

**2022 PU3 Prelim Examinations  
General Paper  
Paper 2**

**From Passage 1**

1 What similarities does the author see between genes and culture (4–5)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
Like genes, culture helps people adjust to their environment and meet the challenges of survival and reproduction.	

2 According to the author, what is 'rational' and 'desirable' (line 10) about the need to promote cultural diversity? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
<p>The importance of culture such as learned knowledge, practices and skills is surpassing the value of genes as a primary driver of human evolution. Like genes, culture helps people adjust to their environment and meet the challenges of survival and reproduction.</p> <p>... [i]t is not only rational but also desirable that cultural diversity be assiduously promoted. While changes and potential losses imposed by globalisation on local and traditional cultures may be damaging and destructive, they may also lead to new prospective opportunities.</p> <p>If we can respect the diversity of people and their cultures, it can lead to global community marked by unity in pluralism.</p>	

3 How does the example in paragraph 6 illustrate 'deference' and 'calculated attempt to stand out' (line 42)? [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
For example, the beauty and significance of a silk saree worn by a non-Indian can arguably be appreciated better if worn to a traditional Indian wedding, and not to a friend's birthday bash. The former indicates deference to the host's culture while the latter a calculated attempt to stand out.	

4 Using material from paragraphs 3–5 (lines 17–35), summarise what the author has to say about the positive outcomes of appreciating cultural diversity.

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.**

When you appreciate culture diversity

	From passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
A	By immersing ourselves in other cultures beyond our own, we can learn about each other—where people came from, what their traditions are, and what they struggle with as a community.	
B	It also forces us to interrogate assumptions held about our own daily life and practices,	
C	encouraging incredible <u>personal growth</u> .	
D	Who knows, maybe we will even learn something new about our own culture in the process.	
E	Embracing different cultures through <u>travel</u> allows you to experience what it is like to be a part of a community other than your own.	
F	It also gives you cultural awareness and acceptance,	
G	which can help break down cultural barriers while interacting with people of different backgrounds.	
H	Cross-cultural experiences help you be more aware and cognisant of the way you act – from the things you think, to the words you say, to the clothes you wear.	
I	But it does not just make you rethink your own cultural preconceptions.	
J	It also makes you question the root of where they came from.	
K	We reflect on what we see as normal or abnormal—like eating a bagel on the way to the subway—and challenge ourselves to see the world from new <u>perspectives</u> .	
L	By appreciating other cultures, people may come to recognise that despite our diversity, humanity shares a common heritage that should be affirmed and passed down to future <u>generations</u> .	
M	Appreciating other cultures is good business practice in the context of interconnected economies and diverse markets.	
N	Creating a diverse workforce will not only ensure representation to different groups in the workplace	
O	but also promote diversity in ideas which can promote innovation and	
P	help the company remain competitive in the global marketplace.	

Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7	8-9	10-11	12-13	>=14

## From Passage 2

5 Explain the author's use of the phrase 'just about anything' (line 5). [1]

From the passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
Accusations of cultural appropriation has been levelled liberally on just about anything – from the display of the Greek Elgin Marbles in the British Museum to white American teenager wearing qipao (a traditional apparel worn by Chinese ladies) to a college party, to fusion food.	

6 **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain what the author means by calling the furore a 'lightning rod' (line 20). [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
Many critics, however, see the furore over the intention and context behind the use of cultural artefacts as a lightning rod that detracts from the more serious issue of racism in cultural appropriation.	

7 In paragraph 3, explain how a 'more intermingled' world has made society more divided. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
Paradoxically, as the world becomes more intermingled, people have become conscious and protective of their cultural distinctions. The result is cultural isolation, perpetuated by the lack of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of other cultures, which in turn breeds prejudice and intolerance.	

8 Explain the irony in lines 34-35. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
Ironically, far from respecting multiculturalism, cultural appropriation protests tend to promote the segregation of cultures.	

9 In the final paragraph, explain how the author uses language to convey her disapproval of cultural appropriation and its progressive supporters?

From the passage	Paraphrased/Inferred
Therein lies the danger of absurd extremism and indiscriminate condemnation.	
Most reasonable people have no trouble understanding that to adopt an artefact or practice does not diminish the culture from which it originates.	

10 One author thinks cultural diversity has considerable value while the other observes how it can be divisive.

How far would you agree or disagree with the opinions expressed in these **two** passages? Illustrate your arguments with examples drawn from your experience and that of your society.

### **R1: Possible Stands**

Largely agree that cultural diversity has greater value than drawbacks (divisive) / Largely agree with Turing and not so much with Shen

Largely agree that cultural diversity is more divisive than valuable./Largely agree with Shen and not so much with Turing

### **R2: Possible ideas from the passage (+ extension of ideas)**

From Passage 1

(Para 2) If we can respect the diversity of people and their cultures, a global community marked by unity in pluralism can be created.

- This unity is crucial in ensuring that the global community can work together with the increasing volatility of world events.

(Para 3) It also forces us to interrogate assumptions held about our own daily life and practices, encouraging incredible personal growth.

- To continue to have meaning in a world as complicated as ours, individuals have to keep learning and cultural diversity will aid us in learning more about ourselves.

(Para 4) It also gives us cultural awareness and acceptance, which can help break down cultural barriers while interacting with people of different backgrounds.

- With increasing movement of people around the world, we will have to work with people of different backgrounds in school, at work or even in social settings. Having this cultural diversity will prepare us for such interactions.

(Para 5) Creating a diverse workforce will not only ensure representation to different groups in the workplace but also promote diversity in ideas which can spur innovation and help the company remain competitive in the global marketplace.

- Gaps in understanding due to limited contexts can be easily filled by other individuals coming from different contexts and this can help figure out solutions to problems.

From Passage 2

(Para 1) At its roots, cultural appropriation is deemed objectionable due to the perceived exploitation of one culture by another.

- This is extremely problematic as today's supposedly more informed society will react even to perceived thoughts and acts, without verification of facts, causing tension and conflict even when not initially present.

(Para 2) By taking culture out of its context for personal benefit or trivial reasons, cultural appropriation, in fact, is seen to strengthen cultural or racial stereotypes.

- When context especially is not apparent, highlighting a specific aspect of a foreign culture can be easily misinterpreted as an attempt to mock which can cause unhappiness.

(Para 3) Paradoxically, as the world becomes more intermingled, people have become more conscious and protective of their cultural distinctions. The result is cultural isolation, perpetuated by the lack of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of other cultures, which in turn breeds prejudice and intolerance.

- This can easily give rise to misunderstanding and greater tension between cultures.

### **R3: Application to Singapore context**

#### **Useful traits**

- Singapore is a country that is generally multicultural since its modern inception which can be an advantage in the current trend towards cultural diversity as we already have mindsets in place to accept, or minimally tolerate, the existence of different cultures around us.
- With a government that has learnt from mistakes of the past, policies to encourage this diversity are already in place to further encourage assimilation and interaction.

- The general stability and peace that Singaporeans enjoy also allow Singaporeans to be able to take their time to appreciate other cultures instead of being forced to prioritise one's culture over others.
- In business, our open economy means that we are already accepting of business and talents from overseas. The government also encourages multi-national corporations through generous policies like tax rebates.
- However, with a majority who may be complacent in their position, minorities may feel that not enough is being done to understand the cultures of the minorities.
- An increasingly educated youth population who are more exposed to the liberalised and (overly) social-conscious attitudes of the West may also react more strongly to incidents without understanding the different contexts

#### Useful examples

- While Racial Harmony Day has often been seen as a day where students in Singapore simply come dressed up in different cultural outfits, the Ministry of Education is continuously working to ensure that the activity is also complemented by understanding of the different cultures' practices and ultimately, how Singaporeans are to appreciate the diversity that we enjoy.
- The discussion of the differences between White privilege vs Chinese privilege vs majority blind spots following the peak of the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020 compared the different contexts in United States and Singapore and acknowledged differences in intention behind some of the acts of prejudice and discrimination
- When Peranakan restaurateur Violet Oon launched a new menu called 'Nyonya Nasi Ambeng', she drew criticism for not acknowledging the Javanese origins of the dish, seemingly appropriating the dish for profit
- Similarly, when a café in Singapore referred to their new dish as 'Nasi Padang without the nasties', criticisms emerged that the café, apart from the earlier profit argument, was also being condescending or looking down on the culture for serving food in an unhealthy manner, unbecoming in today's health-conscious society
- Maki-san, a popular DIY sushi and salad restaurant also received much criticism for trying to launch a National Day campaign called "Maki Kita" without realising that in the national language, the tagline is essentially rallying for people to swear at them.
- People's Association also came under fire for using the wrong outfits in their decoration for Hari Raya.
- These incidents serve to show how despite the diversity in Singapore, there are still apparent blind spots in organisations and businesses.