



NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 Preliminary Examination 2018

GENERAL PAPER

8807/1

PAPER 1

29 August 2018

TIME 1 hour 30 minutes

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 on both sides of the paper.

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

Answer **one** question.

Note that **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.

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. 'It is more important for political leaders to be feared than to be popular.' Do you agree?
2. 'Bad art does not exist.' What do you think?
3. 'The responsibility of looking after one's health belongs to the individual, not the government.' Discuss with reference to your society.
4. Is there any point in fighting terrorism when there has been limited success?
5. 'We are more connected than ever and yet we are feeling more alone.' Discuss.
6. Can the use of genetic modification in human reproduction be justified?
7. 'Increasing access to education will lead to greater social equality.' Do you agree?
8. How beneficial are fairy tales to children?
9. How far are the conflicts over natural resources a threat to world peace?
10. 'It is harder than ever to separate fact from fiction in the media today.' What is your view?
11. 'Nostalgia has no place in the world today.' Do you agree?
12. 'Wealth is a good measure of success of a nation.' Discuss this with reference to your society?



NANYANG JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018

Candidate Name: _____ Class: _____ GP Tutor: _____

GENERAL PAPER

PAPER 2:

8807/2

Wednesday 29 August 2018

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.
No Additional materials are required.

ANSWER BOOKLET

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 in the spaces provided on the Question Paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.
The insert contains the passage for 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	
SAQ	/17
Summary	/8
AQ	/10
Language	/15
TOTAL	/50

This document consists of 7 printed pages.

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. How does the author illustrate his opinion in lines 10 to 11 that weddings today appear to be mostly 'a frivolous display of pomp and vanity'?

[1]

2. Suggest how traditional marriage could be undermined by blasé attitudes to (a) 'premarital sex', (b) 'cohabitation', (c) 'divorce', and (d) 'the legalisation of gay marriage'. (lines 15-16). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[3]

3. Why has the author written 'maids' and 'lads' in inverted commas in line 19?

[1]

4. What is the author's purpose in describing mid-20th century marriage as being like 'a steamroller that crushed every alternative view' in lines 22 to 23? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

5. What are three differences in the ways people view marriage today, as suggested by the author in paragraph 4, and the marriage-mad era in the past in paragraph 3? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[3]

6. Why does the author use the word 'wrenched' in line 43? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

7. In line 59, explain the author's use of the word 'even'. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

8. Explain how 'women becoming economically self-sufficient' in line 63 might be related to divorce becoming more common. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

9. In paragraph 8, what are the reasons for the author's optimism regarding marriage? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[3]

10. What similarity does the author see in the 'marrying classes of the West' in line 91 to 92 and 'the dutiful ones found in poorer countries' in lines 92 to 93? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

Joel Budd writes about the state of marriage as an institution today.

1	<p>“THIS IS SO exciting!” trills a young woman, squeezing her friend’s arm. Laid out before her, in the Olympia exhibition centre in west London, is the National Wedding Show. Some 300 merchants have turned up to sell everything that is needed to throw a wedding, and a great many things besides. There are ice-sculptors, harpists, a fireworks firm, teeth-whiteners, tiara-sellers, and more than a dozen photographers. A new company, Hitch and Pooch, arranges for people’s dogs to play a role in their weddings—as ring-bearers, say. Every two hours a blast of music announces a catwalk show consisting entirely of wedding dresses and grooms’ suits. Women, mostly, browse arm-in-arm with their best friends and female relatives, abuzz with delight at all the sumptuous choices to be made. Weddings today appear to be mostly a frivolous display of pomp and vanity</p>	5 10
2	<p>Despite the spectacle and extravagance (hordes of doves released to the sky upon the entrance of the couple), marriage is often said to be ailing. It is “fashionably dismissed” and “taken for granted”. Social conservatives argue that a once-great institution has been undermined by ever more blasé attitudes to premarital sex, cohabitation and divorce—and, in the past few years, by the legalisation of gay marriage.</p>	15
3	<p>In some ways the worriers are right. For hundreds of years marriage was an essential step on the road to full adulthood in Western countries. In pre-industrial England, no matter how old, all single women were “maids”, and all single men were “lads”. Marriage was revered as the crucial bond holding together the household, which was, in turn, the foundation of society. By the mid-20th century marriage was almost unavoidable. The idea that people ought to wed and then form a household with a primary male breadwinner was like a steamroller that crushed every alternative view. Offspring were to be had strictly within wedlock. People tied the knot at ever younger ages: in the 1950s and 1960s the average American bride was too young to consume alcohol at her own wedding. Europe was almost as marriage-mad. As late as 1972, 87% of French women aged between 30 and 34 were married.</p>	20 25
4	<p>However, there is a marked difference these days. Just 43% of French women in their early 30s are married. That is part of a broad retreat. In countries like Argentina, fewer and fewer couples are tying the knot. According to some estimates, marriage rates are down 60 per cent since 1990. The decline of marriage has turned wedding invitations into a scarce commodity — and while they might not want to marry, many Argentinians still want to go to the party, leading to the rise of ‘falsa bodas’; wedding-themed parties where the wedding cake is real but the bride and groom are not. The entire wedding entourage is made up of actors, and somebody almost always gets jilted at the altar. In many other countries marriage has become unmoored from parenthood. In 2015, two-fifths of all American babies were born to unwed mothers. In France the proportion is 59%; in Colombia it is 84%. Just 21% of Britons now agree that people who want children should get married, half the share in 1989.</p>	30 35 40
5	<p>Marriage is being transformed almost everywhere, and in many of the same ways. From west London to Chinese villages to Indian slums, three great changes are afoot. The first is that marriage decisions are being wrenched out of the hands of parents and relatives and made by the young people themselves. The clearest sign of this is the almost universal rise in the average age of marriage. Even though there is still a large gap between Norway, where women marry at an average age of 32, and Bangladesh, where they wed at 19, there is also a crucial difference between marrying at 19 and at 16, which was the average for Bangladesh in 1974.</p>	45
6	<p>The second change is the emphasis on conjugal love. For much of Western history romantic love was held not only to be unnecessary for a strong marriage but antithetical</p>	50

	to it. However, today, love is triumphant. The merchants at the National Wedding Show invariably report that every couple insists on their wedding being romantic and special. “You don’t have to get married these days,” explains Anna Muckart, who makes charming wedding invitations. And because weddings are no longer obligatory, they must be extraordinary. Marriage has changed from being a rite of passage to a celebration of love and commitment—a sign that two people who already live together are ready to commit themselves further. Asian brides and grooms often disagree, arguing that marriage should be entered with a cool head and that weddings join families, not just couples. But even they now stress what they call “compatibility”.	55 60
7	When love is the basis for marriage, it follows that a marriage without love should be put asunder. The third great global change is the growing acceptance of divorce. It is now more common in many countries, especially fast-modernising ones where women are becoming economically self-sufficient. These days China and South Korea have divorce rates above the European and OECD averages. Churches and governments have often tried to resist these changes. Usually they have been humiliated. In America, even government-funded studies conclude that federal programmes aimed at strengthening marriage have almost no effect. Attempting to preserve unions by making divorce more difficult might just lead to fewer marriages. In Chile divorce was almost impossible until 2004 and is still not easy. Probably not coincidentally, Chile has the highest proportion of births outside marriage among the 35 members of the OECD ¹ .	65 70
8	Almost everywhere marriage is becoming less obligatory, less coercive and less dutiful. But even though duty and obligation are no longer reasons to get and stay married, marriage does not appear to have lost appeal or binding power. A recent survey of young Britons found that 93% of them aspire to marry. Even in countries where divorce is socially acceptable, people still believe that marriage is a special bond, not to be made or broken lightly. Study after study testifies that married people are healthier, wealthier and happier than unmarried ones. It is hard to tell how much of this is because they are married and how much is a selection effect—happy, healthy people in strong relationships being more likely to get married in the first place. But academics who have tried to control for those things still tend to find a marriage effect. Wedlock seems to increase human happiness even allowing for the fact that many marriages fall apart.	75 80
9	We may note that marriage seems more uncertain among the working classes. They are much less likely to marry than the middle and upper classes, and when they do, their unions are more liable to break down quickly. However, most working-class people still idealise marriage, just that they think of it as something to be undertaken at some point in the future. Enthusiasm and willingness regarding marriage is even more marked among those more fortunate, where the institution of marriage increasingly confers advantages on people who already have many. Affluent, highly educated men and women marry late and after careful consideration. Their marriages are highly successful—on average, almost certainly the happiest and most fulfilling that the world has ever seen. Among this privileged group, divorce is increasingly rare. The marrying classes of the West are building unions as resilient as the dutiful ones in poorer countries where old practices are still a part of life. The vows of ‘for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part’ have withstood the test of time regardless of strata or creed. The fact that pooches and tiaras are now an integral part of the wedding proceedings does not detract from its age-old sanctity. Or does it?	85 90 95

¹ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 35 member countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

NYJC J2 Prelim Exam 2018

Suggested Answer Scheme

- 1) How does the author illustrate his opinion that weddings today appear to be mostly “a frivolous display of pomp and vanity”? (line 10-11)? [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Some 300 merchants have turned up to sell everything that is needed to throw a wedding, and a great many things besides. There are ice-sculptors, harpists, a fireworks firm, teeth-whiteners, tiara-sellers, and more than a dozen photographers. A new company, Hitch and Pooch, arranges for people’s dogs to play a role in their weddings—as ring-bearers, say. Every two hours a blast of music announces a catwalk show consisting entirely of wedding dresses and grooms’ suits. ...</p>	<p>He <u>cites examples</u> of retailers that sell wedding services and merchandise which are non-essential to a wedding (frivolous) and which focus on showy forms of display. (pomp and vanity)</p>

2. Suggest how traditional marriage could be undermined by blasé attitudes toward (a) 'premarital sex', (b) 'cohabitation', (c)'divorce', and (d) the legalization of gay marriage. (lines 15-16). Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

From the text	Suggested Answer
	<p>Traditional marriage could be undermined because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) people no longer think it is a necessary pre-condition for sexual intimacy b) and living together. c) marital bonds/vows can be broken <u>easily/strength</u> of marital bond/vows have <u>declined</u>. d) People no longer adhere/follow the traditional structure of marriage. <p>(In every answer, it must be evident how the new changes can bring about the WEAKENING of the marriage institution)</p> <p>Award 0 marks if the answers are mere paraphrases of the new changes:</p> <p><i>ie:</i> Traditional marriage is undermined because now people have sex before marriage = 0m</p> <p>Traditional marriage is undermined because now gays can get married = 0m</p>

3. Why has the author written “maids” and “lads” in inverted commas (line 20)? [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
In some ways the worriers are right. For hundreds of years marriage was an essential step on the road to full adulthood in Western countries. In pre-industrial England, no matter how old, all single women were “maids”, and all single men were “lads”.	The “maids” and “lads” are not really young in age (function) but are referred to as young girls and boys because they are not married . (authors’ point)

4. What is the author’s purpose in describing mid-20th century marriage as being like ‘a steamroller that crushed every alternative view’ (lines 19-24-25)? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

From the text	Suggested Answer
By the mid-20th century marriage was almost unavoidable. The idea that people ought to wed and then form a household with a primary male breadwinner was like a steamroller that crushed every alternative view. Offspring were to be had strictly within wedlock. ...	a) He (any of the following) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creates an analogy we can all recognize and understand - is drawing a parallel/ showing the similarities - using a metaphor/figurative expression (purpose) b) to emphasise that just as a steamroller flattens everything in its path (literal), similarly the view on marriage’s importance was so powerful/dominant that it obliterated / decimated / destroyed all opposing views (figurative). Purpose + figurative (without literal) will get FULL MARKS

5. What are three differences in the ways people view marriage today, as suggested by the author in paragraph 4, and the marriage-mad era in the past, in paragraph 3? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

From the text	Suggested Answer
However, there is a marked difference these days. Just 43% of French women in their early 30s are married. That is part of a broad retreat. In countries like Argentina, fewer and fewer couples are tying the knot. According to some estimates, marriage rates are down 60 per cent since 1990, indicative of how marriage is now a matter of option. ... many Argentinians still want to go to the party, leading to the rise of ‘falsa bodas’; wedding-	a) Much fewer people get married today, showing marriage is seen as a choice whereas marriage was obligatory in the past <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (NO CONTRAST OF NUMBERS OF MARRIAGES as this alone does not suggest the way they view it) b) The rise of wedding-themed parties suggests a trivialized treatment of marriage whereas marriage was seen as the unifying force of the family, which was the basis of society, suggesting that marriage was seen to be sacrosanct, very important. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (attitude must be seen, cannot just paraphrase ‘unify family’ vs ‘have parties’)

<p>themed parties where the wedding cake is real but the bride and groom are not. ... In many other countries marriage has become unmoored from parenthood. ...</p>	<p>c) Parenthood is no longer anchored to marriage, suggesting that <i>marriage is no longer seen as a necessary criterion for parenthood today whereas in the past, parenthood had to be tied to marriage</i>/children could only be had within wedlock</p>
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6. Why does the author use the word 'wrenched' in line 43? Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>... From west London to Chinese villages to Indian slums, three great changes are afoot. The first is that marriage decisions are being wrenched out of the hands of parents and relatives and made by the young people themselves. . .</p>	<p>He wants to suggest that parents and family members do not relish/are not in favour of / not willing (interpretation of 'wrenched')</p> <p>to let go of the power to determine their offspring's marriages. (context)</p>

7. In line 59, explain the author's use of the word 'even'. Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>For much of Western history romantic love was held not only to be unnecessary for a strong marriage but antithetical to it. However, today, love is triumphant . . . And because weddings are no longer obligatory, they must be extraordinary. Marriage has changed from being a rite of passage to a celebration of love and commitment—a sign that two people who already live together are ready to commit themselves further. Asian brides and grooms often disagree, arguing that marriage should be entered with a cool head and that weddings join families, not just couples. But even they now stress what they call "compatibility".</p>	<p>a) Asian couples are seen to be more level-headed/ place less emphasis on romantic love/more emphasis on duty and less on individualism, hence are perceived to place less significance on notions of compatibility.</p> <p>b) The fact that they now do is a testament to how pervasive/influential/common the notion now is.</p> <p>2 points for 1 mark, no exceptions.</p>

8. Explain how 'women becoming economically self-sufficient' (line 64) might be related to divorce becoming more common. Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
	<p>When women are financially independent, they no longer need to depend on a man/husband for their own survival. Hence they need no longer tolerate a marital relationship that is not satisfying for them, resulting in the prevalence of divorce.</p>

	<p>Award 0 marks for answers that merely paraphrase the cause and the effect. <i>Eg: When women are able to be financially independent, more marriages will break up.</i></p>
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9. In paragraph 8, what are the reasons for the author’s optimism regarding marriage? Use your own words as far as possible. [3m]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>...marriage does not appear to have lost appeal or binding power. A recent survey of young Britons found that 93% of them aspire to marry.</p> <p>Even in countries where divorce is socially acceptable, people still believe that marriage is a special bond, not to be made or broken lightly.</p> <p>Study after study testifies that married people are healthier, wealthier and happier than unmarried ones. ... Wedlock seems to increase human happiness even allowing for the fact that many marriages fall apart.</p>	<p>The author gives evidence showing that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a majority of young Britons still want to get married. 2) Even when divorce is not frowned upon/common, people still believe marriage has an exceptional importance / highly significant. 3) Studies show that married people have better quality of life as compared to singles <p><i>Answers should give reasons for why the author feels marriage is still an appealing/strong/sustainable / beneficial institution (optimism regarding marriage)</i></p>

10. What similarity does the author see in the “marrying classes of the West” (line 95) and “the dutiful ones found in poorer countries”? (lines 95-96)? Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Enthusiasm and willingness regarding marriage is even more marked among those more fortunate, where the institution of marriage increasingly confers advantages on people who already have many. Affluent, highly educated men and women marry late and after careful consideration. Their marriages are highly successful—on average, almost certainly the happiest and most fulfilling that the world has ever seen. Among this privileged group, divorce is increasingly rare. <i>The marrying classes of the West</i> are building unions as resilient as the dutiful ones in poorer countries where old practices are still a part of life. The vows of ‘for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part’ have withstood the test of time regardless of strata or creed.</p>	<p>For both groups, marriages are strong and last a lifetime.</p> <p>(all the parts about the advantages, happiness, fulfilling-ness that the privileged, highly educated people feel are NOT part of the answers as it is not mentioned these apply to the dutiful people in poor countries. The only similarity they share is that their marriages are very lasting and rarely end in divorce)</p>

11. Summarise the ways in which marriage is being transformed throughout the world. 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.** [8]

Marriage is being transformed almost everywhere, as seen by ...

	From the Text	Suggested Answer
1	marriage decisions are being wrenched out of the hands of parents and relatives	...how a couple's elders no longer have the final say over whom they marry (accept lift for 'marriage', 'parents', 'relatives')
2	and made by the young people themselves.	This choice now lies with the couple themselves.
3	universal rise in the average age of marriage.	This has resulted in people getting married later worldwide
4	The second change is the emphasis on conjugal love.	Next, there is now a focus on romantic love / spousal love
5	For much of Western history romantic love, or "familiarity", was held not only to be unnecessary for a strong marriage	In the past, romantic feelings was not considered a criterion for a lasting union
6	but antithetical to it	And was even seen as detrimental to it.
7	However, today, love is triumphant.	But today romantic love is seen as all-important.
8	And because weddings are no longer obligatory, they must be extraordinary.	Because now weddings are not a matter of duty, they have to be spectacular/outstanding/exceptional.
9	Marriage has changed from being a rite of passage	Marriage is no longer an mandatory/requisite custom to adulthood
10	to a celebration of love	but is now a glorification/recognition of the couples' devotion / tenderness
11	and commitment	And responsibility toward each other
12	(in the past) ...arguing that marriage should be entered with a cool head	In the past, marriage was should be approached in a logical / levelheaded way
13	...and that weddings join families, not just couples	..and that it was a union of the couples' respective clans / households / involved all their kin Or it was seen to involve more familial duty (inferred)
14	But even they now stress what they call "compatibility".	But now the focus is on how suited the couple is for each other only. (difference with the past should be evident: joining families vs joining individuals)
15	When love is the basis for marriage, it follows that a marriage without love should be put asunder	When love is the foundation for matrimony, one bereft of love/affection ought to be broken / dissolved.

16	The third great global change is the growing acceptance of divorce.	The next worldwide transformation is the increasing normalization of divorce / how less and less people disapprove/frown upon divorce
17	It is now more common in many countries,	It is now increasingly prevalent in many countries / numbers have increased in many countries
18	especially fast-modernising ones where women are becoming economically self-sufficient.	Especially in countries with many financially independent women
19	Churches and governments have often tried to resist these changes.	Religious institutions and the authorities have tried to prevent this occurrence / shift / trend (accept lift of ' church' and 'government')
20	Usually they have been humiliated	But they have not succeeded in doing so. (0m for literal paraphrase of 'humiliate' – shame, embarrass, etc)
20	Attempting to preserve unions by making divorce more difficult might just lead to fewer marriages.	Any bid to make it tougher to dissolve one's marriage could lead to less people opting to get married (accept lift of 'marriage' and 'divorce')

Marks Scheme

1-2 pts=1m	3-4 pts =2m	5-6 pts =3m	7-8 pts =4m
9-10 pts =5m	11-12 pts =6m	13-14 pts =7m	15 pts and above = 8m

Application Question:

12. Joel Budd discusses the state of marriage today. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own society? [10]