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## Analysis of Answers for Paper 2 Comprehension Practice #6

(‘Similarities & Differences’)

1. The author means that we treat outsiders with distrust **even in** the nicest of circumstances, **thus implying that** people who are different are not generally welcomed.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

2. The author places brackets around the comment to provide additional information that **although** the clans could come together to fight the English, this solidarity did not last long, **suggesting that** differences are inevitable in human societies.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

3. The author places the word ‘kindness’ in inverted commas to indicate that **while some believe** that actions to help minority groups are compassionate, **the author disagrees** as she feels that these efforts actually result in detrimental consequences.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

4. The author justifies her use of the word ‘unfair’ **by showing that** there exist many accounts of selfless acts towards people who are different and instances of people fighting for the rights of those who are different from them, which is fast becoming a common trend around the world.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

5. The phrase ‘ivory tower’ suggests that the royalty live in comfortable conditions, far removed from the lives of the average person.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

6. **Firstly**, increased international travel **allows us to** make direct contact with a greater variety of cultures. **Secondly**, the widely available Internet **makes us more** open-minded by exposing us to different perspectives. **Finally**, increased international trade **offers more access to** identical goods for people across the globe.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

7. *The author means that* there are still differentiating characteristics amongst people, and some want to reassert these because they feel that our growing uniformity is eroding their individualities **and hence** they desire to re-establish their uniqueness.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

8. *The irony is that* **given** the incredible progress America has achieved, **it is expected that** it should be able to solve an issue such as discrimination. **Instead, the reality is that** prejudice is still deeply entrenched in American society, with little headway made in resolving it.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

9. **People who are 'more progressive'** delight in the prospects brought about by increased diversity **and they accept everybody** regardless of differences. **In contrast, people who are 'more regressive'** are preoccupied by the potential catastrophe that differences could bring, thus discriminating against those who are different.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

10. *The idea is that* we have to navigate the differences amongst people wisely **so that** we can continue to co-exist harmoniously and improve together.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

## 11. Summary Question (ANSWERS)

#	Points from the Passage	Paraphrased Points
1	One of the most commonly cited reasons is prejudice...	<b>bias / discrimination</b>
2	We also fear that they may fragment society with their beliefs...	<b>afraid that different values / views / opinions will shatter / divide / break up society</b>
3	...or bring physical harm upon us.	<b>they may assault / hurt us</b>
4	...we are afraid we have to make allowances...	<b>we fear having to compromise</b>
5	or worse, sacrifice for others...	<b>or surrender to others' needs / rights</b>
6	...which we see as a precursor to them taking our power away.	<b>which we view as the beginning / start of us losing our rights / privileges</b>
7	...lead us to avoid those we deem different.	<b>As such, people shun those unlike them</b>
8	If this is not possible, we interact with them only when necessary...	<b>or deal with them only when required / needed / demanded</b>
9	...and often in a condescending manner.	<b>frequently / usually in an arrogant / superior fashion</b>
10	We tend to taunt them...	<b>we mock / make fun / harass them</b>
11	and even stoop to finger-pointing...	<b>and blame / accuse them for societal wrongs / ills</b>
12	...our naivety unwittingly causes offence through tactless questions...	<b>We upset them by asking insensitive / inconsiderate questions</b>
13	We also cause them distress by thrusting them into the spotlight...	<b>and drawing attention / focussing on their differences</b>
14	Furthermore, when we give them special treatment, we may end up embarrassing them...	<b>By showing favouritism, we make them feel self-conscious</b>
15	...on a systemic level, we may deprive them of opportunities to progress...	<b>Structural policies / frameworks prevent those who are different from advancing</b>
16	...and more abjectly, deny them their rights.	<b>or worse, take away / remove their rights</b>
17	Such 'kindness' ultimately give rise to and justified many instances of neglect...	<b>These lead to various cases of people being ignored / overlooked / marginalized</b>
18	...and abuse.	<b>and mistreated / ill-treated</b>
19	What is worse...we may also choose to condone...	<b>More appallingly, some tacitly approve / accept</b>
20	...and even encourage blatant acts of discrimination that we observe in society.	<b>and even outrightly / obviously / clearly promote / incite prejudice towards others</b>

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### **Sample Summary Answer**

Firstly, people behave poorly towards those who are unlike them because [of bias]<sup>1</sup> **leading to** [people being afraid that different views may divide society]<sup>2</sup>, **and causing** people to [compromise]<sup>4</sup> **or even** [surrender their rights]<sup>5</sup>, **thereby** [threatening their positions]<sup>6</sup>. **There is also** the concern that [people who are different may assault them]<sup>3</sup>. **As such,** [people stay away from those unlike them]<sup>7</sup>, choosing to [deal with them only when needed]<sup>8</sup>, [usually in an arrogant way]<sup>9</sup>. **Additionally,** [people may mock]<sup>10</sup> **or** [blame those who are different for societal ills]<sup>11</sup>. **Sometimes,** [people upset others by asking insensitive questions]<sup>12</sup> **and by** [showing favouritism, we actually make them feel self-conscious]<sup>14</sup>. [Structural policies **may also** prevent those who are different from advancing in society]<sup>15</sup>. **More appalling,** [some tacitly approve]<sup>19</sup> **and even** [outrightly incite prejudice against others within society]<sup>20</sup>. **[120 words]**

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