

JC2 GP 2021 PRELIMS P2 (Suggested Answer Scheme)

From Passage 1

1. In lines 5-7, what is the truth about 'heroic individualism' that is being obscured? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
Yet, this enduring celebration of the 'last man standing' obscures the truth: 'heroic' individualism is a relic of the past that has no place in dealing with the complex problems of the world today.	<p>Heroic individualism is</p> <p>A (a relic of the past / that has no place): outdated / irrelevant / anachronistic / <u>no longer</u> appropriate / <u>no longer</u> effective / old idea that is not suitable <i>(X) ancient / artefact / old idea / symbol etc. (too literal)</i> <i>* Answers must capture idea of <u>irrelevance</u> in today's world</i></p> <p>B (in dealing with): in tackling / addressing / confronting / solving / meeting the challenges</p> <p>C (complex problems of the world today): the complicated crises of modern society / more sophisticated challenges today / more difficult issues today</p> <p>1-2pts: 1m 3pts: 2m</p>

2. What does the 'depressing observation' in line 8 suggest about humanity? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
One depressing observation from historians is that only large-scale violence or other catastrophes (including pandemics) have ever made us realise how critical it is to place the needs of society above the interests of the individual.	<p>Humans (negative traits only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not have foresight / are myopic / are blinkered / have tunnel vision / too focused on self Are apathetic / indifferent Are selfish Are ignorant / wilfully ignorant <p><i>(X) individualistic (not negative)</i> <i>* Answers must capture a specific inferred trait.</i></p>

3. Give **two** reasons why the author ends the passage with a focus on heroes. [2]

Lifted	Inferred
In fact, seen from a different angle, there is no better time for us to be heroes. After all, the greatest cinematic heroes are heroes precisely because of	<p>A (link/contrast to introduction): The heroes mentioned here stand in contrast to the heroes mentioned in the introduction / as a nice link to the introduction which started with the idea of heroes as well. <i>*Must capture the idea of 'heroes' that are mentioned in both paragraphs</i></p>

sacrifice — giving up everything for the benefit of society.	<p>B (optimism / call to action): The author wants to end on an optimistic / inspiring note for us to be heroes ourselves / for us to be more selfless / for us to sacrifice for the betterment of society.</p> <p>C (emphasis): To reinforce the idea / allow the readers to ponder over the fact / leave the reader with food for thought about the kind of heroes we need now /we need heroes who are selfless / willing to abandon/surrender all for the good/betterment of society.</p> <p>D (reference to cinematic characters): As an illustration because readers can relate to the heroes we see on screen / in the cinema <i>* Must capture context of cinema/film</i></p> <p><i>*Answers must capture both technique and context.</i> <i>*Some reference to heroes or heroic characteristics necessary.</i></p> <p>Any 2 pts for 2m</p>
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From Passage 2

5. In paragraph 1, how does the author support his idea that the story of humanity has been shaped by outstanding individuals? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Look into history, and it cannot be denied that the story of humanity has been shaped by individuals who have stood out from the faceless crowds to mould our collective destiny. Say what you will, the men and women with the greatest contributions to human civilisation — Socrates or Gandhi, Mother Teresa or Marie Curie — have never conformed to the societal norms of their day. They challenged conventions, defied laws, swam against the tide of public opinion. Socrates was even sentenced to death by poison to protect the public good from the supposed ‘moral corruption’ of his philosophical questioning.</p>	<p>A1 (technique): By providing examples of individuals from different fields/walks of life/professions / across different periods of history / both male and female / famous people in history who dared to <i>(X) ‘different examples’ alone</i> <i>* Answer must show insight into the TYPE of examples that are used</i></p> <p>A2 (context): question tradition/established ways of thinking/behaving / go against legal decrees and disagree with society’s beliefs/thinking</p> <p>B1 (technique): By providing the example of Socrates / an individual / someone</p> <p>B2 (context): who gave/sacrificed his life to safeguard society</p> <p>A1 + A2 for 1m B1 + B2 for 1m</p>

6. Explain what the author means by saying that a simple question of governance has ‘exploded into a greater debate of philosophical significance’ (lines 11-12). [2]

Lifted	Inferred
A simple question of governance has exploded into a greater debate of philosophical significance .	<p>The simple issue of governance has</p> <p>A (exploded): blown up / blown out of proportion / escalated into</p> <p>B (greater debate): a bigger / broader / more complicated problem / contention / clash of / discussion / conversation</p> <p>C (philosophical significance): questions about deeper / fundamental reasons behind decisions / about freedom / about culture / questions about whether individualism helps or harms society <i>(X) questions about individualism (too vague)</i></p> <p><i>*For point C, subject matter can focus on the idea of a ‘deeper’ issue, or an inferred point about concepts of ‘freedom’ or ‘culture’ or ‘governance’</i></p> <p>1-2pts: 1m 3 pts: 2m</p>

7. In lines 13-17, how does the author try to convince us that ‘radical individuals can be just as altruistic’ as those who conform? [2]

Lifted	Inferred
But individualism has been maligned. Critics praise the herd mentality of conformist societies as enlightened and unselfish. Yet they do not recognise that the most radical individuals can be just as altruistic, if not more so. Consider Jesus Christ, who founded a whole new religion by dying for the sins of others. Is there anything more selfless than sacrificing oneself to challenge the dominant religious beliefs of the day in order to bring a message of salvation?	<p>A (Use of counter-argument and rebuttal): He highlights what critics believe about the benefits of herd mentality and provides a rebuttal to that argument.</p> <p>B (Use of comparative language): He uses comparative language to show how the altruism of radical individuals is equivalent to / exceeds / surpasses that of the virtuous collective</p> <p>C (Citing iconic religious figure): He uses the example of Jesus Christ / the founder of a major religion / a recognizable religious figure / deity / divinity who we can relate to / who appeals to our sense of belief or faith <i>* Answer must capture the effect of the use of example</i> <i>* Mere paraphrasing of the text will not suffice</i> <i>* Context of religion must be clear in the answer</i></p> <p>D (Use of rhetorical question): He uses a rhetorical question to assert that the individualistic actions of Jesus Christ / a religious icon were the ultimate example of altruism.</p> <p>Any 2pts for 2m</p>

** Focus of the question is how the author tries to **CONVINCE**, in comparison to how he tries to **SUPPORT** his point (Q5).*

8. What does the rhetorical question in lines 26-27 imply about herd behaviour? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
<i>If everyone else is going along, how could it be wrong?</i>	<p>Herd behaviour (implied quality / trait)</p> <p>A (underlying cause): is driven by a belief that the majority must be right / driven by unquestioning trust / a lazy acceptance of social norms / is supported by misplaced trust / is unthinking</p> <p>B (influence): is alluring / comforting / easily traps one in an illusion that they are right / impairs our critical reasoning / makes us all complicit in evil / insidious</p> <p>C (unexpected outcome): can be shockingly/surprisingly wrong / lead one to place unwarranted trust in it</p> <p><i>(X) anything positive / everyone is doing it (too descriptive) / it is a bad idea (vague) / it is all wrong / we just follow the crowd (paraphrased) / it can be wrong</i></p> <p><i>Any 1pt for 1m</i></p>

9. In paragraph 5, identify **three** benefits of encouraging a culture that celebrates individuality. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Finally, where would we be today without the creative genius of Thomas Edison, Steve Jobs or Elon Musk? It is no surprise that it is the United States of America, a nation that upholds individual freedom and expression as a matter of principle, that has allowed the scientific and technological innovation of these entrepreneurs to lead us into a whole new world of bright lights, smartphones and electric cars. A culture celebrating divergent individuals has allowed these geniuses to challenge conventional beliefs and achieve the seemingly impossible. Time and time again, individualism has improved our lives.</p>	<p>The benefits are</p> <p>A (creative genius; innovation): being able to come up with novel ideas / grooming brilliant people with ideas/products/inventions / thinking out of the box / greater advancements and progress</p> <p>B (challenge conventional beliefs): people are able / encouraged to question the status quo</p> <p>C (achieve the seemingly impossible): attain what appeared to be unthinkable / far-fetched / out of reach</p> <p>D (time and time again improved our lives): repeatedly enhance our lives / continuously make our lives better</p> <p>E (inferred; upholds individual freedom and expression): becoming a country of people who prize being unique and having the liberty to stand out in a crowd</p>

	Any 3pts for 3m
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10. In paragraph 6, what **two** distinctions does the author make between individualism and the herd mentality? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased / Inferred
<p>It is easy to seek the comforts of a herd mentality, giving into fear in an age of uncertainty and constant surveillance. But it would be far braver, and far more necessary, to make room for individualism still. As individuals, we have to step out of our comfort zone and fight our fears in order to forge ahead as a society of diverse, independent thinkers, rather than a mindless mass of soulless puppets.</p>	<p>The distinctions are</p> <p>A (seek comforts vs. step out of comfort zone): While living with a herd mentality might make us keep to / remain / stick with what is routine / simple / safe, individualism pushes one to do things we would not normally do / to change / challenge what is accepted / be daring. <i>*Focus is on actions</i></p> <p>B (fear vs. bravery): The herd mentality is grounded in anxiety / cowardice / makes us more anxious, but individualism requires us to overcome these worries / apprehensions / be courageous. <i>*Focus is on emotions</i></p> <p>C (diverse, independent thinkers vs. mindless mass of soulless puppets): Individualism creates people who are able to discern well / analyse / hold their own opinions, while the herd mentality creates robotic followers / passive people who just follow orders / fools / brainless people <i>(X) lift of 'mind' and 'think/thoughts'</i></p> <p><i>*Accept answers that are phrased as A-B-A-B if the contrasts are clear and in the right order</i></p> <p>Any 2pts for 2m</p>

4. Using material from paragraphs 3–5 only, summarise the author’s criticisms of individualism and what he has to say about the importance of placing society before self.

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]

Individualism is criticised for being....

Point	Paraphrase	Key Idea
1 mere cover... elaborate excuse	a disguise / pretence / pretext / facade for / an invalid reason	cover/excuse
2 for selfish behaviour.	self-serving actions / acting in a manner that benefits only oneself / to look out for number one <i>*allow lift of 'self'</i>	selfish actions
3 ... riders / people who benefit from the public good <i>e.g. They enjoy lower virus transmission rates and eventual herd protection when other people get vaccinated</i>	those who profit / gain from society's efforts <i>*context of society not necessary for the point</i>	benefiting
4 free-... / yet do not have to sacrifice anything for it / without taking the risk themselves <i>e.g. but refuse to take that tiny risk and get vaccinated themselves.</i>	while not contributing / give up / pay any cost <i>*allow lift of 'anything'</i>	but do not sacrifice / without taking the risk
5 They spread fake news / (opp) sticking to facts	perpetuating falsehoods / lies (opp) while others adhere to the truth	spread falsehoods
6 and call for radical action / (opp) sticking to... reasoned discourse	incite / stir / provoke rebellion / revolution / extreme behaviour <i>(X) violent</i> (opp) while others engage in thoughtful/sensible debates/discussion	call for radical action
7 while the majority keeps society from descending into total chaos.	(inferred) leading to mayhem / disorder / anarchy/ absolute breakdown of society <i>*degree must be captured</i>	chaos
8 toxic individualism	is destructive / extremely dangerous / insidious	dangerous

9	only work when a small minority indulges in them	is only tolerable when few people do it OR (inferred) cannot be sustained	only for a small minority/ unsustainable
10	greater challenge for governments...	causes a bigger problem for governments <i>Allow lift of 'governments', but context must be clear</i>	greater challenge
11	when lots of people realise they can be selfish and get away with it	when many people are selfish with impunity / are selfish without being punished	lots of people get away with selfishness
12	refuse to abide by rules	do not adhere to regulations / break the law	refuse to abide by rules
13	endangering not just others but also themselves	putting others in harm's way / risking the safety of others and even themselves OR Inferred: risking the safety of everyone <i>*Must mention <u>who</u> is harmed (others + self / everyone)</i>	endangering others and themselves
14	There is nothing sentimental	pragmatic / objective / not just emotional	nothing sentimental
15	It means mutual help	reciprocal assistance / assisting each other / cooperation	mutual help
16	in cases of calamity	during crises / in critical situations / when facing disaster <i>*Must capture degree</i>	in cases of calamity
17	commitment to collective survival / we must assist one another or die	being dedicated to persevering together or perish / lose our lives	survival
18	the freedom of individualism is illusory OR and that we are all in it together	the autonomy individualism promises/promotes is hollow / false / a delusion / bogus OR the reality is that we are all in the same boat / all affected by the same problem	illusory freedom
19	common good is destroyed	undermines shared interests / leads to the eradication/ elimination / total loss /	destroys common good

	even free riders may have nothing left to ride on	complete removal of what benefits the community <i>*must capture degree</i>	
20	see through the fog of fake individualism.	be able to discern / be clear about what individualism really is	see through the fog
21	interdependence is the foundation of society	interdependence is fundamental / essential / cornerstone to society / the basis of society <i>*Allow lift of 'interdependence' but context must be clear</i>	interdependence is the foundation
22	Collective approaches, when undergirded by strong infrastructure , can save lives	Collective approaches which are supported with a robust framework/system are capable of protecting lives <i>*Allow lift of 'collective approaches but context must be clear</i>	collective approaches supported by infrastructure
23	looming environmental crisis also calls for individual sacrifice	the impending climate emergency / the imminent / worsening environmental disaster	looming crisis
24	forgoing these luxuries is far easier when we give them up together	sacrificing our comforts / lifestyle choices / privileges is much more manageable / achievable / much less difficult when we do it collectively	far easier... together