

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

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

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 accumulator but also a curator of knowledge. (lines 18-19)	The author is implying that a collector not only gathers information but carefully selects / filters 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 shiny objects to attract mates [infer point];</p> <p>chimpanzees have made specific choices in items of interest they keep around their dwellings;</p> <p>wolverines (not the Hugh Jackman variety!) practise ‘cache spacing’, strategically spreading food across a large area to prevent it from being pilfered. <u>Meanwhile, humans flaunt collectibles to signal social standing, taste, and intelligence.</u>’ (lines 25-29)</p>	<p>a) While crows collect to woo partners by showing their status through collection (inferred), humans collect to display their status.</p> <p>b) While chimpanzees pick certain items of their liking around their habitat, humans similarly showcase their chosen collections.</p> <p>c) While wolverines display their mental capacity by the way they plan and disperse the food, humans reflect their mental capacity / acuity 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” (lines37-38). [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 / additional information about / signals / introduces further elaboration / explanation / provide additional information / further details of what the cited examples</p>	1m each

desires—for status, for identity, and for permanence. ' (lines 35-38)	might symbolise / represent / to link example to the point that [Context] b) which range from social standing, selfhood / personality to or a sense of constancy / security . <i>*At least 2 of the 3 characteristics must be paraphrased</i>	
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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 <u>dangerous</u> and <u>debilitating</u> condition with serious consequences.' (line 2)	Hoarding is a harmful, disabling illness that impairs functioning .
b. Difficulty in discarding items	'... <u>struggle</u> intensely with <u>discarding</u> possessions, regardless of <u>actual</u> value.' (lines 5-6)	Hoarders find it extremely hard to part with / throw away belongings / items , no matter their worth .
c. Negative emotions & psychological distress	'... often <u>triggers overwhelming anxiety</u> and <u>shame</u> ' (line 6) / '... often <u>linked to depression, anxiety, and chronic distress</u> .' (line 15)	Hoarding is connected to / can provoke / heighten worry / uneasiness , embarrassment, sadness, and long-term emotional pain / negative emotions
d. Unhygienic living conditions	'... severely <u>compromises</u> living <u>conditions</u> ' (line 7) / '... <u>unsanitary conditions</u> ... that <u>foster(s)</u> mould <u>growth</u> and pest <u>infestations</u> ,' (lines 12-13)	Hoarded environments are dirty / unsanitary, degrading the quality / cleanliness and comfort of homes.
e. Poor health conditions	'... <u>potentially</u> resulting in <u>respiratory illnesses</u> and <u>infections</u> .' (line 13) '...compounding health <u>risks</u> ' (line 14)	This may lead to physical health problems over time
f. Safety concerns	'Cluttered homes pose a heightened <u>risk</u> of trips and falls, ... among the elderly'. (lines 8–9) / '... large quantities of items stacked near heat sources can <u>easily ignite</u> , leading to house fires.' (lines 9-10)	Clutter may pose a hazard to the safety of hoarders/ other stakeholders.

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

Concept	1-2	3	4	5	6	7	8-9	10+
Marks	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 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.’ (lines 11-12)</p> <p>‘But left unchecked, collecting will reduce us into a hollow husk of our selves.’ (lines 14-15)</p>	<p><u>Paraphrased Idea:</u> a (i) The delight of gathering soon tangled with shame, disorder, and an uneasy awareness that my original purpose had slipped away. OR a (ii) If allowed to spiral / fester, collecting can strip away our vitality until little of who we are remains.</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 it is not 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 prioritising purchases over social plans, feeling anxious when I missed a drop, ...' (lines 9-10)</p> <p>'I would spend hours trawling online forums and auction sites, setting alarms for release drops, and planning my finances around limited-edition figurines.' (lines 3-5)</p> <p>'What began as a light-hearted way to appreciate artistic craftsmanship soon spiralled into a near-obsession.' (lines 2-3)</p>	<p><u>Paraphrased ideas:</u></p> <p>a(i) The boundary between pastime and fixation faded rapidly. The author began arranging their life around acquisitions / procurements, uneasy whenever they couldn't secure a release.</p> <p>a(ii) Countless hours went into scanning communities and bidding platforms, tracking launch times, and reshaping my budget / money to fit rare figurines.</p> <p>a(iii) What started as a playful admiration for creative design gradually escalated into something consuming / almost became a fixation/ uncontrollable/ out of one's control.</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]