

**2022 RAFFLES INSTITUTION**  
**YEAR 6 GENERAL PAPER PRELIMINARY EXAM**  
**PAPER 2 SUGGESTED ANSWER SCHEME + MARKERS' COMMENTS**

**Note:**

- Words in bold are meant to be paraphrased
- Underlined words are key ideas that need to be captured
- Brackets indicate optional elements OR are instructions to markers

1. In lines 5-10, what is the author implying about public reaction to the design of the library? [2]

From the passage/Lift		Suggested Answer	Marks
		<i>The author is implying that...</i>	
While <u>some members of the public felt the building was magnificent, not everyone was so generous with their praise.</u> CBC's* Facebook polls showed that <u>some</u> were indifferent, <u>some</u> were hoping for better, and <u>many others</u> saw the price tag and wondered why the city was bothering at all [lines 5-8]	a	There are (too many) <u>diverse views</u> [Context] <u>on the design/building of the library</u>  <i>Note: to capture the diversity of views</i>	1
" <u>Giant waste of tax dollars to pacify a very small number of people and mostly just the employees.</u> Times have changed, people!!!" [lines 8-10]	b	as well as <u>strong/emphatic</u> opinions about how [context] <u>public/taxpayers' money</u> should be spent.  <i>Note: to capture strong opinions about public money spent</i>	1
<b>Note:</b> (i) The answer cannot be a simple lift of the text since question asks for implication. (ii) The context must be captured accurate in both parts (a) and (b).			

2. In lines 13-16, how does the author illustrate that beautiful spaces affect how we feel? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage/Lift		Suggested Answer	Marks
		[method]	Refer to table below
	a	The author illustrates this by giving examples of beautiful/historic spaces that evoke feelings of	
<b>Fond memories</b> (of roaming the narrow corridors of Diocletian's Palace, in Croatia) [line 14]	b	<b>nostalgia/happy recollection</b> (of exploring)	
<b>savouring</b> a cup of coffee on the lively piazzas of Rome [line 15]	c	<b>enjoying/relishing/feeling the pleasure of</b> (being in a vibrant space/watching the world go by)	
<b>experiencing the thrill of</b> fireworks over the Old Port of Montréal. [lines 15-16]	d	and feeling the <b>delight/excitement</b> (of watching celebrations)	

1 point	2-3 points	4 points
1 mark	2 marks	3 marks

3. Explain the author's use of the word 'clamouring' in line 19. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage / Lift		Suggested Answer	Marks
Consider our <u>COVID-19</u> experience [line 18]	a	[Context] Given people's lives <u>during the pandemic</u>	Refer to table below
which has seen people <b>clamouring</b> [lines 18-19]	b	[Meaning of clamouring] there is a <b>strong desire/demand/longing</b> Note: must capture 'strong' or its equivalent	
for <b>communal</b> <u>outdoor</u> spaces where they can be <u>safely</u> together [line 19]	c	[clamouring for what] to have <b>shared external</b> places/areas where people can gather <u>without risk</u> .	

1-2 points	3 points
1 mark	2 marks

4. From lines 24-26, why does the author doubt that the recently constructed Canadian buildings are something 'the country could be proud of' (line 24)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage/Lift		Suggested Answer	Marks
		<i>The author expresses doubt because</i>	
This is not only a matter of <b>aesthetics</b> [lines 24-25]	a	Canadian buildings are not well <b>designed</b>  Accept: beautiful (but make sure that context of buildings is clear)	1
for a country that is <b>ostensibly</b> concerned about climate change, we don't do much to push the envelope on environmental design. [lines 25-26]	b	for a country that <b>appears</b> to place emphasis on climate change, the actions are not aligned with this stance.  OR  and there is also a <b>discrepancy / mismatch / difference</b> between the <b>claim</b> that Canada cares about climate change and its actual effort to design eco-friendly buildings.  <i>Note: Examiner should not have to infer the meaning of 'ostensibly' for the student. The student must reasonably show the contrast between what Canadians claim and what they actually do.</i>	1

5. What does the word 'ceded' (line 38) suggest about the author's attitude towards the officials mentioned in lines 37-39? [1]

From the passage / Lift		Suggested Answer	Marks
		<i>It suggests that</i>	
In many places, officials <b>ceded</b> visions for cities to private developers, which is why you can now find massive condo towers in low-rise neighbourhoods. [lines 37-39]	a	[function] the author <b>is critical of / disapproving of</b> [context] the officials for giving up the plans for cities to private companies.	1

6. What does the author's use of the word 'blah' (line 41) suggest about Canadian cities? [1]

From the passage/Lift		Suggested Answer	Marks
The reason Canadian cities look so <i>blah</i> compared to, say, European ones [line 41]		They are mediocre/less attractive/dull/insipid/uninteresting (in comparison to European ones).	1
Note: (i) The point of this question is to expose the students to colloquialism by native speakers and tests the understanding of an expression to make a suggestion about Canadian architecture.			

7. Why does the author include the phrase 'and, truth be told, a lot of things' (lines 42-43) in dashes? [2]

From the passage/Lift		Suggested Answer	Marks
When it comes to architecture— <u>and, truth be told, a lot of things</u> —University of Calgary architecture professor Graham Livesey suspects that Canadians don't want to make a fuss. [lines 42-44]	a	[function] She wants to <u>emphasise</u>  <i>Note: double dashes single out this phrase hence 'emphasis'</i> <i>Do not accept: show</i>	1
	b	how passivity in Canadian culture/the aversion to making a scene is not just limited to architecture <u>but also applies to other issues</u> .	1
<i>Learning point: Students must answer fully, include the context, read the line carefully.</i>  <i>Note: the answer must minimally capture what 'a lot of things' means. Truth be told cannot be explained in isolation.</i>			

## 8. Summary

Using material from paragraphs 6 and 7 only (lines 50-75), summarise what the author has to say about why Canadians accept their architecture as being 'good enough' (line 51) and the possible consequences of their general passivity.

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.**

The author says Canadians accept mediocre architecture because...

From the passage	Point	Suggested answer
Not <u>merely</u> about a lack of empowerment	<b>A</b>	it <u>goes beyond</u> not having the agency/ability to make decisions
Or <u>abundance</u> of <b>ignorance</b>	<b>B</b>	or being <u>very/extremely</u> <b>uninformed</b>
<u>Fundamentally</u> , it represents our aversion to risk	<b>C</b>	<u>essentially</u> , it reflects their reluctance to try new things/to go beyond their comfort zone/take chances <i>Note: 'Gamble' not accepted</i>
The <u>predominant</u> approach to the design and construction of buildings	<b>D</b>	The <u>most common/main</u> attitude towards architecture is
why rock the boat	<b>E</b>	why challenge the system/status quo
<b>functional</b>	<b>F</b>	when <b>practical</b>
and <b>cheap</b> will suffice?"	<b>G</b>	and <b>inexpensive</b> will be good enough.
in many instances, "build cheap" also means "build <b>ugly</b> "	<b>H</b>	Often, this leads to unattractive buildings  <i>Note: If only Point G is given/without Point F, link to building cheap must be evident.</i>
not because good design <u>necessarily</u> costs more	<b>I</b>	not because good design <u>has to/actually</u> does cost more
But because we have conned ourselves into <b>believing</b> that it does	<b>J</b>	but because Canadians have fooled themselves into <b>trusting/thinking</b> that it does.
making more <b>creative</b> choices with the money you have	<b>K</b>	People are not making more <b>imaginative/innovative/inventive</b> choices with their budget
something that is <u>simply</u> beyond	<b>L</b>	because it completely/totally exceeds
the capabilities of the <u>people with the rubber stamps</u>	<b>M</b>	the abilities of their <u>bureaucrats/administrators.</u>
Our <b>devotion</b> to fiscal conservatism	<b>N</b>	Their <b>obsession</b> with financial prudence/saving money
Has caused us to settle for	<b>O</b>	has resulted in compromises,
Buildings that do not meet <u>even</u> the most basic standards of environmental sustainability	<b>P</b>	leading to buildings that have <u>very</u> poor/low environmental standards <i>Note: the essence is to pick out how low the standard is</i>
many <u>newer</u> private-sector buildings suffering from various <b>ailments</b>	<b>Q</b>	Numerous <u>more recent</u> private developments/buildings are plagued by many <b>problems.</b>
Canada's downtowns are <b>stuffed</b> with cranes	<b>R</b>	[inf] City-centres have <b>excessive</b> construction activity
piecing together gleaming towers with <u>floor-to-ceiling</u> glass—	<b>S</b>	[inf] constructing buildings with <u>excessive</u> amounts of glass

(a design choice) that sucks up <u>excessive</u> amounts of electricity (both the summer and winter months)	<b>T</b>	that use up <u>too much</u> energy/are <u>extremely</u> energy-inefficient.  <i>Note: Accept idea of unsustainable design</i>
Private developers push for this kind of design	<b>U</b>	Private developers lobby for design like this
because it is <u>relatively</u> easy	<b>V</b>	as it is <u>comparatively</u> straightforward,
and <b>inexpensive</b> to construct	<b>W</b>	and <b>cheap/cost-effective</b> to build,
<u>almost always</u> gets <u>approved</u> by cities	<b>X</b>	<u>frequently allowed/endorsed</u> by the authorities/cities,
and when <u>combined</u> with <b>cheap</b> materials	<b>Y</b>	and <u>together with</u> <b>low-cost</b> materials
it is the <u>quickest</u> way to <u>get returns</u> into the pockets of investors	<b>Z</b>	is the <u>fastest</u> way to <u>make money</u> for investors.
[inferred] glass panels falling off the facades of <u>newly</u> built hotel towers in downtown Toronto, including the Shangri-La luxury hotel, where <u>the most basic room goes for a minimum of \$575 a night</u>	<b>A1</b>	[inf] As a result, even <u>many new and expensive</u> buildings/hotels  <i>Note: the connector as a result is needed to show the negative consequences [A1-A3] that happens because of the actions of private developers [U-Z]</i>
glass panels falling off the facades of <u>newly</u> built hotel towers in downtown Toronto  or  In a Toronto high-rise, residents contend with wildly fluctuating water temperatures due to <u>improperly installed valves</u>	<b>A2</b>	have <u>construction defects</u> .
Vancouver's enduring leaky condo crisis, <u>in which tens of thousands of homes</u> built in the 1980s and 1990s have been flagged for water leaks.	<b>A3</b>	which <u>affect many/is</u> a <u>wide-spread issue</u> .

<b>Pts</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>5-6</b>	<b>7-8</b>	<b>9-10</b>	<b>11-12</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>15/15+</b>
<b>Marks</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

9. What criticisms does the author raise of Canadians' attitudes towards architecture in lines 82-84? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage / Lift		Suggested Answer	Marks
		The author's criticisms show that	Refer to table below
We have become <u>so devoted</u> to frugality and bureaucracy, [line 82]	a	Canadians have become <u>overly committed / dedicated</u> to spending little and paperwork  <i>Do not accept: 'very' – it does not capture the intensity of 'so'</i>	
and are <u>so readily appeased</u> by <u>basic functionality</u> , [lines 82-83]	b	and are <u>too easily assuaged</u> by <u>simple practicality / utility</u> that	
that we have <u>lost</u> the <b>fortitude</b> to take and demand risks. [line 83]	c	they <u>no longer have the strength / courage</u> to make daring decisions.	

<b>1 point</b>	<b>2-3 points</b>
1 mark	2 marks

10. In paragraph 9, why does the author say that it was 'striking to see how public opinion shifted' (lines 87-88)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage / Lift		Suggested Answer	Marks
		The author says it was striking because	2 or 0 marks
<u>For a long time</u> while it was still in the planning and construction stages, people asked, ' <b>What are you doing building a library? Aren't libraries dead? And why is it so expensive?</b> '" [lines 88-90]	a	while it was in the planning/building stage, the <b>animosity/criticisms</b> towards the Calgary library <u>was very strong / intense / OR lasted for many years.</u>  <u>whereas</u> (a contrasting connector is needed to show the striking shift)	
People <b>shut up</b> after the library opened, in 2018, to global adulation, however. " <b>Suddenly</b> , the discussion was, ' <b>Wow, that's really cool.</b> Did you know that was in the <u>New York Times</u> ?' " [lines 90-92]	b	after the library opened, the criticism <b>abruptly/surprisingly</b> stopped as people were very impressed by the building/the <u>reaction</u> to the building.	