

Answer Scheme for 2017 NJC Prelim GP Paper 2

1. What is the purpose of the rhetorical question in the opening statement? (1m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase
1	<p>Do cities make us sick? A century ago, it went without saying that they did. With their teeming slums, open sewers, filthy streets and soot-laden air, global capitals such as New York, Rome, London, Paris and Hong Kong were rife with infectious diseases. As recently as the 1960s – the height of the old urban crisis of de-industrialisation and white flight in the US – cities had rates of infant mortality and disease that were far higher than those of suburbs. (lines 1-5)</p>	<p>(Purpose) It is to provoke our thinking/ draw our attention to</p> <p>(Do not accept “emphasize”, “show”, “highlight”.)</p> <p>(Context) the issue of how cities may be damaging to our health/ have adverse effects on our health.</p>
<p>Learning point:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Both parts (purpose + context) needed for 1 mark 2. Students must note the specific purpose of the use of a rhetorical question. 3. Students should not lift “sick” but should paraphrase it. The context of “health” must be included. 		

2. From paragraph 1, what is the main distinction between cities 100 years ago and today? (2m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase	
1	A century ago, it went without saying that they did. With their teeming slums, open sewers, filthy streets and soot-laden air , global capitals such as New York, Rome, London, Paris and Hong Kong were rife with infectious diseases . (lines 1-3)	<p>a) In the past, cities were terribly/ extremely polluted and had poor sanitation.</p> <p>(Accept “very dirty” as paraphrase of “filthy”.)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>b) Illnesses were rampant/ pervasive in cities in the past.</p>	Students must get matching pairs to get full marks. (2 or 0)
2	Today's great cities are engines of technological innovation and economic growth; they are cleaner, greener and safer than many suburbs and rural areas, and much more productive. (lines 7-9)	<p>a) In contrast, cities now have well-maintained environments.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>b) In contrast, cities now have healthier environments.</p>	
<p>Learning Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students must capture either 1a + 2a or 1b + 2b.2. Students need to be discriminating in selecting the main distinction between the cities of the past and the present. (The distinction is not about people falling ill more easily in the past – not about city-dwellers but the subject of cities being rampant with diseases).3. Students should not use the negative format of the word to show contrast.4. The extent of (types of) pollution/ sanitation must be captured for part 1.5. Discourse marker is needed to show contrast between past and present.6. Reference to the subject must be included.			

3. According to the author in paragraph 2, what benefits are cities linked with? Use your own words as far as possible. (3m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase	
1	Urban density is associated with high wages , (line 10)	Cities are linked to good income/ salaries and	5pts = 3m 3-4pts = 2m 1-2pts = 1m
2	artistic creativity and entrepreneurial start-ups (lines 10-11)	Inventive/innovative ideas and new innovative companies.	
3	Affluent city-dwellers have access to a wider variety of organic foods (lines 11-12)	Natural healthy food is available/ affordable	
4	they jog and bike and belong to expensive gyms and enjoy long life expectancies. (lines 12-13)	Who benefit from healthy lifestyles and anticipate a prolonged life. (Accept “long”)	
5	And, of course, cities are home to great medical centres. (line 13)	Additionally they provide excellent medical services/ hospitals/ infrastructure.	
Learning Points: 1. Paraphrasing question 2. Students should try to pick out all relevant points in the paragraph.			

4. Explain what the author is suggesting by saying that “our economic geography is deeply polarised” (line 15)? Use your own words as far as possible. (3m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase	
1	Our economic geography is deeply polarised , (line 15)	There is a pronounced/ extreme divide/ great disparity in the standard of living	4pts = 3m
2	and the fault lines run not just between cities and suburbs , (lines 15-16)	between the cities and the outlying areas	2-3pts = 2m 1pt = 1m
3	but between comparatively rich cities and comparatively poor ones (line 16)	and also between wealthy cities and those that are deprived/ less well to do	
4	– and between the more or less advantaged and disadvantaged neighbourhoods within them. (lines 16-17)	Additionally there is a big difference seen between the privileged and underprivileged vicinities within them. (Accept privilege as referring to wealth.)	
Learning Points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students must explain the keywords in the quote and capture the degree of the divide . 2. Students need to be careful in their choice of points as the rest of the paragraph describes polarity in terms of health, not focusing on the economic geography. 			

5. Why does the author think that urban living is harmful (line 29-31)? Use your own words as far as possible. (2m)

	Lifted	Paraphrase	
1	For most of us, urban living means long commutes , (line 29)	Urban life results in greater travelling time between places	3-4pts = 2m 1-2pts = 1m
2	sedentary working days (line 30)	and being inactive when on the job	
3	and the constant temptations of junk food, sugary, alcoholic beverages (line 30)	frequent desire for unhealthy snacks	
4	and the dramatic speed-up of society . People may complain about how busy they are, how overloaded modern life has become . (lines 31-32)	and an excessively hectic pace of life/ schedules which are extremely packed	
Learning Points: 1. Paraphrasing question 2. Modifiers (constant, dramatic,etc.) must be captured in the answers. 3. Dramatic speed-up does not refer to the sudden onset of a fast pace, rather that society is now moving very fast.			

6. Using material from Paragraphs 5-7, summarise what the author has to say about the problems of city life and how cities are best positioned to address them. 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.

One problem is that.....

No.	Line	Text	Paraphrase
1	L33	Our lives are spinning out of control	We are losing our grip on life (idiomatic expression) / unable to manage our lives effectively
2	L33	The major cause in the speed-up of life.....economics	Mainly because life has become hectic/accelerated due to our work life
3	L34 L35	The nature of work has changed now that bosses are demanding more hours of work After a long work week....	We are expected to commit more time to our job Do not accept lift for "work".
4	L35	..the rest of our life becomes a rat race.....	We are equally frenzied in our free time .
5	L36	..to hurry from one activity to activity, with one eye always on the clock.	We are rushing for time to attend to overwhelming daily duties
6	L36	Home cooked meals give way to frozen pizzas(e.g.)	Even to the extent of eating fast/ processed food
7	L37	Sundays turn into a whirlwind of errands	Using the day off for chores/ menial tasks
8	L37-38	We have quickened the pace of life only to become less patient.	This results in us being intolerant,
9	L38	Less spontaneous,	Leading too structured a life
10	L38-39	Less joyful/less able to enjoy the present and	And being less happy/ derive less pleasure from life
11	L39	Reflect on the past	With no time to contemplate the past/ what we have done Accept lift for "past".
12	L40	At the same time, the prevalence of lifestyle diseases	Simultaneously, illnesses related to our way of life are widespread.
13	L41	And the whole panoply of bad things that are associated with obesity, smoking, alcohol and drug abuse is rising alarmingly	Besides the drastic increase in the adverse effects of harmful pursuits/ indulgences
14	L45-46the social isolation that occurs	The situation is exacerbated by a sense of loneliness/desolation Accept "being alone".
15	L46	... increasing incidence of mental health problems and suicides	Which results in the rise in psychological illnesses and suicides.
		ADDRESS PROBLEMS	
16	L52	..mobilise the resources needed to	However cities have the means to

		mitigate them	alleviate the problems
17	L52-53	Well-established infrastructure.. delivery of social welfare and health services	With their recognized organisations/ institutions for community support and healthcare. Do not accept “facilities”.
18	L53-55	..more and more effective medical interventions	Increasingly early actions are taken to address diseases successfully
19	L55-56	Medical schools and medical professionals reach better understandings of specifically urban dimensions of health problems, better able to respond to them	As specialists gain more knowledge of afflictions affecting cities , they can deal with the health problems.
20	L56	Urban density	Furthermore with a big population/ being closely packed
21	L56	Diversity	And the variety of people ,
22	L57	Accelerate the transmission of information and ideas ; cities rich in media and mass communication professionals and platforms	The spread of information is easily facilitated/disseminated Accept lift for “information”. The focus is on the transmission.
23	L58	Raise public awareness	To bring about people’s consciousness of their health The context for health is implied.
24	L58	Change behaviours	And their lifestyle

1-2	3-4	5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14+
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Our problem is that.....

We mismanage our lives mainly because work life is hectic and exacting. Leisure time is equally frenzied, attending to overwhelming daily duties with no time to cook. This results in us being intolerant, having too structured a life, being unhappy with no time to contemplate the past. Simultaneously, we are vulnerable to lifestyle illnesses. Besides the increase in harmful pursuits, we suffer from loneliness which consequently brings about psychological illnesses and suicides. However cities have the means to alleviate these problems. There are recognised organisations for community support and healthcare. Increasingly early actions address diseases successfully. Specialists gain better insights into illnesses. Furthermore, the big and varied population facilitates information for people’s greater consciousness of health and lifestyle. (120 words)

7. Explain the author's use of the phrase "dare to say" in line 59. (1m)

	Lifted	Inferential
1	<p>A growing chorus of social critics dare to say that faster is not always better. Quality of time is important. We must pay attention to the psychological, environmental and political consequences of our constantly accelerating world. A balanced life, with intervals of creative frenzy giving way to relaxed tranquillity, is what is needed. (lines 59-61)</p>	<p>The author wants to show that</p> <p>An increasing number of social commentators, are confident (purpose) that a slower pace of life may be the preferred option (context) despite popular opinion/belief</p> <p>OR</p> <p>These commentators are challenging (purpose) mainstream thinking that favours a speedy lifestyle. (context)</p>
	<p>Learning Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students need to explain the phrase in context. 2. Either interpretation of "dare to say" is accepted. 3. The idea of "in spite of" must be captured. 	

8. What is the author implying in the last sentence of paragraph 8? (2)

	Lifted	Inferential
1	How do we begin to apply the brakes in our lives	The author is implying that there is a sense of struggle/ difficulty OR The author is uncertain of how we can slow down
2	when the world around us seems to be stomping on the gas pedal? (lines 62-63)	amidst the frenzy all around us / when the pace of life is so hectic (Context)
	Alternatively students may answer in this way:	Just as it is difficult to 1) apply the brakes to slow down when everyone else is accelerating (No credit for Part 1 alone) 2) it is also a challenge for us to slacken our pace of life when the world around us is so hectic.
	Learning point: 1. Students must grasp that this is a rhetorical question posed by the author and implies a sense of difficulty or struggle. 2. The word “implies” requires students to pick out the inference from the sentence; it is not a question which requires students to explain the metaphor (“Explain what the author means”).	

9. What reasons does the author suggest in lines 65-68 that might stand in the way of “happiness and better health”? (line 65) (2m)

	Lifted	Inferential	
1	Poor health outcomes and intractable urban poverty are as closely related today as they were historically; raising minimum wages , (lines 65-67)	They are: Very low incomes/ earnings	3-4pts = 2m 1-2pts = 1m
2	improving education (lines 67)	Poor education levels/ low literacy levels Allow lift for education	
3	and creating higher levels of socio-economic mobility can go far to change that. (line 67-68)	and limited movement/ ability to rise up the social ladder Allow lift for “socio-economic”.	
4	Community-building can help dispel the plague of loneliness. (line 68)	Isolation due to a lack of togetherness/ connections/ social cohesion	
Learning Points: 1. Inference question as students must infer how these factors could possibly impede people’s happiness and health 2. Students cannot directly paraphrase from the passage.			

10. How does the author suggest a sense of optimism in “we are about to embark on the greatest epoch...” (lines 76-77)? (1m)

	Lifted	Inferential
1	By the middle of this century, 75% of humanity will live in cities; we are about to embark on the greatest epoch of city-building that history has ever seen. (lines 76-77)	The author suggests this by highlighting/ emphasising (do not accept “show”) that this is the very era/ point in time when the growth/ development of cities will peak/ reach its height.
Learning Points: 1. Students must get both parts of the answer to get the full mark. 2. Students have to pay close attention to the choice of words that suggest optimism. 3. Students must capture the meaning of “greatest” in the answer.		

11. Richard Florida sees the problems and potential of cities. How far would you agree with his observations, relating your arguments to your own experiences and that of your society? (10m)

Requirements of the question:

1. Students are to identify **three relevant arguments** from the passage addressing the author's observations about the **problems and potential of cities**.
2. **Both problems and potential** must be discussed – failure to address either would constitute an “incomplete treatment of the requirements” (Band 3).
3. **Explicit reference must be made** to how the problems and potential are heightened in, or particularly relevant to cities or urban living. Students should not merely relate all arguments to Singapore without reference to cities just because Singapore is a city state.
4. Students must **take a stand** as to whether the arguments identified can be contextualised to the individual and society (making judgements and decisions).
5. **Arguments are to be evaluated**, showing the extent to which they are contextualised to their society. (developing arguments to their logical conclusions)
6. **Examples** offered can be based on their observations, knowledge and experience from their **society** (not necessarily Singapore). **Personal examples or insight** should be related to society at large or the larger community.
There should be a **succinct introduction and conclusion**. (very clear shape and paragraph organisation)