
Analysis of Answers for GP Paper 2 Exercise #10 (Nostalgia)

1. The author is implying that nostalgia was seen as a condition to stay away from or the reason for melancholy, **and thus**, it was completely negative regardless of the degree it was experienced.

**Useful points to take note of:*

*(*Do join our GP tuition lessons at www.irwins-study.com for an in-depth explanation of the answer!)*

2. The word 'rose-tinted' means seeing the world only in positive ways, **and here**, it suggests that peace was overly-idealized by the soldiers, who merely remembered the positive aspects of peace.

**Useful points to take note of:*

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3. The author means that nostalgia is commonly experienced by many around the world, **and hence**, it is a shared sentiment of humankind.

**Useful points to take note of:*

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4. The first effect is that nostalgia spurs people to better relate to others **and** promotes community cohesion. The second effect is that nostalgia serves as a solution for individuals who experience solitude **and** social detachment.

**Useful points to take note of:*

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5. The author uses brackets to provide additional information that nostalgia can be used **not merely for alleviating social conditions**, **but also** employed for medical treatments.

**Useful points to take note of:*

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6. (See Summary Answers at the end)

7. The author's purpose is to use two analogies to help readers understand that nostalgia functions like both a pathway and a bank account. Firstly, **just like** how the brain gets used to functioning in certain ways over time, **similarly**, nostalgia is a process of picking specific memories that we want to revisit, in order to solidify positive experiences with the passage of time. Secondly, **just as** an inexhaustible bank account is limitless and never runs out of resources, **in the same way**, nostalgia can be used to build up a collection of memories that can be revisited endlessly and is always accessible.

**Useful points to take note of:*

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8. The author describes storytellers as 'professional nostalgics' **as** they are proficient in using the feelings of nostalgia because their livelihoods depend on their ability to think differently from the rest and in more unconventional ways.

**Useful points to take note of:*

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9. The author means that nostalgic memory is **both painful and pleasurable in that while** nostalgic memory is often associated with grief and dejection, **at the same time, it also** reminds us of the significance of loved ones whom we have lost and the close relationships we once enjoyed.

**Useful points to take note of:*

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10. The 'danger' that the author is referring to is the fact that nostalgia can be exploited by others to make people act in ways that they would normally not, if they were thinking properly.

**Useful points to take note of:*

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6. Summary Question (ANSWERS)

#	Points from the Passage	Paraphrased Points
1	Nostalgia seems to be a kind of inbuilt ...(line 19) OR Nostalgia spontaneously rushes in...(line 22)	*NATURAL Nostalgia benefits us because it is an innate/inherent/inborn/natural response/tool
2	neurological defense mechanism (line 19) OR which can be marshalled to protect us...(line 20) OR as a defence against the present...(line 46)	*PROTECTIVE guards against/shields us/fortifies us/buffers us from
3	against negative thoughts ...(line 20)	*THOUGHTS/EMOTIONS anxiety/worry/despair/pessimism
4	and situations (line 20) OR Particularly in times of hardship and difficulty... OR uncomfortable states ...(line 21) OR through difficult periods ...(line 45)	*CIRCUMSTANCES posed by threatening/unfavourable circumstances OR during painful/intolerable/harsh/trying/unbearable times
5	Nostalgia compensates for ...(line 21) OR counteracts these things...(line 23) OR ...posed as a redemption sequence ...(line 42)	*TRANSFORMS Nostalgia neutralizes/mitigates/lessens/transforms the impact/pain/harm/suffering/trauma
6	...can temporarily affect your perceived body state (line 26) OR ...to temporarily alter their perception of the state they were in...(line 30) OR ...the temporary change in perception (line 31)	*TIME/PERCEPTION momentarily change/shift our perspectives/mindsets/views of our current situations
7	...allowed them to crucially persevere just a bit longer (line 31) OR ...which are correlated with mental fortitude (line 34) OR ...and in doing so it perhaps builds resilience (line 36)	*MENTAL STRENGTH helps us to hold on further/endure through stressful times
8	Nostalgia helps build resources like optimism (line 34) OR ...and a hope for the future (line 46)	*FUTURE boosts positivity/expect better prospects
9	...or inspiration (line 34)	motivates/encourages/spurs/drives us
10	...or creativity (line 34)	promotes resourcefulness/imagination/ingenuity

11	Nostalgia grounds us... (line 35)	anchors us/stabilizes us/gives us a realistic perspective
12	...and gives us a base (line 35)	provides a yardstick/standard/benchmark
13	...on which to evaluate the present as a temporary state (line 36)	to make us realize that the present is short- lived/ transient/will not last forever/is not permanent
14	...reminding them (children) to think of happier moments (line 45)	assists children in remembering more joyful/pleasant/blissful times/memories
15	...also builds gratitude (line 52)	develops a thankful/appreciative spirit
16	...and connectedness towards others (line 52)	growing closer to others/better relate to others/empathize with others
17	...and tends to make children less selfish (line 53)	makes them less self-centred/inconsiderate

Sample Summary Answer

Nostalgia benefits us because it is an [innate response]¹ which helps us to [guard against]² [pessimism]³. **By** [momentarily changing our perspectives of our current situations]⁶, nostalgia [mitigates the painful impact]⁵ [brought about by unfavourable circumstances]⁴, **hence** [allowing us to endure through stressful times]⁷. **Moreover**, nostalgia [boosts positivity]⁸, [spurs us on]⁹, **and** [promotes resourcefulness]¹⁰. **Consequently**, we are able to [be anchored in reality]¹¹ **as** [we have a yardstick to compare the present and the past]¹² **leading us to** [realize that the present is not permanent]¹³. **With regard to** children, nostalgia **serves to** [help children remember more blissful times]¹⁴ **and in the process**, [develops in them a thankful spirit]¹⁵ **while** [allowing them to better empathize with others]¹⁶, and **thus** [making them less self-centred]¹⁷.

(117 words)

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