**General Paper Past Year Questions – Paper 1 (8807/01)**

**2018**

1. How far is failure an essential part of success?
2. To what extent is the pursuit of continuous economic growth a desirable goal?
3. In an age of rapid technological advancement, is a single career for life realistic?
4. ‘In the global village we inhabit, there is no justification for national boundaries.’ How far do you agree?
5. To what extent is sporting achievement given adequate recognition in your society?
6. Do handicrafts still have value when machine-produced goods are so readily available?
7. ‘People today do not work as hard as they did in the past.’ How true is this of your society?
8. Discuss the view that all countries have an equal responsibility to counter terrorism.
9. Is pressure a motivating force or a cause for unhappiness?
10. ‘Works of art which have been removed from their country of origin should be returned.’ Discuss.
11. ‘Foreign aid does not solve long-term problems.’ To what extent is this a fair viewpoint?
12. Consider the view that we do not take enough responsibility for our own well-being.

**2017**

1. ‘The past is not dead; it is not even past.’ Discuss.
2. Can the use of animals for scientific research ever be justified?
3. In your society, to what extent is it acceptable for public money to be used for the acquisition of works of art?
4. ‘Rehabilitation, not punishment, should be the purpose of the justice system.’ Discuss.
5. Is regulation of the press desirable?
6. Do events, rather than politicians, shape the future?
7. How far is science fiction becoming fact?
8. Examine the role of music establishing a national identity in your society.
9. To what extent are people judged more by their physical appearance than by their abilities?
10. ‘Practical ability is just as important as intellectual skills.’ How far is this true in your society?
11. Assess the view that attempts to control climate change can never be truly effective?
12. ‘The quality of written language is being destroyed by social media.’ What is your view?

**2016**

1. ‘Any adaptation of a novel for film, television or the theatre is never as effective as the original.’ Discuss.
2. Assess the view that traditional buildings have no future in your society.
3. ‘Longer life expectancy creates more problems than benefits.’ Discuss.
4. Considering the money involved, should developing countries be allowed to host major sporting events?
5. ‘Human need, rather than profit, should always be the main concern of scientific research.’ Discuss.
6. ‘Countries experiencing conflict should be left to sort out their own problems.’ How far do you agree?
7. How far has modern technology made it unnecessary for individuals to possess mathematical skills?
8. ‘People who do the most worthwhile jobs rarely receive the best financial rewards.’ To what extent is this true of your society?
9. Evaluate the claim that equality of opportunity for females is a desirable, but unrealistic, goal.
10. Assess the view that most natural disasters are the result of human activity.
11. Is competition always desirable/
12. ‘Everyone has an opinion, but not everyone’s opinion is of equal value.’ What is your view?

**2015**

1. ‘There is no such thing as bad publicity.’ To what extent is this true?
2. How far is it possible for one country to forgive another for its past actions?
3. How effectively is public health promoted and managed in your society?
4. ‘No cause is ever worth dying for.’ Discuss.
5. Consider the argument that the main purpose of television should be to educate rather than simply to entertain.
6. In your society, how well are the demands of the economy and the environment balanced?
7. ‘Parents have no right to impose their own values and beliefs on their children.’ Discuss.
8. Books serve little purpose in education as technological developments become more sophisticated.’ How far do you agree?
9. To what extent should the arts in your society focus on local rather than foreign talent?
10. Should there be any controls over the production of energy when the need for it is so great?
11. When a government’s finances for social welfare are limited, should they be directed towards the young or the old?
12. ‘Human actions should be based on scientific fact, not religious faith.’ How far do you agree with this statement?

**2014**

1. ‘Traditional marriage is an outdated concept.’ To what extent is this true of your society?
2. How far should firms be allowed to limit their workers’ rights when profits are at stake?
3. ‘Gambling on sport undermines its spirit and should be banned.’ How realistic is this position?
4. Discuss the view that, with an increasing global need for energy, every possible source should be exploited to the full.
5. ‘For the majority of people, the Arts are irrelevant to their daily lives.’ How true is this of your society?
6. How far is it important for people to be aware of current events in countries other than their own?
7. In times of economic hardship, should a country still be expected to provide financial or material aid to others?
8. Do films offer anything more than an escape from reality?
9. To what extent can the regulation of scientific or technological developments be justified?
10. ‘Getting what one wants in life is what matters.’ Discuss.
11. Examine the extent to which expenditure on arms and the armed forces is justifiable in the modern world.
12. Consider the view that some careers are better suited to one gender than the other.

**2013**

1. ‘The world would be a better place if more political leaders were women.’ What is your view?
2. ‘Unlike the Arts, such as writing or music, Mathematics lacks the capacity for creativity.’ How far do you agree with this statement?
3. Is there any point in trying to predict future trends?
4. To what extent is it possible ‘to make the punishment fit the crime’?
5. Discuss the claim that in the modern world people should care more about international than national issues.
6. How important is it to save plant and animal species which are in danger of extinction?
7. ‘Scientific research into health and diet is unreliable as it so often contradicts itself.’ Is this a false comment?
8. How far is increased prosperity for all a realistic goal in your society?
9. Consider the view that spoken language is more important than the written form.
10. Why should we be concerned with current affairs when most of them will soon be forgotten?
11. ‘Education should only be concerned with what is useful in life.’ Discuss.
12. How far, in your society, should unpopular views be open to discussion?

**2012**

1. Is there any value in preserving minority languages in the world?
2. ‘People in the Arts, living or dead, receive far more recognition than those in the Sciences, even though it is less deserved.’ Consider this claim.
3. Should people be allowed to have children by artificial means?
4. To what extent are the rights of animals protected in your society?
5. ‘The most influential individuals in history are those who have caused the most harm.’ How far would you accept this view?
6. Is violence ever justified?
7. Consider the view that mathematics possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty.
8. In your society, how far is equality for all a reality?
9. Should everyone be expected to donate suitable organs after death?
10. Can humour ever be serious?
11. ‘The key criterion for good government is how well the economy is managed.’ Is this a fair assessment?
12. How far is it acceptable for technology to be used only for financial benefit/

**2011**

1. Can prejudice ever be eliminated?
2. ‘Taking risks is an essential part of life and should be encouraged.’ Discuss.
3. Consider the view that efficient government is more important than democracy.
4. To what extent is it acceptable for private companies to be involved in financing scientific research?
5. ‘Environmental concerns and economic growth cannot co-exist.’ Do you agree?
6. In the digital age do newspapers still have a role in your society?
7. Do awards and prizes serve any useful purpose?
8. How far should medical resources be used to extend life expectancy?
9. Can space research be justified nowadays?
10. ‘Only modern architecture and modern art have a place in today’s world.’ How true is this of your society/
11. How far should countries aim to be self-sufficient?
12. ‘Science is unreliable, being based as much on theory as on fact.’ Is this a fair comment?

**2010**

1. Consider the view that most work these days could, and should, be done from home.
2. How far can an individual be held responsible for crimes against humanity?
3. Would it matter if all the performing arts venues in your society, such as concert halls and theatres, were closed down?
4. ‘The person who dies rich dies disgraced.’ Discuss.
5. ‘The book has no place in modern society.’ Discuss.
6. To what extent has technology had a negative impact on the skill levels of people?
7. Does sport merit the vast sums of money that are spent on it?
8. How effective are international efforts to ease the problem of global hunger?
9. ‘No politician’s reputation can survive the judgement of time.’ How true is this?
10. How important is it for people in your society to retain a sense of tradition?
11. ‘The key to good health is lifestyle rather than medicine.’ How far do you agree?
12. Can mathematics be seen as anything more than a useful tool in everyday life?

**2009**

1. Is the elimination of global poverty a realistic aim?
2. ‘Only educated people should have the right to vote in elections.’ What is your view?
3. Are certain types of writing superior to others?
4. Should a love of one’s country still be encouraged?
5. To what extent has technology had an impact on both privacy and security in your country?
6. ‘History records male acts, written by males, and holds little interest for females as a result.’ Is this a fair comment?
7. How far should religion influence political decisions?
8. Should every country have the right to carry out unlimited scientific research?
9. Assess the impact of foreign films or foreign TV programmes on the culture of your society.
10. Can the transport of food over vast distances be justified?
11. ‘Fashion is as much a good thing as a bad thing.’ To what extent do you agree/
12. As long as people in the public eye do their job well, does it matter what they do in private?