

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

29 August 2016

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and GP tutor's name on all the work that you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue, correction fluid or correction tape.

Answer **one** question.

Note that up to **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

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

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 Do you agree that good parenting is increasingly challenging in your society today?
- 2 'The internet makes it more difficult for governments to govern today.' How far do you agree with this statement?
- 3 Discuss the view that competitive sport brings out the worst in people.
- 4 To what extent does technology complicate rather than simplify our lives?
- 5 Is education the most powerful tool we can use to make the world a better place?
- 6 'Developed nations hold the greatest responsibility in protecting the environment.' Comment.
- 7 Consider the claim that the media today misinforms more than it informs.
- 8 Is there still a place for loyalty today?
- 9 How far is your society prepared for its most pressing issues?
- 10 'Music is enjoyable, but is essentially a frivolous pursuit.' Is this a fair comment?
- 11 Examine the view that an interconnected world is a more dangerous world.
- 12 'The price of progress has been too high.' To what extent is this true of your society?

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2016

CANDIDATE'S NAME			
CLASS		GP TUTOR'S NAME	

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

29 August 2016

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.
Additional Materials: 1 Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and GP tutor's name on all the work that you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue, correction fluid or correction tape.

Answer **all** questions.
The Insert contains the passages for comprehension.
Note that up to **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

Read the passages in the insert and then answer **all** the questions which follow below. 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 passage 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 passage.

From Passage 1

1 Explain why the author says 'not all acts of deception are lies' (line 1). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

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.....
.....
..... [2]

2 Explain what the author means by 'ethical mirage' (line 44). **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

3 In paragraph 6, what are the three main reasons the author finds lies unacceptable? **Use your own words as far as possible.**

.....
.....
.....
..... [3]

From Passage 2

For
Examiner's
Use

6 What is the author's intent in asking a series of questions in paragraph 1?

.....
..... [1]

7 Why has the author placed inverted commas around 'only once' (line 12)?

.....
..... [1]

8 Explain why the author 'felt no compunction' (line 28) lying to his daughters about the use of the guillotine. Use your own words as far as possible.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

9a In paragraph 5, why does the author say leading 'a life without self-deception would be hard to navigate' (lines 37-38)? Use your own words as far as possible.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

9b What is he implying about telling lies?

.....
..... [1]

10 Suggest one reason why the author decided to lie about the title of his article.

.....
..... [1]

Ruled area with horizontal dotted lines for writing.

**2016 JC2 GP Preliminary Examination
Paper 2 Suggested Answers**

From Passage 1

1. Explain why the author says 'not all acts of deception are lies' (line 1). Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Omissions ... can be forms of deception, but they are not quite lies. We may skirt the truth... (l.6-7) ▪ but we do not deliberately manufacture falsehood or conceal important facts to the detriment of others. To lie is to intentionally mislead others when they expect honest communication. (l.7-9) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To not talk/ avoid talking about something/ to leave out/ dodge facts [1] Note: Do not accept hide ▪ is not the same as hiding/ withholding the truth or to fabricate/ make something up on purpose to cause others to have the wrong impression when others are unsuspecting. [1]

2. Explain what the author means by 'ethical mirage' (line 44). Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Justified government deception is a kind of ethical mirage: Just when you think you are reaching for it, the facts usually suggest otherwise. (l.43-45) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Just as a mirage is an image that appears to be real but is actually an illusion, [1] Note: Accept false front, veneer, façade ▪ governments appear/ seem to have morals when they lack such morals. [1] Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key point is the illusion. Do not accept answers which talk about feelings/ impression/ figment of imagination. • Structure must be present for any marks to be awarded i.e. students must attempt to provide the literal meaning of 'mirage'.

3. In paragraph 6, what are the three main reasons the author finds lies unacceptable? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ private vice and public evil are kindled... (l.47) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He argues that most wrongdoings are generated/ started/ stoked/ propagated/ fuelled [1] <p>Note: Do not accept 'encouraging'</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ and sustained by lies. (l.47) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ and perpetuated/ maintained by lying. [1] <p>Note: idea of continuity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acts of adultery and other personal betrayals... generally require a moral defect... (l.47-49) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lying is a weakness in ethics/ flaw in one's character [1] <p>Note: Do not accept 'lying shows problems/ issues in our values'; can accept 'lack of right values'</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our dishonesty not only influences the choices they make... (l.50) / Every lie is an assault on the autonomy of those we lie to. (l.51-52) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ and it also affects/ hinders/ hampers the decisions of others. / It undermines others' capacity for independent decision-making. // It impacts negatively others' sense of self. [1] <p>Note: Do not accept 'hurt/ injure people'</p> <p>(Any 3 points for 3 marks)</p>

4. Explain how 'lies are the social equivalent of toxic waste' (line 56). Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone is potentially harmed by their spread. (l.56-57) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Similar to how toxic waste is poisonous to everybody, [1] ▪ untruths/ lies can proliferate/ circulate/ be disseminated and have injurious/ damaging/ detrimental ramifications/ effects on everybody / hurt others. [1] <p>Note: intensity of 'toxic' needs to be shown. Do not accept 'bad' or 'negative'.</p>

5. Using material from paragraphs 2–4 (lines 10–38) only, summarise what the author has to say about why and how people tell lies.

Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. [8]

People lie in order to...

Lifted Answer		Suggested Paraphrase
▪ ... so that others will form beliefs that are not true , (l.10)	A1	▪ mislead others,
▪ to avoid embarrassment , (l.10)	A2	▪ escape humiliation/ shame,
▪ ... to exaggerate their accomplishments , (l.10-11)	A3	▪ brag about/ flaunt/ overemphasise/ inflate their achievements,
▪ ... to disguise wrongdoing . (l.11)	A4	▪ cover up/ mask their mistakes.
▪ They make promises they do not intend to keep . (l.11-12)	A5	▪ and fail to honour their words/ have no intention to live up to their words.
▪ They conceal defects in their products or services . (l.12)	A6	▪ They lie also to hide the flaws/ problems/ shortcomings in their work/ goods/ merchandise and
		Note: Don't accept weakness
▪ ... to mislead competitors to gain an advantage (l.12-13)	A7	▪ to give themselves an edge over their rivals and
▪ Many lie to friends and family members to spare the feelings of others . (l.13-14)	A8	▪ Many lie to avoid hurting/ out of consideration for their close kin/ loved ones.
▪ Elected officials ignore long term problems (l.20-21)	B1	▪ Politicians disregard/ dismiss/ overlook/ neglect future issues
▪ because they must pander to the short-term interests of voters. (l.21)	B2	▪ to please their present electorate. / for temporary/ immediate political gain.
▪ People working for insurance companies ... deny desperately ill patients the care they need . (l.22-23)	B3	▪ Insurers refuse medical payout/ payment to the very sick
▪ ... rely on technicalities... (l.22)	B4	▪ on grounds of loopholes/ fine print/ escape clause/ specialised language/ jargon.
▪ CEOs and investment bankers run extraordinary risks because (l.23)	B5	▪ Bankers/ Financiers take huge chances in their ventures
▪ they reap the rewards of success without suffering the penalties of failure. (l.23-24)	B6	▪ since they gain without any loss to themselves.
▪ Lawyers continue to prosecute people they know to be innocent (l.24-25)	B7	▪ Lawyers deliberately/ knowingly/ intentionally charge people wrongly

▪ because their careers depend on winning cases. (l.25-26)	B8	▪ to keep their jobs/ stay employed/ chalk up their success count/ increase their success rate/ better their job prospects.
▪ Our government fights a war on drugs ... that it pretends to solve. (l.26-27)	B9	▪ The government appears/ seems to control/ stamp out drug problems
▪ ... creates the very problem of black market profits and violence (l.26-27)	B10	▪ when its policies are responsible for creating illegal trade and crimes.
▪ Pharmaceutical companies... misleading the public about the safety and efficacy of their drugs. (l.32-33)	C1	▪ Medical companies also lie about the reliability and benefits of their medicines
▪ ... conscious attempts to rig the data. (l.34)	C2	▪ by manipulating the statistics and
▪ ... routinely hide negative results. (l.36)	C3	▪ omitting unfavourable outcomes.
▪ Consequently, ... funded trials are four times as likely to show the benefits of a new drug. (l.37-38)	C4	▪ The results of medical experiments sponsored by such companies are often positive/ to highlight the positive effects/ advantages of their products/ medicine.

Mark scheme (20 points)

1 point	1 mark	5-6 points	4 marks	11-12 points	7 marks
2 points	2 marks	7-8 points	5 marks	≥ 13 points	8 marks
3-4 points	3 marks	9-10 points	6 marks		

From Passage 2**6. What is the author's intent in asking a series of questions in paragraph 1? [1]**

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is it true that we can radically simplify our lives...? Should we consider white lies...? Is fibbing to make someone feel better...? (l.2-5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He uses different / diverse /varied situations where people lie to show the moral ambiguity that lying throws up. [1] / ▪ He wants us to think about the varied/ intensity of situations/ circumstances where lying may be more necessary than others. [1] / ▪ He wants to provoke thought/ wants readers to think deeper/ further. [1] <p>Note: Do not accept 'intrigue/ attract the reader', 'raising scepticism/ doubt', 'directly challenging/ disagreeing'</p>

7. Why has the author placed inverted commas around 'only once' (line 12)? [1]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yet Harris, ..., tells us how he lied to his five-year-old daughter 'only once' (l.11-12) (inferred) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He is casting doubt on Harris. / He does not think Harris has been truthful. / He does not believe what Harris is saying. [1] <p>Note: Accept neutral words like cynical/ sceptical/ disbelieving Do not accept sarcastic, sardonic, irony, paradox, critical, mocking etc</p>

8. Explain why the author 'felt no compunction' (line 28) lying to his daughters about the use of the guillotine. Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ... to protect the innocence of very young children (l.22-23) ▪ No good reason to explain the details of fundamentalist religious terrorism... or medieval torture... (l.24-25) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He felt that/ was doing his job as a parent to shield his children from cruelty/ trauma/ stress [1] ▪ and that there was no need/ necessity/ a lack of strong/ convincing/ pressing cause/ basis for telling them gory/ graphic truths/ cruelty. [1]

9a. In paragraph 5, why does the author say leading 'a life without self-deception would be hard to navigate' (line 37-38)? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We fool ourselves into doing a lot of difficult and painful and expensive but good and worthy things... Doing truth-laid-bare cost-benefit analyses of every decision we face is no way to confront the challenges of life. (l.38-41) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To cope with the difficulties one faces in life, [1] ▪ it is not feasible/ possible/ advisable to deliberate over/ carefully think through each moment/ action. [1] ▪ We need to fool/ delude/ trick ourselves into doing daunting yet beneficial tasks. [1] <p>(Any 2 points for 2 marks)</p>

9b. What is he implying about telling lies? [1]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<p>(inferred)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He is implying that lies are necessary/ inevitable part and parcel of life/ intrinsic/ part of human nature. [1] <p>Note: Do not accept beneficial, helpful, acceptable, justified</p>

10. Suggest one reason why the author decided to lie about the title of his article. [1]

Lifted Answer	Suggested Paraphrase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I admit I've deceived you. I do not have a third. There was just something about the headline... that seemed a little lacking. (l.42-43) 	<p>He wanted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to show the reader that lying is no big deal/ not all bad. / ▪ to make the title sound better/ good/ interesting. / ▪ to include a witty/ clever punchline in the paragraph. <p>Note: Do not accept normal, make readers reflect, raise awareness, promote his article, controversial, inject humour</p>

11. Sam Harris writes about why people lie and the consequences of lying, while Steven Mazie argues that there are good reasons for telling lies. How far would you agree or disagree with the opinions expressed in these two passages? Relate your views to your own society.

R1: How far would you agree or disagree with the author's opinions

- state your stand in relation to each observation from both passages
- strive for some balance within your stand for each observation

R2: The author's opinions [R2a for the 1st issue/ R2b for the 2nd issue and so on]

- the author's opinions must be those which are related to the reasons for people lying and consequences of lying
- look through the passage for those reasons cited by the author

You and your society

- the relevant characteristics of your society must be clearly spelt out right at the start and discussed throughout the AQ answer.
- do not engage in generic discussions about the topic of lying
- to ensure that your discussion is clearly related to your society. You should refer to the traits of people in your society –
 - their lifestyles, mind-set, attitudes, behaviour
 - circumstances that are prevalent in your society, e.g. conservative, pragmatic, face-saving culture...
- different groups of people in your society – different groups will exhibit different traits, have different experiences and as a result, the same observation is true to different degrees for different groups

Requirements:

- The AQ response should address **both passages**.
- There should be at least **one issue on the consequences of lying** and at least **one issue on good reasons for lying**
- Apply clearly to Singapore's context. Reference to Singapore should not only appear in the example.
- Address 'how far you would agree or disagree' - explain the exceptions & discuss the extent.
- There must be a clear explanation to show the relevance of the example to the question requirement.

From Passage 1

Observation 1 (appeal to logic)

Harris claims that many people 'lie so that others will form beliefs that are not true, to avoid embarrassment, to exaggerate their accomplishments and to disguise wrongdoing.' (I.10-11)

- **There is a diminished sense of self-responsibility that accrues to people in my society, Singapore, when they lie to influence the beliefs of others around them. The common thread is that they intentionally want to deceive or mislead others;**

what they might differ in is in terms of whether their intentions are pure or malicious. (EV/EX)

- Among Asian parents in Singapore, there is a tendency to shy away from revealing to others exactly how well their child is doing, for example in school. **This most probably stems from the practice of the virtues of modesty and humility. (EX)** Yet, this is gradually changing as more and more young parents appreciate the value of practising the virtues of candour and honesty, and rid themselves of the mindset that being frank about their child's achievements is being boastful. (EV) There is also the prevalence of a face-saving culture among parents, as they play down the accomplishments of their children. (EV)
- In 2015, a man lied about his address in order to register his child in a prestigious school for Primary 1. **Despite knowing the consequences of providing false information, the 'kiasu' mentality of Singaporean parents and the strong desire for academic success pushes them to lie. (EV)**
- With increased competition among retailers in Singapore, there has been a surge in unscrupulous or unethical business practices being reported, as well as complaints made to bodies such as CASE. Jover Chew, a former owner of a shop selling mobile telephones in Sim Lim Square, misrepresented his products continuously in his sales pitches to his customers, and hence caused them to believe they were paying for what they truly intended to purchase. However, after they had made their purchase, he then introduced other hidden aspects of the sale that they had to fork out more money for. In his case, he was wilfully lying to his customers in pre-sale pitches. **Such behaviour, however, was not condoned by netizens on social media (EV)**, and when a video went viral showing Chew abusing a kneeling Vietnamese customer in his shop, this proved to be Chew's undoing.
- Even though it is mandatory for donation collectors to produce a copy of the collector's Certificate of Authority, issued by the police or the National Council of Social Service, it is often difficult for the donors to tell if the documentation is legitimate or otherwise. It is easy for these wrongdoers to exploit this loophole and forge the documentation to further their scams. Moreover, most people do not even bother to check such documents as it may be embarrassing or too troublesome to expose the cheats. **Being Asians, Singaporeans prefer to avoid embarrassing situations. Given that many Singaporeans also tend to be preoccupied with many other aspects of their lives, they would prefer not to be troubled by such nitty-gritty details. (EV)**

Observation 2 (relevance across time/ relevance to stakeholders)

Harris argues that in different cross-sections of society, there are cases of 'otherwise normal men and women' who are caught up in lying and consequently 'making the world much less good than it could be' (l.19-20), thus shining the spotlight on individuals who lack integrity and cause harm with their lies.

However, in the context of Singapore, which boasts a strong culture (or ethos) of being corruption-free, there is an unspoken agreement among people that honesty is the best policy. This arguably does not hold true for the majority of individuals here. Yet, it may also be considered as an institutionalised form of indoctrination, whereby this ethos subsumes the predilection of human nature to fallibly serve one's self-interest, and to lie if necessary to achieve such an end.

- Politicians are paid higher than those from other countries, in recognition of their intellectual competencies and abilities, not to mention their academic credentials. The

headhunting is systematic with an eye to renewal of leadership. **As such, these politicians will be paid commensurate to their expectations if they were to be in the private sector, and would thus have less propensity to be involved in corruption (EG/EV).** This is important as politicians control much of the sovereign wealth and resources of the nation, and have to therefore be men of impeccable character. (EV/EX) As a further validation, in Transparency International's Corruptions Perception Index 2015, Singapore was ranked the 8th least corrupt nation in the world. (EG/EV)

- Despite the increasing work demands today, more man-in-the-street Singaporeans have surfaced as unsung heroes or paragons of honesty and integrity. Taxi-drivers would return money and valuables unconditionally to passengers who have left them in their taxis. Valuing honesty and truth is inculcated in schoolchildren, and there are regular sessions of acknowledgment of students who have upheld the truth. **However, it could also be said that this form of honesty is very much controlled and that there might be instances of default or of mere paying of lip service. (EX/EV)**
- Public officials are held to high standards. The NKF scandal was broken by mainstream media, The Straits Times, in 2005. Subsequently, high-flying CEO T T Durai was convicted of embezzlement, and took a long time to recover from the public recrimination, with the help of Gerard Ee being brought in to manage the NKF during the crisis. **This was a clear indication that no one, even if he was a high-flying and respected official, would be above the law when it came to lying and being dishonest about public money. (EV/EX)**

Observation 3 (differences across societies/relevance to stakeholders)

Harris claims that many people have become 'painfully aware that our trust in government, corporations and other public institutions have been undermined by lies' (I.28-29).

Harris further argues that lies that are huge have 'led many people to reflexively distrust those in positions of authority' (I.39). This also applies to those who are carrying identification of their positions of authority or authorisation.

- **In a relatively conservative Asian society like Singapore, there has been a traditional tendency on the part of the people to behave in accordance with the rules of civil obedience. This is often demonstrated through the showing of trust in 'public institutions' by the people, instead of their organising themselves into groups in order to protest or to carry out activities that comprise civil disobedience. (EV)**
- **However, there has been an increasing trend towards being more aligned with Harris' claim that people have become cognisant that such trusted institutions have been lying and, as a result, have eroded the trust of the people (EV).** Furthermore, the manner of carrying out rectification or restitution on the part of these public offices has been less than forthcoming. It is hence **difficult to expect people to continue to exhibit what the government and other public offices might deem to be appropriate acquiescent or compliant behaviour, in the face of falsehoods or deceptions that have not been satisfactorily cleared up (EV).**
- The recent AGO report on lack of financial management in government expenditures is a case in point (EG). While we acknowledge that there would be instances when financial management could have areas for improvement, the amount of money involved, across a sizeable number of government ministries and statutory boards,

evokes a high level of distrust in the people, who are taxpayers and hence stakeholders **in how public money is to be spent (EX/EV).**

- Further to the above example, news of hairline cracks found in some new MRT trains, resulting in their being shipped back to the Chinese manufacturer, was broken by Factwire, a HK-based online journalism portal. This embarrassed the LTA and SMRT, as they were found to have been covering up the incident, by not having said anything about it. This thus brought into question the transparency of large organisations that owed a duty of care to the public. **While the glaring omission was a serious breach of public trust, Minister Khaw came forth to explain in the media that this was undertaken with good intentions, in the name of public safety and for the sake of not alarming citizens unnecessarily. (EV)**
- In 2015, BreadTalk was found guilty of deception, in misleading consumers about the fresh preparation of its soya bean milk, which actually originated from beverage giant Yeo Hiap Seng and was re-packaged by them. Though BreadTalk apologised and made restitution by selling the drink from dispensers instead, the apology did little to quell criticism from customers, and severely impacted their business. BreadTalk's explanation on its Facebook page attracted over 300 comments, mostly acrimonious, including allegations of cover-ups by BreadTalk staff. **This backlash from social media shows how companies that wilfully deceive consumers in Singapore would be highlighted by the check-and-balance mechanism of social media, and subsequently bear the brunt of a loss of reputation and credibility. (EV)** Similarly, in the case of timeshare companies, over 100 cases are filed annually in Singapore with CASE or the police, alleging wrongdoing through salespersons misrepresenting facts or misleading consumers, thus resulting in contractual breaches. This alarming statistic was highlighted in Parliament by Mr Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry, and **became a cause for concern. (EX)**
- In response to concerns about some recent high-profile cases involving ex-school principals embezzling school funds (e.g. ex-Principal of Maris Stella High School) or procuring the services of under-aged prostitutes (ex-Principal of Pei Chun Public School), teachers who hold positions of authority in educating children have witnessed a partial erosion of trust for educators. **The cases involving teachers having affairs with their students and thus being exposed as having lied to their charges and abused their trust further undermined public confidence in teachers' exemplary conduct and trustworthiness. The seriousness of the situation warranted a nationwide MOE-initiated re-training of all educators in Code of Conduct practices they had to adhere to.** There have also been criminal breach of trust and falsification cases involving high-ranking government officials (e.g. a former CPIB chief), as well as those who are custodians of public organisations such as Pastor Kong Hee of City Harvest Church and his lies about not using church funds to finance the music career of his wife Sun Ho; Reverend Ming Yi of Ren Ci Hospital was similarly found guilty of embezzlement to finance the purchase of a race-horse and a condominium).
- In July 2016, a string of scientific data falsification cases involving researchers from multiple institutions in Singapore were exposed in an investigation. This led to six papers being retracted, academic appointments terminated and one PhD degree revoked. Professor Kambadur held joint appointments at NTU's School of Biological Sciences and A* Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences, both of which have since been terminated. **The public's trust in key tertiary institutions such as the Nanyang Technological University, the National Neurological Institute and A*Star has been severely eroded as a result. (EV)**

- There have been several instances of fake donation schemes in which syndicates masquerade as legitimate charity organisations to ask for donations and swindle people of their money. It was reported by the Straits Times in 2013 that even two years after their misdeeds were first highlighted, fake fund-raisers are still soliciting donations under the name of the Yellow Ribbon Project. However, the project has continuously stressed that it was neither conducting any public fund-raising nor had authorised anyone to do so on its behalf. In similar vein, the the Singapore Red Cross, the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD), the Diabetic Society of Singapore, St Luke's ElderCare and Willing Hearts have all reported that their names were abused by so-called "fund-raisers". **Such scams do legitimate charities no favours, and the public has since then become chary of and averse to donating to these organisations, due to the confusion and the high propensity of being a victim of a scam. (EV)**

From Passage 2

Observation 1 (relevance to stakeholders)

Mazie argues that Harris' stance is 'absolutist' (I.1) and that he fails to recognise that not all lies are the same as 'white lies' (I.3) and 'fibbing to make someone feel better' cannot be viewed in the same way as intentionally deceiving someone. This is especially true in the context of Singapore and it is vital to distinguish between the different types of lies.

- Psychologists often refer to white lies as 'pro-social lying' or 'social lies' that protects one's feelings and can actually be good for a relationship. It could help to smooth over an awkward situation and protect fragile egos. If you could spare someone's feelings, what harm is there in telling a lie? Yes, the dress may be hideous, but do we really need to hurt one's feelings? Yes, the proposal idea may be ridiculous, but do we have to discard one's efforts?
- The face-saving culture generally makes Singaporeans smooth over difficult situations. In work settings or even school settings, social lying makes it easier for us to function and, at times, save face, or help us to keep up appearances better. Many employees in Singapore would assure their boss that it is no problem working long hours in hope of better prospects for future promotion. Conversations can avoid becoming awkward and unnecessarily rude, and social interactions, including friendships and romantic relationships, could easily be derailed if people were to tell each other the truth all the time. Yes, there may be an intention to deceive, but it is well intended.
- It also serves as a form of self-preservation. Within the Third Culture Kid (TCK) [TCK is a term used to refer to children who were raised in a culture outside of their parents' culture for a significant part of their development years.] community, there is much distaste for the question, 'Where are you from?' It's indicative of the confused identity that comes innately with a TCK status. This is most often seen among returning Singaporeans who at times end up lying as they are uncertain about the reactions they will get or they see no point in having to explain their range of countries they have resided in or why there is a stark difference in how they sound and look. Such a basic instinct to protect oneself, cannot be lumped together with wrongful or criminal deception and this is obviously a good reason for lying.

Observation 2 (appeal to values/ relevance across time)

Mazie argues that telling lies can protect the innocence of very young children (I.22-23). Though it may seem morally wrong to advocate lying and being a negative role model to children, it does seem true that telling lies may be necessary, especially to protect young children. It may be wiser to wait till the child is more 'mature' (I.34) and that would enable them to handle the information better.

- Why would a young child need to know the gory truths about a rape, murder or terrorism just because it is in the news every day? Even adults cannot wrap their minds around why such things are happening. How does one then explain this to a child who has no concept at all? Hiding such details does not equate to lying. It does seem extremely reasonable that we spare the child the unnecessary details or the grim truths where it is of little or no relevance to the child at the moment.
- Given the safe and secure Singapore, it is only natural for parents to want to protect their child from the harsh realities of the world. Furthermore, the highly wired Singaporean society enables the children to have access or enables them to potentially encounter numerous harmful or unnecessary material. As a result, it is only natural that Singaporean parents have become more protective of their children in recent years and would take precautionary measures to ensure that their child is safe.
- In July 2014, the National Library removed two children's books from the shelves in response to the public's complaints that these books do not promote family values and are not appropriate for children. 'And Tango Makes Three' is based on the true story of a pair of male penguins who raise a chick together; 'The White Swan Express' features adoptive parents such as a lesbian couple. Conservative Singaporean parents felt that these books were not promoting 'pro-family' values and were viewed to be against the traditional norms of our society. However, it is important to recognise that there are exceptions within our society. A group of young and educated parents, organised a reading session of the above mentioned books and view this exposure as a natural process that need not be hid from children.
- However, while it is important to protect children, being over-protective may result in more harm than good. The conservative nature often makes Singaporeans shy away from discussing taboo subjects. So even in the case where the child is of an appropriate age or maturity, it is unlikely that parents would talk to their child. In the old days, parents could avoid speaking to their children about taboo subjects like sex. However in today's society, with the high Internet penetration rate, children are IT-savvy at a very young age and are resourceful. The digital age threats are pervasive which has resulted in the introduction of Cyber wellness and Sexuality Education programmes in schools. Despite the availability of such programmes, it is not unusual to see parents opting their child out of the programme. Not preparing children to face handle the information may result in greater harm. As such, it may be wiser to tailor the information according to the child and circumstances rather than merely protecting them blindly.

Observation 3 (appeal to logic, relevance to stakeholders)

Mazie suggests that life without some self-deception would be hard to navigate (I. 37-38) At first glance, we may dismiss this as being morally flawed, but if we look at it logically, it does seem valid. It is extremely true that 'doing truth-laid-bare cost-benefit analyses of every decision we face is no way to confront the challenges of life' (I.40-41)

- An absolute moral rule such as 'never lie' suggests that one must tell the truth in all circumstances, regardless of the consequences. But we live in the real world.

Singaporeans are a pragmatic lot. We might value honesty and want to be honest, but we sometimes value other qualities at the same time, such as compassion or loyalty. Sometimes, two goals come into conflict. If one tells the truth, one will be unkind, and if one says something kind, it will be a lie. Sometimes when people lie to the ones they love, it is because they are valuing something else more than honesty. Maybe they are trying to be loyal, or to avoid hurting the other person's feelings.

- From an early age, Singaporeans are taught that not everything can be shared in public. There is importance placed on being 'politically correct' and exercising tact in how one relates to others. Many assure their team mates that they are coping fine and not overwhelmed with work in order not to hurt team dynamics. Such situations are often harmless and are obviously apparent and necessary in our daily lives.
- Furthermore, though it may sound wrong, some jobs or situations does require one to lie. Lying to patients does destroy the trust between a patient and doctor. However, good doctors care deeply for their patients. Most would want as far as possible to spare them physical and psychological pain and would occasionally find it hard to resist the temptation to give hope even if there seems to be none. It is also not uncommon for relatives of terminally ill patients to ask the doctors not to reveal the diagnosis to the patients. The Singapore Medical Council made a provision for it in its Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines. Section 4.2.4.2 of the ethical code states: "There may be instances of a patient's relatives asking that the patient not be told that he has a fatal or socially embarrassing disease. A doctor may not withhold this information from the patient unless the doctor determines that this is in the best interest of the patient. Doctors shall recognise the role of the family in the decision about whether to disclose a diagnosis to a patient and address their concerns adequately."
- While this might be true, it is important to note that self-deception cannot be condoned at all times. It is important to take note of the intent and circumstances and becoming comfortable with lying can result in one lying out of convenience rather than necessity.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2016

GENERAL PAPER

8807/02

Paper 2

29 August 2016

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passages for Paper 2.

Passage 1. *Sam Harris discusses the problems with lying.*

- 1 Deception can take many forms, but not all acts of deception are lies. A person in a hurry might pretend not to notice an acquaintance passing by on the street. A polite host might not acknowledge that a guest has said something stupid. When asked 'How are you?', most of us reflexively say that we are well, understanding the question to be merely a greeting, rather than an invitation to discuss our career disappointments, our marital troubles, or the condition of our bowels. Omissions of this kind can be forms of deception, but they are not quite lies. We may skirt the truth at such moments, but we do not deliberately manufacture falsehood or conceal important facts to the detriment of others. To lie is to intentionally mislead others when they expect honest communication. 5
- 2 People lie so that others will form beliefs that are not true, to avoid embarrassment, to exaggerate their accomplishments and to disguise wrongdoing. They make promises they do not intend to keep. They conceal defects in their products or services. They mislead competitors to gain an advantage. Many lie to friends and family members to spare their feelings. However, when we presume to lie for the benefit of others, we have decided that we are the best judges of how much they should understand about their own lives. Unless someone is suicidal or otherwise on the brink, deciding how much he should know about himself seems the quintessence of arrogance. What attitude could be more disrespectful of those we care about? 10 15
- 3 In many walks of life, we find otherwise normal men and women caught in the same trap and busily making the world much less good than it could be. Elected officials ignore long-term problems because they must pander to the short-term interests of voters. People working for insurance companies rely on technicalities to deny desperately ill patients the care they need. CEOs and investment bankers run extraordinary risks because they reap the rewards of success without suffering the penalties of failure. Lawyers continue to prosecute people they know to be innocent because their careers depend on winning cases. Our government fights a war on drugs that creates the very problem of black-market profits and violence that it pretends to solve. 20 25
- 4 Most of us are now painfully aware that our trust in government, corporations, and other public institutions have been undermined by lies. Lying has precipitated or prolonged wars. When the truth finally emerges after wars, people grow more cynical and come to doubt the legitimacy of any military intervention, whatever the stated motive. Pharmaceutical companies have also been widely criticised for misleading the public about the safety and efficacy of their drugs. This misinformation comes in many degrees, but some of it is surely the result of conscious attempts to rig the data. New drugs are often compared with placebos rather than with standard therapies. More egregious still, pharmaceutical companies routinely hide negative results. For certain drugs, more than 50 per cent of the trial data has been withheld. Consequently, the industry-funded trials are four times as likely to show the benefits of a new drug. 30 35
- 5 Big lies have led many people to reflexively distrust those in positions of authority. As a result, it is now impossible to say anything of substance on numerous subjects without many expressing paralysing doubts about even the most reputable sources of information. The need for state secrets is obvious. However, the need for governments to lie to their own people seems to me to be virtually non-existent. Justified government deception is a kind of ethical mirage: Just when you think you are reaching for it, the facts usually suggest otherwise. The harm occasioned whenever lies of this kind are uncovered is all but irreparable. 40 45

- 6 Most forms of private vice and public evil are kindled and sustained by lies. Acts of adultery and other personal betrayals, financial fraud and government corruption generally require a moral defect: a willingness to lie. By lying, we deny others our view of the world. Our dishonesty not only influences the choices they make. It often determines the choices they can make – in ways we cannot always predict. Every lie is an assault on the autonomy of those we lie to. 50
- 7 The lies of the powerful lead us to distrust governments and corporations. The lies of the weak make us callous toward the suffering of others. The lies of the conspiracy theorists raise doubts about the honesty of whistle-blowers, even when they are telling the truth. Lies are the social equivalent of toxic waste. Everyone is potentially harmed by their spread. 55

Passage 2. *Steven Mazie argues that there are reasons for telling lies.*

- 1 I found myself with furrowed brow over Sam Harris' absolutist stance against telling tales. Is it true that we can radically simplify our lives and improve society by merely telling the truth in situations where others often lie? Should we consider white lies as sinful as blatant lies? Is fibbing to make someone feel better as morally outrageous as lying to the world about a sexting affair or a scandal? 5
- 2 As a new fan of the Netflix series *House of Cards*, I find Harris' red line against deception curious. You do not have to admire the two-faced, manipulative characters on the show to find a smidgen of yourself in there somewhere. You also do not have to be a Machiavellian to see some truth in Machiavelli's dictum that success requires exercising a little cunning. If you forswear playing the fox, you will eventually get played for the fool. Yet Harris, doe-eyed and staring straight into the camera, tells us how he lied to his five-year-old daughter 'only once'. He recounted how they were looking for nursery rhymes on the Internet and landed on a page that showed a 16th-century woodcut of a person being decapitated. He was hurriedly scrolling elsewhere and his daughter demanded to know what they had just seen. He said something silly, 'That was an old and very impractical form of surgery.' According to him, this left his daughter perplexed and she remained unaware of man's inhumanity to man to this day. However, I doubt that even that lie was necessary. 10 15
- 3 This little example serves to establish Harris as nearly as human as the rest of us. Even moral absolutists can err, he implies, but they can mend their ways. But is there anything to mend here? What exactly is wrong with the way Harris responded to his daughter's question? His anecdote illustrates one good reason to lie: to protect the innocence of very young children. I am not arguing parents should present the world as all sugarplums and fairy dust. My claim is that there is no good reason to explain the details of fundamentalist religious terrorism to a three-year-old, or medieval torture to a four-year-old. When my daughters were three and four and we arrived on this page of the book 'Madeline and the Bad Hat', the question inevitably arose: what is that thing? I explained away the guillotine as a device for chopping onions. And I felt no compunction about telling the lie. 20 25

- 4 Some time later, once the girls were fully aware that real-life dead chickens are an essential ingredient in chicken soup, I disclosed that the guillotine was actually used to chop off the chickens' heads. They gulped but did not freak out. Most notably, they did not seem horrified or insulted that I had withheld this information from them. A little later, I went a step further and explained that guillotines were not designed only, or primarily, for chickens. My girls understood that as they became more mature, they were able to handle more information about this neck-slicing apparatus without bursting into tears. They appreciated, quietly but surely, that I did not spill all the beans when they were wee. 30 35
- 5 Nobody should aspire to living a lie, but a life without some self-deception would be hard to navigate. We fool ourselves into doing a lot of difficult and painful and expensive but good and worthy things, from running marathons to having children to going to graduate school. Doing truth-laid-bare cost-benefit analyses of every decision we face is no way to confront the challenges of life. 40
- 6 So my article, Three Good Reasons to Tell a Lie, gives you two good reasons to tell a lie. I admit I have deceived you. I do not have a third. There was just something about the headline "Two Good Reasons to Tell a Lie" that seemed a little lacking.