



HWA CHONG INSTITUTION
C2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Higher 1

CANDIDATE NAME

CT GROUP

CENTRE NUMBER

INDEX NUMBER

GENERAL PAPER

8807/01

Paper 1

24 August 2022

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet

1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, CT group, Centre number and index number in the boxes above.

An answer booklet will be provided with this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **one** question.

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

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

Write only in dark blue or black pen.
You are reminded of the importance of careful planning,
legible handwriting, and good presentation.
 Submit your Question Paper and Answer Booklet **separately**
 at the end of this examination.

This document consists of 2 printed pages.

[Turn over

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. Are leaders causing rather than solving the problems the world is facing today?
2. 'We must eliminate all forms of inequality.' How realistic is this for your society?
3. Can the press be expected to hold the powerful to account?
4. How far would you agree that artificial intelligence is a cause for concern?
5. To what extent does pop culture affect young people in harmful ways?
6. Do people in your society work harder than is good for them?
7. 'We are allowing our love of technology to limit us.' What do you think?
8. Should we seek to enhance life at all cost?
9. 'Given what countries stand to lose, there is no place for war.' Discuss.
10. 'Our need for comfort and convenience is the greatest obstacle to environmental protection.' Comment.
11. Is conformity ever desirable?
12. Why read when you can watch the film or television adaptation?



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Higher 1

Candidate
Name

CT
Group

Index
Number

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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

This 2-page Insert contains the passages for comprehension. Please detach it and fill in your particulars in the boxes above. You will have to submit this Insert separately at the end of the examination.

Passage 1: David Robson argues there are downsides to attractiveness

- 1 In films, the *femme fatale** character whose charms ensnare her lovers, finds her predecessor in the literary figure of Helen of Troy. Famously referred to as "the face that launched a thousand ships" in Homer's *Iliad*, Helen was so beguiling that a competition to win her hand resulted in the Trojan War. Is it not evident then that attractiveness can be a weapon of mass destruction? Still, most people are incredulous when they realise there are downsides to being drop-dead gorgeous. 5
- 2 Some historians believe it was in Ancient Greece that the misrepresentation of beauty as competence originated. The full-lipped, cheek-chiselled man was deemed doubly blessed as his flawless exterior encased an inner perfection. Today, those with symmetrical features and striking figures are likewise regarded as more knowledgeable collaborators than they truly are. Yet at performance assessments, envy-related hostility holds both genders back. The achievements of stunning feminine associates are condescendingly dismissed and scathing doubt is cast on the abilities of that office beefcake. For positions of authority, it can pay to be plain. 10
- 3 In addition, there are dire consequences when we overrate attractiveness. To be crowned the fairest of them all, in Victorian times, women bled themselves and men applied white-lead potions, to transfigure even the sallowest of skins. In the East, the Chinese used foot-binding techniques to achieve pretty doll-like feet, reflecting an equally dubious obsession with beauty. In more contemporary times, good looks are correlated with robust constitutions, resulting in illnesses being taken far less seriously when they afflict the attractive. Even in supposedly incorruptible courts, there are also reports of our beauty bias affecting legal judgements with more severe fines levied on the less attractive. 15 20
- 4 In terms of interpersonal relationships, beauty is a gift that bites. People are intimidated by exquisite women and will give a wide berth to the virile males they encounter. "It is peculiar that beauty which conveys power attracts believers, yet breeds isolation and loneliness simultaneously," says social psychologist Tonya Frevert. Little wonder online dating sites like OKCupid report that people with flawless profile pictures are less likely to find matches than those with quirkiest ones. Who would have the audacity to invite Lisa of South Korean girl group Blackpink, crowned the World's Most Beautiful Face in 2022 or YouTube star PewDiePie, voted the globe's Most Handsome Face of 2020, out for a date? 25 30
- 5 For those born under the Beauty star, the bubble of beauty is the proverbial albatross round their necks. Believed to have an unflagging audience of admirers worshipping at their feet, how could these Gods and Goddesses of the Body ever be adrift or alone? In their temples, surely they are above the manifold troubles the run-of-the-mill wrestle with? This elevation of beauty to the level of godliness is encouraged by the influence of social media and the online curation of perfect images, making the beautiful easy targets for derision. How dare they complain when Fortune has smiled on them? Adding insult to injury, such stereotyping of the beautiful subjects them to undue mental stress and anxiety. 35
- 6 Indeed, beauty is a paradox with the *femme fatale* an empowering but sexist archetype. Recently, Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer was widely panned for flaunting her looks in a Vogue editorial instead of celebrated for her corporate achievements. If even an accomplished tech-Titan like Mayer could be disparaged as a "career-obsessed Barbie" after one glamorous photoshoot, clearly, being beautiful can be beastly. 40

**Femme Fatale* - an attractive woman who leads men into dangerous or disastrous situations

Passage 2: Kathy Buccio extols the benefits of attractiveness

- 1 In the 1970s, when ecologists decided on a radical single species conservation line of action to save the endangered, they began with "Save the tiger", "Save the whale" and so on. Charismatic megafauna like the cute and cuddly giant panda has clearly benefitted acutely from this campaign. Aesthetic attractiveness has unsurprisingly yielded an effectual means to reverse the decline of a fragile species. 5
- 2 Similarly blessed are those of us bestowed with a higher beauty quotient and these advantages in fact start remarkably early. Attractive children are venerated like royalty with mothers and fathers showering affection on these cherubs. Cosseted and pampered with all the trappings needed to complement their attractiveness, an encouraging atmosphere envelops such children. Even the acknowledgement from strangers who coo and fawn over enchanting infants contributes to their emotional growth. 10
- 3 In school, teachers too accord the appealing child special treatment, judging him as more likely to get ahead in life. As expected, the fine-looking young man is subsequently selected for key leadership positions and offered the coaching to turn out well. This preferential investment of resources - which psychologists term the halo effect - allows him to manifest the affirmative traits ascribed to him, later on in life. He can then blossom into a poised adult who will enjoy a lifetime of bliss. 15
- 4 Particularly gratifying is the way attractive adults have leveraged their good looks to reap multiple benefits for society. Good looks have helped entrepreneurs such as Elon Musk - once voted the sexiest CEO alive - secure investors with very little trouble. Trailblazers like svelte actress Emma Watson, have unapologetically capitalised on their appearances to turn the spotlight on issues most people would have sidelined. More ordinary-looking social activists could never have commanded such attention and even if they did, they would have had to expend a lot more time. 20
- 5 Beautiful people also have higher success rates in procreation because striking looks are believed to be indicative of a person's quality as a mate, especially pertaining to reproductive fitness. Those who are attractive can afford to diminish their efforts to foster relationships yet continue to have a higher chance at forming influential connections. The time saved means that they are better able to invest in themselves, which results in greater esteem and reduced psychological issues. 25 30
- 6 In addition, physical attractiveness confers capability where leaders who can turn heads wield more political influence. Seen as more credible, voters are swayed and even political opponents are awed, which can help a society to advance faster. Widely acknowledged as charming, Canada's PM Justin Trudeau for example, has been able to brush off blame for controversial governmental decisions and convince the populace to concur when difficult decisions need to be made. 35
- 7 It is not hard to see the significant rewards arising from the premium we place on physical attractiveness. Unlike the fluffy panda, the Yangtze River dolphin, which never made it onto anyone's T-shirt, has become the last greater mammal to be wiped out in this century. Nobody shed a tear at its passing. If it had appeared beautiful to us, I doubt that would have been its fate. 40



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GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

8807/02

24 August 2022

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, CT Group and index number on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen in this Question Paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue, or correction fluid or 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.

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

You are reminded of the importance of legible handwriting and good presentation.
Please submit your Question Paper and Insert separately at the end of this examination.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

This document consists of a Question Paper with **6 printed pages**.
An Insert with **2 printed pages** is attached to this Question Paper.

[Turn over]

2022 HCI C2 GP Preliminary Examination
Paper 2 Suggested Answers (26 Sep 2022)

Passage 1

1. In paragraph 1, in what **two** ways is the reference to Helen of Troy a revealing example of attractiveness as a “weapon of mass destruction”? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Passage	Answer [Any 2 for 1m each]
a. In films, the <i>femme fatale</i> character whose <u>charms ensnare her lovers</u> finds her predecessor in the literary figure of Helen of Troy.	a. Helen's suitors <u>were entrapped / lured / fatally fascinated</u> by her beauty Note: must have negative connotation word choice to be credited
b. Famously referred to as “the face that launched a thousand ships” in Homer’s <i>Iliad</i> , Helen was so beguiling that <u>a competition to win her hand</u> resulted in the Trojan War. Is it not evident then that attractiveness could be a <u>weapon of mass destruction</u> ?	b. They were <u>willing in engage in combat / conflict / go into battle / attack others / wage war</u> (allow lift of war) to edge out their rivals in love / be awarded the fair maiden c. <u>Inferred</u> : Beautiful women <u>could lead to many lives lost / widespread devastation</u> (BOD)

2. Why does the author argue “for positions of authority, it can pay to be plain” (Lines 13-14)? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]

Passage	Answer [Any 3 out of 4 pts for 1m each]
a. Today, those with symmetrical features and striking figures are likewise elevated into more knowledgeable collaborators than they truly are.	Plain people in positions of authority a. <u>face fewer unrealistic expectations</u> of their abilities [which leads to greater disappointment should they not succeed]
b. Yet at performance assessments, envy related hostility holds both genders back	b. <u>would not be at the receiving end of jealousy</u> [due to their appearance]. In addition, they will be unlikely to experience the following:
c. The achievements of comely feminine associates are condescendingly dismissed and	c. when the attractive [females] succeed, <u>their accomplishments are scorned / mocked / patronised / sneered at disdainfully / derisively</u>
d. scathing doubt cast on the abilities of that office beefcake	and d. <u>scepticism is placed / levied on the capabilities</u> of visually attractive [male] workers.

3. Suggest why the author uses the word “transfigure” in line 17. [1]

Passage	Answer [1m]
To be crowned the fairest of them all, women <u>bled</u> themselves and men <u>applied white-lead potions</u> , to transfigure even the sallowest of skins	The writer wants to highlight <u>the lengths / extent of the extreme measures</u> that men and women are <u>prepared to take to achieve beauty</u> OR that they are <u>willing to drastically/radically alter / change/ transform</u> themselves to gain a fair complexion / achieve beauty. Note: the extent /degree of change needs to be captured in the answer.

4. What does the author claim are the consequences of the “beauty bias” (line 21) on contemporary society? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Passage	Answer [1m each]
In more contemporary times, good looks are correlated with robust constitutions, resulting in illnesses being taken far less seriously when they afflict the attractive.	a. For more attractive patients, <u>their complaints about their health conditions are more likely to be taken lightly seen</u> as trifling / slight easily set aside / shelved /written off lightly / thought little of / did not get the attention they deserved [due to their physical attractiveness] [1] GLOSS: The medical care/needs of the attractive is/are compromised.
Even in supposedly incorruptible courts, there are also reports of our beauty bias affecting legal judgements with more severe fines levied on the less attractive.	b. <u>Our institutions [accept courts as a lift] are discriminatory/ prejudiced in their treatment of the physically unattractive</u> [1] GLOSS: Our institutions are not consistent / not fair in their sentencing of the less attractive.

5. In paragraph 4, how do people demonstrate that they are “intimidated” by beauty (line 23)? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Passage	Answer [1m each]
<p>People are intimidated by exquisite women and <u>will give a wide berth</u> to the virile males they encounter.</p> <p>Little wonder online dating sites like OKCupid report that people with flawless profile pictures are less likely to find matches than those with quirkier ones. <u>Who would have the audacity to invite</u> Lisa of South Korean girl group Blackpink, crowned the world’s Most Beautiful Face in 2022 or YouTube star PewDiePie, voted the globe’s Most Handsome Face of 2020, <u>out for a date</u>?</p>	<p>a. They <u>avoid interactions / engagement / developing connections</u> with those who are too beautiful / visually perfect</p> <p>b Nobody <u>would have the temerity / boldness/ dares to get</u> to know the attractive better for the <u>purpose of romance</u></p>

6. In paragraph 5, what distinction does the author make between the attitudes of the public and his own, in terms of their perceptions of beauty? [2]

Passage	Answer [2m or 0]
<p>For those born under the Beauty star, the bubble of beauty is the proverbial albatross round their necks. Believed to have an unflagging audience of admirers worshipping at their feet, how could these Gods and Goddesses of the Body ever be adrift or alone? In their temples, surely they are above the manifold troubles the run-of-the-mill wrestle with? This elevation of beauty to the level of godliness has been encouraged by the influence of social media and its curation of perfect images, making the beautiful, easy targets for derision. How dare they complain when Fortune has smiled on them? Adding insult to injury, such stereotyping of the beautiful subjects them to undue mental stress and anxiety.</p>	<p>a. The <u>value</u> of beauty: The author thinks beauty is a burden / weight / load / encumbrance but the public views it as a blessing / gift / reward from the gods</p> <p>b. The <u>effect</u> of beauty : The author makes the point that beauty isolates / cuts off the beautiful from others but the public thinks the beautiful are popular BOD / esteemed / highly approved of / adulated OR they can never be without friends/ company as they are surrounded by admirers / followers / supporters</p> <p>Note: Any one set correctly identified and contrasted explanation of a distinction for [2]</p>

7. How does the author support his earlier assertion in paragraph 1 that “there are downsides to being drop dead gorgeous” in the last paragraph? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Passage	Answer [Any one set for maximum of 2]
<p>...with the <u>modern-day femme fatale</u> an ... archetype</p> <p>Recently, Yahoo CEO <u>Marissa Mayer</u> was widely panned for flaunting her looks in a Vogue editorial <u>instead of celebrated for her corporate achievements</u>. If even an accomplished tech-Titan like Mayer could be <u>disparaged</u> as a “career-obsessed Barbie”....</p>	<p>1a. The author <u>repeats / refers back to the femme fatale idea</u> used in paragraph 1 and</p> <p>1b. points out being <u>beautiful is seen as evil by alluding to the evil seductress idea</u>.</p> <p>2a. The author <u>raises the example of Marisa Mayer</u> who was criticised for showing off that she was beautiful [for a fashion magazine/Vogue]</p> <p>2b. though she has been a leading /entrepreneur /successful leader, <u>beauty can still create undue expectations / be prejudicial</u>, that being beautiful means one cannot be competent (for females)</p>

Passage 2

8. Why does the author feel it is “unsurprising” that the panda has benefitted from the “radical single species conservation line” [1]

Passage	Answer [1m]
<p><u>Charismatic megafauna</u> like the <u>cute and cuddly</u> panda ...from this campaign</p>	<p>Pandas are animals that are <u>magnetic / captivating / appealing</u> in looks OR look good in snapshots / photogenic so <u>people feel more compelled/ to save them / their species</u>.</p> <p>GLOSS: They attract attention with their good looks so people want to save them more than other species.</p>

9. Using material from paragraphs 2 to 5, summarise the benefits that the author believes attractiveness confers. 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]

From a young age, those who are more attractive ...

Passage	Answer
Paragraph 2	
1. Attractive children <u>are venerated like royalty</u> ;	1. are revered / paid homage to / honoured
2. with mothers and fathers <u>showering affection</u> on these cherubs	2. Parents lavish / heap (BOD) love / warmth / care / devotion / adoration on them
3. <u>Cosseted and pampered</u> with all the <u>trappings necessary</u> to complement their attractiveness,	3. they are indulged / spoilt /coddled / pandered to / with clothing / accessories OR anything they need BOD/ [that act as a foil to / match / supplements / their beauty]
4. an <u>encouraging</u> environment <u>envelops</u> such children	4. positivity is engendered / generated even from
5. Even the <u>acknowledgement</u> from <u>passers-by</u> who coo and fawn over these endearing cherubs, <u>contributes</u> to their emotional growth.	5. the attention / notice / awareness from others of strangers / anyone they meet
Paragraph 3	
6. In <u>school</u> , teachers too <u>accord</u> the <u>appealing</u> child <u>special</u> treatment, judging him as more likely to succeed.	6. The fetching / pretty / handsome / attractive pupil is favoured / is discriminated positively,
7. As expected, the <u>fine-looking</u> young man <u>is</u> <u>subsequently selected</u> for <u>key</u> leadership <u>positions</u> and	7. chosen / hand-picked for important/ main/ major roles NOTE leadership not needed
8. <u>offered</u> the coaching to succeed.	8. and the training / guidance / mentoring / preparation [to achieve]
9. <u>preferential investment of resources</u> - which psychologists term the halo effect-	9. These special / partisan / extra/ additional provision of materials / time and effort (BOD)
10. <u>allow him to manifest</u> the <u>affirmative</u> traits ascribed to him, later on in life.	10. enable the demonstration / exhibition/ display of these (no need affirmative) behaviour / characteristics and he will
11. He can then <u>blossom into</u> a <u>poised</u> adult	11. flourish / thrive / develop into an assured / confident / secure [person / grown-up]
12 which will <u>lead to</u> a lifetime of bliss	12. and be happy / have contentment forever (Note: KEY IDEA FOR lifetime needed)
Paragraph 4	
Particularly pleasing is the way attractive adults have 13. <u>leveraged</u> their good looks to reap <u>multiple</u> benefits for society.	13. some have used [the weight of / the force of / the pull of] their attractiveness to do good / be altruistic / engage in philanthropy
14. <u>Good looks</u> have helped <u>entrepreneurs</u> such as Elon Musk – once voted the sexiest CEO alive- <u>secure</u> investors with very little trouble	14. [in the business world] some have used their attractiveness to get capital / funding for their start-ups / enterprises easily / effortlessly / without problems / difficulty GLOSS: kick-start entrepreneurship with ease
15. Trailblazers like svelte actress Emma Watson, have unapologetically <u>capitalised on</u> <u>their looks</u> to turn the <u>spotlight</u> on issues <u>most</u> people would have <u>sidelined</u> .	15. while others highlight / pinpoint / emphasize / underscore / draw attention to topics/ matters that are generally seen as / deemed unimportant / unheeded / overlooked / ignored GLOSS: raised awareness of concerns generally disregarded
16. More ordinary looking <u>social</u> activists could never have had this ability to command attention and even if they did, they <u>would have taken</u> a lot more time	16. though they used less time / effort Note: TIME allowed as a lift
Paragraph 5	
Beautiful people also 17. <u>have higher</u> <u>success rates</u> in <u>procreation</u> because striking looks are believed to be indicative of a person's quality as a mate, especially pertaining to reproductive fitness.	17. The attractive are more likely to / can find partners more easily
18. Those who are attractive <u>can afford to</u> <u>diminish</u> their efforts at <u>fostering</u> relationships yet <u>have a</u> <u>continued</u> chance at forming <u>influential</u> connections	18. Despite putting in less time / endeavour , they can still be in / be part of powerful circles / alliances [of influence] NOTE: need both points, TIME allowed as lift

19. The time saved means that they are better able to invest in themselves,	19. they can endow / put in /devote more effort [to improve] themselves							
which 20. results in greater esteem and	20. which leads to higher regard / respect / appreciation / better opinion of themselves / self-worth							
21. reduced psychological issues.	21. fewer mental/ emotional problems							
Points & [Marks]	1-2 [1]	3-4 [2]	5-6 [3]	7-8 [4]	9-10 [5]	11-12 [6]	13-14 [7]	15+ [8]

10. Why does the author end with a focus on the panda in the final paragraph? [2]

Answer [Any 2 points for 1m each] The author is using the focus on the panda a. to <u>turn full circle</u> to a reference / example [of the panda] he started off with / which <u>acts as a frame</u> in the conclusion to support the example of the panda he started off with b. to <u>act as a contrast</u> to the Yangtze river dolphin which became extinct as it was ugly/ lacking in attractiveness / visually repugnant c. to <u>reinforce his point that when we put emphasis</u> on attractiveness (as in the case of the panda), it can be useful / helpful to highlight important issues that are overlooked and/ bring about desired change
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Question on both passages

11. David Robson argues there are downsides to attractiveness while Kathy Buccio extols the benefits of attractiveness. How far do you agree or disagree with the views expressed in the two passages? Illustrate your answer with examples of how you and your society regard attractiveness. [10]

There are adequate opportunities for students to be in agreement with either writer and to different extents, but both passages should be examined and balance attempted. There will be interpretations/responses that range from the sophisticated to merely valid. Markers should award credit where possible.

Good answers will:

- Evaluate how far there is agreement possible with the writers' claims. Students can consider the logic/credibility of the case/issue.
- Consider whether the situations in Singapore or the students' home countries reflect the perspectives presented by the writers. Students' responses to these will guide them to decide the extent to which they agree with the writers.

A very good answer will demonstrate a nuanced appreciation of the writer's arguments. Promising responses will make an intelligent selection of points and use effective transitional phrases to connect arguments.

Very good answers will:

- Elucidate why the student is not (entirely) in agreement/disagreement with either writer. It should be demonstrated how factors such as prevailing societal beliefs, the cultural environment, possible future trends, and so forth, make a particular writer's arguments not (completely) tenable.
- Recognise limitations of either writer's point of view.

Given time constraints, students will not handle every expectation or angle (well) and must not be unfairly penalised. If they have presented an adequate answer, credit must be given.