

2014 General Paper Preliminary Examination Paper 2 – Suggested Answer Scheme

1. What does the author imply by her comment in the brackets (line 2)? [2]

Text	Re-expressed
I lost a job the other day. The people who had hired me figured out that I support stem-cell research (I don't know what took them so long) and pulled a plug on a lecture engagement for which they had vigorously pursued me.	She implies that: a. she never hid the fact that she supported stem cell research (1) and b. the issue should have been raised earlier

2. In the second paragraph, how did the author react to losing her job? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text	Re-expressed
I certainly support anyone's prerogative to hire or not hire whomever they choose , and I definitely don't want to work for someone who doesn't want me. But when people aren't permitted to speak because their opinions are considered inappropriate , it's a sign that something is amiss beneath the surface.	a. She did not have a problem with/She was not upset about losing the job/She expressed approval of the other party's right to select/decide/She has no desire to work where she is not appreciated (1) <u>but</u> b. She was indignant/She did have a problem with the reason she lost her job/if she had lost her job just because her views were deemed unsuitable/if she had lost her job for views totally unrelated to it. (1)

3. What is the author expressing in the rhetorical questions in lines 26-28? [2]

Context	Re-expressed
What became of calm, civilized disagreements, acceptance of the fact that we don't always agree with each other ? When did things turn so ugly , and when did anger reach this kind of crescendo ?	a. The rhetorical questions express her bewilderment at/She shows that she is perplexed by/She expresses regret for (1) b. how bad/tensed the situation has become. (1) <u>Note:</u> Accept answer if student states the points in the questions.

4. Explain the author's use of the metaphor in line 35.

Context	Re-expressed
Such attacks on seemingly unpopular opinions skid across a thin ice surface because they bring us to the subject of free speech .	a. Just as a skater skidding on thin ice presents a dangerous situation as the ice might crack any time, (1) b. the angry outbursts that curb the expression of personal opinions are threatening our right to express individual views. (1)

	<u>Note:</u> The literal meaning of the metaphor must be explained. Answer must have both points. Otherwise, give zero.
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5. What aspect of the book offers 'a chilling glimpse into the future' (line 52)? Use your own words as far as possible [1]

Text	Re-expressed
Published in 1949, the book has always stood as a chilling glimpse into a future stripped bare of every freedom , including one's thoughts .	It projects a terrifying future completely devoid of liberty, including even the liberty to form their own opinions even if these were not articulated. (1) <u>Note:</u> Do not credit lifting of 'thought' or 'think'. Accept answer that refers to 'future completely devoid of <u>all forms of liberty</u> '.

6. What is the author's purpose in providing an account of the cocktail hour of her parents' dinner party in paragraph 9? [2]

Text	Re-expressed
...the cocktail hour of my parents' dinner parties....It was clear to me, even though I didn't understand the substance of what they were discussing, that not everyone agreed with everyone else . But there were no raised voices, no angry words . This was apparently how adults talked about very important things – in civil, understated tones. ...I think most of us long for civilized discourse , an easy exchange of opinions ;	a. It represents a sense of the past civility politeness/graciousness/consideration for others' opinions (1), b. that the author thinks has been lost. (1). OR The author wants to express her sense of regret at how people used to react calmly and respectfully to differing opinions, but now they express their indignation loudly. <u>Note:</u> To get 2 marks, answer must include the change from past to present.

7. Explain the change in the hopeful little girl's 'view of things' (line 69). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text	Re-expressed
I also remember believing that the bad people in the world were ultimately neutralized by the good people. It might take a while, but it was the way life worked. 'To Kill a Mockingbird' was my favourite book, as well as my favourite film, and I believed that there were men like Atticus Finch around, who would always take the higher road . I don't know where that girl went who had such a hopeful view of things. Sadly, I guess she grew up into a woman who has figured out that too often the loudest, angriest people triumph .	a. From the girl who thought that good will surpass evil and that moral courage always exists, (1) b. she became a cynical woman who realized that unpleasant argument overrides/prevails over polite discussion/realized that arguments are not won through civilized, polite discussions. (1)

8. What two reasons does the author give for losing our 'freedom to express ourselves without impunity' (line 75)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text	Re-expressed
I think we're tired--collectively--we've been worn down by fear, by grief. Our country was attacked, and we keep being warned of more attacks. We see all this anger churning around us, and we feel helpless to stop it. I think most of us long for civilized discourse, an easy exchange of opinions; we're just too tired to dig in and insist upon it. How are we going to explain to future generations that our freedom to express ourselves without impunity got lost along the way because we didn't have the energy to defend it?	The reasons are: a. They feel that they are incapable of making a change/they find themselves disempowered. (1) b. Saddened and afraid, people are too exhausted to speak up/they do not have the strength/they have lost the willpower to protect the freedom to speak. (1)

9. Explain why the writer felt hopeful when the book '1984' was sold out (line 78). Use your own words as far as possible. [2]

Text	Re-expressed
...the book was sold out. It's required reading for students, and there had been a run on Orwell's novel. Maybe a new generation of readers will be so frightened by the book that they'll work harder to make sure it doesn't become a reality.	a. With many of them reading about the scary world deprived of freedom, (1) <u>Note:</u> Point <u>a.</u> need not identify the world. The emphasis is on 'sold out', which means many students reading the book. b. they would strive to avoid this situation/the Orwellian state without freedom. (1)

10. Using material from paragraphs 3–6 of the passage, summarise what the author has to say about discourse and its effects. [8]

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.**

Discourse is characterised by a few distinct features. Firstly,

Text	Own words
NATURE a. ...there used to be civilized discourse;	a. These days, people do not discuss things courteously/can be rude when conversing/communicating with others.
b. ...there are probably children now who don't even know what that is. c. ...It seems a terribly antiquated notion	b. The young today may not be familiar with the concept c. which they perceive as outmoded. OR Rude conversations are regarded as the norm

d. we seem to not have time for discourse	d. People do not appear to be available/to make time to talk
e. or even tolerance /We'd rather lash out harshly	e. they are prone to criticise/condemn/castigate
f. and dismiss those who disagree with us.	f. and reject those with opposing ideas
EFFECTS:	
g. Performers like Linda Ronstandt are fired from gigs	g. Singers/entertainers are removed from scheduled performances
h. people who are angry at Bruce Springsteen's political views want to boycott his music.	h. Lose the support of their fans
i. We all know how much criticism the Dixie Chicks suffered when	i. Reproached
j. Even all the nastiness over John Kerry's war record	j. Endured unpleasant / harsh treatment
k. the men who are denouncing his record, his wounds, his medals	k. Invalidating the past contributions
l. It's not just currently expressed opinions that can put you on the firing line;	l. Individuals can be condemned even for views held in the past.
m. in this new climate of vengeance, there is no statute of limitations .	m. any opinion can be attacked
n. ...the cherished idea of free speech is starting to look a bit endangered --it's practically become a punishable offense	n. Speaking freely is no longer safe as one can be disciplined for saying the wrong things/it can be considered a crime.
o. The Federal Communications Commission has decided that the airwaves are going to be severely monitored and regulated .	o. Broadcasts are strictly watched/censored/examined/supervised.
p. and violators will be fined into bankruptcy.	p. People who defy the rules can lose everything / Speaking freely can involve literally a hefty price to pay
q. Political demonstrators are herded like cattle into pens	q. Protestors/lobbyists/campaigners can be rounded up
r. and anti-Bush picketers are being questioned by police and Secret Service agents if they dare show up at one of the president's speeches.	r. and interrogated/ face a run-in with the law..

Sample summary:

The discourse is characterised by a few distinct features. Firstly, people do not discuss things courteously and the young today may be unfamiliar with courteous conversation, which they perceive as outmoded. People are unavailable to talk. They castigate and reject those with opposing ideas. Consequently, some entertainers are removed from scheduled performances; others lose the support of their fans. Yet others are reproached. Politicians endured harsh treatment and had their past contributions invalidated. Individuals could be condemned even for views they held in the past. Essentially, any opinion could be subject to attack. Speaking freely is no longer safe as one can be disciplined for saying the wrong things. Broadcasts are strictly censored. People who defy the rules can lose everything. Protestors can be rounded up and interrogated. (118 words)

11. In this article, Patti Davis writes about the dearth of polite discourse and its impact on society. How far would you agree with her observations? Relate your opinions to your own society. (model: 2013 AQ)

Patti Davis observations:

1. In years past, there used to be civilized discourse; there are probably children now who don't even know what that is.
2. We seem to not have time for discourse, or even tolerance. We'd rather lash out harshly and dismiss those who disagree with us. It saves time and is easier on the brain.
3. It's not just currently expressed opinions that can put you on the firing line; in this new climate of vengeance, there is no statute of limitations.
4. The cherished idea of free speech is starting to look a bit endangered--it's practically become a punishable offence. Thought Police. Big Brother.
5. I remember a long time ago..... not everyone agreed with everyone else. But there were no raised voices, no angry words. This was apparently how adults talked about very important things--in civil, understated tones.
6. We see all this anger churning around us, and we feel helpless to stop it.
7. I think most of us long for civilized discourse... we're just too tired to dig in and insist upon it.