



TEMASEK JUNIOR COLLEGE
2024 JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Higher 1



TEMASEK
JUNIOR COLLEGE

GENERAL PAPER

Paper 1

8881/01

20 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 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.

[Turn over

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 Assess the view that technology has ruined the arts industry.
- 2 'What we eat defines us.' Discuss.
- 3 How far is an overseas education a necessity for young people in your society?
- 4 Given the space constraints, do parks and green spaces still have a place in cities?
- 5 Examine the view that discussing politics on social media is a waste of time.
- 6 To what extent are athletes today competing on a level playing field?
- 7 'Protests are the only way to be heard today.' Do you agree?
- 8 Is idling necessarily a bad thing in your society?

Passage 1. *An author writes about the art of dependence.*

- 1 From a child's earliest age, independence has always been extolled as a virtue and proof of maturity. I celebrated my daughter when she was young for picking out her books and learning to make her own choices. When she was twelve, I cheered her for overcoming her fears and taking herself home from school on the train. Certainly, some independence is worth honouring, but other strains are not as positive. For instance, being required to be 'independent' when we are ill and without adequate health insurance coverage is not to be recommended. And going into debt for simply covering the cost of our own or our children's college education is far from salutary. 5
- 2 The notion that we must do without support is so ingrained in our nation's culture that we often force ourselves to slog through these – and other crucial human experiences – in solitude. And when we do get assistance, we may feel we must play down the help we receive from our government, our families or our neighbours. We see even asking for help as something to avoid at all costs, contributing to the rising suicide rates of older men in this country who are some of the least likely to ask for psychological assistance. We are regularly told by self-help manuals that we need to look only to ourselves to achieve mental well-being, even though that state inevitably – and biologically – requires social connection. 10 15
- 3 It is time to value another facet of life: the power and skill of being dependent. I call it the art of dependence. This entails accepting aid with grace and, crucially, recognising the importance of others. It takes dignity and skill to lean on friends, loved ones and colleagues – and even on the state. Resourcefulness is required for collaboration. We sometimes work hard to get what we demand; to secure aid from social services often requires what is known as the administrative burden – the effort, knowledge and sheer time it takes for citizens to obtain benefits. In a society that pathologises dependence – even as every human being is born into it – being vulnerable takes courage. 20 25
- 4 Indeed, needing support, be it physical or mental, or even making your way through complex forms to get unemployment money or student financial aid, is part of engaging with society. Asking for help and working with others demands patience, humility and organisation in some cases, and social skills in others. It takes craft and skill to feed a family of five on minuscule monthly food benefits, or navigate street crossings in a wheelchair. Many of us may imagine we are the masters of our own lives, but we too are not exempt from dependency. If we are privileged, we rely on tax breaks, health insurance, colleagues and social connections. Part of acknowledging the art of dependence means we release people from shame about their need for others, and expose the lie of being self-made that is propagated publicly by the wealthiest people. 30 35
- 5 Everyone is dependent on the support of others, and coming to accept and appreciate that should help us to identify with those who are more obviously dependent. We can start by rewriting our narratives about achievement and attainment. We can each question how we, both publicly and privately, tend to attribute our successes to our abilities alone. The original etymology of the word 'dependence' from both Old French and Medieval Latin is 'hanging from' another. Learning this helped me appreciate the value of dependence even more because it is, if we think of it, a form of connection and social cohesion. It brings us closer to others, which at this moment in the world might be the thing we need most. 40

Passage 2. An author extols the benefits of being independent.

- 1 Recognising the necessity of assistance is a universal aspect of the human experience. Certainly, it is not wrong to need help, but doing it alone builds resilience, critical for navigating the complexities of life. Much like a seasoned captain keeping the ship and the crew safe, being independent not only protects oneself, but also others. People turn to us as a beneficial resource and a reliable source of assistance. Instead of being millstones around others' necks, we lighten their load. 5
- 2 Granted the government and families have a role to play in supporting society, but fighting our own battles helps us realise our strengths as individuals so that we can strive to nurture those strengths. While our flaws do not disappear, we now know that the innumerable cracks that thread their way through us are a part of our core personality. Through these personal struggles, we build trust in ourselves, cultivating a more positive outlook on life in general. 10
- 3 Relying more on ourselves also increases the likelihood of things getting done. While it may seem daunting initially, exercising our independence is akin to working on a muscle over time to strengthen it. Independence soon becomes a way of life rather than a habit. We are able to freely act, move, and operate as we see fit, and are not held back by our current circumstances. We are no longer inhibited and are free to meet new people and try new things. Perhaps we were once prevented from ever discovering passions that could have enriched our lives, but being independent opens the door for us to leave family and friends (at least for a while) to search for ourselves. 15
20
- 4 Lastly, being emotionally independent allows us to make personal decisions without necessarily dragging other people into them. A continual need for support and reassurance breeds feelings of resentment, frustration, and eventual burnout in the other party, placing a significant strain on a relationship. Without this dependence, we also shield ourselves from disappointment from having unnecessary expectations of others. 25

Passage 3. *An author writes about her move towards independence.*

- 1 After I moved to London from Karachi to go to university, I decided to try something different: I decided to go to the Imperial War Museum alone and very excitedly termed it a 'date with myself'. After growing up in a traditional family in which I was rarely ever alone even in the house, much less outside of it, my day at the museum felt quite the adventure. Being on my own in the sea of strangers, the silence seemed deafening. I kept thinking of the awkwardness of being alone, but slowly the discomfort began to ease. I had a list of specific activities I wanted to try in London – and after that first time when I went out alone without having to fit in with anyone else's schedule, or coordinate plans, something just clicked. I did not have to find someone to do things with; I just did them myself. 5
- 2 When I moved back to Pakistan, I found that what I had learned in London had changed my approach for good. Going out alone for leisure in Pakistan is not common, so I was definitely more conscious taking that step here. The occasional questioning glance could get disconcerting, but oddly, also rather thrilling. I'd always struggled with confidence, but time with myself has changed the way I see myself. I admired myself a lot more because most of all, I stopped relying on other people to make plans – and as a woman in Pakistan, that's no small thing. 10 15

PAPER 2

For
Examiner's
Use

Answer all questions.

Your answers should be:

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

From Passage 1

1 Explain the use of the phrase 'extolled as a virtue' in line 1.

.....

.....

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..... [2]

2 How do the examples in lines 5–8 convey the author's view that independence is not always positive?

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.....

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..... [2]

3 From paragraph 2, what are **three** consequences the author sees arising from the ingrained cultural belief that 'we must do without support' (line 9)?

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.....

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..... [3]

4 What does the word 'pathologises' (line 24) suggest about society's perception of being dependent?

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

5 What does the phrase 'expose the lie of being self-made' (line 35) suggest about the wealthiest people?

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

6 Identify **one** way in which the final sentence provides an effective conclusion to the passage.

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

From all the passages

8 Passage 1 states that 'to achieve mental well-being ... requires social connection' (lines 15–17).

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

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

9 Passage 2 states that with independence, we 'are not held back by our current circumstances' (lines 16–17).

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

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

For
Examiner's
Use

A large rectangular area of the page is filled with horizontal dotted lines, providing a space for handwritten notes or answers.

**2024 JC2 Preliminary Examination
GENERAL PAPER
Paper 2 Suggested Answers**

From Passage 1

1. Explain the use of the phrase 'extolled as a virtue' in line 1. [2]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From a child's earliest age, independence has always been extolled as a virtue and proof of maturity. (l. 1–2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The phrase means that independence is highly praised/ lauded/ exalted/ hailed [1] as a moral/ethical value worth inculcating. [1] <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the 1st point, students need to capture the extent of praise. For the 2nd point, do not accept answers based on traits/ characteristics that do not capture the context of morality or ethics.

2. How do the examples in lines 5–8 convey the author's view that independence is not always positive? [2]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...being required to be 'independent' when we are ill and without adequate health insurance coverage is not to be recommended. (l. 5–7) And going into debt for simply covering the cost of our own or our children's college education is far from salutary. (l. 7–8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence is not always positive because one could end up having to bear high medical costs/ be unable to afford high medical costs when one is unwell and without a medical protection plan to rely on. [1] Another example that highlights that independence is not always positive is facing financial burdens just to pay for one's own/ family's academic pursuits. [1] <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be some reference to being unable/ having no means to be independent which causes some problem. Answers that simply state that certain actions are not commendable, without highlighting a clear problem will not be credited.

	<p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The examples highlight how trying to be independent when one is unable to/ has no means to is not always positive [1] • because it leads to even more dire/ serious consequences/ problems. [1]
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3. From paragraph 2, what are three consequences the author sees arising from the ingrained cultural belief that 'we must do without support' (line 9)? [3]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ...we often force ourselves to slog through these – and other crucial human experiences – in solitude. (l. 9–11) • ...when we do get assistance, we may feel we must play down the help we receive from our government, our families or our neighbours (l. 11–12) • we see even asking for help as something to avoid at all costs, contributing to the rising suicide rates of older men in this country who are some of the least likely to ask for psychological assistance. (l. 12–14) • We are regularly told by self-help manuals that we need to look only to ourselves to achieve mental well-being, even though that ... requires social connection. (l. 14–17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [A] People push themselves/ struggle to face life's fundamental challenges/ significant milestones alone. [1] <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three parts need to be captured for the answer. • [B] People feel obliged to make light of/ dismiss the help received from others// People try not to appear too/ overly reliant/ dependent on others for help. [1] • [C] People are so averse to/ entirely steer clear of seeking assistance/ refuse to ask for help even if it leads to grave/ lethal consequences. [1] <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensity needs to be captured for both parts of the answer. • [D] We are not able to interact/ bond/ engage with others which is important/ needed for our psychological/ emotional health. [1] <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both parts need to be captured for the answer. <p>(Any 3 points)</p>

4. What does the word 'pathologises' (line 24) suggest about society's perception of being dependent? [1]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a society that pathologises dependence – even as every human being is born into it – being vulnerable takes courage (l. 24–25). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It suggests that society views being dependent as a psychological/ medical problem/ an illness// something abnormal/ unnatural. <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students need to capture the correct context/ intensity.

5. What does the phrase 'expose the lie of being self-made' (line 35) suggest about the wealthiest people? [2]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of acknowledging the art of dependence means we release people from shame about their need for others, and expose the lie of being self-made that is propagated publicly by the wealthiest people (l. 33–35). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It suggests that the wealthiest people are being dishonest in hiding the fact that // are embarrassed to admit that [1] they are wealthy not completely owing to their own abilities/ they are wealthy because they have received some help from others [1]

6. Identify one way in which the final sentence provides an effective conclusion to the passage. [1]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It brings us closer to others, which at this moment in the world might be the thing we need most (l. 43–44). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It serves as a call to action (function) for people to foster bonds with others/ to rely/ be more dependent on others (context). OR It reiterates the author's main argument (function) on the value of developing bonds /relying on others (context). OR The use of the pronouns 'we'/'us' serves to include the readers/ draw the readers into the issue (function) so they can appreciate the value of relying and bonding with others (context). [1] <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers should include both function and context.

From Passage 2

7. Summarise what the author has to say about the benefits of being independent.

Write your summary in no more than 120 words. [8]

From the passage		Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... doing it alone builds resilience, critical for navigating the complexities of life. (l. 2–3). 	A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being independent develops tenacity/ grit/ strength/ toughness/ perseverance which are crucial/ vital/ key/ important in coping with life's challenges// charting through obstacles/ difficulties in life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... being independent not only protects oneself, but also others. (l. 4). 	A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being independent keeps ourselves and others away from harm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People turn to us as a beneficial resource and a reliable source of assistance. (l. 4–5). 	A3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are viewed as dependable/ helpful/ someone that can be counted on.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instead of being millstones around others' necks, we lighten their load. (l. 5–6). 	A4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We also ease their burden/ responsibilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... helps us realise our strengths as individuals so that we can strive to nurture those strengths. (l. 7–9) 	B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being independent allows us to be fully aware/ cognisant of our abilities/ capabilities/ positive traits [CAUSE] to cultivate/ develop them further. [EFFECT]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While our flaws do not disappear, we now know that the innumerable cracks that thread their way through us are a part of our core personality. (l. 9–10) 	B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We also discover our weaknesses that define us/ show us who we are/ reflects our identity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... we build trust in ourselves, cultivating a more positive outlook on life in general. (l. 10–12) 	B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence fosters self-confidence/ self-assurance [CAUSE] which helps us view life more optimistically/ develop a brighter perspective of life. [EFFECT]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relying more on ourselves also increases the likelihood of things getting done. (l. 13) 	C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With independence, there is a higher chance of us achieving our goals / completing our tasks. // improves our productivity/ efficiency.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are able to freely act, move, and operate as we see fit, and are not held back by our current circumstances. (l. 16–17) We are no longer inhibited... (l. 17) 	C2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can exercise agency/ carry out our plans/ decide what to do/ behave without restrictions/ limitations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...and free to meet new people and try new things. (l. 17–18) 	C3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We encounter fresh/refreshing experiences// make fresh acquaintances and attempt novel things.

From the passage		Suggested rephrase	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perhaps we were once prevented from ever discovering passions that could have enriched our lives.. (l. 18–19) 	C4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (inferred) We could pursue interests that could enhance our lives. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... being independent opens the door for us to leave family and friends (at least for a while) to search for ourselves. (l. 19–20) 	C5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being independent allows us to be away/ live apart from family and friends/ close ones/ community [CAUSE] to find ourselves / rediscover our identities. [EFFECT] 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lastly, being emotionally independent allows us to make personal decisions without necessarily dragging other people into them. (l. 21–22) 	D1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being psychologically independent [CONTEXT] allows us to make our own choices without burdening others/ holding others back /bringing others down. [EFFECT] 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A continual need for support and reassurance... placing a significant strain on a relationship. (l. 22–24) 	D2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (inferred) Independence helps avoid putting excessive pressure on our ties with others// prevents our connections with others from being damaged. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We also shield ourselves from disappointment from having unnecessary expectations of others. (l. 24–25) 	D3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We also avoid being unduly let down by others. 	

Total no. of points = 15

Mark scheme

1–2 points	1 mark	6 points	4 marks	9 points	7 marks
3–4 points	2 marks	7 points	5 marks	≥ 10 points	8 marks
5 points	3 marks	8 points	6 marks		

From All Passages

8. Passage 1 states that ‘to achieve mental well-being...requires social connection’ (lines 15 – 17).

Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to undermine this statement. Justify your answer. [2]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'd always struggled with confidence, but time with myself has changed the way I see myself. I admired myself a lot more because most of all, I stopped relying on other people to make plans... (l. 13–15) 	<p><u>Paraphrasing of idea</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The idea from lines 13–15 is that doing things independently resulted in the author developing higher self-

<p><i>Contrasting concepts:</i> <u>Requiring social connections for emotional health</u> vs <u>Not requiring social connections for emotional health</u></p>	<p>esteem/ more faith/ trust in herself. [1]</p> <p><u>Justification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This undermines the statement as the idea shows that one does not necessarily need to depend on relationships with others to improve one's emotional state, but instead counting on oneself could foster a healthier state of mind/ make one feel good about one's own abilities. [1] <p>NOTE: students should unpack 'social connection' in the justification, and not just lift the term.</p>
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Comments:

- Students generally have no problems identifying and paraphrasing the idea. However, students still struggled in providing the justification and ended up repeating the paraphrased answers.
- Some students made no attempt to signpost or show the contrasting concepts.

9. Passage 2 states that with independence, we 'are not held back by our current circumstances'. (lines 16 – 17).

Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer. [2]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After growing up in a traditional family in which I was rarely ever alone even in the house, much less outside of it, my day at the museum felt quite the adventure. (l. 3–4) I stopped relying on other people to make plans – and as a woman in Pakistan, that's no small thing. (l. 15–16) 'Going out alone for leisure in Pakistan is not common, so I was 	<p><u>Paraphrasing of idea</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The idea from lines 3–4 is that the author gets to experience doing things alone even if it is not a common practice in her <u>conservative family</u>. OR The idea from lines 15–16 is that the author no longer needs to depend on others to get anything done, regardless of <u>gender stereotypes/ cultural expectations of women/ social conventions of being a woman</u>. OR The idea from lines 11–12 is that independence allows the author to experience going out alone although

<p>definitely more conscious taking that step here [London]' (l. 11–12)</p> <p><i>Common concept: Being held back by (external) circumstances</i></p> <p>NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Do not accept 'I went out alone without having to fit in with anyone else's schedule' because there is no reference to external circumstances holding her back (ie: family/ social contexts)</i> 	<p>it's not a <u>typical practice / social norm back in her homeland.</u></p> <p><u>Justification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This supports the statement because it illustrates how being independent allows us to not be hindered by customs and expectations of others, and <u>are now free to do things as we desire/ we can to choose to lead our lives as we wish.</u> [1]
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10. The reading passages cover a range of views about dependence and independence.

To what extent is independence valued?

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 [12]

A range of views on dependence and independence:

From Passage 1 (value of dependence)

- Dependence allows people to manage difficult circumstances and avoid dire consequences.
- Dependence is a form of connection and social cohesion.

From Passage 2 (value of independence)

- Doing it alone builds resilience and adaptability.
- Relying more on ourselves also increases the likelihood of things getting done.
- Being independent means we are not held back by our current circumstances, allowing for new experiences.
- Being emotionally independent allows us to make our personal decisions without necessarily dragging other people into them.
- Being independent shield ourselves from disappointment from having unnecessary expectations of others.

From Passage 3 (move towards independence)

- Being independent means not needing to fit in with anyone else's schedule or coordinate plans.
- Being independent builds confidence.

