



XINMIN SECONDARY SCHOOL

新民中学

SEKOLAH MENENGAH XINMIN
Preliminary Examination 2024

CANDIDATE NAME

CLASS

INDEX NUMBER

HUMANITIES**2272/01 2260/01**

Paper 1 Social Studies

2273/01 2261/01

Secondary 4 Express/ 5 Normal Academic

2274/01 2287/01**19 August 2024****1 hour 45 minutes**

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write all answers on the answer booklets provided.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer all questions.

Section B

Answer all questions.

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

Write the answers to Section A and Section B in **separate** answer booklets.At the end of the examination, submit the answers to Section A and Section B **separately**.

For Examiner's Use						
Section A	1	2	3	4	5	/35
Section B	6			7		/15
Total						/50
Parent's Signature						

This document consists of 6 printed pages.

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer all questions.

Exploring Citizenship and Governance

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 you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the issue to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

Is the cartoonist supportive of current government measures to prevent school shootings? Explain your answer. [5]

2 Study Source B.

Why did the cartoonist draw this? Explain your answer. [7]

3 Study Sources C and D.

How different are the sources about 'school hardening' policies? Explain your answer. [6]

4 Study Sources E and F.

Having read Source E, are Source F's recommendations useful? Explain your answer. [7]

5 'Schools should do more to prevent school shootings.'

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

Are school shootings in the USA inevitable?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

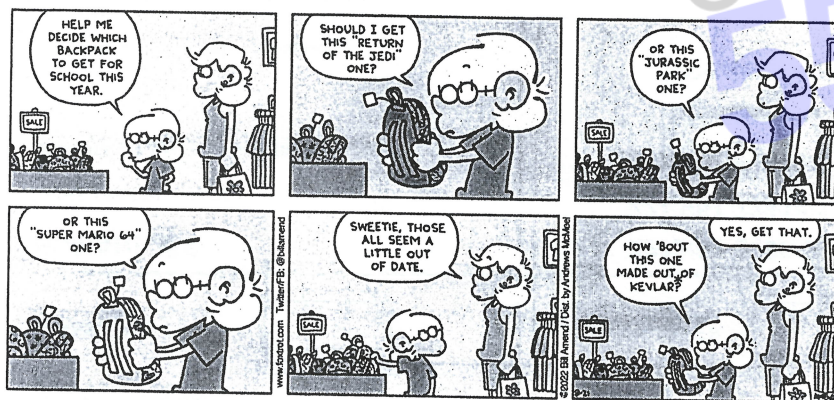
Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

The Columbine High School shooting in 1999 was an event that shocked the world. Two students entered the school with guns and killed 13 people while injuring 24 others. While it sparked a debate on how to prevent such shootings in the future, school shootings in USA have only increased in frequency and deadliness since then. Some of the deadliest shootings include Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December 2012, the Parkland shooting in February 2018, and the Uvalde shooting in May 2022.

The debate on preventing and managing school shootings has revolved around the same issues. Some have argued that the main issue is the widespread availability of guns and how easy it is to obtain one even when underage. Others have argued that it is more important to ensure the mental health of students first as several of the shooters had previously been diagnosed with mental disorders. Yet more have suggested that schools should 'harden' themselves by putting in more physical security measures to ensure that people bearing weapons will not be able to enter the school.

Are school shootings in the USA inevitable? Read the following sources to find out.

Source A: A cartoon published on an online personal blog in 2022, in response to debates over whether government measures to prevent school shootings have been sufficient. "Return to the Jedi", "Jurassic Park", and "Super Mario 64" are part of popular culture in the 1990s.



*Kevlar: a material commonly used in body armour and bulletproof vests

Source B: A cartoon published in an American newspaper in February 2018.



Source C: Adapted from an article published on an international news website.

Mass shootings have helped fuel a multibillion dollar school security industry in recent years – ranging from high-tech surveillance systems to weapon scanners and hand-held emergency panic devices to immediately alert law enforcement and lock down schools.

Although school resource officers responsible for the safety and crime prevention in schools as well as bullet-resistant laminate are a great part of the solution, if the people in the school don't know what to do, none of that other stuff means anything. When security works, it works because of people. When it fails, it fails because of people.

Source D: Adapted from an article published on an international news website.

The deadly shooting at Uvalde in May 2022 has reignited the discussion about whether safety measures at schools can deter or stop mass shootings. Some politicians have argued that heightened physical security measures, often called 'school hardening', are necessary to prevent future attacks. Former President Donald Trump stated that every school building should have strong exterior fencing, metal detectors, and use new technology to make sure that no unauthorised individual can enter the school with a weapon.

But experts say it's not clear that such measures actually make schools safer. School resource officers were present in Uvalde before the gunmen entered the school but failed to stop those shootings. A group of researchers have argued that 'school hardening' policies should be avoided 'because these strategies carry substantial risk for negative outcomes' – the presence of additional law enforcement officers and increased security measures can undermine student learning and well-being.

Source E: *Adapted from the information page of Sandy Hook Promise Action Fund, a non-governmental organisation set up after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in hopes of preventing a similar incident.*

The Sandy Hook Promise Action Fund works to pass legislation that advances school safety and mental health and prevents gun violence to keep our students safe.

Gun Safety

With the right policies in place that ensure firearms are used safely and legally, we can prevent tragedies. We are working to expand background checks on weapon sales and prevent sale of assault weapons to minors.

Violence Prevention

We are pushing for policies that require schools to train students on social isolation prevention, suicide prevention, and violence prevention at-large to keep students safe.

Mental Health

We are working to expand access to life-saving mental health services and supports for students. Taking care of the whole child, both in physical safety and mental wellness, allows students to have supportive school environments and can reduce the risk of violence towards self or others.

Source F: *A list of recommendations on preventing school shootings by researchers at the Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence.*

1. Teach Students and Adults to Report Warning Signs

Most school shooters exhibited concerning behavior and communicated their plan to cause harm before their deadly attack. These troubling behaviors and communications provide opportunities for adults to step in, for students to speak up, and for people to help a student who may be in psychological distress.

2. Develop and Publicise Around-the-Clock Anonymous Tip Lines

People need a way to safely report their concerns. These tip lines can make people less hesitant to report situations that worry them or that they think may not be their business. These types of interventions are known to prevent school violence. Research shows that as of 2021, 171 potential attacks on schools were prevented, 88 of which were first discovered by a peer of the potential attacker and reported via the tip line.

Section B (Structured-Response Question)

Answer **both** questions.

Living in a Globalised World

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

Singapore was ranked number 1 in the world in the Global Food Security Index for the second year running in 2019 – the result of our long-term planning and proactive actions to safeguard Singapore's food supply. However, we are vulnerable to emerging trends. First, with population growth, global demand for food is projected to increase by 50% come 2050. Second, climate change will put more pressure on global food supply. Third, countries increasingly look inward, prioritising their needs over international trade. Globalisation continues to create both positive and negative impacts for Singapore's food security.

Extract 2

Over the years, multiple terrorist organisations have emerged. While many of these organisations have had their eyes on inflicting fear in Western countries, countries in Southeast Asia have not been left unharmed. Indonesia and Singapore have been named as potential targets for such transnational terrorist groups.

Extract 3

The introduction of Digital Defence as a sixth pillar for Total Defence is unsurprising, considering the surge in cases of hacking, scams, and others. Singapore established the Cyber Security Agency (CSA) in 2015 in recognition of the growing threat Singapore faces on this front.

6 Extract 1 reflects on the growing concerns regarding food security Singapore faces.

In your opinion, how can the Singapore government help to strengthen Singapore's food security? Explain your answer using **two** strategies. [7]

7 Extracts 2 and 3 describe the two security challenges arising from globalisation.

Do you think transnational terrorism is a greater negative consequence for countries than cybersecurity threats? Explain your answer. [8]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source A: <https://foxtr01.com/2022/08/21/out-of-date/>

Source B: <https://chappatte.com/en/images/sales-assault-weapons>

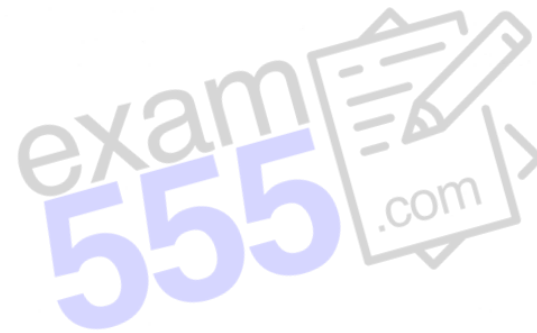
Source C: <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/04/01/us/school-gun-safety-nashville-shooting/index.html>

Source D: <https://ltime.com/6187658/school-safety-mass-shootings/>

Source E: <https://actionfund.sandyhookpromise.org/who-we-are/about-us/>

Source F: <https://www.yesmagazine.org/social-justice/2023/03/10/prevent-school-shootings>

Extract 1: <https://www.sfa.gov.sg/food-farming/sofoodstory/our-singapore-food-story>





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2024

Secondary Four Express/ Five Normal Academic Social Studies Preliminary Examination 2024 Marking Scheme

1	Study Source A. Is the cartoonist supportive of current government measures to prevent school shootings? Explain your answer.	5
L1	Describing the source The cartoon shows a student buying a backpack for school and being unable to decide.	[1]
L2	Answers that claim the cartoonist is supportive <i>Award the higher mark for more developed answers</i> The cartoonist is supportive of current government measures to prevent school shootings as he believes that students and parents should take ownership of their own safety as well. This can be seen from how he depicts a student choosing a backpack made out of Kevlar. This suggests that the cartoonist wants students to also make sure that they keep themselves safe by buying backpacks to protect themselves.	[2-3]
L3	Not supportive <i>Award the higher mark for more developed answers</i> The cartoonist is not supportive of current government measures to prevent school shootings as he feels that children are now forced to protect themselves on their own. He depicts a child not choosing backpacks with popular culture	[4-5]

	references, with his mother saying that they are 'a little out of date', and instead chooses 'one made out of kevlar' instead. He is trying to show the loss of innocence for school-going children, having to take action to purchase backpacks that can offer protection against bullets. Given that this was published in 2022, when school shootings are still taking place despite debates on how to prevent them, the cartoonist clearly feels that the government is not doing enough to stop school shootings.	
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2	Study Source B. Why did the cartoonist draw this? Explain your answer.	7
L1	Describing the source The cartoonist drew this to share his opinion on the school shooting situation.	[1]
L2	Answers based on time context The cartoonist drew this in response to the Parkland shooting in February 2018.	[2]
L3	Answers based on valid audience and outcome OR sub-message The cartoonist drew this to convince Americans to pressure the government to pass laws on gun control. (audience and outcome) The cartoonist drew this to tell people that the American government is more concerned about underage alcohol consumption than purchase of weapons (sub-message)	[3]
L4	Answers based on message <i>Award the higher mark for more developed answers</i> The cartoonist drew this to tell Americans that more needs to be done to prevent youths from purchasing guns. This can be seen from how the cartoon has signs that address social ills like alcohol and smoking while the cashier has noticed the beer in the boy's cart yet ignored the many other weapons. The request for ID is not regarding the weapons but the can of beer. This is ironic given how underage drinking is usually harmful to only the individual but the purchase of guns can cause a lot of harm to other people. The cartoonist thus uses this irony to highlight how there is no law against something that is far more dangerous. Other messages: to criticise current gun laws	[4-5]
L5	Answers based on purpose with full message <i>Award the higher mark only if time context is addressed</i> The cartoonist drew this to convince (V) Americans (A) that more needs to be done to prevent youths from purchasing guns (M), so that they will pressure the government to pass stricter laws against underage gun ownership (O). This can be seen from how the cartoon has signs that address social ills like alcohol and smoking while the cashier has noticed the beer in the boy's cart yet ignored the many other weapons. The request for ID is not regarding the weapons but the can of beer. This is ironic given how underage drinking is usually harmful to only the individual but the purchase of guns can cause a lot of harm to other people. The cartoonist thus uses this irony to highlight how there is no law against something that is far more dangerous. Given that this was published in February 2018 when America had the deadly Parkland school shooting, the cartoonist is	[6-7]

	highlighting the irony in a bid to get Americans to pressure their government to do more to prevent such school shootings in the future.	
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3	Study Sources C and D. How different are the sources about school 'hardening' policies? Explain your answer.	6
L1	Similar or Different in provenance The sources are similar as they are both articles published on international news websites.	[1]
L2	False Matching/Literal comparisons The sources are different because Source C tells me that part of the school 'hardening' policy includes hand-held emergency panic devices but Source D does not.	[2]
L3	Similar or Different in content The sources are similar as they both state that some schools have adopted school 'hardening' policies. Source C states that 'mass shootings have helped fuel a multibillion dollar school security industry...ranging from high-tech surveillance systems'. Similarly, Source D states that 'School resource officers were present in Uvalde before the gunmen entered the school'. This thus shows that some schools believe in 'hardening' policies and have taken action to implement them. The sources are similar in claiming that school 'hardening' policies are insufficient. Source C states that although school 'hardening' policies are 'a great part of the solution, if the people don't know what to do, none of that other stuff means anything.' Similarly, Source D states that 'School resource officers were present in Uvalde before the gunmen entered the school but failed to stop these shootings.' Both sources thus suggest that there needs to be more than the current school 'hardening' policies.	[3-4]
L4	Two comparisons of content	[5]
L5	Different in overall opinion The sources are different in their opinion of school 'hardening' policies. Source C claims that although school 'hardening' policies are 'a great part of the solution, if the people don't know what to do, none of that other stuff means anything.' This suggests that school 'hardening' policies do have some utility but just need to be enhanced to ensure that people know how to make use of them. In contrast, Source D states that 'school hardening policies should be avoided 'because these strategies carry substantial risk for negative outcomes'. This suggests that such policies are actually detrimental to students as they undermine the school as a place of learning. Hence the two sources are different on whether schools should implement 'school hardening' policies at all.	[6]

4	Study Sources E and F. Having read Source E, are Source F's recommendations useful? Explain your answer.	7
L1	Yes, based on superficial analysis of F's provenance Source F's recommendations are useful because it is by researchers and they can be trusted	[1]
L2	Answers that address F's utility without reference to E <i>Award the higher mark for more developed analyses of F (i.e. P&C)</i> Source F's recommendations are useful as they focus on getting members of the community to be more vigilant and active. These recommendations come from researchers at the Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence, which suggest that they are subject matter experts. This is within their scope of knowledge so they would have conducted ample research and presented only the strategies that are known or believed to be effective. The recommendations are reliable and hence useful.	[2-3]
L3	No due to E contradicting F Source F's recommendations are not useful as they are contradicted by Source E. Source F's recommendations focus on getting members of the community to be more vigilant and active but Source E's recommendations focus more on getting schools and governments to develop legislation to address the problem instead. This can be seen from how Source E states that 'The Sandy Hook Promise Action Fund works to pass legislation that advances school safety and mental health and prevents gun violence to keep out students safe'. Since Source E contradicts Source F, Source F is unreliable and thus not useful.	[4]
L4	Yes, due to E supporting F <i>Award the higher mark for more developed answers</i> Source F's recommendations are useful because they are supported by Source E. Source F's recommendations are on trying to get more community support to help students mental health before they devolve to taking violent action. This can be seen from 'most school shooters exhibited concerning behaviour' but 'these troubling behaviours and communications provide opportunities for adults to step in, for students to speak up' and 'people need a safe way to report their concerns'. This suggests that with greater community awareness, they can help students facing mental health issues before they end up harming themselves and others. Similarly, Source E states that 'we are working to expand access to life-saving mental health services and supports for students' and 'taking care of the whole child... can reduce the risk of violence towards self or others.' Source E also claims that with aid provided to these students with mental health issues, they will be able to reduce school violence and shootings. Since Source E supports Source F, Source F is reliable and thus useful.	[5-6]
L5	L2+ L4	[7]

5	'Schools should do more to prevent school shootings.' Using sources in the case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement.	10
L1	Writes about statement, no valid source use	[1]
L2	Yes/No, supported by valid source use Yes: A, C, D No: A, B, E, F	[2 - 4]
L3	Yes + No, supported by valid source use	[5-8]
<p>Note: Consideration on number of sources used and the quality of analysis in deciding on marks in L2 & L3</p> <p>**To score additional 2 marks, candidates can take any one of these 3 routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through analysing at least one source in relation to its reliability, utility, or sufficiency <p><i>Cannot use Source F as it was previously used for Q4 I feel that Source E is reliable as it is from a non-governmental organisation that aims to prevent future school shootings. Given that it is established after a deadly school shooting, they are likely to look at all avenues that can help to prevent such school shootings. In addition, the strategies proposed are multi-layered, with no fingers being pointed at any specific party. All groups, from government, individuals, schools, and the community are involved in the action plan. Given this objectivity, the source is thus likely to be reliable.</i></p> <p>- By sharing example(s) from their contextual knowledge</p> <p>I agree with Source B that the government needs to pass stronger legislation to prevent school shootings. Based on my contextual knowledge, America has the highest gun ownership in the world, but also the laxest laws regarding the ownership and purchase of such weapons. Statistics have shown that a child below the age of 16 is more likely to die from being shot in school than being involved in a car accident. Part of the reason has been strongly attributed to the Second Amendment in USA, which grants American citizens the constitutional right to bear arms. This, coupled with the partisan push to maintain the Amendment, has been shown to have strong correlation with the rise in the number of school shootings. As such, the government needs to take a stronger stance and pass crucial legislation to prevent school shootings.</p> <p>- By giving a balanced conclusion</p> <p>The issue with gun ownership is multi-layered so it is unfair to say that the American government alone should bear more responsibility for preventing school shootings. While the government should continue to pass good legislation, as suggested by Source B, schools should also focus on implementing strategies as they are intended, as suggested by Source C. Nevertheless, the pervasiveness of the issue is one that requires all parts of</p>		

	society to come together to address the situation. Even if the government does pass more legislation to reduce gun ownership particularly by minors, parents and family members should also bear the responsibility to ensure that their children do not gain access to guns already in the house. The community at large should also do their part to care for each other's mental health, particularly in cases where students are suffering mentally and physically. By having a complete societal effort coming together to address the problem, only then will the issue of school shootings be more preventable.	
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	Agree	Disagree
A	Yes as it is unfair for children to bear the burden of having to protect themselves	Governments should do more as it is unfair for children to bear the burden of having to protect themselves
B	-	Governments should do more as legislation is focusing on the wrong problem
C	Schools should ensure personnel are properly trained to make use of 'school hardening' policies and measures	-
D	Schools should develop more effective policies besides 'school hardening' policies	-
E	-	Governments should come up with more legislation to address the problem Non-governmental organisations can step up Community at large should be more observant
F	-	Governments need to set up tip lines Community should be more observant and more willing to report and help each other (may overlap with E)

Section B: Structured-Response Question

6	Extract 1 reflects on the growing concerns regarding food security Singapore faces. In your opinion, how can the Singapore government help to strengthen Singapore's food security? Explain your answer using two strategies.	7
L1	Describes the topic Food security is a big issue for Singapore since it is a small country with little natural resources of its own. We depend on importing our food from countries like Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.	[1]
L2	Identifies/Describes strategy One strategy is to diversify where Singapore gets each food item. For example, rather than just depending on getting our rice from a country like Thailand, Singapore should diversify and get rice from multiple sources, especially beyond the same region. Another strategy is for Singapore to grow more of its own food. This can include using technology to establish rooftop gardens that grow vegetables using hydroponics and aeroponics.	[2 - 4]

L3	<p>L2 + Explains strategy <i>Award the higher mark for clear explanation of how the strategy will be able to address concerns of food security</i></p> <p>One strategy is to diversify where Singapore gets each food item. For example, rather than just depending on getting our rice from a country like Thailand, Singapore should diversify and get rice from multiple sources, especially beyond the same region. By diversifying, Singapore will be less affected by any kind of shock that happens with one source of food. We will be able to continue to maintain most, if not all, of our imports of essentials since not all countries will be affected at the same time. The risk is thus more spread out and Singapore can continue to have a similar level of food security.</p> <p>Another strategy is for Singapore to grow more of its own food. This can include using technology to establish rooftop gardens that grow vegetables using hydroponics and aeroponics. By growing our own crops, Singapore becomes less dependent on international trade. We will be able to subsist on what we are able to grow for some time and it would be sufficient to account for any kind of short term shocks to our ability to import crops from certain countries.</p>	[5 - 7]
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7	<p>Extracts 2 and 3 describe the two security challenges arising from globalisation.</p> <p>Do you think transnational terrorism is a greater negative consequence for countries than cybersecurity threats? Explain your answer.</p>	8
L1	Writes about challenges arising from globalisation without addressing the question	[1-2]
L2	<p>Describes the security challenges of transnational terrorism and cybersecurity threats</p> <p>One of the negative consequences of globalisation has been the rise in transnational terrorism. For example, ISIS is a group that gained prominence in the late 2010s. Multiple cells of ISIS have been found to have connections with other smaller terrorist organisations in Indonesia, USA, and Eastern Europe. In each of these cases, they were plotting terrorist attacks on popular tourist attractions and busy civilian areas.</p> <p>One of the negative consequences of globalisation has been the increase in cybersecurity threats. There has been an increase in scams, but also hacking of cybersecurity infrastructure of countries. For example, there were attacks on USA's cyber infrastructure during their 2020 elections, possibly in an attempt to influence the voting process.</p>	[3-4]
L3	<p>Explains how the globalisation has resulted in each factor <i>Award 5-6m for explaining the role of either factor.</i> <i>Award 6-7m for explaining both factors.</i></p> <p>One of the negative consequences of globalisation has been the rise in transnational terrorism. For example, ISIS is a group that gained prominence in the late 2010s. Multiple cells of ISIS have been found to have connections with other smaller terrorist organisations in Indonesia, USA, and Eastern Europe. In each of these cases, they were plotting terrorist attacks on popular tourist</p>	[5-7]

	<p>attractions and busy civilian areas. Because of the increased interconnections brought about by globalisation, terrorist organisations are now able to easily spread beyond country's borders. Misinformation that can radicalise individuals are accessible on the Internet which in turn drives up the danger that transnational terrorism can create.</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>One of the negative consequences of globalisation has been the increase in cybersecurity threats. There has been an increase in scams, but also hacking of cybersecurity infrastructure of countries. For example, there were attacks on USA's cyber infrastructure during their 2020 elections, possibly in an attempt to influence the voting process. Because of the increased interconnectedness of nations through the digital technology, a country is now susceptible to attacks from all around the world instead of more traditional forms of attacks. The increased adoption of technology by countries also means that more of their systems are more susceptible to such attacks than before.</p>	
L4	<p>Both aspects of L3 + explains the relative importance of each factor</p> <p>Transnational terrorism is a greater negative consequence of globalisation than cybersecurity threats because of the higher cost. While hacking and scams can cost financial losses for people and countries, it is ultimately less severe an issue than the loss of lives that transnational terrorism causes. It is far more difficult to recover from the loss of lives during terrorist attacks than the amount of money lost in a scam or hacking.</p>	[8]