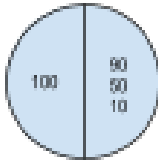|	DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL
	2023 Year 4 English Language
	Addressing Essay Question

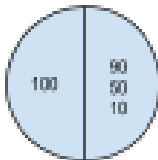**Name: _____ (   )   Class: _____   Date: _____**

Category 1: Absolute POCs - *never, ever, always, inevitably // any, none, all, every // only, solely*

Approach: There is an assumption of an absolute or total value (0% or 100% of the time / 0% or 100% of people or things). To address it, you must find the rationale behind the absolute value and then ==reinforce or debunk== that perception. Debunking is the EASIER / BETTER approach – this can be done by proving how it is not an absolute case.

BODY PARAGRAPH

Never (0%) --- Rarely (25%) --- Sometimes (50%) --- Usually (75%) --- Always (100%)

None (0%) --- A few/little (25%) --- Some (50%) --- A lot/most (75%) --- All (100%)

Usually the absolute position arises due to one of these reasons:

1. **It reflects the view of how things ==are intended or designed to be.==**
   *Q: Should medical science **always** seek to prolong life?*
   - Medical science was invented primarily to cure diseases, which ultimately lengthens the life of a patient. Therefore, some argue that medical science should always (100% of the time and 100% of cases) seek to prolong life – this is its intended function or role. Others will disagree, since there are exceptions and taking the function to its extreme has its downsides.

2. **It reflects the ==ideal or optimistic== view.**
   *Q: Can drug use **ever** be justified?*
   - The ideal view is that the use of drugs can never be justified because the common perception is that drugs are destructive in nature. However some may argue that this is too moralistic or unrealistic a view, and there could be legitimate reasons for drug use.

3. **It reflects the ==realist or pessimist== view.**
   *Q: The media can **never** be relied upon to convey the truth. DYA?*
   - The pessimistic view is that since the media is profit-driven or government-controlled, they cannot be trusted to convey the truth. Others argue that this view is simplistic, and

that there are occasions when and reasons why the media can be trusted to convey the truth.

Practice question 1: *Men and women can **never** share the same responsibilities. DYA?*

Assumption: Men and women are 'built' or designed differently, and thus their roles or domains in society are intended to be different too.

Approach: Explore why this may not be the case today or in all situations/ scenarios/ circumstances.

Reasons why men and women are different -> segregated responsibilities	What has changed from past to present in the modern world?	Is this relevant at all times, for all people?
Men are physiologically stronger than women; greater physical strength **->** relied upon for security & safety of others	Increasing use of technology to monitor human activities; enhanced natural strength	The playing has been levelled **->** women take advantage of this to enter previously men-only domains such as military, security forces
Men are more stoic and less prone to displays of emotion; perception strengthen by society's conventional views **->** tend to relegate 'softer', people-centric duties to women	Acceptance of empathy and vulnerability as useful & necessary traits in human relations	Less taboo about men openly displaying emotions; definition of masculinity has evolved **->** more men in caregiver / nurturer roles
Men are smarter, more intelligent **->** hold positions of power and authority	Universal and better education	Girls have surpassed boys in early education; stronger support among women themselves to break glass ceilings **->** more than capable enough to handle leadership positions in various fields
Women's bodies are designed differently from men's, i.e. uterus **->** only ones who can produce children and nurture them	Rise of surrogacy; acceptance of LGBTQ rights in more liberal societies	While childbirth can still only be performed by women, gay couples increasingly form families and take on the roles that women exclusively once held

Resolution of dilemma: There are many occasions today in which men and women have transcended physiological or natural attributes to cross over into the other gender's domains.

Practice question 2: *Race will **always** be a divisive force in society. DYA?*

Assumption: Race has been a divisive force in the past, and thus it is assumed that race without exception will continue to divide society.

Approach: Consider why this perspective came about and how it might have changed today / there might be exceptions.

Reasons race has been a divisive force	Changes from past to present in modern world	Is this true for all time, all people?
Race often associated with skin colour and other obvious differentiating physical characteristics	Globalisation has brought about intermingling of races, intermarriages, resulting in mixed-race progeny	Indeterminate visual markers of identity leads to dropping of inconsequential categorisation; greater acceptance and even celebration of diversity
The practice of cultural norms and traditions identify one as a member of a particular race; and vice versa, an outsider	Efforts by governments to promote national unity and pride	Racial identities subsumed under national pride
	More efforts by community leaders to reach out and understand one another	Greater tolerance for multiculturalism when similarities are acknowledged and differences accepted
Perceived and/or actual inequality sustains divide between the haves and have-nots, usually the minority races	Universal and better educational opportunities; affirmative action	Previously oppressed minority races have been given a leg up; the betterment of their race diminishes any socio-economic gaps that has wrought dissatisfaction, envy, resentment
Politicised to achieve or maintain social, political and/or economic gains ; Identity politics / white privilege, etc	Rising 'us vs them' mentality, right-wing politics; sometimes associated with xenophobia – due to economic instability/ insecurity	Parties still use the 'race card' to rally members and pressure for change beneficial to them; demonising of the 'other' continues However, this can also spur under-privileged minority races to strive harder for recognition and acceptance in mainstream society

Resolution of dilemma: While race can be exploited for the benefit of some, generally it has shown to be a unifying force for many.

Practice question 3: *The poor **only** have themselves <mark>to blame</mark> for their predicament. DYA?*

Assumption: The poor had not done much to help themselves out of their situations, and <mark>no other party</mark> can be held responsible as they have tried to help or have nothing to do with the issue.

Approach: First, identify the rationale behind the absolute position. Why would people argue that? Examine the pros & cons of adopting this absolute position. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Remember, you must address the absolute position **first**. You cannot sidestep the question by doing this: "It is not the only _____, there are other _____ such as (a), (b) and (c)."

How this position came about	What aspects/factors have been overlooked?	How does this mitigate the blame?
Entrenched poverty cycle that has not been broken despite many efforts to help	[Short term vs long term] monetary/financial aid vs increasing opportunities for independence or self-help through improving skills & expertise; 'one size fits all' solution	Donors and investors are not interested in the long game and expect immediate returns on their 'investments', i.e. immediate reductions in poverty rates
The issue of poverty is seen as simply a lack of money or resources	Poverty is caused by a complex mix of factors	Cooperation and coordination is required among various parties to tackle interconnected issues
Perception that the poor are helpless, dependent on the goodwill of others	[modern world- media] strategy to appeal to heartstrings causes media to fixate on 'sob stories' instead of success stories ; donor fatigue sets in	Grassroots organisations or NGOs in many LDCs have leveraged upon their understanding of their communities' unique challenges to derive unique solutions that work

Resolution of dilemma: While the poor must take a larger role in ameliorating their situation, they cannot be blamed fully if the type of help extended to them do not consider the complexities of their problems. Not doing so might only exacerbate the problem instead of helping to solve it.