

**GP JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2010  
ANSWER SCHEME**

- 1** Explain **in your own words as far as possible** how addiction theories and policies have become 'woefully outdated' (line 1). [2m]

Text	Inference / Paraphrase
Our addiction theories and policies are <b>woefully outdated</b> . <b>Research</b> shows that there are no demon drugs. Nor are addicts innately defective.	Through experiments / studies, (½m)  we have realized that our previous understanding / existing theories about addiction are invalid / not applicable. (½m)
Nature has supplied us all with the ability to become hooked—and we all engage in addictive behaviors to some degree.	Instead, we now have a better / new understanding of the causes of addiction. (½m)  However, this would suggest that our current methods to address addiction are obsolete and inadequate to deal with the problem effectively. (½m)

- 2** From paragraph 2, explain **in your own words as far as possible** Americans' efforts in dealing with addiction. [2m]

Text	Inference / Paraphrase
The War on Drugs alone is <b>older</b> than the <b>century</b> .	It has been on-going/through many years (½m)
In the early 1990s, the United States spent <b>\$45 billion</b> waging it,	Vast amount of resources / money utilized (½m) (Billions/millions NOT ALLOWED)
with <b>no end in sight</b> ,	Yet we cannot observe any visible result (½m) (Any other interpretations that address how the problem is still not resolved will be accepted, adjectives used only to describe attitudes towards the situation will not be awarded the mark)
despite every <b>kind</b> of addiction <b>treatment</b> from psychosurgery, psychoanalysis...	Even though we have tried all possible forms of cure/management/means of healing (½m)

- 3** Why is the word "certainties" (line 17) in quotation marks? [2m]

Text	Inference / Paraphrase
	(i) The author questions / doubts the suitability of the word (1m)  <b>OR</b>  The author does not intend the word in its original meaning. (1m)
	(ii) "Certainties" refer to indisputable facts. (½m) The fact that experts are challenging these facts suggest that they are actually debatable or arguable. (½m)
	<b>(i) &amp; (ii) can be awarded separately</b>

- 4 Identify the similarity and difference between 'people who are Type A personalities' (line 68) and 'heroin and crack addicts' (line 73). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2m]

Text	Inference / Paraphrase
<p>something in common ... <b>mechanisms and triggers</b></p> <p>not all addictions have the <b>same effect</b> on the <b>quality of our lives or capacity to be dangerous</b></p> <p>what their <b>behavior actually means</b> to themselves and others ... very little in common</p>	<p>Similarity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Means/methods and (½m)</li> <li>catalyst/stimulus/impetus (½m)</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Way / process by which one becomes addicted (1m)</li> </ul> <p>Difference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>differing impacts on our lives (½m)</li> <li>potential to result in harm to others (½m)</li> <li>the significance of the addict's action (½m)</li> </ul> <p><b>(Any 2 of the 3 points on difference = 1 mark)</b></p>

- 5 Explain what the author means by staying married is "a triumph of culture over nature" (lines 81 – 82)? [2m]

Text	Inference / Paraphrase
a <b>triumph (1m)</b> of <b>culture over nature (1)</b>	The author means that staying married is an indication that our social rules / regulations / conventions are able / successful in suppressing our tendencies to stray.

- 6 '...even drive (not safely) ...' (line 94)

Why does the author place parenthesis around 'not safely'? [2m]

Text	Inference / Paraphrase
<p>Finally, addicts tend to have higher-than-normal capacity for such drugs. Alcoholics, for example, often can drink friends "under the table" and appear somewhat normal, even drive <b>(not safely)</b> on doses of alcohol that would put most people to sleep or kill them.</p>	<p><b>Note: Parentheses de-emphasise the content within, and are meant to supplement information, not take away emphasis from the main text.</b></p> <p>She wants to qualify / explain her opinion / view / trying to be tongue-in-cheek / That is an aside (1m)</p> <p>that though many would claim that addicts are still able to function under alcoholic influence (½m), this ability will be hampered somewhat / addicts are not immune to alcohol (½m).</p>

- 7 What point is the author making in the last sentence (lines 100 – 101)? [2m]

Text	Inference / Paraphrase
<p>The end product is a bit like Mozart's talent: <b>If he'd never come in contact with a piano or with music, it's unlikely he would have expressed his musical gifts.</b></p>	<p>The author's point is that we all possess the propensity / inclination to be addicted (1m) and it only requires a trigger / catalyst / opportunity to draw it out (1m).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Addictive behaviour can be positively harnessed/ channelled so that an obsession can be turned into talent (1m), like how Mozart might initially have been addicted to piano or music. But as a result of this addiction, he ended up with a great flair for music (1m).</p>

- 8 Using material from paragraphs 5 to 9, summarise how the scientific discoveries about the nature of addiction differ from other existing theories. 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.** [8m]

One of the proposed theories...

	From the passage	Answer	Mark
A	Some will insist addiction is a <b>failure of morality</b> or a <b>spiritual weakness</b> ,	involves people who are adamant that such patterns reflects a loss of values (½m) or feebleness in our soul / religion (½m),	1
B	A <b>sin and a crime</b> by people who <b>won't take responsibility for their behavior</b> .	And is a deliberate moral violation (½m) of the principle of accountability for one's actions. (½m)	1
C	For the teetotaler and politicians, it's a <b>self-control problem</b> ; or sociologists, <b>poverty</b> ; for educators, <b>ignorance</b> .	For government officials and those who abstain from liquor, addiction is a case of self-discipline; scholars of human society blame indigence; teachers, the lack of knowledge.	Any 2 of 3 points = 1m
D	Ask some psychiatrists or psychologists and you're told that <b>personality traits, temperament, and "character"</b> are at the <b>root</b> of addictive "personalities."	Psychiatrists and psychologists attribute such obsessive behaviour to the emotional and social qualities of an individual.	1
E	Social-learning and cognitive-behavior theorists will tell you it's a case of <b>conditioned response</b> and <b>intended or unintended reinforcement</b> of <b>inappropriate behaviors</b> .	Other researchers may just put it down as a habit, whether deliberate or not, reaffirmed by the outcome of our actions.	1
F	The biologically oriented will say it's all in the <b>genes and heredity</b> ; anthropologists that it's <b>culturally determined</b> .	Some theories explain addiction as part of a genetic code of human behaviour while anthropologists propose that it is dependent on the environment we live in. <b>Students should attempt to change form of word for 'genes'</b> .	1
G	And Dan Quayle will <b>blame</b> it on the <b>breakdown of family values</b> .	And another theory may point a finger at the erosion of kinship ties.	1
H	The most <b>popular</b> "theory," however, is that addictive behaviors are <b>diseases</b> .	The theory that has the widest acceptance is that they are medical conditions/ailments/illnesses. (DO NOT ACCEPT bacteria, viruses, germs, cancers.)	1
I	the disease theory holds that addictions are <b>irreversible, constitutional, and altogether abnormal</b> and that the only <b>appropriate treatment</b> is <b>total avoidance</b> of the alcohol or other substance, lifelong abstinence, and <b>constant vigilance</b> .	that are inherent, deviant and cannot be treated. The feasible/suitable solution is to abstain from objects of gratification and to be alert for possible symptoms.	1
J	Scientists <b>have learned that every</b> animal, from the ancient hagfish to reptiles, rodents, and humans, <b>share the same basic pleasure and "reward" circuits</b> in the brain, <b>circuits that all turn on when in contact with addictive substances or during pleasurable acts such as eating</b> .	Scientists <b>however / in contrast</b> have discovered that all animals have similar fundamental cognitive sense of gratification. It is triggered when we are hooked on something or engaged in enjoyable behaviour/ indulgences.	1
K	One conclusion from this evidence is that addictive behaviors <b>are normal, a natural part of our "wiring."</b>	This shows that such obsessive activity patterns are a constituent / component / element of our genetic make-up/ biological blueprint.	1
L	If they weren't, or if they were rare, nature would not have let the <b>capacity to be</b>	Otherwise, they would have been eradicated/ removed/ purged from within us.	1

	<b>addicted evolve, survive, and stick around</b> in every living creature.	OR These tendencies would have died out through natural selection/Darwinian processes. OR These tendencies would have removed via adaptation.	
M	Everyone engages in addictive behaviors to some extent because such things as eating, drinking, and sex are <b>essential to survival and highly reinforcing</b> .	Humans indulge in such obsessive patterns as they reaffirm what we do and are crucial to our existence.	1
N	<b>We get immediate gratification from them and find them very hard to give up.</b>	They also give us instant satisfaction which makes it even more difficult to renounce	1
O	The inescapable fact is that nature gave us the ability to become hooked because the <b>brain has evolved a reward system</b> , just as it has a pain system.	because of the pleasure we recognise from our cognitive mechanism.	1
P	What we now call “addictions,” are cases of a <b>good and useful phenomenon taken hostage</b> , with <b>terrible social and medical consequences</b> .	Scientific discoveries show that addiction can be favourable and advantageous. However, when taken to the extreme, this would have severely impact our health and community.	1
Q	Moreover, that insight is leading to the identification of specific areas of the brain that <b>link feelings and behavior to reward</b>	This demonstrates that there may be a correlation between our emotions and actions and what we get in return.	1
R	The new concept of addiction is in <b>sharp contrast</b> to the <b>conventional, frustrating</b> , and some would say <b>cynical</b> view that everything causes addiction.	The novel idea of obsessive behavior patterns is clearly distinctive from the commonly accepted, dissatisfying and even pessimistic perspective that anything can result in addiction.	1

**NOTE:** Markers are to use their discretion when marking. However, these are some guidelines

- Coherence is essential. A word for word substitution is not encouraged.
- Keywords have to be accurately paraphrased before the full mark is given.
- If the meaning of the point is not in doubt, candidate can be awarded full marks.
- A maximum of 5 marks will be awarded for answers which only focus on 1 aspect of the question requirement.
- For questions with compounded mark allocation, if students manage a partial, paraphrased interpretation of the points, they may be awarded ½ marks for their answers. ALL LIFTED ANSWERS WILL BE GIVEN 0 MARK.
- Mark to reward.

- 9 Give the meaning of the following words as they are used in the passage. Use one word or a short phrase. [5m]

	1 mark	$\frac{1}{2}$ mark	0 mark
<b>(a)</b> bewildering (line 12)	Baffling, confounding, confusing, inexplicable, puzzling, perplexing,		Astounding, astonishing, complex mind-boggling, mystifying, stupefying, surprising, shocking
<b>(b)</b> hardcore (line 16)	Dogmatic, entrenched, fixed, long- standing, resolute, rigid, steadfast, uncompromising, unwavering, unfaltering	Firm, strong	Concrete, extreme,
<b>(c)</b> conjecture (line 20)	Guesswork, surmise, assumption, presumption, speculation, hypothesis, postulation, supposition, (opinion/conclusion formed based on incomplete information), theory		Imagination, inference
<b>(d)</b> account (line 63)	Answer for, give reasons for, provide a rationale for, show grounds for, justify		To be responsible for
<b>(e)</b> compulsions (line 66)	Extreme/Irresistible/strong/uncontr ollable + urges, fixations, impulses, obsessions (to behave in a certain way)	Preoccupations, urges	Drive, desires, tendencies

- 10** Joann Rodgers argues strongly that the theories and models of addiction '*lead to control measures doomed to failure*' in modern society. How far do you agree with her views on addiction and its control measures?

Illustrate your answer by referring to the ways in which you and your society regard addiction and develop control measures for it.

**To pass, students need to discuss:**

**R1:**

- Evaluation of the success or failure of the control measures
- Evaluation should be linked to the theories on addiction (causes and processes)

**R2:**

- Context of the discussion should revolve around you and your society
- Presence of personal opinion (demonstration of personal views regarding society's control measures to treat addiction)

References from the passage	Interpretation of References
<p><b>1)</b> (Para 1) Our addiction theories and policies are woefully outdated. Research shows that there are no demon drugs. Nor are addicts innately defective. Nature has supplied us all with the ability to become hooked.</p> <p><b>2)</b> (Para 2) In the early 1990s, the United States spent \$45 billion waging it, with no end in sight, despite every kind of addiction treatment from psychosurgery, psychoanalysis, psychedelics, and self-help to acupuncture, group confrontation, family therapy, hypnosis, meditation, education and tough love.</p>	<p><b>( Ref 1 &amp; 2 )</b> Rodgers suggests that we have wrongly interpreted the addiction as an unnatural phenomenon, resulting in us focusing on the wrong factors in trying to address the issue.</p>
<p><b>4)</b> (Para 4) They're concluding that things are far from hopeless.</p> <p>(Para 5) One conclusion from this evidence is that addictive behaviors are normal, a natural part of our "wiring." If they weren't, or if they were rare, nature would not have let the capacity to be addicted evolve, survive, and stick around in every living creature.</p> <p><b>5)</b> (Para 6) What we now call "addictions," in this sense, are cases of a good and useful phenomenon taken hostage, with terrible social and medical consequences.</p>	<p><b>(Ref 4 &amp; 5)</b> Addiction is an intrinsic part of our biology. What is now construed as addiction is actually an extreme form of this intrinsic behaviour.</p>

<p><b>6)</b> (Para 7) The new concept of addiction is in sharp contrast to the conventional, frustrating, and some would say cynical view that everything causes addiction.</p> <p><b>7)</b> (Para 8) For the teetotaler and politicians, it's a self-control problem; for sociologists, poverty; for educators, ignorance. Ask some psychiatrists or psychologists and you're told that personality traits, temperament, and "character" are at the root of addictive "personalities." Social-learning and cognitive-behavior theorists will tell you it's a case of conditioned response and intended or unintended reinforcement of inappropriate behaviors. The biologically oriented will say it's all in the genes and heredity; anthropologists that it's culturally determined. And Dan Quayle will blame it on the breakdown of family values.</p> <p><b>8)</b> (Para 9) The most popular "theory," however, is that addictive behaviors are diseases. In this view, an addict, like a cancer patient or a diabetic, either has it or does not have it.</p>	<p><b>(Ref 6 – 8)</b> The latest understanding of addiction contradicts the conventional reasons such as trained responses, genetics, culturally determination, economic deprivation, the lack of education, personality defects and even social disintegration. The dominant understanding, however, is that addiction is an inherent medical condition.</p>
<p><b>9)</b> (Para 10) The problem with all of these theories and models is that they lead to control measures doomed to failure by mixing up the process of addiction with its impact. Worse, from the scientific standpoint, they don't hold up to the tests of observation, time, and consistent utility. They don't explain much and they don't account for a lot.</p>	<p><b>(Ref 9)</b> Rodgers argues that the abovementioned theories will result in ineffective outcomes in our battle against addiction as they mistake the symptoms of addiction for its root causes. They also lack reliable empirical evidence to back it up and hence don't provide any useful insight and solutions.</p>
<p><b>10)</b> (Para 11) While all addictions display common properties, the proportions of those factors vary widely. And certainly not all addictions have the same effect on the quality of our lives or capacity to be dangerous.</p>	<p><b>(Ref 10)</b> Addictions have differing degrees of severity despite some of their shared traits.</p>
<p><b>11)</b> (Para 13) They have particular vulnerabilities or susceptibilities, opportunity to have contact with the substance or activity that will addict them, and a risk of relapse no matter how successfully they are treated. They tend to be risk takers and thrill seekers and expect to have a positive reaction to their substance of abuse before they use it.</p>	<p><b>(Ref 11)</b> What someone will be addicted to is defined by their unique weaknesses and the preconceived notions of their environmental exposure to the addictive substance.</p>
<p><b>12)</b> (Para 15) All addictions appear now to have roots in genetic susceptibilities and biological traits. But like all human and animal behaviors, including eating, sleeping, and learning, addictive behavior takes a lot of handling.</p>	<p><b>(Ref 12)</b> Addiction is an intrinsic part of our biology. However, it needs careful management to prevent it from becoming a socially debilitating condition.</p>

## **Answers In Agreement with Rodgers**

### **A) Sample Argument**

Rodgers suggests that we have wrongly interpreted addiction as an unnatural phenomenon, resulting in us focusing on the wrong factors in trying to address the issue. I agree that the theories we have for addiction are 'woefully outdated' (Para 1), and a revolutionary approach to the problem has to be adopted in tackling the issue. This can begin with the acknowledgement that 'addictive behaviors are normal (and) a natural part of our "wiring" (Para 5) and require careful management to prevent them from becoming socially debilitating conditions.

In my society, I feel that we have adopted the wrong measures to deal with some of the addictions observed here. One instance would be the addiction to gambling, which, while having been present in our society in the form of the various national lotteries, has been brought into greater prominence with the establishment of the casinos as a permanent fixture in our tourism industry. The government's simplistic belief that gambling is a problem that can be dealt with using basic social safeguards such as casino entrance fees and exclusions disregards the view that these merely deal with the symptoms and not with the triggers of gambling, which would be the presence/existence of the casinos themselves. I share Rodgers view that the higher the exposure to the activity, the greater the chance of addiction. The presence of the casinos merely multiplies the average Singaporean's 'opportunit[ies] to have contact with the substance or activity that will addict' (Para 13). I do acknowledge, however, that the Singapore government faces a great dilemma in this case. Do we give up the chance to advance our economy, or allow the issue of gambling to 'flourish'?

### **B) Other Possible Approaches in Agreement with Rodgers**

Candidates can:

- Explore Singapore-specific cultural and social perspectives regarding addictive behaviour, with reference to our still-conservative society. This can be linked with new research which suggests that addictive behaviour is not confined to that which has social consequences. (Reference from Para 11)
- Address both 'minor' and less impactful addictions besides those that are recognised as 'severe and dangerous' and examine the ways in which Singapore society perpetuates these addictions rather than develop control measures to them.
- Comment on the specific implications of our symptomatic approaches to dealing with the range of common addictions present in Singapore, and suggest more effective measures for tackling these issues. Candidates could also consider the long-term impacts of continuing our existing approaches on society.
- Pick up on Rodgers' assessment in Paragraph 15 that addictive behaviour can be positively harnessed/channelled so that an obsession can be turned into talent/gift, like how Mozart might initially have been addicted to piano or music. But as a result of this addiction, he ended up with musical gifts.



## **Answers In Disagreement with Rodgers**

### **A) Sample Argument**

While Rodgers explains at length what in her opinion is truly “addiction” which calls for “a lot of handling” different from the “control measures” currently in place, I have my reservations.

Rodgers observes that current theories and models of addiction lead to control measures that are doomed to failure. She goes to great lengths to criticize these models and explain why the control measures that ensue will not guarantee success. What Rodgers subsequently does is however, to propose simply that “addictive behavior takes a lot of handling”. Her proposal is vague and offers no explicit instructions or directions on how exactly addictive behavior can be addressed and resolved. Her observation that current theories “don’t explain much and don’t account for a lot” ironically applies to her own proposed solution to addiction. As such, I find it hard to concur with her views on addiction and its control measures for the very measures she criticizes have at least detailed and concrete means of resolving the issue of addiction, some of which boast even track records of success. Overall, what Rodgers sets out to achieve ends up being reminiscent of the same “glib explanations” and “glib solutions” that she is challenging.

### **B) Other Possible Approaches in Disagreement with Rodgers**

Candidates can:

- Discuss how control measures are not outdated and ineffective as they are still relevant and work for Singapore quite well.
- Explore how Singapore deals with certain types of addiction by removing all opportunities of exposure completely (e.g. heavy penalties for drug trafficking, etc.).
- Preventive measures also prove to be quite effective in dealing with some types of addiction (like gambling).
- Rodgers’ definition of addiction is too broad, as it overlaps with many other functions & habits necessary for survival. Necessities are unfairly likened to addictions (Reference from Para 5).
- Evaluate how it is an uphill task to tackle addictions at its root: the ‘biological’ wiring and innate quality of addiction. Understanding the root causes of addiction does not help us deal more effectively with the myriad forms of addiction and the factors that perpetuate them (Reference from Para 5).
- The only pragmatic way to deal with such issues would be to address and alleviate the varied and endless manifestations and consequences of such conditions (Reference from Para 11).