

2026 WA1 Paper 2 Answer Scheme

From Passage 1

1. In paragraph 2, the author states that ant colonies exhibit the behaviours of 'decentralised, self-organised systems'. Give **two** examples of how the author supports this claim. [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased
The agents in these systems interact randomly and their interactions contribute to the emergence of 'intelligent' communal behaviour. (lines 6-7)	a) The author describes how there is no set/ fixed plan in the ants' behaviour <u>OR</u> the ants' behaviour is spontaneous/ unpredictable/ aimless .
There is no single decision-maker : (lines 9-10)	b) There is no one ant in control of the colony/ that issues commands to the others. (allow lift of 'no')
each ant adjusts its behaviour based on countless interactions with others in its community. (lines 10-11)	c) Each ant corrects/ changes/ amends its actions as a result of communication with other ants.

Any 2 = 2m

2. Using paragraph 3, identify **two** ways in which humans are smarter in groups than individually. [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased
Each of us has a massive internalised database of information (lines 14-15)	Working together... a) creates a huge conglomerated amount of knowledge <u>greater</u> than the amount of knowledge one individual has.
Reach optimised decisions, prioritisations, and forecasts (line 19)	b) and they attain <u>higher</u> quality/ <u>better</u> results/make the best choices than individuals.
In significantly less time (line 20)	c) groups reach solutions much <u>faster/ more</u> quickly compared to individuals.
	<i>Note: The answer scheme given by SEAB for this specimen paper does not require one-to-one comparison, however, for teaching purposes, students need to include comparative terms like 'greater', 'higher' and 'faster' and do the comparison more explicitly.</i>

Any 2 = 2m

3. Explain the author's use of the phrase 'Human swarming' (line 18). [1]

Paraphrased
The author uses it to describe people/ individuals/ men and women working together as one, behaving in the same way as insects/ animals do.

Both words “Human” and “swarming” need to be addressed to gain 1m.

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4. In paragraph 4, how is 'the power of connection' utilised by humans? [3]

From the passage	Paraphrased
Continuously receiving information and broadcasting...data (line 25) instantly and automatically, many passengers will use their phone to communicate their situation to others (lines 30-31) while their phones will send data signals tracking their location (lines 31-32) Warn others about the incident, providing real-time updates... (lines 33-34) Swarm intelligence used to benefit everyone (line 36)	Humans use a) Two-way communication constantly b) to share information about what they are going through immediately. c) This sharing of their whereabouts is done spontaneously/unconsciously/ without one knowing. d) (Humans) alert other people/ users to live/ on-going issues/ problems/ emergencies/ situations. e) The groups' information is helpful to all users/ improve lives.

Any 3 = 3m

5. In what three ways is the final sentence (lines 42 – 43) an effective conclusion to the author's argument as set out in paragraph 1? [3]

From the passage	Inferred
(We) So, if we are looking for a role model in a world of chaos and uncertainty, we could certainly do worse than to copy the humble ant. (line 42-43) So, if we are looking for a role model in a world of chaos and uncertainty, we could certainly do worse than to copy the humble ant. (Looking for a role model □ Providing insights that can help) So, if we are looking for a role model in a world of chaos and uncertainty, we could certainly do worse than to copy the humble ant. (Chaos and uncertainty □ Epidemics) A single ant or bee isn't smart, but their colonies are. (line 1) (Humble ant □ Single ant)	a) The author uses 'we' to [function/technique] connect with the reader/ to make the message more personal/ persuasive [context] about how we should work together like the ants. b) It [function/technique] provides a suggestion [context] of the ants to imitate which might be a new perspective/ knowledge OR [function/technique] Provides a call to action [context] to work together like the ants in this volatile world. c) [function/technique] Relates back to the examples in the introduction [context] such as complex management systems (note: see examples in the text). d) The author [function/technique] provides thematic unity through referring back to the opening sentence/ gives a sense of completion to the passage [context] by resolving the ant theme/ showing how a small, insignificant insect can teach us a valuable lesson.

Any 3 = 3m

From Passage 2

6. Summarise how companies exploit personal data for monetary gain. Write your summary in no more than 120 words.

Pt	Lifted	Paraphrased
From paragraph 1:		
1	Unquenchable thirst to share (line 1)	Humans willingly volunteer/ offer up personal data/ information for companies to exploit...
2	Over a billion people now regularly use them (line 4)	...they do this in huge numbers , providing massive amounts of data that are peddled.
From paragraph 2:		
3	Although users may be aware that apps collect information (line 6)	(About location, demographics, behaviour and habits): Apps that are used gather lots of personal data/ information which can be sold.
4	...they are usually ignorant as to how it will be employed or who has access to it (lines 7-8)	Users are unaware/ apathetic about the way in which their details are being used/ manipulated and the identity of buyers.
5	This lack of transparency (line 8)	A lack of clarity/ honesty in the terms of service
6	...is worsened by the fact that the terms of service on many social media sites run to the tens of thousands of words and are not written for the general public's consumption (lines 8-10)	which are extremely lengthy and phrased in ways that are hard to understand.
7	Most sites have such broad licensing terms, (line 10)	Licensing terms are so wide/ vague/ general that they cover all kinds of circumstances to favour the companies' own purposes.
8	allowing the host company free use of our personal material while still paying lip service to our 'ownership' of it. (lines 11-12)	Content only nominally belongs to users// companies pretend to/ do not really support/ respect users' rights of ownership.
9	You would be none the wiser, and receive no remuneration , while the website would pocket license fees for using your material. (lines 14-15)	User content is used for monetary gain by the company// users are not paid even though their personal data is sold.
10	Would users disclose their lives so freely if they knew that their creative output could be used	Data is monetised when specific permission has not been granted by the user.

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	without their consent? (inferred) (lines 15- 16)	
From paragraph 3:		
11	Loyalty cards (inferred) (line 18) We gladly sign up to these programmes all in return for a tiny discount or voucher to spend , once again, at their store. (lines 21-22)	Shoppers consent to these thinking they are for their own (small) gain , but the store is receiving greater monetary gain .
12	Such stores are happy to take our money for their goods, while constantly monitoring our choices in an attempt to sell us further products through the use of targeted advertising . (lines 18-20)	Companies use information about user purchases to sell users more products aimed specifically at them/ make more money out of them .
From paragraph 4:		
13	...once your personal information is out there, there really is no way to stop it from being circulated (lines 25-26)	Users cannot control companies' use of their own data once it is given away/ offered up.

Marks	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Points	0	1 – 2	3 – 4	5	6	7	8	9	10+

Using All Passages:

7. Passage 1 states that ‘The more information that is collected, the more powerful the “swarm” response can be’ (lines 38 – 39). Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to undermine this statement. Justify your answer. [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased
Data derived from other data that had been collected about me using statistical models and based on likelihoods . (lines 11-12)	One idea from Passage 3 is that... a) a lot of the data that is stored is based on assumptions .
Most of it I found more silly than sinister . (line 13)	b) people assume all the data being collected is true, but it is not . c) although lots of data is collected, it is not accurate .

Any 1 = 1m

Example of a justification
This idea undermines the statement from Passage 1 that collating more information leads to stronger decision-making because the collection and use of data can only be powerful/ useful if it is accurate, as such, when a lot of the data is wrong, the opposite happens and having a lot of wrong data can instead lead to poor decision-making. Note: Accept other wording as long as the justification is valid in relation to the correctly identified specific point.

Any linked logical justification = 1m

8. Passage 2 states that ‘once your personal information is out there, there really is no way to stop it from being circulated or used’ (lines 25 – 26). Identify one specific idea from Passage 3 which can be used to support this statement. Justify your answer. [2]

From the passage	Paraphrased
Some companies did not even respond when I issued a legally enforceable request to get my data back. (lines 8-9)	One idea from Passage 3 is that... a) companies do not want to give us back our data and we cannot do anything about it even with the law on our side .
About 1500 of those pages was data derived from other data that had been collected about me... (lines 11-12)	b) a lot of the information about the author was generated from other pieces of information about him.

Any 1 = 1m

Example of a justification
This idea supports Passage 2’s claim that once our own data is released to the public, it is impossible to prevent its spread because it is similar and illustrates how... - when companies collect and use our data they do not make it easy for us to get it back or regain control. <u>OR</u> - once our data is collected, we cannot easily find out what is kept about us or get it back. <u>OR</u> - once data is collected, the situation is beyond control as the data can be used to create even more data/ the data keeps on growing. Note: Accept other wording as long as the justification is valid in relation to the correctly identified specific point.

Any linked logical justification = 1m