

2024 Prelim P2

Passage 1

1. Identify two ways in which the first paragraph is an **effective** introduction. [2m]

From the text	Suggested Answer
Every year, a staggering 10 million international travellers, typically from North America and Europe, travel abroad to volunteer in impoverished communities. Students, youth groups, and other well-intended participants construct buildings, assist at orphanages, and pursue other short-term development projects in an effort to give back. Yet, to what extent do these volunteers actually benefit host communities, economically and socially?	<p>a) The statistics/information stated in the first line acts as a hook to establish [technique] the extensive impact of voluntourism [context].</p> <p>b) [Any reasonable technique, e.g. the question at the end of the paragraph] to hint at/get readers to think about the dual nature/ contradictory/paradoxical nature of voluntourism [context].</p> <p><i>Must have [technique]+[context] to be awarded 1m.</i></p> <p>For (a): <i>Technique:</i> should be about the volume of voluntourists; statistics <i>Effect:</i> to capture people's interest; hook <i>Context:</i> should be about the significance of the volume of voluntourists</p> <p>For (b): <i>Technique:</i> should be about the question <i>Effect:</i> to hint; to get readers to think/reflect <i>Context:</i> should be about the dual nature of voluntourism</p>

2. Why has the author placed brackets around the phrase in lines 9-10? [1m]

From the text	Suggested Answer
As a \$2 billion industry, voluntourism is one of the fastest growing trends in travel. Volunteer agencies advertise these short-term mission trips as an opportunity for participants to broaden their worldview and put their altruistic desires into action. While these	<p>A) He wants to include his opinion [function] that there is an element of showing-off to the participants' desire to experience something deeply meaningful/ profound / significant / transformative when they go on international mission trips. [context]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>B) He wants to include his opinion [function] that the effort to help the local communities is not genuine but for recognition from online audience. [context]</p> <p>OR</p>

trips may provide participants with life-changing experiences (that their Instagram and Facebook followers resoundingly applaud), the opposite is often observed in the communities impacted. Rather, voluntourism is imperialistic in nature. It economically disenfranchises local communities, creates relationships dependent on aid reliance, inefficiently manages resources and perpetuates harmful stereotypes.	<p>C) He wants to include his opinion [function] that there is also the desire to gain validation from one's social media followers together with the desire to experience something deeply meaningful when participants go on mission trips. [context]</p> <p><i>Must have [function]+[context] to be awarded 1m.</i> <i>"additional information" is not accepted because 1) it is not information but distinctly an opinion held by author and 2) 'additional info' should be either elaborate on the existing argument, or present a tangential angle</i></p>
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3. Explain why the volunteers' good intentions did not improve the lives of the locals (line 15)? [2m]

From the text	Suggested Answer
The imperialistic nature of voluntourism is apparent in the disempowerment of the communities they aim to help. While volunteers often have good intentions to improve the lives of the locals , the voluntourism industry sustains practices that hinder local economies. When local enterprises hire local workers to complete development projects, they pay for labour, resulting in local employment. However, when agencies recruit volunteers who are willing to pay to complete these same projects, it deprives local workers of job opportunities, and	<p>The good intentions did not improve the lives of the locals because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Volunteers take away the locals' employment opportunities by completing the same tasks for free. (individual) b) The volunteers' presence means there is no need for local companies to take up these potential projects/local companies lose out on these chances to operate and make money. (enterprises) <p><i>*can lift 'locals', 'opportunities'</i> <i>*cannot lift 'deprive', 'denied'</i></p>

local enterprises are also denied of business opportunities.	*The two different entities of 'individual' and 'enterprises' must be clear in the answer. **Can be 2 stakeholders + 1 effect
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4. Using paragraph 4, explain three ways in which the author uses language to show how voluntourism can be harmful to the communities that it is meant to help. [3m]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>A pressing matter triggered by voluntourism in the medical front is the illusory sense of protection and consistency in such services. Newsweek Columnist Maya Wesby describes a situation in Ghana where locals were at the mercy of the volunteers' availability to dispense medication and medical advice. This free care caused many to opt out of medical insurance, mortally wounding local healthcare and insurance providers, and condemning the locals to a woeful dependence on foreigners. If there were to be any interruption to volunteer arrivals (say, a pandemic), locals would truly be left in the lurch. Because these trips are designed for the short-term, participants do not recognise the harm they are imposing on communities over time.</p>	<p>a) The author uses 'illusory' to show that the help given is not truly/really reliable/dependable/appears to be reliable. <i>(*idea of false sense of consistency in medical aid)</i></p> <p>b) The author uses 'at the mercy of' to suggest that even though the locals are able to obtain free healthcare from volunteers, it is not within the locals' control/it is not up to them whether the volunteers were free to attend to them, which could potentially aggravate medical conditions. <i>(*Context must be about medical help/medication dispensed by volunteers.</i> <i>*idea of medical aid availability is in hands of volunteers/subject to availability of the volunteers, no control over the volunteers' availability/ over reliant on volunteers' availability)</i></p> <p>c) The author also uses 'mortally wounding' to show that the local healthcare service providers suffer extreme losses/serious loss of business as a result of voluntourism. <i>(*choice of vocab must reflect intensity</i> <i>*idea of serious harm to medical industry)</i></p> <p>d) The author uses 'condemning'/'woeful' to point out the fact that they are doomed to rely heavily on foreign charity/ the fact they have to rely on foreign charity is very pitiful/pathetic/the locals in a sorry state of (over)reliance on foreigners. <i>(*must be related to the state of the reliance, that it is pathetic.</i> <i>*condemning: doomed to be sadly reliant</i> <i>*woeful: sad/sorry/pitiful/pathetic state of reliance)</i></p> <p>e) The author uses '(truly be) left in the lurch' to further emphasise that the locals will be helpless/doomed in a crisis without any means of rescue. <i>(*idea of helpless/no means of rescue/abandoned/stranded with no assistance)</i></p> <p>Any three of the above. The 'harm' must be made explicit in the answer.</p>

5. In paragraph 5, how does the author support his claim that 'voluntourism is incredibly inefficient in managing the expenses paid by participants' (lines 28-29)? [2m]

From the text	Suggested Answer
<p>Additionally, in terms of economically benefiting host communities, voluntourism is incredibly inefficient in its management of expenses paid by participants. While volunteer agencies often advertise a desperate need for volunteers, costs for these programmes are far from cheap, ranging between a couple hundred to a couple thousand dollars, depending on the programme's duration. However, while participants are committing a large sum of money towards these altruistic efforts, only about 18% of funds raised are allocated to the recipient community, with the other 82% is put towards travel expenses. While this provides minimal benefit for the host community, it provides larger benefit for both the participant and voluntourism industry.</p>	<p>A)The author cites statistics of voluntourism's programme expenses/ breakdown of the programme's budget [1m for technique + specific evidence]</p> <p>B) that only a small proportion went to the local community while the bulk is allotted to travel expenses/expenditure.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>A)The author cites statistics of voluntourism's programme expenses/ breakdown of the programme's budget [1m for technique + specific evidence]</p> <p>B) that a small proportion went to the local community while a big proportion is allotted to travel expenses/expenditure.</p> <p>C)This proves/provides evidence/shows it to be true that the local community did not gain as much as they should. OR This shows that the funds were poorly allocated/utilised. [1m for analysis of details]</p> <p>A+B=2m (only if B includes interpretation of details already, such as the word 'only' that hints/ reflects that this proportion of fund allocation is problematic, not rightful)</p> <p>A+C=2m</p> <p>A + some stating of statistics details (with no interpretation) =1m</p>

6. Why has the author written 'saved' in inverted commas (line 40)? [1m]

From the text	Suggested Answer
The design of these programmes perpetuates white saviorism, the problematic idea that minority communities must depend on white individuals to be ' saved '. Because international volunteers typically go abroad for a week or two, they often pursue low-skilled tasks, such as basic construction, distributing food or tutoring children. Therefore, the ability for volunteers to make a valuable difference is limited.	<p>The author disagrees [function of inverted commas] that the poor local communities/beneficiaries are actually being rescued by the white volunteers because the volunteers perform low-skilled tasks/ manual labour that do not result in major changes/ manual labour which do not lead to reforms to reduce the severity of the problems they are facing/ to improve the standard of living of the locals [context].</p> <p><i>Idea of 'saved' must be mentioned/established in answer.</i></p> <p>Context MUST be stated: must have something to do with the inadequacy/incompetence of white people in terms of the tasks they are performing there.</p> <p>This explains why the locals are not really 'saved'</p>

7. Summarise what the author has to say about the positive effects of voluntourism.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**.

	From the text	Summarised
1	<p>[Line 2]</p> <p>Voluntourism programmes connect the participants to the communities that are in need</p> <p><i>*Cannot lift 'need', 'connect'</i></p>	<p>Voluntourism links the participants to the communities that require assistance from volunteers.</p>
2	<p>[Lines 3-5]</p> <p>how the children in the institution— some abandoned and others underprivileged — are getting the affection and reassurance they need from the voluntourists who visit the facility.</p> <p><i>*either 'affection' or 'reassurance' is to be paraphrased</i></p>	<p>The beneficiaries, especially the children, receive love/warmth/care and comfort/encouragement from the voluntourists.</p> <p><i>*as long as some <u>emotional</u> supportive word is provided</i></p>
3	<p>[Lines 8-9]</p> <p>make the community and its members who warmly welcome the students thrive.</p>	<p>Voluntourists help the communities succeed/prosper/flourish.</p>
4	<p>[Lines 9-11]</p> <p><u>with the aid of tourism firms</u>, voluntourists are able to engender sustained economic self-sufficiency among the community members</p>	<p><u>Because of the travel agencies</u>, voluntourists are able to bring about long-term economic independence</p>

	<p><i>*condition of 'with the aid of tourism firms' should be included for complete paraphrasing</i></p> <p><i>*'economic' can be lifted</i></p>	
5	<p>by leveraging their skills and providing employment opportunities to them</p> <p><i>*don't have to paraphrase both methods as long as one method is paraphrased</i></p>	<p>by utilising/tapping/capitalising on their talents/competencies and allowing them to have a chance at job openings/prospects.</p> <p><i>*no <u>negative</u> connotation for 'leverage'</i></p>
6	<p>[Lines 12 and 15]</p> <p>...organizing weaving workshops...</p> <p>...and also teaching them some of the weaving skills...</p>	<p>and instructing/training them in developing some abilities/competencies</p>
7	<p>[Lines 13-14]</p> <p>...which allows them to support their families by selling these textiles to the tourists...</p>	<p>This enables the beneficiaries to provide for/put food on the table for their families,</p>
8	<p>[Lines 14-16]</p> <p>Overall, by touching every part of the community and empowering them, young voluntourists are giving communities their share of gratification.</p>	<p>By rendering their service to maintaining the well-being and prosperity of the community as a whole/By rendering their service to improve the entire community, the voluntourists help the communities to receive various benefits/rewards/gains.</p>

9	<p>[Lines 17-18]</p> <p>Service follows enlightenment.</p> <p>Giving back to the local communities abroad is a great way for the volunteers to also acquire a better understanding of the lives of the underprivileged</p> <p><i>*cannot use 'aware' as it appears in the next line/point</i></p>	<p>Doing their part to improve the local communities helps the voluntourists to gain a better comprehension/grasp of /insight into the sufferings of/hardships of/challenges faced by the poor/the disadvantaged,</p>
10	<p>[Line 19]</p> <p>which plays a key role in helping them become more emotionally aware,</p> <p><i>*'key role' is optional</i></p>	<p>which is crucial to assist them to be more empathetic,</p>
11	<p>[Line 19]</p> <p>attain a high level of civil- mindedness,</p>	<p>very concerned to improve the welfare of the less fortunate</p> <p>OR</p> <p>to be public-spirited</p>
12	<p>[Lines 20-21]</p> <p>and pave the path to envision solutions for big problems such as poverty and lack of other necessities.</p>	<p>and lead /inspire them to think of ways to address significant/major challenges/issues faced by the less fortunate.</p>

	<i>*Can lift 'problem'</i>	OR and inspires innovations to significant challenges faced by the poor/less fortunate/disadvantaged.
13	[Line 21] Overall, voluntourism is a win-win for all the stakeholders involved	Voluntourism results in mutual gains enjoyed by all the participants and beneficiaries/parties,
14	[Lines 21-22] and develops the student volunteers on an interpersonal level .	and enhances the student volunteers' social skills / relationships with those they interact with /and enhances the student volunteers' interaction skills.
15	[Lines 23-24] In addition to the core impacts on the stakeholders involved in voluntourism, voluntourists also take the credit for preserving the natural environment of the places they tour and volunteer. [Line 26] ...and merging volunteer work with eco-tourism	Voluntourism also helps in the conservation of the environment of host communities

	<i>*can use 'natural' or 'nature' or 'environment' by themselves BUT not 'natural environment'</i>	
16	<p>[Lines 24-25]</p> <p>With constant efforts to preserve or leverage the cultural heritage present in the communities</p> <p><i>* can use 'cultural'</i></p>	Attempts to conserve/protect/tap upon the cultural roots/traditions of the communities
17	<p>[Lines 26-27]</p> <p>these programmes are essentially augmenting the economic value of such places.</p> <p><i>*Can lift 'value' only if 'economic' is paraphrased.</i></p> <p><i>*Cannot lift 'economy'</i></p>	these activities increase/boost/heighten the financial/monetary/commercial significance/worth of these tourist sites/attractions.

1-2 pts = 1m	3-4pts =2m	5-6pts =3m	7-8 pts =4m	9 pts =5m	10 pts= 6m	11 pts= 7m	12 pts and above = 8m
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Voluntourism **links** the participants to the underprivileged communities, allowing the beneficiaries to **receive love and comfort from the volunteers**. Because of the travel agencies, voluntourists are able to bring about **long-term economic independence of the locals** by **providing skills training, utilizing their talents**, thus allowing them **to get jobs and provide for their families**. Voluntourists can **enhance their comprehension of the hardships of the poor**, becoming **more empathetic and public-spirited**. **They can then address the significant challenges faced by the underprivileged**. Voluntourism also **enhances the volunteers' social skills**. It also **promotes conservation of the physical environment of the host communities**, as well as **protection of their cultural traditions**. The **commercial worth of the host societies** is hence increased. (118 words, 15 pts used)

From all the passages

8. Passage 1 states that voluntourism ‘reinforces harmful stereotypes’ (line 13).

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

From Passage 3	Suggested Answer
<p>Para 4, lines 19 – 20: She even documented how children in Uganda learned to “rub dirt on themselves before running toward arriving volunteers.”</p> <p>OR Voluntourism implicitly teaches students to develop a ‘white saviour’ complex toward the regions they visit. (lines 13-14)</p>	<p>a) Passage 3 gives the example of how children in Uganda made it a point to dirty themselves before going to meet the international volunteers. (lines 19-20)</p> <p>b) This supports the statement by explaining how voluntourism would perpetuate/confirm negative assumptions about locals, where in this case, the locals would make themselves seem pathetic/pitiful and in need of help from the ‘white saviours’.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>a) Passage 3 states/asserts that voluntourism could cause the volunteers to have a sense of superiority towards the people they are helping. (lines 13-14)</p> <p>b) This supports the statement by explaining how voluntourism would perpetuate/confirm negative assumptions about how locals are in a more pathetic state than the volunteers/cannot help themselves without the aid of the volunteers.</p> <p>Accepted justifications (and nothing else):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gives an example of / illustrates / demonstrates what the harmful stereotype is (negative assumptions about locals / undeserved assumptions the voluntourists have of themselves) - explains/clarifies/elaborates on - corroborate

9. Passage 2 states that ‘voluntourists are able to engender **sustained** economic **self-sufficiency** among the community members by leveraging their skills and providing employment opportunities to them’ (lines 9-11).

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

From Passage 3	Suggested Answer
<p>Para 4, lines 14 – 16: More insidiously, residents of host communities can become dependent on foreign influence — financial influence, that is, because none of the voluntourists’ other impacts typically last longer than their trip.</p>	<p>a) Passage 3 provides a (more) <i>skeptical view (optional; can be used in justification)</i> of the impact created by foreign volunteers, showing it to foster economic reliance due to the short-lived nature of voluntourists’ attempts to teach the locals skills (lines 14-16).</p> <p>b) This undermines the idea in Passage 2 by suggesting that it may not be true all the time that voluntourism is genuinely able to foster long-term economic independence through tapping on the locals’ abilities to gain jobs.</p> <p><i>*‘dependent’ and ‘influence’ cannot be lifted.</i></p>

<p>OR</p> <p>Para 3, lines 8 - 9: But voluntourists' actions are often fruitless due to the volunteers' limited involvement and expertise.</p>	<p><i>*don't need to include the part about 'typically last longer than their trip'</i> <i>*the type of reliance must be clear: economic/financial</i> <i>*either 'independence' or 'sustainability' must be mentioned</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p>a)Passage 3 states that voluntourists actions are usually futile as they have inadequate skills and ability to help the locals (lines 8-9). b) This undermines P2 by explaining why the voluntourists would not be able to foster financial independence as they are not really able to provide the locals with the training needed to get jobs</p>
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