

National Junior College
SH2 GP Paper 2 Prelim, Updated on 15th Sept 2015
Answer Scheme

1. According to the author in Paragraph 1, how did Obama use empathy as a political tool?
Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
1	Obama was thought to be more empathetic of the economic woes of the American people . It is hardly surprising that after winning the election, he continued to politicise it in his second term: at one time telling the American public that the "empathy deficit" is an even more pressing political problem than the fiscal deficit; it is the lack of empathy that causes wars .	President Barack Obama used it to 1. boost his political image by being more relatable to the people/ to show understanding in order to win voter support 2. de-emphasise economic problems 3. promote peace.

2. Why does the author place inverted commas around the phrase "empathy deficit" (line 5)? [1]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
	It is hardly surprising that after winning the election, he continued to politicise it in his second term: at one time telling the American public that the "empathy deficit" is an even more pressing political problem than the fiscal deficit; it is the lack of empathy that causes wars.	1. The author does so to show his disagreement OR to raise doubts... 2. ...with Obama's concept/idea of a general lack of empathy that the Americans have.

3. What are the differences between the two extremes of empathy as presented in lines 17-20?
Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
1	At one end or Level 0, are people with no empathy ;	1a. At Level 0, people lack /are devoid of empathy

	these include the clinically defined psychopaths who usually do terrible things with no compunction.	1b. About performing horrible/heinous/atrocious acts as they do not care about how others feel/ do not have misgivings/ have no sense of guilt
2	At the other end is Level 6, where the individual has an overabundance of empathy and is continually focused on other people's feelings.	<u>while / whereas / however</u> 2a. at Level 6, people possess an indulgent/ excessive/ unrestrained sense of empathy; have too much empathy 2b. and are constantly/ always fixated on/ preoccupied with the emotions of others.
	1a+2a [relating to the condition of the two ends] = 1 mark 1b+2b [manifestation/ behaviour] = 1 mark	

4. What is the author suggesting when he uses the word "potential" in line 21? [1]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
1	Empathy is invariably seen as a virtue and - as suggested by Mr Obama - a potential panacea for much of the ills in the world.	He is suggesting an open-minded attitude by considering the possibility that empathy can solve the problems in the world.

5. Using material from paragraphs 3 and 4, summarise what the author has to say about the causes and consequences of having too much empathy.

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]

Having too much empathy can result in

No.	Lifts/Contextual clues	Paraphrased / Inferred
1	L24 constant state of overdrive to absorb people's distress	people being all the time/always being too intense in feeling/relieving/resolving others' pain/sufferings/ sorrows/anxieties
2	L24 feel compelled to help them	They feel obliged to assist/aid/tend to them
3	L25 ...place the needs of others before their own	Priority is given to others
4	L26...relationships are often asymmetrical	resulting frequently in ties/relationships which are one-sided/unbalanced
5	L27 self-serving	This type of empathy is essentially focused on the individual interest of the person who is showing empathy,
6	L31 oppressive to the loved one	an attitude that can weigh heavily/be overbearing/suffocating on the recipient
7	L32 bolstered his ego	On the other hand, the person showing empathy feels good/smug
8	L32 knowledge that he was needed	with the awareness that he is indispensable/ feeling a sense of heightened importance to others
9	L33 depended upon	and is relied on/reliable
10	L33 admired for a compassion	He is looked up to/highly regarded for his kindness/sympathy.
11	L34 emotional patronage	He is confident of influencing and affecting the feelings of his recipient
12	L34 spiritual pride	And derives much inner satisfaction from this

13	L35 surfeit of empathy can be destructive	However too much/excessive empathy is damaging ,
14	L35 (feeling too much of the pain of others) leads to empathetic distress	causing unhappiness/misery.
15	L36 predisposes the individual to depression	It makes one inclined/susceptible/vulnerable to/ one has the tendency/ propensity to experience dejection/extreme sadness
16	L36 anxiety	and worry/panic/stress
17	L36 guilt	Additionally the conscience of the recipient is affected/the recipient feels bad about himself.
18	L36 burnout	It can cause fatigue/exhaustion/ overexertion/ someone to be drained/tired.
19	L40.... politics, law and humanitarianism where empathy can be manipulated	Empathy in certain aspects of life is subject to exploitation in the wrong hands,
20	L 42... perpetuate their atrocities	giving rise to terrible/shocking inhumane acts.

Allocation of marks

1-2 → 1	3-4 → 2	5-6 → 3	7-8 → 4	9-10 → 5	11-12 → 6	13 → 7	14+ → 8
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6. Explain the phrase “identifiable victim effect” (line 43). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
1	We are more likely to be empathetic towards someone who is similar to us ,	The phrase refers to the phenomenon where it is easier for us to feel for someone who is like us / whom we can relate to
2	and towards a specific and named person (lines 43-44) than for a large nameless group. (line 45)	when we know who exactly he/she is than towards an unknown group.
3	Once our empathy is invoked, it might	This could / possibly lead us to want to

	sometimes give rise to the desire for a more immediate action (lines 45-46)	take prompt action
4	that does not have any consideration for long-term consequences. (lines 46-47)	without thinking about long-term impact/ effects
	Learning Points / Mark Allocation: 1 pt = 0m 2-3 pts = 1m 4 pts = 2m	

7. How does Professor Bloom show that depending on empathy in decision-making can be “unreliable and treacherous” (line 55)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
1a	Professor Bloom cited a study (line 47)	He made reference / quoted a piece of research / an experiment
1b	<p>where people were asked about how to punish a hypothetical company that had produced a vaccine that inadvertently killed a child. Participants were asked if they would impose a fine... (lines 47-49)</p> <p>Most of the participants wanted to impose that fine (line 51)</p>	<p>where participants / people chose a course of action in favour of someone they empathised with</p>
2	<p>...that would be so prohibitive that it would discourage the company from making the vaccine though this would lead to more deaths as there were no other alternatives. (lines 49-50)</p> <p>...whatever the consequences. (line 51)</p>	even if it meant that others would potentially be disadvantaged / suffer.
	Learning Points / Mark Allocation: 1a and 1b = 1m Point 2 = 1m	

8. What does the author mean by “it is no surprise” (line 62)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
1	“So, it is no surprise... ” (lines 61-62)	It is expected / obvious/ not unexpected / understandable given that / since / considering the fact that...
2	A 2006 paper...states that empathy in doctors significantly influences patient satisfaction, adherence to medical recommendations, clinical outcomes, and professional satisfaction. The frequency of medical errors among doctors has been reported to increase as the level of empathy among doctors decreases. <u>OR</u> It has long been held to be one of those defining things that doctors should possess in generous amount	empathy has [obvious] advantages/ benefits in the professional context <u>OR</u> as empathy is commonly assumed to be an essential / vital characteristic / quality that doctors should have
3	<u>EITHER</u> ...medical schools have tried various ways to nurture empathy in medical students... <u>OR</u> ... are teaching them to evince it	[it is no wonder then that] medical schools have attempted different methods of cultivating/ instilling/ inculcating/ fostering empathy among medical students <u>OR</u> are instructing them on how to show empathy
Learning Points / Mark Allocation: 1 point = 1m The attempt to respond to point 1 <u>must be</u> evident before any mark is awarded for the other points. -- Students must answer the question.		

9. Explain the author's purpose in using the first person perspective in Paragraph 8. [1]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
1	<p>"...as a patient, I would not want my doctor to mirror my distress and wring her hands in anguish..." (lines 66-67)</p> <p>"I would want her to remain calm and in control..." (line 67)</p> <p>"... But I would also want her to feel for me - rather than feel with me..." (lines 67-68)</p>	<p>He uses the first person perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to add a measure of authenticity to his writing. to make him more relatable to his readers/ shows that he has empathy too. to add credibility to his writing through a consideration of various perspectives. to personalise the findings

10. Explain the dilemma that doctors face in their quest to heal their patients as seen in paragraph 9. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
1	"... if we feel too deeply , we risk being derailed if not incapacitated ..." (lines 73-74)	Being overly concerned for their patients may cause doctors to lose focus and be deprived of their abilities ,
2	"... if we banish our emotions , we lose sight of the person within the patient and fail in our role as healers ." (lines 74-75)	but being too distant / detached could also have the similar effect and result in a compromise in the quality of care doctors provide .

11. What does the author mean when he uses the word "albeit" (line 80)? [2]

	Lifts/Contextual clues	Suggested answer
1	"We should continue to cultivate empathy ,	He means that although empathy is something we should still carry on developing/fostering/nurturing [1],
2	albeit tempered with an awareness of its limitations, frailties and possible perils ." (lines 79-80)	it should be done with an approach that is well-informed and with the restrictions, weaknesses/ vulnerabilities and risks/ dangers of having too much empathy carefully considered [1].