

**2024 JC2 Preliminary Examination  
GENERAL PAPER  
Paper 2 Suggested Answers**

**From Passage 1**

**1. Explain the use of the phrase ‘extolled as a virtue’ in line 1. [2]**

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From a child's earliest age, independence has always been <b>extolled as a virtue</b> and proof of maturity. (l. 1–2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The phrase means that independence is highly praised/ lauded/ exalted/ hailed [1]</li> <li>as a moral/ethical value worth inculcating. [1]</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the 1<sup>st</sup> point, students need to capture the extent of praise.</li> <li>For the 2<sup>nd</sup> point, do not accept answers based on traits/ characteristics that do not capture the context of morality or ethics.</li> </ul>

**2. How do the examples in lines 5–8 convey the author’s view that independence is not always positive? [2]**

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...being required to be ‘independent’ <b>when we are ill</b> and <b>without adequate health insurance coverage</b> is not to be recommended. (l. 5–7)</li> <li>And <b>going into debt</b> for simply covering the cost of our own or our children’s college education is far from salutary. (l. 7–8)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independence is not always positive because one could end up having to bear high medical costs/ be unable to afford high medical costs when one is unwell and without a medical protection plan to rely on. 1]</li> <li>Another example that highlights that independence is not always positive is facing financial burdens just to pay for one’s own/ family's academic pursuits. [1]</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There should be some reference to being unable/ having no means to be independent which causes some problem.</li> <li>Answers that simply state that certain actions are not commendable, without highlighting a clear problem will not be credited.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The examples highlight how trying to be independent when one is unable to/ has no means to is not always positive [1]</li> <li>• because it leads to even more dire/ serious consequences/ problems. [1]</li> </ul>
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**3. From paragraph 2, what are three consequences the author sees arising from the ingrained cultural belief that ‘we must do without support’ (line 9)?**  
**[3]**

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ...we often <b>force</b> ourselves to <b>slog</b> through these – and other <b>crucial human experiences</b> – in <b>solitude</b>. (l. 9–11)</li> <li>• ...when we do get assistance, we may <b>feel we must play down</b> the help we receive from our government, our families or our neighbours (l. 11–12)</li> <li>• we see even asking for help as something to <b>avoid at all costs</b>, contributing to the <b>rising suicide rates</b> of older men in this country who are some of the least likely to ask for psychological assistance. (l. 12–14)</li> <li>• We are regularly told by self-help manuals that we need to look only to ourselves to achieve mental <b>well-being</b>, even though that ... <b>requires social connection</b>. (l. 14–17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [A] People push themselves/ struggle to face life’s fundamental challenges/ significant milestones alone. [1]</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All three parts need to be captured for the answer.</li> <li>• [B] People feel obliged to make light of/ dismiss the help received from others// People try not to appear too/ overly reliant/ dependent on others for help. [1]</li> <li>• [C] People are so averse to/ entirely steer clear of seeking assistance/ refuse to ask for help even if it leads to grave/ lethal consequences. [1]</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensity needs to be captured for both parts of the answer.</li> <li>• [D] We are not able to interact/ bond/ engage with others which is important/ needed for our psychological/ emotional health. [1]</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both parts need to be captured for the answer.</li> </ul> <p>(Any 3 points)</p>

4. What does the word ‘pathologises’ (line 24) suggest about society’s perception of being dependent? [1]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a society that <b>pathologises</b> dependence – even as every human being is born into it – being vulnerable takes courage (l. 24–25).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It suggests that society views being dependent as a psychological/ medical problem/ an illness// something abnormal/ unnatural.</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students need to capture the correct context/ intensity.</li> </ul>

5. What does the phrase ‘expose the lie of being self-made’ (line 35) suggest about the wealthiest people? [2]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of acknowledging the art of dependence means we release people from <b>shame</b> about their need for others, <b>and expose the lie of being self-made</b> that is propagated publicly by the wealthiest people (l. 33–35).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It suggests that the wealthiest people are being dishonest in hiding the fact that // are embarrassed to admit that [1]</li> <li>they are wealthy not completely owing to their own abilities/ they are wealthy because they have received some help from others [1]</li> </ul>

6. Identify one way in which the final sentence provides an effective conclusion to the passage. [1]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It brings us closer to others, which at this moment in the world might be the thing we need most (l. 43–44).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It serves as a call to action (function) for people to foster bonds with others/ to rely/ be more dependent on others (context). OR</li> <li>It reiterates the author’s main argument (function) on the value of developing bonds /relying on others (context). OR</li> <li>The use of the pronouns ‘we’/ ‘us’ serves to include the readers/ draw the readers into the issue (function) so they can appreciate the value of relying and bonding with others (context). [1]</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers should include both function and context.</li> </ul>

## From Passage 2

## 7. Summarise what the author has to say about the benefits of being independent.

Write your summary in no more than 120 words. [8]

From the passage		Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... doing it alone <b>builds resilience, critical</b> for navigating the <b>complexities</b> of life. (l. 2–3).</li> </ul>	A1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being independent develops tenacity/ grit/ strength/ toughness/ perseverance</li> <li>which are crucial/ vital/ key/ important in coping with life's challenges// charting through obstacles/ difficulties in life.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... being independent not only <b>protects</b> oneself, but also others. (l. 4).</li> </ul>	A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being independent keeps ourselves and others away from harm</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People turn to us as a <b>beneficial resource</b> and a <b>reliable source of assistance</b>. (l. 4–5).</li> </ul>	A3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are viewed as dependable/ helpful/ someone that can be counted on.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instead of being millstones around others' necks, we <b>lighten their load</b>. (l. 5–6).</li> </ul>	A4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We also ease their burden/ responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... helps us <b>realise</b> our <b>strengths</b> as individuals so that we can strive to <b>nurture those strengths</b>. (l. 7–9)</li> </ul>	B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being independent allows us to be fully aware/ cognisant of our abilities/ capabilities/ positive traits [CAUSE]</li> <li>to cultivate/ develop them further. [EFFECT]</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While our <b>flaws</b> do not disappear, <b>we now know</b> that the innumerable <b>cracks</b> that thread their way through us are <b>a part of our core personality</b>. (l. 9–10)</li> </ul>	B2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We also discover our weaknesses</li> <li>that define us/ show us who we are/ reflects our identity.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... we <b>build trust in ourselves, cultivating a more positive outlook on life in general</b>. (l. 10–12)</li> </ul>	B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independence fosters self-confidence/ self-assurance [CAUSE]</li> <li>which helps us view life more optimistically/ develop a brighter perspective of life. [EFFECT]</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relying more on ourselves also <b>increases the likelihood of things getting done</b>. (l. 13)</li> </ul>	C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With independence, there is a higher chance of us achieving our goals / completing our tasks. // improves our productivity/ efficiency.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are able to <b>freely act, move, and operate as we see fit</b>, and are <b>not held back</b> by our current circumstances. (l. 16–17)</li> <li>We are no longer <b>inhibited</b>... (l. 17)</li> </ul>	C2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can exercise agency/ carry out our plans/ decide what to do/ behave</li> <li>without restrictions/ limitations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...and free to <b>meet new</b> people and <b>try new</b> things. (l. 17–18)</li> </ul>	C3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We encounter fresh/refreshing experiences// make fresh acquaintances and attempt novel things.</li> </ul>

From the passage		Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perhaps we were once prevented from ever <b>discovering passions</b> that could have <b>enriched</b> our lives.. (l. 18–19)</li> </ul>	C4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(inferred) We could pursue interests that could enhance our lives.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... being independent opens the door for us to <b>leave family and friends</b> (at least for a while) <b>to search for</b> ourselves. (l. 19–20)</li> </ul>	C5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being independent allows us to be away/ live apart from family and friends/ close ones/ community [CAUSE]</li> <li>to find ourselves / rediscover our identities. [EFFECT]</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lastly, being <b>emotionally</b> independent allows us to make <b>personal decisions without necessarily dragging other people</b> into them. (l. 21–22)</li> </ul>	D1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being psychologically independent [CONTEXT]</li> <li>allows us to make our own choices without burdening others/ holding others back /bringing others down. [EFFECT]</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A continual need for support and reassurance... <b>placing a significant strain on a relationship</b>. (l. 22–24)</li> </ul>	D2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(inferred) Independence helps avoid putting excessive pressure on our ties with others// prevents our connections with others from being damaged.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We also <b>shield ourselves from disappointment from having unnecessary expectations</b> of others. (l. 24–25)</li> </ul>	D3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We also avoid being unduly let down by others.</li> </ul>

Total no. of points = 15

### Mark scheme

1–2 points	1 mark	6 points	4 marks	9 points	7 marks
3–4 points	2 marks	7 points	5 marks	≥ 10 points	8 marks
5 points	3 marks	8 points	6 marks		

### From All Passages

8. Passage 1 states that ‘to achieve mental well-being...requires social connection’ (lines 15 – 17).

Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to undermine this statement. Justify your answer. [2]

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I’d always struggled with <b>confidence</b>, but time with myself has changed the way I see myself. I <b>admired myself a lot more</b> because most of all, I stopped relying on other people to make plans... (l. 13–15)</li> </ul>	<u>Paraphrasing of idea</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The idea from lines 13–15 is that doing things independently resulted in the author developing higher self-</li> </ul>

<p><i>Contrasting concepts:</i>  <u>Requiring</u> social connections for emotional health  vs  <u>Not requiring</u> social connections for emotional health</p>	<p>esteem/ more faith/ trust in herself.  [1]</p> <p><u>Justification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This undermines the statement as the idea shows that <b>one does not necessarily need</b> to depend on relationships with others to improve one's emotional state, <b>but instead</b> counting on oneself could foster a healthier state of mind/ make one feel good about one's own abilities.  [1]</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> students should unpack 'social connection' in the justification, and not just lift the term.</p>
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**Comments:**

- Students generally have no problems identifying and paraphrasing the idea. However, students still struggled in providing the justification and ended up repeating the paraphrased answers.
- Some students made no attempt to signpost or show the contrasting concepts.

**9. Passage 2 states that with independence, we 'are not held back by our current circumstances'. (lines 16 – 17).**

**Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer. [2]**

From the passage	Suggested rephrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After growing up in a <b>traditional family</b> in which I <b>was rarely ever alone</b> even in the house, much less outside of it, my day at the museum felt quite the adventure. (l. 3–4)</li> <li>I stopped relying on other people to make plans – and as a <b>woman in Pakistan</b>, that's no small thing. (l. 15–16)</li> <li>'Going out alone for leisure <b>in Pakistan is not common</b>, so I was</li> </ul>	<p><u>Paraphrasing of idea</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The idea from lines 3–4 is that the author gets to experience doing things alone even if it is not a common practice in her <u>conservative family</u>.  OR</li> <li>The idea from lines 15–16 is that the author no longer needs to depend on others to get anything done, regardless of <u>gender stereotypes/ cultural expectations of women/ social conventions of being a woman</u>.  OR</li> <li>The idea from lines 11–12 is that independence allows the author to experience going out alone although</li> </ul>

<p>definitely more conscious taking that step here [London]' (l. 11–12)</p> <p><i>Common concept:</i> <i>Being held back by (external) circumstances</i></p> <p><i>NOTE:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not accept 'I went out alone without having to fit in with anyone else's schedule' because there is no reference to external circumstances holding her back (ie: family/ social contexts)</li> </ul>	<p>it's not a <u>typical practice / social norm</u> back in her homeland.</p> <p><u>Justification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This supports the statement because <b>it illustrates</b> how being independent allows us to not be hindered by customs and expectations of others, and <u>are now free to do things as we desire/ we can to choose to lead our lives as we wish.</u> [1]</li> </ul>
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# 10. The reading passages cover a range of views about dependence and independence.

To what extent is independence valued?

Support your answer with reference to:

- the ideas and opinions from at least one of the reading passages
- examples drawn from your own experience and that of your society [12]

A range of views on dependence and independence:

## From Passage 1 (value of dependence)

- Dependence allows people to manage difficult circumstances and avoid dire consequences.
- Dependence is a form of connection and social cohesion.

## From Passage 2 (value of independence)

- Doing it alone builds resilience and adaptability.
- Relying more on ourselves also increases the likelihood of things getting done.
- Being independent means we are not held back by our current circumstances, allowing for new experiences.
- Being emotionally independent allows us to make our personal decisions without necessarily dragging other people into them.
- Being independent shield ourselves from disappointment from having unnecessary expectations of others.

## From Passage 3 (move towards independence)

- Being independent means not needing to fit in with anyone else's schedule or coordinate plans.
- Being independent builds confidence.