighthouse' (line 21).

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.....[2]



4 Explain how the author illustrates the claim that idealism can bring about 'societal changes' (line 24) in paragraph 4.

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.....[3]

5 Why does the author use the phrase 'On the face of it' (line 39)?

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.....[2]

**From Passage 2**

**6** Summarise what the author has to say about the benefits of pragmatism.

Write your summary in no more than 120 words.

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[8]

**From all the passages**

**7** Passage 1 states that idealism challenges us 'to rise above the status quo' (lines 40-41).

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 practical approach 'often opposes idealistic or theoretical perspectives' (lines 2-3).

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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**From Passage 1**

1. What is the author implying about cynicism and practicality by their use of the phrase 'a rebellion against short-sightedness' (lines 1-2)? [2]

Question type: What does X suggest about Y?	
From the text	Answer
In a world dominated by cynicism and practicality, being an idealist emerges as both a rebellion against short-sightedness and an affirmation of hope. (lines 1-2)	<p>The phrase suggests that cynicism and practicality</p> <p>a) <b>NORM (THAT IS REBELLED AGAINST)</b> is typical/ common/ the norm/ majority/what many people have/ dominant way [1] which</p> <p>b) <b>SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS</b> is just about the present / causes us to not think about how the future will be affected / about future impacts / causes us to think only about the present / is myopic / thinks about the short-term / [1]</p> <p>If subject is wrong, 0m.</p>

2. From lines 9-12, explain **two** ways in which the author uses language to convey their strong feelings about idealists. [2]

Question type: How the author uses language	
From the text	Answer
While most people quibble over practical concerns, idealists, like a <b>compass</b> pointing to the north, guide public discourse and actions towards the moral principles that <b>really</b> matter. By adhering to their convictions <b>without wavering, without compromise and without fail</b> , idealists challenge others to prioritise what is right over what is convenient. (lines 9-12)	<p>a) <b>"COMPASS": METAPHOR</b> (1) The author uses a metaphor/ simile. (2) Likening idealists to a compass (3) to show how idealists show us the way / guide us / give us direction (that would lead to progress/how society ought to conduct itself) / to show others <u>forwards</u> /</p> <p>b) <b>"QUIBBLE": DICTION/WORD</b> (1) The author uses the diction / uses the word, (2) "quibble" (3) to highlight the insignificance of their opponents' views to emphasize the relative importance of idealists/emphasize the ability of idealists in focusing on important things</p> <p>c) <b>"REALLY": DICTION/WORD</b> (1) The author uses diction/chooses the word (2) "really" (3) to show how idealists focus on values/things that are significant.</p>

	<p>d) "WITHOUT" X 3: REPETITION/TRIPLET                  "WITHOUT WAVERING": ALLITERATION                  "WITHOUT": WORD CHOICE → idealists have strong convictions                  (1) The author uses repetition/triplets / repeating / lists                  (2) "without"                  (3) to emphasise/show the extent to which idealists stick to their beliefs/highlight the strength of their beliefs / how steadfast idealists are in upholding their beliefs.</p> <p>e) "CONVICTIONS": DICTION/WORD                  (1) The author uses the word                  (2) "convictions"                  (3) to describe the strength of the idealists' beliefs.                  (Device (1) + Quote (2) + Effect (2)) = 1 point                  1 point = 1 mark</p>
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3. Explain what the author means by 'a solitary lighthouse' (line 21). [2m]

Question type: Phrase Question	Answer
<p><b>From the text</b></p> <p>Take Malala Yousafzai, for example. A solitary lighthouse in Taliban-run Pakistan, she bravely spoke out for her right and the right of all girls to attend school. (lines 20-22)</p>	<p>The author means that Malala Yousafzai (necessary subject) is</p> <p>a) SOLITARY                      the only one/left alone to/by herself/singularly/isolated figure</p> <p>b) LIGHTHOUSE                      directing towards/guiding towards/showed others the way in pursuit of</p> <p>c) CONTEXT                      the rights of girls to attend school/gender equality/ gender rights/ girls' rights</p> <p>No subject = 0m                      1 – 2 points – 1m                      3 points – 2m</p>



4. Explain how the author illustrates the claim that idealism can bring about 'societal changes' (line 24) in paragraph 4. [3]

Question type: How author/X supports or illustrates Y / Literal Direct Question	
From the text	Answer
<p>Whether pushing for civil rights or championing gender equality, idealists inspire and mobilise others to join their cause, catalysing societal changes that might otherwise seem impossible. Nelson Mandela's civil resistance during apartheid-era South Africa was a symbol of hope. The anti-apartheid movement, fueled by the collective idealism of millions, pressured international communities to impose sanctions and ultimately led to the dismantling of the apartheid regime in 1994. (lines 23-28)</p>	<p>The author illustrates by</p> <p>a) TECHNIQUE giving the example of referring to Nelson Mandela's civil resistance/civil resistance in South Africa/ Anti – apartheid/The Apartheid</p> <p>b) COLLECTIVE IDEALISM OF MILLIONS the shared/ unified/ common/ rallied/ combined/ community idealism/vision/dreams/hopes of a huge number of people/ many/ countless people</p> <p>c) PRESSURED INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS forced/pushed/compelled/pressed/drove/coerced world leaders/world organisations/global institutions/countries to implement/put in place/place/introduce/inflict penalties/limitations/bans/embargoes/boycotts/ injunctions/ restrictions/ economic pressure/ stop trade</p> <p>d) (LED TO THE) DISMANTLING OF THE APARTHEID REGIME which tore apart/pull apart/demolish/pull down/took down/destroyed/ the apartheid regime / brought the apartheid to an end/ the fall of the /topple the apartheid regime</p> <p>Context of Nelson Mandela/The Apartheid/South Africa/ The Apartheid Regime must be mentioned for any mark to be awarded</p> <p>4 points – 3m 2 – 3points – 2m 1point – 1m</p>

5. Why does the author use the phrase 'On the face of it' (line 39)? [2]

Question type: Author's Intention (words/ phrase/ sentence)	
From the text	Answer
<p>On the face of it, being an idealist is often dismissed as daydreaming. However, it is anything but. (lines 39-40)</p>	<p>The author wants to highlight that</p> <p>a) (thinking/perceiving that) idealism is daydreaming is superficial/shallow/simplistic/ lacks depth</p> <p>OR</p> <p>It is hasty/too quick/premature/too impressionistic to think that idealism is daydreaming</p> <p>OR</p> <p>There is a deeper/ more complex/ more sophisticated way to understand idealism than just dismissing it as daydreaming / beyond daydreaming. [1]</p> <p>b) In reality/actually when idealism improves society/useful or fruitful for humanity's progress/ helps to drive progress. [1]</p>

6. Summarise what the author has to say about the benefits of pragmatism. Write your summary in no more than 120 words.

No.	From the passage	Lifted	Answer
1	pragmatism helps to address issues we face in nearly every facet of our lives	address issues "nearly every"	Pragmatism helps tackle problems in almost all parts of our lives.
2	pragmatism thrives on delivering tangible results	delivering tangible results	It produces real improvements
3	advocates the attainment of goals through achievable steps	advocates achievable steps	and promotes the accomplishment of targets through doable measures.
4	This creates a sense of accomplishment	creates accomplishment	This produces a feeling of success
5	and motivates further action	motivates further	and spurs us to do more.
6	pragmatists are effective at using the resources available to them	effective resources available	Pragmatists are skilled at using the materials they can access
7	and generating creative solutions.	generating creative solutions	and creating innovative remedies.
8	Pragmatism is also key on the international stage (required context), helping countries maintain amiable relations	maintain amiable relations	On the international stage, pragmatism preserves friendly ties
9	Pragmatism is also key on the international stage (required context)... essential to securing their trade benefits.	essential securing "trade benefits"	and is crucial for cementing trade agreements.
10	the upside of pragmatism is the consideration of diverse perspectives of stakeholders	consideration diverse perspectives	Pragmatism makes us take into account various opinions, hence producing fixes that are acceptable
11	This fosters the creation of solutions that are not only palatable	creation solutions palatable	
12	but also more likely to be implemented	likely implemented	and have a higher probability of being adopted.
13	they can prevent conflict	prevent conflict	Pragmatism helps us avoid disputes.

No. of points	1 - 2 points	3 - 4 points	5 points	6 points	7 points	8 points	9 points	10 or more
Marks awarded	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

7. Passage 1 states that idealism challenges us 'to rise above the status quo' (line 40). Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer.

Idea from Passage 3	Lifted	(a) - 1 mark		(b1) and (b2) - 1 mark	
		(a) Paraphrase of idea from passage 3	(b1) Paraphrase of given idea	(b2) Justification	
... we can <b>fight</b> against the seemingly <b>overwhelming odds</b> threatening our futures. (line 9)	fight overwhelming odds	In Passage 3, the author states that inspiring idealists remind us that we can <b>overcome crushing difficulties</b> .	This supports the idea from Passage 1 that idealism calls us to <b>progress beyond our current situation</b>	because idealism spurs us to <b>confront the difficulties</b> we face.	
While pragmatists fretfully agonise over the state of our world and argue about how to go about <b>solving problems</b> , idealists are already out there taking action. (lines 5-7)	solving problems	In Passage 3, the author states that idealists are <b>finding answers to difficulties</b> .	This supports the idea from Passage 1 that idealism calls us to <b>progress beyond our current situation</b>	because idealism spurs us to <b>fix the difficulties</b> we face.	
This global environmental movement has <b>forced governments to take action</b> against <b>exploitative</b> corporations. (lines 11-12)	forced "take action" exploitative	In Passage 3, the author states that idealism allows individuals to <b>pressure governments to deal with advantage of the environment</b> .	This supports the idea from Passage 1 that idealism calls us to <b>progress beyond our current situation</b>	because idealism spurs people to push governments to <b>control abuse</b> by corporations.	

8. Passage 2 states that the practical approach 'often opposes idealistic or theoretical perspectives' (lines 2-3). Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to undermine this statement. Justify your answer.

(a) - 1 mark		(b1) and (b2) - 1 mark	
Idea from Passage 3	Lifted	Paraphrase of idea from passage 3	Paraphrase of given idea
... collectively, they work hand-in-hand (line 14)	collectively work hand-in-hand	In Passage 3, the author states that <u>pragmatism complements idealism.</u>	This undermines the idea from Passage 2 that pragmatism <b>contradicts</b> idealistic views
... they dream big and work incrementally (line 20)	dream big incrementally	In Passage 3, the author states that when people see value in both <u>pragmatism and idealism</u> , they have <b>lofty aspirations</b> and are able to improve <b>bit by bit.</b>	This undermines the idea from Passage 2 that pragmatism <b>contradicts</b> idealistic views
One needs to look no further than the development of sustainable urban planning initiatives, where <b>visionary goals</b> for green spaces are <b>realised</b> through <b>practical regulations</b> and <b>infrastructure projects.</b>	"visionary goals" realised "practical regulations" or "practical infrastructure projects"	In Passage 3, the author states that <b>far-sighted aims</b> are <b>achieved</b> through <b>real rules / real works on basic systems.</b>	This undermines the idea from Passage 2 that pragmatism <b>contradicts</b> idealistic views
			<b>Justification</b> because the idealist and pragmatist can actually <b>combine forces</b> and introduce <b>improvements.</b> as those who embrace both idealism and pragmatism can <b>concurrently</b> have <b>lofty goals</b> and achieve them <b>step by step.</b>  as idealistic goals are <b>achieved through</b> practical actions, thus idealism and the practical approach <b>complement</b> each other.