

VJC 2015 Prelim Paper 2 Answer Scheme

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.** [2]

From the Text	Possible Paraphrase
... snap up that guy who is an 8 rather than waiting for the 10.	Gottlieb is suggesting that women should grab a romantic partner who is of an acceptable standard (1) instead of waiting for a perfect man (to come along). (1) <u>Examiner's Comments:</u> Average or mediocre are not acceptable answers, because 8 out of 10 is good/well above average.

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?” [2]

From the Text	Inference
	While the author claims that these newly launched books will put one in the mood for love, it is ironic that the books listed are all about failed relationships/marriages. Note: Candidates must give both portions in order to get 2 marks. No marks given otherwise.

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** [1]

From the Text	Possible Paraphrase/Inference
... much ink has been spilled and much breath spent...	A lot has been written about marriage in books/newspapers/magazines and a lot of discussions on marriage have taken place in talks /conversations/seminars. Note: Candidates must give both portions in order to get 1 mark. Students should also mention the context of marriage/marriage problems.

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

From the Text	Inference
While marital and couples 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.	“Marriage” refers to the social institution/idea/concept/the place of marriage in society while “marriages” refer to the individual unions between people. Note: Candidates must give both portions in order to get 2 marks. No marks given otherwise.

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.**

[2]

From the Text	Possible Paraphrase/Inference
...marriage was originally a business transaction...	<p>Marriage used to involve the trade or the exchange of freedom/love/sex (1) for money/ financial stability/ social status/ political benefits. (1)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The union is for the purpose of financial/material gain instead of affection</p> <p><u>Examiner's Comments:</u> Many students tended to paraphrase the examples in the passage – wealthy families, royals etc. This is not sufficient to get both marks unless the student also explicitly mentioned that there was an exchange where marriage/love is traded for such benefits.</p>

6. What is implied by the author's claim that remarriage is "the most civic-minded thing a man or woman could do" (lines 32-33)?

[2]

From the Text	Possible Paraphrase/Inference
...was considered the most civic-minded thing a man or woman could do.	<p>Remarriage was considered a highly responsible/considerate act (1) that helped preserve the social cohesion of society/ keep the family together. (1)</p> <p><u>Examiner's Comments:</u> "Remarriage with children" refers to remarrying with children in tow, it does not mean marrying one's own children(!)</p>

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

[1]

From the Text	Inference
...heterosexual pair bond is part of our evolutionary history and so "right" and "forever" , there is plenty of evidence to the contrary...	<p>He does not think that heterosexual unions are unquestionably moral/ethical and that such unions should never change as time passes.</p> <p>Note: Candidates must give both portions in order to get 1 mark.</p> <p><u>Examiner's Comments:</u> Many students simply lifted "right" and "forever". Although the question does not ask students to use their own words, students are to answer in context and unpack what the words mean.</p>

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.** [2]

From the Text	Possible Paraphrase/Inference
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.	<p>Marriage is linked/ tied/connected (1) to a particular point in time/a specific period/era (1).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Marriage evolves or changes (1) with the times/era (1)</p> <p><u>Examiner's Comments:</u> Students should not merely write "marriage is linked to the past" as that is too vague. They should explain that it is linked to "the conditions of the past"</p>

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.** [2]

From the Text	Possible Paraphrase
...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 ... have less influence over us.	<p>Compared to the past, our lifespan has extended further (a) and so, our matrimony will probably last for many years, instead of a few. (b) We are also moving around more often as a community (c) and thus, the institutions that aided wedded couples in the past, do not affect us as much as they used to. (d)</p>

Note: 1-2 pt: 1 mark, 3-4 pt: 2 marks

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

From the Text	Inference
	<p>Not all of us are prone to being unfaithful.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>We should not use the actions of a few to generalise about the behaviour/the faithfulness of everyone else.</p> <p>Note: If adultery or infidelity is not mentioned or implied, the student will not get the mark.</p>

11. Using only material from paragraphs 5 -7 only, summarise what the author has to say about the changes in marriage and the reasons for these changes. 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. [8m]

By the early 20th century ...

	From the Text	Possible Paraphrase
a	the notions of the individual (36)	ideas about/belief in the significance/identity of a person Note: Significance/identity is inferred.
b	liberty (36)	freedom/independence/the right to act as one wishes
c	and equality (36)	egalitarianism/parity/similarity in status
d	and the subsequent rise of the love match (37)	the growing trend of marrying for love
e	marriage morphed from institutional (38)	changed/transformed from a legitimate social practice/custom/expectation Note: "Developed" will not be accepted as a paraphrase for "morphed"
f	to companionate (39)	a romantic relationship between two people Note: "Romantic" must be included as "relationship" is by itself is too vague
g	and now, something more individualistic (40)	more person-centred/focused on the self Note: "Selfish" is not accepted as it does not mean the same thing as "individualistic"
h	marriage is now expected to nurture, satisfy and support the members of the couple (40)	must nourish/build up, fulfil desires and enable/help Note: Students only need to identify any 2 of the 3 above for the point
i	in a dizzyingly comprehensive variety of ways (41) OR emotionally, sexually, psychologically (41,42)	many possible aspects/a large number of methods OR all areas of human need
j	women came to participate more in the workforce (43,44)	More women entered the job market OR women played a greater role in the economy (inferred point)
k	household micro-economies changed (44)	financial needs/activities of families altered
l	from production to consumption-centred (44,45)	from manufacturing/making (goods and services) to buying/purchasing
m	gender roles become more flexible (45)	gender roles are pliable/changeable/not strictly adhered to
n	women now have the economic freedom (46)	Women are financially independent/have the financial means

o	to walk away from unhappy unions (46)	to end/exit bad/dysfunctional marriages
p	the opportunity to find friendship (46,47)	The chance/means to meet new people/widen their social circle
q	... empowerment (47)	to be equipped with/to have the autonomy/agency to determine their own lives/make own choices
r	and other potential partners in the workplace (47)	and to find prospective spouses at work
s	marriage is tethered to our times (48) OR the forces of historical change (49)	(the institution of marriage) is highly dependent on/affected by/tied to existing customs/culture OR new global developments/ground-breaking events
t	no longer the only acceptable context for childbearing (49-50)	one need not be married to be a parent/marriage is not a prerequisite for parenthood
u	couples elect to cohabit rather than marry (50)	choose/decide to live together in a sexual relationship without marriage Note: Cohabitation must be explained/paraphrased
v	owing to women's increased economic power (53)	greater financial clout/strength
w	and the rise of reproductive technologies (53,54)	increase in medical know-how/methods related to childbearing/procreation
x	more women can and do elect (54)	more women are able and choose ,
y	to have children outside marriage (54,55)	to become mothers without getting married first/to become single mothers

Mark conversion:

1-2 = 1

3-4 = 2

5-6 = 3

7-8 = 4

9-10 = 5

11-12 = 6

13-14 = 7

≥15 = 8

12. Wednesday Martin argues that the notions of marriage are changing. How far would you agree with her observations, relating your arguments to your own society? [10]

Band 1 8–10 marks	<p>REQUIREMENTS: systematic reference to the requirements of the question with evidence of a balanced treatment.</p> <p>There must be explicit reference to ideas made by the author Martin.</p> <p>These references must be relevant to the changing notions of marriage.</p> <p>Students must make the evaluation of the observation of the role reversal as the focus of their discussion.</p> <p>Students must refer to experiences and observations relevant to their own society/country.</p> <p>EXPLANATION: shows a good or very good understanding of terms and issues.</p> <p>Interpretation of author's observations must be accurate.</p>
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Explanation of students' evaluation must be clear and relevant to references chosen. Examples/support must be explained clearly to illustrate/justify their points.

*These ideas for discussion and evaluation in the AQ are distilled from the passage, with the line references provided for your benefit.

*Key Ideas from Passage

1. Pickiness when choosing a marriage partner (line 4-6)
2. Infidelity of public figures (lines 7-8)
3. Plenty of marriages are not doing well (line 10-11)
4. Marriage is no longer necessary in the way it once was. (line 21).
5. Marriage is now expected to nurture, satisfy and support the members of the couple in a dizzyingly comprehensive variety of ways - emotionally, sexually, psychologically. (line 40-42).
6. 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. (line 45-47).
7. More women can and do elect to have children outside of marriage and even outside of the structure of coupledness entirely (Note: Elect means women make a conscious choice to have children out of wedlock. This does not apply to single mothers who are abandoned by husbands or boyfriends) (line 54-55).
8. 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 (line 61-62)
9. Marriage is detrimental (line 64)
10. Marriage is no longer feasible (because we live longer, we are more mobile and forces like the extended family and religion have less influence over us) (line 77)

Sample Development of Selected Points:

Development of Point #1

These days, Singaporeans are less willing to get hitched or are marrying later or they are simply unable to find a spouse. The high education levels of Singaporean women may be a contributing factor. The largest proportion of unmarried women in Singapore are university graduates, according to the 2014 Department of Statistics Population Trends paper (16 per cent of university graduates aged 40-44 years were single in 2013, compared to 8.3 per cent among females with below secondary qualifications). This might mean that successful/well-educated Singaporean women have high expectations of potential marriage partners and would rather remain unmarried than marry someone they deem as unworthy.

Development of Point #2

Our government has set a very high standard regarding the moral integrity of our leaders and infidelity is not tolerated at all. Those who contravene these standards are made to step down or removed from office. For example, the former Speaker of Parliament Michael Palmer issued a public apology and stepped down from his post when news of his extramarital affair came to light, and opposition politician Yaw Shin Leong was summarily dismissed by the Worker's Party when he refused to refute rumours of his affair with another WP executive committee member.

Development of Point #3

Counsellors also point to a diminishing social stigma attached to divorce and some couples are more willing to give up on a marriage in trouble. Growing acceptance of divorce in Singapore. For example, the 2014 median age is 33.4, the total number of marital dissolutions (comprising divorces and annulments) rose four per cent from 7,237 in 2012 to 7,525 in 2013.
<http://www.todayonline.com/singapore/fewer-marriages-registered-more-dissolutions-2013>.

Development of Point #4

Marriage is no longer necessary in the way it once was. The rising trend of single men and women in their 30s and 40s in Singapore is evidence of this. Single men and women do not need

	<p>to get married and can support themselves. HDB policies have changed, allowing singles to purchase 2-room BTOs and the income ceiling for singles buying BTOs has been raised. This can be seen as evidence that the government is acknowledging the rising trend of rising singlehood and the idea that marriage is no longer necessary to complete our lives.</p> <p>EVALUATION: makes very convincing evaluation by making judgements and decisions and by developing arguments to logical conclusions, and includes elaboration and support through personal insight and apt illustration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students' evaluation should be clear, consistent and relevant to the question. 2. There should be balance and examples/evidence to support students' claims. 3. Examples/evidence should be contextualised and concrete. 4. Examples/evidence should cover both men and women. <p>COHERENCE: very clear shape and paragraph organisation and cogent argument.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. There should be a proper introduction and conclusion. 6. Students' evaluation should be clear and should not contradict. 7. The discussion points should be distinct yet connected by a common purpose of writing.
Band 2 4–7 marks	<p>REQUIREMENTS: covers requirements of the question adequately but not necessarily a balanced treatment.</p> <p>EXPLANATION: shows an adequate level of understanding of terms and issues (which may include minor distortion).</p> <p>EVALUATION: evaluation is attempted but is not always convincing, and tends to be superficial with limited development of ideas, and is not as thorough in support.</p> <p>COHERENCE: paragraphing is sometimes helpful and there is a recognisable over-all shape to the answer; arguments are generally cogent.</p>
Band 3 1–3 marks	<p>REQUIREMENTS: an incomplete and/or unbalanced treatment of the requirements.</p> <p>EXPLANATION: shows very limited degree of understanding and a higher incidence of misinterpretation.</p> <p>EVALUATION: tends to be a mere summary or restatement of the text with a few simple and undeveloped judgements, with very thin support.</p> <p>COHERENCE: paragraphing and organisation are haphazard; arguments inconsistent or illogical.</p>
0	Nothing in the answer meets any of the criteria.

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