

Anderson Junior College
General Paper Preliminary Examination 2010
Paper 2

Suggested Answers

1. Explain why the writer claims that 'Google seems like the last employer on earth that would promote slowness at work' (line 1). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
Google seems like the last employer on earth that would promote slowness at work.	
After all, this is a company that went <u>from a twinkle in its founders' eyes to global supremacy</u> in a <u>just a few years</u> .	Reasons: Google has become a reigning international company <u>in a short time</u> .
It pumps out <u>new</u> products at a <u>dizzying</u> rate.	It churns out <u>innovations at an amazingly fast pace/speed</u> .
It is the <u>reigning superpower</u> on the <u>speed</u> -obsessed Web.	The no 1 company on the internet that is reliant on being fast.

2. From paragraph 1, what is Google's position as a search engine? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

Lifted	Paraphrased
global supremacy	Google is the dominant search engine.
It is the <u>reigning superpower</u> on the <u>speed</u> -obsessed Web.	

3. Explain the paradox in '... dead ends that may ultimately illuminate a better route forward' (lines 13-14). [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
In order words, allow staff to slow down.	It is paradoxical that an idea that is deemed hopeless may/could develop into one that promises a brighter result.
The idea is that Google employees can tackle problems and flights of fancy, make mistakes..... meander down dead ends that <u>may</u> ultimately illuminate a better route forward.	

4. Slow thinking is 'intuitive, woolly and creative' (lines 24-25). What are the possible results of this type of thinking? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
It yields rich, nuanced insights and	It produces profound understanding
	AND

sometimes surprising breakthroughs .	amazing discoveries.
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5. According to the writer, when do people experience their 'eureka moments' (line 30)?

Use your own words as far as possible. [1]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Research has shown that time pressure leads to tunnel vision and that people think more creatively when they are calm, unhurried and free from stress and distractions. We all know this from experience. (not the context)</p> <p>Your best ideas, those eureka moments that turn the world upside down, seldom come when you're juggling emails, rushing to meet the 5 pm deadline or straining to make your voice heard in a high-stress meeting.</p> <p>They come when you're walking the dog, soaking in the bath or swinging in a hammock.</p>	<p>When they are relaxing.</p>

6. Explain the 'cultural shift' in line 39. **Use your own words as far as possible. [1]**

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Everywhere, people are discovering that slowing down at the right moment can help us work, play and live better.</p>	<p>Previously people believed that being busy was the norm, but they now find that relaxing at appropriate times will improve the quality of life.</p>

From Passage 2

7. In paragraph 1, why do you think the author says that time passes slowly in the library but moves more quickly in the pub? [1]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>The hours and minutes ticked away and you could either spend them in the library where they sometimes dragged a bit, or in the pub where they skipped ahead rather more briskly.</p>	<p>It is boring in the library but it is fun in the pub and therefore time passes quickly.</p>

8. Explain in your own words what the author means by 'binge ... on junk sleep'. (line 7) [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>binge ... on</p> <p>junk sleep'</p>	<p>Indulging in</p> <p>sleep that is not restful</p>

9. What is the irony in paragraph 2? [1m]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>What is so odd is that despite all this we</p>	<p>With technology we are supposed to have</p>

actually have more time than we've ever had before. We live for longer, we work fewer hours than we did a hundred years ago. Thanks to tumble driers, hoovers and microwaves, we can dispatch our chores in a trice. We should have plenty of time left over for twiddling our thumbs. Yet like most people, I march through my life in a daze of busyness. I check my e-mails before breakfast and then more times during the day than I care to admit. There are articles to write, phone calls to be made, sandwiches to be eaten over the keyboard and so on.	more time on our hands but we actually find ourselves busier as a result of technology.
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10. Using material from paragraphs 3 – 5 in Passage 2, summarise the arguments against busyness and the writer's reasons for defending busyness.

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]

Some people are against busyness because

Lifted	Paraphrased	
Para 3: ... Our bodies are at risk from the stress we are under	Reasons people have against being busy: a) potential health problems from pressure	1
and our frazzled minds are losing the ability to think at all.	b) we are so tired that over time our brains cannot function properly to ponder over issues	1
Certainly, busyness is not what is pushing us over the edge . It is what is keeping us sane	the writer defends busyness c) being busy helps us have a grip on life	1
In my view, the pressure of time bearing down is usually a force for good. It encourages us to pull our fingers out and get things done	d) busyness motivates us to start work.	1
and getting things done is surely satisfying .	e) which enhances our sense of achievement	1
Dashing around doing things raises the heartbeat agreeably .	f) being busy energises us	1
And if, as we are told, it is a drug - then so what? It doesn't destroy your lungs or your liver or your bank balance and it doesn't make you go round snatching people's handbags to get your next fix .	g) busyness is bad because it is addictive h) there is nothing [physically] unhealthy, does not create social problems.	1 1

Para 4: Busyness is frowned on because it is meant to leave <u>no time for thought</u> , but this is nonsense too.	j) People do not like being busy because we end up with not even a minute to spare for contemplation	1
For me at least, busyness acts as an <u>efficient thought-filter</u> .	k) we learn to better focus on important things	1
It is perfectly possible to have a <u>stroke of inspiration when doing something else</u> .	m) it does not mean we cannot have insight when we are busy.	1
Yet being busy also <u>crowds out brooding</u> . It is hard to fret about your own mortality when you are desperately trying to find a plumber to fix the boiler.	n) we don't have time to be feel unhappy	1
Para 5: When I have idle time I tend to use it wondering what's for lunch, and it seems I'm not alone in my banality	p) people do not think about anything important [even] when they have free time.	1

11. What point is the author making in the quote "much time was spent worrying over whether to wear the sprigged muslin or the plain"? (lines 40-41) [1]

Lifted	Paraphrased
And far from such stillness clearing the mind for great thoughts, much time was spent worrying over whether to wear the sprigged muslin or the plain.	<u>When we have too much time on our hands</u> , we spend time worrying over trivialities.

12. From Passage 1 and 2:

Give the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passage. Write your answers in one word or a short phrase.

Word	1 mark
From Passage 1 a) hunches (l.12)	Instinctive ideas/gut feeling/ intuition
b) hatched (l.15)	Begun/ initiated / started
c) tunnel vision (l. 28)	Limited view/ [extremely] narrow perspective
From Passage 2 d) mesmerised (l. 4)	Hypnotized / entranced
e) agreeably (l. 21)	Satisfyingly / desirably