



General Paper Bulletin 2022 (JC 1)

Welcome to the first issue of TMJC's GP Bulletin for 2022! We bring you a selection of the essays written by your schoolmates during the recent **JC1 Mid-Year Examination**. We would like to express our thanks to the students who have contributed their essays.

While these essays are not perfect or model essays, there is a lot of merit in them, and they are clear evidence that good quality writing is possible!

You may find some of the content and vocabulary useful for application to other questions, but do be judicious in using such information in a manner that is relevant to the question you are answering. Pay extra attention to the comments on the right column, which are based on some of the key criteria that essays are marked for.

Lastly, you should not attempt to copy and hand them in as your own!

All the best for the Year-End Examination!

Editorial Team

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Q7. 'To what extent is a globalised world desirable?'

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
<p>The Kpop industry is flourishing in the United States of America, with millions of albums sold to Americans and this is only possible due to globalisation. With the advancement of technology and transportation, we have easy access to information, entertainment and others from another country. The increased mobility of transportation and easy exchange of information has boosted productivity and innovation in different fields such as the medical field. However, a globalised world also means greater exposure to a greater variety of people who may be of a different color, sexuality and social status. This exposure to greater differences amongst people may bring about prejudice and misconceptions of each other. Though a globalised world does create problems, I still believe that a globalised world is desirable.</p>	<p>Clear Stand: Stand is explicitly stated at the end of the paragraph.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Clearly shows understanding of POC – mentioning both the desirable and undesirable aspects of globalisation.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Some key aspects of globalisation are mentioned, giving a glimpse of what globalisation entails.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: The paragraph starts off with Kpop, and whilst this is well-known, perhaps mentioning that it is from South Korea (which is far away from the USA) could better show the reach of globalisation.</p>
<p>A globalised world is very desirable since it provides easy exchange of information across borders. With the advancement of technology, a country is able to share her knowledge with another country through the means of the internet efficiently and quickly. During the recent pandemic, the world was desperately trying to control the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect their people as well as their economy. Singapore came up with an application, 'Tracetogether', to allow the government to track down anyone who had been in close contact with a person who contracted the virus. This way they are able to carry out preventive measures to lessen the number of COVID-positive cases. With the easy exchange of information and knowledge through the means of the internet, Malaysia learned from this experience and created a similar application for Malaysians. As a result, the situation in Malaysia improved. The ease of exchange of information across borders due to the advancement of technology, allows the world to learn and gain knowledge from around the world and improve their country's economy or societal welfare.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear topic sentence expressed as a reason, helped by the explicit use of the word from the question: desirable.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Shows a clear understanding of the POC, however more could be said about the nature or process of how globalisation has brought about the said benefit.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The example on Singapore and how Malaysia 'learned' through the internet is not irrelevant but is rather simplistic. Given their close diplomatic ties, such information or methods would have been shared anyway, and so Malaysia would not have had to only learn it from the internet.</p> <p>Contextualisation: There is a clear understanding of the global nature of the question but the example cited is about 2 neighbouring countries- which may not be apt in proving 'globalisation'.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: See comment under 'Contextualisation'.</p>

<p>A broader spectrum of entertainment is acquired as globalisation brings about hybridisation of cultures. In a globalised world, there is easy exchange of cultures and people are able to learn more about another culture through the internet. 'Running Man' is a Korean variety show that is popular not just in South Korea but also in many other countries. Kpop has also become a phenomenon. Because of the globalised world, people from all over the world are able to enjoy Korean culture and their forms of entertainment. Not just the Korean culture, people are able to enjoy any other cultures that are not based in their own country. As a result, people are able to appreciate different cultures and have a greater variety of entertainment.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Clear topic sentence at the beginning of the paragraph, though it sounds rather specific. The bigger picture is perhaps about cultural exchange.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: There is some repetition of the previous point in that the cultures are shared via the internet.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The example is relevant, though more could be said about what aspect of Korean culture is being shared/transmitted globally.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Clear reference made to globalisation today.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: See above section on 'Relevance of Examples'.</p>
<p>In a globalised world, companies can easily recruit a highly skilled member from another country. With the advancement of transportation, anyone is able to travel to another country with ease. They are also able to learn more about another country and their culture through the means of the internet and decide if they would like to work and live there for the time being. Because we live in a globalised world, MNCs like Amazon or Apple no longer simply recruit locals but also recruit foreigners who are highly skilled or demand a lower wage. This enhances the workforce and brings about higher quality of work. As a result, there will be greater revenue and hence improvement to the economy. Therefore, I believe that a globalised world is highly desired.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Clear topic sentence stated.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: There is an understanding that globalisation has created more job opportunities which cuts across geographical boundaries.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Though relevant, the example needs to explain how globalisation enhances the recruitment process: is it simply the internet and modern transportation that enables this?</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: There needs to be much deeper examination of international recruitment. Does it really bring in greater revenue or improve the economy- for the company or the country? How about the loss of talent from the country which the company recruited from? These could have been explained.</p>
<p>However, some critics may argue that a globalised world is not so desirable as it brings about greater social problems. In a globalised world where we are interconnected, we are more exposed to a bigger variety of people of different color, sexuality and social status. These differences bring about prejudice and misconceptions of a certain group of people, which creates tension and unnecessary dislike between different groups of people. Because of these, social problems like racism arise. A memorable incident is one where George Floyd, a black man was wrongly accused by the police because of his skin color. The policeman did not let</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: The rebuttal is not clear. Merely stating that 'globalisation allows for a greater understanding' does not adequately answer the question.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: As mentioned above, the rebuttal needs to be thoroughly explained instead of merely stated.</p>

<p>him off and held him down too forcefully which ended his life. Because this policeman had misconceptions about the black man, and thought that black people are always the bad people, a black man's life was lost. This triggered the 'Black Lives Matter' movement to change people's perception of black people. The globalised world brings about greater differences amongst everyone which brings about misconceptions and prejudice which may bring about disharmony amongst the different groups of people, and hence chaos in the country. People may feel less secure in their own country because of the tension between the different groups of people. Though there are greater social problems that arise from a globalised world, globalisation allows for a greater understanding of the different cultures, religions, colors of people and sexuality of people. If everyone were to keep an open mind and not have any prejudice or misconceptions of another group of people, the globalised world would be more connected amongst the different groups of people with greater understanding and knowledge of each other.</p>	<p>Relevance of Examples: The example does not clearly show how globalisation has brought about the undesirable impact.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Much of this paragraph has nothing to do with globalisation. It is merely describing racism in America itself.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: More clarity needed to show how globalisation and its processes bring about 'bring about prejudice and misconceptions' or 'greater understanding'.</p>
<p>We live in a globalised world where we are all interconnected in some way or another. Though interconnectedness brings about some social problems like racism, it also brings about many benefits to the entire world. We are able to gain information, knowledge and a greater variety of entertainment from other countries easily. People are also able to travel to another country easily for better job opportunities or better living conditions which ultimately improves their standard of living.</p>	<p>Conclusion summarises the key ideas raised in the essay, but perhaps some comments could be made about the future of globalisation, or how to minimise the undesirable aspects of globalisation.</p>
<p>Marker's Overall Comment:</p> <p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Clear topic sentences for the most part. +/- Use of a range of examples to support the points made, though some could have been better elaborated to show that they are a result of globalisation. +/- More needs to be done to explain the nature and processes of globalisation. <p>Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Clear and generally clean language, with clear organisation of paragraphs. <p>Tan Chien Yi 22S303</p>	

Q10: Are examinations still useful in education today?

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
<p>The purpose of education is to properly enrich students with the necessary skills they need for jobs in order to increase and improve the quality of human capital in an economy's workforce. Examinations in our education systems today have been used as a checkpoint of sorts to estimate how well students are coping in school academically and to see how much knowledge they have absorbed in school. Although examinations have been effective in the past, I believe that examinations have declined in usefulness in education systems today.</p>	<p>Clear Stand: Clear stand is evident.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Shows understanding of POC in relation to today's world.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Clear contextualisation as shown in the description of today's education system.</p>

<p>Firstly, examinations create a 'pressure cooker-like' environment for students. Most countries have national exams at the end of one's high school years. Examples include the 'Gaokao' in China and the 'A' Levels in both Singapore and the United Kingdom just to name a few. Scores from these exams are used in order to gain admission into universities for students to further their education. By doing well in these exams, students have a higher chance of gaining admission into prestigious universities or highly sought-after courses. Parents believe that for their children to gain admittance into universities, especially prestigious ones, the chances of them getting a well-paying job in the future increases. This then incentivises them to send their kids for extracurricular activities in order to increase the quality of their portfolio. Furthermore, in Asian countries like China and South Korea, students are usually made to go to school from 6am to 3pm and then are sent to 'cram schools' where they will study well into the night. The societal pressures caused by exams may put a strain on students' mental health with teenage suicide rates in those countries skyrocketing. Thus, examinations are not useful as the conditions of the exams do not allow students to showcase the best of their abilities.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear topic sentence which is succinct but leaves room for elaboration later.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Shows understanding of the POC, with clear elaboration of the concept of a 'pressure-cooker' and how this ultimately is not useful given that it leads to rather dire consequences.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Good elaboration of 'cram schools', though the earlier examples of 'Gaokao' and the 'A levels' could have been developed - they sound like they were just mentioned, but do not add much to the argument.</p> <p>Contextualisation: The context of 'today' is not very clearly stated or explained. One has to infer (though not much) that the point applies to the current context.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: See comment under 'Contextualisation'.</p>
<p>Young people today grow up with many uncertainties, be it global wars or a global pandemic. The way education has had to abruptly shift and students have had to adapt have caused major disruptions in a student's life. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that schools had to be shut down and be moved online. Students have had to deal with the loss of face-to-face interactions that schools provide. Coupled with the loss of family members due to the virus, their way of learning has been disrupted and the education system has had to adapt in order to facilitate these disruptions. This can be seen in countries like the United States where some universities like New York University went 'test optional' which meant that scores from the American college entrance exam did not have that big of a weightage in whether a student could enter the school. Examinations have lost its usefulness in the sense that more education systems have realised that in an everchanging global society, students cannot be expected to be able to cope with a solution that existed under different circumstances.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: No clear topic sentence at the beginning of the paragraph, which sounds more like a context.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Vague point. Argument needs to be more explicitly stated and explained. Examinations are not useful because? The paragraph seems to be more about how education systems have had to adjust to the pandemic world rather than show how examinations are not useful.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: A range of examples are given, though they are not well used to drive home the point or argument.</p> <p>Contextualisation: The link to 'today' is clearly made with the reference to the pandemic world we live in today.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Clearer or more explicit elaboration/argumentation needed.</p>

<p>Examinations have also caused the education system to fail to provide a well-rounded education for their students. The presence of examinations has allowed for schools to be focused on preparing the students for examinations and instilling a culture where academics take top priority. Although in places like the United States where extracurricular activities such as sports and volunteering do play a big role in assuring a student can gain college admittance, it does not fully allow for a holistic environment for students. The focus on examinations has prevented the development of 'soft' skills like teamwork and leadership in students which may hinder them in the future as in today's job market, more and more employers are prioritising these skills. Furthermore, a focus on education and academics may have stunted the moral compass of students which have caused society to term young people as 'lacking empathy' and 'materialistic' among others. Thus, examinations fail to prepare students for their life outside the education system.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Clear topic sentence on examinations and their impact on the quality of education.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: There is an understanding that examinations are limited or useless given the other traits needed in today's job market.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: A concrete example is needed on how, in other countries (besides the USA), the focus on examinations is detrimental to students.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Clearly contextualised to today's society and its demands.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: The later part of the paragraph is on education but could have been made more relevant to examinations in particular.</p>
<p>However, some may argue that examinations are useful as a benchmark for students to estimate their understanding of what has been taught to them in school. This then allows them to identify concepts they are weaker at and allows them to gather feedback on what they did wrong or right which helps to facilitate their learning. Examinations also help students to see where they stand against their peers both in their own schools and nationally. However, this in the sense is not useful as it promotes inequity amongst students where more well-off students are able to access other resources like tuition teachers to help them better prepare for their examinations. This can be seen in places like China before a 2021 ban on after-school private tutoring where the tuition center industry was a billion-dollar industry. This is not a fair estimate of a student's ability as poorer students lack the resources to compete against better prepared peers.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Clear topic sentences for OV and Rebuttal.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: There is understanding of the POC as both OV and R are clearly discussing the usefulness of examinations.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The example is valid but lacks proper explanation to prove the argument in the rebuttal.</p> <p>Contextualisation: The context of 'today' is not very clearly stated or explained in the OV.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: See sections above on "Relevance of examples" and "Contextualisation".</p>
<p>Some might also say that the stressful environment examinations create help to prepare students for their future working life. Youth nowadays have been coined the 'strawberry generation' for their inability to handle pressure. This can be seen in workplaces where in multiple surveys the youth have been polled to be lazy and unmotivated in their workplaces. Examinations help to solve that problem as it takes away the instant gratification students are used to by showing them that hard work (consistent studying) pays off (good results). It teaches students that stress is part of their daily lives and will continue to be a part of their daily lives. However this may not be true as the pass or fail nature may cause</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Both OV and R are clearly signposted with relevant topic sentences.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: This is clearly shown for both OV and R, though there needs to be more elaboration of the R.</p>

students to be demoralised when they are termed as a failure for not doing well in their examinations. This may lead students to entirely give up or create a wrong mindset which can further worsen their reputation of being too 'soft'.	<p>Relevance of Examples: There needs to be a more concrete and real-world example cited, especially for the rebuttal.</p> <p>Contextualisation: There is clear contextualisation to the qualities needed in the modern workplace.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: The link between 'strawberry generation' and 'instant gratification' in the OV is not clear and requires explanation.</p>
Education is not a 'one size fits all' for students. Not every student learns in the same way, or at the same speed. Although I believe that examinations will continue to be a part of our education system, I believe that they have lost their usefulness in education today as our society continues to grow and develop and education systems start to consider different paradigms and reevaluate examinations in order to best benefit their students.	An effective conclusion that looks into the future of examinations and their usefulness.
<p>Marker's Overall Comment:</p> <p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Sensible arguments raised. + Gd range of examples cited. +/- 'today' is sometimes addressed, though not always clearly. +/- 'useful'- not always clearly/explicitly proven. <p>Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Minor slips and errors. Fluent with hints of complexity. <p>Ariel Tan Yixin 22S412</p>	

Q12. Do you agree that young people today lack empathy?

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
The Former US President Barack Obama once said 'The future belongs to the young with compassion and the imagination to create.' Youths of today are indubitably different from the youths of yesteryear. After all, the lives of today's youths are inextricably linked with the advent of the Internet and globalisation. Youths of today are exposed to different sets of expectations, problems and privileges. But are these youths simply enjoying the advantages of the 21st century, living selfishly and caring only about themselves? Or are they cognisant about the pertinent issues around them and taking a step to use their voices and abilities to show care and display altruism for others? In this essay, I shall elucidate my viewpoint that the majority of youths in the 21st century do not lack empathy as they take part in social and issues that are of concern today. Secondly, they utilise the power of social media to spread positivity and lastly, they rally for change to make society a better place.	<p>Clear Stand: Stand is explicitly stated at the end of the paragraph. An appropriate quotation is used to hook the reader.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Clearly shows understanding of POC – mentioning both lack and evidence of empathy.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Some key aspects of today's youth and society are mentioned, giving a glimpse of what the current situation entails.</p>

	<p>Suggestions for Improvement: Could clarify that the first social issue pertains to environmentalism while the third touches on social justice. If not done, this borders on 'overlap'.</p>
<p>Firstly, youths show empathy and understanding by taking part in issues that they feel are imperative to this generation. They dedicate time and effort out of their busy academic schedules to actively participate in volunteerism in the hopes of making an impact. One example illustrating this act of care is the Youth and Environmental Sustainability Program in Singapore that was established in 2020 and youths aged 16–21 can sign up and participate in environmental issues concerning Singapore. Some notable activities include the cleaning up of East Coast Park and other beaches in Singapore. Over 700 youths have shown their interest to sign up and clean up the beaches during weekends. Volunteering for this program have been National University of Singapore (NUS) students who came up with ways to clean water and make use of bottle caps to save the environment, all for the purpose of creating a future that would be greener. The fact that youths understand and are willing to go the extra mile to help in events that will make the world a better place shows that in fact, these young charges do not only care about their well-being but also of those around them and the future. The willingness to be of use and the exhibiting of this altruism strengthens the case that youth today are empathetic, not otherwise.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear topic sentence connected with 'how' this empathy is shown.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Shows a clear understanding of the POC.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The example, while relevant, is limited to Singapore. Another example, from another society, would serve to broaden the illustration.</p> <p>Contextualisation: There is a clear understanding of key words in the question such as 'today' and 'youth'. These are explicated well.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: See comment under 'Relevance of Examples'.</p>
<p>Secondly, youths today harness the power of social media not for their own benefit but to spread positivity and increase awareness for issues that might not be talked about in the media. Social media is powerful and unequivocally, it is a popular platform in the 21st century era and youths know that it can serve as a panacea for issues that concern the well-being of others. An example of such acts of altruism is found in the Instagram pages '@wetheyoungmuslims' and '@themuslimdaily' that have repeatedly called out China for the genocide and discrimination Ughyur Muslims in China and the Islamophobia that is prevalent around the world. The issue of discrimination of Muslims in China being in concentration camps and abused is a sensitive topic that is hardly discussed but the youths have used facts, figures and evidence on these Instagram pages to garner the support of 2.3 million followers who in return show their support by setting up an online charity to donate to help the victims and refugees who have escaped. All the support and activism given may not bring these youths fame or directly help them, yet they are willing to speak up for others who might not have the voice, power or means to do so. As such, these acts of empathy and selflessness cannot be ignored because it strongly suggests that youths utilise what they are familiar with to help those around them.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Clear topic sentence at the beginning of the paragraph.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: The POC is quite evident, showing 'do not lack' clearly through the example and the subsequent elaboration.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The example is relevant, although a wider range of examples would have strengthened the case.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Clear reference made to 'today'.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: See above section on 'Relevance of Examples'.</p>
<p>Thirdly, youths today actively rally in times where changes have to be made. One example of this was the '2018 Florida shooting' in a high school that resulted in the deaths of many students and teachers. This gave rise to concerns regarding the gun control laws in the southern states of the United States of America. When nothing was being said or done by authorities, the youths and schoolmates of the deceased took to the streets to riot and rally to pressure the government to make a change, and</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Topic sentence should have qualified what sort of 'changes', thus pre-empting overlap with first paragraph.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: There is clear understanding of the POC.</p>

<p>this movement was termed the 'March for our lives' movement. The motivation and power of youths to challenge the law and policymakers truly shows the youths are empowered and fueled by their reactions to unjust events. They will rally and use their standing to voice out for change so that in the future, those of the next generation or even the next decade can have a safe place of education. It was estimated that over 30,000 youths physically came to rallies and talks to show their support for the victims of the Florida 2018 school shooting. For youths to fight and rally so as to precipitate social change in the light of injustice is definitely a sign of empathy for their fellow beings.</p>	<p>Relevance of Examples: Relevant and aptly applied, explicated with facts, figures and statistics that strengthen the supporting view.</p>
<p>While all these instances show that youths of today do not lack empathy and show care for each other, there is still a concern that youths do not have empathy or understanding towards some aspects of life. One such aspect is the 'cancel culture' that has gained traction in recent times among youths. When a celebrity makes a mistake or is caught in a scandal, they will be pelted with relentless disapproval from especially the younger demographic and one example was the 'cancelling' the Korean actor Kim Seon Ho received after rumours were spread that he 'forced' his girlfriend to have an abortion. Without even confirming the facts or delving deeper into the situation, Kim was attacked online by young netizens. While I concede that it is a valid concern, it has to be noted that this accounts for a relatively small minority of youths and cannot detract from all the empathetic acts young people have undertaken, whether physically or via social media platforms.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: The rebuttal is not strong enough. Merely claiming only a small number practise this does not serve as an effective rebuttal, nor does it make it true.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: The rebuttal needs to be thoroughly and perceptively explained instead of merely glossed over.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The example does not clearly and directly touch on lack of empathy on the part of youths.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: See above comments on 'Understanding of POC'.</p>
<p>In conclusion, the majority of young charges have shown that they understand and have shown care for the world and people around them and are continuing to do so until today. This demographic is in their most formative years and these actions of empathy and care discussed above auger well for the world in the years to come.</p>	<p>Conclusion reiterates stand and generalises a hopeful future for these youth who are generally deemed much more empathetic than not.</p>
<p>Marker's Overall Comment:</p> <p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Clear topic sentences for the most part. +/- Use of a range of examples to support the points made, though some could have been better elaborated to how empathy is shown by the youths. +/- More needs to be done in the rebuttal paragraph. <p>Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Clear and generally clean language, with clear organisation of paragraphs. <p>Sadia Rahman Anima 22S302</p>	