

SAJC 2023 GP JC2 Prelim Paper 2
Suggested Answer Scheme

1. In paragraph 1, in what way is the introduction an effective opening for the author's argument? [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>The 94th Academy Awards Ceremony set the internet ablaze. Comedian and host Chris Rock made a joke about Jada Pinkett-Smith's hair loss (caused by a medical condition). Then the world watched as her husband, Oscar winner Will Smith, strode onto the stage and slapped him with the full force of fury and retribution. Of course, the public nature of the incident made it pretty compelling. What happened was unprecedented. But it struck a chord for something deeper than sensationalism.</p>	<p>A [impact]: using a severe / harsh / public / controversial / well-known / famous / infamous / shocking / vivid / relevant example / something the readers already know / familiar <i>Accept any reasonable answer</i></p> <p>B1 [reason]: to highlight the significance / to catch the readers' attention <i>BOD: illustrate the point</i></p> <p>B2 [context]: about hurtful jokes / the damage jokes can bring / that not everything can be pass off as a joke <i>Must have the context of hurtful jokes</i> <i>Must have B1+B2 to get 1m</i></p>

2. According to the author, how does repulsive humour affect everyone (lines 9-11)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

Lifted	Paraphrased / Inferred
<p>Repulsive humour affects all of us: it entraps us, giving us no good way to respond. You react, you don't react; you speak up, you don't speak up. Is there a 'right' way to recover from seeing one person hurt another?</p>	<p>A [It entraps us]: it imprisons us / puts us in a bind / ensnares / corners us</p> <p>B [giving us no good way to respond]: with no appropriate/ suitable method to reply / reaction / voice their opinion</p> <p>C [is there a 'right' way to recover]: don't know how to rebound / overcome / heal / no correct means to feel better</p> <p><i>Any point for 1m</i></p>

3. Explain the irony in lines 20-21. [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
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In fact, the very cliques that are accustomed to such casual victimisation of others are often violently offended by a defensive response from the person they ridiculed.	<p>A [Expectation]: While we would normally expect the victims of offensive jokes to be angry / insulted <u>or</u> While the group would expect the victim to laugh along with them</p> <p>B [Reality]: it is the perpetrators that are, in fact, the ones who are offended by a <u>negative/angry</u> response from the victim / when the victim <u>retaliates</u> / <u>confronts</u> them / when the victim <u>stands up for</u> / <u>defends himself</u></p> <p>Must have context of what they are offended by – the angry response of the victim</p> <p>1m for each part</p>
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4. What does the author claim is 'the safest path' (line 25-26)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
we take the joke: we act like the toxic jibe did not bother us at all. We may even laugh along, hiding the pain . It is the safest path.	<p>A [take the joke: ... did not bother us / hiding the pain]: The safest path is to pretend that the hurtful joke did not affect our feelings / act unaffected / hold back from responding / let it go / masking our emotions</p> <p><i>Must have context of emotions/feelings/response (i.e. X 'masking it.')</i></p> <p>B [laugh along]: and we may even smile / chuckle / go / play along <u>OR</u> pretend that it is funny / take part with the rest / be tickled with the rest of the group / the others</p> <p><i>Context of a negative joke must be present in the answer</i></p>

5. Explain the author's use of the word 'onslaught' (line 28). [1]

Lifted	Paraphrased
Often, the minority or the underrepresented in their professions deal with an onslaught of humour ...	<p>The author used the word 'onslaught' to highlight the unrelenting nature / overwhelming / extremely large of humour</p> <p><i>X fierce / destructive / large / a lot / insane (informal lang)</i></p>

6. Using material from paragraphs 6-8 (lines 33-56) only, summarise what the author has to say about the benefits and drawbacks of humour on society. 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.

One benefit of humour in a formal context is ...

	From Passage	Paraphrased
Benefits of humour on society:		
1	fosters camaraderie (line 34)	promotes friendship / solidarity / companionship/ teamwork/ bonds / among individuals.
2	develop trust (line 34)	encourages the establishment of confidence / reliance / faith / mutual understanding
3	defuse tensions (line 34)	[defuse] aids in reducing / calming / mitigates / eases [tensions] conflicts / hostilities
4	projects congeniality (line 35)	<u>Leaders</u> will be seen as being friendly / affable / supportive / pleasant / agreeable / harmonious / relatable <i>must have the context (leadership)</i>
5	and authenticity . (line 35)	and being genuine / veracious / true / sincere / original <i>must have the context (leadership)</i>
6	Self-deprecating humour... boost psychological well-being (line 37)	<u>Self-deprecating humour</u> [boost] enhances [psychological] mental / emotional [well-being] wellness / health / welfare <i>must have the type of humour (self-deprecating humour) to get 6 & 7</i>
7	and eases negative emotions . (line 37)	[eases] by relief / lessens / eases / alleviates from [negative] adverse / detrimental [emotions] feelings / reactions <i>must have the type of humour (self-deprecating humour) to get 6 & 7</i>
8	A group with mutual trust will often have inside jokes and tease each other, building a sense of cohesion (line 39)	A group with mutual trust will often have <u>inside jokes</u> which fosters a sense of unity / togetherness <i>must have the type of humour (teasing/inside jokes) to get 8-11</i> <i>X joking only</i>

		<i>must have context (group with mutual trust) to get 8 & 9</i>
9	and belonging . (line 39)	strengthens identity / affinity <i>must have the type of humour (teasing/inside jokes) to get 8-11</i> <i>X joking only</i> <i>must have context (group with mutual trust) to get 8 & 9</i>
10	Teasing signals affection (line 39-40)	<u>Teasing</u> [signals] demonstrates / shows [affection] fondness / love <i>must have the type of humour (teasing/inside jokes) to get 8-11</i> <i>X joking only</i>
11	and knowing another person well (line 40)	[knowing] Understanding [well] better / good <i>must have the type of humour (teasing/inside jokes) to get 8-11</i> <i>X joking only</i>
Drawbacks of <u>toxic humour</u> on society:		
12	...to avoid emotional injury (line 42) ...and psychological safety . (line 44) ...significant psychological harm (line 46)	[inferred] causes problems to / affects our mental well-being
13	and avoid malice (line 42)	[inferred] and creates ill intent / spite / animosity / hostility / sinister
14	does major damage to inclusiveness (line 43-44)	[major] seriously [damage] diminishes / hinders / undermines [inclusiveness] togetherness
15	contributes to a hostile work environment (line 44-45)	also adds to an [hostile] aggressive / unfriendly / adverse / intimidating <i>X negative</i> [work environment] work surrounding / climate / atmosphere / workplace <i>X makes us aggressive / leads to aggressiveness</i>
16	sapping morale . (line 45)	[sapping] undermining / weakening / draining / lowering / depletes [morale] team spirit / optimism / motivation
17	erode the foundation of safety (line 46)	[erode] wear down / eat away / threaten [safety] security / protection/ welfare
18	and trust that friendships and teams are built on	confidence / enthusiasm / belief / faith <u>that friendships are built on</u> <i>must have context (friendship/teams)</i>
19	Poisonous humour is used	<u>Poisonous humour</u> [inferred point] manipulate / exploit others for

	as an instrument to play for reputational gains, access to networks, leadership opportunities, influence and power (line 53)	self-benefit / to look good <i>Negative connotation must be seen</i> <i>Students are not expected to paraphrase everything but to summarise the key idea</i>
20	Humour used to divide (line 54-55)	<u>Humour</u> used to create separations / rifts / conflicts / splits / polarisation <i>X unhappiness (or any emotions)</i>
21	can cause irreparable damage (line 56)	can inflict [irreparable] irreversible / lasting / beyond repair / permanent / uncorrectable <i>Must show permanence</i> <i>X severe</i> [damage] harm / destruction / impairment / injury
22	can hurt everyone involved (line 56)	to all

# of pts	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9	10-11	12-13	14
Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Summary:

One benefit of humour in a formal context is promoting friendship. It also encourages confidence and eases conflicts. Leaders are viewed as friendly and genuine. Self-deprecating humour enhances emotional wellness and lessens adverse feelings. A group with mutual trust will often have inside jokes which fosters togetherness and strengthens identity. Teasing demonstrates fondness and understanding one better. However, the drawbacks of toxic humour on society affects our mental well-being, creates hostility and seriously undermines togetherness. It also adds to an intimidating atmosphere weakening team spirit threatening welfare and confidence in friendships. Poisonous humour is also used to exploit others for self-benefit. Lastly, humour creates rifts and inflict irreversible harm to all. (112 words).

7. What is the author's purpose in including the phrase 'even in schools' (line 60)? [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
On a psychological level, we do this because it is the cheapest and easiest way to reinforce our place in society at the expense of another person — a basic instinct exercised daily, even in schools .	A [purpose]: emphasis / highlight <u>OR</u> show unhappiness / disdain / shock <i>X show / tell us / illustrate</i> B [extent]: that it has gone to such an extent / become so innate / so prevalent that C [context]: young children are using <u>hurtful</u> jokes <i>1-2 points - 1m</i> <i>3 points - 2m</i>

8. What does the word 'insidious' (line 70) suggest about the effects of inappropriate comedy on group dynamics? [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
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Inappropriate 'comedy' has a subtle but insidious impact on trust, and the socially mediated web of expectations that underpin group dynamics.	<p>That the effects are</p> <p>A [time]: gradual / slow / cumulative X hidden / unseen -> this has been covered by 'subtle'</p> <p>B [impact]: <u>very</u> harmful / very drastic / very damaging / malicious / sinister Degree is necessary</p> <p>1m each</p>
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9. In paragraph 11, what distinctions does the author draw between our natural instinct and how we should respond to hurtful jokes? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

Lifted	Inference								
The sting of hurtful jokes is something that we cannot avoid. Our first instinct may be to retreat into denial, form rival factions to trade barbs, or strike back with our fists . Instead, a more productive, enlightened response would be to work together to increase understanding, call out cruelty for what it is, and seek reconciliation . And when we inevitably make a mistake and hurt others, we should apologise with sincerity.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Natural instinct</u></th><th><u>More enlightened</u></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A1 [retreat into denial]: hide / not believe / not accept / not admit that it hurts us</td><td>A2 [call out cruelty]: raise awareness about the hurt / tell them / point out that it hurts</td></tr> <tr> <td>B1 [form rival factions] : create / divide into opposing groups / teams / cliques</td><td>B2 [work together to increase understanding]: cooperate/ collaborate to better know each other / explain to the other party so they can learn / spread awareness and consideration</td></tr> <tr> <td>C1 [or strike back with our fists]: fight back / retaliate / punch Must be physical</td><td>C2 [seek reconciliation]: find middle ground / peace / harmony OR say sorry / forgive them / work things out / compromise / closure / move on</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1 pt = 1m Award if the contrast is clear, even if it does not match the pairs identified above exactly. (E.g. using fists vs using words OR to retreat vs to go out and seek) [Use D1 D2 for contrasts that are not presented as in the answer scheme]</p>	<u>Natural instinct</u>	<u>More enlightened</u>	A1 [retreat into denial]: hide / not believe / not accept / not admit that it hurts us	A2 [call out cruelty]: raise awareness about the hurt / tell them / point out that it hurts	B1 [form rival factions] : create / divide into opposing groups / teams / cliques	B2 [work together to increase understanding]: cooperate/ collaborate to better know each other / explain to the other party so they can learn / spread awareness and consideration	C1 [or strike back with our fists]: fight back / retaliate / punch Must be physical	C2 [seek reconciliation]: find middle ground / peace / harmony OR say sorry / forgive them / work things out / compromise / closure / move on
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10. Explain **two** ways in which the final paragraph provides an effective ending to the author's argument. [2]

Lifted	Inference
The sting of hurtful jokes is something that we cannot avoid. Our first instinct may be to retreat into denial, form rival factions to trade barbs, or strike back with our fists. Instead, a more productive, enlightened response would be to work together to increase understanding, call out cruelty for what it is, and seek reconciliation. And when we inevitably make a mistake and hurt others, we should apologise with sincerity. What then of humour's place in society?	<p>Possible Answers</p> <p>Uses strong language 'sting' 'trade barbs to emphasise importance/gravity</p> <p>Uses vivid imagery / visualisation <u>of violence</u> to show how serious hurtful humour is.</p> <p>Uses rhetorical questions to make us think deeper that there can be humour without hurt / broaden the discussion to societal concerns of <u>hurtful humour</u></p> <p>Provides a light-hearted / relatable / alternative source / example / cat video / video for readers to respond to hurtful humour</p> <p>Uses the cat video to makes a popular/current reference to make his advice relatable / accessible</p>

Well, reports of its demise would be grossly exaggerated. Surely there is no need to be evil to be funny. For a healthy, victimless dose of laughter, how about a cat video?

Provides practical / workable / better suggestions / advice on how we should react to hurtful jokes

Provides a call to action to reconsider the way we react to offensive humour

Accept any answers that are logical
Context & Effectiveness must be clear
Any 2 for 2m