

2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
MARK SCHEME

4E5N Prelim Section A Suggested Answer (Bartley Secondary School)

1 Study Source A.

Why did President Xi make this speech? Explain your answer.

[6]

Suggested Answer		Success Criteria
Take note: Good answers should link to concepts of fostering social cohesion and common identity <u>OR</u> increasing social stability as a safeguard against extremist ideology as mentioned in BI.		
President Xi made the speech to convince government officials of the importance of building common identity amongst the diverse ethnic groups to safeguard social stability against extremist ideas, so that the government officials will work with all ethnic groups for the mutual benefit of the Chinese nation, and each ethnic group. He made this speech in August 2021, one month before the removal of traditional language in schools, over which ethnic Mongolians had staged a protest the year before. President Xi said “Fostering a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation is a critical element of safeguarding the fundamental interests of all ethnic groups. Only when all ethnic groups jointly safeguard national security and social stability can extremist and separatist thoughts be resisted and the aspirations of the people of all ethnic groups for a better life be fulfilled.” This implies that the ethnic groups must feel like they have a common stake in the peace and stability of the county as a whole, which will also benefit them, so the officials must work with them to build that trust.	•	Powerful Verb
	•	Audience
	•	Message
	•	Feeling
	•	Action
	•	Situation
	•	Evidence 1 best line
	•	Explanation

2 Study Source B and C.

Would the columnist (in Source C) agree with the published report (in Source B)? Explain your answer.

[6]

Suggested Answer		Success Criteria
Note: - Answers using similar / different → 0 - When disagreeing / refuting, always use opposite meaning words		
The columnist would agree with the published report [A] on the fact that Tibetan children are learning Mandarin Chinese in schools [CC]. This is evident in Source B where it says “... equally key is the universalisation of Mandarin Chinese” [Ev] which implies that the Mandarin language is learn throughout China regardless of your ethnic background, which would	•	ATQ
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word

2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
MARK SCHEME

include Tibetan children [Ex]. Likewise [CW], Source C says that “the realistic motivation for Tibetan children to learn Mandarin is great because it is the common language in China and the largest language carrier for the functioning of Chinese society” [Ev] which implies that many Tibetan children would learn Mandarin because of the benefits of being able to use Mandarin while living in China [Ex].	•	Evidence x2 1 best line
	•	Explanation x2
The columnist would disagree with the published report [A] on the impact of learning Mandarin on the preservation of Tibetan language and identity [CC]. This is evident in Source B where it says “many struggle to communicate in their native tongue” [Ev] which implies that learning Mandarin instead means they stop learning their traditional Tibetan language leading them to lose their ability to communicate in it fluently [Ex]. However [CW], Source C says that “learning Mandarin does not mean giving up learning Tibetan” [Ev] which implies that the learning of Mandarin Chinese can go hand in hand with learning their traditional language in a complementary way [Ex].	•	ATQ
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence 1 best line
	•	Explanation
Using the position and context of creators of the sources. (L5/6) The columnist in Source C would never agree with report in Source B because the columnist writes for the official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, which would always defend the party's policy as the government of China when criticised by a foreign publication. Even if there might be elements of truth in Source B's criticism of the Chinese government, the TIME magazine article's one-sided and biased view paints the situation as one that is forced on Tibetans by the Chinese government. As such, as an employee of the Chinese government's newspaper, the columnist is obligated to correct [P] the wrong characterisation that the Tibetans themselves are wholly against the learning of Mandarin Chinese [M], so that local Chinese, or international readers [A] will reconsider their perspective on the issue [F], and be more willing to understand the Chinese government's rationale for the policy [A]. The columnist published this article in 2023 after the implementation of the policy to stop teaching local languages in schools, while Source B was written before it, in July 2021. It is more likely that the policy does achieve some beneficial outcomes, rather than be as terrible as the biased characterisation that TIME magazine made in 2021, so the columnist must correct the unfair characterisation of the Chinese government's policy. [Exp]	•	ATQ
	•	PAMFASEE of C
	•	Explanation of why columnist will not agree with report of B, taking into consideration: -What is said -When it is said -Who is he addressing

3 Study Source D.

How useful is Source D in helping you understand people's attitudes [6]
towards China's ethnic policy? Explain your answer.

Suggested Answer		Success Criteria
Note:		

2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
MARK SCHEME

<p>-Always begin with USEFUL</p> <p>-Infer state of social mixing</p> <p>-Successful Cross referencing (CR) requires reliability therefore useful / unreliability therefore less useful.</p>		
<p>Source D is useful in helping us understand people's attitudes towards China's ethnic policy [A] as it is reliable as it is supported by Source E [LOR]. Both [CW] suggest that China's ethnic policy is more assimilative than integrative because they adopt the approach of sinicization (CC). This can be seen from Source D which shows President Xi painting each ethnic individual with the red paint of Sinicization [Ev], which implies that their ethnic identity are now covered over by the red colour of Han Chinese ethnicity [Ex]. Similarly, [CW] Source E says "China tries to speed up the process of cultural assimilation by increasing the number of Han people" [Ev] which implies that the Chinese government attempts to sinicise Xinjiang by increasing the proportion of Han Chinese so that their cultures and practices will become the dominant culture of the region, relegating tradition Uyghur culture as a minority cultural practice in the traditionally Uyghur dominant region [Ex].</p>	•	ATQ + LOR
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence x2 1 best line
	•	Explanation x2
<p>Source D is less useful in helping us understand people's attitudes towards China's ethnic policy [A] as it is unreliable as it is refuted by Source F [LOR]. Source D suggests that China's ethnic policy is more assimilative than integrative because they adopt the approach of sinicization (CC), but Source A suggests that China's ethnic policy is more integrative than assimilative. This can be seen from Source D which shows President Xi painting each ethnic individual with the red paint of Sinicization [Ev], which implies that their ethnic identity are now covered over by the red colour of Han Chinese ethnicity [Ex]. However [CW], Source A says "Neither Han chauvinism nor local ethnic chauvinism is conducive to the development of a community for the Chinese nation" [Ev] which implies that the Chinese government's approach is not to destroy or suppress local ethnic culture while imposing the dominant Han Chinese culture, but to integrate both together in building a Chinese national community [Ex].</p>	•	ATQ + LOR
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence 1 best line
	•	Explanation
<p>Possible highest levels have to include the holistic use of tone (L5/6)</p> <p>Less useful: Use of Tone – need to recognize Whose view + Tone => What these imply for reliability, and hence usefulness.</p> <p>D is less useful [A] as it is biased because of its negative tone [LOR]. The source was published by Radio Free Asia, which - although a private media company - was funded by the US government, on the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The portrayal of China's ethnic policy, a highly complex and challenging social policy in a country as big and diverse and China, was reduced to just the characterisation of President Xi painting everyone into the same Han Chinese ethnic identity [Exp of tone/bias]. Because the US government has an ongoing rivalry with China, it will help win them greater support if they can paint the Chinese</p>	•	ATQ + LOR
	•	Whose Perspective?
	•	What tone?
	•	Explanation of how tone+perspective makes it more/less useful.

2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
MARK SCHEME

government in a negative light [Exp of perspective], so it is to be expected for a US government funded media company publishing a cartoon about China on the anniversary of their founding to make it a critical one. This makes it less reliable, and hence less useful.		
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4. Study Sources E and F.
 Having read Source E, are you surprised by Source F? Explain your answer.

[7]

Suggested Answer		Success Criteria
Note: -Para 1: Must use both sources given → compare E & F -Para 2: Should move on to higher level skills like CR of main source / Explained provenance		
Comparison of E and F Having read E, I am not surprised by F [A] as E supports F making F expected [LOR]. Both suggest that ethnic relations were better in the past, but have become more tense in the present [CC]. Source E says "the Chinese population policy leads to increased ethnic conflict in Xinjiang" [Ev] implying that ethnic relation has only worsened after the implementation of China's population policy. Similarly [CW] F says "I would say that... ethnic relationships in Xinjiang are worse of and the situation is very tense now." [Ev] implying that ethnic relations were better in the past, but that it is no longer the case [Ex].	•	ATQ + LOR
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence x2 1 best line
	•	Explanation x2
Cross referencing of main source. Having read E, I am surprised by F [A] because F is refuted by A making it unexpected [LOR]. Both sources disagree on whether China's ethnic policy would lead to greater tensions between ethnic groups [CC]. F says "I would say that... ethnic relationships in Xinjiang are worse of and the situation is very tense now." [Ev] implying that ethnic relations were better in the past, but that it is no longer the case [Ex]. However [CW], Source A suggests that the Chinese government's approach does not emphasise the superiority of any ethnic group over another, by saying that "neither Han chauvinism nor local ethnic chauvinism is conducive to the development of a community for the Chinese nation" [Ev], which implies that the Chinese government wants to take an approach that unites the different ethnic groups, rather than see the different ethnic groups as competitive, vying for superiority over others.	•	ATQ + LOR
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence 1 best line
		Explanation
Possible highest levels have to include the holistic use of provenance, context and content (L5/7) Highest level: E explains the cause of the situation that F describes		ATQ + LOR
		Details from provenance

2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
MARK SCHEME

<p>Having read E, I am not surprised by F [E] because E explains the cause of the situation that is described in F [LOR]. Source E is a Uyghur criticising the Chinese government's ethnic policies in Xinjiang on a pro-Uyghur (and therefore anti-government) website [D1]. Such a website, would not merely report on the events of the day, but attempt to identify what the cause of the issues are, so that the situation can be rectified and lead to the improvement of life for Uyghurs [Ex]. Source F is also written by a Uyghur [D2], but he was responding only to the question of what it was like to live in Xinjiang [D3] on a forum where anyone can ask a question that anyone with the relevant information can respond to. The question that the author of Source F responded to only required a description of what life was like in Xinjiang, and not to comment on what caused the situation. Hence, it is not unexpected that the situation described in F mirrors the worsening of ethnic relations described in E, which is explained in E to be <u>caused by China's ethnic policies in Xinjiang</u>.</p>		<p>D1, D2, D3</p> <p>Explanation of how it makes the source reliable and hence useful</p> <p>Exp 1, Exp 2, Exp 3</p> <p>What view is represented</p>
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2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
MARK SCHEME

5. 'It is necessary for China to adopt assimilation for its ethnic policy.'
 Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement.

[10]

Suggested Answer		Success Criteria
I agree (A) as A suggests that it is necessary. (A) This can be seen from, "only when all ethnic groups jointly safeguard national security and social stability can extremist and separatist thoughts be resisted and the aspirations of the people of all ethnic groups for a better life be fulfilled." (B) By doing so, all ethnic groups in China would recognise that they have a common identity as Chinese nationals that complement their respective ethnic identities □ reduce likelihood of ethnic tensions, and ensure greater stability □ increases benefits that everyone can get by working for the common good □ promoting improved economic well-being for everyone (S) and hence adoption of an assimilative ethnic policy is necessary. (L)	•	ATQ
	•	Best evidence 1 line
	•	Sequence of outcomes beyond source (S1 → S2 → S3)
I disagree (A) as B suggests that it is not just unnecessary, but harmful. This can be seen from "Tens of thousands of Tibetan children have also been sent away to residential schools where they are paired with Han teachers. On rare occasions, they can see their families, typically two weeks each year." (B) As a result, Tibetan children are not as close to the parents and family as they should be □ might distrust the views or intentions of their parents when they disagree on what Tibetans should value □ lead to dilution of Tibetan values and culture (S) □ making it unnecessary to adopt an assimilative approach to ethnic policies. (L)	•	ATQ
	•	Best evidence 1 line
	•	Sequence of outcomes beyond source (S1 → S2 → S3)
I agree (A) as C suggests that it is necessary. This can be seen from "The local people also want to integrate the modernisation of their lives with the preservation of their tradition." (B) When local ethnic groups are more assimilated, they can use Mandarin Chinese in their business dealings or job applications □ have better access to goods, services, cultural products and job prospects shared by the Han Chinese majority □ this leads to a better quality of life (S) □ making it necessary to adopt an assimilative approach to ethnic policies. (L)	•	ATQ
	•	Best evidence 1 line
	•	Sequence of outcomes beyond source (S1 → S2 → S3)
I disagree (A) as D suggests that it is not wanted by the various ethnic communities, and is therefore, unnecessary. This can be seen from the expressions of the various ethnic groups looking annoyed, angered, and fearful having their respective ethnic identities painted over by the paint of sinicization. (B) When assimilation is implemented, local ethnic communities begin to use the dominant ethnic groups language and adopt their lifestyles (S) → subsequent generations will speak less of their traditional language and see less of a need to maintain traditional cultural	•	ATQ
	•	Best evidence 1 line
	•	Sequence of outcomes beyond source

2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
MARK SCHEME

<p>practises and beliefs (S) → could lead to dilution of ethnic cultures, homogenising the inherent diversity of the various ethnic communities in China (S) → making assimilation unnecessary.</p>		<p>(S1 → S2 → S3)</p>
<p>Possible bonus must be tagged to specific sources Note: every bonus attempt must be linked to a source, and not writing about social mixing in general. Two possible approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perspective (credibility) of Sources I disagree because of the credibility of the sources that defend China's ethnic policies. The sources that offer the most credible defence of China's ethnic policies are China government sources, which are sources A and C. However, as government-sources (Source A is a speech by President Xi Jinping and Source C is by a columnist for a the official newspaper for the Chinese Communist Party. It is to be expected that they will be mutually supportive of the benefits of China's ethnic policy. Furthermore, it can be noted that their defence is based on possible benefits rather than a description of the situation in the affected region in terms of how lives are affected and whether statistics can be offered to disprove criticisms of China's policy, which being government-linked, you can expect them to have access to. President Xi refers to generalisations and platitudes such as "neither Han chauvinism, nor local ethnic chauvinism is conducive to the development of a community for the Chinese nation". In contrast, even though Source E has a bias in being anti Chinese-government, the situation blamed on China's ethnic policies is corroborated in Source F where the Uyghur author was specifically not attributing blame to Chinese ethnic policies but describes a situation of tension that is in all likelihood, brought about by Chinese ethnic policies. - Balanced Conclusion/ resolution Both positions are equally plausible. It is possible that the implementation of the Chinese ethnic policies led to many challenges that the Chinese government needed time to overcome. Xi Jinping conceded in his speech in August 2021, before the termination of traditional language teaching in schools, that the Chinese government needed to "improve in modernising our governance and the capacity of our officials on ethnic affairs..." In other words, the sources critical of China's integration policies may have the basis of their criticisms in poor implementation of the policy due to insufficient modernisation of China's governance and improvement of their officials' capacity in managing ethnic affairs, rather than an inherent problem with China's ethnic policy itself. 		

Section B

- 6 Extract 1 states that Singapore's fertility rate has hit a new low.

2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

MARK SCHEME

In your opinion, how will this development impact Singapore? Explain your answer with reference to **two** impacts.

[7]

3	<p>Explains ONE OR TWO TIPS</p> <p>Award 5 – 6 marks for 1 IMPACT explained Award 6 – 7 marks for 2 IMPACT explained</p> <p>Note: Accept feasible, logical IMPACT</p> <p>1 impact is the smaller manpower pool Singapore can draw from for defence through National Service [D]. Because National Service is compulsory for Singaporeans born in Singapore, a smaller birth rate means that with fewer babies, the pool of individuals who serve national service will become smaller. This means that the armed forces that operates by having so many soldiers filling so many positions, will over the years have fewer and fewer soldiers to do so [E]. When this happens, the SAF will find it difficult to fill all the positions needed to maintain all the units at the same level of manpower [O1]. This places additional stresses on the soldiers who have to cover for the duties of positions that are not actually filled [O2]. This may lead to higher stress levels for soldiers in training, or reduce safety standards because the soldiers are tired [O3], which may lead to more training accidents [O4]. The SAF may be forced to reduce their number of units because of the issue of low fertility, which may compromise the SAF's ability to fulfill its mission [L].</p> <p>Another impact is the need to bring in more foreigners to take up jobs that employers find very difficult to find Singaporeans to fill [D]. With a low fertility rate, subsequent batches of Singaporeans will be smaller, so if job availability continues to remain unchanged, there will be fewer people joining the workforce [E]. When this happens, the Singapore government may need in a number of years' time, to review the foreign employment policies to allow more foreigners to take up some of these jobs [O1]. This would allow the unfilled positions to be filled by foreigners willing to come to take up such jobs [O2]. Depending on where the immigrants come from, this may result in even further diversity of nationalities in Singapore [O3]. Hence, low fertility rates can lead to changes in our social composition in Singapore.</p>	5 - 7
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2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
MARK SCHEME

7 Extracts 2 and 3 are about how governments work for the good of society.

Do you think making laws in a representative democracy is more crucial than providing goods and services in working for the good of society? Explain your answer.

[8]

3	<p>Explains factors Award 5 – 6 marks for explaining one factor Award 6 – 7 marks for explaining second factor</p> <p>Making laws in a representative democracy is important in working for the good of society. This is because it ensures that all the laws passed will not discriminate any particular minority group [D]. For example, Singapore's representative democracy comprises of three branches of government with the Legislative Branch tasked in making laws. Members of parliament will debate on a proposed bill before several MPs in a Select Committee examine the proposal. They may propose amendments before Parliament finally passes the bill. The Presidential Council for Minority Rights then determine if there is a differentiating measure that affects any race or religious minority before the President finally gives approval. An example is the Terrorism (Suppression of Finance) Bill in which a law was passed to prevent terrorists from accessing their finances to fund terrorist attacks [E]. When elected members of parliament and the Presidential Council for Minority Rights scrutinise a bill at various stages before it is passed as a law, this ensures that the the different perspectives of the diverse population in Singapore is taken into account [O1], which ensures that the interests of the majority of Singaporean are protected [O2] so that law will likely benefit more Singaporeans as a result [O3], contributing to the good of society.</p> <p>Governments also have to provide goods and services to ensure the well-being of their citizens [D]. An essential provision by the government is affordable public housing. In recent years, Singaporeans have been concerned about the high prices of public housing which may make public housing unaffordable for younger generations of Singaporeans. In response to this, the HDB recently ramped up the number of BTO projects to increase the supply of public housing to keep prices affordable. In addition, other measures like increasing the minimum occupation period for Prime Location Housing was increased from five years to ten years, so that it is more likely that applicants for such apartments are genuinely looking to live in these apartments rather than seeking to profit from them after five years to buy private apartments [E]. When governments ensure the provision of essential goods and services (such as public housing) to Singaporeans, this ensures that their basic needs are taken care of [O1], which means Singaporeans are less likely to have to worry about essentials like housing and healthcare [O2], which allows them to pursue their interests and careers as they build their families [O3], leading to a better quality of life for most Singaporeans [O4], which is for the good of society.</p>	<p>DEOL</p> <p>Eg needs to specific Name + 2 details</p>
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2023 PHSS 4E5N SOCIAL STUDIES
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
MARK SCHEME

4	<p>L3 – 2 factors explained + Weighs factors</p> <p>Accept any conclusions that are valid.</p> <p>I agree that law making in a representative democracy is more crucial (ATQ, taking stand) in working for the good of society because it provides more fundamental protections and ensures the government acts in the interests on behalf of the broadest spectrum of Singaporeans, even constraining the government in the manner they implement policies and provide goods and services (Criteria).</p> <p>For example, the government is not permitted to benefit some Singaporeans at the expense of others in their provision of goods and services (whether it be public housing, education or healthcare) in a manner that the laws of Singapore prohibit. If one day a communal political party takes power in Singapore and wants to give favourable treatment to some racial or religious group at the expense of other such groups in terms of access to public housing, the laws will not allow such a government to do so.</p> <p>Hence, law making in a representative democracy is more crucial because it established the fundamental rules by which the government runs the country (including provision of goods and services) in the interest of all Singaporeans.</p>	8
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