

Section B

Text 3

The text below describes the narrator's observations of his neighbour Jay Gatsby's lavish house parties in Long Island. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 5 – 14 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 There was music from my neighbour Gatsby's house through the summer nights. In his gardens men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars. In the afternoon, I watched his guests dive from the tower of his raft, or take the sun on the hot sand of his beach while his two motorboats slit the waters of the lagoon, drawing water skis over sea foam. On weekends, his Rolls-Royce¹ became a bus, bearing parties to and from the city between nine in the morning and long past midnight, while his station wagon² scampered like a brisk yellow bug to meet all arriving trains. And on Mondays eight servants and a gardener toiled all day with mops and scrubbing brushes and garden shears, repairing the ravages of the night before. 5
- 2 At least once a fortnight a corps of caterers came down with several hundred feet of canvas and enough colored lights to make a Christmas tree of Gatsby's enormous garden, and on buffet tables garnished with glistening appetisers were spiced baked hams crowded against salads of harlequin designs and pastry pigs and turkeys bewitched to a dark gold. 10
- 3 By seven o'clock the orchestra has arrived, no thin five-piece affair, but a whole pitful of oboes, trombones, saxophones, viols, cornets, piccolos, and low and high drums. The last swimmers have come in from the beach now and are dressing upstairs, and already the halls and salons and verandas are gaudy with primary colors, and hair shorn in strange new ways. The air is alive with chatter and laughter, and casual innuendo and introductions forgotten on the spot, and enthusiastic meetings between women who never knew each other's names. 15 20
- 4 The lights grow brighter as the earth lurches away from the sun, and now the orchestra is playing yellow cocktail music, and the opera of voices pitches a key higher. Laughter is easier minute by minute, spilled without restraint, tipped out at a cheerful word. The groups change more swiftly, swell with new arrivals, dissolve and form in the same breath; already there are wanderers, girls who weave here and there among the crowd, become for a sharp, joyous moment the centre of a group, and then, excited with triumph, glide on through the sea of faces and voices and colour under the constantly changing light. 25
- 5 Suddenly one of the gypsies seizes a cocktail out of the air, dumps it down for courage and dances out alone on the canvas platform. A momentary hush; the orchestra varies their rhythm obligingly for her, and there is a burst of chatter. The party has begun. 30
- 6 I believe that on the first night I went to Gatsby's house I was one of the few guests who had actually been invited. People were not invited — they went there. They got into automobiles which bore them out to Long Island, and somehow they ended up at Gatsby's door. Once there they were introduced by somebody who knew Gatsby, and after that 35

¹ Rolls-Royce: The brand of a luxury car

² Station Wagon: A large car with extra space at the back

they conducted themselves according to the rules of behaviour associated with amusement parks. Sometimes they came and went without having met Gatsby at all, came for the party with a simplicity of heart that was its own ticket of admission.

- 7 I had been actually invited. A chauffeur in a blue uniform crossed my lawn early that Saturday morning with an unexpectedly formal note from his employer: the honour would be entirely Gatsby's, it said, if I would attend his 'little party' that night. 40
- 8 As soon as I arrived I made an attempt to find my host, but the two or three people of whom I asked his whereabouts stared at me in such an amazed way, and denied so vehemently any knowledge of his movements, that I slunk off in the direction of the cocktail table — the only place in the garden where a single man could linger without looking purposeless and alone. 45
- 9 I was on my way to get roaring drunk from sheer embarrassment. Welcome or not, I found it necessary to attach myself to someone before I should begin to address cordial remarks to the passers-by.
"Hello!" I roared, advancing toward her. My voice seemed unnaturally loud across the garden. 50

Adapted from The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Section C

Text 4

The article below is about human communication, both online and offline. Read the text carefully and answer Questions 15 – 20 in the Question Booklet.

- 1 For millions of years, humans have been adapted to living in small bands of no more than a few hundred people. Even today, most of us find it impossible to really know more than 150 individuals, irrespective of how many online friends we boast. Without such intimate communities, humans feel lonely and alienated.
- 2 Unfortunately, over the past two centuries, intimate communities have indeed been disintegrating. The attempt to replace small groups of people who actually know one another with the imagined communities of nations could never succeed in full. Your millions of brothers in the national family cannot provide you with the warm intimacy that a single real sibling or friend can. This persistent attempt may result in people living ever more lonely lives in an ever more connected planet. 5 10
- 3 The truth is in-person interaction is still indispensable: students on overseas exchanges treasure the authenticity such exchanges provide, people working abroad miss the physical touch of their loved ones, political leaders value the trust established from meeting their counterparts physically...
- 4 A community may begin as an online gathering, but in order to truly flourish it will have to strike roots in the physical world too. While possible, the progression of an online community to a physical world community is extremely difficult. It takes a lot of time that is a scarce resource and it demands direct physical interaction. More often than not, online communities come at the expense of their offline counterparts. In theory, building communities should not be a zero-sum game; humans ought to be able to partake in different groups, both online and offline, at the same time. In reality, however, intimate relations probably are a zero-sum game. Beyond a certain point, the time and energy you spend on getting to know your online friends from South Korea or Australia will come at the expense of your ability to know your next-door neighbours. Furthermore, there is a fundamental difference between the two: physical communities have a depth that virtual communities cannot match, at least not in the near future. If I lie sick at home in Singapore, my online friends from the United States can talk to me, but they cannot bring me soup or a cup of tea. 15 20 25
- 5 Online communities have not only impinged on our offline relations. During the last century, technology has also been distancing us from our bodies. We have been losing our ability to pay attention to what we smell and taste. Instead, we are absorbed in our smartphones and computers. We are more interested in what is happening in cyberspace than in what is happening in our immediate surroundings. We can wander between the supermarket aisles mindlessly while texting messages. We can buy any of a thousand dishes, but whatever we choose, we might end up eating it in haste in front of a screen, while hardly paying attention to the actual taste. Furthermore, many people seem to form views solely based on how others respond. If something exciting happens, the gut instinct of many is to pull out their smartphones, take a picture, post it online and wait for the 'likes'. In the process, they barely form their own opinions of the event; what they think may be determined by online reactions. 30 35 40

- 6 People who have little awareness of their bodies, senses and physical environment are likely to feel alienated and disoriented. Pundits³ often blame such feelings on the decline of religious and national bonds, but losing touch with your body is probably more culpable. Humans lived for millions of years without churches and without nation states — they can probably live happily without them in the twenty-first century, too. Yet they cannot live happily if they are not in tune with their bodies. If you don't feel at home in your body, you will never feel at home in the world. 45

Adapted from 21 Lessons for the 21st Century by Yuval Noah Harari

³ pundit: a person who knows a lot about a particular subject and who often talks about it in public

Section B [20 marks]

Refer to Text 3 on pages 1-2 of the Insert for Questions 5-14.

- 5 At the beginning of the text, the narrator says that '...men and girls came and went like moths among the whisperings and the champagne and the stars.'

Which phrase from the above quote suggests that there was a continuous flow of people?

.....
 [1]

- 6 'On weekends, his Rolls-Royce became a bus, bearing parties to and from the city between nine in the morning and long past midnight, while his station wagon scampered like a brisk yellow bug to meet all arriving trains.' (lines 5-8)

- (i) Which **two** verbs in the sentence above suggest that there were many people who attended the neighbour's parties?

.....[1]

- (ii) Explain how **each** word in your answer in (i) emphasises that the neighbour's parties involve many people.

.....

 [2]

- 7 With reference to Paragraph 2, how does the writer emphasise that the parties were extravagant? Identify **two** ways.

.....
 [2]

- 8 Give **two** details between lines 19 and 21 that suggest that conversations were superficial.

.....
 [2]

- 9 In Paragraph 4, we learn that the orchestra plays cocktail music and the atmosphere becomes livelier. Explain how the language used between lines 22 and 25 emphasises how lively the atmosphere was. Support your answer with **three** details between lines 23 and 25.

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.....

.....

..... [3]

- 10 (a) What is another word in Paragraph 5 that has a similar meaning as 'wanderers' (line 26)?

..... [1]

- (b) What do lines 26 to 28 suggest about the wanderers?

..... [1]

- 11 Explain what the following phrases in Paragraph 5 suggest about the people's attitude to the girl who dances out alone on the canvas platform. Do not use the words that have been quoted in your answer.

- (i) 'A momentary hush' (line 30)

..... [1]

- (ii) 'varies his rhythm obligingly for her' (lines 30-31)

..... [1]

- 12 What does the writer mean when he says that guests came for the party 'with a simplicity of heart' (line 38)?

..... [1]

- 13 What effect is the writer trying to achieve when he placed the words 'little party' (line 41) in inverted commas?

..... [1]

- 14 From Paragraph 7, the structure of the text reflects the different emotions the narrator experienced at the party. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box to summarise each emotion. There are extra words in the box you do not need to use.

The narrator's emotions

surprised	overconfident	exposed
self-conscious	lonely	awkwardness

Flow chart

Paragraph 7	(i)	
Paragraph 8	(ii)	
Paragraph 9	(iii)	

[3]

Section C [25 marks]

Refer to Text 4 on pages 3-4 of the Insert for Questions 15-20.

- 15 (a) Which **five-word phrase** in Paragraph 2 has the same meaning as 'countrymen'?
- [1]
- (b) What does the writer mean when he says that nations are 'imagined communities' (line 7)?
- [1]
- 16 '...people living ever more lonely lives in an ever more connected planet.' (lines 9-10)
- What is (i) unusual and (ii) effective about the above expression?
- (i) It is unusual
- because
-[1]
- (ii) It is effective
- because
-[1]
- 17 With reference to Paragraph 4, give **two** reasons why the 'progression of an online community to a physical world community is extremely difficult' (lines 16-17). **Answer in your own words.**
-
-
-
- [2]

- 18 Here is part of a conversation between two friends, Elaine and Wendy, who have read the article.



Elaine

Our involvement in online communities is causing us to neglect people around us as well as our surroundings.

Not only that, we are also increasingly incapable of forming our own opinions.



Wendy

- (a) From lines 21-28 and lines 30-36, give two examples Elaine can use to support her opinion.

(i) lines 21-28:
.....[1]

(i) lines 30-36:
.....[1]

- (b) With reference to Paragraph 5, what could have caused Wendy's concerns?

.....
..... [1]

- 19 'If you don't feel at home in your body, you will never feel at home in the world.' (lines 46-47)

From Paragraph 6, which two **separate** words convey the same meaning as the underlined phrases?

..... [1]

- 20 Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the reasons why offline communication is still essential as well as the problems caused by the use of online communication.

Use only information from Paragraphs 3 to 5.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words (not counting the words given to help you begin)

Offline communication is still essential

because