

Name: _____

Class

Index Number

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METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL

Founded in 1887



PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2023 Secondary 4

Humanities

Paper 1 Social Studies

Friday

4 August 2023

2272/2273/2274/01

1 hour 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your class, index number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Section B

Answer **both** questions.

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

SECTION A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer **all** questions.

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 interpret and evaluate the sources.

1. Study Source A.

Do you think the cartoonist supports the American healthcare system? Explain your answer, using details of the cartoon. [5]

2. Study Sources B and C.

How different are the sources? Explain your answer. [6]

3. Study Source D

How useful is this source as evidence of the role of governments in responding to healthcare needs? Explain your answer. [7]

4. Study Sources E and F.

Having read Source E, are you surprised by Source F? Explain your answer. [7]

5. 'Individual effort is the best way to survive a pandemic.'

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

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted vulnerable groups?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

A novel coronavirus disease known as COVID-19 emerged in late 2019 in China, and quickly spread to the world. Due to its highly contagious nature of transmitting via respiratory droplets, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared it a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. The pandemic has resulted in numerous illnesses and deaths. It has strained healthcare systems worldwide, whether it is America's market-based approach that is mainly based on private health insurance coverage, Singapore's shared-responsibility approach of shared healthcare costs, or Sweden's government-financed approach of universal access based on high taxation.

Various controversies over COVID-19 response strategies arose when governments sought to address greater socio-economic diversity: the tensions between public health measures—lockdowns, mask mandates, border and travel restrictions—and their economic and social impacts. The pandemic has also exacerbated existing social and economic inequalities.

Study the following sources to find out in what ways the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted vulnerable groups.

Source A: *An American cartoonist's view on the American healthcare system in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, published on an American online news site, 6 May 2020.*



Age, race, and poverty meet Covid.

Source B: *From a report about the impact of the pandemic on Singapore by a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Singapore, February 2021. It shows Singapore's shared responsibility approach.*

The government had four budgets for COVID-19 support measures. To flatten the virus curve, everyone had to assume responsibility for his/her personal safety, as caring for oneself was caring for the community.

However, the disruptions caused by containment measures have been especially stressful for low-paid workers. They had to forgo wages—or jobs—in order to care for their children when schools or childcare centres closed, and when they or their family members fell sick. Low-paid and lower-income self-employed workers were concerned about the lack of medical benefits or paid sick leave. Staying safe comfortably, working from home and getting paid: these are marks of privilege, and out of reach for many lower-income families who lived in overcrowded conditions and faced mental health issues.

Bolstered by the offers of help from volunteers, donors, and members of the public, we provided aid such as food, finances, digital access, and employment.

Source C: *From a research article about the impact of the pandemic on Sweden, February 2022. Sweden is a welfare state where the government-financed approach provides universal protection for the disadvantaged.*

To contain the spread of the pandemic, Sweden focused on voluntary measures regarding individual hygiene, social distancing, and travelling. It relied less on mandatory measures and lockdowns. Schools and preschools remained open during the pandemic.

The pandemic has exposed social inequalities within Swedish society. In response, Sweden relies on universal protection systems in protecting lives and livelihoods. Existing social insurance provisions were temporarily reinforced. Sick pay insurance, normally compensating income loss by 80% up to a ceiling, was extended in several ways. Unemployment insurance providing up to 80% income replacement, was also temporarily reinforced.

The Swedish healthcare system is publicly governed, tax-funded, and universal, offering access to care services at low cost to all citizens on equal terms. Even so, the pandemic placed a high level of stress on the healthcare system. There were initial challenges of insufficient beds, staff, medical technology, and personal protection equipment.

Source D: *From WHO Director-General's speech about the findings on how the pandemic can halt global progress towards Universal Health Coverage where everyone has access to quality health services, 12 December 2021.*

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted health services and stretched countries' health systems beyond their limits as they struggled to deal with its impact. It triggered the worst economic crisis, making it increasingly difficult for people to pay for healthcare. Even before the pandemic, half a billion people were being pushed or pushed still further into extreme poverty because of payments they made for healthcare.

All governments must immediately resume and accelerate efforts to ensure every one of their citizens can access health services without fear of the financial consequences. This means strengthening public spending on health and social support, and increasing their focus on primary healthcare systems that can provide essential care close to home.

The World Bank Group is also supporting over 60 low- and middle-income countries, majority of them in Africa, with the purchase and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines until the end of 2022.

Source E: *From an online article on the views of public health scientists, sociologists, and governance experts about Singapore's COVID-19 Story, published on a Singapore news site, 22 January 2022.*

"All safe distancing measures are really about that sense of solidarity with others", said Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat when he announced the Solidarity Budget, Singapore's third fiscal package—out of five, totalling \$100 billion in pandemic support measures.

Some experts said that the pandemic has amplified the importance of solidarity, on top of self-reliance that is a core part of Singapore's national ethos. They affirmed the numerous community efforts to aid migrant workers, lower-income households, seniors, and more during the pandemic.

However, they highlighted that Covid-19 has produced polarised attitudes on policies, such as vaccination, and aggravated socio-economic fault lines along class, ethnicity, and nationality. The public and policymakers are aware of the spotlight on inequalities, 'invisible populations', and 'digital divides'. What matters is how to improve the lives of all residents where the government and people will look out for the least among them.

Source F: *A cartoon showing Singapore's higher- and lower-income households, published on a Singapore news site, 23 August 2021 when pandemic control measures were eased while social gatherings were still capped.*



SECTION B (Structured-Response Questions)

Answer **both** questions.

Exploring Citizenship and Governance

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted food supply chains and shed light on the importance of safeguarding Singapore's food resilience. The Singapore government was quick to assure Singaporeans that strategies such as diversification of food sources and relying on local production were in place to ensure there was no shortage of food. Following, the Singapore government announced the '30 by 30' food production target, to build up the agri-food industry's capability and capacity to sustainably produce 30% of our nutritional needs by 2030.

Extract 2

Singapore has always emphasised the importance of good leaders governing the country. Leaders who were found corrupt were brought before the courts of law. Singapore has always believed that good leadership does not happen by chance and is intentional in grooming leaders to lead the country.

Extract 3

At a dialogue organised by the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) in June 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong called on unionists to offer ideas to shape the future of Singapore. He described Singapore's journey as at a crossroads post-Covid-19. Their contributions will be part of a Forward Singapore road map that will set out policy recommendations.

6. Extract 1 reflects how the Covid-19 pandemic has amplified the gravity of safeguarding food security.

In your opinion, why does Singapore need to strengthen our food resilience? Explain your answer with reference to **two** reasons. [7]

7. Extract 2 and Extract 3 reflect ideas shaping governance.

Do you think that having good leadership is more important than providing a stake for everyone to ensure good governance in Singapore? Explain your answer. [8]

END OF PAPER

Acknowledgements:

- Source A © <https://www.google.com.sg/amp/s/www.inquirer.com/opinion/cartoons/coronavirus-deaths-racial-disparities-nursinghomes-poverty-20200506.html%3foutputType=amp>
- Source B © <https://beyondresearch.sg/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BSS-COVID19-REPORT-080221v2.pdf>
- Source C © <https://academic.oup.com/policyandsociety/article/41/2/247/6529220?login=false>
- Source D © <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2021/12/12/more-than-half-a-billion-people-pushed-into-extreme-poverty-due-to-health-care-costs>
- Source E © <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/politics/spores-covid-19-story-in-the-same-storm-in-different-boats-but-going-the-right-way>
- Source F © https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/covid-19-inequality-virus-further-widened-rich-poor-gap-2127951?cid=internal_sharetool_iphone_13062023_cna
- Extract 1 © <https://www.ourfoodfuture.gov.sg/30by30/>
- © <https://www.gov.sg/article/covid-19-theres-no-need-to-rush-to-buy-essential-items>
- Extract 3 © <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/lawrence-wong-launches-forward-spore-to-set-out-roadmap-for-a-society-that-benefits-many-not-a-few>

