**GP Comprehension – Loneliness**









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*Read the passage in the Insert and then answer* ***all*** *the questions. Note that up to fifteen marks will be given for the quality and accuracy of your use of English throughout this Paper.*

*NOTE: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words and phrases from the passage.*

**1. In lines 2-3, what similarity do the authors see between the Age of Loneliness and the ages that precede it? Use your own words as far as possible. [2]**

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**2. What is the claim made by Thomas Hobbes in lines 7-8 and why do the authors disagree with it? Use your own words as far as possible. [3]**

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**3. In paragraph 3, what do the words ‘just as’ tell you about the effect of the epidemic on older people? [1]**

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**4. What is implied by the ‘shifts’ (line 21) described in the sentence ‘Today people travel by car instead of buses and use YouTube rather than the cinema’ in line 20? [2]**

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**5. Explain the phrase ‘to fight like stray dogs over a dustbin’ (line 32). [2]**

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**6. Explain the ‘income-happiness paradox’ in lines 40-41. Use your own words as far as possible. [2]**

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**7. What does the word ‘assailed’ in line 74 tell us about how loneliness affects the rich? [1]**

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**8(a) What does ‘this’ in line 77 refer to?** **[1]**

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**8(b) Why does the author repeat the phrase ‘for this’ in lines 77 and 79? [1]**

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**9) What are the authors’ opinion about schemes like ‘Men in Sheds’ and ‘Walking Football’ in line 82? [1]**

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**10) Why is Hobbes mentioned again in the first line of paragraph 12? [1]**

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**Summary Writing**

**11. Using material from paragraphs 7 to 9, summarise what the authors have to say about the harmful effects of loneliness on people.**

**Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. Use your own words as far as possible. [8]**

*Loneliness leads to …*

| **S/No** | **From the passage**  | **Paraphrased equivalent** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | nearly **twice as likely to die prematurely** as those who do not suffer feelings of isolation. |  |
| **2** | a lotmore **worrying for your health than obesity**.  |  |
| **3** | more **pressing** for the elderly |  |
| **4** | the lonely elderly was adversely affected in developing their **resilience** ORand their ability to **bounce back after adversity** |  |
| **5** | can disrupt sleep, raise blood pressure, lower immunity, increase depression, lower overall subjective well-being and increase the stress hormone cortisol.  |  |
| **6** | **increase in common mental health disorders** in the last 50 years.  |  |

| **S/No** | **Points/Ideas from the passage (Essence of the point/idea in bold)** | **Paraphrased equivalent** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **7** | **unequal** societies |  |
| **8** | where lonely people **are often left behind.** |  |
| **9** | **neglecting** a part of life that makes us happy and keeps us healthy for longer? |  |
| **10** | **gives rise** to **mood swings** |  |
| **11** | feel that they are **disliked**  |  |
| **12** | self**-obsessed**  |  |
| **13** | **lack empathy** with others.  |  |
| **14** | **fear rejection** |  |
| **15** | **keep** themselves **at a distance** |  |

| **S/No** | **Points/Ideas from the passage (Essence of the point/idea in bold)** | **Paraphrased equivalent** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **16** | **feeds** the loneliness. |  |
| **17** | often think that **everyone else is doing OK while they are not.**ORthey are the only ones carrying a burden.  |  |
| **18** | putting their **"game face**" on  |  |
| **19** | rather than **sharing truthfully** about themselves |  |
| **20** | **difficult to know** when it is appropriate to make the move from the former to the latter. |  |

**12. Application Question**

**George Monbiot and Philippa Perry argue that the age of loneliness is killing us.**

**How applicable are their observations to yourself and your own society? [10]**

introduction

* state that the age of loneliness is affecting us and our society in a negative way
* Singapore has a society that fits most of the observation stated by the writers – thus implying the observation of the era of loneliness is applicable to us

Main body

observation stated and explained must be linked to loneliness

eg – high degree of competition -tarnish our relationship – see your friend as a competitor – your social circle is now narrowed – felt this sense of loneliness – affecting your life

create tangible examples with the name of institution

link to example to your assertion or point

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