

Candidate Name:



FUHUA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Secondary Four Express/ Five Normal Academic

Preliminary Examination 2019

$$4E/5N$$
[illegible]

Humanities

2272/01, 2273/01, 2274/01

Paper 1 Social Studies

26 August 2019

0755 - 0940

1 hour 45 minutes

Additional Materials: Writing papers

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Write in dark blue or black pen.

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

Answer all questions.

Write your answers in the writing paper provided.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

Hand in Section A and Section B separately.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE	FOR EXAMINER'S USE		
	Section A	Section B	Total
	35	15	50

Setter: Ms. Chan Bijun

Vetter: Ms. Deepa

This question paper consists of 8 printed pages including this page.

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

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

1 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 which 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.

(a) Study Source A.

Does the illustrator agree with the Singapore government? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Sources B and C.

Can Source B prove Source C right? Explain your answer. [7]

(c) Study Source D.

Why was this joint public statement submitted to the parliament? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Source E.

Are you surprised by Source E? Explain your answer. [7]

(e) “The government should be the main decision maker in deciding what is good for society”.

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

Should the Singapore government have passed the Online Falsehood and Manipulation Bill?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

A Bill is a proposed law presented to parliament for discussion. On 1 April 2019, the Online Falsehood and Manipulation Bill was introduced in the Singapore parliament. This Bill seeks to protect society against damage from online falsehoods created. Such online falsehoods have had serious consequences. They are being used to divide society and spread hate. Combined with digital technology, the dangers of falsehoods have become more serious and greater in scale.

After an intense debate, the Singapore's parliament passed the Bill, known as the fake news law, despite concerns raised by journalists, academics and global technology companies over free speech and abuse of power by the government.

Under this new law, all government ministers will have the power to issue a variety of orders, such as directing online news sites to publish corrections to falsehoods. In extreme cases, they will be able to order the publisher to take down an article or order Internet service providers to disable user access to errant sites to prevent the spread of fake news.

Study the following sources to judge whether the fake news law should have been passed to grant ministers the power to tackle online falsehoods.

Source A: *A cartoon by the International Human Rights Watch Organisation, which focuses on human rights and freedom of speech.*



Source B: *A collective report by different media and communication experts published in Channel News Asia's website, in response to the government's proposed new law.*

Singapore, a multi-racial and multi-religious society, is especially vulnerable as fake news in Singapore could push communities in society apart. For example, the fabrication in 2015 that a Filipino family's complaints had sparked a scuffle between the police and Thaipusam participants caused xenophobic reactions.

Also, one country can use false information to drive a wedge between the different races, religions or economic classes of another country. Between 2014 and 2016, foreign spies allegedly used fake accounts on social media to influence the USA presidential election campaigns.

Some recommendations towards falsehood include: government should have the powers to swiftly disrupt the spread and influence of online falsehoods especially for a case of falsehood having high-level impact. The government can put in place a national framework to guide public education initiatives. Technology companies should shut down accounts and networks of accounts that are designed to speed up the spread of online falsehoods.

Source C: *An interview with the Law and Home Affairs Minister, Mr. Shanmugam, addressing concerns that have been raised over the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill.*

Channel News Asia: It's quite clear that most people understand the need for all governments to address online falsehoods, especially deliberate online falsehoods. The question is obviously how. First off, why have you chosen the ministers to be the first point of decision for various things on what constitutes a falsehood and then deciding on appropriate action?

Minister Shanmugam: When there is a falsehood which affects public interest, it can spread very fast, very quickly.

I can give you an actual incident. In Indonesia, a false allegation was made that a Chinese woman had criticised and said nasty things about a mosque. Within 24 to 36 hours, buildings were damaged, 12 Buddhist temples were vandalised, lots of public disorder, a real fear for people's lives. So, such consequences have to be dealt by government quickly.

This legislation deals with false statements of facts. It doesn't deal with opinions. You can have whatever viewpoints however reasonable or unreasonable.

Source D: *A joint public statement by three lawyers cum Nominated Members of Parliament (NMP) submitted to the parliament.*

Online falsehoods can be so harmful with many playing a role in creating or transmitting them. Hence, the Bill grants the government far-reaching powers over online communication to fight falsehoods. Many in Singapore and globally have expressed concerns over the extent of this power. We share these concerns, as future governments might use it to suppress online debates for their political interests.

We support the intent behind the bill. There are threats to national security and social harmony due to online falsehoods which require decisive government's actions. We believe Singaporeans will agree that the Government has a responsibility to safeguard harmony.

We propose amendments requiring the government to establish reasons for its exercise of power and having an independent council review their decisions and what are considered fake news. This will help the government act against online falsehoods in the public interest.

Source E: *A parliamentary speech by Mr Low Thia Kiang, a member of an Opposition Party.*

The Bill allows a minister to have power to decide what are online falsehoods and what punishments to mete out. It's like during a match, the minister is both player and referee. Prime Minister Lee pointed out recently that social media has made it very easy for falsehoods to spread. People with malicious intent can easily manipulate opinions and influence elections. This is seemingly convincing. But how can we be sure that the ministers from the ruling party will not manipulate opinions in order to win elections?

If a minister's supporter said that the older generation cannot accept a non-Chinese prime minister, he may say that this is a personal opinion. If it comes from a political opponent, on social media, it may be deemed as falsehood that creates racial conflicts.

These are actions of a dictatorial government that will resort to any means to hold on to absolute power.

Source F: *A speech by Mark Zuckerberg, founder of Facebook, an online social media platform.*

Internet companies should be accountable for enforcing standards on harmful content. Facebook has been blamed for having a role in influencing American voters during the presidential election period, after information from 50 million Facebook users was analysed and political advertisements that influenced their views were found in their profiles. Governments need to set a common standard to prevent manipulation of the voters' emotions by foreign states during election period.

Section B (Structured-Response Question)

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

2 Being Part of a Globalised World

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

According to the “Singapore Cyber Landscape 2017” report by the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA), cyber threats have continued to grow in frequency and impact. It also noticed a trend where the nature of attacks shifted from profit-oriented goals towards those causing massive disruptions.

Extract 2

We need intelligence officers to pick up suspicious activities, IT analysts to track terrorist activities online, and financial experts to follow the money trail. We need an organisation which can piece together the story in time and act on it decisively. We need close international security cooperation.

Extract 3

The absence of actual attacks and known terrorist plots makes it an uphill task to convince more Singaporeans to be constantly aware of the threat. Nonetheless, public education efforts should continue to prevent the threat awareness level from sliding below 60 per cent. Moving forward, more can be done to try new ways to persuade Singaporeans who are aware of the terrorist threat to also recognise that the threat is imminent.

- (a) Extract 1 shows that cyber threats have continued to grow in frequency and impact.

In your opinion, why do you think these threats have been occurring in Singapore? Explain your answer with reference to **two** reasons. [7]

- (b) Extracts 2 and 3 account for the roles of the Singapore government and Singapore citizens in managing transnational terrorism.

Do you think that the Singapore government plays a more important role than citizens in managing transnational terrorism? Explain your answer. [8]

----- End of Paper-----

Acknowledgement:

- Source A <https://twitter.com/Reaproy/status/1126308761264463872>
- Source B <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/proposed-law-on-falsehoods-has-clear-oversight-mechanism-to-11438132>
- Source C <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/cnainsider/fake-news-getting-harder-to-spot>
- Source D <https://www.asiaone.com/singapore/3-nmps-propose-amendments-singapores-anti-fake-news-bill>
- Source E <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/online-falsehoods-workers-party-opposes-bill-pritam-singh-11511450>
- Source F <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/30/mark-zuckerberg-calls-for-tighter-internet-regulations-we-need-a-more-active-role-for-governments.html>

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