

VJC JC2 2014 Preliminary Exam
Answer Scheme

Read the passage and then answer the questions below:

- 1) According to Bruce Chatwin, what is the reason for the “relentless movement of the modern world (lines 2-3)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Suggested Paraphrase
“impulse” (line 2) “inveterate”/“deeply rooted” (line 2)	The reason is we have an instinct/natural drive [1] to travel which is ingrained/entrenched/hardwired in us/something we cannot change. [1] <i>Most scripts failed to include the second aspect while repeating the first aspect.</i>

- 2) “...our relative prosperity has not turned us into a sedentary species...” (lines 3-4). What is the implied reason for travel in the past for the human species? [2]

From the Text	Inference
	It is implied that people in the past travelled because they were poor/destitute [1] and needed to be on the move to obtain resources for survival.[1] <i>This question does not require a rephrasing, but to question the opposite of prosperity as the implied reason.</i>

- 3) What is the difference in meaning between ‘wander’ and ‘wonder’? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the Text	Possible Explanation
...human journey (line 11) ...to wander (line 12) ...wonder: Why are we in exile? Where is home? Can this rupture ever be repaired? (line 12-13)	The difference is that “wander” is to explore a geographical/ physical area, while “wonder” is to probe/reflect in one's mind about the experience. <i>The difference/contrast between the physical and the mental has to be explicit. Both points needed for 1 mark.</i>

4) What does the word 'curse' suggest about getting lost (line 28), and why does the author think it is not a curse? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the Text	Inference and Suggested Paraphrase
<p>curse (line 28)</p> <p>...anxious and uneasy/anxiety (line 29)</p> <p>is part of a person's quest (line 29)</p> <p>to find the parameters of life's possibilities (line 29-30)</p>	<p>"Curse" suggests that getting lost is a bane/something detrimental to us/to be avoided at all cost. [1]</p> <p><i>"Curse" was wrongly paraphrased as bad luck.</i></p> <p>While getting lost makes a person worried/uncomfortable/feel insecure, it is a feature/component/aspect of his search [1] <i>Students must have both aspects to be awarded the mark</i></p> <p>to expand the new experiences that life has to offer/push the boundaries to gain new opportunities/to extend the limits in order to live life more fully [1]</p>

5) Explain the author's purpose in his use of the two examples 'the death march' and 'the cruise ship'. (lines 31-32) [2]

From the Text	Inference
	<p>The author wants to show, through these two examples, how diverse/wide-ranging/extreme the act of travelling can be [1]</p> <p>with the 'cruise ship' representing enjoyment/leisure/luxury while the 'death march' representing suffering/a terrifying ordeal. [1]</p> <p><i>Some students missed out the author's purpose of the use of the examples. Paraphrase of the "death march" was too literal instead of what it represents.</i></p>

6) From paragraph 6, what is the relationship between the tourist's enjoyment of the trip and its duration and how does it affect the recollection of the trip? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible Explanation
<p>Tourists enjoy the trip only because it is short. (lines 47-48)</p> <p>The memory of it, the retelling, will always be better (line 48)</p>	<p>Tourists enjoy the trip precisely because it is fleeting/temporary/of a brief duration. [1] <i>Most students missed out the key word of "only".</i></p> <p>The brevity of the trip makes the recollection of it rose-tinted/makes tourists remember/share only the positive aspects/causes them to exaggerate the degree of enjoyment as they look back. [1] <i>Misunderstanding of the author's point, as students thought that the since the trip is short; it is easier to recall details of the trip.</i> <i>BOD was given even if the students did not refer explicitly that the recollection is better than the trip itself.</i></p>

7) Explain the irony in the phrase 'the emotional voyage is preprogrammed'. (line 57)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Possible Explanation
	<p>Emotions are supposed to be spontaneous/ naturally-occurring/cannot be planned/deliberated beforehand [1]</p> <p>It is ironic because tourism today contradicts this by telling us how we should be feeling/what emotions we should expect when we reach a destination. [1]</p> <p><i>Most students missed out the key aspect of the "emotional" and had the erroneous idea that a voyage should not be planned.</i></p>

- 8) Explain what the author means by 'our outsize egos have shrunk...' the world (line 62). **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the Text	Suggested Paraphrase/Explanation
... our outsize egos (line 62)	He means that people have become arrogant/self-conceited/It is hubris on the part of humans [1]
... shrunk the world ...feel we know our own neighbourhood, our own city, our own country , yet we still know so little about other individuals , what distinguishes them from us... (line 62-64)	because they think they are familiar with their own locale/their immediate environment/their little world when in reality they hardly understand the other people in their society and what makes them different. [1] <i>Most students left out key details for the second point.</i>

- 9) Explain the author's use of the phrase 'of course'. (line 62) [1]

From the Text	Possible Explanation
The planet's size hasn't changed of course...(line 62)	The author uses 'of course' as he is stating a very obvious fact/since he is being literal-minded here in discussing the size of Earth [1] OR The author wants to contrast the literal size of the planet with the metaphorical shrinking of the world [1] <i>Students need to answer in context, (it is not enough to simply write 'the author is making an obvious fact' without explaining what this fact is) and they should differentiate between "Earth" and "world". (The word "Earth" should be capitalized.)</i>

10. Using material from paragraphs 5, 8 and 9, summarise what the author believes meaningful travel is. [8]

	From the passage	Possible paraphrase
a	When we travel, we are asking for hospitality . (line 39)	We are requesting warmth/ to be welcomed/ received warmly by our hosts.
b	There is great vulnerability in this. (line 39)	This puts us in the hands of those taking care of us/ requires great trust and openness
c	It also requires considerable strength . (line 40)	It also necessitates firmness/ being resolute/ courage
d	To be a good guest...one needs to be secure in one's own premises: where you stand, who you are (line 41)	One has to be confident/ comfortable/ self-assured in/ certain about one's identity/ position in life/ values/ principles
e	In fact, a much deeper virtue arises from the demands it makes on us... (line 42)	There is a greater value in travel because it asks of / requires us
f	... as social beings . (line 43)	to learn the skill of getting along/ interacting with others
g	Travel is a search (line 43 & 80) for meaning , (line 43) / travel will become a quest for true fulfillment , (line 74)	Travel is an exploration/ a quest of what life is about/ genuine self-actualisation/ realization
h	not only in our own lives, but also in the lives of others. (line 44)	for ourselves as well as others
i	The humility required for genuine travel... (line 44)	Not being egoistic/ a lack of ego / a respectful attitude is necessary in genuine travel
j	The kind of travel to which we aspire should tolerate (line 68)	Meaningful travel requires us to be accepting of/ bear with/ put up with / endure
k	uncertainty and discomfort . (line 68)	ambiguity/ unpredictability/ anxiety and inconveniences / uneasiness / unpleasantness
l	but we need to permit ourselves to be (line 69)	But we should allow ourselves
m	clumsy, inexperienced and even... (line 69)	to seem awkward/ like a fish out of water/ out of our natural element/ unconfident/ to make mistakes/ to be error-prone
n	... a bit lonely . (line 70)	And forlorn/ isolated /solitary
o	for a deeper satisfaction that cannot be found (line 74)	For a profound/ hidden gratification/ greater contentment/ happiness that is not present
p	in the acquisition of material possession (line 74)	in the tangible goods/ belongings we own
q	or the fleeting pleasures of the sensory world . (line 75)	or the transient indulgences of the physical realm/ domain.
r	But we will need to reclaim some notion of the heroic : (line 76) /we set out on adventures (line 77)	We will need to bring back the sense of daring / courage/ bravery
s	a quest for communion (line 75)	In the search for union with others and ourselves
t	and ultimately, self-knowledge . (line 75)/ is meant to lead back toward ourselves (line 78)/ to gain deeper access to ourselves (line 78)	And arriving at an understanding of ourselves/ Should bring us back to ourselves
u	We travel to transcend our own limitations (line 78)	We travel to rise above our own boundaries/ restrictions
v	travel should be an art through which our restlessness finds expression (line 79)	Travel should be a medium by which our constant searching/ wandering spirit finds voice/ representation / articulation

1-2pts: 1m, 3-4pts:2m, 5-6pts:3m, 7-8pts:4m, 9-10pts:5m, 11-12pts: 6m, 13 pts: 7m, 14pts and above: 8m

Comments for Summary:

Avoid using root words when paraphrasing, e.g. 'humble' for humility, 'limits' for limitations. (There is no such word as 'humbleness'!)

Paraphrase words in context. In the context of this article, 'clumsy' does not mean careless; 'expression' does not mean the art of.

Organisation in the summary was at times weak . Some answers had haphazard points thrown together, with points jumping across different paragraphs and back. Coherence was often enhanced with the use of appropriate connectors/linking devices.

Do a draft first before writing the summary proper. Some of the answers were full of cancellations; the overall presentation was messy and hard to read.

Word-count should be written at the end of the answer. Some students were clearly dishonest in writing a summary that far exceeded the word-limit and blatantly recording it as '120 words'.

11. Ilan Stavans distinguishes between meaningful, fruitful travel and mere tourism. How far do you agree with his observations that people today are tourists, not travellers in the context of yourself and your society? [10]

<p>Band 1 8–10 marks</p>	<p>REQUIREMENTS: systematic reference to the requirements of the question with evidence of a balanced treatment. Students must make a stand by evaluating the validity of Stavans' claims about the differences between meaningful travel and mere tourism, and applying them to their observation of their society and their own experiences. They must make reference to Stavans' views. They must evaluate ideas from the passage with evidence of balanced treatment. They must provide justification in the form of relevant substantive evidence drawn from personal observations and their society.</p> <p>EXPLANATION: shows a good or very good understanding of terms and issues. EVALUATION: makes very convincing evaluation by making judgements and decisions and by developing arguments to logical conclusions, and includes elaboration and support through personal insight and apt illustration. COHERENCE: very clear shape and paragraph organisation and cogent argument.</p> <p><u>Author's main ideas</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nature of the trip: Tourists go on mostly uninspired/commonplace and unoriginal trips, not journeys to discover one's importance in the grand scheme of things (lines 17-19) 2. Expectations of the trip: Tourists want a safe, controlled and predetermined trip, not the unexpected and spontaneous (lines 48-50) OR Tourists want to be informed about their travels, and not to venture into the unknown (lines 58-60) 3. Purpose/Outcomes of the trip: Tourists travel for entertainment and personal enrichment, not for discovery (lines 21-22) or for a search in the meaning of the lives of others (line 43) OR Tourists want to be unchanged by the travel experience, not seek change in mind-set and perspective due to exposure to new situations (lines 45-46, 77) 4. Traveling as a means to knowing the past: Tourists want a sterilized version of history, and not a real understanding of the events of the past (lines 53-55) 5. Attitude when travelling: Tourists are egoistical, thinking they know all about the world, lacking the humility required for true travel (lines 44-45, 61) <p><u>Evaluation of author's main ideas</u></p> <p><i>Both ideas of being a tourist and a traveller are not mutually exclusive. Students should bring in a brief analysis of their personal anecdotes as part of the AQ requirements.</i> Trivia: Singapore's passport is ranked 6th internationally for the global access it offers.</p> <p>1. Tourists go on mostly uninspired and unoriginal trips, not journeys to discover one's importance in the grand scheme of things (lines 17-19)</p> <p>Tourists: Year in, year out, tourist companies offer the same kind of trips with little change in itinerary to Singaporeans. The top three tour agencies in Singapore (Chan Brothers,⁷ CTC and SA Tours) are well-established agencies that are known for their standard tours. Generally, they try to incorporate as many sights as possible, spending much time</p>
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	<p>travelling to the places but leaving insufficient time to truly explore the sights and soak in the grandeur, eg. Only having two hours to spend at the Great Wall of China, while half a day is given for tourists to shop at factory outlets.</p> <p><u>Substantiation + Examples:</u> Authentic interactions with locals are rare, and tourists are often brought to shops to purchase standard local products in order to boost the tour guide's commission. Moreover, the more interesting experiences and places of a tour are often parked under 'optional tours' that require tourists to pay additional costs. While the option to go beyond is there, most tourists choose not to follow such 'optional tours' and remain stuck in the safe mode.</p> <p>Travellers: There is a rising trend of young Singaporeans taking a year off to embark on epic round-the-world trips. These adventurous backpackers often travel to exotic places like Uzbekistan, seeing travel as a way to build character through a myriad of challenging experiences. Such blogs have gone viral on various social media platforms.</p> <p><u>Substantiation + Examples:</u> While the travellers are still young, healthy and without the responsibility of raising children, they have chosen not to lead the template Singaporean life. Their blogs are also a platform to share their unique travel stories with family and friends, an all-in-one travel resource platform with a focus on off-grid destinations and adventure travel. http://letsgoloco.tumblr.com; http://sunriseodyssey.com</p> <p>2. Tourists want a safe, controlled and predetermined trip, not the unexpected and spontaneous (lines 48-50) OR tourists want to be informed about their travels, and not venture into the unknown (lines 58-60)</p> <p>Tourists: Street food is usually avoided for fear of lack of hygiene. Singaporeans would rather be safe than sorry, and do not do well when they are caught in unexpected situations.</p> <p><u>Substantiation + Examples:</u> Many tour agencies already have their itineraries planned months ahead of the trip itself. These itineraries often contain information on the exact scenic spots, activities and objectives included each day of the tour so that the tourists know entirely what to expect. When it comes to food, they are not adventurous opting for mostly Chinese food rather than the local cuisine.</p> <p>An organised tour guarantees additional security in a foreign country. Tourists also do not have to worry about any language issues or problems that arise during the tour, as there will be a tour guide. It also means that tourists do not have to be stressed up over making decisions like what to eat and what activity to do next as everything is already decided beforehand. Hence, tours can offer a great level of convenience especially for families traveling with young children or the elderly.</p> <p>Travellers: <u>Substantiation + Examples:</u> The increased range of travel blogs showcases how Singaporeans are now promoting greater emphasis on genuine travel. Such blogs have also been featured on a variety of media platforms like CNN, National Geographic, The Jakarta Post...etc.</p> <p>3. Tourists travel for entertainment and personal enrichment, not for discovery (lines 21-22) or for a search in the meaning of the lives of others (line 43) OR</p>
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	<p>Tourists want to be unchanged by the travel experience, not seek change in mind-set and perspective due to exposure to new situations (lines 45-46, 77)</p> <p>Tourists: The experience Singaporeans seek is often limited to engaging in fun activities that are readily available in their own home country, eg. Golf, swimming. In more extreme cases, they are only interested in shopping and buying cheap goods, being more of a consumer than an explorer. In such instances, their interaction with the locals is restricted to only those who facilitate their trips, eg. Tour guide or the bus driver, service staff. Besides, many Singaporeans prefer to stay in 4-5 stars hotels that do not allow them to truly experience the lives of the locals.</p> <p><u>Substantiation + Examples:</u> Many Singaporeans are now going on beach-themed holidays (to places like Phuket, Bali, and Boracay) where the majority of the time is spent cooped up in their luxurious villas. These villas are also known to provide an in-house butler to cater to their dining needs, and hotel staff can be paid to run errands for them. It is clear that they are not interested in knowing more about the local culture, and understanding current issues. In recent years, there has also been a marked increase in Singaporeans going on luxury cruises.</p> <p>Most schools in Singapore have regular overseas community service trips and segments of time are dedicated to school visits, helping out in the local communities. Local firms have also been initiating trips abroad to encourage employees to be volunteers. However, the kind of help offered by Singaporeans is often safe and comfortable (Painting classroom walls, playing games with children) They are not really interested in addressing real concerns of the locals, and are mostly there for their own learning purposes or they treat the activities as part of the team-building effort.</p> <p>There is also an increasing popularity of tours accompanied by a famous local celebrity, as featured in Mediacorp's Channel travel reality show, <i>My Star Guide</i> (6 seasons), just purely to increase the entertainment value of such trips.</p> <p>Travellers: There is a noticeable rise in the different types of travel offered to Singaporeans: Fly and Drive tours, Sustainable eco-tourism, Handcrafted tours for luxury travellers (limited edition trips), Education travel...etc.</p> <p><u>Substantiation + Examples:</u> Increased emphasis for schools' overseas learning trips to feature visits to places that go beyond the tourist attractions of each country. Discovery about the lives of people, taking part in the local job experiences. EG. Students tour to slums in countries like in Mumbai in order to observe the local cotton industry and living conditions. There are multiple local organisations that support international volunteering projects. Many of the volunteers seek to bring about positive changes to the societies through the sharing of expertise and resources. A team from the National Library Board Singapore recently volunteered on the Words on Wheels project in Bandung, visiting primary and secondary schools in Bandung and telling interactive stories to the students.</p> <p>Many Singaporeans are also initiating their own overseas community projects that involve the building of houses, constructing of roads and wells, teaching of English...etc. These people travel with a specific purpose of helping to transform the lives of the people they encounter in the developing countries. Growing trend of</p>
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"voluntourists" in Singapore, as people seek to fulfil their wanderlust in a charitable manner. Many of these travellers found their experiences to be life-changing. On average, travellers pay about \$1000 for a five-day trip to help villagers in places like Cambodia and Nepal. The number of people who sign up for these tours at Dynasty Travel has grown steadily at about 20 per cent every year since they were started in 2010.

4. Tourists want a sterilized version of history, and not a real understanding of the events of the past (lines 53-55)

Tourists: Singaporeans are usually exposed only to performances staged for them during dinners and cultural shows that give a sliver of the event. Seldom do they go for the full experience, citing lack of time or interest. Token and cursory visits to museums and art galleries. Tourists are often seen in the waiting area than exploring the exhibits in a contemplative manner, going for the most famous exhibits without stopping to read the plaques or information.

Substantiation + Examples: (List of common and standardised attractions)

Turkey- Blue Mosque; Spain- La Familia Cathedral; Hawaii-Pearl Harbour museum; Tokyo-Meiji Shrine

Many tourists believe that once they have taken a picture of a famous historical site or purchased a book on the local history, they are more or less aware of the country's history. Many of the museum tours are also rather set on a single perspective/message, without inviting tourists to evaluate deeper.

Travellers:

Many travellers are now reading up before they travel, and many museums now have specialised tours. Travellers can also pick up handy headsets that provide commentaries about the exhibits in museums.

Substantiation + Examples:

Perhaps made popular by films, Singaporean travellers are now more interested in visiting less well-known historical sites like the 47 Ronin graveyard in central Tokyo.

5. Tourists are egoistical, thinking they know all about the world, lacking the humility required for true travel (lines 44-45, 61)

Tourists:

Singaporeans travel with a sense of superiority what it comes to judging the country. Often, they are not willing to accept the conditions of the places they visit, comparing them with the comfort and hygiene back home. Singaporean tourists are also often complaining about what they see and do. They do not seek to understand the values and motivations of the locals. Case in point would be overseas values-in-action trips, where students often have the attitude that they come from a better country and they are there to help the locals.

Substantiation + Examples: The Straits Times Travel Section offers a diverse range of travel resources and articles that provide up-to-date information about countries and travel activities around the world.

Channel Newsasia's *Boarding Pass*: Weekly programme that covers a range of insight centred on travel issues and interests (Invited guests include experts in the travel industry. EG – General Manager of Airasia, previous travel host Denise Keller...)

	<p>Through the media, we are given unlimited access to a wide range of the information about other countries' culture and attractions. It is no wonder many Singaporeans have the mind-set that they can know all about the world just couch surfing.</p> <p>Travellers: <u>Substantiation + Examples:</u> The emerging popularity of the site Airbnb.com shows how open Singaporean travellers are when it comes to being hosted in a local's apartment, instead of staying in standard hotels. Couchsurfing.com website also features more young Singaporean travellers willing to bunk in with locals in other countries.</p>
Band 2 4–7 marks	<p>REQUIREMENTS: covers requirements of the question adequately but not necessarily a balanced treatment. EXPLANATION: shows an adequate level of understanding of terms and issues (which may include minor distortion). EVALUATION: evaluation is attempted but is not always convincing, and tends to be superficial with limited development of ideas, and is not as thorough in support. COHERENCE: paragraphing is sometimes helpful and there is a recognisable over-all shape to the answer; arguments are generally cogent.</p>
Band 3 1–3 marks	<p>REQUIREMENTS: an incomplete and/or unbalanced treatment of the requirements. EXPLANATION: shows very limited degree of understanding and a higher incidence of misinterpretation. EVALUATION: tends to be a mere summary or restatement of the text with a few simple and undeveloped judgements, with very thin support. COHERENCE: paragraphing and organisation are haphazard; arguments inconsistent or illogical.</p>
0	Nothing in the answer meets any of the criteria.

Comments For AQ

Many scripts surfaced isolated claims, without a comparison and contrast between meaningful travel and mere tourism.

Many ideas centred on just the one aspect of the tourism or travel, with repetition of points in different paragraphs; the scope of the response as a result became limited.

Contextualisation of "your society" was evident. Substantive evidence was given, though sometimes lengthy descriptions took the place of evaluation of the author's key ideas.

The students need to be clear whether they are agreeing/disagreeing with the author's claim or the applicability of the claim in the context of their own society.

More nuanced response needed for the highest band. For example, the author's belief that tourism cannot be meaningful should be examined and evaluated with the factors like the tourist's attitude discussed.

Irrelevant groups of people were sometimes used for evaluation or substantiation that do not fit the labels of either tourists or travellers. Examples include migrant workers, foreigners who are permanent residents and Singaporeans going overseas to study.

General comments

Illegibility was a serious problem with a significant number of scripts. Students penalised themselves when their points were not given credit simply because their handwriting could not be deciphered.

Use of English

Pronoun agreement was a problem with many students using 'one' followed by 'his', or switching from 'we' to 'you' or 'they', sometimes within the same sentence!

*Prepositions were at times incorrectly used, especially with the phrase 'I agree to the author' instead of the correct expression 'I **agree with** the author'. The verbs 'mention' and 'discuss' should not be followed by 'about'.*

There was sloppy use of tenses, especially when the past tense was clearly needed, such as for Q2. Textual references should be made in the present tense. The author claims ... (not 'claimed'); the article discusses (not 'discussed')...are notable examples.

Complete sentences should be used at all times, unless the question is asking for one word or short phrase to be quoted. Sentence fragments are considered grammatical errors.

On the other hand, do not write long sentences that run on for many lines. The result is often an unwieldy, rambling sentence that is poorly punctuated. For questions that carry 2 or 3 marks, break up long sentences so that each sentence explains a main point.

*Ungrammatical sentence construction such as '**By** planning ahead, **it** makes the trip predictable...' should be avoided.*

For punctuation, capital letters were sometimes not used for proper nouns such as names of cities, countries or places of interest. The use of the comma often revealed a lack of understanding of its function, with commas appearing when they were not needed or missing when they were necessary.