

---

## Analysis of Answers for GP Paper 2 Exercise (‘Parenting’)

1. The writer suggests this because **just like** snowplows get rid of snow to create an open path for people to walk through, parents go before their children to remove all hindrances that may prevent them from doing well **such that** their children would not have to experience defeat, vexation, or missed chances in life.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

2. The author is suggesting that in this generation, children’s self-esteems are pandered **to the extent that** affirmation has become meaningless.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

3. The author says this because the purpose of raising children is to equip them with skills to navigate the future, and not to engineer the future to suit what they want for their children.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

4. The author writes this because for the privileged class, admission to college is a requisite testament to a child’s and parents’ success **and** is becoming key to securing a high income.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

5. The author uses the dash **to add a dramatic pause in order to emphasise** the absurdity that college admission has now because not just a token of pride for students, but also for their parents despite them not being the ones who are attending college.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

6. The irony is that **one would expect that** if parents are aware of the harmful effects that their parenting style has on their children, they would refrain from doing it. **Yet, in reality,** parents still continue to snowplow because of excessive concerns regarding their children's futures.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

7. "Free-range" parenting in the 1970s resulted in children experiencing much enjoyment, a significant amount of leisure in nature and in the company of peers without parents' constant monitoring, and not having to be overly anxious about their academic achievements or their futures.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

8. **Just as how** "free-range" describes animals which are not confined and allowed to roam at will, similarly, children should not be restricted and be given the liberty for self-exploration and the space for self-discovery.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

9. Parents who used "free-range parenting" in the 1970s maintained the least amount of management and control over their children, whereas American parents today devote double the amount of time looking after and monitoring their children despite having half the number of children per family on average compared to parents in the 1970s.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

10. The author used the word "even" to show how unbelievable it is that play, which is supposed to be spontaneous, has to be planned ahead of time, illustrating the extent of how controlled parenting is.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

11. The author believes that it is an intelligent move by parents given the altered economic circumstances of the modern world where children tend to lose out a lot more if parents do not exercise this amount of supervision in their children's lives.

*\*Useful points to take note of:*

## 12. Summary Question (ANSWERS)

| #  | Points from the Passage   | Paraphrased Points  |
|----|---|---|
| 1  | a stark rise in both <b>economic inequality</b> [l.17]  | <b>significant / sharp increase in income / wealth divide / disparity</b>   |
| 2  | and the <b>economic benefits</b> of more education [l.17-18]<br><u>Or</u><br>Today, there is a much <b>larger gap</b> between those who <b>succeed</b> in education and those who don't [l. 25-26]                  | <b>financial advantages for those who are more academically qualified / stay in school longer</b><br><u>Or</u><br><b>There is now greater disparity between those who excel academically and those who have not</b> |
| 3  | In the 1970s, <b>unemployment</b> was <b>low</b> as well [l.19]   | <b>In the past / Previously, joblessness was less significant</b>   |
| 4  | College graduates <b>earned more</b> on average than high school graduates, but <b>not by much</b> [l. 19-20]   | <b>Graduates had higher remuneration / salaries / income than non-graduates, though not significantly more</b>  |
| 5  | In addition to the usual college-prep curriculum of math, English, and history, high schools offered <b>vocational training</b> , which often led to <b>well-paid</b> and <b>stable blue-collar jobs</b> [l. 21-22] | <b>Beyond mainstream education, skills training afforded non-graduates high salaries and job security</b>   |
| 6  | there was <b>more than one path</b> to a secure middle-class existence [l. 22-23]   | <b>There were multiple ways to ascend the social ladder/ there was greater social mobility</b>  |
| 7  | the <b>wages</b> of workers who <b>didn't attend college</b> have <b>stagnated</b> for decades [l.27]<br><u>Or</u><br>College graduates now <b>make about twice as much</b> as high school graduates [l.27]         | <b>The incomes of non-graduates have plateaued / not changed / not increased</b><br><u>Or</u><br><b>The income of graduates is double that of non-graduates</b>   |
| 8  | and face <b>lower unemployment risk</b> [l.28]  | <b>and they have a greater chance of finding jobs</b>   |
| 9  | Other gaps have opened up: <b>college grads are healthier</b> [l.29]  | <b>Other reasons / factors include graduates having fewer diseases / illnesses / being fitter</b>   |
| 10 | <b>more likely to get married</b> and <b>more likely to stay married</b> [l.29]   | <b>(flipped) a lower inclination towards singlehood and higher sustainability of their unions</b>   |
| 11 | If today's parents follow the "helicopter" rather than the "free range" approach, it is because <b>it works</b> . [l.32-33]   | <b>Intensive parenting is effective / produces results</b>  |

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 12 | <b>Free time</b> for children is <b>not always productive</b> [l. 33]  | Children often do not make good use of their time / do not spend time constructively / do not make meaningful use of time |
| 13 | intensive parenting is <b>associated</b> with <b>success in school</b> [l. 38]   | The helicopter approach is tied to academic excellence  |
| 14 | <i>[Eg.] In the international PISA study of student performance, the children of such parents score substantially higher in math, reading, and science, even if we compare otherwise similar parents with the same level of education [l. 38-40]</i> | It is the parenting approach, not parents' education level, that results in successful children                           |
| 15 | This is <b>true</b> across a <b>large set of countries</b> . [l. 41]   | This is corroborated / proven / ratified / confirmed by evidence from many nations  |
| 16 | <i>[Eg.] <b>Specific activities correlated with child success</b> are reading books with children, telling them stories, and discussing politics with them [l. 41-42]</i>  | Parental interventions involve a variety of communication approaches / interactions / conversations                       |
| 17 | it is less the details but the overall <b>close interaction between parents and children</b> that counts. [l. 43-44]   | Ultimately, what matters is the time spent between parent and child   |

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