

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1
JC2 Preliminary Examination

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 1

8881/01**27 August 2024****1 hour 30 minutes**

No Additional Materials are required

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet will be provided with this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **one** question.

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

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 How far can the youth in your society be relied upon to effect change?
- 2 'Only the educated are free.' What is your view?
- 3 Assess the view that people are too quick to take offence today.
- 4 To what extent can your society balance individual freedom and national interests?
- 5 Examine the view that people today need to slow down in order to move forward.
- 6 'Staging major events brings nothing but benefits to the host country.' Discuss.
- 7 To what extent is the success of a government measured by its ability to maintain law and order?
- 8 'As much as science is useful, it is unreliable as the means to human happiness.' Discuss.



RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

JC2 Preliminary Examination

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2
INSERT

8881/02

28 AUGUST 2024
1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passages for Paper 2.

This document consists of 4 printed pages.

Passage 1: An author writes about the value of nostalgia

- 1 Depending on whom you ask, nostalgia has been described from being a 'warm fuzzy feeling' by one who is sentimental, to something that can be capitalised on as a 'hipster heritage impulse' by another with a sharp business acumen. A cynic tired of modern life would even muse that it is the sweet imagination of the past when the present is found wanting. These groups all romanticise nostalgia as an idyllic past that must be preserved, as evident in the mushrooming of folkish but fashionable cafes, bookstores and other entrepreneurial ventures. 5
- 2 Whatever one calls the wave of nostalgia that has swept across nations, the implications for policymakers are twofold: across the world, people clamour for buildings and areas to be preserved, resulting in petitions piling on the pressure for leaders to designate historical streets and buildings as cultural heritage assets, which can stand in the way of progressive and efficient use of space. Quaint but uneven cobblestone walkways run contrary to modern attempts to build infrastructure for the differently abled. Beyond this, there is the rise of socio-cultural clashes between newly arrived migrants and the local populace, with the latter resenting globally famous brands perceived as symbols of cultural imperialism, even as these brands offer wider variety at a lower cost compared to local traditional businesses. 10 15
- 3 Even if nostalgia does not always sit well with our modern-day practical sensibilities, its allure is indisputable; some go as far as to say that nostalgia is the gentle narcotic for a bruised soul. The flood of foreigners and the unrelenting urban development mean we are swimming in a stream of change, which can be discomfoting and disorientating. That is why nostalgia can be canned and sold — there is an audience and market for it. Rather than consign traditional industries to the past, patriots and consumers alike welcome a return to a simpler, slower way of life, where humble possessions are skilfully handmade and sold, and where the traditional arts of craftsmen are also elevated, symbolising the allure of a stable and unchanging unique, local identity. 20 25
- 4 In addition, sociologists opine that nostalgia could strengthen national identity and bonds among people. Afterall, nostalgia is about collective identity, sense of belonging, and anticipation for the future. This can herald the renaissance of civil society, involving both looking back to a nation's accomplishments of the past, and forward to a brighter, more inclusive and participatory future. It is in most political leaders' playbook to unite a fragmented, discouraged or resentful populace by drumming up achievements, milestones and victories of the past, as a way to rally people towards a shared national identity, instilling in them a belief in a shared sense of possibility. In his presidential acceptance speech in 2008, Barack Obama, the first black president of the United States, popularised the political slogan 'Yes we can!' to unite a disenfranchised and divided country to embrace the possibilities of the future, by drawing on strength from battling slavery, to overcoming the Great Depression and emerging triumphant in World War Two. Yet nostalgia, while having the potency to unite the masses with a shared history, could equally fracture a nation – by uniting those who yearn for a return to a better imagined past while unfairly blaming parties today for destroying that same past. Said Donald Trump in his 2020 pre-Independence Day rally, 'Our nation is witnessing a merciless 30 35 40

campaign by the Democrats to wipe out our history, defame our heroes, erase our values, and indoctrinate our children.'

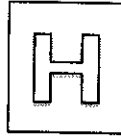
- 5 Perhaps ultimately, nostalgia is a sentiment that is only too human. It offers the benefit of hindsight, even if it means embracing a bitter-sweet regard of the past that is more delectable than unsavoury. How else are we able to resist looking back and replaying memories that have come to define and contribute to who we are? 45

Passage 2: An author cautions against the false allure of nostalgia

- 1 When examined through the lens of its potential dangers to both individuals and societies, nostalgia can indeed be a double-edged sword. While nostalgia can draw us in with its sweet nectar, it can also ensnare us when it distorts the past into something idealised. People often selectively reminisce fondly about simpler times. But while they remember idyllic experiences, they overlook the austerity that came along with it. This idealisation distorts one's perception of reality and cultivate disaffection with the present. Individuals get trapped in a cycle of longing for a time gone by. It can also lead to a sense of stagnation, where individuals may resist innovation as they fear venturing beyond the familiar. This reluctance to adapt stifles personal development and prevent individuals from seizing new opportunities for fulfilment. 5 10
- 2 On a societal level, nostalgia is like a toxic cloud that poisons the unknowing masses. When embraced widely, nostalgia can fuel myths of cultural superiority. Nations may romanticise historical narratives while glossing over darker chapters of their history. This sows the seeds of discord by undermining efforts toward reconciliation with other countries. Furthermore, nationalist nostalgia also hinders cohesion by promoting a rigid adherence to traditions. Societies may resist inclusivity and cling on to outdated beliefs and practices while perpetuating injustices. 15
- 3 Nationalist nostalgia can be manipulated for political gain, serving as a tool to rally support around populist agendas. Politicians may exploit nostalgic sentiments to scapegoat marginalised groups. This exploitation can erode social cohesion, creating fertile ground for authoritarianism to flourish. Ultimately, while nostalgia can provide shade for the weary traveller, its fruits can also poison. 20

Passage 3: A shopkeeper in Japan shares what makes her business successful

- 1 My family has been running this sweet shop in Gion, Kyoto's most famous geisha district, for many generations. Our district's mystical charm evokes a sense of wonder for many visitors, drawing them in with the promise of being swept away to Japan's past. This emotional connection transforms casual shoppers into loyal customers, eager to relive the experience. 5
- 2 Even today in Japan, there is strong preference for expensive and exquisite limited local handmade folk crafts to the cheap homogeneity of factory-made goods. By incorporating handcrafted traditional decor and offering generations-old snacks that visitors can bring home to their loved ones, business owners have tapped into a powerful sentiment that resonates deeply with both locals and tourists. Traditional costume rentals and historic reenactments further amplify this effect, consistently attracting large crowds and fostering a sense of strong, albeit transient, community. 10
- 3 Additionally, the heritage district's nostalgic appeal has increased collaboration among my fellow local businesses. We've formed alliances to preserve the area's historical integrity while promoting each other's offerings. Sure, the heavier footfall might lead to some unsavoury behaviour from guests, but as they say, there is no rain without clouds. In essence, we would not be able to enjoy such prosperity without tapping into the spirit of the past. 15



RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

JC2 Preliminary Examination

Candidate name	
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GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2

8881/02

28 August 2024

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, 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.

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 and 1 blank page.

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. In the opening sentence, what contrast does the author make between the perceptions of nostalgia?

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.....[2]

2. Identify **two** ways in paragraph 2 which illustrate how 'nostalgia does not always sit well with our modern-day practical sensibilities' (line 18).

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.....[2]

3. From lines 19-21, explain **two** ways in which the author uses language to convey the challenges of modern-day life.

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Use

4. According to the author, what are the characteristics of a 'simpler, slower way of life' (line 24)?

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.....[2]

5. In paragraph 4, what contrast does the author make in the use of nostalgia in politics in the United States?

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.....[2]

6. How does the final sentence in paragraph 5 provide an effective ending to the author's argument?

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.....[1]

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From all the passages

8. Passage 1 states that 'nostalgia can be canned and sold' (line 22).

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

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.....[2]

9. Passage 2 states that nostalgia can 'erode social cohesion' (line 21).

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

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.....[2]

10. The authors present arguments about the impact of nostalgia on our world today.

How far do you agree that a longing for the past is more beneficial than harmful?

Support your answer with reference to:

- the arguments expressed in **at least one** of the reading passages
- examples drawn from your own experience and that of your society.

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Answer Scheme JC2 Preliminary Examination

From Passage 1

1) In the opening sentence, what contrast does the author make between the perceptions of nostalgia? (2m)

From the passage	Paraphrased
Depending on whom you ask, nostalgia has either been described as being a warm fuzzy feeling by one who is <u>sentimental</u> ,	The author wants to show that nostalgia can be perceived as... A) something that gives one a feeling of happiness or contentment to a person moved by emotions... <i>Accept: 'cosy / comfortable'</i> <i>Good / positive = imprecise = no credit</i> <i>warm fuzzy ≠ heartfelt / heartwarming (partial lift)</i>
or something that can be capitalised on as a 'hipster heritage impulse' by another with a sharp business <u>acumen</u> .	B) or which can be monetised by one who is <u>business savvy / experienced in business</u> . <i>Note: Mention of stakeholders not required</i> <i>exploited / leveraged = BOD</i> <i>2 or 0 mark</i>

2) Identify **two** ways in Paragraph 2 which illustrate how 'nostalgia does not always sit well with our modern-day practical sensibilities' (line 18). (2m)

From the passage	Paraphrased
which can <u>stand in the way</u> of progressive and efficient use of space .	Nostalgia... A) <u>prevents</u> the productive / optimal allocation of land . <i>BOD: effective</i>
Quaint but uneven cobblestone walkways run contrary to modern attempts to build infrastructure for the <u>differently-abled</u> ...	B) Preserving historical footpaths are impractical because they do not allow for the handicapped to traverse smoothly . <i>Accept 'disabled'</i> <i>Differently-abled ≠ special needs</i>

<p>...rise of socio-cultural clashes between newly arrived migrants and the local populace, with the latter resenting <u>globally</u> famous brands perceived as symbols of <u>cultural imperialism</u>, even as these brands offer wider variety at a lower cost compared to <u>local</u> traditional businesses.</p>	<p>C1) Local people protect their own community / customary establishments while blocking / are disapproving of international companies... C2) that provide a diverse array of products / products at a cheaper price.</p> <p><i>Any 2 points for 2 marks Need C1 and C2 for 1 mark Need to have 'global' vs 'local' but no need to paraphrase</i></p>
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3) From lines 19-21, explain **two** ways in which the author uses language to convey the challenges of modern-day life. (2m)

From the passage	Explanation
A) bruised soul	<p>The author uses the phrase 'bruised soul' to exemplify that modern life has challenges that hurt or damage one's inner being. <i>people facing difficulties / hardships = no credit</i></p>
B) flood of <u>foreigners</u>	<p>The author uses the phrase 'flood of foreigners' to convey how the citizens have to grapple with the impacts of many foreigners entering their countries. <i>BOD: If a complete quote isn't provided, reference to 'foreigners' must be present in the explanation for the answer to be credited. 'Impact' = needed to show link to 'challenges'</i></p>
C) unrelenting	<p>The author uses the word 'unrelenting' to describe how the pace of change does not let up / cease.</p>
D) stream of <u>change</u>	<p>The author uses the phrase 'stream of change' to describe how changes in modern society are continuous / come one after the other. <i>overwhelming = BOD</i></p>
E) discomfoting	<p>The author uses the word 'discomfoting' to describe how modern life makes one feel uneasy.</p>
F) disorienting	<p>The author uses the word 'disorienting' to describe how modern life confuses one.</p>

- Any 2 ways correctly identified AND explained for 2 marks
- Word / complete phrases MUST be identified & put in quotation marks for credit

4) According to the author, what are the characteristics of a 'simpler, slower way of life' (line 24)? (2m)

From the passage	Paraphrased
humble possessions are skillfully handmade and sold...	A) It is when modest / simple personal belongings are intricately / masterfully / deftly / very well created by craftsmen... <i>humble ≠ basic</i> <i>BOD: ordinary, everyday, day-to-day items</i> <i>skillfully ≠ professionally made</i>
and where the traditional arts of craftsmen are also elevated...	B) where the long-established arts of the craftsmen have their status raised / are celebrated / promoted ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: craftsmen's work receives acknowledgement • BOD: original arts / old / cultural (= beliefs and behaviours of a particular group of people)
symbolising the allure of a stable and unchanging unique, local identity.	C) that signify the attraction of a steady / constant, and special local identity. <i>Allow lift of 'craftsmen' and 'local identity'</i> <i>stable = lasting / fixed = BOD</i> <i>1-2 points = 1 mark</i> <i>3 points = 2 marks</i>

5) In paragraph 4, what contrast does the author make in the use of nostalgia in politics in the United States? (2m)

From the passage	Inference
In his presidential acceptance speech in 2008, Barack Obama, the first black president of the United States, popularised the political slogan 'Yes we can!' to unite a disenfranchised and divided country to embrace the possibilities of the future, by drawing on the collective strength of the nation <u>in battling slavery, overcoming the Great Depression and emerging triumphant in World War Two.</u>	Strategy: A1) Obama uses nostalgia by focusing on the victories of the nation in overcoming challenges in history / nation's historic victories ... Outcome: A2) to bring together a polarised country / disillusioned / marginalised citizens. <i>Accept if context is missing</i> A3) [key idea: look to future] to welcome a hopeful future / to move forward as a country.

Yet nostalgia, while having the potency to unite the masses with a shared history, could equally **fracture** a nation – by uniting those who **yearn for a return to a better imagined past while unfairly blaming parties today for destroying that same past.** Said Donald Trump in his 2020 pre-Independence Day rally, **'Our nation is witnessing a merciless campaign by the Democrats to wipe out our history, defame our heroes, erase our values, and indoctrinate our children.'**

Strategy:

B1) However in Trump's case, nostalgia is used to refer to an **idealised past...**

Outcome:

B2) to **break up society / by accusing those who have caused the demise of a more desirable past.**

- *Accept if given answer only mentions 'unfairly blaming / accusing others' (underlined part) without the outcome of breaking up society.*
- *Accept if 'accuse' context is missing*

B3) [key idea: stay in past] as an excuse to **wallow in / remain in / want to go back to** the past (that has been **unfairly glorified / blindly glamorised**).

1 mark for 1 correctly identified and paraphrased pair of contrast

A1 + B1 = 1m

A2 + B2 = 1m

A3 + B3 = 1m

6) How does the final sentence in paragraph 5 provide an effective ending to the author's argument? (1m)

From the passage	Suggested Answer
How else are we able to resist looking back and replaying memories that have come to define and contribute to who we are?	<p>A1) Function: The author uses a rhetorical question to reinforce how / emphasise his view of how...</p> <p>A2) Contextual explanation: fundamental / significant / natural reminiscing about the past is.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A2) everyone thinks about their past which decides / adds to their self-identity / sense of self.</p>
	<p>B1) Function: The author uses 'we' to make the reader feel included / for the purpose of inclusivity...</p> <p>B2) Contextual Explanation: pertaining to how nostalgia is a shared concern / to highlight how reminiscing about the past is universal.</p>

Summary

7) Summarise the reasons why nostalgia can be **harmful**. Write your summary in no more than 120 words. [8]

Main Idea		From Passage	Suggested Paraphrase
Romanticise	A	it can also ensnare us when it distorts the past into something idealised . OR Nations may romanticise historical narratives (line 14)	Nostalgia can... trap us by turning / transforming / manipulating the past into something unrealistic (inferred) / cause us to see the past through rose-tinted glasses
Overlook austerity	B	they overlook the austerity that came along with it.	... they ignore the severity / sombre / harsh conditions that accompanied it.
Distorts perception of reality	C	distorts one's perception of <u>reality</u> and	... warps / misrepresent / manipulate one's view of what is real <i>distorts ≠ changes (lacks intensity, imprecise)</i> <i>distorts MUST be paraphrased</i>
Disaffection	D	cultivate disaffection with the present.	and fosters dissatisfaction with the present.
Always yearning for the past	E	Individuals may become trapped in a cycle of longing for a time gone by .	People may find themselves caught in a loop / pattern of yearning for the past .

No innovation	F	[It can also lead to a sense of stagnation] where individuals may resist innovation as they fear venturing beyond the familiar .	People might avoid / refuse improving / making creative changes because they are afraid of leaving the comfort of what they know .
No personal growth	G	It can also lead to a sense of stagnation OR ...reluctance to adapt stifles personal development and prevent individuals from seizing new opportunities for fulfilment.	This can become inertia / failure to advance OR and hinders personal growth and stop people from embracing new chances for satisfaction
Toxic	H	nostalgia is like a toxic cloud that poisons the unknowing masses .	Nostalgia insidiously harms / corrupts unsuspecting / ignorant groups / those who do not know better
Cultural Superiority	I	nostalgia can fuel myths of cultural superiority .	can drive unfounded stories / narratives of cultural dominance / ethnocentrism
Downplaying evil	J	glossing over darker chapters of their history	downplaying the bleak / sinister / ominous parts of their history <i>glossing over ≠ negates</i> <i>Must show intensity for 'darker chapters'</i>
Sabotage reconciliation	K	This can sow the seeds of discord by undermining efforts toward reconciliation with other countries.	create conflict / disharmony by sabotaging attempts at finding agreement / compromise / settlement with other nations <i>reconciliation ≠ reuniting</i> <i>Both parts needed for K</i>
Hinder cohesion through rigidity	L	nationalist nostalgia can hinder cohesion by promoting a rigid adherence to traditional norms . OR Societies may resist inclusivity and cling on to outdated beliefs and practices (line 17-18)	impede unity by encouraging the strict following of long-established / time-honoured practices OR holding on to irrelevant ideologies / mindset and rites / routines / behaviours that...
Populist agendas	M	Nationalist nostalgia can be manipulated for political gain, serving as a tool to rally support around populist agendas ...	pander to the masses at the expense of societal good (inferred) / demagoguery

Reduce inclusivity	N	Societies may resist inclusivity [...] while perpetuating injustices . OR Politicians may exploit nostalgic sentiments to scapegoat marginalised groups .	Societies might refuse / repel / turn down being accepting / non-discriminatory , and continue to create inequality / unfairness . OR Leaders may take advantage of nostalgic feelings to blame the disadvantaged / disenfranchised .
Encourage authoritarianism	O	This exploitation can erode social cohesion, creating fertile ground for authoritarianism to flourish providing a breeding ground for dictators / tyrants / autocrats to thrive .

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

NITS

8) Passage 1 states that 'nostalgia can be canned and sold' (line 22).

Identify **one** specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer. (2m)

there is strong preference for expensive and exquisite limited local handmade folk crafts to the cheap homogeneity of factory-made goods... (lines 6-7)	<p>Identify</p> <p>A1. There is a powerful / significant / marked inclination towards pricey and finely crafted local handmade folk art...</p> <p>Justify</p> <p>A2. which supports Passage 1's idea that nostalgia can be packaged and marketed as <i>there is a demand / appreciation for / people find meaning in quality products / because people are <u>tired of</u> poorly made / mass-produced things</i>.</p>
<p><u>Our district's mystical charm</u> evokes a sense of wonder for many visitors, drawing them in with the promise of being swept away to Japan's past (lines 2-4)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>By incorporating handcrafted traditional decor... (line 8)</p>	<p>Identify [inferred]</p> <p>B1. The historic area / Businesses create a nostalgic ambience that reminds visitors of the olden days...</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The antiquated / pleasantly old-fashioned shop furnishings that surround visitors...</p> <p>Justify</p>

	<p>B2. supports Passage 1's idea that nostalgia can be <u>packaged and marketed</u> because <i>an environment is created to compel people to make purchases.</i></p>
<p>and offering generations-old snacks that visitors can bring back home to their loved ones... (lines 7-9)</p>	<p>Identify</p> <p>C1. Nostalgic goods can be presented as gifts / souvenirs when we return to the people that we care for...</p> <p>Justify</p> <p>C2. supports Passage 1's idea that nostalgia can be <u>packaged and marketed</u> as <i>the souvenirs can be recognised as having value that visitors want to share with loved ones / is easily appreciated by their receivers / as others at home can also appreciate the heritage through the gifts.</i></p>
<p>Traditional costume rentals and historic reenactments further amplify this effect... (lines 10-11)</p>	<p>Identify</p> <p>D1. Customary wear / apparel can be hired by visitors and tourists, along with watching historic performances...</p> <p>Justify</p> <p>D2. supports Passage 1's idea that nostalgia can be <u>packaged and marketed</u> because <i>people desire to relive the past / want the nostalgic experience, which can be achieved in the form of renting customary wear.</i></p>

9) Passage 2 states that nostalgia can 'erode social cohesion' (line 21).

Identify **one** specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to undermine this statement. Justify your answer. (2m)

<p>...consistently attracting large crowds and fostering a sense of strong, albeit transient, community. (lines 11-12)</p>	<p>Identify</p> <p>A1. Nostalgia can bring together a big group of people and cultivate a spirit of camaraderie...</p> <p>Justify</p> <p>A2. which undermines Passage 2's idea that it deteriorates group solidarity / unity as <i>nostalgia has the appeal to bring like-minded people together / nostalgia is the common factor that draws diverse groups of people together</i></p>
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<p>Additionally, the heritage district's nostalgic appeal has increased collaboration among my fellow local businesses. (lines 13-14)</p>	<p>Identify B1. Nostalgia has resulted in more local businesses working together...</p> <p>Justify B2. which undermines Passage 2's idea that it deteriorates group solidarity / unity as <i>it is instead used to bring what might otherwise be business rivals together / <u>turn</u> business rivals into business partners.</i></p>
<p>'We've formed alliances to preserve the area's historical integrity while promoting each other's offerings.' (lines 14-15)</p>	<p>Identify C1. Nostalgia has led to the creation of partnerships to maintain the area's historical authenticity while supporting one another's business...</p> <p>Justify C2. which undermines Passage 2's idea that it deteriorates group solidarity / unity as <i>it is instead used to bring what might otherwise be business rivals to work together / it encourages business cooperation instead of rivalry / it enables businesses to cooperate to save their heritage.</i></p>

Application Question

10) The author presents arguments about the impact of nostalgia on our world today. How far do you agree that a longing for the past is more beneficial than harmful?

Support your answer with reference to:

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

