

Candidate's Name

CTG

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# YISHUN JUNIOR COLLEGE

## JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2013

**H1 GENERAL PAPER  
PAPER 2**

**8807/2  
19 August 2013  
1000h - 1130h**

*Candidates answer on the question paper.*

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**TIME** 1 hour 30 minutes

### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name and CTG in the spaces at the top of this page.

Answer **all** the questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten the cover page, passages and all your work securely together.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question.

**(Note that 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.)**

Question	1 1m	2 1m	3 2m	4 1m	5 1m	6 1m	7 2m	8 2m	9 2m	10 2m	11 2m	12 8m	13 10m
Marks													

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Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

*Liu Ling argues that men should have the right to be more concerned about their appearances.*

- 1 A few years ago, it may have been considered sissy for a man to be fussy about his clothing and appearance. Real men demanded that the world accept them on their own uncouth, unkempt terms. But in Asia nowadays, the definition of masculinity is undergoing a makeover and narcissism is in, thanks to economic growth, higher disposable incomes, shifting gender roles, and fashion and cosmetics industries eager to expand their customer bases. No longer content to be the drabber sex, Asian males are preening like peacocks, perming, plucking and powdering themselves to perfection in an effort to make themselves more attractive to their bosses, their peers and, of course, women. 5
- 2 Vanity, thy name is... man. The ranks of sartorially self-aware males are growing so fast in some Asian countries that they have become an identifiable social subspecies. In China, they are called the 'aimei nanren' (love beauty men), fastidious fellows who are unafraid to spend a few hours in a beauty salon getting pedicures, pore packs and back waxes. Their counterparts in Korea are the 'kkotminam' (flower men), club-hopping packs of primping fops who accessorise with designer bling and faux fur. "You can no longer pick out who's gay and who's straight," says Henry Wan, a Hong Kong clothing designer known for his flamboyant men's styles, "because their dress is no different now." 10 15
- 3 Why is the Asian male suddenly in bloom? Kam Louie, who teaches Asian Studies at the Australian National University, cites the region's bulging economic biceps. "The East Asian economy is being felt throughout the world," Kam says, "so it makes sense that Asian men have more confidence and have started looking after themselves." Then there is the regional popularity of the U.S. television show *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, which ridicules slovenly, typical-guy behaviour while challenging couch potatoes to reinvent themselves as stylish gents. Others say fashionable Asian men are simply late-flowering 'metrosexuals', an urban subtype first popularised by British journalist Mark Simpson, who in a 2002 story on Salon.com provided this definition of the breed: "The typical metrosexual is a young man with money to spend, living in or within easy reach of a metropolis because that is where all the best shops, clubs, gyms and hairdressers are. He might be officially gay, straight or bisexual, but this is utterly immaterial because he has clearly taken himself as his own love object." Simpson concluded that no one exemplifies metrosexuality better than David Beckham, the British soccer superstar known for his kaleidoscopic hairstyles, Versace suits, 'sarongs', sequined tracksuits and use of nail polish. Beckham is wildly popular in Asia. He is favoured particularly by Japanese women, so it is no coincidence that he was hired in 2002 as a spokesman (along with his wife, former Spice Girl, Victoria Beckham) for Tokyo Beauty Centre, a Japanese chain that operates 34 men's salons. Their not-so-subtle marketing message: guys, if you want to score with the ladies, gender-bend it like Beckham. 20 25 30 35
- 4 When it comes to appearance, being a little stylish is, in fact, a great way to stand apart from the rutting brown herd. "Women tend to scrutinise men, so if I am serious about looking good, then women get interested in me," says Kazutaka Taniguchi, a 34-year-old Tokyo account executive. "And I can make a conversation lively by raising a 40

- fashion subject.” Soki Ohmae, president of a Tokyo website-consulting company, says his transformation into dapper man-about-town has boosted his self-confidence. 45
- 5 It is not as if men have figured out some secret formula. Behind every love beauty man, there is a love beauty woman. Professor Kim Hyun Mee, who teaches Sociology at Yonsei University in Seoul, says men are cleaning up their acts because Asian women are increasingly independent and can afford to be more selective when choosing a mate. Kim adds that women are not shy about saying exactly what they want in a 50 boyfriend or husband - more sensitive partners who smell nice and trim their nose hairs and love shopping. He maintains that men who possess only the characteristics of the ‘traditional’ male strength, reliability or trustworthiness are not attractive anymore. Dandy House, Japan’s leading chain of men’s beauty salons (with 59 outlets), got its start in the 1980s because its founders noticed how women were pressuring men to 55 adopt better grooming habits. Hiroatsu Hirayama, Dandy House’s public-relations chief, has heard things like: “Could you do something about my son?” or “My hubby is fat, can’t you fix him?” Even so, the company’s first outlet was opened in a back alley of Osaka’s Namba district where sheepish male clients could sneak in undetected. “We thought it would be difficult for men to walk into something glaringly visible with a lot 60 of people milling around,” Hirayama says.
- 6 Is the rise of the Asian Pretty Boy all that revolutionary? Not really, according to Romit Dasgupta, who teaches Japanese Studies at the University of Western Australia. He says that David Beckham is not the reason why Asian men are suddenly starting to look after themselves as the tradition was already there. During Japan’s peaceful Heian 65 period between 794 and 1185, for example, both men and women powdered their faces white. Chinese University of Hong Kong professor Anthony Fung notes that in the West, maleness typically means ‘muscles’, ‘dark skin’ and ‘strong bodies’. In Asia, by contrast, definitions of masculinity have traditionally been more flexible. During China’s Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911), men were depicted in paintings as 70 ethereal, feminine creatures. That refined ideal is best found in the Chinese classic novel, *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, in which one of the main characters, Jia Baoyu, applies makeup and writes prose in his study instead of battling enemies. And he gets the girl! “Extreme androgyny is nothing particularly new,” says Fabienne Darling-Wolf, a professor of Japanese Studies at Temple University in Pennsylvania. “The 50 75 or so post-war years during which Japanese men were not androgynous due to Western influence and the desire to ‘catch up’ economically is the glitch in history.”
- 7 However, the real arbiters of what makes a man beautiful will be those tyrants, the people who moved the goalposts in the first place: wives and girlfriends. Some women say they can tell when men have gone too soft. Phoenix Lau, a Hong Kong college 80 student, says that she thinks that men should only spend one-third of their time and attention on their looks, but Hong Kong men spend too much time this way. Japanese flight attendant Motomi Asano has a higher threshold. “50 to 60 percent is acceptable,” she says matter-of-factly. Asano has learned to accept her fashion-crazed boyfriend as he is, even though he spends twice as much money on clothing as she does. But Asano, 85 too, has her limits. “When I go shopping with him, he is all over the place looking at everything,” she says. “I sometimes think, ‘For goodness sake!’”
- 8 Make no mistake. Once you have exfoliated, there is no going back. “We are living in a day and age when men are supposed to look more attractive,” says Park, a Seoul

clothing designer. He makes no excuses for paying attention to his appearance. “I’ve 90  
got nothing to hide,” he says. “The fact is, women today want men with good skin and  
good bodies.” Guys, remember the old locker-room adage: No vain, no gain.

*Adapted from Mirror Mirror, Time*

**Read the passage and then answer all the questions which follow below. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this paper.**

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**Note: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.**

1. 'Real men demanded that the world accept them on their own uncouth, unkempt terms' (lines 2-3). What does the statement tell you about men's attitude towards the concept of appearances then?

.....  
.....  
..... [1]

2. Why does the author use the three dots (...) in line 10?

.....  
.....  
..... [1]

3. What does the phrase 'packs of primping fops' in line 15 suggest about the kkotminam? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....  
.....  
..... [2]

4. Explain the metaphor in the phrase 'the region's bulging economic biceps' (line 20).

.....  
.....  
..... [1]

5. '...he has clearly taken himself as his own love object' (line 31). State the characteristic of such a man.

.....  
.....  
..... [1]

6. Whom might the author be referring to as the 'rutting brown herd' (line 41)?

[1]

7. In paragraph 5, what is the change in men's attitude towards visiting beauty salons? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

8. How does paragraph 6 illustrate that the concept of Asian Pretty Boy is not new? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[2]

9. Explain what Professor Fabienne Darling-Wolf is referring to in the phrase 'the glitch in history' (line 77).

[2]

10. What do the words 'arbiters' and 'tyrants' (line 78) tell you about women's relation with men?

[2]

11. Explain the significance of the word 'exfoliated' (line 88) with reference to male vanity.

[2]

- 12.** Using material from paragraphs 3-5 only, summarise the reasons for the increase in the number of Asian men who pay more attention to their appearances and grooming.

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.

*Asian men pay more attention to their appearances and grooming because ...*

[8]

- 13.** In this article, Liu Ling makes a number of observations about how the Asian male is becoming increasingly more conscious of his physical appearance and grooming. How applicable do you find her observations to you and your society?

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