

**2016 SAJC Prelim Exam Answer Scheme Draft 6**

1. Which word in paragraph 1 suggests that the news is a distraction? [1m]

The word is 'interrupt'.

Unacceptable: 'put on hold' (reason: phrase)

2. In paragraph 1, what are the two traits of the news that are likened to 'breathing and blinking'? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
The news does not come with any instructions, because it is meant to be the <b>easiest</b> and <b>most unremarkable</b> activity in the world, like breathing or blinking.	<p>The traits are ...</p> <p>Easiest – simplest</p> <p>Most unremarkable – extremely / most ordinary / mundane / normal / insignificant</p> <p>Acceptable lift: most *Degree should be reflected</p> <p>Acceptable: most effortless and ordinary</p> <p>Unacceptable: very / highly</p> <p>Both parts are required to get 1m.</p>

3. Explain the irony in lines 3-7. [2m]

Lifted	Inferred
We put our lives on hold in the expectation of receiving yet another dose of <b>critical</b> information about all the most <b>significant</b> catastrophes, romantic complications and trends to have befallen mankind anywhere around the planet since we last had a look. What we do receive is news about heavy rain in the tropics, a celebrity's extra-marital affair, the latest cartoon-inspired cafe...	<p>A: <u>We expect</u> the news to deliver the most important / impactful updates / reports</p> <p>B: <u>yet in reality</u>, we are provided with trivial / frivolous / non-essential / serious news.</p> <p>Acceptable lift: information</p> <p>Unacceptable: insignificant (cannot simply lift 'significant' in the text/ unimportant (cannot simply flip 'important)</p> <p>Note: Focus should be on the quality of the news and not the effect that the news has on us (eg less severe - X).</p> <p>0 or 2m</p>

4. Why does the author end paragraph 1 with [...] (line 7)? [1m]

Lifted	Inferred
What we do receive is news about heavy rain in the tropics, a celebrity's extra-marital affair, the latest cartoon-inspired cafe...	<p>A (Function/Purpose): The three dots show that the list is not exhaustive / the list goes on / there are more examples of / the possibilities are endless</p> <p>Unacceptable: A lot of / full of / variety of / abundance (not about the total quantity but the idea of 'more')</p> <p>B (Context): trivial / frivolous / non-essential / mundane news</p> <p>Both parts for 1m</p>

5. What does the author find surprising in lines 8 to 10? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>For all its determined pursuit of the <b>peculiar</b>,</p> <p>the surprising thing about the news is that</p> <p>it skilfully <b>avoids</b>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>training its eye on itself</b>,</li> <li>- and the <b>predominant position</b> it has achieved in our lives.</li> </ul>	<p>A: (context) If the purpose of the news is to report on everything <b>unusual</b>,</p> <p>it is surprising that</p> <p>B: it manages to evade self-scrutiny / it is not critical of itself</p> <p>C: and it has neglected to question / examine / cover its primary / key / main role in our lives.</p> <p>A+B OR A+C = 2m A+B+C = 2m No A = 0m</p>

6. According to the author in paragraph 3, what are the similarities between our responses both to the news and to religion? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>In the developed economies, the news now occupies a position of power at least equal to that formerly enjoyed by the faiths.</p> <p>It demands that we approach it with some of the <u>same</u> <b>reverence</b> we would once have harboured of the faiths.</p> <p>Here, <u>too</u>, we hope to <b>receive revelations</b>,</p> <p>learn who is <b>good and bad</b>,</p> <p><b>understand suffering</b> and</p>	<p>A: We venerate the news like a religion / we give them the same level of honour / devotion / respect / admiration / awe / utmost importance</p> <p>Acceptable lift: same</p> <p>B: we wish to be enlightened / obtain new insights / wisdom</p> <p>X guidance / advice / discoveries</p> <p>C: we differentiate between people who are morally upright and who are corrupt,</p> <p>D: why we endure hardships / trials/ tribulations,</p>

the unfolding <b>logic of existence</b> .	<p>E: and discover the meaning / purpose of life</p> <p>1 points – 1m 2-3 points – 2m 4-5 points – 3m</p>
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7. In paragraph 3, why does the author refer to the news as an ‘assumption-laden perspective’? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
...it does not <b>merely report</b> on the world,	<p>A: The news does not only document world events / does not simply present global happenings / give out information of the world</p> <p>OR</p> <p>(inferred) The news provide objective information / it does not just give us facts / into believing that it is objective / reported with a lot of biasness [1m]</p>
but is instead constantly at work <b>crafting</b> a new planet in our minds	<p>B: but actively shaping / inventing / creating our world view / new paradigms [1m]</p>
in line with its own often highly distinctive <b>priorities</b> .	<p>C: and often has its own agenda / purpose as it selectively reports events based on what it thinks is important. [1m]</p> <p>Acceptable lift: own</p>

8. Why does the author use the examples of *Romeo and Juliet* and Vincent Van Gogh in paragraph 4? [2m]

Lifted	Inference
<p>From an early age, it is deemed <b>more</b> important for us to know how to make sense of the plot of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> than how to decode the front page of <i>The Guardian</i>. We are <b>more</b> likely to hear about the significance of the famous painter, Vincent van Gogh's use of colour than to be taken through the effects of the celebrity photo section of <i>Daily Mail</i>. ...Yet, it is disturbing that people seldom attempt to educate us about the words and images proffered to us every hour by the news. ... We are never systematically inducted into the <b>extraordinary capacity</b> of news outlets to influence our sense of reality.</p>	<p>A (Function): They serve as a <u>contrast</u> to the news...</p> <p>Or other appropriate sign-posts to show contrast (eg unlike)</p> <p>B (Author's point):  B1 - by showing how we pay <u>more attention</u> to classical works than the news</p> <p>OR</p> <p>B1 - by showing how we pay <u>less attention</u> to the news</p> <p>X not about being taught to understand the news</p> <p>(comparison between classical works and the news must be evident)</p> <p>B2 - even though the news is equally OR more powerful in influencing / shaping our lives.</p> <p>Unacceptable lift: influence our sense of reality (whole phrase)</p> <p>A only = 0  B1+B2 only = 0  A+B1 = 1  A+B2 = 1  A+B1+B2 = 2</p>

9. What does the phrase 'cocooned in classrooms' (line 33) suggest about our education in school? [1m]

Lifted	Inferred
Cocooned in classrooms for only our first eighteen years or so ...	Education gives us limited exposure / shields us from reality. / We are sheltered and protected in school / isolates in classrooms / alienates us from the world

10. How do the two conclusions about India and women in paragraph 9 support the author's point in paragraph 10? [1m]

Lifted	Inferred
<p>To what increase in <b>wisdom</b> did all these news stories <b>contribute</b>, beyond leaving behind conclusions, for example, that India is over-populated and that women are different from men?</p> <p>To ask why the news matters is not to presume that it does not, but to suggest the rewards of approaching our intake <b>more critically</b>.</p>	<p>A: The two conclusions reveal that our response is simplistic / reductive / shallow / superficial / does not lead to deeper understanding</p> <p>B: and supports the author's point that we should be more evaluative when reading the news.</p> <p>Both parts are needed to get 1m.</p> <p>Unacceptable lifts: wisdom, contribute, critically</p>

11. Using material from paragraphs 6 – 8 of the passage, summarise the reasons why people keep checking the news.

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.**

*We keep checking the news because...*

	Lifted	Paraphrased	Main Idea
A	<b>Dread</b> has a lot to do with it. (line 41)	<b>Anxiety / fear / uneasiness</b>  Lift: worry/worrisome  X: doubts / curiosity	Dread
B	After even a short period of being cut off from news, our apprehensions have a <b>habit of accumulating</b> . (lines 41-42)	Our worries tend to <b>grow</b> in the absence of news updates	a habit of accumulating
	and hence, after a time, it has a habit of <b>growing worrisome</b> in its own way. (line 48)	Our <b>fears build up</b> ...  Note: Award for BOTH A and B  Lift: worry/worrisome	See A and B
C	We know <b>how much</b> is liable	We are aware of the <b>severity / extent / scale / degree</b>	How much
D	and <b>how fast</b> (line 43)	and <b>speed / rate / how quickly / rapidly</b>	how fast
E	to go <b>wrong</b> (lines 42-43)	things to go <b>awry / get out of hand</b>	go wrong
F	In the immediate vicinity, there might well be <b>stability</b> . (line 45)  (example: In the garden, a breeze may be swaying the branches of the plum tree and dust may slowly be gathering on the bookshelves in the living room.)	Even though we may be enjoying <b>tranquility / peace / the calm / serenity</b>	stability

G	But we are aware that such serenity does not do justice to the <b>chaotic</b> fundamentals of existence (line 47)	we know that in reality, the world is experiencing <b>disorder / turmoil</b> / does not give credit to how complicated being alive is / catastrophic basis of life  X: complexities/ uncertainties	chaotic
H	Our background awareness of the possibility of catastrophe explains the small pulse of <b>fear</b> we may register <b>as we wait for</b> news notifications to appear on our phones. (lines 48-50)	This causes us to feel slightly <b>uneasy</b> whenever we <b>anticipate</b> updates / <b>expect</b> disasters to happen / subconscious acknowledgement of impending disaster	fear we may register as we wait for news notifications
I	<u>Inferred</u> : It is a version of the <b>apprehension that our distant ancestors must have felt</b> in the chilly moments before dawn, as they wondered whether the sun would ever find its way back into the skies. (lines 50-52)	<u>Inferred</u> : This fear is <b>inherited / passed down</b> from our <b>predecessors</b> / fundamental <b>instincts</b> of...	our distant ancestors must have felt
J	Yet there is a particular kind of <b>pleasure</b> at stake here too. (line 53)	However, we experience <b>satisfaction / joy / delight / happiness / contentment / enjoyment</b> too.  Note: a kind of morbid or perverse kind of pleasure here but need not mention explicitly here	pleasure
K	The news, however <b>dire</b> it may be – and perhaps especially when it is at its <b>worst</b> – (lines 53-54)	The most <b>unfavourable / horrific</b> updates  Note: Degree is not needed	Dire
L	can come as a <b>relief</b> (lines 54-55)	can ease our <b>anxiety / comfort / refuge / give us a break</b>  Note: L and P can be interchangeable but the same word is not allowed. Only credit once if same word is used.	Relief



M	from the <b>claustrophobic burden</b> of living with ourselves,	as we feel <b>trapped</b> by the pressure of coping with our own lives,	claustrophobic burden
N	of forever trying to <b>do justice to our own potential</b> (line 55)	of constantly <b>proving ourselves</b>	do justice to our own potential
O	and of struggling to <b>persuade people to take our ideas and needs seriously.</b> (lines 55-56)	and earning the <b>respect of / recognition / approval</b> from others / <b>convince people of our views / opinions / justify ourselves</b>	persuade people to take our ideas and needs seriously
P	It can be an <b>escape</b> from	The news <b>distracts</b> us / provides us with an alternative / another avenue / pathway  Note: L and P can be interchangeable but the same word is not allowed. Only credit once if same word is used.	an escape from our preoccupations
Q	our <b>preoccupations</b> (line 56) ...  OR  than those we have been <b>uniquely allotted</b> , (line 57)  OR to drown out our own <b>self-focused apprehensions</b> and <b>doubts</b> . (lines 57-58)	<b>problems / concerns of our own / personal issues / our individual struggles</b> and <b>insecurities / self-centered concerns</b>  X selfish / 'than ours' only  Note: must refer to <u>own</u> problems / concerns etc	self-focused apprehensions and doubts
R	to locate issues that are <b>so much graver</b> (lines 56-57)  and to allow these <b>larger</b> concerns (line 57)	with issues that are <b>more severe</b> than	to locate issues that are so much graver
S	such <b>outer turmoil</b> is precisely what we might <b>need</b> (lines 58-59)	Such <b>disorder</b> in our surroundings is <b>necessary</b>  Note: Must get T to get S	Outer turmoil
T	in order to usher in a sense of <b>inner calm</b> . (line 59)	To soothe / reassure us.  Note: Must get S to get T	a sense of inner calm

U	These occurrences, so <b>inconceivable</b> , (lines 62-63)	News that is <b>unbelievable</b> / <b>unimaginable</b> / unthinkable  X – unpredictable / unexpected	inconceivable
V	invite us to feel <b>sane by comparison</b> (line 63)	help us to feel <b>relatively normal</b> / normal by contrast  Note: must have both parts to get the point	Sane by comparison
W	because of our <b>predictable routines</b> , (line 63)	as we have <b>established</b> order / <b>repetitive</b> / mundane lifestyles	predictable
X	and how we have successfully <b>restrained</b> our <b>darkest</b> desires, (lines 63-64)	and <b>control</b> over our <b>most sinister</b> / <b>evil</b> intentions / keep our demons at bay  Note: Degree is needed	successfully restraint