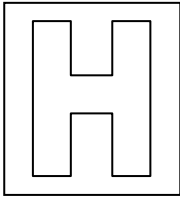


Candidate Name: _____

GP Class Adm No

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2022 Preliminary Examination Pre-University 3

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

12 September 2022

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your **name**, **class** and **admission number** in the spaces provided at the top of this page.
This insert contains the passage for Paper 2.

This question paper consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.

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Passage 1. *Carl Turing looks at the value of cultural diversity.*

- 1 Culture is an under-appreciated factor of human evolution. Researchers found that culture helps humans adapt to their environment and overcome challenges better and faster than genetics. 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. Culture, however, does so more effectively than genes because the transfer of knowledge is faster and more flexible than the inheritance of genes. The combination of both culture and genes has fuelled several key adaptations in humans such as reduced aggression, cooperative inclinations, collaborative abilities and the capacity for social learning. 5
- 2 As such, it 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. In the globalised world, people become much more concerned about the uniqueness and particularity of their own culture. There is a growing movement to promote the preservation and appreciation of cultures, not just one's own but also others'. If we can respect the diversity of people and their cultures, a global community marked by unity in pluralism can be created. 10 15
- 3 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. It also forces us to interrogate assumptions held about our own daily life and practices, encouraging incredible personal growth. Who knows, maybe we will even learn something new about our own culture in the process. 20
- 4 Embracing different cultures through travel allows us to experience what it is like to be a part of a community other than our own. It also gives us cultural awareness and acceptance, which can help break down cultural barriers while interacting with people of different backgrounds. Cross-cultural experiences help us be more aware and cognisant of the way we act – from the things we think, to the words we say, to the clothes we wear. But it does not just make us rethink our own cultural preconceptions. It also makes us question the root of these preconceptions. 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 perspectives. 25
- 5 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 generations. Appreciating other cultures is good business practice in the context of interconnected economies and diverse markets. 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. 30 35
- 6 The challenge for society is to ensure that in a globalised world, every culture has a place and value. Cultural purists would argue that the value of culture lies in its context. In this matter, many people have run afoul of cultural sensitivities. To fully appreciate the value of different cultures, it is important to assess them in their appropriate contexts. 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. In cultural appreciation, context and intention matter. 40

Passage 2. *April Shen looks at how culture diversity leads to conflict.*

- 1 Countries like the United States of America, which is said to be a melting pot of different cultures as a result of cultural assimilation among its people, are today gripped by growing concerns about cultural appropriation, the act of adopting aspects of a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture. Accusations of cultural appropriation have been levelled liberally on just about anything – from the display of the Greek Elgin Marbles in the British Museum to a white American teenager wearing qipao (a traditional apparel worn by Chinese ladies) to a college party, to fusion food. At its roots, cultural appropriation is deemed objectionable due to the perceived exploitation of one culture by another. Some of the most harmful examples of cultural appropriation occur when the culture being appropriated is one of a historically oppressed group. 5 10
- 2 What does not sit well with supporters of cultural appropriation is that the use of specific aspects of another culture often benefit the borrowers, and not the owners of the culture. It has also been suggested that any borrowing from a culture should depend on whether permission has been sought from the owners, something that is difficult to implement and police. Otherwise, it is tantamount to identity theft. The issue is clearly underscored in the fashion industry such as when a model in a female lingerie fashion show donned the Native American feathered headgear traditionally worn by respected leaders. The action was swiftly condemned as being breathtakingly insensitive to the Navajo Nation whose headgear was used. 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. 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. 15 20
- 3 The focus of cultural appropriation seems to clash with another progressive imperative: the need to nurture multicultural appreciation. Multiculturalism has been a prominent cause among progressives for more than a generation, but today, admiration for other cultures apparently comes with a warning sign: look, but don't adopt, lest you face accusations of 'theft' or insensitivity. In objecting to 'cultural borrowing', champions of cultural appropriation question the authority of a particular group to speak for the 'borrowed' culture. Ethnic groups, it appears, should keep to their distinct cultures. The obsession with the slightest hint of cultural appropriation becomes divisive, lending an easy spark to racial conflict. 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. 25 30
- 4 Ironically, far from respecting multiculturalism, cultural appropriation protests tend to promote the segregation of cultures. Therein lies the danger of absurd extremism and indiscriminate condemnation. The world would have been poorer if not for the wealth of cross-cultural influences in many of the things that we enjoy. Most reasonable people have no trouble understanding that to adopt an artefact or practice does not diminish the culture from which it originates. Cultural exchange is enriching, not impoverishing as it generates fresh ideas. After all, imitation remains the sincerest form of flattery. It is time for progressives to decide between embracing multiculturalism and policing cultural appropriation. They cannot have it both ways. 35 40

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