

General Paper Section 1 Questions

1. 'A society suffers if it fails to educate its women.' How far do you share this view?
2. 'As well as instructing and convincing, history should be thrilling and delightful.' How far do you agree with this proposition?
3. 'Elections are meaningless as many voters have no real knowledge of national and international issues.' Discuss.
4. 'Girls and women participate less in sport than boys and men.' How far is this inevitable or desirable?
5. 'International sporting success is not necessarily dependent on a large population.' Discuss.
6. 'Meaningful social interaction can only be achieved face-to-face.' How far do you agree?
7. 'Positive discrimination is essential to help minority groups succeed.' How true is this claim?
8. 'Social security and welfare payments are essential in any modern society.' How far do you agree?
9. 'Superpowers do more harm than good in the world.' How far do you agree?
10. 'The high salaries of top sports personalities are unjustified.' To what extent do you agree?
11. 'There are few remaining sports where players abide strictly by the rules.' How far do you agree?
12. A meritocracy offers opportunities for advancement through individual ability and achievement. To what extent is your society meritocratic?
13. Assess the arguments, applicable to your country, for encouraging or discouraging immigration.
14. Assess the discrimination you might face when choosing a career, considering such issues as age, sex, and background.
15. Assess the influence of globalisation on the family unit in your society.
16. Can child labour ever be justified?
17. Evaluate the characteristics that make the people of your country unique as a nation.
18. Have revolutions ever made the world a better place? Examine two revolutions in support of your view.
19. How effective are the police in tackling crime where you live?
20. How fairly can it be claimed that European colonisation was more beneficial than harmful to the countries concerned?
21. How far are cultures other than European significant in your country?
22. How far do you agree that an hereditary monarch as Head of State is preferable to an elected President?
23. How far would you agree that there is no real difference between government and opposition in most democracies?
24. How far would you agree that written history is as much fiction as fact?
25. How important is it to be an 'ethical consumer'?
26. How important is the buying power of the over-60s to your country's economy?
27. How justifiable is it for the international community to impose sanctions on 'rogue' states?
28. How justified are the high salaries and bonuses paid out in some professions?
29. How much truth is there in the old joke that 'economists have predicted ten of the last five recessions'?
30. How successfully is crime tackled in your society?

31. How true is it to claim that the focus of economic activity in the world is passing from West to East?
32. How valid is it to claim that war cannot be avoided?
33. In your opinion, what are the advantages and disadvantages of democracy?
34. Is it democratically acceptable not to vote in elections?
35. Is it fair to claim that the United Nations has achieved little in solving the problems of the world?
36. Is sex education the responsibility of school or parents?
37. Nelson Mandela wrote 'The real heroes are men and women who are friends of the poorest of the poor.' To what extent do you agree?
38. Should tax payers be expected to subsidise the cost of university courses?
39. Should there be any limits to freedom of expression?
40. Should women be more prominent in the public life of your country?
41. Slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1800s. To what extent is slavery still a problem in the 21st Century?
42. To what extent are economic migrants a problem for their host countries?
43. To what extent are racism and other forms of discrimination a problem in your society?
44. To what extent are small businesses in your country still affected by the recent financial upheavals?
45. To what extent are the elderly revered or ignored in your society?
46. To what extent does your country's constitution uphold and promote human rights?
47. To what extent has the course of history been determined by the contribution of individuals?
48. To what extent is a university education essential for an individual's prospects?
49. To what extent is climate change a bigger global threat than terrorism?
50. To what extent is there equality of opportunity in your country?
51. To what extent should a nation try to forget its past?
52. Who is winning the gender wars? Give reasons to support your answer.
53. Why do all Empires decline in the end? Is there evidence for this in today's world?
54. With the move to text entry on computers, some states no longer require handwriting to be taught. Is this a desirable development?
55. Would you agree that the Olympics are less about sports and more about nationalism and commercialism?

General Paper Section 2 Questions

1. 'Fears about global warming are often exaggerated and alarmist.' Do you have any sympathy with this view?
2. 'Global warming is a far greater threat to our planet than international terrorism.' Evaluate the truth of this observation.
3. 'Human migration is solely determined by economic considerations.' How far do you agree?
4. 'In order to progress we need to be in harmony with nature.' How true is this claim?
5. 'It is more important to learn and understand the practical applications of science than the theories.' How far do you agree?
6. 'It is no longer sufficient to have armed forces because future wars will also be fought in cyberspace.' Discuss.
7. 'Mathematics can reveal the beauty and order of the world.' How is your understanding of the world enhanced by mathematics?
8. 'Mathematics is more feared than respected.' How far do you agree with this view?
9. 'Modern society is too reliant on "pill-popping".' Assess this opinion.
10. 'Organic farming can never solve the world's food problems.' Discuss.
11. 'Our demand for energy justifies drilling anywhere.' Consider this claim.
12. 'Social networks, like Facebook, have radically changed our attitude to personal privacy.' Consider this statement.
13. 'Without animal research and testing, medical advances would be seriously delayed.' How far do you agree?
14. Account for the ever-increasing popularity of number and word puzzles.
15. Assess the ability of technology to ensure human happiness in the present century.
16. Assess the benefits and drawbacks of cosmetic surgery.
17. Consider the view that the computer has failed to meet our educational needs in school.
18. Considering the problems facing your region's agriculture, how effective are farm and land management in coping with these difficulties?
19. DNA tests are now affordable and easy to obtain. Consider the arguments for and against DNA testing.
20. Given the misery in both human and personal history, is it possible to believe in compassionate Divinity?
21. How effective is the conservation of plants and animals in your region?
22. How far does scientific knowledge undermine religious beliefs?
23. How far is it the duty of couples to limit the number of children they have?
24. How far is it true that a country's climate governs how the people live and work?
25. How far is it true that the Earth's geology subjects our civilisations to dramatic change without notice?
26. How far is it true to claim that pesticides have done more harm than good?
27. How far is mathematics 'the true universal language'?
28. How far is tourism in Space viable?
29. How far should the state interfere with an individual's right to smoke and drink alcohol?
30. How feasible is human settlement on other planets?

31. How important is fresh water as a global commodity?
32. How true is it that most of the pleasurable things in life are bad for you?
33. Is it really important to respect even the most insignificant of species?
34. Is living longer necessarily a good thing?
35. Is the theory of evolution nothing more than a theory? Defend your view on this topic.
36. Is the world becoming too reliant on Information Technology?
37. Of all the advances and discoveries in medicine in the last fifty years, which two do you consider will prove to be of greatest significance in the twenty-first century and why?
38. Ought there to be any limits to genetic research?
39. Should immigrants have to pass language proficiency and citizenship tests before they are allowed to settle in their host countries?
40. Should obesity be regarded as a serious health concern?
41. To what degree is access to the internet absolutely necessary in the modern world?
42. To what extent can an individual in a developed country function effectively without the internet?
43. To what extent do you consider the increasing popularity of internet-based friendships and relationships to be desirable?
44. To what extent is a lack of cooperation amongst countries impeding the development of successful energy policies?
45. To what extent is it correct to claim that modern technology enables businesses to be located anywhere?
46. To what extent is there likely to be an important future for electrically powered cars?
47. To what extent is your country experiencing substantial climate change?
48. To what extent would you agree with Al Gore that 'the science is settled' with regard to global warming?
49. Various writers have envisaged a bleak future world. To what extent do you share their pessimistic vision?
50. What are the main environmental problems in your part of the world, and how effectively are they being tackled?

General Paper Section 3 Questions

1. '3D does not add anything of value to the cinema.' What is your opinion?
2. 'A good film should reflect real life.' To what extent do you agree?
3. 'A play can be read, but to be truly appreciated it must be seen.' How far do you agree with this view?
4. 'A society that cannot laugh at itself cannot learn from its failings.' How far do you agree?
5. 'All art is useless.' How far do you agree?
6. 'Great writers explore ideas of universal significance.' Show how this applies to a writer or writers from your region.
7. 'If we all spoke the same language, the world would be a better place.' How true is this?
8. 'It is often easier to communicate through speaking than writing.' Consider this view.
9. 'It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.' How far would you agree with this view?
10. 'Languages with a declining number of speakers should be left to die out.' How far do you agree with this view?
11. 'Nothing today compares with the artistic masterpieces of previous generations.' How far do you agree with this judgement?
12. 'Television is a weapon of mass distraction.' How far would you agree?
13. 'Too many video games promote aggression and violence.' How far do you agree?
14. 'Without storytellers, we would understand neither ourselves nor the world about us.' How far is this true?
15. Are films or movies only for entertainment and nothing else? Illustrate your answer with appropriate examples.
16. Are there any aspects of fashion that you would consider timeless?
17. As long as we communicate, does it matter if we are grammatically inaccurate?
18. At its best, architecture is both artistic and functional. How far do you agree?
19. Can celebrity culture ever provide worthwhile role models? [You need to consider their contributions, not just list their life stories.]
20. Consider adverts you know well and suggest reasons for their impact.
21. Discuss the appeal of science fiction films.
22. Discuss the idea that reading printed books is a thing of the past.
23. Do you agree with Oscar Wilde that 'all art is quite useless'?
24. Explain the popularity of designer labels.
25. Handwriting is often considered a relic of the past. Argue the case for retaining it.
26. How effectively does the government of your country support and encourage visual and performance arts, e.g. dance, drama, film, music?
27. How far do you agree that young people usually reject the music enjoyed by their elders?
28. How far would you agree that art is 'anything you can get away with'?
29. How far, in your opinion, can communication be achieved through dance and/or drama?
30. How important is it for a country to have its own film industry?
31. How important is it for individual cultures to maintain their own art forms?
32. How important is it to have a good command of spoken and written English?
33. How successfully have traditional performing arts been preserved in your country?
34. How well are the arts, for example, drama, music and painting, promoted and supported where you live?

35. In considering the languages you are familiar with, evaluate the influence they have in your society and on yourself.
36. In what ways has the work of one artist, one musician or one writer influenced your life?
37. Is cooking more than just a necessity?
38. Photography is both skillful and creative. Explain why this is true.
39. To what extent can photography arouse our political and social awareness?
40. To what extent is the appearance of a building important?
41. To what extent should news be 'in the public interest' and not just 'interesting to the public'?
42. To what extent should the arts aim to awaken our political and social awareness?
43. To what extent should the media lead or follow public opinion?
44. What do you consider to be a 'good read', and why? Refer to at least two novels with which you are familiar.
45. What do you consider to be the serious purpose behind television cartoon shows?
46. What have you read that illustrates 'heroism' most effectively? Fully explain your answer.
47. What kind of music do you most dislike, and what is it about this music that makes you feel as you do?
48. What purposes are served by awards, and award ceremonies, in the film and/or book industries?
49. What role does art and design play in your life?
50. What, in your view, are the most significant advantages of being proficient in more than one language?
51. Which foreign culture appeals most to you? Give reasons for your choice.
52. Which natural attractions in your country are in greatest need of conservation? Give reasons for your choices.
53. Which novels have you least enjoyed studying at school? Give reasons for your choices.
54. Why do human beings of all ages feel the need to play?
55. You are the judge of a literature competition. Indicate which novel would win the top prize. Give reasons for your choice.