

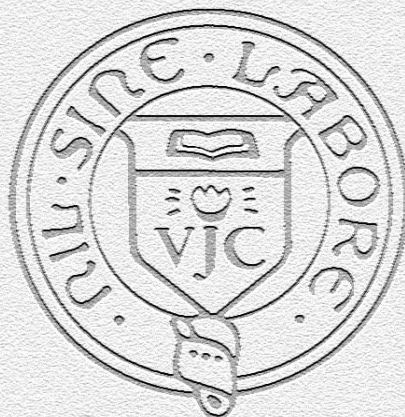
# **VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE**

## **PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**

**GENERAL PAPER**

**Paper 2**

**29 AUG 2016**



**8807/02**

**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.

- 1 The predictions sounded like promises: in the future, working hours would be short and vacations long. Economic progress and technological advances had already shrunk working hours considerably, and there was no reason to believe this trend would not continue. Whizzy cars and even more time-saving tools and appliances guaranteed more speed and less drudgery in all parts of life. Social psychologists even began to fret: whatever would people do with all their free time? 5
- 2 This has not turned out to be one of the world's more pressing problems. Everybody, everywhere seems to be busy. In the corporate world, a "perennial time-scarcity problem" afflicts executives all over the globe, and the matter has only grown more acute in recent years. These feelings are especially profound among working parents. As for all those time-saving gizmos, many people grumble that all these bits of wizardry chew up far too much of their days, whether they are mouldering in traffic, navigating robotic voice-messaging systems or scything away at e-mail – sometimes all at once. 10
- 3 Why do people feel so rushed? Part of this is a perception problem. On average, people in rich countries actually have more leisure time than they used to. The problem is less how much time people have than how they see it. Ever since a clock was first used to synchronise labour in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, time has been understood in relation to money. Once hours are financially quantified, people worry more about wasting, saving or using them profitably. When economies grow and incomes rise, everyone's time become more valuable. When people see their time in terms of money, they often grow stingy with the former to maximise the latter. Workers who are paid by the hour volunteer less of their time and tend to feel more restless when they are not working. After all, the more valuable something becomes, the scarcer it seems. 15 20
- 4 Individualistic cultures, which emphasise achievement over affiliation, help cultivate this time-is-money mindset. This creates an urgency to make every moment count. Larger, wealthy cities, with their higher wage rates and soaring costs of living, raise the value of people's time further still. New Yorkers are thriftier with their minutes – and more harried - than residents of Nairobi. London's pedestrians are swifter than those in Lima. The tempo of life in rich countries is faster than that of poor countries. A fast pace leaves most people feeling rushed. The relationship between time, money and anxiety is something noticeable in the post-war boom years. Though economic progress and higher wages had raised everyone's standard of living, the hours of "free" time people had been promised had come to nought. If anything, time was used more carefully during that era than a century ago. When people are paid more to work, they tend to work longer hours, because working becomes a more profitable use of time. So the rising value of work puts pressure on all time. Leisure time starts to seem more stressful, as people feel compelled to use it wisely or not at all. 25 30 35
- 5 That economic prosperity would create feelings of time poverty looked a little odd in the 1960s, given all those new time-saving blenders and lawnmowers. But there is a distinct correlation between privilege and pressure. In part, this is the conundrum of wealth: though people may earn more money to spend, they are not simultaneously earning more time to spend it in. This makes time – that frustratingly finite, unrenewable resource – feel more precious. Complaints about insufficient time come disproportionately from well-off families. Those with bigger pay packets still feel more anxiety about their time. "The more cash-rich working Americans are, the more time-poor they feel," reported Gallup, a polling company, in 2011. Few spared a moment to feel much sympathy. 40 45

- 6 The explosion of available goods has only made time feel more crunched, as the struggle to choose what to buy or watch or eat or do raises the opportunity cost of leisure (that is, choosing one thing comes at the expense of choosing another) and contributes to the feeling of stress. The endless possibilities afforded by a simple internet connection boggle the mind. When there are so many ways to fill one's time, it is only natural to crave more of it, and pleasures always feel fleeting. 50
- 7 The ability to satisfy desires instantly also breeds impatience, fuelled by a nagging sense that one could be doing so much else. More than a fifth of internet users will abandon an online video if it takes longer than five seconds to load. When experiences can be calculated according to the utility of a millisecond, all seconds are more anxiously judged for their utility. New technologies such as e-mail and smartphones exacerbate this impatience and anxiety. E-mail etiquette often necessitates a response within 24 hours, with the general understanding that the sooner the better. Managing this constant and mounting demand often involves switching tasks or multi-tasking, and the job never quite feels done. 55 60
- 8 If leisureliness was once a badge of honour among the well-off in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, then busyness – and even the stressful feelings of time scarcity – has become that badge now. To be stressed for time has become a sign of prosperity, an indicator of social status, and one that more people are inclined to claim. This switch is only natural in economies where the most impressive people seem to have the most to do. 65
- 9 Alas time, ultimately, is a strange and slippery resource, easily traded, visible only when it passes and often most highly valued when it is gone. Most people worry over how it flies, and wonder where it goes. Cruelly, it runs faster as people get older, as each accumulating year grows less significant, proportionally, but also less vivid. Experiences become less novel and more habitual. The years soon bleed together and end up rushing past, with the most vibrant memories tucked somewhere near the beginning. And of course the more one tries to hold on to something, the swifter it seems to go. 70 75

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Civics Class: \_\_\_\_\_

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Content  | /35 |
| Language | /15 |
| Total    | /50 |

### 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.

#### Paragraph 1

- 1 (a) Explain clearly the difference between “prediction” and “promises” (line 1).

[2]

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- (b) What is the author referring to? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

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- 2 “Whatever people would do with all their free time?” (line 6). Explain what the social psychologists are concerned about. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

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## Paragraph 2

3 Why are the feelings more “profound among working parents” (line 10)?

[1]

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4 What does the word “wizardry” (line 11) suggest about the perception of time-saving gizmos?

[1]

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## Paragraph 3

5 What does “actually” (line 15) suggest about time for people in rich countries?

[1]

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## Paragraph 4

6 Explain the irony in the phrase “leisure time starts to seem more stressful” (lines 36-37).

[2]

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### Paragraph 5

**7** Explain what is meant by the phrase “few spared a moment to feel much sympathy” (lines 46-47) in response to the Gallup poll results and why.

[2]

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### Paragraph 7

**8** Explain clearly what the word “nagging” (line 54) suggests.

[1]

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### Paragraph 8

**9 (a)** Explain what the phrase “badge of honour” (line 63) means.

[1]

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**(b)** In what way has this “badge of honour” (line 63) changed? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

[1]

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**(c)** What assumption is made about those in modern times who have little to do?

[1]

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### Paragraph 9

**10** Why is time especially “cruel” (line 70) to people as they get older?

[1]

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**11** What does the phrase “bleed together” (line 72) suggest about the way the past appears to people as they age?

[1]

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**12** Using material from **paragraphs 3 to 5**, summarise the reasons why time has become scarcer. Write your answer in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [8]

[8]

## One reason why people feel so rushed ...

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