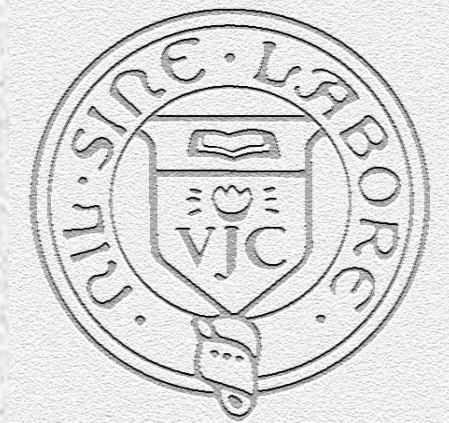


VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER

8807/2

**Monday
31 August 2015**



1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Name and Civics Class in the spaces provided in the answer paper.

Answer **all** questions.

If you need to use extra sheets of writing paper for a question, fasten all your work securely together with the answer sheets.

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

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

This question paper consists of 9 printed pages including this page.

Wednesday Martin writes about the state of marriage today ...

- 1 Just in time for Valentine's Day, some recent, highly-publicized non-fiction debuts are sure to get you in the mood for romance. *Staying True* by Jenny Sanford, chronicles the very public breakdown of her marriage to South Carolina governor Mark Sanford who was not hiking on the Appalachian Trail after all. *Marry Him* by Lori Gottlieb, the subtitle of which - the case for Settling for Mr Good Enough - says it all. It accuses you of being too picky and urges you to snap up that guy who is an 8 rather than waiting for the 10. And *The Politician*, Andrew Young's new, explosive tell-all about John Edwards, details his infidelity and exposes, for our lurid delectation, the operatic fights and the second family he started. 5
- 2 But in their own dramatic and overblown ways, these books speak a quieter, less dramatic truth: marriage is not what we think it is, and it is not easy. Plenty of marriages are not doing well. Why? Much ink has been spilled and much breath has been spent analysing the problem. In addition, many workshop fees have been forked over in the interest of understanding what has gone wrong with marriages and how to improve them to make them more satisfying, equitable, sexually exciting, emotionally healthy, nurturing and harmonious. Saving marriages is a multi-million dollar industry and many of us know from first-hand experience, that it can work. Marriages - some of them - can be saved. 10 15
- 3 But Marriage probably cannot. While marriage therapists tell us how to save our marriages, sociology, anthropology, and human behavioural ecology suggest that it is not so much married couples as Marriage itself, that is in trouble. The problem with marriages is really the fundamental problem with Marriage: marriages are falling apart in large part because Marriage is no longer necessary in the way it once was. 20
- 4 Sociologists and historians of marriage tell us that marriage was originally a business transaction of sorts, rather than an undertaking hinging on the attraction and love between individuals. Historically in western culture, people from wealthy families were directed to marry in order to create bonds, alliances and mutual obligation with other powerful families. Marriages even created bonds between nations in the case of royals. For the lower classes, marriage was a question of creating a labour force to run a farm or small business. Households were production-centred economies in which men's labour and women's labour were complementary, and the children they had together or brought together from previous unions pitched in. Maternal mortality rates were high until the late 19th century and remarriage with children after the death of a spouse - a common occurrence until relatively recently - was considered the most civic-minded thing a man or woman could do. Marriage was necessary. The household and by extension, all of society depended on it, after all. 25 30
- 5 But by the early 20th century, as marriage historian Stephanie Coontz points out, with the notions of the individual, liberty, and equality well-established by the Enlightenment and the French and American revolutions, and the subsequent rise of the love match, marriage had become a different animal entirely. Marriage morphed from institutional, in the famous formulation of sociologist Ernest Burgess, to companionate and now, something more individualistic. Marriage is now expected to nurture, satisfy and support the members of the couple in a dizzyingly comprehensive variety of ways - emotionally, sexually, psychologically. 35 40

- 6 At the same time, as sociologist Andrew Cherlin notes, as women came to participate more in the workforce, household micro-economies changed as well, from production to consumption-centred. Gender roles become more flexible. Women now have the economic freedom to walk away from unhappy unions. Not to mention the opportunity to find friendship, empowerment and other potential partners in the workplace. 45
- 7 Times continue to change, and marriage, whether we like it or not, is tethered to our times and the forces of historical change. For example, marriage is no longer the only acceptable context for childbearing. Increasingly, couples in the US elect to cohabit rather than marry. In Scandinavian countries like Sweden, these couples are less likely to break up than are married couples in the US. Many of these cohabiting couples are also having children outside marriage. And owing to women's increased economic power and the rise of reproductive technologies, more women can and do elect to have children outside of marriage and even outside of the structure of coupledness entirely. 50
55
- 8 As for those who suggest that the heterosexual pair bond is part of our evolutionary history and so "right" and "forever", there is plenty of evidence to the contrary. In many contemporary foraging cultures, for example, people live much as evolutionary biologists believe we did in the Pleistocene era: men and women "marry" nine or ten times and children are much more likely to live in stepfamilies or with single parents than with two parents. The notion that the permanent couple dyad as we now know it is timeless, is one human behavioural ecologists now regard with scepticism if not outright disbelief. 60
- 9 Many argue that we must be married to be emotionally and physically healthy, and recent studies claim to prove as much but, there is evidence that marriage is detrimental. The National Marriage Project found that the percentage of upper middle class white women who described their marriages as happy dropped from 74% to 68% over the last decade. Other studies find that married women are more likely to be depressed than unmarried women, and that women with stepchildren are far more likely to be clinically depressed than those without. 65
- 10 Regardless of our moral and ideological convictions and our public policy about what it should be and how we ought to value it, the fact is that marriage is not what it once was because the world is no longer what it once was: largely agrarian, with a neatly gendered division of labour within households whose production-centred economies also centred on the production and contributions of children therein. Those who propose a return to 'traditional' marriages had better also provide time machines, for marriage is married to its historical moment and we have entered a new one. 70
75
- 11 Many of us are familiar with the argument that marriages are not feasible in the way they used to be because now we live much longer and "till death do us part" is likely to be five or six decades rather than one or two. We are also more mobile as a society and so the forces that historically helped married people stay together, forces like the church and the extended family, have less influence over us. It is simply unreasonable to expect one relationship to satisfy us in so many ways because, as some argue, we are not "wired" for monogamy. 80
- 12 Yet people stay in marriage every day and make it work. We are not all Mark Sanford or John Edwards, and Gottlieb's anti-romantic vision will leave many of us cold or even outraged. But with Marriage less necessary than ever before, the challenge becomes how do we make our own marriages necessary and relevant? How do we keep Marriage - not to mention - marriages alive? And should we even try? 85

Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

Candidate's Name: _____

Candidate's Civics Class: _____

Paper 2 (50 marks)

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

Note: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passages 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 passages.

1. Explain what Lori Gottlieb means by “snap up that guy who is an 8 rather than waiting for the 10” (line 6). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

2. In paragraph 1, what is ironic about the author's claim that the recent books *Staying True*, *Marry Him* and *The Politician* “are sure to get you in the mood for romance”? [2m]

3. Explain what the author means by “much ink has been spilled and much breath has been spent” (line 11). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1m]

4. In paragraph 3, what is the difference between “Marriage” and “marriages”? [2m]

5. What do you understand by the author’s claim that “marriage was originally a business transaction” (lines 22-23)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

6. What is implied by the author’s claim that remarriage “was the most civic-minded thing a man or woman could do” (lines 32-33)? [2m]

7. Explain the author's use of quotation marks for the words "right" and "forever" in line 57. [1m]

8. What is suggested by the author's statement that "marriage is married to its historical moment" (lines 75-76)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

9. Why does the author say that marriages are "not feasible in the way they used to be" (line 77-78)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

10. What does the author imply by the remark "We are not all Mark Sanford or John Edwards" (lines 84-85)? [1m]

[illegible]

[illegible]

End of Paper