

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

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... | 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. |
| | 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. |
| ... and consider more holistic measures of achievement that encompass not only material wealth but also personal fulfilment and societal contribution. | 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>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 |
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| 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 <i>skills and resources</i> 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 fulfilment 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+ |
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| 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 ‘easier’. (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> |

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| | | <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> |
| 1 | The freedom promised by success is often illusory. (I 26) | <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> |

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| | | <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> |