

METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL

Founded in 1887



PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2020 Secondary 4

Humanities Paper 1 Social Studies

Monday
3 Aug 2020

2272, 2273, 2274/1
1 h 45 min

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your class, index number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write all your answers in the writing paper provided.

At the start of each answer to a question, please write the question number in the left margin of the writing paper.

Section A

Answer **all** parts of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **both** parts of Question 2.

At the end of the examination, hand in your answers to Section A and B **separately**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

1. Living in a Diverse Society

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer all the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the issue to help you to interpret and evaluate the sources.

- (a) Study Source A.

What is the message of this source? Explain your answer. [5]

- (b) Study Sources B and C.

How far do you think Source B agrees with Source C? Explain your answer. [7]

- (c) Study Source D.

How reliable is this source in showing that foreign workers are ill-treated in Singapore? Explain your answer. [7]

- (d) Study Source E.

How surprised are you by this source? Explain your answer. [6]

- (e) 'Foreign workers are viewed positively in Singapore.'

Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

How welcome are foreign workers as part of Singapore's workforce?

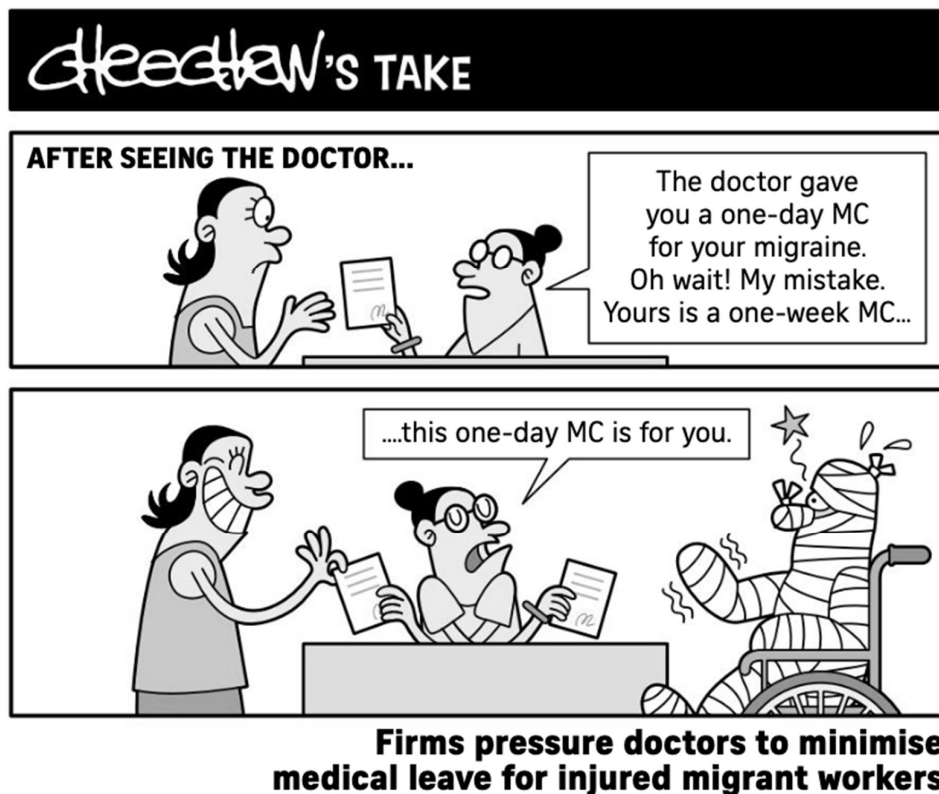
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

The large influx of migrants from the 1980s onward has raised concerns about the Singapore government's policy on immigration. Whilst the inflow of immigrants and foreign workers has helped to alleviate a labour crunch and the economy, it has also resulted in strong sentiment by the locals against both foreigners and the government, and was a major issue in both the 2011 general and presidential elections. Singaporeans have attributed the problems arising from this to the government's open-door immigration policy, the country's overcrowding and falling reliability of its public transportation system, increasing property prices for housing, suppressed wage level, increased competition for jobs and education, increasing income inequality and other social problems. Local Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) have also raised issues of migrant welfare, especially those relating to work injury and living conditions.

Study the following sources to decide whether foreign workers are welcome as part of Singapore's workforce.

Source A: A cartoon published on the *Transient Workers Count Too** webpage on 20 February 2019.



* *Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2)* promotes equitable treatment for migrant workers in Singapore.

Source B: *An excerpt from an article written by a Singaporean political activist published on a US-based website on 6 May 2020.*

For years, warnings and criticism from rights groups were brushed off as complaints, noise, and bleeding heart idealism. While the government insists that migrant workers were on its radar from the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak, it has also revealed that about 20 dormitory operators and an average of 1,200 employers are penalized each year for flouting licensing laws—which suggests that sub-standard living conditions are not only a long-standing problem but one that has not been effectively addressed. Now that activists have been proved right in the most miserable way, Singapore still struggles with seeing migrant workers as equally valuable members of the community.

Source C: *An excerpt from an article published in a news website on 27 May 2020.*

*SCAL said it was "aggrieved" that efforts to take care of migrant workers have been "misrepresented". "Though we acknowledge that the housing condition here can be improved, by comparison, it is one of the best in the region. The *SMF, *ASPRI and *ASMI added that employers in Singapore also offer benefits such as healthcare to its foreign workers, whose housing and amenities are "among the best". "A vast majority of our migrant workers voluntarily stay on in Singapore to work after they complete their initial contracts. Many stay for over 10 years and encourage their family members and friends to come to Singapore to work. "These two facts are perhaps the strongest among others to refute reports or claims that living conditions in Singapore for migrant workers are dire," they said.

*SCAL - The Singapore Contractors Association Ltd, SMF - Singapore Manufacturing Federation, ASPRI - Association of Singapore Process Industries, ASMI - Association of Singapore Marine Industries

Source D: *An excerpt from a commentary written by the Executive Director of a Singapore-based charity dedicated to empowering and supporting migrant workers who find themselves victims of abuse and exploitation, published on 8 May 2020.*

The experience that the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (HOME) has as an independent Non-Government Organisation working on migrant issues for the last 15 years has shed some light on why such discriminatory attitudes remain deeply entrenched in our society. We have found that many Singaporeans and employers believe it is acceptable to discriminate against migrant workers because it is a privilege for them to work in a first-world country like Singapore. Domestic workers who reach out to HOME often complain of verbal abuse by their employers, long working hours and being denied their rightful weekly rest. We have heard from employers that workers should be grateful to earn salaries which are much higher than they would be in their countries of origin and that their families would be suffering if not for the opportunity to work here.

Source E: *Posted on an online question-and-answer website on 10 September 2019.*

Now, before going on, I can understand why certain companies do not want to hire local Singaporeans. Having worked with Singaporeans before, there is some truth to the idea that Singaporeans are difficult to work with. It did not help that while working at a school, and having mixed with both local and foreign students, all of whom were full-time workers and part-time students, it was often the local Singaporean students, alongside a few other nationalities, that required the most hand-holding, even in the easiest of situations (the Vietnamese were by far the most independent and hard-working of the entire student population).

Source F: *A blogger's view on the Singaporean employee published on the MoneySmart website, 24 May 2017.*

Considering Singapore is a country that's very proud of its highly-skilled workforce, you rarely hear nice things about local employees in the media.

Employers never seem to stop jawing about how Singaporean workers are more entitled, more expensive to hire and less 'hungry' than foreign hires from developing countries, and poorer communicators than those from developed countries.

Section B (Structured-Response Questions)

Question 2 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

2 Exploring Citizenship and Governance

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the question.

Extract 1



Extract 2

Singapore is prioritising "both lives and livelihoods" in adopting a phased reopening after the circuit breaker, said National Development Minister Lawrence Wong on Monday (May 25). "I know many are disappointed by our cautious approach," he said in a Facebook post. "I hope you appreciate and understand that we are trying our best to resume activities safely for Singaporeans, while keeping infection rates low."

Extract 3

Newsweek columnist Robert J. Samuelson recently wrote: "We face a choice between a society where people accept modest sacrifices for a common good or a more contentious society where groups selfishly protect their own benefits."

- (a) Extract 1 shows the logo and motto for Singapore's concept of Total Defence.

In your opinion, what are the roles of the government in Singapore in working for the good of society? Explain your answer with reference to two roles. [7]

- (b) Extracts 2 and 3 show the challenges faced by governments in deciding what is good for their society.

Do you think that addressing the different priorities of the various sectors in society is a greater challenge than addressing the unequal sharing of costs? Explain your answer. [8]

END OF PAPER

Acknowledgements:

Source A: © <https://www.facebook.com/twc2sg/posts/2593343010683080>

Source B: © <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/06/singapore-coronavirus-pandemic-migrant-workers/>

Source C: © <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/reducing-migrant-worker-affect-singapore-economy-higher-costs-12774646>

Source D: © <https://asia.nikkei.com/Opinion/Singapore-must-rethink-how-it-treats-migrant-workers>

Source E: © <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-factors-causing-Singaporeans-to-dislike-hate-foreign-workers-and-foreign-talents>

Source F: © <https://blog.moneysmart.sg/career/singaporeans-not-jobs-justice/>

Extract 1: © <https://www.facebook.com/gov.sg/>

Extract 2: © <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/cautious-approach-to-reopening-prioritises-both-lives-and-livelihoods-says-lawrence-wong>

Extract 3: © <https://www.scu.edu/mcae/publications/iie/v5n1/common.html>

Sec 4 Social Studies Preliminary Examination Marking Guide

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

1 Living in a Diverse Society

(a) Study Source A.

What is the message of this source? Explain your answer.

[5]

Level	Description	Mark
L1	Based on provenance of the source E.g. The message is that transient workers count too.	1
L2	Message of the source, unsupported <i>Award 3 marks only when the message is clear and relevant.</i> E.g. The message of the source is that the foreign workers are discriminated against in healthcare as even when they need proper time to recover from injuries, they are not given it.	2-3
L3	Message, supported <i>Award 5 marks only when explanation is strong and coherent.</i> E.g. The message is that foreign workers are discriminated against in the area of healthcare. The cartoon shows two patients in a medical clinic. One is a lady who look totally fine and the other is a person who is completely bandaged from head to toe and is in a wheelchair. The person at the counter is handing out medical certificates but she gives the person who looks well a one week medical certificate whereas the person who is completely bandaged and in a wheelchair only a one day medical certificate. There is a caption that says “firms pressure doctors to minimize medical leave for injured migrant workers”. Thus, the message of the source is that the foreign workers are discriminated against in healthcare as even when they need proper time to recover from injuries, they are not given it. OR The migrant worker is treated unfairly / the welfare of the migrant is not taken care of (or messages along these lines).	4-5

(b) Study Sources B and C.

How far do you think Source B agrees with Source C? Explain your answer.

[7]

Level	Description	Mark
L1	<p>Answers based on source content but does not address the element of agreement</p> <p>E.g. Source B agrees with Source C as both are about migrant workers.</p>	1
L2	<p>Agree and / or Disagree in Content / Unsupported <i>Award 2 marks for agree or disagree</i> <i>Award 3 marks for agree and disagree</i></p> <p>E.g. Source B agrees with Source C that migrant workers live in Singapore</p> <p>AND / OR</p> <p>E.g. Source B disagrees with Source C that the dormitory employers are treating the migrant workers well.</p>	2-3
L3	<p>Agree and / or Disagree in Content / Supported <i>Award 4 marks for agree or disagree</i> <i>Award 5 marks for agree and disagree</i></p> <p>E.g. Source B agrees with Source C that migrant workers living conditions could be improved in Singapore. Source B states that migrant workers are living in “substandard living conditions” while Source C states that “the housing conditions can be improved”. Thus, they agree that the migrant workers’ accommodations are dismal.</p> <p>AND / OR</p> <p>E.g. Source B disagrees with Source C that the migrant workers are being treated well. Source B refers to “substandard living conditions” faced by the migrant workers and that “Singapore struggles with seeing migrant workers as equally valuable members of the community” while Source C says that the migrant workers’ accommodations are “by comparison ... one of the best in the region” and “housing and amenities are among the best”. Thus Source B thinks that the migrant workers are poorly treated whereas Source C thinks that the migrant workers have the best conditions and thus they disagree on the conditions faced by these workers.</p>	4-5
L4	<p>Disagree, based on Context <i>Award 7 marks for more developed answers</i></p> <p>E.g. Source B disagrees with Source C that the migrant workers are being treated well. Source B refers to “substandard living conditions” faced by the migrant workers and that “Singapore struggles with seeing migrant workers as equally valuable members of the community” while Source C says that the migrant workers’ accommodations are “by comparison ... one of the best in the region” and “housing and amenities are among the best”. Thus Source B suggests that the migrant workers are poorly treated whereas Source C</p>	6-7

Level	Description	Mark
	<p>suggests that the migrant workers have the best conditions and thus they disagree on the conditions faced by these workers. Source B is by a political activist who appears to be advocating better working conditions for the migrant workers whereas Source C is by organisations that are responsible for housing the migrant workers and they are trying to defend themselves and the substandard conditions that they have provided for the workers thus they will disagree with each other.</p>	

(c) Study Source D.

How reliable is this source in showing that foreign workers are ill-treated in Singapore?
Explain your answer. [7]

Level	Description	Mark
L1	Answers based on Provenance E.g. The source should be reliable as it is by a charity which focuses on migrant workers who find themselves victims of abuse and exploitation.	1
L2	Answers Based on Content: Reliable / unsupported <i>Award 4marks for less developed answers</i> <i>Award 5 marks for more fully developed answers</i> E.g. The source is reliable as it is about the employers' attitudes towards the migrant workers and how the workers have complained about their situation. (2m)	2-3
L3	Answers Based on Content: Reliable / supported <i>Award 4marks for less developed answers</i> <i>Award 5 marks for more fully developed answers</i> E.g. The source is reliable as it is about the employers' attitudes towards the migrant workers and how the workers have complained about their situation. The source says, "many Singaporeans and employers believe it is acceptable to discriminate against migrant workers" and "domestic workers ... often complain of verbal abuse by their employers, long working hours and being denied their rightful weekly rest".	4-5
L4	L3+Reliable / Unreliable based on Motive or Cross-Reference <i>Award 4marks for less developed answers</i> <i>Award 5 marks for more fully developed answers</i> E.g. L3+The source's reliability is supported by the fact that the charity has been involved in this issue for "the last 15 years" and thus has had a lot of experience in working with the migrant workers and would understand their situation. The motive of the Executive Director of the charity is to improve the conditions of the migrant workers therefore, it should be reliable. OR E.g. L3+However, while the source is reliable in showing that some workers are ill-treated, it is not reliable in showing that all foreign workers are ill-treated. We see in Source C that while "the housing condition here can be improved, ... it is one of the best in the region" and "employers in Singapore also offer benefits such as healthcare to its foreign workers, whose housing and amenities are 'among the best'". Thus, not all foreign workers are ill-treated even though the conditions could be better.	6-7

(d) Study Source E.

How surprised are you by this source? Explain your answer.

[6]

Level	Description	Mark
L1	Answers based on provenance – surprised or not surprised E.g. I am surprised that such an answer can be found on such a website.	1
L2	Answers Based on Content, surprised or not surprised - unsupported <i>Award 2 marks for less developed answers</i> <i>Award 3 marks for more fully developed answers</i> E.g. I am surprised that the writer feels that Singaporeans are lacking in ability work-wise. OR E.g. I am not surprised that there are people of other nationalities who are more independent than Singaporeans.	2-3
L3	Answers Based on Content, supported <i>Award 4 marks for less developed answers</i> <i>Award 5 marks for more fully developed answers</i> E.g. I am surprised that the writer feels that Singaporeans are lacking in ability work-wise. The writer says that “Singaporeans are difficult to work with” and “it was often the local Singaporean students ... that required the most hand-holding, even in the easiest of situations”. I am surprised as Singapore is known to be quite successful on the world stage and how can that be if Singaporeans are poor workers? OR E.g. I am not surprised that there are people of other nationalities who are considered better workers than Singaporeans. The writer says that “the Vietnamese were by far the most independent and hard-working of the entire student population”. It is assumed that the people from economically weaker countries would tend to work harder as they are trying to break out of the economic situation that they find themselves in. OR E.g. I am not surprised that employers would rather not hire Singaporeans as the writer says that “Singaporeans are difficult to work with” and “it was often the local Singaporean students ... that required the most hand-holding, even in the easiest of situations”.	4-5
L4	Not Surprised, with cross referencing E.g. I am not surprised that there are people of other nationalities who are more independent than Singaporeans. The writer says that “the Vietnamese were by far the most independent and hard-working of the entire student population”. It is assumed that the people from economically weaker	6

Level	Description	Mark
	<p>countries would tend to work harder as they are trying to break out of the economic situation that they find themselves in. This is supported by the blogger in Source F who says that “Singaporean workers are more entitled, more expensive to hire and less ‘hungry’ than foreign hires from developing countries, and poorer communicators than those from developed countries”.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>E.g. I am not surprised that employers would rather not hire Singaporeans as the writer says that “Singaporeans are difficult to work with” and “it was often the local Singaporean students ... that required the most hand-holding, even in the easiest of situations”. This is supported by the blogger in Source F who says that “Singaporean workers are more entitled, more expensive to hire and less ‘hungry’ than foreign hires from developing countries, and poorer communicators than those from developed countries”.</p>	

(e) ‘Foreign workers are viewed positively in Singapore.’

Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

Level	Description	Mark
L1	Writes about the statement; no valid source use	1
L2	<p>Yes OR No, supported by valid source use</p> <p>Yes, foreign workers are viewed positively – Sources: C, E, F No, foreign workers are not viewed positively– Sources: A, B, D</p> <p><i>1 source: 2-3m 2 sources: 3-4m 3 sources: 4m</i></p>	2-4
L3	<p>Yes AND No, supported by valid source use</p> <p>i.e. Both agree and disagree <i>Note: Consider number of sources used and the quality of analysis in deciding on marks in L2 & L3.</i></p> <p><i>1+1 = 5m 1+2 = 6m 2+2 = 7-8m</i></p> <p><i>Unbalanced: max. 6m Eg. 1+3</i></p> <p>Yes Source C – Viewed positively which is why conditions are made better for them. Evidence: “Though we acknowledge that the housing condition here can be improved, by comparison, it is one of the best in the region. The *SMF, *ASPRI and *ASMI added that employers in Singapore also</p>	5-8

Level	Description	Mark
	<p>offer benefits such as healthcare to its foreign workers, whose housing and amenities are “among the best”.</p> <p>Source E – Positive because better than Singaporean workers. Evidence: “I can understand why certain companies do not want to hire local Singaporeans. Having worked with Singaporeans before, there is some truth to the idea that Singaporeans are difficult to work with” and “The Vietnamese were by far the most independent and hard-working of the entire student population”.</p> <p>Source F – Positive because either cheaper to hire or better skilled compared to Singaporean workers. Evidence: “Singaporean workers are more entitled, more expensive to hire and less ‘hungry’ than foreign hires from developing countries, and poorer communicators than those from developed countries”.</p> <p>No</p> <p>Source A - Not positive – treated badly. Discriminated against in healthcare. Evidence: Given only one day MC even though badly hurt.</p> <p>Source B – Not positive – given poor living conditions; not seen as treasured members of the society. Evidence: “that about 20 dormitory operators and an average of 1,200 employers are penalized each year for flouting licensing laws—which suggests that substandard living conditions are not only a long-standing problem but one that has not been effectively addressed” and “Singapore still struggles with seeing migrant workers as equally valuable members of the community.”</p> <p>Source D – Not positive – discriminated against and abused. Evidence: “. We have found that many Singaporeans and employers believe it is acceptable to discriminate against migrant workers because it is a privilege for them to work in a first-world country like Singapore. Domestic workers who reach out to HOME often complain of verbal abuse by their employers, long working hours and being denied their rightful weekly rest.”</p>	