

MILLENNIA INSTITUTE
2014, PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2,
PU3, GENERAL PAPER

1. Why is the theft of Mona Lisa ‘one of the most startling art heists in history (line 2)? **AIOWAFAP** (2m)

From passage	Paraphrase
<p>the emotion it aroused then and even today go beyond that</p> <p>stealing beauty itself</p>	<p>It is the most startling because The feeling it evoked, continues to this day (time) OR It stirred up extremely strong feelings (degree) that stealing a painting does not warrant. [1] Because the robbing the Mona Lisa was akin to pilfering/robbing the representation/concept of beauty [1]</p> <p><i>Accept: Script C “deep displeasure” Script D “very definition of good looks” (BOD: beauty not required for paraphrasing) Script E: “famous for the aesthetics.. symbol of what was pretty.. the robbery...”</i></p>

2. Explain the irony in ‘graduates today still aspire to marry up, because they want their husbands to look after them’, lines 13-14. (2m)

From passage	Paraphrase
<p>Even <u>education</u> has done little to change that graduates today still aspire to marry up, because they want their <u>husbands</u> to look after them</p>	<p>We expect education to liberate women and make them more self-reliant/more independent/ able to earn a living [1]</p> <p><i>Not accepted: if no reference to education.</i></p> <p>BUT</p> <p>In reality women with high qualification continue to rely on men to take care/ of them/support [1]</p> <p><i>Not accepted: Script D “under the care of another” (no reference to ‘husbands’)</i></p>

3. Explain the author's use of parenthesis in line 22. (2m)

From passage	Paraphrase
(though not, for example, in nuclear physics),	The author wishes to highlight/emphasise an exception (1m) Wherein/as the positive effects/ the benefits of beauty do not apply in areas that require specific expert knowledge (1m) Answer must infer what 'nuclear physics' stand for (specialised knowledge)

4. Explain the metaphor in lines 29 -30. (2m)

From passage	Inference
(refer to the entire paragraph) ' both physically attractive' Therefore, many would argue that the world is <u>a bed of roses for the beautiful</u> .	Just as a bed of roses is <u>pleasant, nice easy</u> (1m) OR (Inference of 'life without problems' from paragraph) Good looking individuals <u>tend to have an easy/comfortable life</u> . (1m) Accept: Script D "Get by easily"

5. What do the examples in paragraph 5 suggest about the effect of beauty? (1m)

From passage	Inference
Attractive people seem to have an easier time getting a loan than plain folks, even as they are less likely to pay it back. They receive milder prison sentences and higher compensations in legal proceedings. Pretty girls almost always receive help from strangers in the supermarket even when they did not ask for it whether it is to retrieve items from the top shelves or carry heavy items to their cars.	Beauty affects people in many aspects of life. (1m) OR Beauty allows one to receive special treatment from everyone. (1m) Accept: Script A "receive special treatment from everyone" Script C "more favour on those who it is bestowed upon" Script D "society is more sympathetic and willing to give in to people with beauty." Script E "makes lives easier"

6. What are the effects of '[d]iscriminating against people on the grounds of personal appearance'(line 72)? **AIYOWAFAP** (3m)

From passage	Paraphrase
Discriminating against people on the grounds of personal appearance	
a) reinforces the <u>subordination of groups where unappealing characteristics</u> , including obesity,	a) It strengthens the subjugation of certain people who possess features that are deemed to be unattractive (1m)
b) are concentrated among <u>the poor</u> and some <u>ethnic minorities</u>	b) Which is found mostly among/ focussed among people who are less affluent/ in poverty/ underprivileged and disadvantaged/marginalised racial groups (1m)
c) <u>limits</u> a person's right to <u>equal opportunity</u> .	c) It restricts a person's chances compared to others (1m) <i>Accept: Script B – 'fair chance'</i>
d) and restricts <u>self-expression</u> .	d) and prevent / hinder from fully exhibiting their personality and characteristics/ airing or voicing their views/ the way their present their views (1m) <i>Not accepted: Script B – "show feelings"</i> <i>Script A – "prevent people from being themselves without being judged"</i>
	3 out of 4=full marks

7. Why is sex appeal '(...) especially valuable for the poor, the young and the otherwise unqualified' lines 90? **AIYOWAFAP** (2m)

From passage	Paraphrase
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<p>Like other sorts of power, sex appeal is important for success, but unlike others, it is largely independent of birth and class.</p> <p>'especially valuable for the poor, the young and the otherwise unqualified'</p>	<p>This is because sex appeal is not bound by one's ancestry/ family background/ social status/ standing, (1m)</p> <p>(inference) And would be important to these people who have no leverage from their family background. (1m)</p> <p><i>Accept: Script A – "do not meet requirements or have the skills demanded by the economy or society"</i> <i>Script C – "bank on other characteristics such as sex appeal"</i> <i>Script D – "vital for those who may not be noticed"</i></p>
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8. What changes in society have caused '...masculinity ...[to] undergo[ing] a makeover' line 95? **AIOWAFAP** (3m)

From passage	Paraphrase
<p>The definition of masculinity too is undergoing a makeover and narcissism is in, thanks to economic growth, higher disposable incomes, shifting gender roles, and fashion and cosmetics industries eager to expand their customer bases.</p> <p>... men are cleaning up their acts because women can afford to be more selective when finding a mate.</p>	<p>This is because societies are more affluent OR men have greater spending power/bigger salaries, (1m)</p> <p>traditional notions/expectations of the different sexes are changing, (1m) and the beauty industry wish to capitalise on them to increase their profit margins. (1m)</p> <p>This is because women are more discerning/ choosy/fussy/picky when it comes to choosing/getting a life partner. (1m)</p> <p>Any 3 of the 4 for full marks</p>

9. Summary Question

Using material from paragraphs **3, 4 and 6**, summarise what the author has to say about the implications of beauty in the labour market.

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.**

The first implication that beauty has on the labour market is ...

	From Text	Paraphrased Answer
A	physically attractive women and men earn more	that good-looking people are <u>paid more</u> / have higher salary
B	looks have a bigger impact on earnings than education	beauty has a larger effect/is more important to salaries than qualifications OR brings more returns than qualifications the type/level of schooling
C	Beauty is naturally rewarded in jobs where physical attractiveness would seem to matter	It is no surprise that beauty brings high returns in certain profession/qualifications that value pretty appearances
D	also yields rewards in unexpected fields.	But it is surprising that it is also compensated in professions where looks do not have any inherent value. <i>Accept: Script D "also the same in occupations where appearances are not <u>so</u> important (language problem "so")</i>
E	far more pervasive than one might think	Beauty's impact on labour market is even more ubiquitous/unescapable/prevalent
F	more likely to be promoted	The beautiful may be considered for advancement (in their career faster/ climb up the corporate ladder faster. <i>Can be inferred from context</i>)
G	because people tend <u>to associate</u> positive traits such as sensitivity and poise with them.	As people believe that beautiful people possess good attributes (such as sympathy/compassion and self-assurance)
H	Employers too believe that attractive workers bring in more business,	Entrepreneurs buy into the idea that beautify people will result in more profits/ sales "more is required"
I	makes sense for firms to hire them.	Thus favouring them in employment
J	(attractive women) stymied by the "bimbo effect"	Pretty ladies are often hindered/obstructed by their perception as being frivolous or less able <i>Must show idea of losing out or blocked by the perception "stymied"</i>
K	until they prove their competence and commitment.	So they need to demonstrate their ability and dedication/loyalty

		<i>Not accepted: aptitude</i>
L	work harder	Take on tougher and,
M	put in longer hours	more time consuming jobs/spend more time at work
N	downplay their womanliness so that they will be taken seriously	Restrain/tone down their femininity to be considered able/ intelligent/ respected Not competent (see K)
O	Beautiful and successful women also often have to contend with <u>unfavourable perceptions of how they rise to power</u>	are often wrongly believed to have climbed up the corporate ladder through underhanded means <i>Accept: Script A “disrespectful views of how they manage to do very well”</i>
P	fend off uninvited sexual advances	Fight off unwelcome sexual harassment
Q	people find it unconceivable that women can be beautiful and capable at the same time.	People often cannot believe that beauty can coexist with ability <i>Accept: Script C “battle stereotypes stating that females cannot be good looking and competent simultaneously”.</i>
R	while good looking males <u>are more likely to be called up for interviews</u> , attractive women are not.	Handsome males often receive favourable replies for job applications as opposed to pretty women
S	Human Resource Departments tend to be staffed by women	More workers in HR are female
T	jealousy led women to discriminate against pretty candidates.	Envy results in them preferring to pass over attractive female candidates

Suggested mark allocation

Number of points	Number of marks
1-2	1
3-4	2
5-6	3
7	4
8-9	5
10-11	6
12-13	7
14 or more	16

10. Application Question:

Catherine Hakim makes some observations about the implications beauty has on work and society. To what extent do you agree with the author's views? How applicable do you find his observation to yourself and your society?

Stand: I agree to a large extent about her observations about the implication beauty has on work and society. I find them applicable to my society as Singapore is a largely image conscious society and has a high level of media penetration. Young people, in particular, buy into the idea that beauty is paramount.

P	In paragraph 7, the writer states that 'women's preoccupation of beauty' is going towards extreme, 'whatever the price'.
EXP	The writer means to say that some women go overboard in trying to become or maintain their beauty. This preoccupation with beauty has brought about some adverse effects on themselves and society.
EV	I find her observation largely applicable to young females in Singapore as we tend to be rather image conscious and preoccupied with the way we look. The high media penetration here also means that the Western conception of beauty as being fair and thin is generally accepted as the norm or standard.
EG	Many young girls like to follow the latest fashion trends sported by their favourite music stars and some will go to extremes in developing eating disorders like bulimia or anorexia or going for cosmetic surgery or using fillers to achieve their 'ideal of beauty'. In 2012, the phenomenon of "going plastic" become so wide spread with 8 in 10 women in Singapore aged between 20 and 25 reporting to have had some form of aesthetic work done to their faces or bodies according to doctors interviewed by 'Yahoo! Singapore'. Many of these women openly share their 'before and after' images online and some are even sponsored for such procedures as it is the example of 23 year old blogger and beauty queen Peggy Heng, who way paid \$20,000 in return for free publicity on her blog about her surgical transformation.
L	The examples above show that the 'preoccupation with beauty' among young people in Singapore is extremely detrimental and thus making the writer's idea relevant in the local context.

P	The writer states in paragraph 2, that (women) 'graduates still aspire to be marry up because they want their husband to look for them' (lines 13-14)
EXP	The writer means to say that even though women are more educated today and should be in a better position to take care of themselves. However, most still expect their husbands to have a better financial standing than them.
EV	As an Asian society which still holds to some traditional perception of women, a majority still view women as generally being less able than men and that their primary role in society is that of a wife and mother.
EG	Although more women than men have graduated in recent years and more women enter the workforce, less than 5% of senior management positions are held by women. In a study by Forbes, some reasons given for this is the increasing number of women graduates who choose to stay home or be homemakers and the corporate glass ceiling.

P	In paragraph 6, the writer states that ‘good looking women seeking high flying jobs in particularly male dominated fields may be stymied by the ‘bimbo effect’ until they prove their competence and commitment.
EXP	The writer means to say that beautiful women who hold high positions in mainly male dominated jobs are often discriminated against and presumed to have obtained their status not through their brains/ ability.
EV	This view is <u>not generally accepted</u> in Singapore because as a meritocratic and highly literate society, people are aware that those who hold higher positions are likely to be just as capable as their male counterparts. This is unlike other societies like the USA where education is not accessible to all. The law, through the Women’s Charter and other legal provisions, also take a serious view of sexual harassment or outrage of modesty of women.
EG	Women are graduating in higher numbers than men and are even taking up high positions in government so that they can be more heavily involved in crafting policies. An example would be Ms Indranee Rajah who is the Senior Minister of State for Law and Education.