

**2017 JC2 GP Prelims Paper 2**  
**Suggested Answers**

1. Suggest why “participation trophies” (line 3) have helped to create a sense of entitlement in millennials. [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Millennials received so many participation trophies growing up that a recent study showed that 40% believe they should be promoted every two years, regardless of performance. (Lines 2 – 4)	Such trophies reward the millennials for <b>simply being around without needing to do anything or prove anything</b> .  *Accept any reasonable answer that shows <b>lack of or no effort</b> in getting any reward. *Accept any reasonable answer that mentions outcome of performance * No need to show extent * accept “merely” or “just” participate as BOD

2. Why has the author written “great” in inverted commas (line 5)? [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
They are so convinced of their own greatness that they are disappointed when the world refuses to affirm how “great” they know they are. (Lines 4-5)	The author is implying that the <b>millennials alone</b> falsely assume they are highly capable. [1] OR The author is being sarcastic as he feels the millennials have an inflated ego about their own abilities. In reality, <b>they are the only ones</b> who think of their own abilities as being fantastic. [1] <i>No need to pick up on sarcasm</i>  *Answer needs to show that only the millennials themselves feel this way. *Do not award if no intention is shown, no mention of author’s perspective or the wrong intention is provided. *Do not award if subject is wrong Eg: Teens/youths

3. Explain the author’s use of the word “even” in line 9. [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Each country’s millennials are different, but because of globalisation, social media, the exporting of Western culture and the speed of change, millennials worldwide are more similar to one another than to older generations within their nations. Even in China, a generation as overconfident and self-involved as the Western one has been created. (Lines 7 – 10)	The author uses the word “even” to highlight the a) <b>pervasiveness/inevitability of the selfishness/extreme pride among the millennials to the point that</b> b) a <b>conservative and conventional</b> country such as China that prides itself in upholding traditional norms c) also faces a <b>similar ailment</b> among its own millennials. OR He wants to emphasise a) <b>how influential</b> the <u>forces of change</u> are in <u>influencing the millennials</u> (answer as a whole need to mention the subject of millennials) b) <b>such that</b> China, which is a country that is <b>not only conservative but traditionally very resistant to Western culture</b> has also managed to produce a generation c) that <b>shares the same traits</b> as those of their Western counterparts  a = 1m b + c with a attempted but wrong = 1m no a = 0m a + b + c = 2m *Characteristics of the millennials must be present in pt a of the millennials *Forces of change – accept listing but DO NOT accept if only ONE tool is mentioned *Do not award if intention is incorrect. Attempted intention refers to either the tools of change or the character of the millennials. Eg: the huge influence of globalisation OR How pervasive the character of millennials are *Do not award if answer for (a) is vague. Eg: the author wants to show the extent/how far.... These answers are neutral hence vague

4. According to paragraph 3, why are the millennials “stunted” (line 16) in their growth? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>a) Now that <u>smartphones</u> allow millennials to <b>socialise at every hour</b> – an average of 88 texts are sent a day – they are <b>living under the constant influence of their friends</b>. Never before in history have people been able to grow up and reach the early twenties <b>so dominated by peers</b>.</p> <p>b) To develop intellectually, an individual <b>has to relate to older people and older things</b>. It is no wonder that millennials are stunted. (Lines 12 – 16)</p>	<p>They are stunted in their growth as a person because</p> <p>a) smartphones/mobile devices (necessary context) have ensured that they <b>only always interact with / are highly shaped/moulded by people their own age</b> [1]</p> <p>NOTE: allow paraphrase of <b>dominated</b> as <b>influence</b> and vice versa.</p> <p>*Allow lifting of smartphones, <b>no context = 0m</b></p> <p>*Accept as long as smartphones are mentioned anywhere in the answer</p> <p>*Award as long as extent is shown in capturing either, <b>“every hour”, “never before”, or “so dominated”</b></p> <p>**Do not accept technology/electronic device/internet</p> <p>*Accept communications device/communicating online/social media apps or sites</p> <p>b) and they are not <b>communicating/learning from people who are older and ideas/values/items from the past/memorabilia/historic items/artefacts</b>. [1]</p> <p>*BOD adults for older people</p> <p>*Do not accept history/past issues</p>

5. What does the phrase “perceived immaturity” (line 17) suggest about the millennials? [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>In spite of their <b>perceived immaturity</b>, this is the most threatening and exciting generation not because they are trying to take over the Establishment, but because they are growing up without one. (Lines 17 – 19)</p>	<p>The millennials <b>may appear</b> to be <b>juvenile</b> but they are <b>not</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The millennials are <b>not as childish as they seem</b></p> <p>*Do not accept repeat of the words in the question as that doesn't explain anything</p> <p>*Do not accept: <b>childlike/naïve/inexperienced</b></p> <p>*Do not accept a positive paraphrase of perceived immaturity. <i>Eg: The millennials are actually very mature/mentally developed/ adult-like</i></p>

6. Using your own words as far as possible, what are the distinctions between the millennials and the “baby boomers” mentioned in lines 19 to 22? [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>a) While the <u>Industrial Revolution</u> has made baby boomers <b>powerful</b> – they <b>could move to a city, start a business, and form organisations</b>,</p> <p>b) the <u>Information Revolution</u> has <b>further empowered</b> millennials by handing them the technology to <b>compete against huge</b> organisations: <i>hackers versus corporations, bloggers versus newspapers, YouTubers versus studios</i>. (Lines 19 – 22)</p>	<p>a) The <u>Industrial Revolution</u> [context needed] has made baby boomers <b>mobile, entrepreneurial and start/create groups/establishments</b> [1m]</p> <p>b) whereas the <u>Information Revolution</u> [context needed] has allowed the millennials to <b>contend with colossal/giant/large</b> organisations [1m]</p> <p>*Accept if students group “start a business and form organisations”</p> <p>OR</p> <p>a) The <u>Industrial Revolution</u> [context needed] has <b>enabled</b> baby boomers</p> <p>b) but the <u>Information Revolution</u> [context needed] has <b>emboldened</b> the millennials <b>even more/ greatly enabled</b> the millennials</p> <p>*degree must be conveyed for the word “huge” in pt b</p> <p>** Examples in italics need not be paraphrased but <b>do not penalise</b> if students paraphrased them</p> <p>***Contrast needed for full 2m</p>

7. Explain the irony in the first line of paragraph 5. [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
Millennials are <b>interacting</b> all day but almost <b>entirely through a screen</b> . (Line 23)	<p>Expected:</p> <p>a) By saying that the millennials are interacting all day, it is <b>expected that they are out socialising with actual people</b></p> <p>Actual:</p> <p>b) However, all they are doing is <b>actually just sending messages over a device <u>instead of having face-to-face interactions</u></b></p> <p>OR</p> <p>a) It is ironic that the millennials' idea of interacting is <b>no longer about face-to-face socialising/conversations</b></p> <p>b) but simple <b>sending of text messages</b> through the phone/ through <b>connecting over the internet while they are isolated from each other</b></p> <p>*a) needs to show face-to-face/ physical interaction  b) needs to show on screen  ** No Irony = 0m  *Award even if answer has no subject mentioned  *Accept "directly" for FTF  *Do NOT accept "live" for FTF  *Do not award if subject is different, i.e. people vs millennials  *Do not award if answer presented as inverted commas (refer to google doc for eg)</p>

8. Explain how the author justifies the use of the word "apathetic" (line 29) to describe the millennials. Use your own words as far as possible [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
<p>Millennials are apathetic:</p> <p>a) they have <b>less civic engagement</b> and</p> <p>b) <b>lower political participation than any previous group</b>. (Lines 28 – 29)</p> <p><i>*Focus of this question is to test that the students are able to understand the purpose of the colon and so answers should only come from the portion that follows the colon.</i></p> <p><i>**Ignore answers that come from elsewhere</i></p>	<p>He does so by saying that the millennials</p> <p>a) <b>do not really bother to make a difference</b> to their societies [1m]</p> <p>b) and are <b>less involved in politics/ care less</b> about what the government is doing <b>than the generations before</b> [1m]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>He highlights how the millennials/they are <b>not as involved in</b></p> <p>a) <b>social</b> and [1m]</p> <p>b) <b>political issues compared to all the generations that came before/other generations</b> [1m]</p> <p>*Do not accept answers of 0% like "do not care/do not bother"</p> <p>*Accept <b>Least involved in social and political issues</b></p> <p>*NOTE: <u>Answer for b needs to reflect the idea that the millennials do the LEAST among ANY other generations and NOT about comparing them to the past</u></p>

9. What do you understand by “people are inflating themselves like balloons on Facebook” (lines 34-35)? [1]

From the passage	Suggested answer
According to W. Keith Campbell, a psychology professor at the University of Georgia, “ <b>People are inflating themselves like balloons on Facebook</b> . If you do this well enough on Instagram, YouTube and Twitter, you can become a microcelebrity.”(Lines 33 – 36)	<p>The <u>millennial's Facebook</u> is filled with posts of a <b>mundane or superficial nature in order to make it seem like they lead interesting or busy lives</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The <b>attention</b> the <u>millennials</u> <b>show on themselves</b> on <u>social media</u> is <b>self-aggrandising</b>.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The <u>millennials</u> are <b>boasting about their lives</b> on Facebook</p> <p>*Can lift Facebook  **Necessary subject = the millennials (BOD people)  Necessary context = Facebook/social media  ***No context = 0m  *Accept any answer that shows that millennials are trying to make themselves look good</p>

10. Explain what the author means by “a generation’s greatness should not be undermined by their shortcomings” (lines 37-38). [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
While it may be easy to write the millennials off, <b>a generation's greatness should not be undermined by their shortcomings</b> , but determined by how they react to the challenges that befall them. (Lines 37 – 38)	<p>a) The <u>millennials' achievements/successes</u> [1m]  b) should not be <b>weakened/destroyed/marred/limited(BOD) as a result of their flaws/mistakes</b>. [1m]</p> <p>*Necessary subject = Millennials, no subject = 0m  **Degree of greatness needed</p>

12. Explain what the author means by “they will, for better or worse, inherit the earth” (line 74). [2]

From the passage	Suggested answer
We are in the middle of a changing of the guard...They will, a1) <b>for better</b> a2) or <b>worse</b> , b) <b>inherit the earth</b> (Line 74)	<p>The author means that  a) <b>no matter how good or bad</b> the <u>millennials are/become</u> [1]  b) they are the ones <b>who will become the guardians/custodians of the world</b> [1]  OR  b) the world <b>will eventually belong</b> to them [1]</p> <p>*Answer in a needs to show the idea of <u>having no choice of the outcome</u>  *Do not accept words with negative connotations for "inherit"  *Pt a should refer to the characteristics of the millennials and not their actions or what happens to the earth  *Do not accept vague answers or metaphorical answers  **Necessary subject: The millennials, <b>no subject = 0m</b></p>

11. Using material from paragraphs 8-11 (lines 44-71), summarise that the author has to say about the characteristics of millennials and how they would be advantaged in their careers.

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]

One characteristic of the millennials is...

	From the passage	Suggested answer
A	They are <i>technologically adept</i> , (line 42)	<b>proficient/skilful/good/well-versed/very knowledgeable/vast knowledge of</b> at using technology  <i>*Do not accept knowledgeable/ have knowledge</i>
B	<i>technologically precocious</i> , (line 42)	from a <b>very young age</b>
C	<b>growing up with a rattle in one hand and a computer mouse in the other</b> (line 42-43)	because they have been <b>exposed</b> to technology <b>from birth/young</b>
D	They may have the <b>least seniority</b> but claimed the <b>most authority</b> when it came to <i>technical support</i> (line 43-44)	This makes them <b>technological experts despite being the most junior/youngest</b>  <i>*Point should indicate it is about technical support/technology</i>
E	They <b>welcome change</b> (line 44)	They <b>look forward to new experiences/embrace spontaneity</b>  <i>*Do not accept answers that are negative (do not mind)</i> <i>*Do not accept evolution for change</i>
F	<b>by nature well-suited</b> for the <b>unpredictable</b> workplace of the future (line 45)	so they are <b>inherently/fundamentally/ innately equipped</b> for the <b>ever-changing/ volatile</b> workplace of the future  <i>*Context of workplace/jobs/career must be present</i>
G	They <b>do not know enough</b> to be <b>prudent</b> , (line 45)	They are <b>without adequate understanding to be wise</b> ,  <i>*Do not accept answers that are conclusions drawn. Eg: too hasty/ rash</i>
H	and <b>therefore attempt the impossible</b> (line 46)	they <b>thus try the unfathomable</b>  <i>*G and H are a set</i>
I	They have less baggage (they get married later, and have children even later in life) and <b>can therefore afford to take risks</b> . (line 46-47)	With less commitments, they are <b>able to take chances</b> OR As they settle down later, they form families at an older age, <b>they are able to take chances</b> .
J	They think <b>differently</b> , (line 48)	They are <b>creative / they have dissimilar mindsets / alternative approaches</b>
K1	<b>unencumbered by</b> <u>years of education and experience</u> (line 48)  <i>Award only if point J is present</i>	As they are <b>not burdened / hindered/ unhampered</b> by years of education and experience  <i>Context of education and experience is needed for K1 &amp; K2</i>
K2	which were once necessary to succeed, but are <b>now increasingly seen as irrelevant</b> , even a liability. (line 48 -49)  <i>Award only if point J is present</i>	as it is <b>more unnecessary today /presently appears to be even more outdated</b>  <i>Context of education and experience is needed for K1 &amp; K2</i>
L	For a <u>company</u> to <b>think outside the box, why not learn by working with people who do not know there is a box?</b> (line 50 -51)	For <u>companies</u> that want to be <b>innovative, creative millennials are sought after</b> . OR The <b>millennials' creative minds have aided companies</b> which need to <b>innovate</b> .
M	They are <b>independent</b> . (line 52)	They are <b>self-directed / do not follow others / strike out on their own / work well on their own/ self-sufficient/ self-reliant/ not reliant on others</b>  <i>*Do not accept negation i.e. not dependent</i> <i>**Do not accept limited context of friends/family for do not rely/do not follow</i>
N	<b>One of the most pervasive business trends of the past decade has been the rise of the free agent, caused both by the breakdown of the social contract between companies and employees,</b>	(inferred) Idea should reflect the understanding of free agent which is about <b>free-lancing/ being your own boss or outsourcing</b>

	<b>and by the growing share in the workforce of knowledge workers with portable skills. (line 50-52)</b>	along with being a <b>jack-of-all-trades</b> or having <b>multiple talents</b>
O	The millennials <b>came of age as that</b> social contract <b>was dissolving</b> . (line 54-55)  <i>Award only if point P is present</i>	The millennials have <b>matured</b> in the time in which the social contract was <b>disintegrating / becoming irrelevant</b>
P	They have <b>never expected loyalty</b> from a company, <b>nor have they expected to give it</b> . (line 55-56)	They do not <b>ever demand fidelity</b> from firms, nor <b>feel required to dispense it</b> .
Q	They <b>define</b> themselves by their <b>skills</b> , not the <b>firm</b> they <b>work</b> for. (line 56-57)	Their <b>identity</b> is based on their <b>abilities / capabilities</b> , <b>no the companies that employ them</b> .
R	The <b>overwhelming majority</b> of graduates see their career at graduation <b>not as a straight line of advancement in one company but as a zigzag path from company to company, job to job, skill to skill</b> . (line 57-58)	The <b>bulk of millennials do not stick to one job company and wait for promotion, they job hop as a means of climbing up the ladder</b> .  <i>*Accept "multi-directional job progression"</i>
S	They are <b>entrepreneurial</b> (line 59) or it is <b>no surprise</b> that <b>more</b> have been <b>striking out on their own</b> . (line 60)	They <b>set up/start their own businesses</b>  <i>*Accept business-minded / business-oriented / business driven/enterprising</i>
T	With a <b>booming</b> economy, <b>capital</b> for the taking and an <b>unprecedented</b> technological <b>opportunity</b> (lines 59 - 60)  <i>Award only if point S is present</i>	With a <b>rising</b> economy, <b>funds</b> to finance their businesses, and <b>uncharted</b> levels of technological <b>possibilities/wonders</b>
U	<b>This is not just</b> the <b>bravado of callow youth</b> : (line 61)	<b>Not only do</b> they have the <b>arrogance / swagger / boldness / foolhardiness of inexperience / immaturity</b>
V	by the time they enter university, most teenagers already <b>know far more about the business world</b> than their parents ever did. (line 65-66)	they are <b>very much aware / very well aware/ have extensive experience</b> of the ways of doing <b>commerce/entrepreneurship/ economy</b>  <i>*Do not accept economics</i>
W	The signs of this <b>business precociousness</b> are <b>everywhere</b> (line 61 - 62)	<b>It is common/ the norm/ Generally</b> , the millennials are <b>proficient beyond their years / prodigious</b> in business.
X	<b>Now</b> they <b>run on-campus</b> Incubators (line 64)  <i>Award only if point Y is present</i>	<b>Today, tertiary institutions / colleges provide spaces / manage / organise</b> start-ups / Incubators.
Y	for the <b>shrinking number of students</b> that have <b>postponed entrepreneurship long enough to go to college at all</b> . (line 65-66)	<b>A larger number of students start businesses rather than pursue formal education</b> OR <i>(inferred)</i> <b>Students</b> are increasingly <b>prioritising</b> their <b>economic / business ambitions rather than educational ones</b> .

No of Points	Marks
1 – 2	1
3 – 4	2
5 – 6	3
7 – 8	4
9	5
10 – 11	6
12 – 13	7
≥ 14	8

13. Joel Stein makes observations about the millennial's best and worst traits. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own experience and that of your society? [10]

Marks	Description
1 – 2	<p>Award 1m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No proper argument quoted i.e. free-writing or simply repeating of question</li> <li>Incomplete arguments with only a quote and/or a stand</li> <li>Point picked is not an argument at all</li> </ul> <p>Award 2m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly restatement without any reference to Sg Society</li> <li>No opinions and is simply a paraphrase/ description of the author's opinion instead</li> </ul>
3 – 4	<p>Award 3m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some misunderstanding of the author's point or point not discussed in the correct context but evaluation and explanation is acceptable</li> <li>AND/OR evaluation is barely considered and is mostly just a description or repetition of what the author is saying (echoing author's point without own opinion)</li> <li>Overall argument is completely illogical/incoherent/irrelevant (high level of misunderstanding)</li> </ul> <p>Award 4m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correct argument picked but not properly explained or developed</li> <li>Evaluation present but mostly general observations or personal examples</li> <li>Some name-dropping attempted but not entirely accurate</li> <li>Tends to have logical flaws or gaps in reasoning even though overall opinion makes sense</li> </ul>
5 – 6	<p>Award 5m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation includes proper examples</li> <li>Some attempts at proper development of argument though not entirely perfect</li> <li>Some minor misunderstanding but does not affect argument and reasoning much</li> <li>Few gaps in reasoning</li> <li>Balance attempted but may not be successful</li> </ul> <p>Award 6m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No misreading or misunderstanding of point</li> <li>Evaluation is good and supported by substantial examples or apt observations</li> <li>Balance provided but not perfect</li> </ul>
7 – 8	<p>Award 7m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 1 6m argument provided</li> <li>Balance is provided and achieved</li> </ul> <p>Award 8m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 3 properly developed and evaluated arguments provided with balance included</li> <li>OR 2 properly developed and evaluated arguments that are well supported and one slightly weaker argument this is inclusive of balance</li> <li>Examples in this band must be real examples and not simply apt observations or personal experience</li> <li>There is limited gaps in reasoning or no gaps in reasoning at all, allowing for a cogent and coherent argument</li> </ul>
9 – 10	<p>Award 9m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete AQ with at least 3 arguments and introduction and conclusion provided though intro and conclusion need not be good</li> <li>Real examples used with no gaps in reasoning</li> <li>Coherent and cogent arguments with constant reference to points from the passage</li> <li>Sg society characteristics properly considered and used to further the argument made</li> </ul> <p>Award 10m</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly convincing piece that shows understanding of the author's arguments and proper consideration of what these arguments might entail for the Singapore society</li> <li>Apt examples that are wide ranging together with Singapore characteristics to support evaluation that is convincing</li> <li>Balance is achieved seamlessly and there is an overall coherence to the piece</li> <li>Introduction and conclusion shows proper insight and understanding</li> </ul>

## Language marks

<b>12m</b>	Good vocab, very clean, few grammar mistakes, no basic grammar mistakes like (sp, t, sv), includes signal markers in AQ and summary.
<b>11m</b>	Good vocab i.e. answers are often rather similar to answer key, same as 12 but not much use of signal markers
<b>10m</b>	Same as 11 but makes some basic grammar errors though answers can still be understood
To get 10m and above. student should not have lifted anything maybe just 1 lift	
<b>9m</b>	Average - range of mistakes but expression is largely clear, some lifts in summary
<b>8m</b>	Some unclear expressions, greater number of basic errors (T, SV, SP) lifting in summary and SAQ
<b>7m</b>	Answer requires re-reading even in AQ portion, errors of many types esp EXP, WW, SS