

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
YEAR 6 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION II 2016

CANDIDATE
NAME

CLASS

INDEX
NUMBER

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GENERAL PAPER

Paper 2

8807/02

August 2016

1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates answer on the Question Paper.

Additional Materials: 1 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 on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions.

The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.

Note that up to **15** marks out of **50** will be awarded for your use of language.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

This document consists of **8** printed pages, and **1** insert.



River Valley High School
EL/GP Department

[Turn over]

Kangetge Nao challenges the institution of marriage.

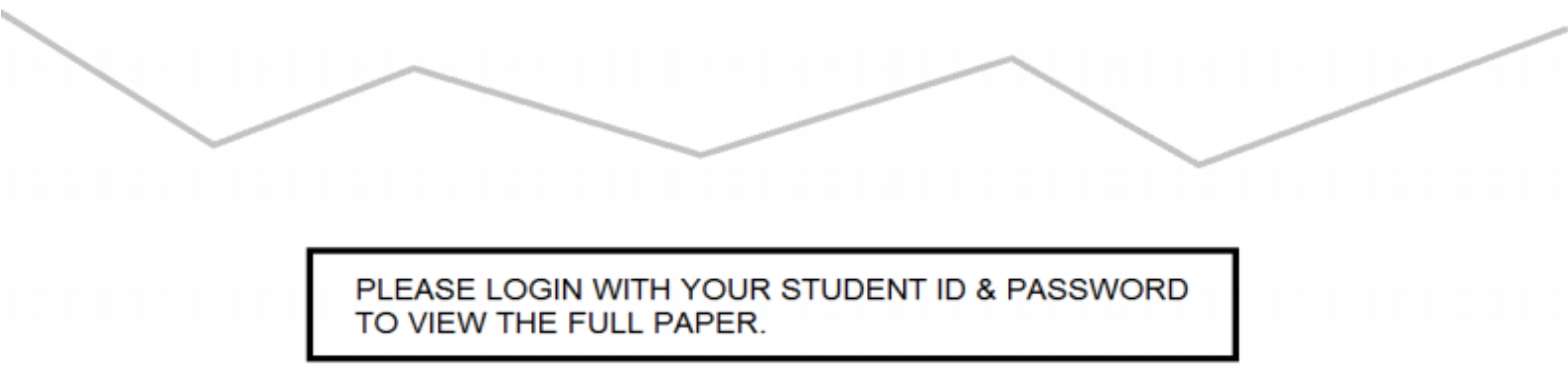
- 1 Our society expects us all to get married, and barring occasional exceptions, we all do just that. Getting married is a rather complicated business. It involves mastering the intricate dance of courtship, celebrating the often arcane rituals of marriage, and finally navigating the spat and squabble of domestic life. It is an enormously elaborate flurry of activity, much more so than finding a job, and yet while many resolutely remain unemployed, few remain unmarried. 5
- 2 All this would not be particularly remarkable if there were no question about the advantages, the joys, and the rewards of married life, but most people, even young millennials, know or have heard that marriage can be a hazardous affair. Of course, there is still marital success, unions made by people mature or fortunate enough to find the kind of mates they want, or who artfully blend giving and receiving. It is not these marriages that concern us here. We are concerned with the increasing number of others who, with naïveté, haplessness, and bumbling effort, grope or fling themselves into marital disaster. Parents, teachers, and concerned adults all counsel against premature marriage. But they rarely speak the truth – that contemporary marriage is a wretched institution. It spells the end of voluntary affection, of love freely given and joyously received. Beautiful romances are transmuted into dull legal unions, and eventually the relationship becomes constricting, corrosive, grinding, and destructive; the beautiful love affair becomes a bitter contract. 10 15
- 3 The basic reason for this sad devolution is that marriage was not designed to bear the burdens now being asked of it by modern society. It is an institution that met specific functional needs of a pre-industrial society and was not designed as a mechanism for providing friendship, erotic experience, romantic love, personal fulfilment, continuous lay psychotherapy, or recreation. Romantic love was thus considered tragic, or merely irrelevant; it was simply not designed to carry a lifelong load of highly emotional freight. Given such a legacy, the very idea of an irrevocable contract obliging the parties concerned to a lifetime of romantic effort is now utterly absurd. 20 25
- 4 Modern pressures have further burdened marriage with expectations it cannot fulfil. In industrialised, urbanised societies, our ties are as superficial as they are numerous. We search for community, and yet we know that the search is futile. Cut off from the support and satisfaction that flow from community, confused and searching singles can do little but place all of their bets on creating a community in microcosm: their own marriage. Out there all is phony! But between the romantic pair there is to be complete candour. No dishonest games! No hypocrisy! No misunderstanding! Yet paradoxically, what starts out as a tender coming together to share one's whole person is transmuted by too much togetherness into attack and counterattack, doubt, disillusionment, and ambivalence. Something precious and fragile is shattered, and soon another brave marriage will end. Little wonder then that marriage today is too often a prelude to domestic tragedy, or perhaps more frequently, to domestic pathos that is no less tragic for being mundane. 30 35
- 5 Even when we fall in love and willingly marry, we cannot deny that modern marriage is far from ideal. Soaring real estate prices in China are breaking up marriages, but not in the way you might expect. China has raised the down payment for second mortgages, limited apartment purchases, and banned commercial banks from offering loans to third-home buyers. To get around these restrictions, Chinese couples are flocking to companies which sell divorce papers for a mere 300 40

yuan¹. Getting divorced allows couples to register properties under separate names. When marriage is so crudely commoditised, surely we should awaken from the spell of romance.

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- 6 So, how do we hold on to the magic of marriage? We must release our death grip on outmoded structures, acknowledge the contradiction between the old and the new, and redefine love and marriage. Many accept the right of consenting adults to engage in whatever sexual and romantic relationships they choose, but oppose the legal recognition of those relationships. Such people miss the crucial point: marriage is not just a formal codification of relationships – it is also a defensive system designed to protect the interests of people whose economic and emotional security depends on the marriage in question. If we still want to find hope in love, eradicating the stigmas and taboos around marriage must be nothing less than this generation's moral obligation.

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