

2014 Prelim GP Paper 2 Suggested Answer Scheme

1. Explain what Chevalier means when he says that old age “isn’t so bad only when you consider the alternative’ (lines 2-3). [2]

Text/Lifted	Suggested paraphrase/answer
<p>‘Old age isn’t so bad only when you consider the alternative’ (lines 2-3)</p> <p>Hence ageing seems a fearful prospect – better than death, perhaps, but not much. (line 10-11)</p> <p>Yet mankind is wrong to dread ageing. (line 11)</p>	<p>Chevalier means that old age</p> <p>a) is a horrendous/ frightening/challenging/dreadful/terrible/unbearable stage in one’s life or a) is extremely undesirable/undesirable in every aspect [1m]</p> <p>Note: intensity/scale must be present</p> <p>b) better only than death or only less so than death or but preferable to death [1m].</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Old age is not so terrible only when you compare it with death.</p> <p>Accepted Lift: ‘Old age’ & ‘only’ Unaccepted Lift: ‘bad’</p>

2. In paragraph 1, what physical and mental challenges do people face when they grow older? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text/Lifted	Suggested paraphrase/answer
<p>a) Stiffening joints, b) weakening muscles, c) fading eyesight d) and the clouding of memory are unwelcome (lines 3-4)</p> <p>e) [men] though getting older is no picnic for men either, even if medical remedies such as Viagra have mitigated some anxieties about sexual humiliation [line 7- 9]</p>	<p>As people grow older, they face the problem of</p> <p>a) reduced flexibility in movement b) decreased physical strength c) deterioration in vision/poorer vision d) and greater forgetfulness/absent-mindedness</p> <p>Note: must show the process i.e. deterioration</p> <p>e) Males might encounter the problem of sexual impotence/erectile dysfunction</p> <p>Accepted lift: ‘joints’, Unaccepted lift: ‘memory’, ‘eyesight’, ‘sight’, ‘muscles’</p> <p>2-3 points = 1 mark 4-5 points = 2 marks</p>

3. In paragraph 1, why, according to the author, is there social antipathy towards the elderly? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text/Lifted	Suggested paraphrase/answer
<p>'And ... social antipathy towards the elderly, with pensioners</p> <p>a) accused of</p> <p>b) selfishly</p> <p>c) hoarding resources</p> <p>d) that could otherwise go to the young.' (lines 8-10)</p>	<p>This is because</p> <p>a) the elderly are blamed as/alleged to be/ criticized for being</p> <p>b) self-seeking people/ self-centred/who greedily/unwilling to share who</p> <p>c) get/accumulate financial, medical and other benefits from the government, national assets for themselves</p> <p>OR</p> <p>use up / sponge off state funds (pensioners)</p> <p>d) when these could have been allocated to / better used for the younger population.</p> <p>Accepted lift: 'pensioners', 'young', 'otherwise', 'resources'</p> <p>2-3 points: 1 mark 4 points: 2 marks</p>

4. Explain the paradox in lines 15-17. [1]

Text/Lifted	Suggested paraphrase/answer
<p>'Then the surprising part happens. Although as people move towards old age they lose things they treasure, they gain what people spend their lives pursuing: happiness.' (lines 15-17)</p>	<p>When people age, they lose things they value, which adversely affects their happiness.</p> <p>Yet, at the same time, they are happier as they age.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>It is paradoxical in that as people age, the treasure they lose is the very thing they gain, which is happiness.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>It is paradoxical in that as people age, they lose what they treasure. At the same time, they gain happiness, which is the very thing they treasure.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must show that the elderly gain and lose at the same time. The object can be (a)happiness, or (b)things they value or treasure. Context of ageing must be present

5. Why does the author describe the researchers as 'miners panning for gold' (line 20)? [2]

Text/Lifted	Suggested paraphrase/answer
<p>'In recent years, statisticians in America have trawled through vast quantities of data – rather like miners panning for gold – trying to find the answer to the perennial question: what makes people happy? (lines 18-21)</p>	<p>The author wants to highlight the point that</p> <p>a) the subject/topic/area/field of the researchers' focus is precious/ treasured/valuable/important/a life-question all want to know. [1m]</p> <p>b) and at the same time, that the researchers' work is very tedious/time-consuming/difficult [1]</p> <p><u>Criteria: 2 characteristics</u></p> <p><i>Gold - highly sought after / precious / very important</i></p> <p><i>Panning - shows the process is difficult /massive</i></p>

6. Explain what the example in line 36-38 illustrates. [2]

Text/Lifted	Suggested paraphrase/answer
'Ask a bunch of 30-year-olds and another of 70-year-olds which group they think is likely to be happier, and both groups point to the 30-year-olds. Ask them to rate their own well-being, and the 70-year-olds are the happier lot.' (Lines 36-38)	<p>The example illustrates that</p> <p>a) People generally hold/Society holds the view that young people are happier than the old.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>a) The general/common perception is that young people are happier than the old</p> <p>Note: must hold collective/societal view regardless of age</p> <p>b) Such a view is wrong/This is a stereotypical view/a misconception.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>b) The truth, however, is that the older people are actually the happier lot.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The example illustrates an irony. The elderly, who have experienced both stages of life, should be able to tell that they are, in fact, happier than the young. Yet, even they hold the false belief that the young are the happier lot. (2m)</p>

7. Why does the author use the three dots (...) in line 49? [2]

Text/Lifted	Suggested paraphrase/answer
'The U-bend's effect on happiness is obvious: stress increases during the early 30s, then plunges after 50; worry peaks in middle age, and falls sharply thereafter; sadness rises in middle age, and then drops significantly...' (Lines 46-49)	<p>The author wants to show</p> <p>a) the never-ending list of negative emotions people experience [1m]</p> <p>b) which follow a predictable /trend of rise and fall in people's life journey. [1m]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>a) No matter which negative emotional state one is measuring. [1m]</p> <p>b) its pattern in life remains the same, that is, rising in intensity with maturity and then plunging with ageing [1m].</p>

8. In paragraph 8, explain why the elderly are actually better off than expected? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

Text/Lifted	Suggested paraphrase/answer
<p>'Happiness doesn't just make people happy, it also</p> <p>a1) makes them healthier. So although old people tend to be less healthy than younger ones, a2) their cheerfulness may help counteract their crumbliness.</p> <p>b1) Moreover, since happier people are more productive, b2) the cheerfulness of the old should help compensate for their loss of productivity through declining cognitive skills... ' (Lines 77-81)</p>	<p>The elderly</p> <p>a1) are happier and this improves their physical well-being,</p> <p>a2) which in turn mitigates their generally deteriorating/poor physical health</p> <p>b1) Their happiness also makes them more efficient,</p> <p>b2) thus off-setting / mitigating their reduced work capacity due to their mental and intellectual degeneration.</p>

9. 'The greyer the world gets, the brighter it becomes.' (line 86) Why might such a prospect be especially encouraging to Economist readers? [2]

Text/Lifted	Suggested paraphrase/answer
<p>'The greyer the world gets, the brighter it becomes – a prospect which should be especially encouraging to Economist readers.' (Lines 84-86)</p>	<p>a) It could be that Economist readers comprise mostly of businessmen / business professionals [who are economically / profit-driven]/with a keen interest in economic matters [1m] b) and such positive prospects of the ageing population bring greater hope that the economy will do even better as opposed to the common belief. [1m]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>a) Economist readers could be made up largely of the middle-aged who have reasons to be worried about the ageing world because they might be perceived as a liability to the society. [1m] b) Thus, this optimistic perspective, so contrary to the usual negative thoughts about ageing, could bring great comfort to them. [1m]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>a) The Economist readers could be young working adults who are concerned about the elderly being an economic liability. [1m] b) Thus, they would welcome this information as they would be seen as the equal contributors to the economy rather than having to bear disproportionate responsibility. [1m]</p> <p>Criteria: a) Identify the characteristics of the readers and matching interest b) Link this to the identified idea to show hope/optimism/benefit</p>

10. Using material from paragraphs 3 and 5-7, summarise what the author has to say about the factors that could affect happiness, and why, beyond a certain age, older people are happier.

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.** [8m]

One factor affecting people's happiness is ...

	From the passage	Paraphrase
a	(inferred)	Gender/Sex
b	Women by and large, are marginally happier than men	Women are generally slightly happier than males
c	but are also more susceptible to depression (lines 22-24)	but are at greater risk of/more prone to extreme sadness/melancholy/low spirits/hopelessness/despondence/ despair
d	(Inferred)	personality type
e	Neurotic people - those who are prone to guilt, anger and anxiety	Introverts are <u>less</u> happy [than extroverts 'h'] Unaccepted: Pessimists Note: Credit either 'e' or 'h'.

f	are not just prone to negative feelings	have a greater tendency towards negative emotions
g	they are also bad at forming or managing relationships (lines 25-27) Or ...who shut their office door in the daytime and hole up at home in the evening (lines 29-30)	They are also less able to establish/build and maintain connections with people
h	Extroversion	In contrast, outgoing people are <u>happier</u> [than introverts 'e']
i	... those who like working in teams and who relish parties (lines 28-29)	who enjoy collaborative work and socialising
j	Being married gives people a considerable uplift (line 31)	Having a spouse / partner (BOD) / matrimony / Being wedded / Wedlock / Conjugal bond brings happiness.
k	gloom at springs from being unemployed (lines 31-32)	Joblessness makes people unhappy
l	Being black in America is usually associated with lower levels of happiness (lines 32-33)	(Inferred) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being socially disadvantaged • Belonging to a disadvantaged racial group • Victims of racism
m	People with children in the house (lines 33-34)	People with children who are still dependent on them/living with them
n	More educated people are happier , but that effect disappears once income is controlled for (lines 34-35)	People with higher education are happier only if this means higher salaries Or People who earn higher salaries are happier.
p	A possible reason ... could be external circumstances (line 49)	Situations in life determine happiness
q	Could the misery of the middle-aged be the consequence of sharing space with angry adolescents (lines 51-52)	Older people no longer have to bear with the suffering/unhappiness of living with their irritable/resentful teenagers
r	And could their relative contentment be the result of their greater piles of cash? (lines 52-53)	They are also more satisfied because they are wealthier/richer/have more money
s	Older people have fewer rows (lines 55)	They quarrel less / argue less often

t	and come up with better solutions to conflict (lines 55)	and are more able to resolve disputes/settle arguments
u	They are better at controlling their emotions (lines 56)	They manage/handle their emotions more effectively
v	better at accepting misfortune (line 56)	are more able to come to terms with tragedy/disasters
w	Less prone to anger (lines 56-57)	have less tendency to lose their temper
x	This could be because the old ' recognise their own mortality ' (line 59)	This could be because the old know they do not have many more years left
y	and thus grow better at living for the present (lines 60-61)	<u>and thus</u> concentrate on enjoying the present/pay more attention to what currently is of value [rather than pursue future goals]
z1	Maybe the sight of contemporaries keeling over	Perhaps witnessing their peer's death/demise
z2	infuses survivors with a determination to make the most of their remaining years (lines 65-66)	motivates/inspires/causes those who are still alive to live the remaining years to the fullest.
z3	Maybe older come to accept that they will never become ... and learn to be satisfied as assistant (lines 67)	Older people [come to terms with what they are not able to achieve]/[learn to be contented with what they have] Or Older people stop fighting for/struggling to be what they are not/cannot achieve

Mark allocation:

1-2 points : 1 mark

3-4 points : 2 marks

5-6 points : 3 marks

7-8 points : 4 marks

9 points : 5 marks

10-11 points : 6 marks

12-13 points : 7 marks

14 points and above : 8 marks

11. In this article, the author discusses some current issues around the subject of happiness and ageing.
How applicable do you find his observations to yourself and your own society?

Criteria for choice of arguments

To fulfil basic requirements, students must choose arguments and evaluate

- Happiness and ageing
- 1 argument on happiness and at least 1 argument on ageing

If the candidate evaluate only arguments on happiness without ageing → Maximum 4m

If the answer is purely about the candidate's personal experience, maximum mark obtainable is 4.

Some possible AQ Arguments:

1. Para 2: "When people start out on adult life, they are, on average, pretty cheerful. Things go downhill from youth to middle age until they reach a nadir commonly known as the mid-life crisis... Although as people move towards old age they lose things they treasure, they gain what people spend their lives pursuing: happiness."
2. Para 4: "Ask a bunch of 30-year-olds and another of 70-year-olds which group they think is likely to be happier, and both groups point to the 30-year-olds. Ask them to rate their own well-being, and the 70-year-olds are the happier lot
3. Para 5 "older people **tend to be richer**. Could their **relative contentment be the result of their piles of cash?**"
4. Para 5 "Could the misery of the middle-aged be the consequence of sharing space with angry adolescents?"
5. Para 7 "Maybe older people **come to accept that they will never become** chief executive or have a picture shown in the Royal Academy, **and learn to be satisfied** as assistant branch manager, with their watercolour display at the church fete."
6. Para 8 "Happiness doesn't just make people happy, it also **makes them healthier**. So although old people tend to be less healthy than younger ones, **their cheerfulness may help counteract their crumbliness.**"
7. Para 8 "happier people are **more productive**, the **cheerfulness of the old should help compensate for their loss of productivity** through declining cognitive skills"