

Meridian Junior College  
General Paper JC2 Preliminary Examination (2010)  
Paper 2 Suggested Answer Scheme

**PASSAGE 1**

**(1) Explain the author's argument in paragraph 1. Use your own words as far as possible. [2]**

From Passage (lifts and contextual clues)	Acceptable Answers
<i>custom</i> of lying...is eternal... is immortal... (line 3)	He shows that people have <u>always lied</u> /lying is an age old practice (tradition) ... [1]
decay of the <i>art</i> of lying...noble art so prostituted ... (line 6)	... but not everyone may be skilled at lying/ know how to lie well/lying <u>skills are deteriorating</u> . [1]

**(2) Explain what the author implies about the Lie by calling it (a) a 'Virtue' (line 2), and (b) a 'refuge in time of need' (line 3)? [2]**

From Passage (lifts and contextual clues)	Acceptable Answers
a) Virtue (line 2)	It is a <u>desirable</u> /positive/good way of behaving/should be encouraged/its practice produces benefits. (1) * Not "skill"
b) Refuge in time of need (line 2)	It <u>protects</u> /shields/offers a solution (1/2) <u>when we are in trouble</u> /enables people to get out of trouble. (1/2) * Not "hideaway"  * <b>Context must be correct.</b>

**(3) Explain in your own words as far as possible why the author proposes that lying should be taught in schools (line 10). [3]**

From Passage (lifts and contextual clues)	Acceptable Answers
"...lying is a <b>necessity of our circumstances</b> ...a Virtue..."? (line 7)	There are situations where lying is <u>essential</u> . (1/2)
No virtue can reach its <b>highest usefulness</b> (line 8)	Lying can only become <u>most beneficial</u> ... (1/2)
without <b>careful</b> and <b>diligent cultivation</b> (line 9)	... if people are <u>coached</u> /trained to do so ... (1/2)  ... in a <u>thorough and conscientious</u> manner ... (1/2) * Not "taught" (lifted from question and thus not an explanation)
" <b>chance</b> ... against the educated <b>expert</b> " (line 10)	... so that people <u>will not lose out</u> to those very adept/skilled at lying. (1/2)
<b>Judicious</b> lying is what the world needs (line 11)	Society <u>could do with people who know how to lie when necessary</u> /when practical/when astute to/sensibly. (1/2) * Accept "with good judgement"

(4) 'What chance has the ignorant uncultivated liar against the educated expert?' (lines 10-11)  
How does the author illustrate the concept of the 'educated expert'? [1]

From Passage (lifts and contextual clues)	Acceptable Answers
What chance have I against a <b>lawyer</b> (line 11)	The author implies that <u>lawyers</u> are expert liars. (1)

(5) 'Children and fools *a/ways* speak the truth.' (line 14) What deduction can be made from this? [1]

From Passage (lifts and contextual clues)	Acceptable Answers
Children and fools <i>a/ways</i> speak the truth. <b>The deduction about adults and wise persons is plain.</b>	Adults and wise persons (or infer "any astute adult") <u>do not always</u> speak the truth/will lie (1).

(6) Explain what the author means by 'an injurious truth has no merit over an injurious lie'. (lines 24-25) Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Acceptable Answers
A truth that <u>hurts</u> /causes harm ... (1)  ... is <u>no better than</u> / has the same impact as (1) a deleterious/harmful lie. [Still touching on "injurious".] * <b>Context must be correct.</b>

(7) Explain in your own words as far as possible why the author believes that people who 'speak no lie' (line 30) are still lying. [1]

From Passage (lifts and contextual clues)	Acceptable Answers
by simply keeping still and <b>concealing the truth</b> ... (line 29)  ...the <b>silent lie</b> – the <b>deception</b> which one conveys ... (line 28)	By not saying anything, one is <u>still hiding</u> the truth ... (1/2)  ... and is <u>misleading</u> / encouraging / tricking others to believe in something untrue (1/2) * Accept lifts: Lie / Truth

## PASSAGE 2

(8) Why does the author say that the fear of cyberspace 'seemed justified' (line 7)? Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

From Passage (lifts and contextual clues)	Acceptable Answers
According to Psych 101, we are <b>more likely</b> to lie to people when there is <b>distance between us</b> ... (line 7)  ...floodgates of deception (clue) (line 3)  ...anyone could hide behind an <b>anonymous</b> Hotmail address... (line 4)	<u>Any 1</u> (1) People are (psychologically) <i>more inclined to lie</i> - when <u>far apart</u> /when the person they are interacting with is in a faraway location. * Marker's discretion w.r.t. "more likely" - if nobody knows who you really are * Marker's discretion w.r.t. "more likely" - if people <u>do not know</u> /cannot verify who they are interacting with. (1) * Does not require "more likely"

(9) 'Even Microsoft was tripped up by old email messages, and you would figure its employees would know better.' (lines 17–18) Explain the irony evident in this statement. [1]

From Passage (lifts and contextual clues)	Acceptable Answers
...and you would figure its employees <b>would know better.</b>	There programming experts who are supposed to <u>know how to cover</u> their electronic trail, ...
'Even Microsoft <b>was tripped up by</b> old email messages...	... and yet they were <u>caught by digital evidence that they failed to destroy/had inadvertently created.</u> <i>* General/alternate answer (marker's discretion)</i> <i>* Two-part answer has to convey the irony (no ½)</i>

(11) Give the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passages. You may write your answer in one word or a short phrase. [5]

Vocabulary	1	1/2	0
(a) No high-minded man, no man of right feeling, can contemplate the lumbering and slovenly lying of the present day without grieving to see a noble art so <b>prostituted</b> . (Passage 1, line 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widely used in an unworthy manner</li> <li>Used in an unworthy manner</li> <li>Widely used by people with no skill</li> <li>Abused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wrongly used</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widely used [No indication of harm to nobility of lying]</li> </ul>
(b) I think that courteous lying is a sweet and loving art, and should be cultivated. What I <b>bemoan</b> is the growing prevalence of the brutal truth. (Passage 1, line 23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Express sorrow or dissatisfaction</li> <li>Complain about</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Object to</li> </ul>
(c) What I bemoan is the growing prevalence of the brutal truth. Let us do what we can to <b>eradicate</b> it. (Passage 1, line 24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completely remove</li> <li>Totally remove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
(d) Today's <b>titans</b> of industry are laid low not by ruthless competitors but by prosecutors gleefully waving transcripts of old e-mail, filled with suggestions of subterfuge. (Passage 2, line 15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very important people</li> <li>Extremely successful people</li> <li>Very powerful people</li> <li>leaders</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heroes</li> </ul>
(e) Indeed, the <b>axiom</b> that machines never forget is built into the very format of e-mail – consider that many e-mail programmes automatically "quote" your words when someone replies to your message. (Passage 2, line 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A statement or idea which people accept as true</li> <li>Widely accepted saying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

\* Students are not penalised for giving two answers, as long as the second answer does not contradict the first, and the student is not giving the second answer as an alternative to the first (i.e. A or B).

**(10) Using material from paragraphs 2 to 5, summarise Clive Thompson's arguments for why the Internet is driving people to tell the truth. 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]**

*The Internet drives people to tell the truth as...*

	<b>Lifted</b>	<b>Paraphrased</b>
1	We are <b>worried</b> about being <b>caught</b> . (line 11) OR ...fear of electronic <b>exposure</b> (line 22)	We feel uneasy at the thought of being apprehended / found out. [1]
2	On the Internet, though, your <b>words often come back to haunt you</b> . ... transcripts of old e-mail (lines 14 – 17)	Records of e-mails may serve as evidence. [1]
3	The digital age is <b>tough on its</b> liars (line 14)	The electronic era comes down hard/ is harsh with people who lie ... [1]
4	...machines never forget is built into the very <b>format</b> of e-mail – consider that many e-mail programs <b>automatically "quote"</b> your words when someone replies to your message (lines 19 – 20)	... as this is built into the configuration of the e-mail system where previous e-mails are referenced to routinely[1] OR permanent nature of e-mail system [1]
5	There is something about the <b>apparent harmlessness</b> of the Internet... (line 23)	The Internet, which appears unable to hurt us / benign,. . [1]
6	<b>tripped out</b> on	... due to the thrilling/ intoxicating effect of [1]
7	the Internet's heady combination of <b>geographic distance</b> ... (line 29)	... being far away... [1]
8	and <b>pseudo-invisibility</b> . (line 29)  When people communicate online with <b>invisible listeners</b> , they are more likely to offer up personal details about themselves without any prompting. (line 31)	and hidden from the others / anonymity [1] OR We are less hesitant/ reluctant to provide more private information of ourselves when we converse with people we cannot see. [1]
9	The <b>psychologically comforting</b> effect of the Net makes people willing to talk about anything – ' <b>disinhibited</b> ' (line 32)	The Internet has a calming/ soothing effect that makes us feel less reserved or self-conscious ... [1]
10	a <b>vast arena</b> for <b>collective therapy</b> – for a mass outpouring of what we are thinking and feeling (line 35)	... and is a capacious/limitless platform/ forum where we can express our thoughts and emotions together, ... [1]
11	Inferred <b>Stripped of our bodies</b> , it seems, we become creatures of pure opinion. (line 36)	... and where, without our physical form, we are free to pass judgements/ express ideas [1]

\* Different word forms = L (½)

(12) Mark Twain believes that lying is an art which needs to be cultivated, while Clive Thompson says that lying is now made more difficult by the Internet. How far do you agree with the views of each author? Are these views applicable to interactions in modern society? In your answer, develop some of the points made by the authors, and give your own views and some account of the experiences which have helped you to form them. [8]

**General Comments:**

R1: How far do you agree with the views of each author?

R2: Are these views applicable to interactions in modern society?

Students must not forget: “develop some of the points made by the authors, and give your own views and some account of the experiences which have helped you to form them.” Students could make use of material that has been used for summary (Cambridge advice).

Some points can be argued both ways but students should not contradict their own points.

**Suggested responses using Passage 1 (Twain)**

Quotes	Agree / Applicable (Reasons & Examples)	Disagree / Inapplicable (Reasons & Examples)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for the Lie, as a Virtue, a Principle, is eternal; the Lie, as a recreation, a solace, a refuge in time of need, man's best and surest friend, is immortal, and cannot perish from the earth (l 2 – 3).</li> <li>Lying is universal – we all do it (l 31).</li> <li>None of us could live with a habitual truth-teller; but thank goodness none of us has to. A habitual truth-teller is simply an impossible creature; he does not exist; he never has existed (16 – 18).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lying is a practice that is not only omnipresent but also a norm.</li> <li>The act of lying should be encouraged as it can be beneficial and protect us when we face trouble.</li> <li>Interactions in modern society are diverse in the people you interact with, the topic of conversations, the setting of the interaction. Often, interactions with strangers are unavoidable.</li> <li>In unpleasant encounters and interactions, lying in the form of white lies, convenient excuses, or false information can relieve us of awkward situations and even put us out of harm's way. <i>E.g. "White lies" that one tells to avoid hurting people's feelings.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lying is indeed eternal and unavoidable but it should neither be taken as recreation nor a solace.</li> <li>Interactions are only meaningful and effective if the basis of the communication is trust.</li> <li>Personal or business interactions alike require honesty and truth, which is contradicted by the act of lying.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fact is more firmly established than that lying is a necessity of our circumstances – the deduction that it is then a Virtue goes without saying (l7 - 8).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are faced with various circumstances in our daily interactions.</li> <li>A lie told in pursuit of another virtue e.g., compassion is not wrong.</li> <li>Lying is not immoral when it is a step toward, the process of becoming the best persons we can be.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not necessarily a Virtue as suggested by Twain.</li> <li>It can also simply be calculated or even malicious behaviour.</li> <li>Interactions in modern society are complex and lying can be a means to manipulate someone. <i>E.g. Frequent cases of fraud and misinformation.</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No virtue can reach its highest usefulness without careful and diligent cultivation, therefore, it goes without saying that this one ought to be taught in the schools, even in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Parents should not be alarmed if their child tells a lie. Almost all children lie. Those who have better cognitive development lie better because they can cover up their tracks,”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the important outcomes of education is strength of character, with honesty and integrity being two of the desired values schools would strive to inculcate in students.</li> </ul>

Quotes	Agree / Applicable (Reasons & Examples)	Disagree / Inapplicable (Reasons & Examples)
<p>newspapers (18 – 10).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that venerable proverb: Children and fools always speak the truth (114).</li> </ul>	<p>said Dr Kang Lee, director of the Institute of Child Study at Toronto University who carried out the research on 1,200 children aged two to 16 years old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A majority of the volunteers told lies but it is the children with better cognitive abilities who can tell the best lies.</li> <li>Lying involves multiple brain processes, such as integrating sources of information and manipulating the data to their advantage.</li> </ul> <p>It is linked to the development of brain regions that allow “executive functioning” and use higher order thinking and reasoning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lying contradicts the virtue of honesty and integrity. This is still generally frowned upon by most societies.</li> <li>Not a value that we can see being taught in Singapore public schools.</li> <li>Schools aside, employers do also consider honesty and integrity as important qualities they seek in prospective employees.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What I bemoan is the growing prevalence of the brutal truth. Let us do what we can to eradicate it. An injurious truth has no merit over an injurious lie. Neither should ever be uttered. An injurious lie is an uncommendable thing; and so, also, and in the same degree, is an injurious truth (123 – 26).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to utilitarian ethics, the only test necessary for judging the morality of a lie is balancing the benefits and harms of its consequences.</li> <li>Acts of lying in our modern interactions, are morally acceptable when the resulting consequences maximize benefit or minimize harm. A lie, therefore, is not always immoral; in fact, when lying is necessary to maximize benefit or minimize harm, it may be immoral not to lie.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People often poorly estimate the consequences of their actions or specifically undervalue or ignore the harmful consequences to society (e.g., mistrust) that their lies cause.</li> <li>As trust declines, cynicism spreads, and our overall quality of life drops. In addition, suggesting that people may lie in pursuit of the greater good can lead to a "slippery slope," where the line between cleverly calculated moral justifications and empty excuses for selfish behavior is exceedingly thin.</li> <li>Sliding down the slope eventually kindles morally bankrupt statements</li> <li>There is potentially great cost in tolerating lies for vague or subjective reasons, including lies in honor of "the greater good."</li> </ul>

### Suggested responses using Passage 2 (Thompson)

Quotes	Agree / Applicable (Reasons & Examples)	Disagree / Inapplicable (Reasons & Examples)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Internet makes us more truthful. (l 36)</li> <li>We are worried about being caught. (l 46)</li> <li>As more and more of our daily life moves online, we could find ourselves living in an increasingly honest world (l 74 – 75)</li> </ul> <p><i>Opposite point:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...we are more likely to lie to people when there is distance between us (l42 – 43)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As data on the Internet is difficult to destroy due to the way the Internet is structured, damaging evidence can be dredged up even a long time after.</li> <li>Also, many people are now aware that records of online activities are kept.</li> <li>All these make people less likely to lie. <i>E.g. E-mails that can be submitted in court as evidence.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fact that important communication cues are lost when interacting via the Internet means that people have more opportunities to lie.</li> <li>Besides, many people use the Internet to fulfill some of their escapist fantasies or to play around with their identity.</li> <li>In addition, we are not as acutely aware of the people whom we are interacting with, and we may have the impression that our paths are less likely to cross in real life. <i>E.g. Avatars used for online gaming / social networking sites.</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is something about the Internet that encourages us to bare our souls (l 58)</li> <li>It is just that they are more comfortable talking about it – ‘disinhibited’ (l 70)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Internet gives us a false impression of privacy, since we often log in when we are in a relatively private space.</li> <li>There is actually a wide audience but we are unaware of it and mistakenly think that our views disappear into the “ether” (line 6).</li> <li>As a result, we are more willing to share views that we will normally keep secret. <i>E.g. ‘Elite blogger’, Wee Shu Min’s comments on ordinary Singaporeans, etc.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not necessarily disinhibition as suggested by Thompson.</li> <li>It can also simply be calculated, attention-seeking behaviour.</li> <li>People are now more aware of the potential to gain a brief shot at fame/infamy, and plan their actions accordingly. Some even do it for money. <i>E.g. Exhibitionist behaviour of bloggers / people on youtube, etc.</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heated arguments are far more common in online discussion boards than in comparable face-to-face communications. (l 65 – 66)</li> </ul>	<p>Possible reasons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People get the impression that it is harder for others to track them down and un-mask their true identity. As a result, they may seize the chance to speak out, or in the cases of some, speak irresponsibly.</li> <li>The ability to bring together more views / perspectives increases the likelihood of people finding a point that they find particularly objectionable.</li> <li>It is harder to monitor the people who post on a discussion board. Some unsavoury characters may join the discussion board and create trouble. <i>E.g. Searing critique of government policies by netizens from China via popular web portals like</i></li> </ul>	<p>Online discussions may in fact be less damaging than face-to-face discussions as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People have the option of walking away from their computer or leaving the discussion forum the moment things start to get too hostile for their liking.</li> <li>Physical blows cannot be exchanged through online discussion boards.</li> <li>The moderator of the discussion board can shut off a particularly offensive member almost immediately, whereas in real life, things are more complicated.</li> </ul>

Quotes	Agree / Applicable (Reasons & Examples)	Disagree / Inapplicable (Reasons & Examples)
	<i>Sina.com.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a vast arena for collective therapy – for a mass outpouring of what we are thinking and feeling (I 71 – 72)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People tend to join online groups, and as space and distance are no longer factors, the size of these groups can increase exponentially.</li> <li>People who desire attention can make use of this outreach.</li> <li>People who need advice / feedback can also obtain an unprecedented number of views. <i>E.g. Facebook and Twitter.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not everyone is active online. Many people, in fact, just lurk around and observe what is going on.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Internet might turn out to be the unlikely conscience of the world. (I76 – 77)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-policing on the Internet – Netizens take fellow members to task when certain norms / rules are breached.</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Internet allows people to make their experiences known without having to go through elaborate bureaucratic procedures.</li> <li>Once a particular experience becomes widely known and followed, the authorities are placed in a position where they <i>must</i> react and their reactions are closely monitored and critiqued by a large group of people. <i>E.g. Singaporean netizens highlighting misbehaviour / lapses / injustices on STOMP.</i></li> <li>As Abraham Lincoln observed, “With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not all experiences are able to capture the public's imagination.</li> <li>Plenty of lapses are reported but go unnoticed as they are too commonplace.</li> </ul>