

**2017 PU3 Preliminary Examination II
Answer Scheme**

Q1. How do the closing sentences of the first paragraph (lines 6-7) establish the appeal of stories? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested response
Everything – faith, science, love – needs a story for people to find it plausible . No story, no sale .	<p>(a) Regardless of the subjects/ subject matters/ topics, (b) stories are necessary (a+b 1m) (c) for people to believe in them/ buy into them. (1m)</p> <p><i>*Degree has to be shown for (a).</i></p>

Q2. What reasons does the author provide to support his claim that ‘we all like stories’ (line 8)? Use your own words as far as possible. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested response
When we do not have a story we look for one . Journalists chasing a news lead will go to extreme ends to pursue their subjects. Boy scouts sitting round a camp fire have it easier; they make it up as the tale unfolds. Religions are so successful because they tell stories, though, to be sure, some of their stories have nice morals and some are not nice at all.	<p>(a) We like stories because we will create stories (b) when they are absent/ not found/ missing. (a+b 1m) (c) Also, religions are popular/ have a wide following because they are able to make use of stories to attract followers. (1m)</p> <p><i>*For (a), accept answers which cite the examples of journalists and boy scouts, but not if they merely paraphrase the examples.</i></p>

Q3. In paragraph 3, the author suggests that ‘different people like different kinds of morals in their stories’ (line 13). How is this claim supported by the examples given in lines 13-17? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested response
Some draw inspiration from the stories of entrepreneurs who made good despite the odds they faced in life . Some never cease to be fascinated by the heroic tales from the distant past. Yet others will never skip an episode of their favourite family drama on television .	<p>a) The examples consist of varied/ a range of stories (1m) b) which feature/ with morals related to/ to do with</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) resilience, (ii) personal sacrifices (iii) coping with domestic/ household/ social/ everyday situations/ conflicts. OR maintaining family relationships/ resolving conflicts at home</p> <p>*For (b), any 2 points for 1m <i>*Morals must be clearly stated for (b).</i> <i>*Allow lifting of ‘family’.</i></p>

Q4. In paragraph 3, what distinctions does the author draw between the grooming and gossiping that primates practise and the telling of stories by humans? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>...since human groups are roughly three times larger than other primate groups, gossip was no longer enough to produce the opiates that make social interaction pleasant for primates.</p> <p>We started sharing stories about people as a way of drawing each other closer, apart from passing idle time.</p> <p>Indeed, to this day, almost all talk of this nature, is gossip and grooming, though the removal of bodily pests is no longer necessary.</p>	<p>a) While the primates are able to derive satisfaction/ a feel-good experience from grooming and gossiping, humans can only do so through the telling of stories in a larger group. (1m)</p> <p>b) Also, humans tell stories for bonding and leisure. (1m)</p> <p>c) Unlike the primates, humans do not get rid of lice while telling stories. (1m)</p> <p><i>*Allow lifting of 'lice' and 'pests' for (c).</i></p>

Q5. Explain the author's use of the phrase 'may or may not be true' in line 28. [1]

From the passage	Suggested response
	<p>He is suggesting that... his explanation of how storytelling comes about is (a) probably not true/ has little basis/ not accurate/ is just/ no more than a story. (1m)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>... (a) it does not matter whether his explanation is true or not. (1m)</p>

Q6. In paragraph 4, what similarity does the author see between 'strong scientific theories' and 'good stories'? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>It is that they make claims so astonishing that they seem instantly very different from all the other stories we have ever heard.</p>	<p>a) They <u>both</u> make assertions/ suggestions/ involve statements that are</p> <p>b) so shocking/ unbelievable (a+b 1m)</p> <p>c) that they sound like something totally new/ groundbreaking. (1m)</p> <p><i>*Degree has to be shown for (c) ('so astonishing... all the other stories').</i></p>

Q7. Using material from paragraphs 5-7 only, summarise what the author has to say about the benefits and problems that are associated with stories.

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]

Stories benefit us because...

A1	Studies show that people who read a lot of novels have better social	...they help people develop interaction skills,
A2	and empathetic abilities,	and the abilities to feel for others
A3	are more skilful navigators , than those who do not.	and find directions .
B4	And if these claims seem almost too large to argue, the more central claim — that stories increase our empathy, (... — seems too absurd even to argue with.) and make societies work better by encouraging us to behave ethically	They teach us to do the right thing/ act morally.
C5	Stories are also a great way to bring parents and their children together .	Stories help parents and children to bond/ strengthen their relationship,
D6	As children grow older, they will be on the move —playing, running, and constantly exploring their environment. Snuggling up with a book allows both parent and child to slow down and recapture that sweet, cuddly time they enjoyed when the child was a baby.	especially for parents with active/ more independent/ grown up children. Stories will help both parents and their children to relive/ enjoy the happy moments when the children were babies.
E7	Numerous studies have also shown that students who are exposed to reading stories before preschool are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education.	In addition, students who read stories perform better in <u>school</u> ,
E8	After all, if a student struggles to put together words and sentences, how can he be expected to grasp the mathematics, science, and social concepts he will be presented with when he begins primary school?	because they are equipped with the basic skills to master/ understand different subjects earlier.
F9	A recent report estimated that a significant majority of young adults listened to online radio weekly. But some research has shown that people who listen to the narration of a passage, like the audio storytelling found in traditional audiobooks, remember less information,	However, young adults who listen to online broadcast or recordings of stories are more likely to forget the stories they hear,

F10	are less interested in the content,	are less concerned / do not care much about the information they receive,
F11	and are more likely to daydream than those who read the same book out loud or silently to themselves.	and are more likely to be distracted .
G12	With the internet, the stories we encounter today are sometimes more than what they appear to be. People are attracted to stories circulating on the internet, more so if they are stories of tragedy, perversion, penance or plain, old scandal .	People are also drawn to/ interested in sensational / dramatic stories when they find them online.
H13	A major problem in this regard is that, for the most part, we are so used to negative messages that we are not even aware when we are imbibing them. (see J15)	In fact, these stories are/have become so common / accessible that people blindly accept them (+J15),
I14	Nowadays, it is easy to find [an endless number of negative messages] (H13) in stories of all shades and forms that discourage us from being proactive and going forth into the world .	even though they prevent / hinder us from taking the initiative to help others .
J15	We no longer question the stories that we hear or read, and we even pass them on.	<H13/J15>
K16	In a world characterised by steadily decreasing attention spans and rampantly increasing information onslaughts ,	As our society has become one that is swamped by information, OR become one in which people are no longer able to cope with the deluge of information, <H13 – common vs K16 – swamped>
K17	the temptation to simplify and summarise	people just want to avoid complexity / probing/ having to think too hard
K18	just to keep on top of facts and fiction that come our way is immense.	in order to manage / process the stories they encounter.

**Please do not re-number the points as they reflect the points which are related.*

Points	1-2	3-4	5-6	7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-18	
Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Q8. How does the author show that 'stories in the form of news is to the mind what sugar is to the body' (lines 75-76)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>News is easy to digest. The media feeds us small bites of trivial matter, tidbits that do not really concern our lives and do not require thinking.</p> <p>That is why we experience almost no saturation. Unlike reading books and long magazine articles (which require thinking), we can swallow limitless quantities of news flashes, stories which are brightly coloured candies for the mind.</p> <p>Today, we have reached the same point in relation to information that we faced twenty years ago in regard to food. We are beginning to recognise how toxic news, and newsy stories, can be.</p>	<p>a) Just as the <u>body</u> is able to ingest/ take in sugar without effort, news do not require much analysis. *Idea of <u>mind</u> must be shown. (1m)</p> <p>b) As such, we will not feel overloaded with <u>either/</u> too much sugar or news/ no matter how much sugar and news we are given. (1m)</p> <p>c) Both sugar and news are harmful to <u>the body and the mind</u>. (1m) *Comparison must be clear.</p>

Q9. Explain the irony in lines 85-87. [1]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>The power to astonish that stories have is true even of seemingly long or complicated novels that no one is said to read (but they do anyway).</p>	<p>a) Long and complicated novels are <u>supposed to be so unattractive/</u> such a put off/ so boring that people will not read them.</p> <p>b) But <u>instead/</u> in reality, they are appealing enough for people to read them.</p> <p>(1m)</p> <p>*Do not accept 'the reverse is true'. The irony and contrast must be clear.</p>

Q10. Which idea in the opening lines (lines 1-3) of paragraph 1 is reflected in the phrase 'will excite them for millennia more' (line 92)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the passage	Suggested response
<p>Stories, more than the wisdom that has been passed down through the ages, are the building blocks of human character and society, and look likely to last longer than fossil fuel.</p>	<p>a) It is the idea that stories will remain a part of society for a very long time.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The new generations will continue to tell stories. (1m)</p> <p>*Degree and context have to be shown. *Allow lifting of 'society'.</p>

Q11. In this passage, the author writes about why stories are so enduring and some of the concerns she has with them. To what extent do you agree or disagree with her views? Illustrate your answer by referring to the ways in which you and your society regard stories. [10]