



**VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE  
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018  
HIGHER 1**

**GENERAL PAPER**

**8807/01**

**Paper 1**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your C.T. group, index number and name on all the work you hand in.  
Write your question number in the left-hand margin of your foolscap paper.  
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.  
Do not use staples, paper clips, 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

Answer **one** question from this Paper.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. Has global interconnectedness made the world a better place?
2. How far does the state have the right to restrict the freedom of the individual?
3. 'Far too much attention is given to image in today's world.' Do you agree?
4. Is an ageing population necessarily a ticking time bomb?
5. 'Contrary to popular belief, artificial intelligence will not improve our lives.'  
What is your view?
6. 'For the majority of people, the Arts are a waste of time.' How true is this of your society?
7. Examine the claim that work and happiness do not mix.
8. Has the commercialisation of sport done more harm than good?
9. How effective are prisons in addressing the problem of crime?
10. Is there truth to the claim that inequality is the greatest threat to your society today?
11. 'Less is more.' Is this sound advice?
12. Assess the view that pop music today is frivolous.

Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Civics Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**Paper 2 (50 marks)**

Read the passages in the insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow. 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 passages 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 passages.

**From Passage 1**

1 In lines 5-6, what parallel does the author draw between the movie 'A Quiet Place' and certain fairy tales and fables? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[2]

2 **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain why the author claims that the problem of noise 'got exponentially worse' (lines 9-10).

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[2]

3 From lines 11-13, explain how and why people in the past thought noise affected 'thinkers' and 'stupid people' differently. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[2]

4 Explain the author's use of the word 'cocoon' in line 44. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[2]

5 In what two ways is the final sentence an effective conclusion to the author's argument?

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[2]



**From Passage 2**

7 In what ways are cities 'filthy' (line 1)? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[1]

8 What does the word 'deluge' (line 4) tell us about noise and what does the author think is its consequence? **Use your words as far as possible.**

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[2]

9 Explain why the author thinks that noise is 'ugly' (line 25).

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[1]

10 Why has the author placed brackets around the comment in lines 26-27?

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[2]

11 What contrast is found in the arguments put forth by critics and the author in lines 33-36? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[1]







VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE  
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018  
HIGHER 1

**GENERAL PAPER**

**8807/02**

**Paper 2**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your C.T. group, 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.

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.

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This document consists of 9 printed pages

[Turn over]

**Passage 1.** *Mathew Jordan writes about the war against noise.*

- 1 The new film “A Quiet Place” is an edge-of-your-seat tale about a family struggling to avoid being heard by monsters with hypersensitive ears. Conditioned by fear, they knew the slightest noise would provoke a violent response – and almost certain death. Audiences have come out in droves to dip their toes into its quiet terror, and they are loving it: the film has raked in over US\$100 million at the box office. Like fairy tales and fables that dramatise cultural phobias or anxieties, the movie may be resonating with audiences. For hundreds of years, Western culture has been fanatically at war with noise. 5
- 2 As long as people have lived in close quarters, they have been complaining about the noises other people make and yearning for quiet. But in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the problem got exponentially worse. During the Industrial Revolution, people swarmed to cities roaring with factory furnaces and shrieking with train whistles. The cacophony was seen as a torture for intellectual people, and thinkers argued that they needed quietness to do good work. Only stupid people, it seemed, could tolerate noise. 10
- 3 By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, governments all over the world were engaged in an endless war on noisy people and things. Anti-noise organisations sprang up around the globe in order to combat what the activists considered to be “one of the greatest banes of city life”. These groups, counting governors among their members, used their political clout to get “quiet zones” established around hospitals and schools. Violating a quiet zone was punishable by fine, imprisonment or both. After World War I, with ears across Europe still ringing from explosions, the transnational war against noise really took off. 15  
20
- 4 Cities all over the world targeted noise technologies, like the Klaxon automobile horn, which was banned in London, Paris and Chicago in the 1920s. In the 1930s, the New York mayor launched a “noiseless nights” campaign aided by sensitive noise-measuring devices stationed throughout the city. Planes were forced to fly higher and slower around populated areas, while factories were required to mitigate the noise they produced. 25
- 5 Yet, legislating against noisemakers rarely satisfied people’s growing demand for quietness, so products and technologies emerged to meet the demands of increasingly noise-sensitive consumers. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, sound-muffling curtains, softer floor materials, room dividers and ventilators kept the noise from coming in, while preventing sounds from bothering neighbours or the police. However, no matter how thoughtful the design, unwanted sound continued to be part of everyday life. Unable to suppress noise, disquieted consumers started trying to mask it with wanted sound, buying gadgets like the Sleepmate white noise machine or by playing recorded sounds of nature, from breaking waves to rustling forests, on their stereos. Today, the quietness industry is a booming international market. There are hundreds of digital apps and technologies created by psychoacoustic engineers for consumers, including noise cancellation products with adaptive algorithms that detect outside sounds and produce anti-phase sonic waves, rendering them inaudible. Headphones like Beats by Dr. Dre promise a life “Above the Noise”. 30  
35
- 6 The marketing efforts of these products aim to convince us that noise is intolerable and the only way to be happy is to shut out other people and their unwanted sounds. In a Sony advertisement for their noise cancelling headphones, the company depicts a world in which the consumer exists in a sonic bubble in an eerily empty cityscape. Content as some may feel in their ready-made acoustic cocoons, the more people accustom themselves to life without unwanted sounds from others, the more they become like the family in “A Quiet Place”. To hypersensitive ears, the world becomes unbearably noisy and hostile. 40  
45
- 7 Perhaps, it is this intolerant quietism that is the real monster.

**Passage 2.** *Neel Patel writes about noise as the next great public health crisis.*

- 1 Cities do not just get filthy in the visual sense – urban spaces can often be a raging mess of sound. The blaring car horns, the police sirens screaming through the usual waves of traffic, the clatter of passing trains, the constant cacophony of voices rising and falling as a strange melody – this deluge of noise can be devastating to the human psyche. As a society, we are becoming much more aware of the noise around us, how excessive noise has detrimental effects on us, and realising how those effects add up. 5
  
- 2 By 2100, 84 percent of the world’s estimated 10.8 billion people will likely live in cities. That means noise pollution will escalate in those areas and beyond, in surrounding suburbs and rural spaces. It is impossible to overstate how much noise pollution can wreak havoc on human health and safety. High noise levels can exacerbate hypertension, cause insomnia or sleep disturbances, result in hearing loss, and worsen a plethora of other medical conditions. All of these problems can aggravate other health issues by inducing higher levels of stress, which can cascade into worsened immune systems, heart problems, increased anxiety and depression ... These health effects, in turn, can lead to social handicap, reduced productivity, decreased performance in learning, absenteeism in the workplace and school, increased drug use, and accidents. There is enough literature for everyone to agree that noise pollution is a public health hazard. 10 15
  
- 3 Where is most of this noise coming from? Traffic is the biggest contributor to noise pollution. A diesel truck at 50 feet away, for instance, generates up to 90 decibels of noise. Generally speaking, prolonged exposure to anything over 85 decibels puts someone at risk for temporary or permanent hearing loss. 20
  
- 4 But noise pollution is more than just automobiles. Increased development – in the big city or in a quaint suburb – means construction sites, where heavy machinery creates a fitful, ugly noise that can echo into the placid surrounding areas. People living close to train tracks or airports are bludgeoned with noise (and usually accompanying vibrations and shakes) at all hours. Air traffic can be a major headache. All these factors are exacerbated by poor city planning and community zoning, which fail to mitigate noise for residents. 25
  
- 5 We need to do much more to keep future society from turning into a deaf, noise-addled dystopia. More than just awareness, cities need a responsible combination of technological innovations and more radical policy measures, as the problem is bound to get worse. Critics may decry all this spending and attention as premature, particularly on an issue that does not seem immediately hazardous. But solving noise pollution is a pre-emptive measure that can forestall bigger physiological and learning issues people may develop much later. No one who wants to fight the war against noise should be called intolerant. 30 35

## VJC 2018 Prelim GP Paper 2 Answers

### From Passage 1

1. In lines 5-6, what parallel does the author draw between the movie 'A Quiet Place' and certain fairy tales and fables? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase
Like fairy tales and fables that <b>dramatise</b> cultural <b>phobias or anxieties</b> ...	Both blow up/ exaggerate [1] fears/ worries/ insecurities. [1]  Note: 'Show', 'portray', 'depict' were not accepted as these words are too neutral. Students who mentioned that these worries were put into a 'plot', 'narrative' or 'story' were given the mark for the first point.

2. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain why the author claims that the problem of noise 'got exponentially worse' (line 10). [2]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase and inference
During the Industrial Revolution, people <b>swarmed</b> to cities...  ... <b>roaring</b> with factory furnaces and <b>shrieking</b> with train whistles	The <b>large influx</b> of people into densely-packed cities/ people <b>flocked</b> to cities in <b>droves</b> . [1]  Cities house transportation networks and industries which <b>produce a lot of noise</b> . [1]  Note: Students who wrote that people 'migrate' or 'move to cities' were not given the mark as the <i>quantity</i> of people is important in this context. In the second part of the answer, students were not expected to paraphrase 'factory' and 'train'. However, they should make some reference to these noise sources in their answer.

3. From lines 11-13, explain how and why people in the past thought noise affected 'thinkers' and 'stupid people' differently. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase and inference
The cacophony was seen as <b>a torture</b> for intellectual people...  ...and thinkers argued that they needed quietness to do <b>good</b> work.	Noise was <b>unbearable</b> to the 'thinkers' <b>but</b> did not bother 'stupid people' [1]  because 'thinkers' needed silence to be able to concentrate and work effectively <b>whereas</b> 'stupid people' did not need this since they do not use their brains. [1]  Note: Students need to capture the pair of ideas under the sections on 'how' and 'why' to get 1 mark. In the first

	part of the answer, 'negative effects', 'punished' and 'affected' were not accepted as paraphrases for 'torture'. Those who mentioned that stupid people did manual work in noisy industries were also not credited because they were reading too much into the author's point.
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4. Explain the author's use of the word 'cocoons' in line 44. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible inference
Content as some may feel in their ready-made acoustic cocoons, the more people accustom themselves to life without <b>unwanted sounds</b> from others...	Just like how a caterpillar uses a cocoon to protect itself while it morphs into a butterfly [1], these products help to <b>protect/ shield</b> us from /block out noise from our surroundings [1].  Note: 'Isolated' and 'entrapped' were not accepted and many missed out the reference to the caterpillar. Students should also not use other metaphors (e.g. bubbles or capsules) to unpack this one.

5. In what two ways is the final sentence an effective conclusion to the author's argument? [2]

From the Text	Possible inference
	The author ties back to the example of the monster referenced at the start of the passage. [1]  He conveys his disapproval of the people who are now overly sensitive towards noise. [1]  He provides a neat summary of his stand that the fight against noise has gone too far <b>OR</b> the growing culture that only accepts silence should be antagonised and not noise itself. [1]  Note: Any 2 out of 3 for 2 marks. Students should look at the whole sentence and not just the specific word 'perhaps'. Some students misinterpreted 'quietism' as 'quietness'.

6. Using material from paragraphs 3-5, summarise the efforts and measures taken to control noise and the challenges faced in doing so.

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]

*In the endless war on noisy people and things...*

	From the text	Possible paraphrase
a	Anti-noise <b>organisations</b>	Anti-noise institutions/ associations
b	sprang up around the <b>globe</b>	emerged worldwide/ across countries. Note: International organisations not accepted.
c	...used their political <b>clout</b>	Politicians/ governors used their influence/ authority
d	to get 'quiet zones' <b>established</b>	to create noise-free areas/ demarcations
e	around <b>hospitals</b> and <b>schools</b> .	around educational and healthcare institutions.
f	Violating a quiet zone, was <b>punishable by fine</b>	Violators faced a monetary/ financial penalty
g	<b>imprisonment</b> or both.	or incarceration/ were jailed/ put behind bars
h	Cities all over the world <b>targeted</b> noise technologies	Governments focussed/ zeroed-in on noise technologies
i	... which was <b>banned</b>	outlawing them/ making them illegal/ prohibited/ disallowed.
j	launched a 'noiseless nights' <b>campaign</b>	They also started a 'noiseless nights' drive/ movement
k	aided by sensitive noise-measuring <b>devices</b>	assisted by precise noise-measuring gadgets/ technology
l	<b>stationed throughout</b> the city.	placed everywhere/ across urban areas.
m	Planes were <b>forced</b> ... ...factories were <b>required</b>	Planes had to comply with/ were made to/ mandated to
n	to fly <b>higher and slower</b>	fly at greater altitudes <b>and</b> lower their speeds
o	around <b>populated</b> areas	around crowded areas/ living settlements Note: 'Cities', 'urban areas' not accepted
p	while factories were required to <b>mitigate</b> the noise they produced.	while industries had to reduce noise. Note: 'Regulate', 'managed' not accepted.
q	Yet, <b>legislating</b> against noisemakers	However, punishing noisemakers according to the law
r	<b>rarely satisfied</b>	<b>hardly/ barely/ seldom</b> appeased Note: 'Never', 'could not', 'discontented' not accepted.
s	people's <b>growing demand</b> for quietness... OR ...to meet the <b>demand of increasingly</b> noise-sensitive consumers.	people's <b>expanding</b> appetite/ need/ requirement for less noise <b>OR</b> their <b>rising</b> aversion to noise.
t	so <b>products and technologies</b> emerged... OR There are hundreds of <b>digital apps and technologies</b> created...	So modern gadgets and software were created
u	In the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century, sound-muffling curtains, softer floor materials, room dividers and ventilators	on top of home furnishings that already existed to
v	<b>kept</b> the noise from <b>coming in</b>	stop/ block noise from entering the house
w	while <b>preventing</b> sounds from <b>bothering</b> neighbours or the police.	or going out/ disturbing others outside.
x	No matter how <b>thoughtful</b> the design	Even with highly intuitive/ user-centric designs,

y	unwanted sound <b>continued</b> to be part of everyday life. OR <b>Unable to suppress</b> noise...	noise was still/ persistently present/ could not be eradicated/ snuffed out.
z	disquieted consumers started trying to <b>mask</b> it with <b>wanted</b> sound OR ...noise <b>cancellation</b> products... <b>rendering</b> outside sounds <b>inaudible</b> .	Unsettled consumers covered noise with pleasant/ desired sounds <b>OR</b> used products that mute external noise. Note: 'Replace', 'substitute' not accepted for 'mask'

No. of points	Marks allocated
≥ 15	8
13-14	7
11-12	6
9-10	5
7-8	4
5-6	3
3-4	2
1-2	1

### From Passage 2

7. In what ways are cities 'filthy' (line 1)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase
Cities do not just get filthy in the <b>visual</b> sense - urban spaces can often be a raging mess of <b>sound</b> .	They look/ appear untidy/ disorganised/ are filled with rubbish <b>and</b> are noisy.  Note: Many students missed out the 'visual' aspect of filth.

8. What does the word 'deluge' (line 4) tell us about noise and what does the author think is its consequence? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase and inference
...can be <b>devastating</b> to the <b>human psyche</b> .	It tells us that there is an excessive/ overwhelming amount of noise [1]  and that it is very damaging/ disastrous/ creates serious problems for the mind/ mental well-being. [1]  Note: In the first part of the answer, students needed to show that noise is present in <i>excessive</i> quantities. It is not enough to say that noise is present in 'great quantities' or that it is 'widespread' and 'common'. For the second part of the answer, 'negative' and 'detrimental' did not accurately capture the intensity of the word 'devastating'.

9. Explain why the author thinks that noise is 'ugly' (line 25). [1]

From the Text	Possible inference and paraphrase
...means construction sites, where heavy machinery creates a fitful, ugly noise that can echo into the <b>placid</b> surrounding areas.	It tells us that the noise is detested/ perceived as unpleasant/ unwanted <b>as</b> it disrupts the peace/ tranquillity of a place.  Note: Both parts required for 1 mark.

10. Why has the author placed brackets around the comment in lines 26-27? [2]

From the Text	Possible inference
	It is to comment that noise is not the only problem caused by train tracks and airports, but ground movements as well. [1] This is not central to his point on noise and serves as an additional comment. [1]  Note: Many students lost the first mark because they did not specifically refer to 'vibrations and shakes'. Some also misinterpreted these ground movements to be the source of noise.

11. What contrast is found in the arguments put forth by critics and the author in lines 33-36? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the Text	Possible paraphrase and inference
Critics may decry all this spending and attention as <b>premature</b> ... But solving noise pollution is a <b>pre-emptive</b> measure <b>OR</b>  particularly on an issue that does not seem <b>immediately</b> hazardous... that can forestall bigger physiological and learning issues people may develop <b>much later</b> .	The critics look at the present or short term situation while the author is concerned with the long term/future impact of noise pollution <b>OR</b>  Critics think it is too soon/ early to put money and effort into tackling noise but the author wants to take a preventive approach.

12. Matthew Jordan details the war against noise and believes that the fight has gone too far. On the other hand, Neel Patel believes that the concern over noise is a legitimate one. How serious is the problem of noise for you and your society, and how far would you agree or disagree with the views expressed in both passages? [10]

Mark Range	Descriptor
<p><b>Band 1</b></p> <p><b>8-10</b></p>	<p><b>REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students must make systematic reference to the requirements of the question, with evidence of a balanced treatment.</li> <li>2. Students must also refer to the ideas from both passages:</li> </ol> <p><u>Points from Passage 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-noise organisations sprang up to combat get ‘quiet zones’ established around hospitals and schools. Planes were forced to fly higher and slower around populated areas, while factories were required to mitigate the noise they produced. Cities all over the world targeted noise technologies and launched ‘noiseless nights’ campaigns. Home furnishings dampened external noise and prevented sound from escaping the house.</li> <li>• Products and technologies emerged to meet the demands of increasingly noise-sensitive consumers. Unable to suppress noise, disquieted consumers started trying to mask it with wanted sound or use technology to rendering external noise inaudible.</li> <li>• The more people accustom themselves to life without unwanted sounds from others, the more they become like the family in ‘A Quiet Place.’ To hypersensitive ears, the world becomes unbearably noisy and hostile.</li> </ul> <p><u>Points from Passage 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise pollution can wreak havoc on human health and safety. High noise levels can worsen a plethora of other medical conditions and aggravate other health issues.</li> <li>• These health effects, in turn, can lead to social handicap, reduced productivity, decreased performance in learning, absenteeism in the workplace and school, increased drug use, and accidents.</li> <li>• Solving noise pollution is a pre-emptive measure that can forestall bigger physiological and learning issues people may develop much later.</li> </ul> <p><b>EXPLANATION</b> Shows <u>a good or very good understanding</u> of the terms and issues in both passages.</p> <p><b>EVALUATION</b> Students makes very convincing evaluation by making judgements and decisions and by developing arguments to logical conclusions, and includes elaboration and support through personal insight and apt illustration of Singapore.</p> <p><b>COHERENCE</b> Very clear shape and paragraph organisation and cogent argument.</p>

<p><b>Band 2</b></p> <p><b>4-7</b></p>	<p><b>REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students cover requirements of the question adequately but not necessarily a balanced treatment.</li> <li>2. They identify ideas from the passage, possibly with minor misrepresentation of the points.</li> <li>3. They raise issues, but discussion is limited or superficial.</li> </ol> <p><b>EVALUATION</b></p> <p>Student attempts to evaluate the extent to which the ideas are an accurate reflection of the situation in Singapore, but the evaluation is always convincing, and tends to be superficial with limited development of ideas, and is not as thorough in support.</p> <p><b>EXPLANATION</b></p> <p>Shows adequate level of understanding of terms and issues raised in the passage (which may include minor distortion).</p> <p><b>COHERENCE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paragraphing is sometimes helpful.</li> <li>2. There is a recognizable overall shape to the answer.</li> <li>3. Arguments are generally cogent.</li> </ol>
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<p><b>Main Arguments &amp; Explanations</b></p> <p><b>From Passage 1</b></p>	<p><b>Evidence / Examples</b></p>
<p>Anti-noise organisations sprang up to combat get 'quiet zones' established around hospitals and schools. Planes were forced to fly higher and slower around populated areas, while factories were required to mitigate the noise they produced. Cities all over the world targeted noise technologies and launched 'noiseless nights' campaigns. Home furnishings dampened external noise and prevented sound from escaping the house.</p>	<p><b>Agree to a large extent</b></p> <p>In densely populated Singapore, common amenities like shopping malls, hawker centres and playgrounds all contribute to community noise, on top of that created by traffic. To try to mitigate against noise pollution, the Government has put in place several measures.</p> <p>NEA regulates noise levels from construction sites and industrial operations based on a set of permissible noise limits. NEA has also implemented rules which prohibit work on Sundays and public holidays for construction sites located within 150m of residential premises and noise-sensitive premises. The Quieter Construction Fund, a \$10 million co-funding scheme, allows construction firms to be reimbursed for up to half of the cost of purchasing or leasing quieter construction equipment, noise control equipment and other innovative noise-reduction solutions not yet readily adopted by the industry.</p> <p>Noise emission standards for vehicles have also been set. The LTA clamps down on vehicles with illegal modifications, which include modified exhausts. It is also looking at ways to use a material on roads that can reduce the noise generated from the friction between surfaces and vehicle tyres.</p>

	<p>At MRT tracks, around 10km of noise barriers have been put up at 16 locations - including Admiralty, Marsiling, Sembawang, Ang Mo Kio, Pioneer and Yew Tee. Trains are fitted with noise-dampening wheels.</p> <p>Household appliances (e.g. washing machines and vacuum cleaners) are marketed based on the use of quiet technology.</p> <p>But some are concerned that these measures may not be able to keep pace with a growing nation. While there are no comparative studies, anecdotally, the city has become noisier over the years as it continues to develop - with more expressways, longer MRT lines and the cycle of construction and demolition playing out over and over again. The spate of en-bloc sale of private property has resulted in my construction noise as older properties are torn down and new condominiums are being constructed. The construction of numerous BTO projects around the island to cater to the housing needs of the growing population also add to urban noise.</p> <p>Due to limited land space in Singapore, the measures to combat in Singapore often involve the need to balance various trade offs and needs. For example, the Air Force has to repeatedly explain the need for it to train to ensure its operational readiness, while ensuring that the noise coming from its fighter planes do not affect the lives of those living in the North East and Western areas excessively. This involves aligning the flight training schedules with schedules such as the exam schedules of schools in the areas. In recent years, other mitigating efforts include the relocation of Paya Lebar Air Base and the commissioning of a noise study by the National Environment Agency (NEA) to guide the planning of new residential developments around the expanded Tengah Air Base.</p>
<p>Products and technologies emerged to meet the demands of increasingly noise-sensitive consumers. Unable to suppress noise, disquieted consumers started trying to mask it with wanted sound or use technology to render external noise inaudible.</p>	<p><b>Agree to a large extent</b></p> <p>Dropnoise, which produces noise reports for residents and condominium managements, has seen business boom since it started the monitoring service last year. Its reports can be used in court action against noisy neighbours, or submitted to regulatory bodies as proof of noise pollution. It also specialises in the sale of numerous noise conditioning products that moderate the noise level in an environment.</p> <p>According to Channel News Asia, a new noise cancelling device is being developed by researchers from Nanyang Technological University (NTU). When mounted onto window grilles, the device can reduce up to 50 per cent of noise from the surrounding environment - even when the windows are wide open. This is particularly helpful in Singapore where population density is so high and it is inevitable that one finds himself or herself in the vicinity of construction works which are necessary as the city seeks to ensure it stays relevant and revitalise its infrastructure.</p>

<p>The more people accustom themselves to life without unwanted sounds from others, the more they become like the family in 'A Quiet Place.' To hypersensitive ears, the world becomes unbearably noisy and hostile.</p>	<p><b>Agree to a large extent</b></p> <p>As privacy becomes increasingly important to people as our city gets increasingly dense, it is likely that people are increasingly becoming hypersensitive to noise and finding ways to insulate themselves from the noise. But these efforts usually come at a premium. For example, houses in tranquil areas tend to be more expensive, while houses located near MRT tracks are less appealing and priced lower.</p> <p><b>Agree to a small extent</b></p> <p>Singaporeans are not hypersensitive to noise and there are good reasons why more needs to be done fight noise pollution. A new study from the National University of Singapore (NUS) found that Singapore's average outdoor sound level throughout the day is 69.4 decibels, which is equivalent to the noise made by a vacuum cleaner. This exceeds the National Environmental Agency's recommendation of no more than 67 decibels averaged over an hour, and is a whisker shy of the World Health Organisation threshold of 70 decibels a day.</p> <p>Given our high population density, it is a necessity to accustom ourselves to some levels of noise instead of being hypersensitive to noise. Moreover, as Singapore is a multi-racial country, management of noise from cultural activities has to take into consideration cultural sensitivities. Failure to do will cause unnecessary social tension. For example, the Police acted swiftly to clarify why events like Lion Dance and Malay weddings do not need to be licensed.</p>
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<p><b>Main Arguments &amp; Explanations From Passage 2</b></p>	<p><b>Evidence / Examples</b></p>
<p>Noise pollution can wreak havoc on human health and safety. High noise levels can worsen a plethora of other medical conditions and aggravate other health issues.</p>	<p><b>Agree to a large extent</b></p> <p>Singapore's Ministry of Manpower recognises the health impact of noise pollution in the workplace and has put in place the Workplace Safety and Health (Noise) Regulation to protect workers exposed to excessive noise from hearing loss. One example is the mandatory use of ear plugs and ear muffs in work such as air traffic control.</p> <p>Doctors in Singapore have also said residents should be more aware of ways to protect their hearing. These include the use of hearing protection, such as ear plugs and ear muffs, as a temporary solution, said the head of Singapore General Hospital's (SGH's) otolaryngology department, Dr Barrie Tan.</p> <p><b>Agree to a small extent</b></p>

	<p>Interestingly, many Singaporean youth enjoy listen to music at very high volume and tend to ignore the health warning on possible hearing loss, thinking it would not happen to them. A study conducted by biomedical engineering students in Temasek Polytechnic found that 1 in 6 young people are at risk of suffering from noise-induced hearing loss due to their use of personal music players.</p>
<p>These health effects, in turn, can lead to social handicap, reduced productivity, decreased performance in learning, absenteeism in the workplace and school, increased drug use, and accidents.</p>	<p><b>Agree to a large extent</b></p> <p>Noisy environments are not conducive for studies and many students choose to do their homework and revision in the quiet public libraries, especially approaching exam season. Students from low-income families often lack quiet study areas at home and this can affect their studies. Schools near expressways or major roads find that LTA's efforts to change the materials used on roads to reduce noise pollution has had little effect on mitigating noise pollution from the roads.</p> <p>Psychologist Nishta Geetha Thevaraja from the SGH department of psychiatry said personal and work relationships can be affected by irritability and anger issues brought about by noise pollution.</p>
<p>All these factors (automobiles, increased development, train and air traffic noise) are exacerbated by poor city planning and community zoning</p>	<p><b>Agree to a small extent</b></p> <p>In land scarce Singapore, there is only so much the government can do. The government has done much, for instance, by shifting the airport from Paya Lebar to Changi in the 1990s and situating heavy vehicle parks away from residential areas.</p>

Comments: Stronger candidates were able to consider the trade-offs when it came to the issue of noise, arguing that in multi-cultural and religious Singapore, tolerance and acceptance of some noise (related to festivities or traditional practices) is necessary to preserve harmony in society OR/AND that to progress holistically as a nation, noise is inevitable. On the other hand, the responses from weaker candidates contained a mix of these problems:

1. Picking ideas to evaluate that do not relate to the overarching argument of the author (i.e. that the fight has gone too far and that noise is a legitimate problem)
2. Evaluating the author's overarching argument and not the reasons that lead up to the author's conclusion
3. Evaluating ideas that were clearly not made by the author (e.g. the point on intellectuals and stupid people, and marketing efforts in Passage 1)
4. Lack of evaluation of the effectiveness of measures taken to mitigate noise in Singapore OR lack of evaluation of how serious the problem is
5. No reference to personal experience