

1. Why do the authors begin the passage with the quotation in lines 1-2? [2]

Passage	Answer
'A serious and good philosophical work could be written consisting entirely of jokes.' humour is more than silliness ...coping with extreme circumstances.	a) The authors are setting the tone for the whole passage b) which looks at humour as a grave/not a trivial subject matter OR a) The quotation is aligned/consistent with/related to/shows from the outset/beginning b) their view that humour is a grave/not a trivial subject matter

2. Why do the authors place inverted commas around 'conspiracy' (line 12)? [2]

Passage	Answer
creates a sense of shared 'conspiracy' in the context of illicit activities like gossiping or joking about superiors	a) The word is used in jest/tongue-in-cheek//rather inappropriately/ not used in the usual sense (either of these must be paired with the correct context in b) [1] b) because activities like gossiping and joking about superiors are not really/too mild to be considered unlawful/very harmful/ treacherous. [1]

3. According to the authors, how can humour lead to 'exclusion' (line 13)? *Use your own words as far as possible.* [2]

Passage	Answer
Those who do not join in the laughter , because they do not get the joke , or even worse, because the joke targets them, will feel left out, shamed, or ridiculed.	a) Those who do not share the humour b) because they do not understand it c) or they are at the receiving end of it [(a), (b) or (c) = 1m] d) will experience the sense of not being part of/included in the group, e) embarrassment/ humiliation f) or a sense of being mocked/made fun of. [(d) must be paired with (e) or (f) to earn 1m] [(d), (e) or (f) alone = 0m]

4. Explain how humour might be associated with either 'higher self-esteem' or 'intelligence' (line x) [1]

Passage	Answer
A keen sense of humour is a quality	a) Humour can lead to a <u>higher self-</u>

<p>nearly all of us claim in ourselves and <u>one we seek and highly value in others. We love a sense of humour in our dates and mates, our children, and basically everyone with whom we have social contact...</u> Most important, we like that <u>person even more.</u></p> <p>The use of humour has been shown to be associated with a positive self-concept, higher self-esteem and intelligence</p>	<p><u>esteem</u> because it makes a person well-liked/popular/a valued member in any group. [1]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b) Humour shows <u>intelligence</u> because to make people laugh, a person must be able to perceive the mindset of his audience, predict their response, and accordingly tune the joke and the manner he conveys it. [1] Alternative answer for (b):</p> <p>c) A certain level of <u>cognitive ability/competence</u> is needed to understand jokes/comedy/humour</p> <p>Accept any relevant answer for either.</p>
---	---

5. According to the authors, when are comedians considered 'good comics' (line x)?
Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Passage	Answer
<p>While comedians will make everyone uncomfortable at some point, good comics play an important function in society by holding up a mirror and forcing us to confront realities that we would often prefer to ignore.</p>	<p>Comedians are good comics</p> <p>a) when they perform a significant/essential/necessary/valuable role in society</p> <p>b) by making us reflect on ourselves/our lives//showing us our true selves//highlight the actual situation</p> <p>c) and compelling us to face situations we would frequently rather/want to/choose to disregard/dismiss/not pay attention to.</p> <p>Any 2p = 2m</p>

6. Explain how using humour to deal with 'normally unacceptable' content is 'like a sugar coating to bitter medicine' (line x)? [2]

Passage	Answer
<p>This, however, is a sign of a healthy comedy culture because it means that comedians are pushing social boundaries. Stories and expressions that are normally unacceptable are met with laughter and agreement when they are told on stage. The fact that the content is encrusted in humour is like a sugar coating to bitter medicine. The laugh takes away the sting.</p>	<p>a) Just as medicine which tastes awful {but is good for us} is made more palatable/tasty/easy to swallow by a sweet coating/external layer, [1] [Cannot lift: "sugar" or "bitter"]</p> <p>b) so content which may be {socially significant but} usually hard to take is more easily received/accepted when it is funny/laced with humour. [1]</p> <p>Note: Attempt at (a) must be present for (b) to be awarded.</p>

7. Explain what is meant by 'Even though the audience may laugh it off, the cogs will have started spinning in their minds.' (line x). [2]

Passage	Answer
political humour also has its serious side that sometimes provides political, social, or economic commentary. It can attack the character, policy or even the larger electoral system. Even though the audience may laugh it off, the cogs will have started spinning in their minds. It is this type of political humour that politicians, institutions, and authority figures over the centuries have feared the most.	<p>a) The people listening to <u>political</u> humour [context of 'political' must be present to award (a)]</p> <p>b) may dismiss it as merely funny/humorous/amusing,</p> <p>c) but they are already beginning to think about the matter.</p> <p>1-2p=1m 3p=2m</p>

8. In paragraph 9, why do the authors suggest that there is a place for 'offensive humour' (line 72)? *Use your own words as far as possible.* [2]

Passage	Answer
Some audiences love high-intensity controversy and sarcasm	<p>a) Some people like/enjoy/are entertained by</p> <p>b) extreme</p> <p>c) debatable/disputable/contentious arguable issues</p> <p>d) and ironic/mocking/ contemptuous language//caustic/sneering/cutting witticism/cynical</p> <p>1p = 0 2p = 1m 3-4p = 2m</p>

9. Explain the author's use of the word 'old' in line 81. [2]

Passage	Answer
It began to recognize the fact that the long debate about the things comedy owes to its audiences and itself—the old 'hey, I'm just making a joke ' line of logic—can be partially resolved in the idea that nothing, ultimately, is 'just a joke.'	<p>He uses the word 'old' to make the point that</p> <p>(a) the idea/reasoning/thinking that comedians are merely/only/simply being funny [1]</p> <p>(b) is no longer relevant/true (Inferred from 'nothing, ultimately, is just a joke') [1]</p> <p>The context – what is 'no longer relevant'- must be correct.</p>

Using material from paragraphs 2 to 5 of the passage, summarise what the author has to say about the benefits of humour.

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.**

Humour is beneficial to us because...

	Lifted	Paraphrased
	<i>From Paragraph 2</i>	
1	The topics and themes people joke about are generally central to the social ,	Its content is usually essential/very important/key/fundamental/primal to human interrelationships
2	cultural	traditions/customs
3	moral order of a society or a social group	ethics/conventions/mores of a community
4	a sign of closeness among friends	a symbol/an indication/an expression of intimacy among peers/buddies
5a	it is an effective way of	it is a powerful/efficient/successful method/technique for
5b	forging social bonds too OR it ' breaks the ice ' between strangers OR unites people in different hierarchical positions OR creates a sense of shared 'conspiracy' in the context of illicit activities OR (from paragraph 5) we are drawn closer to people and share a bonding experience with them.	building/creating/developing/establishing relationships/connections/people to come together
6	even in situations not very conductive to closeness	even under circumstances that are not very suitable/appropriate/helpful/comfortable to facilitate tight friendships/intimacy
	<i>From Paragraph 3</i>	
7	laughter has been shown to reduce stress OR (from paragraph 3) tolerate the stress response OR (from paragraph 5) Laughter and humour can buffer stress	Humour has been proven to decrease/alleviate/mitigate anxiety/distress/strains/tensions OR Humour has been proven to enhance our abilities to cope with anxiety/distress/strains/tensions OR Humour can help to be a defence/shield an individual from anxiety/distress/strains/tensions
8	and boost the immune system .	and enhance/increase the body's defences/body's ability to fight diseases
9	Rather than taking antidepressants, one can ' self-medicate ' OR this self-induced boost provided by humour	Humour is a form of treatment that one can administer/dispense/provide for/give to oneself/himself // We are able to cure / treat our own illness / condition
10	think creatively of coping options	think innovatively of / Think of new/fresh

		ways/methods/suggestions to adapt/readjust/handle the situation
11	the whole man is completely and gloriously alive	with humour, an individual is fully/totally and greatly/remarkably rejuvenated/refreshed/engaged
12	the mind flings open its doors and windows	Psychologically/mentally liberated/freed/illuminated
	<i>From Paragraph 4</i>	
13	possess healing powers	has/contains the ability to cure/mend/ an individual
14	extraordinarily powerful and effective way	greatly/immensely/exceptionally/remarkably potent/capable/efficient/successful/strong /useful method
15	to alleviate pain OR (from paragraph 5) reduce experiences of pain	to lower suffering/discomfort/hurt // to relieve/lessen agony/suffering /discomfort
16	increase the cheerfulness of patients	heighten/elevate the happiness/joy of patients
17	residing in institutions that are often much less comfortable for them than being at home	who stay in/live in places that are not as conducive/pleasant/cosy/snug as their own dwellings
	<i>From Paragraph 5</i>	
18	one we seek and highly value in others OR We love a sense of humour in our dates and mates, our children, and basically everyone with whom we have social contact OR we like that person even more	makes a person more desirable/appreciated/popular/ charming/attractive
19	We enjoy life more	We can better relish life // We can have a better time // Increase our pleasures in life // We relish life to a larger extent
20	our troubles seem to lessen instantly	helps to reduce our anxieties/sufferings/pain/distress immediately
21	a positive self-concept	a healthy/good/favourable image of the individual // a healthy/good/favourable way in which one views/sees himself
22	higher self-esteem	elevated/increased confidence/respect/regard for themselves // more faith in themselves
23	Intelligence	(Inferred) Others perceive you as brilliant/sharp/smart/clever OR Using humour develops a sharp mind [Must be framed as a benefit]
24	the enhancement of enjoyment of positive life events	increase the delight we get from our good experiences