

General Paper
2010 JC2 Preliminary Examination
Suggested Answer Scheme

From Passage 1

1. Explain what the author means by “the infant Internet uttered its first words” (line 1).
 [1 mark]

Text material	Suggested answer
“the infant Internet uttered its first words” when a computer made contact with a second one, miles away...Kline's first message on the Arpanet...	The author refers to the beginning of communication from one computer to another [1] as when a baby starts to articulate meaningful sounds. [bonus 1] [Give '0' if only the second part is given.]

2. What does the author imply by stating that “trying to express the magnitude of what has really happened since is an undertaking that quickly exposes the limits of language” (lines 4-5)? [2 marks]

Text material	Suggested answer
...trying to express the magnitude of what has really happened since is an undertaking that exposes the limits of language. Twelve years after Kline's first message on the Arpanet... only 213 computers were on the network... 14 years later, 16 million people were online, and email was beginning to transform the world. The first really utilizable web browser was not launched until 1993, but by 1995 we had Amazon, by 1998 Google, and by 2001, Wikipedia, at which point there were 513 million people online. Today, the figure is 1.7 billion.	a. The growth in the number of Internet users (<i>in terms of numerical evidence</i>) [½] b. and the emergence of new applications/ platforms (<i>in terms of functions</i>) [½] have developed [Give ½ if a. and b. are summarised as progress/ developments.] c. to the extent that we are unable to adequately grasp/ understand and represent in words the impact of the Internet on the users. [1]

3. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain the author's claim in paragraph 6. [2 marks]

Text material	Suggested answer (Inferred)
Without most of us quite noticing when it happened, the web went from being a new curiosity to a background condition of everyday life: I have no memory of there being an intermediate stage, when, say, half the information I needed on a particular topic could be found online, while the other half still required visits to libraries.	a. It is not discernible/ distinct/ evident at which point in time (<i>the time factor</i>) [1] b. we started to take the Internet for granted in the conduct of our daily affairs, [½] c. instead of treating it as a novelty that is not always essential. [½]

4. The author illustrates the capacity of the web for “generativity” (line 57). Choose any **two** examples and explain how each reflects “just being alive” (line 62). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2 marks]

Text material	Suggested answer
It is only this latter period that has revealed the true capacity of the web for "generativity": for the sharing of blogs, podcasts and videos by anyone with access to the Internet,	a. In blogging, podcasting and video-sharing users are engaged in producing/ conveying their views, experiences and ideas to fulfil the need to reach out to/ communicate with others. [1]
for the undermining of totalitarian regimes and organisation of political resistance via radicalised websites,	b. The websites of activists are used as a platform to bring about change by challenging authoritarian rulers and coordinating efforts to oppose/ defy real or perceived lapses in governing. [1]
and for the use of sites such as Twitter and Facebook to create (and ruin) friendships, and spread fashions and rumours.	c. On social networking sites, users build or destroy relationships, and set trends. [1]
But you almost certainly know all this: it is part of what, in many parts of the world, we now call "just being alive".	<i>Any two of the above to score full marks.</i>

5. Using material from paragraphs 3 to 5 of the passage, summarise the factors contributing to, and the misconceptions about, the development of the Internet.

Write your summary in **no more than 130 words** not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [8 marks]

One of the factors contributing to the development of the Internet...

Note: There must be at least 2 misconceptions to warrant a full 8 marks. Otherwise, deduct 1 mark if 8 or more points are provided out of which there is only 1 misconception.

No	Text material	Suggested answer
1	...simply to enable researchers to access computers remotely, because computers were still vast and expensive, and the scientists needed a way to share resources.	a. There was a need to provide scientists an affordable means to contribute their expertise over long distances.
2	The Arpanet was not intrinsically intended as a secret weapon to humble the Soviets	b. The early Internet was <u>misconstrued</u> as a covert technology to outdo the Russians.
3	Linking computers by telephone lines... glacially slow... must be connected, by a dedicated line, to every other...connect more than a handful of machines... everything... monstrously complex and costly.	c. Developed to overcome the problems posed by traditionally connecting computers - which was cumbersome and expensive -

4	The solution was "packet switching" – breaking data down in blocks... routed around any part of the network that happened to be free, before getting reassembled at the other end.	d. by channelling data more efficiently,
5	to a select group of technological thinkers, the surprise was... that it took so long to get underway.	e. experts had <u>mistakenly expected</u> the Internet to take off speedily.
6	...whispers that they would work in a network... the American presidential science adviser... was already envisaging... a device..."an individual stores all his books, records, and communications"... linked to each other by "a mesh of associative trails"... these seemed to have spurred on and shaped the evolution of the Internet,	f. While visionary forecasting/ predictions might account for the Internet's capacity for saving massive data [1] and g. collaboration/ networking [1],
7	...others had frenzied visions of the world's machines turning into a kind of conscious brain.	h. there were <u>unfounded fears</u> of the Internet evolving into an artificial intelligence/ to have a mind of its own.
8	...the arrival of the Internet was never a matter of inevitability.	i. <u>Misunderstood</u> to be a matter of time, the advent of the Internet
9	...crucial idiosyncrasy of the Arpanet... funding came from the American military... millions ended up on university campuses, with researchers who embraced an anti-establishment ethic... publicised every step of their thinking...	j. was actually due to an unexpected/ unplanned rechanneling of grant from the military to the universities, k. where liberal-minded researchers were open with their findings.
10	...helped encourage a vibrant culture of hobbyists on the fringes of academia – students and rank amateurs who built their own electronic bulletin-board systems and eventually FidoNet, a network to connect them to each other.	l. This created a conducive environment for those who are technologically savvy and outside the research circle to set up rudimentary/ early versions of the Internet.
11	Arguably, these instances of unofficial tinkering did as much to make the Internet a public platform. The hobbyists, by making unofficial connections into the main system, were the first to open the Internet up to all comers.	m. Their informal attempts to establish links to the central official system paved the way for making the Internet accessible to the public.

Sample summary

One of the factors contributing to the development of the Internet was the need to provide scientists an affordable means to contribute expertise over long distances. But, this was misconstrued as a covert technology to outdo the Russians. Developed to overcome the cumbersome and expensive way of traditionally connecting computers, by channelling data more efficiently, some experts mistakenly expected a speedy takeoff. While visionary predictions account for the Internet's capacity for saving massive data and collaboration, there were unfounded fears of it evolving into artificial intelligence. Misunderstood to be a matter of time, its advent followed an unplanned rechanneling of grant from the military to the universities, where liberal-minded researchers disclosed their findings. A conducive environment emerged for the technologically savvy, outside the research circle, to set up rudimentary versions of it. Informal attempts to establish links to the central official system facilitated public access to the Internet.

(all 11 points in 137 words)

From Passage 2

6. In paragraph 1, what do the findings of the poll indicate about the readers' attitude towards the websites disapproved by the Australian government? [1 mark]

Text material	Suggested answer (Inferred)
...the Australian government recently proposed legislation to forbid websites containing material on child pornography, bestiality, incest, graphic "high-impact" images of violence, instructions on crime, detailed descriptions of the use of proscribed drugs, and how-to information on suicide for the terminally ill. A readers' poll in the Sydney Morning Herald showed 96% opposed to those proposed measures and only 2% in favour. More readers voted than in any previous poll shown on the newspaper's website, and the result is the most one-sided.	<p>a. Perhaps most readers feel that they are discerning enough/ confident enough to recognise and ward off/ manage the dangers/ the undesirable influences posed by these websites. [1]</p> <p>Or</p> <p>b. Most readers do not feel immediately threatened by/ worried about the dangers posed by the websites.</p>

7. '...what is available through the Internet dwarfs those libraries' (line 13). Explain why the writer uses the word 'dwarfs'. [1 mark]

Text material	Suggested answer
Today, an Internet connection offers, at your fingertips, an amount of information previously available only to those with access to the world's greatest libraries. Indeed, what is available through the Internet dwarfs those libraries...	<p>a. The author wants to emphasise that the mass of data/ knowledge in the Internet far surpasses the collection of information available through the most reputable libraries in the world. [1]</p> <p>Or</p> <p>b. The author wants to highlight the contrast between the amount of data accessible via the Internet and the massive but still limited amount in the world's established libraries. [1]</p>

8. How has Yoani Sánchez's blog 'broken barriers that conventional media could not' (lines 36-37)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3 marks]

Text material	Suggested answer
<p>A web report critical of the governor's behaviour stayed up for 18 hours before censors ordered it taken down. By then, the news was already widely dispersed.</p> <p>Likewise in Cuba ...blog 'Generation Y' has broken barriers that conventional media could not. Although the Cuban government has blocked access to the website on which the blog is posted...</p>	<p>a. Unlike conventional media which could not avoid official censorship that easily, non-conventional media like the stated blog could circumvent government censorship. [1]</p> <p>b. While the former could not disseminate information as extensively within a relatively short period, the latter get circulated quickly to other parts of the</p>

<p>it is available around the world in many languages,</p> <p>...and distributed within Cuba in CDs and flash drives.</p>	<p>world while also overcoming the language barrier. [1]</p> <p>c. Its digital nature makes it easy to copy, store and transmit, unlike the usually bulky format of the conventional media. [1]</p> <p><i>(Students must identify the barriers that conventional media poses and explain how the new media – through the blog example – breaks such barriers/ restrictions.)</i></p>
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9. “The new freedom of expression brought about by the Internet goes far beyond politics” (line 40). Cite **two** forms of the new freedom of expression and their implications. [2 marks]

Text material	Suggested answer
<p>People relate to each other in new ways, posing questions about how we should respond to people when all that we know about them is what we have learned through a medium that permits all kinds of anonymity and deception.</p> <p>We discover new things about what people want to do and how they want to connect to each other. Do you live in an isolated village and have unusual hobbies, special interests, or sexual preferences? You will find someone online with whom to share them.</p> <p>Can't get to a doctor? You can check your symptoms online – but can you be sure that the medical website you are accessing is reliable?</p>	<p>a. People enjoy a novel way of communicating with others. However, this form of communication may not always be truthful allowing all forms of dishonesty. [1]</p> <p>b. Individuals gather fresh insights into a whole range of desires, situations and inclinations and chances are there will be a match. [1]</p> <p>c. Individuals may find answers to questions they have about almost anything at all. However, the credibility of such information is questionable. [1]</p> <p><i>Any two examples to receive full marks for this question.</i></p>

From both passages

10. Give the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passage.

Write your answer in one word or a short phrase.

	Vocabulary	1 mark	½ mark	0 mark
a.	dramatically (adverb) (Passage 1, line 16) <i>In the entire history of mankind, nothing has changed so <u>dramatically</u> as computer communications.</i>	in a revolutionary way; radically; drastically	greatly; significantly; considerably	surprisingly; shockingly; intensively
b.	compact (verb) (Passage 1, line 54) <i>It is absurd to <u>compact</u> the series of events into a few phrases...</i>	compress; condense	summarise	shorten; abbreviate; limit; restrict
c.	unprecedented (adjective) (Passage 1, line 55) <i>...the <u>unprecedented</u> dotcom bust,,</i>	never seen/ heard/ happened before		unplanned; shocking; extraordinary; unparalleled; unmatched
d.	anarchist (adjective) (Passage 2, line 20) <i>It is as if an inherently decentralised and individualist technology had realised an <u>anarchist</u> vision that would seem utterly utopian.</i>	anti-government; against established rule/ central control	rebellious; radical	political; revolutionist
e.	fettered (adjective) (Passage 2, line 30) <i>...but the Internet will remain <u>fettered</u> in China.</i>	strongly restrained, restricted, censored	controlled; regulated	tied down; manipulated; chained; limited

11. With reference to the arguments from both passages, consider how the Internet has been harnessed in your society and whether it has led to similar problems. [8 marks]