

HWA CHONG INSTITUTION

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

26 AUGUST 2008

8:15 – 9:45 AM

GENERAL PAPER

8806/1

PAPER 1 (1 HOUR 30 MINUTES)

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer one question from this Paper.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

Write your name, class and question number clearly.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use highlighters, glue, correction tape or fluid.

1. 'A nation's true wealth is measured by the cultural richness of its people.'
At the moment, how 'wealthy' are the people of your country in this respect?
How could they be made richer?
2. 'There is nothing more powerful than a great idea.'
In your opinion, which two ideas in history have been most influential in
changing the world for the better and why?
3. Do you agree with the view that modern society needs a more sensible
substitute for the institution of marriage?
4. 'Politicians cannot afford to be idealistic in today's world – they have to be
totally pragmatic.' What are your views?
5. 'The idea that science will one day create a perfect world is a dangerous
delusion.' Discuss.
6. 'The youth of today have no high ideals or great dreams; just selfish desires
and vain ambitions.' How far is this true of young people in your country?
7. Do you agree with the view that the most dangerous threats to mankind today
are political and religious extremism?
8. 'A true leader must earn respect before he can command it.' Discuss.
9. 'You cannot have rich countries without poor ones.' Do you agree?
10. Should any limits be set on artistic expression?
11. 'Terrorism can be defeated if we tackle its root causes - poverty and
injustice.' What are your views?
12. Why have 'self-help' books become so popular? To what extent can they
really be helpful?