
Answers for Paper 2 Comprehension Exercise #33 (‘Conformity’)

1. *The phrase implies the author’s disdain towards people who mindlessly follow the crowd, **believing that** it is the best course of action.*

**Useful points to take note of:*

2. *The author is implying that there are certain roles and expectations placed on individuals in society, **which may not be** in sync with people’s true identities.*

**Useful points to take note of:*

3. *The author illustrates the tension **by observing how** children who have grown up to obey the norms from their parents’ era frequently push back against these traditions; and students who have been trained to comply to prescriptive methods of solving questions find such learning not exciting but instead dulling for the brain.*

**Useful points to take note of:*

4. *Conformity fuels mindless consumerism **by making people** become driven by anxiety at lagging behind others. **Hence**, we keep up with the norm of spending wastefully on things we do not require merely to possess the newest products.*

**Useful points to take note of:*

5. *The author uses the phrases in this sequence **in order to illustrate** that there is a need for progressive actions from the individual level to the societal level **to challenge the status quo** when it is not just or logical.*

**Useful points to take note of:*

6. The author suggests that the rewards are **firstly**, an increased capacity to create revolutionary innovations; **secondly**, having a more dynamic way of life; and **thirdly**, more latitude to imaginatively showcase our unique sense of self.

**Useful points to take note of:*

7. He is implying that not conforming to the group would result in being viewed negatively by others; being left to defend oneself; facing the possibility of starvation; and experiencing loneliness.

**Useful points to take note of:*

8. He is suggesting that human nature is innately passive and self-interested **because** the word 'even' implies that helping the needy is something which is unexpected of humans.

**Useful points to take note of:*

9. The author uses the word 'admittedly' **to acknowledge** the opposing view that conformity may have a negative impact on one's creativity **before** presenting her own perspective.

**Useful points to take note of:*

10. **Firstly**, Apple has given a high priority on the style and look of their devices. **Secondly**, it has provided a smooth and convenient experience when people use its products.

**Useful points to take note of:*

11. The phrase is "inspired these competitors to outdo Apple at its own game".

**Useful points to take note of:*

12. Summary Question (*Possible Answers*)

#	Points from the Passage	Paraphrased Points
1	Conformity also achieves impartiality Or ensures that everyone does their fair share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all contribute equally / all do their part
2	in terms of serving in armies for defence ,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be it for the country's security / protection
3	being productive at work,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • efficiency / industry / diligence
4	keeping our environment clean ,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eco-friendliness / pleasant surroundings
5	or even in the mandatory helping of the needy .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • charity / relief / assistance
6	By passing laws to make participation in such schemes compulsory ,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through legislating • to force / compel people to • join / partake / contribute to such systems
7	we achieve a greater good when everybody toes the line .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we attain large-scale / societal benefits / society improves significantly • as everyone complies / adheres / follows the rules / regulations / measures
8	Clearly, conformity is crucial , be it in times of peace or crises .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity is essential / important • amidst stability / calm / tranquillity or • instability / dangers / upheavals
9	Extreme as it might sound, without it, anarchy occurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without it, chaos / lawlessness ensues
10	and key systems break down .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and integral / critical structures • fail / collapse
11	And where would our cultures be without conformity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity preserves our way of life / cultural norms
12	After all, traditions are only created	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs / Time-honoured / Longstanding practices • are generated / spawned
13	when we repeat the actions of our forefathers – following the same thing festival after festival,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by replicating / copying • our ancestors' / past generations' rituals / actions
14	to exhibit our steadfastness to good old values .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to show / demonstrate / display • dedication / commitment / devotion to • principles / morals

15	Traditions remind us that we are a part of a history that defines our past, and that shapes us today and who we are likely to become.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These help us recall / reinforce our identity
16	Conforming to traditions contributes to our sense of belonging and rootedness ,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and give us a community / attachment • and stability/ groundedness
17	and is a way to honour the contributions of those who came before us .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They celebrate / respect our ancestors
18	Religions rely on conformity too:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion is supported by / depends on conformity
19	rituals instil dutiful attitudes in their adherents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as prescribed behaviours • cultivate obedience / responsibility in followers
20	and also engender powerful collective emotions that are cathartic for the soul.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and create / trigger / evoke • strong, shared feelings / sentiments
21	For example, all of the 1.9 billion Muslims pray...thus sharing a sense of solidarity wherever they may be in the world.	<p><i>(Transform EG)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious conformity allows for feelings of unity / togetherness among worshippers
22	Indeed, only by conforming to collective practices can we then connect to a cosmic framework larger than ourselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity links / ties us to • metaphysical structures / realities / dimensions • transcending our own lives

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