

Hwa Chong Institution
2015 JC2 Preliminary Examination
Paper 2 Answer Key

1. Why does the author refer to the pedestrian as 'an extremely fragile, virtually extinct species' (line 3)? (1)

Lift from Passage	Paraphrase/appreciation
In a hostile environment where the automobile is the alpha predator...	<p>Either: By using the phrase 'alpha predator', the author presents an image of the car prowling cities in a menacing way, 'preying' on vulnerable people who are too fearful of their lives to venture outside/walk the streets. Hence, pedestrians are analogous to an 'endangered' species.</p> <p>(students might also mention the 'emaciated sidewalks' and 'belching' traffic as further evidence of a hostile environment for pedestrians in terms lack of safety and pollution)</p> <p>Or (put more simply): Cars 'dominate' cities and people do not want to walk the streets anymore for fear of being run over – hence the pedestrian is an increasingly rare sight/ fast disappearing from cities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Any sensible answer = 1 mark)</p>

2. In paragraph 2, the author describes civic spaces as 'stages for our public lives' (line 10) and 'bridge-building places' (line 12). Explain what she means in each case. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

Lift from Passage	Explanation
...they serve as stages for our collective lives: they can be the settings where celebrations are held, where social and economic exchanges take place, and where friends run into each other.	<p><u>Physical facilitation (STAGE)</u> They are the 'platforms'/backdrops/settings/focal points/venues where we 'perform'/enact our personal/group/communal interactions (with the added implication of others being the 'audience') (1)</p>
Civic spaces are also bridge building places which draw a diverse population that can include the elderly, teenagers, and children, as well as an ethnic and cultural mix. A successful civic space acts as a common ground which encourages people to integrate, get involved and take pride in the area.	<p><u>Social facilitation (BRIDGE)</u> They bring together different groups/sections of the community (with different interests, perhaps conflicting views/attitudes), thus giving them the opportunity to communicate/mingle and thereby bond/connect/come together as a harmonious community. (1)</p>

3. Why does the author say that walking through certain urban areas can be an 'unnerving' experience (line 19)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (1)

Lift from Passage	Explanation
Walking through certain communities can be an alienating, not to mention extremely unnerving, experience, as if the whole place had been evacuated for an emergency that no one told you about.	<p>It can be an unsettling/ discomfoting/ disconcerting/ daunting feeling / instil a sense of foreboding (1/2)</p> <p>as the area is inexplicably and ominously/ eerily desolate (like a wasteland), so people instinctively feel that something is very wrong/something terrible has happened. (1/2)</p>

4. How did the introduction of a pedestrian district transform Copenhagen's city centre? **Use your own words as far as possible.** (2)

Lift from Passage	Paraphrase
At that time, the pavements were deserted and cars infested the streets. The pedestrian zone was conceived as a way to revitalise a moribund city centre.	<p><u>Before:</u> Dead/dying/lifeless/in decline (1/2)</p>
It has been expanded incrementally each year ever since, with parking spaces gradually removed, and biking and public transport facilities improved. Sidewalk cafes , once thought to be exclusive to the Mediterranean, have become the life blood of Copenhagen's social life – places of encounter, conversation and debate. The pedestrian district is now the pulsing heart of a reinvigorated city.	<p><u>Because:</u> It was overrun by traffic and there were no pedestrians/ the sidewalks were empty. (1/2)</p> <p><u>After:</u> Re-energised/'resurrected'/revived/revitalized/vibrant/lively (1/2)</p> <p><u>Because:</u></p>

	(with private transport reduced/restricted and public transport increased) there was an influx of cafes which created a bustling hive of activity where people converged to meet, talk and exchange opinions. (1/2)
<i>*information in brackets not required for mark</i>	

5. Explain the author's use of the word 'trumpet' in line 43. (1)

Lift from Passage	Inference
...to trumpet their global status	<p>The use of the word suggests that the buildings were used to loudly/arrogantly/boastfully/proudly proclaim/vaunt/broadcast that the cities have "arrived" or attained a certain/elevated standing/position in the world.</p> <p>(Allow 'show off', boast)</p> <p>(do not accept 'announce/declare' as these do not adequately capture the negative connotation of brash arrogance or 'crowing' about an achievement in a strident manner)</p>

6. Using material from paragraphs 4 and 5 only, summarise what the author has to say about what is wrong with cities today, the changes that need to be made and the benefits they would bring. 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.**

Cities need to change because...

	Lift from Passage	Paraphrase
1	suffer from streets dedicated to moving multitudes of cars quickly– a goal that effectively eliminates foot traffic	roads exclusively allocated to moving large amounts of/droves/hordes of traffic/vehicles (allow cars) essentially exclude/prohibit pedestrians/stop people walking on the streets
2	and precludes the social intercourse vital for healthy street life	which prevents/bars/stops/obviates the communal/societal gatherings/events/activities crucial/essential/imperative for a vigorous/lively/robust community life (allow street life)
3	tame traffic and put pedestrians first	We need to curb/control/severely restrict/regulate vehicles in favour of pedestrians/walkers/and prioritise pedestrians
4	creating attractive streetscapes with congenial environments	Fashioning/establishing appealing street scenes with pleasant/warm/welcoming/inviting/friendly/sociable surroundings/settings
5	truly walkable places	spaces genuinely suited for walking
6	overall health as a society	general well-being as a community
7	An eminently feasible solution to a number of pressing problems...	A viable/practical/workable/practicable/realisable answer to several urgent/critical/acute difficulties
8	ecological imperative	environmental necessity/ crucial/ vital/ critical environmental obligation/requirement
9	as fuel costs spiral, a financial one as well	And, as energy/gas/petrol prices continues to sky-rocket/rapidly rise/increase, a monetary/economic/fiscal one as well
10	Revitalizing streets... broader economic sense	Re-energising/reviving streets (allow) has a greater/wider/larger financial/monetary benefit/advantage
11	bring conviviality to neighbourhoods	giving warmth/friendliness/geniality to local communities/areas
12	providing opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurship	Offering/affording openings/chances/ prospects for business ventures/new enterprises/start-ups
13	bring the city's downtown to life	Creating vibrant city centres / revitalizing/ re-energising/ reviving inner cities
14	spurring the development of cultural	Stimulating/encouraging/propelling/galvanizing/ incentivizing/driving

	amenities such as museums and galleries	the growth/expansion of facilities supporting the arts
15	a host of recreational facilities	A multitude of entertainment/leisure/amusement amenities
16	lined with aesthetically appealing buildings	filled with visually/artistically attractive /beautiful structures/edifices/buildings (allow)
17	not the cold monolithic monstrosities with grim facades	As opposed to colossal/massive eyesores with unfriendly/inhospitable/unwelcoming/forbidding grey/uninviting frontages/fronts/appearances
18	conscientious conservation of heritage buildings	Careful/thoughtful preservation of historical/old buildings
19	injecting architectural charm	giving/infusing quaint appeal/ picturesque/enchanting character to buildings
20	testifying to a city's unique historical personality	attesting to/affirming a city's distinct/special/one-of-a-kind identity/character (allow historical)
21	and celebrating its rich cultural identity	and commemorating/saluting/honouring/paying tribute to/lauding its long/rich/diverse traditions/heritage
22	But meaningful conservation is not merely about preserving the façade of a building, much less converting vital places into mouldy museums	but preservation should go beyond just/only/simply/purely maintaining/keeping frontages or changing 'living' places into stale/drab/lifeless public building (allow museum)
23	Whilst they have tremendous value as historical icons	Although precious as universally recognized/renowned and admired symbols (be generous here)
24	remain organically connected to city life	They should also continue to be natural /living parts of the city/ part of its life blood
	Careful resurrection (repetition of point 18)	
25	judicious repurposing	astute/thoughtful/careful re-use / employing buildings for a different use or function
26	living entities that breathe character	Vital/functioning buildings that exude/emanate personality
27	proclaiming the identity of vibrant communities where people still live and work	Evincing/showing/broadcasting the character of dynamic/vigorous/flourishing/thriving/healthy neighbourhoods/districts
28	strengthen a sense of belonging	Reinforce/fortify kinship/affiliation/togetherness
29	by forging emotional bonds to places	By building/constructing/creating/fashioning close/intimate attachments
30	but also sustain a sense of collective memory	Preserve/maintain an awareness of our shared/cumulative/communal past
31	They anchor people securely amidst the swirling currents of globalisation which threaten to cast them adrift	They firmly sustain our ties/attachment to a place, ('mooring' us firmly/steadily/strongly to prevent us from being 'swept away' by the forces of globalization)
*the words in brackets not necessary for mark		

18 + points	8	15 - 17 points	7	12 - 14 points	6	9 -11 points	5
7 - 8 points	4	5 - 6 points	3	3- 4 points	2	1 - 2 points	1

7. What similarity does the author draw between cave paintings and Creative Placemaking? **Use your own words as far as possible. (2)**

Lift from Passage	Paraphrase
Starting with the first cave paintings 40,000 years ago, we have been using art to transform places that feel dark and menacing	Both use art to radically change areas/places/settings which seem bleak/desolate and threatening/intimidating/foreboding (1)
into places that are inviting and vibrant.	into areas which are friendly/welcoming and lively. (1)

8. 'Genuinely green cities...prettify shopping malls' (lines 68-70). What does this sentence tell us about the author's opinion of current attempts to make cities look 'greener'? **Use your own words as far as possible. (2)**

Lift from Passage	Inference
Genuinely green cities are a far cry from those of today where token trees camouflage congested roads or manicured shrubs in concrete troughs vainly attempt to prettify shopping malls.	The author thinks the current attempts to do so are woefully / pathetically inadequate and completely unsuccessful. (1) (accept 'critical', 'scornful' but not 'sceptical' or 'doubtful')
	Because they are insincere/half-hearted/inauthentic (merely perfunctory/cosmetic/paying mere lip-service) - totally different from what a truly/real green city should be encompass. (1)

9. In paragraph 8, show how the author employs an extended metaphor to illustrate the fact that cities are in urgent need of transformation. **Use your own words as far as possible. (2)**

Lift from Passage	Language appreciation
Cities today are social, cultural, aesthetic and environmental wastelands . Transforming such inhospitable and arid landscapes requires equal parts sensitivity and rigour. Sensitivity, because planners need to realize that every city is not only a unique cultural and historical product, but also an evolving organism . Rigour, because drastic measures need to be applied and scrupulous attention paid to enable their present revival and ensure their eventual blossoming .	She employs natural imagery, comparing cities to living organisms/landscapes which are dying, describing them as bleak/ barren/ desolate/ empty/ neglected 'wastelands' (1) EITHER: She subsequently uses the adjective 'arid' to reinforce the same image of cities being parched/barren/lifeless deserts OR: (preferred) She proceeds to develop this natural image by prescribing remedies for their 'revival' and 'eventual blossoming' (1) <u>Alternative Answer</u> She employs natural imagery, comparing cities to changing/growing/developing/embryonic living things/entities (i.e. evolving organisms) (1) She subsequently describes the measures that will guarantee their 'eventual blossoming'. (1) NB. If students explain the central metaphor in general without showing how the image is extended, award no mark. NB. If students merely describe/paraphrase the extended metaphor without citing specific images, then award 1 mark only.

10. According to the author in paragraph 9, what are the main obstacles that currently stand in the way of transforming cities? **Use your own words as far as possible. (3)**

Lift from Passage	Paraphrase
the soulless planners whose cookie cutter designs suffocate them,	The main obstacles are: 1. uninspiring/characterless architects/developers whose designs are uniform/ identical/ unvaried/ indistinguishable/ homogeneous/ mass produced/ lack originality/ all the same (1)
the faceless corporations whose colossal towers smother them, and	2. impersonal/anonymous business organisations/companies whose gigantic/vast/massive buildings/skyscrapers overwhelm/stifle cities (1)
the gas-guzzling brutes that choke them.	3. the fuel-wasting automobiles/vehicles/cars congesting/clogging/ polluting cities (1)

11. Explain the relevance of the final paragraph to the title of the passage. **Use your own words as far as possible.** (1)

Lift from Passage	Appreciation
...we need to first rid ourselves of the soulless planners whose cookie cutter designs suffocate them, banish the faceless corporations whose colossal towers smother them, and outlaw the gas-guzzling brutes that choke them. We need to return the city to its rightful owners - the people. As American author and urbanist Jane Jacobs so astutely cautioned several decades ago: "Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."	<p>In this paragraph, the author says the city has been appropriated/seized/taken over by technocrats/big business/automobiles and must be returned to its original and legitimate ('rightful') owners – the people - from whom it has been 'stolen'. (1/2)</p> <p>The title 'Reclaiming our Cities' encapsulates this idea – 'reclaiming' meaning retrieving or recovering something once taken that is rightfully yours and the plural possessive pronoun 'our' referring to the people/inhabitants/denizens of cities in general (1/2)</p> <p><i>Be generous here – not all of the above detail is required but the connection must be clearly understood.</i></p>

12. Alissa Walker severely criticises modern cities in general and argues that there is an urgent need to make them more 'liveable'. Discuss the relevance of her observations and recommendations to your country in particular. (10)