

Eunoia Junior College English Department

2023 JC1 GP Mid Year Examination Paper 2

FOR THE ANSWER SCHEME:

HIGHLIGHTED WORDS: KEY TERMS THAT NEED TO BE PARAPHRASED FOR THE ANSWER TO BE CREDITED

UNDERLINED WORDS: WORDS THAT SET THE CONTEXT; THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE PARAPHRASED BUT WILL NEED TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE ANSWER FOR CREDIT TO BE GIVEN

1. How does the opening statement demonstrate people’s addiction to their phones? [2]

From the passage	SUGGESTED ANSWER	Mark
<p>Two hundred twenty-one; that is the number of times we check our phones on average, daily.</p>	<p><u>A) TECHNIQUE</u></p> <p>The example/statistic used in the opening statement shows the frequency of phone use of an average person / highlights the high number of times people check their phones,</p> <p><i>Examiner’s Remarks: For candidates to get the mark for Point A, the response needs to capture a clear method/technique. Responses that merely describe e.g. “number of times people check their phones on average” will not be accepted.</i></p>	1
	<p><u>B) CONTEXT</u></p> <p>and this <u>reflects the extent</u> of phone addiction in society.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>which reflects how <u>abnormal/excessive</u> people’s phone usage has become.</p> <p><i>Examiners’ Remarks: For candidates to get the 2 full marks, answers need to show (a) method/ technique + (b) context i.e., what the <u>high number implies in showing the extent of people’s phone addiction</u>)</i></p>	1

2. What is the author's purpose in describing social media platforms as 'slot machines' (line 7)? [2]

From the passage	SUGGESTED ANSWER	Mark
<p>Like slot machines, social media platforms have been consciously designed to keep us constantly scrolling, watching, liking, and refreshing in the hope of finding affirmation, confidence boosts and even love. Every serif, every screen layout, every barely perceptible animation, and every pixel has been actively configured to keep us hooked.</p>	<p><u>A) AUTHOR'S PURPOSE</u></p> <p>The author's purpose is to compare/make an analogy between social media platforms and slot machines</p>	1
	<p><u>B) CONTEXT</u></p> <p>to show how <u>every feature</u> of the social media platforms has been <u>purposefully/deliberately designed/conceptualized</u> to get users <u>hooked/addicted</u>, just like slot machines.</p> <p><i>Examiner's Remarks: For B to be awarded, the intentionality of the design must be captured.</i></p>	1

3. Using lines 12–14, identify **three** ways in which social media has affected both individuals and society. [3]

From the passage	SUGGESTED ANSWER	Mark
<p>Beyond tethering us to our <u>devices</u>, social media is also <u>making the world more hostile, less empathetic, and less kind</u> – all of which is taking a significant toll on our collective well-being.</p>	<p>Social media has affected both individuals and society by</p>	
	<p><u>A) “TETHERING US TO OUR DEVICES”</u></p> <p>keeping us addicted to our gadgets.</p>	1
	<p><u>B) “SOCIAL MEDIA IS ALSO MAKING THE WORLD MORE HOSTILE, LESS EMPATHETIC, AND LESS KIND”</u></p> <p>It also makes the world crueller / meaner / more cold-hearted.</p> <p><i>Sense-for-sense paraphrase</i></p>	1
	<p><u>C) “SIGNIFICANT TOLL ON OUR COLLECTIVE WELL-BEING”</u></p> <p>All of these have a substantial negative effect / weight on the overall health of the community.</p> <p><i>Examiner’s Remarks: Candidates must capture the negative connotation to be awarded the mark.</i></p>	1

4. Explain the author’s use of the word ‘amorality’ in line 29. [2]

From the passage	SUGGESTED ANSWER	Mark
<p>While it is unlikely that stimulating such toxic behaviour is the intention of</p>	<p>(A) the absence of ethical standards of/ lack of ethics / lack of principles of</p>	1

<p>the platform creators, it is something they tolerate for the simple fact that outrage and anger (however dangerous and polarising) are better for business. They keep traffic high, increasing the likely number of ad clicks, which translates to revenue. This is the amorality of the <u>unregulated market</u> in action.</p>	<p>(B) <u>businesses when they are not subjected to governance/ social media companies at work when left unchecked/ uncontrolled.</u></p>	<p>1</p>
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5. In paragraph 6, what contrasts does the author make about the way children experience bullying today as compared to the past? [2]

From the passage	SUGGESTED ANSWER	Mark
<p>For children, social media has also become home to bullying on a distressing scale. <u>In the past</u>, this psychological abuse was confined to the <u>playground and park</u>. <u>Today</u>, it follows them <u>around</u>, streamed into their <u>homes and bedrooms</u>.</p>	<p><u>A) IDEA OF ACCESS/SPACE</u></p> <p><u>Previously</u>, the bullying faced by children was usually limited to public places. However, <u>today</u>, the bullying accompanies them and is being transmitted into their personal spaces.</p>	1
<p>Moreover, while the victim's <u>shame</u> <u>used to be</u> witnessed directly in real-time, <u>today</u> it is there for all to see, permanently etched into their <u>digital footprint</u>.</p>	<p><u>B) IDEA OF PERMANENCE</u></p> <p>In addition, <u>in the past</u>, the victim's <u>humiliation</u> was seen only by those who were present at the time it occurred. However, <u>today</u>, bullying is indelibly imprinted on <u>one's online identity</u>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p><u>In the past</u>, the victim's <u>humiliation</u> was only visible to others who were physically present at the time it occurred. However, <u>today</u>, the victim's humiliation is visible to everyone, leaving an <u>online record</u> that is lasting/ not easily removable.</p> <p><i>(Accept any reasonable paraphrase that uses sense-for-sense paraphrase or word-for-word paraphrase)</i></p>	1

From Passage 2

6. Summarise the positive effects of social media on individuals and society. [8]

Pt	Main Idea	From the Passage	Suggested Answer
1	OVERCOMING PHYSICAL DISTANCE	<p>Social media brings people together. Previously, <u>people were unable to interact with others due to distance</u>. Now, <u>this is no longer an obstacle</u>.</p>	<p>Social media connects users, <u>regardless of geographical limitations</u>. <i>Examiners' Remarks:</i> <i>Full idea of bringing people together across physical distance needs to be present to award 1m. The idea of "overcoming" needs to be captured.</i></p>
2	GAINS FOR OVERCOMING GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS	<p>Social media platforms facilitate global connectivity, which means that <u>people can share their ideas, opinions, and experiences with others from different parts of the world</u>.</p>	<p>It also creates links / relationships <u>with others from around the world</u>. _OR Generates opportunity for people in society to communicate with users worldwide. <i>Examiners' Remarks:</i> <i>Global connectivity must be mentioned to be a separate point from point 5.</i></p>
3	CROSS CULTURAL EDUCATION	<p>This allows people to learn about different customs and expand their horizons <u>beyond their immediate surroundings</u>.</p>	<p>This generates opportunities for people to know about <u>other cultures and beliefs</u></p>

4	EMBRACING DIVERSITY	Moreover, social media engenders a more inclusive society.	Social media can develop / create a community that is more accepting of diversity/different views / races / cultures .
5	WIDENING ONE'S SOCIAL CIRCLE	It does this by <u>giving people the opportunity to interact with those who they would otherwise be unable to reach</u> .	It <u>enables people to</u> engage with individuals previously uncontactable/ unknown to users .
6	MARGINALISED PEOPLE HAVE A VOICE IN SOCIETY	Using technology, especially social media, these groups [people who are marginalised] are empowered to <u>convey their ideas and connect with others</u> .	Social media bestows/ endows the marginalised the chance / ability to <u>share their thoughts and feelings with others</u> .
7	CRUCIAL IN FOSTERING A FAIR SOCIETY	Social media also plays a vital role in creating a just society.	It is also pivotal in fostering a fair / evenhanded society.
8	VICTIMS ABLE TO SHARE AND FIND SUPPORT	Social media gave the <u>victims</u> the platform to <u>share their experiences with a wider audience</u> , and many found that they were not alone in their experiences .	<u>Victims of injustice</u> can use social media to <u>reveal / express their stories with others</u> , and many realise they were not outcasted / alienated / isolated in their experiences .

9	PEOPLE UNITED IN A COMMON CAUSE	For others, social media enabled them to <u>stand in solidarity with the victims</u> .	Social media also allows people to be in unity / stand together with the victims / those suffering .
10	HIGHLIGHTING INJUSTICES	Social media is <u>essential in raising awareness of injustices</u> in society	Social media is <u>pivotal / important</u> in highlighting / making known the unfairness / wrongdoings in society.
11	CONFRONTING PERPETRATORS / DEMANDING JUSTICE	and when effectively mobilised, it can also hold those responsible (including people in power) accountable for their actions .	When used well, social media makes perpetrators answerable for their misconduct .
12	TO BOND WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS	Most people use social media platforms appropriately, with good intentions to connect with <u>family and friends</u> ,	It also creates relations / bonds with one's <u>immediate social circle</u> . <i>Examiners' Remarks: This point is awarded only if the distinction from point 2 is clear. The context here must be about family and friends.</i>
13	BRING JOY BY RECOGNISING MILESTONES/ OCCASIONS	as well as using it to spread positivity by celebrating events that occur in other people's lives.	and allows one to share joy by commemorating / recognising milestones .

14	PROVIDES THE PLATFORM THAT FULFILS INNATE NEED FOR INTERACTION TO THRIVE	<u>As social animals</u> , we <u>need interaction</u> to thrive , and social media provides us with the avenue to do so.	Individuals can flourish as they get a platform / medium for crucial social engagement .
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Points	1–2	3–4	5	6	7	8	9	≥10
Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Sample Summary

Regardless of geographical limitations, social media connects users [1] and creates relationships with others from around the world [2] while knowing about other cultures and beliefs [3], thus developing a society more accepting of diversity [4]. It enables people to engage with individuals previously unknown to users [5] and bestows the marginalised the ability to share their thoughts and feelings with others [6]. Social media is crucial in fostering a fair society [7]. Victims of injustice can use social media to reveal their stories with others, and many realise they were not isolated in their experiences [8]. People can be in unity with the victims [9]. Social media is pivotal in highlighting wrongdoings in society [10] and makes perpetrators answerable for their misconduct [11]. It creates bonds with one's immediate social circle [12].

[120 words, Points 1-12, 8 marks]

From all the passages

7. Passage 1 states that ‘The **more toxicity we witness**, the **less faith we have in society at large**’ (line 38).

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

Specific Idea(s) from Passage 3	Suggested Paraphrasing of the Idea [Identify]	Suggested Justification	Mark
<p>Lines 10-11</p> <p>While we cannot stop others from abusing the platform to spread anger and hatred, we can choose how we react to such content and respond to its creators.</p>	<p>Point A:</p> <p>The idea is that while we are unable to prevent others from using social media to propagate hostility, we can decide how we reply to these people.</p>	<p>Point B:</p> <p>This undermines the statement as in the face of many instances of toxic behaviour, people do not necessarily lose faith in humanity but rather can react in constructive and positive ways.</p>	<p>1m for a correctly identified specific idea.</p> <p>1m for a linked logical justification.</p>
<p>Lines 11-13</p> <p>It is heartening to see how <u>social media users rally to call them out</u> on their abhorrent behaviour seen <u>online</u>.</p>	<p>Point A:</p> <p>The idea is that there is an encouraging trend of <u>social media users gathering/ uniting to renounce/ express strong disapproval</u> of disgusting/ repugnant/ repulsive online behaviour.</p>	<p>Point B:</p> <p>This undermines the statement as in the face of many instances of toxic behaviour, people instead fight against it, which restores faith in society.</p>	

8. Passage 2 states that 'As **social animals**, we **need interaction to thrive**' (line 27).

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

Specific Idea(s) from Passage 3	Suggested Paraphrasing of the Idea [Identify]	Suggested Justification	Mark
<p>Lines 5-6</p> <p>It fulfils our innate need to engage with others and in doing so, we become better at our craft.</p>	<p>Point A:</p> <p>The idea is that people have an inborn/natural need to interact and this in turn helps them improve at what they do/ become more skilled.</p>	<p>Point B:</p> <p>This supports the statement as when people enjoy strong social support, they have psychological safety and are motivated to do well/ their best.</p>	<p>1m for a correctly identified specific idea.</p> <p>1m for a linked logical justification.</p>

Application Question

9. The reading passages cover a range of views about the impact of social media on society.

How far do you agree that social media has a negative impact on individuals and society?

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]

Requirements:

Candidates should:

- Explain the extent to which social media does/does not negatively impact individuals (including themselves) and their chosen society.
- Support their views with reasoned arguments.
- Show understanding of the ideas and attitudes in the passages.
- Explain the extent of their agreement with them.

Explanation:

Candidates should show understanding of some of the following issues:

- To what extent has social media negatively affected interactions between people?

- What are the characteristics, functions, or affordances of social media that could improve or exacerbate problems in society?
- To what extent has social media brought out the worst in people?

Candidates may also link in other relevant arguments, such as:

- Should society do more to encourage or discourage the use of social media to limit its impacts?
- The reach and extent of impacts on individuals and our society.

Evaluation:

Candidates should:

- Question/show reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with these views.
- Give examples from their own and their society's experience in support of their views.
- Examples regarding the impacts of social media in other countries can also be provided as a comparison and evaluation of social media's impacts in Singapore.
- Put forward original ideas on the negative and/or positive impacts of social media in society.

Possible Text References	Evaluation and Examples	Extra Readings
<p>[Passage 2 Paragraph 1]</p> <p>“Social media platforms facilitate global connectivity, which means that people can share their ideas, opinions, and experiences with others from different parts of the world. This allows people to learn about different customs and expand their horizons beyond their immediate surroundings”</p>	<p><u>Postive Impacts</u></p> <p>Social media platforms have played a pivotal role in connecting people globally and facilitating the exchange of information about different customs and cultures. These platforms, easily accessible to a large number of people worldwide, have user-friendly interfaces that enable individuals to connect with others and share content effortlessly. This accessibility has empowered people from diverse backgrounds to actively participate in online communities, sharing their ideas, opinions, and lived experiences with people from all over the world. As Singapore, a small country with a small population size, emphasizes the importance of global exposure and experiences, Singaporeans have shown a keen interest in expanding their horizons to learn more about other countries’ languages, traditions, and cultures. Moreover, the repository of social networking sites and social media applications available today provides an accessible opportunity for Singaporeans to widen their horizons easily, even from the comfort of their own homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recent trends, there has been an increased popularity in Singaporeans picking up another language out of sheer interest. Language learning applications that facilitate cultural exchange and language acquisition have been increasingly popular among Singaporeans who turn to these apps as a way to increase their own global exposure. Social media language learning applications such as “Duolingo” allow Singaporeans to gain insights into the customs and cultural nuances associated with each language. “HelloTalk”, another popular language learning app in Singapore, connects language 	

	<p>learners with native speakers of the language they wish to learn. Through text, voice, and video chats, users can practice their target language, receive feedback, and immerse themselves in the cultural aspects of the language.</p>	
<p>[Passage 2 Paragraph 2] “Moreover, social media engenders a more inclusive society. It does this by giving people the opportunity to interact with those who they would otherwise be unable to reach. This includes those marginalised such as people with disabilities. Using technology, especially social media, they are empowered to convey their ideas, connect with others”.</p>	<p><u>Positive Impacts</u></p> <p>Through social media, marginalised people now have the power and platform to make their views and stories heard. This, in turn, allows like-minded and sympathetic users to connect with these users who would not have been prioritised in mainstream media of the past. It also allows individuals from different marginalised communities to interact, connect and support one another, thus building an inclusive community, as mentioned by the author.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (EG) Examples of such movements include the #metoo movement, #blacklivesmatter movement, #stopasianhate (Stop AAPI hate) protests and the local furore against Brownface in a local advertisement. Users from such communities can receive support both emotionally and financially via social media platforms and band together to become a tighter-knit and inclusive society. <p><u>Negative Impacts</u></p> <p>However, social media also gives power to those who would harass users online, gaslighting them and even “tone-policing” such marginalised communities, which would ultimately defeat the positive impacts of social media for these individual users and undermine the inclusive society one would ideally hope for. Furthermore, individuals from marginalised societies might also fall victim to inaccessible highlights because they have access to users from around the world. They might feel inadequate or despondent if they feel that they can never have such goals and highlights in their lives due to the wins and</p>	<p>Why Social Media Can Be More Toxic For Marginalized Identities (Forbes)</p> <p>Thousands protest violence against Asian Americans during National Day of Action protests (CBS News)</p> <p>Controversy over 'brownface' ad shows need to err on side of caution: Grace Fu (Straits Times)</p>

	<p>achievements shared by others (even if the person who shared was not intending to brag or make others feel small). This further fragments society on these social media platforms into those have and have-nots depending on the posts they share and view.</p>	
<p>[Passage 2 Paragraph 3]</p> <p>“Social media also plays a vital role in creating a just society... social media is essential in raising awareness of injustices in society and when effectively mobilised, it can also hold those responsible accountable for their actions”.</p>	<p><u>Positive Impacts</u></p> <p>In a highly interconnected society like Singapore, information is disseminated fast and widespread through social media. This allows for injustice in society to be heard as social media helps raise awareness of such unfairness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (EG) For instance, Brooke Lim, often known as her Instagram handle “sugaresque”, is a social media influencer in Singapore. She was accused of plagiarising from a few essays about eating disorders and posting these essays as her own experience. <p>Individuals who had gone through such real-life experiences felt that it was unfair and morally wrong for her to adapt and use the plagiarised essays as her own. This led to a massive exposé on social media where multiple anonymous users exposed all the works that she plagiarised from. This exposé online gathered traction online and many individuals demanded that her to take down the essay and publicly apologise for her wrong-doings. This shows the power of social media and its users in how they are able to hold people accountable for their actions as Brooke eventually apologised for her actions.</p>	
<p>[Passage 3 Paragraph 1]</p> <p>“Aside from enabling me to build my personal brand, it can be a beautiful community where encouragement is the norm,</p>	<p><u>Positive Impacts</u></p> <p>Social media in Singapore has revolutionized how individuals and businesses showcase their creativity and market their products. The accessibility, flexibility,</p>	<p><u>Why social media influencers are serious business</u></p>

where exchanges of ideas and compliments among fellow practitioners flow freely. It fulfils our innate need to engage with others and in doing so, we become better at our craft”

and wide reach of social media platforms have made them a versatile tool for building personal brands and promoting products.

Through building their own personal brand, individuals benefit as well. They can create employment opportunities for themselves, as many go on to collaborate with big brands, leading to increased financial gain and exposure. Moreover, social media allows individuals to feature their own ideas and showcase their creativity, thus providing a platform to express their unique identity to the world. Building a personal brand can also help individuals gain recognition and establish themselves as thought leaders in their field.

- (EG) Singaporean fashion influencer Andrea Chong has 309,000 followers on Instagram while blogger Xiaxue, whose real name is Wendy Cheng, has over 602,000 followers on the platform. These influencers work with multiple brand names from local to international brands.

Businesses also benefit from social media as they can tap into these "personal brands" through influencer marketing or influencer advertisements. By selecting specific influencers whose audience base may be niche, businesses can reach the audience most likely to respond well to their product. The ability to gather calculable data, such as clicks, likes, engagements, shares, tags, mentions, retweets, and comments, makes it easier for businesses to gauge the effectiveness of their ads and measure their social media engagement levels.

- (EG) Mr Dennis Toh founded The Influencer Network, which connects "micro-influencers" - who have around 20,000 to 40,000 followers - with brands such as food delivery service Deliveroo, skincare brand Nivea and beverage maker Marigold.

In Singapore, we also see how influencers can have a positive impact on society. Using social media, influencers can facilitate community building

	<p>“where encouragement is the norm, where exchanges of ideas and compliments among fellow practitioners flow freely” (Passage 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (EG) Mr. Kevin Ang has built a personal brand called "CheekieMonkies" centered around his experiences with parenting. Through his blog and social media accounts, he has amassed a following of over 30,000 on Facebook and 11,600 on Instagram. This brand has evolved into an online community for parents, particularly fathers, called Daddy Matters. With over 700 members, Daddy Matters serves as a significant advancement in parenting support, challenging the traditional belief that parenting is predominantly a mother's domain in Singapore. The community provides a secure and non-judgmental space for fathers to exchange ideas, seek guidance, and express their emotions. This initiative also highlights the importance of mental health support for fathers and offers them a valuable avenue to seek help and support, benefiting their own well-being and that of their families 	
<p>[Passage 1 Paragraph 2</p> <p>“Beyond tethering us to our devices, social media is also making the world more hostile, less empathetic, and less kind – all of which is taking a significant toll on our collective well-being”.</p>	<p>Negative Impacts</p> <p>Social media indeed makes us more belligerent and less considerate to one another. This can be seen in Singapore as cancel culture (a digital phenomenon that isolates wrongdoers from society as a form of punishment) and acts of doxxing are rampant in our online spheres. As ‘educated citizens’ in a first-world country, we are eager to virtue signal and show off how upstanding we are by participating in such acts of condemnation against wrong-doers. Moreover, social media platforms provide an easy and accessible way to engage in these harmful behaviours. The design of social media platforms – the user-friendly interfaces and the anonymity that one can hide in on these platforms -- makes it easy for everyone to participate in harmful behaviours online. This could result in a lack of kindness and understanding to others around us.</p>	

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (EG) For instance when actor Toshi Zhang was chosen to be Pink Dot's ambassador and emcee in 2019, netizens called him out for his past homophobic tweets and heavily criticised him for "performative activism". Even though Toshi Zhang had already apologised for his past tweets and explained that he has grown in his mentality and viewpoints, netizens were still relentless in their insults and even sent death threats to him. He was eventually forced to terminate his contract. This is a stark example of how social media can cause us to be more aggressive and erode our sense of empathy for those around us. This causes harm to individuals who may suffer from a deterioration of their mental well-being due to the persistent onslaught of hate and could also cause society to be one that is cold, aloof, and lacking kindness. With such toxicity that surrounds us, it is not surprising why the overall well-being of our community is facing a major decline. | |
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