GP June Intensive Revision

**Comprehension Learning Skills – Application Question**

The application question requires the student to apply his understanding of the passage to the context of requirement as seen in the question. In doing so, the students will need to conduct the following steps:

### Understand the main ideas in the passage

### Understanding of the question

### Strategy of Development

### Writing Approach

### 1) Understand the main ideas in the passage

To have a good understanding of the passage, students need to comprehend the following areas of discussion:

1. the main theme of the passage
2. the main ideas of the passage
3. the derivation of the main proposition

Theme : Pessimism and optimism

main ideas – views by the society, usefulness, impact on the society, causes (category)

proposition by the author - both are beneficial

**2) Understanding of the question**

A good understanding of the question will provide students the information on how to answer the question. Students need to take know of the following requirements:

* the proposition required for the question (main argument)
* the types of application
* agreement or disagreement
* extent of agreement
* application of the writer’s point of view to the context of question
* comparison of the writer’s point of view to the context of the question
* the nature of discussion
* the analysis of causes
* the provision of solutions
* the prediction of consequences and possibilities
* the application of the ideas and proposition
* other forms of generation of ideas
* the context of application - is this applicable to you and your society?
* the society
* your personal experiences
* the government
* the time period

**Example 1**

**Q. John Ciardi says happiness is the pursuit itself rather than the possession of anything concrete. Erich Fromm says man’s happiness is superficial because it is directed by bureaucracy.**

**Which author’s view do you subscribe to more and explain why. Discuss the concerns your generation has in its search for happiness.**

**In your answer, develop some of the points made by the authors and give your own views.**

**1) What is the focus of the question?**

To assess and select the view which is more agreeable to you in your understanding of happiness and explain and evaluate the apprehension of the youngsters in their pursuit for happiness.

**2) Proposition of the requirement of the question.**

Having considered the diverse views of both writers on the notion of happiness, I would feel that John Ciardi’s perception of happiness is more rational and sensible. As for the concern, both writers have also underlined some factors that shape the apprehension of the young people in Singapore in their pursuit of happiness.

**3) Nature of Application**

The nature of discussion is based on the application of ideas on the basis of alignment of discussion and use of information from the passage for the assessment of the condition in Singapore about the young people’s life.

**4) Context of Application**

The context of application is based on personal evaluation and society.

perspectives

1. agree with the writer A or B
2. disagree with writer A or B
3. Identify one point from passage A as the concern of your generation
4. identify one point from passage B as the concern of your generation

#### Writing Approach

1. Introduction
   1. Establish the background of the discussion

Summarize the writer’s view (may not be necessary)

* 1. requirement of the question

(eg. How applicable is the notion to your society?)

* 1. your stand on the issue (Agreement or disagreement) or how the question is to be answered (extent of agreement)

1. Main Body – For one point
   1. Quote the noun phrase and sub-clause in the passage that will explain the perspective

* Explain what the writer says
  1. Provide the explanation of the ideas of the writer and depict how it is related to the focus of the question
* Explain how you agree or disagree with the writer
* (cannot use the substituted word that are used to explain the writer’s idea or reason)
  1. Apply the discussion to the context of the question – state the example in relation to your country or examples in the real world according to the category
  2. Other perspectives of discussion (If necessary – extent of agreement)
* counter-arguments
* rebuttals
* constraints of the applications

1. Conclusion
   1. Link the main points of discussion and link to the requirement of the question
   2. retrospective summary and link to the stand

**Types of Questions**

**Example 1**

In passage 1, Trevor Turner describes the manifestations of narcissism in society and discusses some possible reasons for it. In passage 2, Lakshmi Chanudhry examines how the new media has fostered narcissism in people’s lives.

Which author do you find more convincing? To what extent are these views relevant to you and your generation?

Justify your views using materials from the passages as well as your own experiences and observations.

**Example 2**

Johann Hari takes a strong stand in support of liberal eugenics.

How convincing do you find his arguments in light of your own experience and   
knowledge?

**Example 3**

Passage 1 suggests that freedom of though and expressions are universal rights. Passage 2 claims that limiting freedom of speech is justified.

How far should your society address the demand for freedom of thoughts and expression? Justify your view with reference to relevant material from the two passages as well as your knowledge and experience. (10)