

Name: _____

Class: _____

**JURONG PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE****JC2 Preliminary Examination 2025****GENERAL PAPER**
Higher 1

Paper 1

8881/01**28 August 2025****1 hour 30 minutes****READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your name and class on the question paper.

An answer booklet will be provided with this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet.

Answer **one** question.

Note that **20** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answer.

At the end of the examination, submit the question paper and answer booklet separately.

This document consists of **2** printed pages.

Answer **one** question from this paper.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

1. 'The individual wields more power than the government.' To what extent is this true today?
2. Examine the view that environmental efforts are futile as long as a materialistic society exists.
3. 'The media distracts us from meaningful pursuits.' Discuss.
4. Consider the view that science solves all problems.
5. Is an understanding of the past still a reliable guide for the present?
6. 'We have too many choices today.' How far is this true?
7. 'Tradition stands in the way of progress.' To what extent is this true in your society?
8. To what extent is the local arts scene valued and supported in your society?

Name: _____

Class: _____



JURONG PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 Preliminary Examination 2025

GENERAL PAPER

Higher 1

Paper 2

8881/02

15 September 2025

1 hour 30 minutes

INSERT

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name and class in the spaces provided above.

This Insert contains the passages for Paper 2.

This document consists of 4 printed pages.

Passage 1. *The author writes about how success can be problematic.*

- 1 Money is often equated with success, but this association carries significant societal harm. Those who accumulate substantial wealth can detach from everyday anxieties, enjoying life's pleasures far beyond the average person's reach. Yet, the problem with equating success with financial accumulation is its superficial nature. Money becomes a crude external metric of personal worth, suggesting that those who amass wealth are inherently more valuable. This notion distorts moral values, where financial success overshadows deeper qualities of character such as integrity, compassion, and empathy. 5
- 2 Such competitiveness inherent in common definitions of success often leads to a toxic environment. Success is always relative, valued only in comparison to others. This breeds a cycle where the successful are driven by an insatiable need for more, never content, always comparing themselves to their peers. High-profile cases like Sam Bankman-Fried exemplify how even the most successful can push ethical boundaries, driven by the endless desire for more. Success, in these terms, clouds judgment, inflating egos and diminishing the sense of vulnerability, leading to potentially disastrous decisions that can have widespread ramifications. 10
15
- 3 Moreover, the chase for success exacerbates human contradictions – the desires to both fit in and stand out. While success might bring admiration, it is closely trailed by envy and resentment. There is another dark side of success, where notable achievements can lead to a lonely existence, marked by social avoidance and personal disconnect. Consider the case of J.K. Rowling, who became one of the wealthiest authors in the world after the global success of her Harry Potter series. Despite her substantial material success and positive impact on literacy, Rowling's fame also attracted intense public scrutiny and personal criticism. This often invasive attention has led to significant personal challenges, including battles with the media and isolation, illustrating how substantial financial success can paradoxically lead to social isolation and emotional distress. 20
25
- 4 Furthermore, the freedom promised by success is often illusory. High achievers might escape menial jobs or impoverished living conditions, but they are frequently trapped in a cycle of unending responsibilities. Top executives may have financial security yet lack the freedom to enjoy personal time or pursue interests outside work. The very nature of their success subjects them to increased demands, perpetuating a cycle where professional obligations overshadow personal satisfaction, and where the quest for further achievements leaves little room for leisure or personal growth. This is evident in the life of Elon Musk, CEO of multiple high-stakes companies like Tesla and SpaceX. Despite his vast wealth and success, Musk has often spoken about his overwhelming work schedule, which includes working up to 100 hours a week, illustrating that even at the pinnacle of business success, personal time and freedom can be severely limited. His experience underscores how top-level success does not guarantee personal freedom or ease, but rather, often leads to a life dominated by work and devoid of personal leisure. 30
35
- 5 In essence, societal glorification of success not only perpetuates harmful competitive cycles but also corrupts fundamental values, leading to isolation and an unbalanced life where personal achievements come at the cost of community and personal well-being. This skewed prioritisation urges a re-evaluation of what truly constitutes success and its impact on societal health and happiness. We must ask ourselves whether the price of such success is too high and consider more holistic measures of achievement that encompass not only material wealth but also personal fulfilment and societal contribution. 40
45

Passage 2. *Another author writes about how success can bring about positive impact.*

- 1** Success often refers to the accumulation of wealth, possessions, or external markers of achievement. While these aspects can bring comfort, security, and opportunities, their true value lies in how they can be utilised to create a meaningful impact on a broader scale. Oprah Winfrey echoes this view when she says that success 'while significant in its own right, can also serve as a platform for greater impact and positive change.' 5
- 2** When we achieve a certain level of success, it can free up our time, energy, and resources, allowing us to shift our focus towards things that hold deeper significance. Rather than being solely consumed by personal pursuits or materialistic desires, we gain the capacity to concentrate on matters that truly matter – those that contribute to the well-being of others and the betterment of society as a whole. 10
- 3** Having material success can enable us to extend our influence, empowering us to contribute to causes, initiatives, or organisations that align with our values and address important societal issues. This usually involves philanthropy, volunteering or mentorship. In some cases, it may even involve using one's skills and resources to create positive change. By leveraging our success for the benefit of others, we can create a ripple effect that extends far beyond our own lives. 15
- 4** Moreover, true fulfilment and happiness are often derived from acts of service, compassion, and making a positive difference in the world. While material possessions can provide temporary satisfaction, the deeper sense of purpose and fulfilment arises from connecting with others, supporting their growth, and working towards creating a more just, equitable, and harmonious society. 20
- 5** In essence, material success should not be an end in itself, but rather a means to pursue what truly matters: making a difference in both our own lives and the lives of others. By utilising our resources, time, and influence in ways that contribute to the greater good, we can experience a sense of purpose, fulfilment, and leave a lasting legacy that extends beyond material achievements alone. 25

Passage 3. *An author examines the reasons to chase success.*

- 1 In the course of writing my books and articles about success, I talk to a lot of people about what that word means to them, and why they want more success in their own lives. I am surprised at how often people give me the exact same reason for wanting more success: they want their life to be 'easier'.
- 2 I know many people who are highly successful beyond any objective measure. I interviewed dozens of them for my upcoming book about self-educated millionaires. Some of them are wildly financially successful billionaires. Some are wildly famous. But I have yet to meet a successful person whose life got 'easier'. Of course, they may not have trouble paying rent anymore, or wonder where their next meal is coming from, or whether they can afford proper health care. Their success takes them safely out of worrying about the life-and-death problems that a good part of humanity struggles with.
- 3 Yet, though success and money may solve survival-level problems, they bring new ones. If you are wealthy or famous, people constantly want things from you – favours, connections, money. Power attracts admiration, but also haters, who say vile, hurtful things they would never say face-to-face, even one they hated.
- 4 I have come to believe that you should only seek fame, power, and material success if there is a mission so important, and which requires additional resources, that you willingly take on the burdens of leadership to fulfil it. If that is your reason for seeking power and success in your life, and you finally achieve it, will it be meaningful? Sure. Worthwhile? Of course.
- 5 Easy? Forget it.

Copyright Acknowledgments:

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Name: _____

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JURONG PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 Preliminary Examination 2025

GENERAL PAPER
Higher 1

Paper 2

8881/02

15 September 2025

1 hour 30 minutes

ANSWER BOOKLET

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name and class in the spaces provided above.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions in the Answer Booklet.
The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.

Note that **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.
You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question.

| For Examiner's Use | |
|--------------------|------|
| SAQ | / 15 |
| SQ | / 8 |
| AQ | / 12 |
| LANGUAGE | / 15 |
| TOTAL | / 50 |

This document consists of 7 printed pages and 1 blank page.

Answer all questions.

For
examiner's
use

Your answers should be:

- written in **your own words as far as possible**. Where you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it.
- written in **continuous prose**.

From Passage 1

1 What does 'crude' in line 4 suggest about money as a metric of personal worth?

.....

..... [1]

2 In paragraph 2, how does the author illustrate that success 'breeds a cycle where the successful are driven by an insatiable need for more' (lines 10- 11)?

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

3 In paragraph 3, give **three** human contradictions that 'success exacerbates' (line 16).

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

..... [3]

*For
examiner's
use*

4 In paragraph 4, how is the liberty promised by success often 'illusory' (line 26)?

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

5 Explain the author's use of the word 'very' in line 29?

.....
..... [1]

6 In what **two** ways is the final sentence an effective conclusion to the author's argument?

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

From all the passages

8 Passage 1 argues that 'success exacerbates human contradictions' (line 16).

Identify **one** specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

9 Passage 2 states that 'when we achieve a certain level of success, it can free up our time, energy, and resources' (line 6).

Identify **one** specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to undermine this statement. Justify your answer.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

*For
examiner's
use*

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2025 JC2 GP Prelim P2 Ans Scheme (Post- Moderation)

From Passage 1

1. What does 'crude' in line 4 suggest about money as a metric of personal worth? [1]

| From Passage | Suggested Answer |
|--|---|
| Money becomes a crude external metric of personal worth, suggesting that those who amass wealth are inherently more valuable . This notion distorts moral values ... | <p><u>Meaning</u> A. Money is an inaccurate assessment of an individual / can only provide a rough gauge of an individual's character</p> <p><u>Context</u> B. as it implies that the rich are naturally more worthy.</p> |

A+B=1

2. In paragraph 2, how does the author illustrate that success 'breeds a cycle where the successful are driven by an insatiable need for more'? (2m)

| From Passage | Suggested Answer |
|--|---|
| High-profile cases like Sam Bankman-Fried exemplify how even the most successful | The author uses the example of prominent/highly accomplished/extremely wealthy people* |
| Can push ethical boundaries , | A. who would commit morally wrong acts/ break the law to get richer. *Note: The technique should be present in the answer for A. |
| Driven by the endless desire for more. | B. They are trapped in a never-ending pursuit of greater success. |

3. In paragraph 3, give **three** human contradictions that 'success exacerbates' (line 16). [3]

| From Passage | Suggested Answer |
|---|--|
| Success exacerbates ... our desires to both fit in and stand out. | A. While the pursuit of success intensifies people's need to belong, it simultaneously enhances their wish to be unique. |
| While success might bring admiration , it is closely trailed by envy and resentment | B. Success may earn praise, but it also breeds jealousy and bitterness. |
| notable achievements can lead to a lonely existence, marked by social avoidance and personal disconnect. or (From eg) Global success.... vs social isolation | C. Success leads to fame/recognition but it also brings about social withdrawal. |
| Despite her substantial material success and positive impact on literacy, Rowling's fame also attracted intense public scrutiny and personal criticism. | D. Success leads to honour/prestige/being well-known but also leads to censure/reprove. |

any 3 = 3m

4. In paragraph 4, how is the liberty promised by success often 'illusory' (line 27)? [2]

| From Passage | Suggested Answer |
|---|--|
| High achievers might escape menial jobs or impoverished living conditions , but they are frequently trapped in a cycle of unending responsibilities. | A. Very successful people might be free from boring/laborious work/living in poor environments but they still have no freedom as they end up getting caught up in unceasing work duties. |
| Top executives may have financial security yet lack the freedom to enjoy personal time or pursue interests outside work. | B. Successful people may enjoy income stability to enable them to engage in their own pastime but in reality they have limited time for themselves or to engage in activities beyond their professional duties. <i>*Not necessary to paraphrase "financial security" provided the student shows understanding of how liberty due to success is illusory in this context. e.g. "Successful people should have the ability to engage in their own pastime or leisure but in actuality, they do not have time for such activities beyond their professional duties."</i> |

5. Explain the author's use of the word 'very' in line 30? [1]

| From Passage | Suggested Answer |
|--|--|
| The very nature of their success subjects them to increased demands | <p>The author wants to highlight that...</p> <p><u>It is success itself</u> that brings about more responsibilities that restrict freedom.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>The responsibilities that limit freedom are <u>inherent in success itself</u>.</p> |

6. In what **two** ways is the final sentence an effective conclusion to the author's argument? [2]

| From Passage | Suggested Answer |
|--|---|
| We must ask ourselves whether the price of such success is too high... | <p>A. The author uses the personal pronoun "we" and "ourselves" to create a sense of inclusivity/engage with the readers to prompt the readers to assess the detrimental costs of attaining success.</p> <p>B. The author emphasises the urgency of the problem of success by using "must" to urge the readers on the need to assess the detrimental costs of attaining success.</p> |
| ... and consider more holistic measures of achievement that encompass not only material wealth but also personal fulfilment and societal contribution. | <p>C. The author is proposing a solution to the problems brought about by the current narrow definition of success by proposing other ways to judge a person's level of success which go beyond money/are more complete.</p> <p>D. The author makes a call to action by prompting the reader to reflect on the cost of pursuing material success.</p> <p>OR The author makes a call to action by prompting the reader to use other better indicators/measures of success.</p> |

Any 2 = 2 m

From Passage 2

7. Summarise how success can be utilised to create a meaningful impact. Write your summary in no more than 120 words. [8]

| | | From Passage | Suggested Answer |
|--------|-----|---|---|
| Para 2 | 1 | Free up our time, energy and resources | Success allows us to use what we have |
| | 2 | Shift our focus towards things that hold deeper significance or Gain capacity to concentrate on matters that truly matter | to prioritise more meaningful aims |
| | 3 | Rather than being solely consumed by personal pursuits or materialistic desires | We are less/no longer preoccupied with our own ambitions and worldly gains. |
| | 4 | Contribute to the well-being of others // betterment of society as a whole | This helps to bring about improvement for the community. |
| Para 3 | 5a | Having material success can enable us to extend our influence , | Having material success can allow us to expand our impact , |
| | 5b | empowering us | enhancing our ability |
| | 6 | to contribute to causes, initiatives or organisations that align with our values | to support efforts that reflect our beliefs |
| | 7 | Address important societal issues | and tackle social challenges |
| | 8 | using one's skills and resources to create positive change | applying one's expertise and assets to drive meaningful impact |
| | 9 | Create a ripple effect that extends far beyond our own lives | to spark wider change that benefits not just ourselves but the broader community. |
| Para 4 | 10a | the deeper sense of purpose and fulfillment arises from | Success gives us a greater sense of mission/satisfaction which comes from |
| | 10b | connecting with others, | building meaningful relationships |
| | 11 | supporting their growth | uplifting those around us, |
| | 12 | Working towards creating a more just, equitable and harmonious society | and striving to build a fairer / more cohesive society. *only 1 of the 3 adjectives needed |
| Para 5 | 13 | leave a lasting legacy that extends beyond material achievements alone | Success enables us to make a permanent impact that goes past tangible accomplishments. |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Points | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10+ |
| Marks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |

8. Passage 1 argues that 'success exacerbates human contradictions' (line 16).

Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer. [2]

| Paraphrased idea | Suggested Answer |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Lines 14 – 15) Power attracts <u>admiration</u>, but also <u>haters</u>, who say <u>vile, hurtful</u> things they would never say face-to-face, even one they hated. | <p>A. Success draws respect, but it also invites criticism from those who make cruel and hurtful remarks they would never voice in person, even to someone they despise.</p> <p><u>Justification</u> B. The idea reinforces/illustrates the given claim from Passage 1 by showing how success can easily result in opposing/conflicting reactions.</p> |

9. Passage 2 states that 'When we achieve a certain level of success, it can free up our time, energy, and resources' (line 6).

Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to undermine this statement. Justify your answer. [2]

| Paraphrased idea | Suggested Answer |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (lines 5 – 8) I interviewed dozens of them for my upcoming book about self-educated millionaires. Some of them are wildly financially successful billionaires. Some are wildly famous. But I have yet to meet a successful person whose life got '<u>easier</u>'. (line 12) Yet, though success and money may solve survival-level problems, they bring new ones. (lines 13-14) If you are wealthy or famous, people constantly want things from you – favours, connections, money. | <p>A. Although certain individuals have attained immense financial wealth and others have gained widespread prominence, it remains rare to find a high achiever whose success has led to a less demanding life.</p> <p>Although success and wealth may eliminate basic struggles, they often introduce fresh challenges.</p> <p>Those with money or fame are frequently approached by others seeking assistance, influence, or financial support.</p> <p><u>Justification</u> B. This idea contradicts the given claim in passage 2 as it describes successful people whose lives have ironically become busier/more complicated rather than freer/more liberating, as a result of their financial power.</p> |

10. Application Question

How far do you agree that material success brings more benefits than harm?

Support your answer with reference to:

- the ideas and opinions from at least one of the reading passages.
- examples drawn from your own experience and that of your society.

| Passage | Point | Response |
|---------|--|--|
| 1 | Success ... breeds a cycle where the successful are driven by an insatiable need for more, never content, always comparing themselves to their peers. (lines 9-11) | <p><u>More harmful than beneficial</u></p> <p>Ev/ Ex: From social media displays of wealth to conversations centered around job titles and property investments, many Singaporeans - especially the upwardly mobile - feel the need to 'keep up'. As a result, material success becomes a moving target, never quite enough to satisfy. While material success can provide comfort and status, it becomes harmful when it no longer serves functional needs but instead drives insecurity and restlessness.</p> <p>Eg1: In Singapore, it is common for young couples and professionals to aspire to move from HDB flats to condominiums or landed property. While home ownership is a legitimate achievement, the urge to upgrade often stems less from need and more from a desire to match or surpass peers. A 2022 CNA report noted how some Singaporeans took on large home loans or delayed parenthood to afford private property, not because their living conditions required it, but because condos were seen as a symbol of success. The financial gain of owning more valuable property is clear, but the psychological toll of chasing that gain - debt, delayed life goals, and status anxiety - often cancels out the benefit.</p> <p>Eg2: In Singapore, even young adults who are successful - such as those with stable, well-paying jobs or who own private property - often report feeling inadequate when exposed to curated displays of wealth on social media. Platforms like Instagram and TikTok are flooded with content featuring young influencers (eg Kim</p> |

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| | | <p>Lim, daughter of billionaire Peter Lim) flaunting luxury watches, designer fashion, exotic vacations, and expensive dining experiences. Although these young individuals are already enjoying financial stability and comfort, they frequently compare themselves to wealthier or more extravagant young people online, leading to a persistent sense of not having or being 'enough'. The visibility of wealth on social media shifts the benchmark for success upward, creating a toxic loop of comparison, even among the already well-off.</p> |
| <p>1</p> | <p>The freedom promised by success is often illusory. (I 26)</p> | <p><u>More harmful than beneficial</u></p> <p>Ev/ Ex: Singapore's fast-paced and competitive environment offers limited room to rest even after financial success is achieved. While material success brings financial gain and privileges (eg being able to afford private housing, luxury good and elite school access for their children), these benefits are often offset by the unsustainable intensity required to maintain that success. The harm outweighs the benefit when the very success people worked for becomes the source of their mental and emotional strain.</p> <p>Eg1: Many Singaporean professionals in high-paying jobs—especially in finance, law, or tech—report high levels of burnout due to relentless demands at work. Junior lawyers are known to work up to 100 hours a week, while tech professionals are often expected to remain contactable after hours, including weekends and holidays.</p> <p>Eg2: Entrepreneurs often face high opportunity costs: more success leads to greater pressure to capitalise on it, scale up, or reinvest. Benjamin "Mr. Miyagi" Lee and Ryan Tan (Co-founders of SGAG and Hepmil Media) were young entrepreneurs who transformed SGAG from a meme page into a full-fledged regional media company. With success came significant material rewards—office expansion, staff hiring, investor backing. However, Ryan Tan</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | | <p>eventually stepped down in 2021 citing mental health struggles and exhaustion. Despite having achieved material success, it became clear that the pressure to sustain the business and constantly innovate was detrimental to his personal well-being, making the material success more harmful than liberating.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Having material success can enable us to extend our influence, empowering us to contribute to causes, initiatives, or organisations that align with our values and address important societal issues. (lines 11-13)</p> | <p><u>More Beneficial than harmful</u></p> <p>Ev/ Ex: While material success may come with potential downsides - such as stress or public scrutiny - these are often outweighed by the good that successful individuals can do with their wealth. In a society like Singapore's, where resource access plays a significant role in shaping social outcomes, materially successful individuals are uniquely positioned to fund initiatives, amplify underrepresented voices, and build long-term impact.</p> <p>Eg1: Lim Hock Chee, CEO and co-founder of Sheng Siong Group, has leveraged his considerable material success—and the supermarket's strong profitability—to support long-term community initiatives both in Singapore and overseas. For example, in October 2023, he donated S\$200,000 to humanitarian relief efforts for Gaza, repeating a similar donation made in 2021. Moreover, Sheng Siong has been recognised as a Champion of Good, and through its Education Grant programme, it has disbursed over S\$6 million to community beneficiaries, further demonstrating its sustained philanthropic outreach</p> <p>Eg2: Benny Se Teo, a former drug offender who turned his life around, used his material success as the founder of Eighteen Chefs to support a deeply meaningful cause by providing ex-offenders and youth-at-risk with employment opportunities and a second chance at life. His restaurant chain, which now has multiple outlets across Singapore, hires and trains individuals who often face social stigma and barriers to reintegration.</p> |