

The Application Question

Lecture Outline

01 What is the AQ?

02 Assessment Criteria

03 Writing the AQ

[01] What is the AQ?

Your personal response to the authors' opinions and ideas and expressed in the passages

What's important:

- What you think! Your opinions
- How well you support your views

Position and Marks

Content (35 marks)

Section	Marks
SAQ	9-11
Summary	8
Intertextual Qns	4-6
AQ	12

Language (15 marks)

Based on performance across the Summary and the AQ Linguistic ability Organisation of ideas

You are strongly advised to do the AQ last.

The link between the Passages and the AQ

01 The AQ is primarily about discussing the authors' ideas in a **local context**.

02 The observations raised by the authors may be more **representative** of some societies but not others.

03 Singapore has its **own contextual features** -- some global trends will be mirrored here; some will not.

04 Our **unique characteristics, challenges and constraints** are also likely to mean that we are affected by, and deal with, issues in ways that may not (or cannot) be completely identical to other societies.

Sample Question

The reading passages cover a range of views about the collection and use of personal data.

How far do you agree that online personal data brings more benefits than harm?

Support your answer with reference to: the ideas and opinions from **at least** one of the reading passages examples drawn from your own experience and that of society

Let's look at zoos



red panda ! > <	i love going to the zoo but others may not :skull:	long term benefits of zoos? which animals do people tend to look at?
------------------	--	---

[02] Assessment Criteria

Assessment of Content (12m)

Requirements

- ✓ All parts of Question addressed
- ✓ Clear stand
- ✓ Balanced view

Explanation

- ✓ Understanding of Terms and Issues
- ✓ Clear, logical, and convincing justification

Evaluation

- ✓ Sound judgements
- ✓ Examples from self and society

Comments on Stronger Scripts

Features of Stronger Scripts

- Evaluative and analytical of material
- Shows maturity of thought with apt illustration
- Good understanding of the events and trends in societies, or from relevant personal experience.
- Engaged well with key ideas in the passages
- Focused with measured and nuanced observations

- Aware of inherent complexities and contradictions** (Do not take everything at face value)

Structure & Language

- Well structured with a brief introduction, clear links between paragraphs and a conclusion
- Diversity and sophistication of vocabulary, phrasing and sentence structure

Overall

Personal and informed engagement with the topic rather than a detached and superficial one.

Comments on Weaker Scripts

Features of weaker scripts

- Overly long introductions
- Summary of some arguments in the passages
- Offering a generalised view
- Narrative and descriptive in nature

Lacking

- Reflection, analysis or evaluation
- Cohesion (linking of paragraphs) or development
- Pertinent examples to justify sweeping generalisations

Ineffective approach

- Quoting at length from the original text followed by a needless paraphrase
- Supported by a detailed narrative account of an event in Singapore with little or no analysis or context
- Eventually ending with a concluding statement of agreement or disagreement

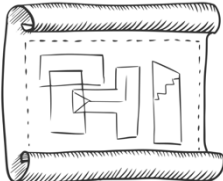
[03] Writing the AQ

The Task

- Draw a personal sketch to represent your response to the issue and the authors' ideas
- Use the author's ideas as a springboard!

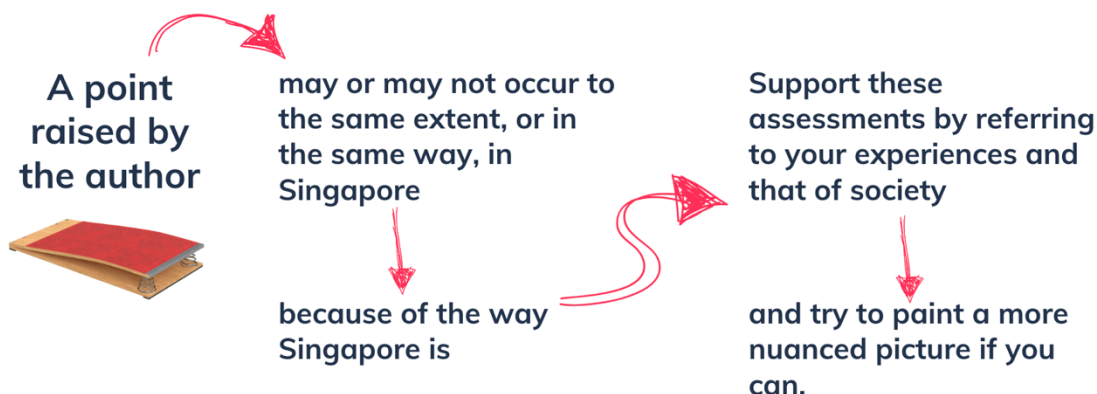
Responding to the Authors' Points

- The AQ is primarily about applying the authors' ideas to a specific context
- The bulk of your response should be devoted to explaining and justifying why you hold certain views on the authors' points, in the light of Singaporean traits and trends.




Let's start with a **Blueprint**

An outline and an overview of your outcome



What has the author said?

<p>What do I think of what the author has said?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the merits and implications of the arguments? Does it play out the same way in Singapore? 	<p>Why do I largely agree or disagree?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why might the claim apply or not apply to the same extent in SG? How do SG's characteristics, constraints and challenges affect the issue in question?
<p>What examples do I have to demonstrate this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do these examples illustrate my point? Does it play out the same way in Singapore? 	<p>Are there different perspectives I can raise?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who might feel differently? Are there any complexities or contradictions to note?

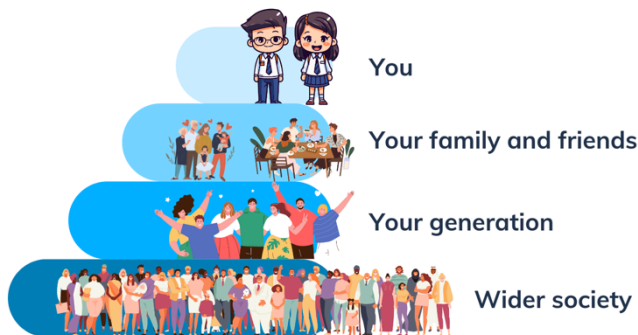


Let's put together a **Vision Board**

To build a personal and insightful response



1 Personal Experience



As you read the Passages, pay attention to what comes to mind.

- What do you think, and how do you feel, as you are reading the author's ideas, claims and suggestions?
- What are your immediate reactions/responses to the points?
- What can you relate to?
- What resonates with you?
- What do you find especially relevant (or not) to your society?
- What do you have reservations about?
- Why is this topic of relevance to you (or not)?
- What are your personal experiences with this topic? (e.g. might you have had any direct involvement, been indirectly affected, or even heard any interesting conversations about this topic?)
- How has your personal experience influenced how you think of the author's views? (this is not to say that you should use your experience to negate everyone else's)
- Do your peers or the community around you feel the same way?
- Does your generation feel the same as other generations?
- What accounts for these similarities/differences?
- Do you know of any policies in place that might relate to the topic?

No lengthy personal anecdotes: The intention behind activating this schema is not to advocate the use of lengthy personal anecdotes in AQ responses but to show that by

critically reflecting on these experiences, and relating them to wider society, you should be able to generate sufficient ideas for your response.

Let's examine an issue together: Cycling as a mode of transportation

[1] Personal Experience

- Do you cycle frequently ? Why or why not?
- What about your circle of friends?
- Is it a matter of ability? Why did you learn to cycle, or why didn't you?
- What are some reasons why people may or may not cycle in Singapore?
-

Adding layers to your sketch

Now that you have a rough sketch

- GO BEYOND describing or listing what you see or what is happening, and doing so in broad strokes
- Demonstrate depth of thought
- Make nuanced and measured claims and observations

2 Context



2A Context: *Past*

- Have things always been this way?
- What came before?
- What triggered/facilitated the change?
- Did it arise out of necessity, or was it a natural progression? Why? (past vs present)

This consideration gives you the opportunity to move from saying “In Singapore (simply describes present situation)”

to

“While this might have been true in the past because (traits of SG in the past), in recent times... (further explanation and evaluation with regard to the present context)”

2B Context: Future

- Are things likely to remain the same for a long time?
- What trends do we see?
- What will/should come after?
- Should things remain the same? short run vs long run present vs future - especially useful for **conclusions**

This gives you the opportunity to move from saying “In Singapore (simply describes present situation)”

to add **evaluation** like

“Thankfully/Unfortunately... due to... (present trends you see), this may not be the case in time to come ...”

2C Context: Beneath

- What lies beneath?
- Why is the situation like this?
- How did it come to be? [nothing happens by magic]
- What allowed it to happen?
- What **underpins our behaviour/such phenomena?**
- Is what you see really what you get? (superficial vs deep; appearance vs reality)

You can ground your explanations in Characteristics of Singapore/your society. Think along the lines of:

- Our unique context [Policies; Governance/E/S/T; geography, history, etc.]
- Our constraints
- Our mindsets, beliefs, attitudes, values, priorities, even quirks
- Understand that while the author’s observations may be valid in their experience/context, because of **Singapore’s unique features**, the topic/issue may look very different here and we may not respond to it in the same way.
- Layer contextual features to provide a more convincing picture

Let’s examine an issue together: Cycling as a mode of transportation

[2] Context

2A: Past
What has been done to
improve the cycling

2B: Future

2C: Beneath

networks in SG? (Islandwide Cycling Network (ICN) program)		
--	--	--

3 Perspectives



3A Author's Perspectives

Is there something universally true or accurate about what the author has said? [Nature of the topic] Even if you do not see eye to eye with the author, is there validity or value to what s/he has said? [Showing maturity of thought and depth of appreciation for the subject matter] Are there exceptions to your views on the matter? Acknowledge that your argument is not 100% foolproof. [Considering various facets of the issue]

3B Different Groups' Perspectives

Society is not homogenous, so how do different groups view the situation?

- Different groups view the situation differently based on their own personal experiences
- How are different groups behaving/reacting and why?
 - You cannot identify yourself with every group in Singapore. Identify key stakeholders and how you will relate them to the topic at hand.
- Who are some key stakeholders in your discussion?
- What are their motives?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority vs minority • Young vs old • Government vs people • Corporations vs people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberal vs conservative • High income vs low-income • Educated vs less-educated
--	---

What are some of the inherent complexities and contradictions?

3C Your Perspectives

Don't forget yours!

- And don't forget YOU, your perspectives, your experience as someone living in this society
- At the heart of it all: Who are you?
- How do you behave? What do you believe?
- Are you just like your peers/other Singaporeans, or are you different? Why?
- You can position yourself as a segment of these groups to remind yourself to link to wider society ("As a....")

Let's examine an issue together: Cycling as a mode of transportation		
[3] Perspectives		
Authors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits • Challenges • Possibilities 	Different Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclists • Pedestrians • Motorists • Policy makers 	You <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenager • Student • Family

Additional notes

[01] What is the AQ?

From the Syllabus

An assessment of your ability to:

- Apply your understanding and interpretation of the passages as a whole
- Synthesise information and respond to concepts or ideas conveyed

Differences between the Paper 2 Sections

SAQ, Summary, ITQ

- Focus on the authors' opinions
- Expected answers in the mark scheme

The AQ

- Focus on your opinions
- Using the authors' ideas and opinions as a springboard for your response
- No right and wrong answers but stronger (well-supported) and weaker arguments

Differences between Paper 1 & the AQ

Paper 1 Essay

- Candidates are free to bring in any relevant arguments they can think of in response to the question.
- Response may or may not be expected to be contextualised to one particular society.
- Response is expected to be between 500-800 words.

The AQ

- Candidates have to use the author's ideas as the starting point
- Must always be contextualised to a particular society (usually SG)
- A shorter response than the essay -- only 2 pages are expected.

[02] Assessment Criteria

Assessment of Content (12m)

Requirements	Explanation	Evaluation
Attend to all the tasks in the question	Show understanding of Terms and Issues	Make sound judgements
State your stand clearly	Be clear, logical, and convincing in justifying your stance.	Give examples from your own and your society's experience in support of your view
Provide a balanced view		

Assessment of Language (12m)

Based on performance across the Summary and the AQ

Linguistic ability

- Spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors
- Use of varied vocabulary and sentence structures
- Clarity, fluency and effectiveness of language used throughout
- Attempt to rephrase text language

Organisation of ideas

- Cohesive paragraphs, aptness and range of discourse markers

Further Reading

<https://unseensg.com/>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/Oursgheritage/>

<https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/st-editorial>

<https://www.todayonline.com/gen-z-speaks>

<https://www.todayonline.com/big-read>

CNA IN FOCUS

Ribbit fyi IG: <https://www.instagram.com/ribbit.fyi/?hl=en>