

**RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Y6 GP 2016**  
**PRELIM II ANSWER SCHEME**

1. What are the purposes of the author's opening statement? [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased
Our society expects <u>us</u> all to <u>get married</u> , and barring occasional exceptions, <u>we</u> all do <u>just</u> that.	<p>The author wants to...</p> <p>establish a common experience/engage audience with the reader through the use of the personal pronouns 'us' and 'we'.</p> <p>introduce /make us think the topic <u>of marriage</u>. (context required)</p> <p>emphasise our conformity to societal expectations of pursuing marriage.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any 2 answers for 2 marks</li> <li>Do not award mark if student reads too much into the qn e.g. author is criticising...</li> </ul>

2. According to the author in paragraph 1, why is getting married 'a rather complicated business'? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Paraphrased
<p>[A] It involves <b>mastering the intricate dance of courtship</b>,</p> <p>[B] <b>celebrating the often arcane rituals of marriage</b>, and finally</p> <p>[C] <b>navigating the spat and squabble of domestic life.</b></p>	<p>[A] It constitutes <b>gaining expertise in/ being familiar with/ spending time and effort</b> at the <b>complex</b> routine of dating/means to winning the affections of the other party.</p> <p>[B] Moreover, the <b>obscure</b> ceremonies of marriage were also <b>embraced /revelled in</b>.</p> <p>[C] Finally, married couples have to <b>deal with/ figure/ work out/ manage/ resolve</b> marital <b>disagreements/problems/conflicts</b>.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Point C: BOD for 'Sort out' (too informal)</li> <li>Do not accept 'dull' or 'undesirable' (aspects of marriage) as 'spat and squabble' is obviously about quarrelling</li> </ul>

3. In paragraph 1, what does the comparison of marriage to employment reveal about people's attitude towards marriage? [1]

From the passage	Inferred
It is an enormously elaborate flurry of activity, <u>much more so than finding a job</u> , and yet while many <u>resolutely</u> remain unemployed, few remain unmarried.	<p>People are <b>stubborn/obstinate/adamant/determined</b> OR <b>optimistic/keen/eager/enthusiastic about /willing to</b> getting married OR People think that marriage is <b>more important</b> than finding a job. (1)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>[despite it being even harder/even more inconvenient than seeking employment, as people are willing to work harder at getting married than getting a job].</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not accept 'supporting'/'approving' of marriage as these do not express any difference from people's attitude towards employment</li> </ul>

4. According to the author in paragraph 2, what are the differences between marital success and marital disaster? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Paraphrased
<p>Of course, there is still marital success, unions made by people [A]<u>mature</u> or [B]<u>fortunate</u> enough to find the kind of mates they want, or who [C]<u>artfully blend</u> giving and receiving.</p> <p>It is not these marriages that concern us here. We are concerned with the increasing number of others who, with [A]<u>naïveté</u>, [B]<u>haplessness</u>, and [C]<u>bumbling effort</u>, grope or fling themselves into marital disaster.</p>	<p><u>[A]Wise vs gullible</u> Marital success is usually attained by people who are wise while people who fail at marriage are usually simple-minded /gullible/idealistic.</p> <p><u>[B]Lucky/fortuitous vs unfortunate</u> Furthermore, people who succeed in marriage are lucky while people who do not are usually unfortunate. (also allow comparisons between lucky/unlucky)</p> <p><u>[C] Skilful vs clumsy</u> Finally marital success requires a skilful handling of relationships/ difficult situations while marital disasters see people handling their relationships with uncertainty and clumsiness.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>If student provides the explanation for only 1 side (success or failure), the acceptable answer must start off with 'The differences are...'</b></li> <li>Though we now award the mark even if there is no straightforward comparison, students must always bear in mind that they should present their answers in a clearly comparative manner</li> </ul>

5. Why does the author call contemporary marriage ‘a bitter contract’ (line 17)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased / Inferred
Beautiful romances are transmuted into dull legal unions, and eventually the relationship becomes <b>constricting, corrosive, grinding, and destructive</b> ; the beautiful love affair becomes a bitter <u>contract</u> .	<p>Even though the marriage has become damaging, (1)</p> <p>one is still officially bound/committed to it. (1)</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key answer for the first part is that of ‘damaging’</li> <li>• ‘Toxic’ (BOD) – not encouraged as it is figurative</li> <li>• do not penalise for use of legal for the second part</li> <li>• The word ‘contract’ should not be accepted in the answer unless it is also explained</li> </ul>

6. **Using your own words as far as possible**, explain the paradox which the author describes in lines 32-34. [1]

From the passage	Paraphrased
Yet paradoxically, what starts out as a <b>tender coming together</b> to share one's whole person is transmuted by <b>too much togetherness</b> into attack and counterattack, doubt, disillusionment, and ambivalence.	<p>The very intimacy or closeness experienced by the couple paradoxically results in breakdown / rift / destruction / conflict/ quarrel in marriage.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idea of closeness and intimacy should be the focal point of the paradox</li> </ul>

7. Why does the author use the word ‘mere’ in line 43? [2]

From the passage	Inferred
To get around these restrictions, Chinese couples are flocking to companies which provide divorce papers for a <u>mere</u> 300 yuan (SGD 60).	<p><u>Tone</u> (1): The author wants to emphasise/highlight the <b>absurdity/ludicrousness</b> of the situation –</p> <p><u>Effect</u> (1): that marriage can be reduced to a <b>small payment/token sum</b>. OR The author wants to highlight that it is <b>too/extremely/very easy</b> to dissolve a marriage.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 part answer illustrating Tone and Effect</li> <li>• The marks can be separately awarded</li> <li>• ‘Undermined’ is not accepted as it is too neutral a tone</li> </ul>

8. In paragraph 10, why does the author compare cohabitation to a 'test drive'? [2]

From the passage	Inferred
And if the institution is so flawed - why get married at all? Cohabitation has become so common that it is almost antiquated not to 'test drive' a partner before marriage.	<p>Just as a test drive allows one to spot potential problems and <u>ensure compatibility</u>, cohabitation allows a couple to <u>assess if they are well-suited</u>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Just as a test drive allows one to assess compatibility <u>before the purchase of a car</u>, cohabitation allows a couple to <u>evaluate/conclude if they really do indeed want to commit to each other</u>.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 or 0 answer</li> <li>• need to ensure a <b>coherent comparison</b> between the 2 aspects</li> <li>• do not accept simplistic answers: like car = like each other</li> </ul>

9. How does the metaphor in the concluding sentence illustrate the writer's point in paragraph 11? [1]

From the passage	Inferred
The fruit, it seems, remains tantalisingly sweet and unblemished.	<p>The delicious / tempting fruit demonstrates the attractiveness / appeal of marriage, coinciding with the author's previous claim that most Americans are still enamoured of marriage.</p> <p>Note: do not need to explain deliciousness of fruit <i>Accept any reasonable answer.</i></p>

## 10. Summary - To keep marriage relevant today,

	From the passage	Paraphrased
A	We must <b>release our death grip</b> on <b>outmoded</b> structures	we must <b>loosen / relax / let go of/ give up / stop emphasising/ not hold on to</b> <b>+ outdated / irrelevant / obsolete</b> traditions / systems (2 parts)
B	<b>acknowledge</b> the <b>contradiction</b> <u>between the old and the new,</u>	<b>see/recognise / the clash/ conflict /incompatibility / mismatch</b> between the past and the present, (do not accept 'difference') (2 parts)
C	<b>redefine</b> love and marriage	and <b>change/ rethink / reconsider/ reconceptualise /reinvent</b> love and marriage.
D	Many accept the right of consenting adults to engage in whatever sexual and romantic relationships they choose, but <b>oppose the legal recognition</b> of those relationships.	We need <b>to allow / support /go against/ cannot challenge</b> the legalisation/ lawfulness of consensual unions. (accept use of 'legal')
E	Such people <b>miss the crucial point</b> : marriage is not just a formal codification of relationships	and <b>recognise that / cannot overlook the essence /crux / the most important idea</b>
F	it is also a <b>defensive system</b> designed to <b>protect</b> the interests of people	That it is also meant to <b>safeguard</b> the rights of those
G	whose <b>economic</b>	whose <b>financial / monetary / fiscal / material</b>
H	and <b>emotional security</b> depends on the marriage in question.	and <b>psychological stability / safety / feelings of safety</b> rely on marriage. (do not accept 'feelings' and 'mental stability')
I	If we still want to find hope in love, <b>eradicating the stigmas and taboos</b> around marriage must be	We should <b>eliminate / get rid of</b>  <b>+ the shame / humiliation / ostracism /discrimination</b> (2 parts) (general idea of strong negative perceptions) of marriage
J	<u>nothing less</u> than this generation's <b>moral obligation</b> .	and prioritise it as our <b>duty</b> .
K	Marriage is no longer the sole province of heterosexual couples, and the legal protections of a committed companionship are now <b>extended</b> to a community that has too long <b>been living in the margins</b>	We also need to <b>include /expand</b> marriage to <b>the minority/ homosexuals/who have been living on the fringe / periphery of society</b> . (require the active verb of inclusion) (2 parts)
L	Having cleft society's formidable deference to tradition, the most natural progression for marriage is to <b>chip away at the monolithic myth</b> of monogamy.	Furthermore, we should slowly / gradually / progressively <b>remove / undermine / erode</b> (Challenge – BOD)  <b>+the widespread / entrenched / immovable belief /misconception</b> of traditional marriage (2 parts)
M	(as well as) <b>fear and cultural prejudice</b>	and along with it, (stop the) <b>dread/ anxiety</b> and <b>traditional / societal / entrenched bias</b> . Key idea: anxiety of breaking long-established traditions
N	<b>Remove the labels</b> , and you <b>remove the abuse</b> .	We should also <b>end / eradicate bias</b> ,
O	We must <b>insist</b>	and <b>demand / be firm</b>
P	Pedants proffer <b>logistical problems</b> (of plural marriages) (line 69) OR that rights to plural marriage <b>not simply be dismissed out of short-term interests of logistics or political</b>	that <b>bureaucratic obstacles / red tape</b> to plural marriages be removed. OR And not be <b>misled by myopic / practical concerns</b> . (do not accept 'economic' or word for word paraphrase which

	<b>pragmatism.</b> (line 72)	does not demonstrate understanding)
Q	Further redefining marriage is the idea that <b>companionship rather than passion is a perfectly acceptable basis</b> for marriage OR If we <b>stop defining our significant relationships</b> as those that are romantic or sexual, being single - or married - will take on new meaning.	A <b>close relationship / the warmth of a relationship / emotional intimacy</b>  + is just as important as <b>fervent attraction.</b> <i>(2 parts)</i>
R	Marriage should <b>adapt</b> to society's needs; the tail should not be wagging the dog.	Marriage should <b>adjust / accommodate /evolve /change</b> to suit society's needs.

<b>Points</b>	1	2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-13	>14
<b>Marks</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

### Application Question:

Kangetge Nao challenges the traditional definition of marriage and proposes alternatives to keep marriage relevant. How applicable are her views to your society? [10]