
Analysis of Answers for GP Paper 2 Comprehension Exercise #14 (‘Materialism’)

1. The author means that the miniature moai is a disconcerting representation of the devastation that mankind has unleashed on the environment **because of** our dangerous dependence on things.

**Useful points to take note of:*

2. The author's purpose is to indirectly convey his own guilty conscience in wanting to replace his mobile phone, **as indicated by** the perceived expression of disapproval on his moai.

**Useful points to take note of:*

3. The word ‘routinely’ suggests that we replace our possessions in a habitual manner, **thus illustrating** how careless and unthinking we are with regard to our things.

**Useful points to take note of:*

4. Firstly, we replace our possessions because the items are no longer trendy, **and secondly because** there appears to be some built-in obsolescence within the products designed by manufacturers.

**Useful points to take note of:*

5. The contrast is that **while we wish** that the fulfilment we derive from new products we buy will last for a long time, **the truth is that** our desire to keep buying things actually makes us discontented.

**Useful points to take note of:*

6. The author means that **whether we** embrace consumerism obsessively **or** give up on buying things completely, we will ultimately still remain unfulfilled, **thereby highlighting** the inherent dilemma we are caught in concerning our relationship with material things.

**Useful points to take note of:*

7. To illustrate 'mindful', the writer describes Pablo Neruda as 'an erudite curator of curious objects'; and to illustrate 'celebratory spirit', the writer uses the word 'delighting'.

**Useful points to take note of:*

8. The first similarity is that **both** the can of Campbell soup and the baguette are mundane and common items in people's daily lives. The second similarity is that **both** objects have come to symbolize important aspects of their respective cultures and eras.

**Useful points to take note of:*

9. (Summary Question – see later)

10. The first lesson we can learn from the moai is that no lifestyle or ideology is permanent **and therefore** we must evolve and adapt. The next lesson is that we need to adopt a more intentional and dedicated approach to treasure and protect our current possessions **so that** we can be more intimately linked to others and our surroundings.

**Useful points to take note of:*

9. Summary Question (ANSWERS)

#	Points from the Passage	Paraphrased Points
1	...a range of voices...have begun to coalesce into a movement that...	Coming together / working collectively / collaborating
2	grounds us more mindfully in the material world.	Towards being more thoughtful / conscious about the physical / tangible / corporeal world
3	...challenges us to love our possessions not less but more...	We can value / treasure our things
4	...care about where they came from,	Be concerned about their source / origin
5	who made them,	Their manufacturers / creators / designers
6	what will happen to them in the future.	How they will be disposed / reused / recycled
7	...retain the pulse of their making...	Remember the essence of their creation process
8	...we need products designed to last.	We need to make things that are durable / endure
9	[...an open-source operating system that allows users to get round obsolescence.]	Provide ways to keep products up-to-date / useful / relevant
10	[...it has two SIM-slots for those who might otherwise need to carry two phones for work and home.]	Businesses can streamline their products / make products that are multi-functional
11	...community repair shops	We can fix things when they break down / spoil
12	...creating an experience that is joyful.	Resulting in a delightful / enjoyable process
13	...things are endlessly re-used...	Where we are constantly / continually recycling / re-using / re-purposing objects
14	...creating employment to replace lost manufacturing/retail output.	Generating new jobs to mend / fix / restore items
15	It is, essentially, an economics of better, not bigger.	Focus on the quality of the products we make / buy
16	I suspect that will mean paying more...	We have to be willing to spend more
17	...spending on 'experiences rather than disposable goods'.	Pursuing adventure / memorable activities
18	...more lasting satisfaction...	Which leads to more enduring / long-term fulfilment
19	This in turn might lead to a proliferation of ... events celebrating the talents we share.	Resulting in more activities / functions that recognize / acknowledge / pay tribute to the gifts / abilities / skills we possess
20	...the fetish of ownership is passing in favour of a 'sharing market'.	We are more keen / eager to share our possessions
21	[...calling time on those unrecyclable CD, video and DVD formats that often end up in a landfill.]	Leading to less waste

Sample Summary Answer

We can counter materialism by [working collectively]¹ [towards being more thoughtful about the physical world]². **By** [treasuring our things]³ **and** [being concerned about their origins]⁴ and [how they will be disposed]⁶, [we remember the essence of their creation process]⁷. **Additionally**, [we need to manufacture products that are durable]⁸ **while** [providing ways to keep them up-to-date]⁹. **Moreover**, [we can fix things when they spoil]¹¹ **leading to** [an enjoyable process]¹² **where** [we are continually re-purposing items]¹³, **and concurrently** [creating new jobs to restore items]¹⁴. **Next**, [we have to be willing to spend more]¹⁶ [pursuing memorable activities]¹⁷ [that will lead to more long-term fulfilment]¹⁸ **as a result of** [more functions that pay tribute to our talents]¹⁹. **Finally**, [we can share our possessions]²⁰, **causing** [less waste to be generated]²¹. [120 words]

**Do join our GP tuition lessons at www.irwins-study.com for in-depth explanations of the answers and useful answering techniques, including the Application Question (AQ)!*