



GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2
INSERT

8881/02

19 August 2026

1 hour 30 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains the passages for comprehension.

Passage 1. *An author writes about why global ageing is a crisis.*

- 1 Global ageing is a crisis unfolding in plain sight. Across the world, its disruptive repercussions already manifest across societies through contracting labour forces, weakening economic growth, and mounting pressure on health care and social protection systems. Unlike many modern threats, this demographic crisis has a high degree of certainty because the forces behind it, especially falling fertility and longer life expectancy, are already in motion and are not easily reversed. 5
- 2 A change of this scale ought to receive public attention. Yet global ageing remains in the shadow of climate change, migration, poverty reduction and other urgent concerns. One reason is that it lacks drama - it does not shout, does not explode, does not demand. Unlike disasters that erupt or conflicts that ignite, ageing emerges, almost unnoticed, like a slow-moving tide. To many people, ageing appears distant and abstract. As a result, this vast and growing issue is quietly sidelined, overshadowed by louder, more dramatic crises. 10
- 3 The nature of the crisis also makes it difficult to rally around. Its effects are deep and widespread, but they are also dispersed across society. Unlike other challenges, it is not confined to a few industries or places, nor does it produce a single clear enemy. It grows out of millions of private decisions shaped by wider social and economic change. That makes it harder to explain in simple terms or to turn into a cause that can mobilise public opinion. Even discussion of its effects can be politically sensitive, as questions about pension reform, healthcare costs or support for older citizens can be seen as placing the interests of one generation against those of another. 15 20
- 4 Another obstacle lies in the difficulty of action. Many global problems offer discernible remedies, immediate instruments of intervention and established examples of effective action. Diseases may be treated, emissions curtailed, and poverty alleviated through targeted programmes. Ageing and declining fertility are intractable. They are entangled with social and cultural forces that resist straightforward policy correction. Governments may recalibrate incentives or broaden support schemes, but they cannot instruct citizens to have more children or reverse shifts in attitudes, aspirations and lifestyles. Without a comparable record of success, the issue weakens political resolve and constrains public debate. It also exposes an uncomfortable truth: modern economies presume continued expansion, growing markets and demographic renewal. Ageing unsettles those assumptions. 25 30
- 5 Although the issue affects almost every country, it remains largely a national policy matter. Some spillover effects exist, but efforts to manage the problem often become zero-sum, as countries compete for migrants and younger workers. The issue is further complicated by culture and values. The most direct response to demographic decline is to raise fertility, but low birth rates are tied to major features of modern life, including changing ideas of family, women's education and careers, the cost of housing and child-rearing, media influences, and anxieties about the future. The debate therefore extends beyond economics into questions of identity, freedom and social priorities. 35 40
- 6 There is, finally, an important difference between reducing fertility and increasing it. Policies that lowered fertility were relatively direct, relying on access to contraception and family planning. Policies meant to raise fertility demand something harder: that people reorganise their lives in ways that may involve costs to career, finances and lifestyle. Any serious response therefore requires societies to reconsider social arrangements, question cultural expectations and risk clashing with hard-won rights and freedoms. Yet delay also carries dangers. Let us not ignore a crisis that is already visible because that will not merely be an oversight, but a choice that may leave future generations to bear the consequences of inaction that was entirely avoidable. 45

Passage 2. *An author writes about why ageism is a harm and argues that older people should not be viewed as a burden.*

- 1 Ageism is often described as a socially acceptable prejudice because assumptions about growing old frequently pass without challenge. Once advancing age becomes the defining feature by which a person is judged, individual needs are easily overlooked allowing assumptions rather than evidence to shape decisions. Its effects become apparent in both the workplace and healthcare. Employers may value youth over experience, while older patients sometimes find that symptoms are attributed to "normal ageing" before being properly investigated. 5
- 2 Repeated exposure to such attitudes can gradually alter how older people view themselves discouraging them from remaining socially engaged. The consequences are not confined to the individual. Families and communities that stop listening to older voices lose access to perspectives shaped by decades of experience. 10
- 3 Retirement rarely marks the end of an individual's contribution to society, although this is often assumed. Many families continue to depend on older relatives in ways that are overlooked like caring for grandchildren. Their presence often enables younger adults to balance work and family responsibilities more effectively, while the traditions they pass on help preserve a sense of continuity between generations. Such forms of support may never appear in official economic figures, yet communities would be poorer without them. 15
- 4 Nor do older people necessarily withdraw from public life. Many continue working, while others devote time to voluntary organisations, or mentoring younger colleagues. Their experience often allows them to recognise problems that less experienced individuals might overlook. Even after retirement, their purchasing decisions continue to sustain demand for goods and services, generating economic activity that extends well beyond their own households. 20
- 5 As increasing numbers embrace new technologies and lifelong learning, assumptions that age inevitably brings inflexibility become harder to justify. Many older adults experiment with generative AI, learn a new language, take up photography or music, or complete courses that prepare them for a career change. To dismiss older people is therefore to measure their worth too narrowly. The opportunities enjoyed by younger generations frequently rest upon the labour and sacrifices of those who came before them, while every society eventually depends upon mutual care across different stages of life. 25 30

Passage 3. *An author writes about how her mother navigates ageing.*

- 1 Every few months, my mother, a 67-year-old kidney transplant patient who lives in a small town, embarks on a two-day journey to see her doctor. She fills her backpack with a change of clothes, a stack of medical reports, and a few boiled eggs to snack on. In the consultation room, she gets about three minutes with the doctor. Maybe five, if she's lucky. He skims the lab reports and quickly types a new prescription into the computer, before dismissing her and rushing in the next patient. 5
- 2 For the care and attention the system fails to provide, she turns instead to her family. I am young and still building a career of my own. Yet, I am expected to manage her decline from paying bills that pile up on the side table, reading her medical reports in detail to decipher the diagnosis, asking the questions he did not, and deciding what happens before her next appointment. 10
- 3 Then my mother found something else. At home, she began speaking to an AI chatbot. She uploaded her medical reports, described her symptoms in detail, and asked about food, medication and daily habits. It responded instantly, analysing her results and suggesting treatments. It told her she was not alone. It praised her efforts. It stayed with her for hours, something no one ever could. 15
- 4 But this attention has its limits. It struggles to connect symptoms across conversations and often fails to ask the right questions. Its confidence makes its errors difficult to detect. Still, she returns to it. In a system where care is rushed, the appeal is clear.



YISHUN INNOVA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Higher 1

CANDIDATE
NAME

CG

INDEX
NUMBER

GENERAL PAPER

8881/02

Paper 2

19 August 2026

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

Additional Materials: Insert

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Answer **all** questions.
The Insert contains the passages 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 or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
Total	/50

Answer **all** questions.

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** In paragraph 1, what does the author suggest are the consequences of global ageing?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....[3]

- 2** In paragraph 2, how does the author's use of language show that the ageing crisis receives limited attention?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....[3]

- 3** In paragraph 4, what **two** contrasts does the author make between the ageing and fertility crisis as opposed to many other global problems?

.....

.....

.....

.....[2]

- 4 In paragraph 5, explain the author's use of the term 'zero-sum' (line 34).

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

- 5 In what **two** ways does the final sentence provide an effective conclusion to the author's argument?

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

From Passage 2

- 6** Summarise the harms of ageism **and** why older people should not be seen as a burden on society.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**.

[8]

From all the passages

- 7** Passage 1 states that ‘ageing appears distant and abstract’ (line 11).

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

.....

.....

.....

.....[2]

- 8** Passage 2 states that ‘individual needs are easily overlooked allowing assumptions rather than evidence to shape decisions’ (lines 3–4).

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

.....

.....

.....

.....[2]

9 The reading passages cover a range of views about ageing.

How far do you agree that the needs of older people are adequately met?

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.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

BLANK PAGE

From Passage 1

- 1 In paragraph 1, what does the author suggest are the consequences of global ageing? (3m)
[Direct Paraphrasing]

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
its disruptive repercussions already manifest across societies through contracting labour forces,	a. Reduced/depleted working populations/ Diminishing/shrinking pool of workers /
weakening economic growth	b. stagnating economic development / reducing economic advancement
and mounting pressure on <u>health care</u> and <u>social protection systems</u> . NOTE: either context needed for point c.	c. Social support systems are increasingly strained / greater demands are being placed on <u>social support systems</u> 1pt = 1m

- 2 In paragraph 2, how does the author's use of language show that the ageing crisis receives limited attention? (3m) [Author's Craft]

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
A change of this scale ought to receive public attention. Yet global ageing remains in the shadow of climate change, migration, poverty reduction and other urgent concerns. One reason is that it lacks drama - it does not shout , does not explode, does not demand . Unlike disasters that erupt or conflicts that ignite, ageing emerges, almost unnoticed, like a slow-moving tide . To many people, ageing appears distant and abstract . As a result, this vast and growing issue is quietly sidelined , overshadowed by louder, more dramatic crises.	a. The author employs the metaphor "in the shadow" to suggest that global ageing is overlooked compared to more prominent global issues. b. The author uses repetition of "does not" to emphasise the passivity of ageing, suggesting that it fails to attract attention. c. The author personifies ageing as something that does not "shout" or "demand" / "lacks drama" to show that is largely a crisis that does not draw adequate attention/ does not call for an immediate response/ resolution d. The author uses a simile "like a slow-moving tide" to suggest that ageing develops gradually, making it less likely to generate urgency or attention. e. The author uses specific vocabulary such as "sidelined" / "overshadowed" to reinforce the idea that ageing is pushed aside in public discourse. f. The author uses juxtaposition to contrast ageing with more dramatic crises such as climate change and conflict. While these crises "shout", "explode" and "ignite", ageing is described as "a slow-moving tide". This contrast highlights how ageing is overlooked because it develops gradually. g. The author uses 'distant' OR 'abstract' to show how the problem is removed from the lives of individuals OR how the issue is too difficult to decipher/understand and therefore does not receive adequate attention. h. The author uses the word 'ought to..', despite the ageing issue being a crisis, it does not receive the attention it should be getting. Any 3 for 3m

- 3 In paragraph 4, what **two** contrasts does the author make between the ageing and fertility crisis as opposed to many other global problems? [2m] **[Paired Response]**

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
Another obstacle lies in the difficulty of action. Many global problems offer [B1] discernible remedies, [B2] immediate instruments of intervention and [B3] established examples of effective action. Diseases may be treated, emissions curtailed, and poverty alleviated through targeted programmes. Ageing and declining fertility are [A1] intractable . They are entangled with social and cultural forces that [A2] resist straightforward policy correction. Governments may recalibrate incentives or broaden support schemes, but they cannot instruct citizens to have more children or reverse shifts in attitudes, aspirations and lifestyles. [A3] Without a comparable record of success, the issue weakens political resolve and constrains public debate. It also exposes an uncomfortable truth: modern economies presume continued expansion, growing markets and demographic renewal. Ageing unsettles those assumptions.	1. Clarity of remedies Ageing and declining fertility are [a1] harder to resolve while many global problems have [b1] clear remedies. 2. Straightforwardness of Intervention Ageing and declining fertility are intertwined with social and cultural forces that [a2] cannot be easily addressed through policy changes. In contrast, many global problems can be tackled through [b2] speedy/ direct forms of intervention. 3. Track record of success The ageing and fertility crisis [a3] lack equally convincing examples of successful intervention while many global problems have [b3] proven examples of successful measures. Either 1 OR 2 = 1m 2 points = 2m

- 4 In paragraph 5, explain the author's use of the term 'zero-sum' (line 34). [1m] **[Vocabulary]**

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
Although the issue affects almost every country, it remains largely a national policy matter. Some spillover effects exist, but efforts to manage the problem often become zero-sum , as countries compete for migrants and younger workers.	The author means <u>one country's gain</u> in attracting labour comes at the expense of <u>another</u>. OR The author means there is no overall increase in the <u>global workforce</u> but just a redistribution across countries. 1pt = 1m

- 5 In what **two** ways does the final sentence provide an effective conclusion to the author's argument? [2m] (**Author's Intention – Ending**)

From the Passage	Suggested Answer
Introduction Global ageing is a crisis unfolding in plain sight.... Conclusion Let us not ignore a crisis that is already visible because that will not merely be an oversight, but a choice that may leave future generations to bear the consequences of inaction that was entirely avoidable.	(a) Warning [Technique] It provides a clear and decisive conclusion by issuing a warning that [Context] <u>continued inaction towards global ageing will make the crisis increasingly difficult to manage or reverse.</u> (b) Sense of closure/completion OR Thematic Unity [Technique] It gives a sense of closure/ provides thematic unity [Context] by tying together the key ideas of visibility of the ageing crisis and inaction from the introduction, showing that <u>although the crisis is unfolding in plain sight, it continues to be insufficiently addressed.</u> (c) Call to action [Technique] The author uses a call to action / is rallying society [Context] to <u>pay more attention to OR address the ageing crisis.</u> (d) Use of inclusive personal pronoun / inclusive language [Technique] The author uses the personal pronoun 'us' to engage/include the reader in the issue/highlight the shared concern of [Context] <u>serious implications of ignoring the ageing crisis.</u> (e) Reiterates author's point [Technique] The last sentence reiterates the author's point that [Context] the <u>global ageing crisis will bring about many issues if we do not act on it.</u> Any 2 for 2m

From Passage 2

6 Summarise the harms of ageism **and** why older people should not be seen as a burden on society.

	From Text	KEY IDEA	Paraphrased
HARMS OF AGEISM			
1	assumptions about growing old frequently <u>pass without challenge</u> .	ASSUMPTIONS REMAIN UNCHALLENGED	Stereotypical beliefs about <u>ageing</u> are often accepted unquestioningly/left unexamined ,
2	<u>individual</u> needs are easily overlooked	DISREGARD OF INDIVIDUAL NEEDS	resulting in the requirements/ concerns of older people being frequently/ commonly undervalued/ disregarded
3	<u>Employers</u> may value <u>youth</u> over experience	OLDER WORKERS' EXPERTISE NOT RECOGNISED	<u>Employers/companies</u> may prioritise/ place greater importance on <u>younger workers</u> instead of recognising the expertise of <u>older employees</u> .
4	<u>older patients</u> sometimes find that symptoms are attributed to " normal ageing" before being properly investigated	MEDICAL CONDITIONS ARE NOT WELL-EXAMINED	Furthermore, <u>medical conditions affecting older people</u> may be dismissed as a natural consequence of ageing rather than being thoroughly examined .
5	<u>Repeated</u> exposure to such attitudes can gradually alter how older people view themselves	ALTERING OLD PEOPLE'S SELF-PERCEPTIONS	<u>Persistent</u> contact with ageist beliefs may slowly change seniors' self-perception , OR decreased self-esteem
6	discouraging them from remaining <u>socially engaged</u>	DISCOURAGE SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT	making participation in <u>public life</u> feel less worthwhile OR less inclined to participate <u>socially</u> OR causing them to be isolated
7	lose access to perspectives shaped by decades of experience.	NARROWING PERSPECTIVES	Society becomes insular/myopic/an echo-chamber whenever elders' hard-earned wisdom is ignored.
WHY OLDER PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A BURDEN ON SOCIETY			
8	caring for <u>grandchildren</u>	PROVIDE CARE FOR THE YOUNG	They look after/nurture/tend to/attend to the needs of <u>younger generation</u> .

YIJC JC2 GP Preliminary Exam 2026 Suggested Answer Scheme (Student's Copy)

	From Text	KEY IDEA	Paraphrased
9	enables <u>younger adults</u> to balance work and family responsibilities more effectively	MANAGE WORK AND FAMILY OBLIGATIONS WELL	enables <u>young couples</u> to manage careers and domestic obligations even better.
10	the <u>traditions</u> they pass on help preserve a sense of continuity between generations	PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONS ACROSS GENERATIONS	<u>traditions</u> maintain a form of connection/bond between generations
11	Many continue working	REMAIN WORKING	Majority of them remain employed
12	devote time to voluntary organisations	SET ASIDE TIME TO ENGAGE IN VOLUNTARY SERVICE	dedicate time to charitable establishments
13	mentoring <u>younger colleagues</u>	COACH JUNIORS AT WORK	coaching <u>junior co-workers</u>
14	experience often allows them to recognise problems that less experienced individuals might overlook	IDENTIFY CHALLENGES OTHERS MISS	detect issues/challenges that others miss
15	purchasing decisions continue to sustain <u>demand for goods and services, generating economic activity</u>	SPENDING SUPPORTS BUSINESSES	Their spending supports <u>businesses</u>
16	embrace new <u>technologies and lifelong learning</u>	STAY RELEVANT THROUGH UPGRADING	[Inferred point] Stay relevant through <u>skills</u> upgrading OR Upgrade <u>skill</u> sets

No. of points	1-2	3-4	5	6	7	8	9	10 or more
Marks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Ageism can cause stereotypical beliefs to be accepted unquestioningly (1), resulting in concerns of older people being frequently disregarded (2). Persistent contact with ageism can slowly change seniors' self-perception (3), making them less inclined to participate socially (4). Society becomes myopic whenever elders' wisdom is ignored (5). However, they should not be seen as a burden, as many care for the younger generation (6) enabling young couples to manage careers and family responsibilities. (7) Through them, traditions maintain bonds across generations (8). Many also remain employed, (9) coach junior co-workers (11) with their ability to detect issues/challenges that others miss (12) and dedicate time to charitable establishments (10). Their spending too supports businesses (13). Many also continually upgrade their skills sets (14) to remain relevant. (111 words)

From all the passages

7 Passage 1 states that 'ageing appears distant and abstract' (line 11).

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

Prompt	Claim	Claim (Paraphrased)	Justification
ageing appears distant and abstract (line 14)	Yet, I am expected to manage her decline from <u>paying bills</u> that pile up on the side table, <u>reading her medical reports</u> in detail to decipher the diagnosis, <u>asking the questions</u> he did not, and <u>deciding what happens between</u> now and the next appointment. (lines 9-12)	The burden of caring for ageing parents falls on their children.	The idea undermines the notion that ageing is not felt by many as... JUSTIFICATION: people must contend with the realities of their loved ones' ageing when their parents are unable to care for themselves. <i>Accept: they suffer the real-life/ tangible consequences of their loved ones' ageing</i>

8 Passage 2 states that 'individual needs are easily overlooked allowing assumptions rather than evidence to shape decisions' (lines 3-4).

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

Prompt	Claim	Claim (Paraphrased)	Justification
individual needs easily overlooked allowing assumptions rather than evidence to shape decisions (lines 3-4)	In the <u>consultation</u> room, she gets about three minutes with the <u>doctor</u> . Maybe five , if she's lucky . (lines 3-4)	The <u>doctor</u> does not give the patient sufficient attention / the duration of <u>consultation</u> is too short .	The idea supports the notion that with ageism, individual needs are dismissed or assumed as... JUSTIFICATION: the doctor prescribed a solution based on his own preconceived notions without understanding the patient's unique circumstances
	OR He skims the <u>lab reports</u> and quickly types a new prescription into the computer, before dismissing her and rushing in the next patient. (lines 4-6)	OR The doctor gives her <u>medical documentation</u> only a cursory glance before regarding her case as dealt with .	OR how the doctor has presumptions about what the elderly patient requires instead of assessing the elderly patient thoroughly.
	[AI chatbot] struggles to connect <u>symptoms</u> across conversations and often fails to ask the right questions. Its confidence makes its errors difficult to detect. (lines 17-18)	AI chatbots are unable to offer accurate medical advice / diagnose <u>symptoms</u> accurately .	The idea supports the notion that with ageism, individual needs are dismissed or assumed as... AI tends to base its responses on its databases/how it is programmed rather than catering to the patient's unique medical circumstances.