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ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 Preliminary Examination



Name: _____ ()

Civics Group: _____

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

27 August 2021, Friday

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passages for Paper 2.

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This document consists of 3 printed pages.

Passage 1. *Clinton West questions the value of individualism in society.*

- 1 The lone ranger. The mysterious cowboy. The reclusive, billionaire crime-fighting superhero. Americans have long romanticised those who reject the system and take matters into their own hands, and these sentiments have spread insidiously, through Hollywood, into the popular culture of a global world. The hero — a symbol of 'rugged individualism' — is both cinematic subject and alluring myth. Yet, this enduring celebration of the 'last man standing' obscures the truth: 'heroic' individualism is a relic of the past that has no place in dealing with the complex problems of the world today. 5
- 2 One depressing observation from historians is that only large-scale violence or other catastrophes (including pandemics) have ever made us realise how critical it is to place the needs of society above the interests of the individual. As nations deal with a devastating avalanche of coronavirus deaths that has yet to run its course, or the 'infodemic' of fake news that has ripped at the guts of democracy, the value placed on individual rights is proving to be increasingly counter-productive. *My choice! My beliefs! My freedom!* These shrill cries for the liberty to do whatever we want and believe any falsehood that validates us have never sounded more hollow. 10
- 3 The respect for individualism that we have enshrined in democracies across the world has, in fact, been used as mere cover for selfish behaviour. The 'right to decide' exercised by healthy, 'vaccine-hesitant' citizens is an elaborate excuse to be free-riders — people who benefit from the public good, yet do not have to pay or sacrifice anything for it. They enjoy lower virus transmission rates and eventual herd protection when other people get vaccinated, but refuse to take that tiny risk and get vaccinated themselves. There are also those who spread fake news and call for extreme action, while the majority keeps society from descending into total chaos by sticking to facts and reasoned discourse. These types of toxic individualism only work when a small minority indulges in them. The greater challenge for governments arises, of course, when lots of people realise they can be selfish and get away with it. 15 20
- 4 In fact, the vocal individualists who refuse to abide by rules that govern the collective good (pandemic lockdowns, mask-wearing mandates, vaccination protocols) are endangering not just others, but also themselves. There is nothing sentimental about placing society before self. It means mutual help in cases of calamity. It is a commitment to collective survival: an understanding that we must assist one another or die. A common, deadly affliction demonstrates that the freedom of individualism is illusory, and that we are all in it together. When individual freedoms are held above collective needs, the common good is destroyed, and even free-riders may have nothing left to ride on. 25 30
- 5 What is more important now than ever before is for us to see through the fog of fake individualism. We need to realise that interdependence is the foundation of society, and that collective approaches, when undergirded by strong infrastructure, can save lives. The looming environmental crisis also calls for individual sacrifice: our petrol-guzzling sports utility vehicles; our taste for juicy steaks; exotic holiday locales. Not surprisingly, forgoing these luxuries is far easier when we give them up together. 35
- 6 There is no better time than now to correct this imbalance between individual freedom and societal needs. It may be just the thing to save us all, and bring us back from the brink of disaster. In fact, seen from a different angle, there is no better time for us to be heroes. After all, the greatest cinematic heroes are heroes precisely because of sacrifice — giving up everything for the benefit of society. 40

Passage 2. R. S. Vikram argues the case for individualism in today's world.

- 1 Our criticism of individualism has gone far enough. Look into history, and it cannot be denied that the story of humanity has been shaped by individuals who have stood out from the faceless crowds to mould our collective destiny. Say what you will, the men and women with the greatest contributions to human civilisation — Socrates or Gandhi, Mother Teresa or Marie Curie — have never conformed to the societal norms of their day. They challenged conventions, defied laws, swam against the tide of public opinion. Socrates was even sentenced to death by poison to protect the public good from the supposed 'moral corruption' of his philosophical questioning. 5
- 2 What has made us turn our backs on individualism today? Fear. We compare pandemic mortality rates and celebrate the 'selfless' collectivist cultures that have delivered lower infection numbers, while railing against the 'senseless' individualism of the United States that has led to more than half a million COVID-19 deaths. A simple question of governance has exploded into a greater debate of philosophical significance. 10
- 3 But individualism has been maligned. Critics praise the herd mentality of conformist societies as enlightened and unselfish. Yet they do not recognise that the most radical individuals can be just as altruistic, if not more so. Consider Jesus Christ, who founded a whole new religion by dying for the sins of others. Is there anything more selfless than sacrificing oneself to challenge the dominant religious beliefs of the day in order to bring a message of salvation? Individualism prizes independence and autonomy, which can represent the power to do good in spite of prevailing beliefs. Instead of focusing on Hitler, consider what really made the scale of the Holocaust possible: legions of obedient, conformist Nazi officers who 'just followed orders' in carrying out the systematic execution of more than six million Jews. This is a surprisingly common defence trotted out by war criminals. It should stand as an enduring warning against a mindless obedience to authority. 15 20
- 4 Arguably, collectivist thinking is what made such horrors possible — the uncritical acceptance of the 'needs' of society, defined by authority. Rather than following our own moral compass, we give up our power to define the 'greater good' and just follow the herd. *If everyone else is going along, how could it be wrong?* Everything, it turns out. Thinking individuals debate and disagree. Independent minds do not willingly submit to authority nor become unthinking cogs in a machine. If everyone thought for themselves, the greater diversity in opinions would at least allow evil and immoral ideas to be challenged. There would still be depraved people, but the array of different perspectives within individualistic societies acts as a defence against great systemic evil. 25 30
- 5 Finally, where would we be today without the creative genius of Thomas Edison, Steve Jobs or Elon Musk? It is no surprise that it is the United States of America, a nation that upholds individual freedom and expression as a matter of principle, that has allowed the scientific and technological innovation of these entrepreneurs to lead us into a whole new world of bright lights, smartphones and electric cars. A culture celebrating divergent individuals has allowed these geniuses to challenge conventional beliefs and achieve the seemingly impossible. Time and time again, individualism has improved our lives. 35
- 6 It is easy to seek the comforts of a herd mentality, giving into fear in an age of uncertainty and constant surveillance. But it would be far braver, and far more necessary, to make room for individualism still. As individuals, we have to step out of our comfort zone and fight our fears in order to forge ahead as a society of diverse, independent thinkers, rather than a mindless mass of soulless puppets. 40

ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 Preliminary Examination



Name: _____ ()

Civics Group: _____

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

27 August 2021, Friday

ANSWER BOOKLET

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, Civics Group and register number on all the work you hand in.
 Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
 Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid/tape.

Answer **all** questions.

The Insert contains the passages for comprehension.

(Note that 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.)

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use

Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This document consists of 6 printed pages and 1 Insert.

Read the passage in the Insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this paper.

For
Examiner's
Use

NOTE: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** and you select the appropriate material from the passages for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passages.

From Passage 1

1. In lines 5-7, what is the truth about 'heroic individualism' that is being obscured? Use your own words as far as possible.

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..... [2]

2. What does the 'depressing observation' in line 8 suggest about humanity?

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..... [1]

3. Give **two** reasons why the author ends the passage with a focus on heroes.

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..... [2]

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4. Using material from paragraphs 3–5 only, summarise the author’s criticisms of individualism and what he has to say about the importance of placing society before self.

For
Examiner's
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Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

Individualism is criticised for being

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[8]

From Passage 2

5. In paragraph 1, how does the author support his idea that the story of humanity has been shaped by outstanding individuals? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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[2]

For
Examiner's
Use

6. Explain what the author means by saying that a simple question of governance has 'exploded into a greater debate of philosophical significance' (lines 11-12).

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..... [2]

7. In lines 13-17, how does the author try to convince us that 'radical individuals can be just as altruistic' as those who conform?

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..... [2]

8. What does the rhetorical question in lines 26-27 imply about herd behaviour?

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..... [1]

9. In paragraph 5, identify **three** benefits of encouraging a culture that celebrates individuality. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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..... [3]

10. In paragraph 6, what **two** distinctions does the author make between individualism and the herd mentality? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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..... [2]

From both passages

11. Clinton West questions the value of individualism in society, while R. S. Vikram believes that we need individualism in today's world.

How far do you agree or disagree with the views expressed in both passages? Illustrate your answer with examples of how you and your society regard individualism.

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[10]

JC2 GP 2021 PRELIMS P2 (Suggested Answer Scheme)

From Passage 1

1. In lines 5-7, what is the truth about 'heroic individualism' that is being obscured? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Yet, this enduring celebration of the 'last man standing' obscures the truth: 'heroic' individualism is a relic of the past that has no place in dealing with the complex problems of the world today.</p>	<p>Heroic individualism is</p> <p>A (a relic of the past / that has no place): outdated / irrelevant / anachronistic / <u>no longer</u> appropriate / <u>no longer</u> effective / old idea that is not suitable (X) ancient / artefact / old idea / symbol etc. (too literal) * Answers must capture idea of <u>irrelevance</u> in today's world</p> <p>B (in dealing with): in tackling / addressing / confronting / solving / meeting the challenges</p> <p>C (complex problems of the world today): the complicated crises of modern society / more sophisticated challenges today / more difficult issues today</p> <p>1-2pts: 1m 3pts: 2m</p>

2. What does the 'depressing observation' in line 8 suggest about humanity? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
<p>One depressing observation from historians is that only large-scale violence or other catastrophes (including pandemics) have ever made us realise how critical it is to place the needs of society above the interests of the individual.</p>	<p>Humans (negative traits only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not have foresight / are myopic / are blinkered / have tunnel vision / too focused on self • Are apathetic / indifferent • Are selfish • Are ignorant / wilfully ignorant <p>(X) individualistic (not negative)</p> <p>* Answers must capture a specific inferred trait.</p>

3. Give two reasons why the author ends the passage with a focus on heroes. [2]

Lifted	Inferred
<p>In fact, seen from a different angle, there is no better time for us to be heroes. After all, the greatest cinematic heroes are heroes precisely because of</p>	<p>A (link/contrast to introduction): The heroes mentioned here stand in contrast to the heroes mentioned in the introduction / as a nice link to the introduction which started with the idea of heroes as well. *Must capture the idea of 'heroes' that are mentioned in both paragraphs</p>

<p>sacrifice — giving up everything for the benefit of society.</p>	<p>B (optimism / call to action): The author wants to end on an optimistic / inspiring note for us to be heroes ourselves / for us to be more selfless / for us to sacrifice for the betterment of society.</p> <p>C (emphasis): To reinforce the idea / allow the readers to ponder over the fact / leave the reader with food for thought about the kind of heroes we need now /we need heroes who are selfless / willing to abandon/surrender all for the good/betterment of society.</p> <p>D (reference to cinematic characters): As an illustration because readers can relate to the heroes we see on screen / in the cinema <i>* Must capture context of cinema/film</i></p> <p><i>*Answers must capture both technique and context.</i> <i>*Some reference to heroes or heroic characteristics necessary.</i></p> <p>Any 2 pts for 2m</p>
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From Passage 2

5. In paragraph 1, how does the author support his idea that the story of humanity has been shaped by outstanding individuals? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Look into history, and it cannot be denied that the story of humanity has been shaped by individuals who have stood out from the faceless crowds to mould our collective destiny. Say what you will, the men and women with the greatest contributions to human civilisation — Socrates or Gandhi, Mother Teresa or Marie Curie — have never conformed to the societal norms of their day. They challenged conventions, defied laws, swam against the tide of public opinion. Socrates was even sentenced to death by poison to protect the public good from the supposed 'moral corruption' of his philosophical questioning.</p>	<p>A1 (technique): By providing examples of individuals from different fields/walks of life/professions / across different periods of history / both male and female / famous people in history who dared to <i>(X) 'different examples' alone</i> <i>* Answer must show insight into the TYPE of examples that are used</i></p> <p>A2 (context): question tradition/established ways of thinking/behaving / go against legal decrees and disagree with society's beliefs/thinking</p> <p>B1 (technique): By providing the example of Socrates / an individual / someone</p> <p>B2 (context): who gave/sacrificed his life to safeguard society</p> <p>A1 + A2 for 1m B1 + B2 for 1m</p>

6. Explain what the author means by saying that a simple question of governance has 'exploded into a greater debate of philosophical significance' (lines 11-12). [2]

Lifted	Inferred
<p>A simple question of governance has exploded into a greater debate of philosophical significance.</p>	<p>The simple issue of governance has</p> <p>A (exploded): blown up / blown out of proportion / escalated into</p> <p>B (greater debate): a bigger / broader / more complicated problem / contention / clash of / discussion / conversation</p> <p>C (philosophical significance): questions about deeper / fundamental reasons behind decisions / about freedom / about culture / questions about whether individualism helps or harms society (X) questions about individualism (too vague)</p> <p><i>*For point C, subject matter can focus on the idea of a 'deeper' issue, or an inferred point about concepts of 'freedom' or 'culture' or 'governance'</i></p> <p>1-2pts: 1m 3 pts: 2m</p>

7. In lines 13-17, how does the author try to [REDACTED] that 'radical individuals can be just as altruistic' as those who conform? [2]

Lifted	Inferred
<p>But individualism has been maligned. Critics praise the herd mentality of conformist societies as enlightened and unselfish. Yet they do not recognise that the most radical individuals can be just as altruistic, if not more so. Consider Jesus Christ, who founded a whole new religion by dying for the sins of others. Is there anything more selfless than sacrificing oneself to challenge the dominant religious beliefs of the day in order to bring a message of salvation?</p>	<p>A (Use of counter-argument and rebuttal): He highlights what critics believe about the benefits of herd mentality and provides a rebuttal to that argument.</p> <p>B (Use of comparative language): He uses comparative language to show how the altruism of radical individuals is equivalent to / exceeds / surpasses that of the virtuous collective</p> <p>C (Citing iconic religious figure): He uses the example of Jesus Christ / the founder of a major religion / a recognizable religious figure / deity / divinity who we can relate to / who appeals to our sense of belief or faith <i>* Answer must capture the effect of the use of example * Mere paraphrasing of the text will not suffice * Context of religion must be clear in the answer</i></p> <p>D (Use of rhetorical question): He uses a rhetorical question to assert that the individualistic actions of Jesus Christ / a religious icon were the ultimate example of altruism.</p> <p>Any 2pts for 2m</p>

* Focus of the question is how the author tries to **CONVINCE**, in comparison to how he tries to **SUPPORT** his point (Q5).

8. What does the rhetorical question in lines 26-27 imply about herd behaviour? [1]

Lifted	Inferred
<p><i>If everyone else is going along, how could it be wrong?</i></p>	<p>Herd behaviour (implied quality / trait)</p> <p>A (underlying cause): is driven by a belief that the majority must be right / driven by unquestioning trust / a lazy acceptance of social norms / is supported by misplaced trust / is unthinking</p> <p>B (influence): is alluring / comforting / easily traps one in an illusion that they are right / impairs our critical reasoning / makes us all complicit in evil / insidious</p> <p>C (unexpected outcome): can be shockingly/surprisingly wrong / lead one to place unwarranted trust in it</p> <p><i>(X) anything positive / everyone is doing it (too descriptive) / it is a bad idea (vague) / it is all wrong / we just follow the crowd (paraphrased) / it can be wrong</i></p> <p>Any 1pt for 1m</p>

9. In paragraph 5, identify three benefits of encouraging a culture that celebrates individuality. Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

Lifted	Paraphrased
<p>Finally, where would we be today without the creative genius of Thomas Edison, Steve Jobs or Elon Musk? It is no surprise that it is the United States of America, a nation that upholds individual freedom and expression as a matter of principle, that has allowed the scientific and technological innovation of these entrepreneurs to lead us into a whole new world of bright lights, smartphones and electric cars. A culture celebrating divergent individuals has allowed these geniuses to challenge conventional beliefs and achieve the seemingly impossible. Time and time again, individualism has improved our lives.</p>	<p>The benefits are</p> <p>A (creative genius; innovation): being able to come up with novel ideas / grooming brilliant people with ideas/products/inventions / thinking out of the box / greater advancements and progress</p> <p>B (challenge conventional beliefs): people are able / encouraged to question the status quo</p> <p>C (achieve the seemingly impossible): attain what appeared to be unthinkable / far-fetched / out of reach</p> <p>D (time and time again improved our lives): repeatedly enhance our lives / continuously make our lives better</p> <p>E (inferred; upholds individual freedom and expression): becoming a country of people who prize being unique and having the liberty to stand out in a crowd</p>

Any 3pts for 3m

10. In paragraph 6, what **two** distinctions does the author make between individualism and the herd mentality? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted	Paraphrased / Inferred
<p>It is easy to seek the comforts of a herd mentality, giving into fear in an age of uncertainty and constant surveillance. But it would be far braver, and far more necessary, to make room for individualism still. As individuals, we have to step out of our comfort zone and fight our fears in order to forge ahead as a society of diverse, independent thinkers, rather than a mindless mass of soulless puppets.</p>	<p>The distinctions are</p> <p>A (seek comforts vs. step out of comfort zone): While living with a herd mentality might make us keep to / remain / stick with what is routine / simple / safe, individualism pushes one to do things we would not normally do / to change / challenge what is accepted / be daring. <i>*Focus is on actions</i></p> <p>B (fear vs. bravery): The herd mentality is grounded in anxiety / cowardice / makes us more anxious, but individualism requires us to overcome these worries / apprehensions / be courageous. <i>* Focus is on emotions</i></p> <p>C (diverse, independent thinkers vs. mindless mass of soulless puppets): Individualism creates people who are able to discern well / analyse / hold their own opinions, while the herd mentality creates robotic followers / passive people who just follow orders / fools / brainless people <i>(X) lift of 'mind' and 'think/thoughts'</i></p> <p><i>*Accept answers that are phrased as A-B-A-B if the contrasts are clear and in the right order</i></p> <p>Any 2pts for 2m</p>

4. Using material from paragraphs 3–5 only, summarise the author's criticisms of individualism and what he has to say about the importance of placing society before self.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. Use your own words as far as possible. [8]

Individualism is criticised for being....

	Point	Paraphrase	Key Idea
1	mere cover... elaborate excuse	a disguise / pretence / pretext / facade for / an invalid reason	cover/excuse
2	for selfish behaviour.	self-serving actions / acting in a manner that benefits only oneself / to look out for number one <i>*allow lift of 'self'</i>	selfish actions
3	...riders / people who benefit from the public good <i>e.g. They enjoy lower virus transmission rates and eventual herd protection when other people get vaccinated</i>	those who profit / gain from society's efforts <i>*context of society not necessary for the point</i>	benefiting
4	free-... / yet do not have to sacrifice anything for it / without taking the risk themselves <i>e.g. but refuse to take that tiny risk and get vaccinated themselves.</i>	while not contributing / give up / pay any cost <i>*allow lift of 'anything'</i>	but do not sacrifice / without taking the risk
5	They spread fake news / (opp) sticking to facts	perpetuating falsehoods / lies (opp) while others adhere to the truth	spread falsehoods
6	and call for radical action / (opp) sticking to... reasoned discourse	incite / stir / provoke rebellion / revolution / extreme behaviour <i>(X) violent</i> (opp) while others engage in thoughtful/sensible debates/discussion	call for radical action
7	while the majority keeps society from descending into total chaos.	(inferred) leading to mayhem / disorder / anarchy/ absolute breakdown of society <i>*degree must be captured</i>	chaos
8	toxic individualism	is destructive / extremely dangerous / insidious	dangerous

9	only work when a small minority indulges in them	is only tolerable when few people do it OR (inferred) cannot be sustained	only for a small minority/ unsustainable
10	greater challenge for governments...	causes a bigger problem for governments <i>Allow lift of 'governments', but context must be clear</i>	greater challenge
11	when lots of people realise they can be selfish and get away with it	when many people are selfish with impunity / are selfish without being punished	lots of people get away with selfishness
12	refuse to abide by rules	do not adhere to regulations / break the law	refuse to abide by rules
13	endangering not just others but also themselves	putting others in harm's way / risking the safety of others and even themselves OR Inferred: risking the safety of everyone <i>*Must mention who is harmed (others + self / everyone)</i>	endangering others and themselves
14	There is nothing sentimental	pragmatic / objective / not just emotional	nothing sentimental
15	It means mutual help	reciprocal assistance / assisting each other / cooperation	mutual help
16	in cases of calamity	during crises / in critical situations / when facing disaster <i>*Must capture degree</i>	in cases of calamity
17	commitment to collective survival / we must assist one another or die	being dedicated to persevering together or perish / lose our lives	survival
18	the freedom of individualism is illusory OR and that we are all in it together	the autonomy individualism promises/promotes is hollow / false / a delusion / bogus OR the reality is that we are all in the same boat / all affected by the same problem	illusory freedom
19	common good is destroyed	undermines shared interests / leads to the eradication/ elimination / total loss /	destroys common good

	even free riders may have nothing left to ride on	complete removal of what benefits the community <i>*must capture degree</i>	
20	see through the fog of fake individualism.	be able to discern / be clear about what individualism really is	see through the fog
21	interdependence is the foundation of society	interdependence is fundamental / essential / cornerstone to society / the basis of society <i>*Allow lift of 'interdependence' but context must be clear</i>	interdependence is the foundation
22	Collective approaches, when undergirded by strong infrastructure , can save lives	Collective approaches which are supported with a robust framework/system are capable of protecting lives <i>*Allow lift of 'collective approaches but context must be clear</i>	collective approaches supported by infrastructure
23	looming environmental crisis also calls for individual sacrifice	the impending climate emergency / the imminent / worsening environmental disaster	looming crisis
24	forgoing these luxuries is far easier when we give them up together	sacrificing our comforts / lifestyle choices / privileges is much more manageable / achievable / much less difficult when we do it collectively	far easier... together

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