

<b>Name</b>		<b>GP Class</b>	
<b>Reg No.</b>			

NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE  
Senior High 2 Preliminary Examinations  
Higher 1

## General Paper

Paper 1

**8881/01**

**26 Aug 2025**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet

**1 hour 30 minutes**

### READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your registration number, GP class and name on all the work you hand in.  
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.  
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **one** question.

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

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

To be completed by candidate	
Question attempted	
For examiner's use only	
Content	/ 30
Language	/ 20
Total	/ 50

This document consists of 2 printed pages.

## 2

Answer **one** question.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

- 1 'Boundaries no longer matter.' Is this claim valid in today's world?
- 2 'The promotion of the arts is nothing more than an economic endeavour.' To what extent is this true of your society?
- 3 Can the government ever balance national interest and individual freedom?
- 4 'We are less concerned about environmental issues than ever before.' Is this true of your society?
- 5 Assess the view that nothing in the media can be trusted today.
- 6 Are physical bookstores still relevant?
- 7 'Politicians should receive harsher punishments for their crimes than ordinary citizens.' Discuss.
- 8 Given the increasing uncertainties today, is global cooperation still feasible?

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**General Paper**

Paper 2  
INSERT

**8881/02****28 August 2025****1 hour 30 minutes**

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

This Insert contains the passages for Paper 2.

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This document consists of 4 printed pages.

**Passage 1.** *An author writes about the art of collecting.*

- 1 Collecting is an intrinsic part of the human experience, deeply embedded in our history, psychology and social interactions. From ancient cabinets of curiosities to modern-day NFTs and designer collectibles, people have always gathered objects – sometimes for pleasure, sometimes for prestige, and often for reasons they may not even fully understand.
- 2 One of the most compelling aspects of collecting is the emotional satisfaction it brings. The thrill of the hunt – the excitement of discovery – can be intensely rewarding. Whether it is stumbling upon a rare vinyl in a record store or unearthing a limited-time deal in a supermarket aisle, the process of finding and acquiring something meaningful provides a rush that is difficult to replicate elsewhere. This search, often described as a journey, engages us deeply. The moment of acquisition offers a fleeting sense of joy, but it is the act of searching that remains most emotionally resonant. It is no surprise, then, that collectors often repeat the process, driven by the desire to re-experience that moment of discovery. 5
- 3 Beyond the emotional, collecting can also be intellectually gratifying. According to neuroscientist Shirley M. Mueller, the discipline and knowledge required to curate a specialised collection brings intellectual satisfaction. From building custom gaming PCs to archiving news articles, the process demands research, critical thinking, and a degree of mastery. Each collected item adds to a growing repository of expertise, affirming one’s identity and sense of self. The collector, in this sense, is not merely an accumulator but also a curator of knowledge. 10
- 4 Socially, collecting fosters connection. Shared interests give rise to communities – whether among vinyl enthusiasts, designers bookmarking websites, or NFT traders – where individuals bond over their findings. Within these spaces, recognition and admiration serve as strong motivators. Sharing one’s collection becomes a means of social interaction, offering validation and contributing to one’s sense of belonging. Such interactions have parallels in the natural world: crows collect shiny objects to attract mates; chimpanzees have made specific choices in items of interest they keep around their dwellings; wolverines (not the Hugh Jackman variety!) practise ‘cache spacing’, strategically spreading food across a large area to prevent it from being pilfered. Meanwhile, humans flaunt collectibles to signal social standing, taste, and intelligence. 15
- 5 Moreover, collecting also mirrors our innate desire for control and organisation. Like filing to-do lists or archiving information, the act of categorising a collection brings order to chaos. It can ease anxiety, provide structure, and reflect a sense of mastery over one’s environment. This is especially true in an age of information overload, where the ability to curate and organise has become a valuable skill. 20
- 6 Yet, the appeal of collecting extends beyond utility. In many cases, the value of a collected item is symbolic rather than functional. The 50-second video by Grimes or a £1,850 Loewe mini bag might seem extravagant, but they speak to broader human desires—for status, for identity, and for permanence. Collecting becomes a way to assert one’s place in the world, to create a tangible legacy in an otherwise ephemeral existence. 25
- 7 Ultimately, collecting is more than a hobby – it is a deeply human activity that fulfils emotional, intellectual, and social needs. Whether it’s driven by nostalgia, curiosity, pride, or simply the joy of the chase, the art of collecting offers insight into what we value, how we think, and who 30

we are. Its enduring appeal lies not merely in the objects we acquire, but in the meaning we derive from them, and the stories we tell through their accumulation.

**Passage 2.** *Another author presents the negative effects of hoarding and having massive collections.*

- 1 The act of collecting may begin as a harmless hobby, but when it escalates into compulsive hoarding, it becomes a dangerous and debilitating condition with serious consequences. Affecting between 2% and 5% of the adult population, a hoarding disorder is often under-reported due to a lack of self-awareness among sufferers. Unlike casual collectors, individuals with hoarding disorder struggle intensely with discarding possessions, regardless of their actual value. This difficulty often triggers overwhelming anxiety and shame, resulting in the gradual accumulation of clutter that severely compromises living conditions. 5
- 2 The physical dangers associated with hoarding are grave. Cluttered homes pose a heightened risk of trips and falls, which can cause injuries, especially among the elderly. Moreover, large quantities of items stacked near heat sources can easily ignite, leading to house fires. In such scenarios, clutter may also obstruct escape routes, endangering the lives of the occupants. The unsanitary conditions typical of hoarded environments can foster mould growth and pest infestations, potentially resulting in respiratory illnesses and infections. In some cases, access to basic utilities like heating and sanitation facilities is blocked, compounding health risks. 10
- 3 Psychologically, hoarding is often linked to depression, anxiety, and chronic distress. Hoarders may withdraw from social contact due to embarrassment, further exacerbating feelings of isolation. The disorder also strains familial and social relationships, frequently leading to conflict and emotional estrangement. Practical daily functions such as cooking, cleaning, and sleeping can become nearly impossible, as spaces are overtaken by unusable and deteriorating items. 15
- 4 The societal implications of hoarding are equally alarming. Severe cases may result in eviction, loss of child custody, and even animal cruelty charges when pets are kept in inhumane conditions. Financial mismanagement is another consequence, as hoarders often struggle to track important documents or pay bills. Additionally, emergency responders may face serious challenges accessing hoarded homes during crises, endangering both residents and rescue personnel. 20
- 5 Ultimately, hoarding is far more than excessive collecting – it is a complex psychological disorder with profound physical, emotional, and social consequences. Timely intervention, understanding, and professional help are essential to prevent the far-reaching dangers posed by this destructive behaviour. 25

**Passage 3.** *This passage describes the personal experience of an avid collector.*

- 1 As someone who once fell deeply into the world of collecting designer toys, I can attest to both the allure and the pitfalls of this absorbing pursuit. What began as a light-hearted way to appreciate artistic craftsmanship soon spiralled into a near-obsession. I would spend hours trawling online forums and auction sites, setting alarms for release drops, and planning my finances around limited-edition figurines. There was an undeniable thrill in securing a sought-after piece - the dopamine hit of acquisition, the pride of ownership, the envy of fellow collectors. My shelf, once a modest display, evolved into a shrine that reflected not only my tastes but also my emotional investment. 5
- 2 However, the line between hobby and compulsion blurred quickly. I found myself prioritising purchases over social plans, feeling anxious when I missed a drop, and becoming increasingly dissatisfied even as my collection grew. The joy of collecting became entangled with guilt, clutter, and the quiet realisation that I had lost sight of why I started in the first place. 10
- 3 It is here that the importance of balance becomes clear. Collecting, when done mindfully, can be enriching and meaningful. But left unchecked, collecting will reduce us into a hollow husk of our selves. 15

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Senior High 2 Preliminary Examination  
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**General Paper**  
Paper 2

**8881/02**  
**28 August 2025**

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.  
Additional Materials: Insert

**1 hour 30 minutes**

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your registration number, GP class and name on all the work you hand in.  
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.  
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.

Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

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

<b>For Examiner's Use</b>	
<b>Question No.</b>	<b>Marks</b>
1	
2	
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9	
<b>Content</b>	<b>/ 35</b>
<b>Language</b>	<b>/ 15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>/ 50</b>

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** According to paragraph 1, why do human beings collect things?

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.....

.....

..... [2]

**2** In paragraph 2, why does the author state that 'it is no surprise...that collectors often repeat the process...to re-experience that moment of discovery' (lines 11-12)?

.....

.....

.....

..... [2]

**3** What does the author mean by saying that the collector is 'not merely an accumulator but also a curator of knowledge' (lines 18-19)?

.....

..... [1]

For  
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Use

4 In paragraph 4, give **three** similarities the author makes between humans' and animals' reasons for collecting.

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..... [3]

5 Explain the author's use of the em-dash in 'but they speak to broader human desires—for status, for identity, and for permanence' (lines 37-38).

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..... [2]



**From all the passages**

*For  
Examiner's  
Use*

- 7 Passage 1 states that 'the art of collecting offers insight into what we value, how we think, and who we are' (lines 42-43).

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

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..... [2]

- 8 Passage 2 argues that 'psychologically, hoarding is often linked to depression, anxiety, and chronic distress' (line 15).

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

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..... [3]





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**Suggested Answers for 2025, (SH2) NJC Prelim Paper 2**

1) According to paragraph 1, why do human beings collect things? [2m] (Literal)

From the Passage	Suggested Answer	Remarks
<p>'sometimes for <b>pleasure</b>,</p> <p>sometimes for <b>prestige</b>, and</p> <p>often for reasons they may not even fully <b>understand</b>' (lines 3-4)</p>	<p>Human beings collect things for</p> <p>a) On occasion/partly/at times/occasionally for <b>fun/enjoyment/happiness satisfaction/amusement</b></p> <p>b) for <b>recognition/ status/ honour</b></p> <p>c) and many times / frequently / more often / quite often for <b>purposes beyond their own / without complete comprehension/ cannot quite grasp / inexplicable.</b></p>	<p>Any 2 points</p>

2) Why does the author state that 'it is no surprise...that collectors often repeat the process...to re-experience that moment of discovery'? [2m] (Literal)

From the Passage	Suggested Answer	Remarks
<p>'The <b>thrill</b> of the hunt — the <b>excitement</b> of discovery — can be <b>intensely rewarding</b>.' (lines 5-6)</p> <p>'... process of finding and acquiring something <b>meaningful</b> provides a rush that is difficult to <b>replicate elsewhere</b>.' (lines 8-9)</p> <p>'The moment of acquisition offers a <b>fleeting</b> sense of <b>joy</b>, but it is the act of searching that remains most <b>emotionally resonant</b>.' (lines 9-11)</p>	<p>a) The <b>spark/ kick/ exhilaration/ delight/ adrenaline</b> one gets from searching and finding / uncovering something new can bring a <b>profound sense of satisfaction / lasting happiness.</b></p> <p>b) The journey / pursuit of looking and attaining <b>something close to the heart / uncovering something of personal value</b> that is tough / challenging to <b>find anywhere else / unlike most other experiences / that few other things can match.</b></p> <p>c) Though the <b>happiness / delight</b> is <b>momentous/ temporal</b>, it is the journey of pursuit that <b>lingers most deeply / leaves the strongest impression / what stays with us the longest.</b></p>	<p>Any 2 points</p>

3) What is the author suggesting by writing “not merely an accumulator but also a curator of knowledge” (lines 18-19)? [1m] (phrase)

From the passage	Suggested Answer	Remarks
The collector, in this sense, is not merely an <b>accumulator</b> but also a <b>curator</b> of knowledge. (lines 18-19)	The author is implying that a collector not only <b>gathers</b> information but <b>carefully selects / filters</b> what he wants from other things.	1m

4) In paragraph 4, provide **three** similarities the author makes between human and animals' reasons for collecting. [3m] (Literal)

From the Passage	Suggested Answers	Remarks
<p>'... crows collect <b>shiny objects</b> to <b>attract mates</b> [infer point];</p> <p>chimpanzees have made <b>specific choices</b> in items of <b>interest</b> they keep around their <b>dwellings</b>;</p> <p>wolverines (not the Hugh Jackman variety!) <b>practise 'cache spacing'</b>, <b>strategically spreading</b> food across a large area to prevent it from being <b>pilfered</b>. <u>Meanwhile, humans flaunt collectibles to signal social standing, taste, and intelligence.</u>' (lines 25-29)</p>	<p>a) While crows collect to <b>woo partners</b> by <b>showing their status</b> through collection (inferred), humans collect to <b>display their status</b>.</p> <p>b) While chimpanzees <b>pick certain items</b> of their <b>liking</b> around their <b>habitat</b>, humans similarly <b>showcase their chosen collections</b>.</p> <p>c) While wolverines display their <b>mental capacity</b> by the way they plan and <b>disperse</b> the food, humans reflect their <b>mental capacity / acuity</b> through their collections.</p>	3m

5) Explain the author's use of the em-dash in “but they speak to broader human desires—for status, for identity, and for permanence” (lines 37-38). [2m] (Author's Intention)

From the Passage	Suggested Answer	Remarks
'In many cases, the <u>value of a collected item is symbolic rather than functional</u> . The 50-second video by Grimes or a £1,850 Loewe mini bag might seem extravagant, but they speak to broader human	<p>[Function]</p> <p>a) It is to elaborate / explain / further details / <b>additional information</b> about / <b>signals / introduces</b> further <b>elaboration / explanation / provide additional information / further details of what the cited examples</b></p>	1m each

<p>desires—for <b>status, for identity, and for permanence.</b>' (lines 35-38)</p>	<p><b>might symbolise / represent / to link example to the point that</b></p> <p>[Context]</p> <p>b) which range from <b>social standing, selfhood / personality</b> to or a sense of <b>constancy / security.</b></p> <p><i>*At least 2 of the 3 characteristics must be paraphrased</i></p>	
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### From Passage 2

6) Summarise the negative effects of hoarding on individuals.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words.** [8]

Concept	From the Passage	Suggested Answer
a. Debilitating (mental) condition	'It becomes a <b>dangerous</b> and <b>debilitating</b> condition with serious consequences.' (line 2)	Hoarding is a <b>harmful, disabling</b> illness that <b>impairs functioning.</b>
b. Difficulty in discarding items	'... <b>struggle</b> intensely with <b>discarding</b> possessions, regardless of <b>actual</b> value.' (lines 5-6)	Hoarders find it extremely <b>hard to part with / throw away belongings / items</b> , no matter their <b>worth.</b>
c. Negative emotions & psychological distress	'... often <b>triggers overwhelming anxiety</b> and <b>shame</b> ' (line 6) / '... often <b>linked to depression, anxiety,</b> and <b>chronic distress.</b> ' (line 15)	Hoarding is <b>connected to / can provoke / heighten worry / uneasiness,</b> embarrassment, sadness, and long-term emotional pain / negative emotions
d. Unhygienic living conditions	'... severely <b>compromises</b> living <b>conditions</b> ' (line 7) / '... <b>unsanitary conditions</b> ... that <b>foster(s)</b> mould <b>growth</b> and pest <b>infestations,</b> ' (lines 12-13)	Hoarded environments are <b>dirty / unsanitary, degrading the quality / cleanliness and comfort</b> of homes.
e. Poor health conditions	'... <b>potentially</b> resulting in <b>respiratory illnesses</b> and <b>infections.</b> ' (line 13)  '...compounding health <b>risks</b> ' (line 14)	This may lead to <b>physical health problems over time</b>
f. Safety concerns	'Cluttered homes pose a heightened <b>risk</b> of trips and falls, ... among the elderly'. (lines 8-9) / '... large quantities of items stacked near heat sources can <b>easily ignite,</b> leading to house fires.' (lines 9-10)	Clutter may pose a <b>hazard to the safety of</b> hoarders/ other stakeholders.

	'..., clutter may <b>obstruct</b> escape <b>routes</b> '(line 11)/ '...access to basic utilities... <b>blocked</b> ' (lines13-14) ... <b>endangering both residents and rescue personnel.</b>	
g. Social withdrawal & isolation	'... <b>withdraw</b> from <b>social contact</b> due to embarrassment ... <b>feelings of isolation</b> (lines 15–17)	<b>Shame</b> over their homes causes hoarders to <b>avoid people</b> , leading to <b>solitude / alienation</b> and <b>loneliness.</b>
h. Strained family relationships & conflicts	'... <b>strains</b> familial and social <b>relationships</b> , ... leading to <b>conflict</b> and <b>estrangement</b> ' (lines 17–18)	Hoarding <b>damages / harms</b> familial and <b>interpersonal ties</b> , often resulting in <b>tensions / arguments</b> and <b>emotional disconnection.</b>
i. Inability to perform daily activities	'... daily <b>functions</b> such as cooking, cleaning, and sleeping can become <b>nearly impossible,</b> ' (lines 18–19)	It makes the implementation of daily <b>routines / tasks / chores difficult to achieve.</b>
j. Legal consequences	'Severe cases may result in <b>eviction</b> , loss of child <b>custody</b> ... animal <b>cruelty charges</b> (lines 20-23)	It may even result in <b>legal</b>
k. Financial consequences	<b>Financial mismanagement</b> ... hoarders often <b>struggle to track important</b> documents or pay bills.' (lines 22-23)	and <b>financial consequences</b> or the <b>loss of crucial files.</b>

<b>Concept</b>	1-2	3	4	5	6	7	8-9	10+
<b>Marks</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

7) Passage 1 states 'the art of collecting **offers insight** into **what we value, how we think, and who we are**'

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

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
<p>'The <b>joy</b> of collecting became <b>entangled</b> with <b>guilt, clutter</b>, and the <b>quiet realisation</b> that I had <b>lost sight of why I started</b> in the first place.' (lines 11-12)</p> <p>'But <b>left unchecked</b>, collecting will <b>reduce us</b> into a <b>hollow husk</b> of our selves.' (lines 14-15)</p>	<p><u>Paraphrased Idea:</u>            a (i) The <b>delight</b> of gathering soon <b>tangled with shame, disorder</b>, and an <b>uneasy awareness</b> that my original purpose <b>had slipped away</b>.            OR            a (ii) If <b>allowed to spiral / fester</b>, collecting can <b>strip away our vitality</b> until <b>little of who we are remains</b>.</p> <p><i>DNA: if answers do not reference passage 3; students should habituate themselves to clearly citing the source of their answer.</i></p> <p><u>Justification:</u>            b(i) Passage 3 <u>undermines</u> Passage 1 which states that the art of collecting gives us fresh perspective into what we cherish, how we comprehend and our identity            (ii) as <b>it is not</b> definite that collecting things can help us discover/ form our identities / know our goals / primary reasons for why we do what we do.</p>

8) Passage 2 states '**psychologically**, hoarding is often linked to **depression, anxiety, and chronic distress.**'

Identify **two** specific ideas from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer. [3]

From the Passage	Suggested paraphrases
<p>'However, the line between hobby and compulsion blurred quickly. I found myself <b>prioritising purchases</b> over <b>social plans</b>, feeling <b>anxious when I missed a drop, ...</b>' (lines 9-10)</p> <p>'I would spend <b>hours trawling</b> online forums and auction sites, <b>setting alarms</b> for release drops, and <b>planning my finances around</b> limited-edition figurines.' (lines 3-5)</p> <p>'What began as a light-hearted way to appreciate artistic craftsmanship soon spiralled into a <b>near-obsession.</b>' (lines 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Paraphrased ideas:</u></p> <p>a(i) The boundary between pastime and fixation faded rapidly. The author began <b>arranging their life around acquisitions / procurements, uneasy</b> whenever they <b>couldn't secure a release.</b></p> <p>a(ii) <b>Countless hours</b> went into <b>scanning</b> communities and <b>bidding</b> platforms, <b>tracking</b> launch times, and <b>reshaping my budget / money</b> to fit rare figurines.</p> <p>a(iii) What started as a playful admiration for creative design <b>gradually escalated</b> into something <b>consuming / almost became a fixation/ uncontrollable/ out of one's control.</b></p> <p><u>Justification:</u></p> <p>b(i) Passage 3's ideas <u>support</u> Passage 2 which is that hoarding results in struggles mentally as they</p> <p>b(ii) <u>affirm</u> how trapped / worried / fixated the collector feels / collecting can lead to other illnesses.</p>

### Application Question

9) The reading passages cover a range of views about collecting as a hobby.

How far do you agree that collecting as a hobby offers more advantages than disadvantages?

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. [12]