



BEDOK VIEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2024

HUMANITIES

2260/01, 2261/01, 2262/01

Paper 1 Social Studies

23 August 2024

Secondary Four Express / Five Normal Academic

1 hr 45 minutes

MARK SCHEME

This answer scheme consists of 17 printed pages, including this cover page.

Section A: Source-Based Questions [35 marks]

1.	Study Source A. What is the attitude of the cartoonist towards the universal charger law passed in Europe? Explain your answer, using details of the source.	[5]
Level	Descriptors / Suggested Answers	Marks
L1	<p>Surface description / No valid interpretation <i>Award the higher mark for unsuccessful attempts of interpreting the cartoon.</i></p> <p>e.g. The cartoonist thinks the universal charger law passed in Europe requires all electronic devices to adopt a common charging connection. [1]</p> <p>e.g. The cartoonist is against the law passed in Europe because he is showing the Apple brand is in danger of losing profits. He shows the Apple brand being put to rest. [2]</p>	1-2
L2	<p>Valid interpretation of the source but has not answered the question (inference does not mention cartoonist's attitude or does not address the universal charger law)</p> <p>e.g. The cartoonist thinks the universal charger law will have an impact on Apple's business. This is seen from a tangled mess of bespoke Apple iPhone cords being laid to rest. Apple devices require a different charging connection from all other devices and this law forces Apple to change its bespoke chargers practice to adopt the same charging standard as every other smartphone maker. Apple has no choice but to comply with the new law and change if it wishes to continue selling to the European market. [3]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>e.g. The cartoonist thinks the universal charger law will help reduce electronic waste. Europe's new law "allows buyers to use one common charger across all devices", including Apple devices. Thus when people buy new phones, like the man in the cartoon who purchased every new iPhone, they do not need to keep buying new chargers. They can simply rely on the charger they already own. In the long run, this reduces the electronic waste being generated each time people are forced to buy a new charger. [3]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>e.g. The cartoonist has a critical attitude towards Apple. He portrays Apple users poking their tongue out in disgust at the tangled mess of bespoke Apple iPhone cords. They are eagerly throwing the iPhone charger cords into the grave, happy to be rid of them. They are likely frustrated at having to buy Apple charging cords time and again because the cords are not long-lasting. Yet, they have no choice but to buy these Apple-exclusive chargers for their Apple devices. [3]</p>	3
L3	<p>Valid interpretation of the source (cartoonist has a positive attitude towards the law) <i>Award the higher mark for more fully developed answers</i></p> <p>e.g. <u>The cartoonist has a positive attitude towards the universal charger law passed in Europe. He supports the law because it had forced Apple to abandon the practice of having its own bespoke chargers, which he is critical of. The cartoonist portrays a scene at a cemetery where Apple's bespoke chargers,</u></p>	4-5

	<p>represented by a tangled mess of cords, are being laid to rest. The attendees at the funeral, likely representing Apple users, are disrespectfully sticking their tongues out, jeering at the Apple chargers. They also dumped the cords unceremoniously into the “Apple bespoke chargers” grave, glad to be rid of the Apple bespoke chargers. This shows how critical the cartoonist is of Apple’s practice of forcing their users to purchase Apple chargers, which can only be used for Apple devices. Worse, because Apple chargers are not “long-lasting”, users are forced to keep purchasing new chargers each time one gets damaged. Now that Europe had passed the new law, Apple is forced to comply and fit its devices with the universal charging standard already adopted by every other company. As such, there is no need for Apple users to purchase Apple-exclusive chargers with every new Apple device. <u>Since one common charger can now be used across all devices, it reduces the need for additional spending by buyers and reduces electronic waste.</u> The cartoonist thus welcomes the universal charger law. [5]</p>	
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2.	<p>Study Sources B and C.</p> <p>How far do these sources agree about efforts to reduce electronic waste? Explain your answer.</p>	[6]
Level	Descriptors / Suggested Answers	Mark s
<p><i>*0m will be awarded to scripts that fail to address the question focus on <u>efforts to reduce electronic waste.</u></i></p> <p>e.g. The sources agree that electronic waste is a problem. [0]</p>		
L1	<p>False / Invalid Matching</p> <p>e.g. The sources agree about efforts to reduce electronic waste because both sources highlight the issue. [1]</p> <p>e.g. The sources disagree about efforts to reduce electronic waste because Source B mentions repair and secondhand while Source C mentions the right to repair. [1]</p>	1-2
L2	<p>Agree OR Disagree, based on content</p> <p><i>Award the higher mark for clear support from both sources.</i></p> <p>e.g. <u>The sources agree about efforts to reduce electronic waste because both believe a key measure is to encourage the habit of repairing faulty devices instead of throwing them away to buy new.</u> Source B talks about the need for legislation “to remove the barriers to repair” and for us to “learn to fix what we own” so fewer electronic devices will be discarded. <u>Similarly</u>, Source C depicts a consumer-led global campaign championing the cause of repairing tech products so that there will be less or “no more disposable products” contributing to electronic waste. [3]</p> <p>Also accept:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The sources agree that efforts to reduce electronic waste must involve consumers. Both highlight the need for consumers to stop buying new gadgets when their electronic product becomes faulty and to consider repairing it first. ● The sources agree that efforts to reduce electronic waste must involve government legislation. Government legislation is needed to force tech corporations to make repair more feasible, thus extending the lifespan of a product. <p>OR</p>	3-4

	<p>e.g. <u>The sources disagree about the willingness of consumers to reduce electronic waste. Source B suggests consumers are unwilling to take action whereas Source C suggests consumers are willing.</u> Source B states “consumers, too, are all too happy to move on to the next new thing. So the cycle of constant buying continues.” This shows consumers are contributing to the problem of electronic waste because they do not care to keep using and repairing their old products. They would much rather simply purchase new products once they feel their current device is worn-out. <u>On the other hand,</u> Source C depicts a consumer-led global campaign championing the cause of making the repair of tech products more easy so that there will be “no more disposable products”. This shows consumers are contributing to the solution for electronic waste by actively advocating for measures to make a product longer lasting. [3]</p>	
L3	Both aspects of L3: Agree AND Disagree, based on content	5
L4	<p>Disagree, based on attitude / tone <i>An elaborate explanation is not needed. Award as long as response shows understanding of the differences in the attitude / tone, makes reference to one piece of evidence from the source and explains how the supporting evidence indicates the attitude / tone of the sources.</i></p> <p>e.g. <u>The sources disagree in terms of their overall attitude towards the likelihood of efforts to reduce electronic waste being successful. Source B holds a more sceptical and cynical view whereas Source C presents a more hopeful view.</u></p> <p>Source B has a negative tone when discussing efforts to reduce electronic waste. Source B criticises tech companies for inventing products that are now harder to repair. Source B complains that repairing faulty devices today requires “the right equipment and serious skill” and that “the cost of repair without warranty is so costly that it makes more sense to simply buy new.” Source B also accuses major corporations, saying “these barriers to repair must be removed but major corporations will almost certainly never go for that”. Source B means to say that major corporations intentionally want to make device repairability difficult because it creates sources of revenue for them. When users send their products in for repair or opts to buy a replacement product, it creates sales for the company. At the same time, Source B blames consumers for not holding these corporations to account, saying that consumers “are all too happy to move on to the next new thing. So the cycle of constant buying continues.” Source B is thus of the opinion that this culture of throwing away old products and buying new will never go away. As a result, more and more electronic waste will continue to be generated. This thus shows how sceptical Source B is about efforts to reduce electronic waste.</p> <p>On the other hand, Source C has a positive tone when discussing efforts to reduce electronic waste. Source C praises the efforts of consumers and lawmakers. Source C depicts a demonstration by a “Right to Repair” group. “Right to Repair” is a consumer-led global campaign borne out of concern that the constant buying and production of new electronics is destroying the planet. The photograph was taken in 2019 and while it may have taken some time, European lawmakers eventually implemented legislation in 2024 requiring product manufacturers to offer lifetime repair services. Source C presents the demonstration in a positive light by showing how citizens and governments can successfully come together to effect a positive change and tackle the electronic waste crisis. By highlighting the success of the “Right to Repair” campaign, Source C shows there is hope that efforts to reduce electronic waste will work. [6]</p>	6

3.	<p>Study Sources D and E.</p> <p>Does Source D prove Source E is unreliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly? Explain your answer.</p>	[7]
Level	Descriptors / Suggested Answers	Marks
L1	<p>Not addressing the concept of proving <i>Students must address the concept of proving by using derivatives of words like “prove”, “reliable”, “trust”, “useful for proving”.</i></p> <p>e.g. Source D shows a person at home being inundated by product advertisements on TV. [1]</p> <p>e.g. Source E is useful as evidence multinational corporations are environmentally-friendly as it encourages consumers to buy secondhand. [1]</p> <p>e.g. Source D makes Source E surprising because it shows multinational corporations encouraging consumers to keep buying new products while Source E shows multinational corporations encouraging consumers to buy secondhand. [1]</p>	1
L2	<p>Valid analysis of source’s reliability based on content but has not answered the question <i>The question demands an analysis of both sources D and E. As such, to be awarded L4 and higher, student must analyse both sources and conclude on whether Source D proves Source E unreliable.</i></p> <p><i>Award the higher mark for more well-developed answers.</i></p> <p><u>Route 1: Source D is reliable, explained using content of Source D</u> Source D is reliable as evidence that multinational corporations cannot be environmentally-friendly. Source D shows MNCs marketing to people at home products that are “useless, shortlived, unrepairable” and come with “waste packaging”. This shows MNCs are destroying the environment by depleting precious resources when they create product after product that have a short life span. [3]</p> <p><u>Route 2: Source E is reliable, explained using content of Source E</u> Source E is reliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly. Source E shows MNCs being environmentally-friendly by encouraging sustainable consumption, as seen by “Amazon is committed to cutting down waste and giving more products a second chance by helping customers shop secondhand”. Pushing consumers to buy secondhand items is environmentally-friendly because fewer new products will be made, which helps to conserve the Earth’s resources. [3]</p>	2-3
L3	<p>Valid analysis of source’s reliability based on critical analysis but has not answered the question <i>The question demands an analysis of both sources D and E. As such, responses will be kept to L3/4 marks if they fail to address both sources and conclude on whether Source D proves Source E unreliable.</i></p> <p><u>Route 1: Source D is unreliable, explained using source treatment</u> e.g. Source D is not reliable. It is a cartoon drawn by a Finnish cartoonist in 2007. It views MNCs critically, exaggerating MNCs’s negative environmental impact by generalising all products made by MNCs to be “useless, shortlived, unrepairable”.</p>	4

	<p>Due to its biasness and lack of objectivity in discussing MNCs, Source D is an unreliable source. [4]</p> <p><u>Route 2: Source E is unreliable, explained using typicality</u> e.g. Source E is unreliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly because it only provides information about what Amazon is doing and does not provide insights about what other MNCs are doing. Source E tells us that Amazon is encouraging sustainable consumption of goods by “helping customers shop secondhand” and organising “free repairs workshops” to help customers learn to repair and keep what they have. As an online retailer that stocks items from other manufacturers and sells them online, Amazon’s business model may be different from other MNCs that are producers of their own goods. Given so, what Amazon is doing to become an environmentally-friendly company may not be representative of other MNCs. Hence, Source E is unreliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly. [4]</p> <p><u>Route 3: Source E is unreliable, explained using provenance</u> e.g. Source E tells us Amazon is an environmentally-friendly company that is “committed to cutting down waste and giving more products a second chance by helping customers shop secondhand” as well as “learn to fix broken laptops and household tech”. This suggests that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly. However, Source E is unreliable as evidence of that because its provenance suggests it may have a hidden agenda. Source E is a statement made by Amazon’s Country Manager for the United Kingdom during the Christmas festive season. Many people would be looking to purchase presents for their loved ones during this festive season. Amazon would be able to achieve higher sales and profits if it can attract these christmas shoppers to order things from its company. As such, to appeal to shoppers, Source E would naturally present Amazon as an environmentally-friendly company people should purchase goods from. This makes us question if Source E’s claim that Amazon is an environmentally-friendly company is really to be believed. [4]</p>	
L4	<p>Prove based on disagreement between Sources D and E <i>The question demands an analysis of both sources D and E. As such, to be awarded L4 and higher, student must analyse both sources and conclude on whether Source D proves Source E unreliable.</i></p> <p><i>Award the higher mark for more well-developed answers.</i></p> <p>e.g. Source D proves Source E is unreliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly. Source E tells me MNCs can be environmentally-friendly but its claim is contradicted by Source D which tells me MNCs cannot be environmentally-friendly. Since Source D contradicts Source E, Source D proves Source E is unreliable as evidence. Source D shows MNCs marketing their products to people at home via TV advertisements, convincing them to buy more things. The products are “useless, shortlived, unrepairable” and come with “waste packaging”, suggesting the products are badly made and wasteful due to their short life span. This shows MNCs cannot be environmentally-friendly. <u>On the other hand</u>, Source E shows MNCs being environmentally-friendly by encouraging sustainable consumption, as seen by “Amazon is committed to cutting down waste and giving more products a second chance by helping customers shop secondhand”. Pushing consumers to buy secondhand items is environmentally-friendly because fewer new products will be made, which helps to conserve the Earth’s resources. [6]</p>	5-6

L5	<p>L4+ Critical analysis of either source <i>The question demands an analysis of both sources D and E. As such, to be awarded L4 and higher, student must analyse both sources and conclude on whether Source D proves Source E unreliable.</i></p> <p><i>Award as long as response shows understanding of the question demands and shows a sound critical analysis of either sources.</i></p> <p><u>Route 1: L4+ Does not prove, explained by Source D’s treatment of MNCs</u> e.g. Based on the difference in what they are telling me, Source D proves Source E is unreliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly. Source E tells me MNCs can be environmentally-friendly but its claim is contradicted by Source D which tells me MNCs cannot be environmentally-friendly. Since Source D contradicts Source E, Source D proves Source E is unreliable as evidence. Source D shows MNCs marketing their products to people at home via TV advertisements, convincing them to buy more things. The products are “useless, shortlived, unrepairable” and come with “waste packaging”, suggesting the products are badly made and wasteful due to their short life span. This shows MNCs cannot be environmentally-friendly. <u>On the other hand</u>, Source E shows MNCs being environmentally-friendly by encouraging sustainable consumption, as seen by “Amazon is committed to cutting down waste and giving more products a second chance by helping customers shop secondhand”. Pushing consumers to buy secondhand items is environmentally-friendly because fewer new products will be made, which helps to conserve the Earth’s resources. [L4/6 marks]</p> <p>However, upon critical analysis, Source D does not prove Source E is unreliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly. This is because Source D’s treatment of MNCs makes Source D unreliable. Source D views MNCs through a critical and biased lens, exaggerating MNCs’s negative environmental impact by generalising all products made by MNCs to be “useless, shortlived, unrepairable”. Due to its biasness and lack of objectivity in discussing MNCs, Source D is not a reliable source to begin with. Since we cannot entirely trust what Source D says, we cannot use Source D to debunk Source E’s claim and prove Source E is unreliable. [L5/7 marks]</p> <p>OR</p> <p><u>Route 2: L4+ Does not prove, explained by Source E’s provenance</u> e.g. Based on the difference in what they are telling me, Source D proves Source E is unreliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly. Source E tells me MNCs can be environmentally-friendly but its claim is contradicted by Source D which tells me MNCs cannot be environmentally-friendly. Since Source D contradicts Source E, Source D proves Source E is unreliable as evidence. Source D shows MNCs marketing their products to people at home via TV advertisements, convincing them to buy more things. The products are “useless, shortlived, unrepairable” and come with “waste packaging”, suggesting the products are badly made and wasteful due to their short life span. This shows MNCs cannot be environmentally-friendly. <u>On the other hand</u>, Source E shows MNCs being environmentally-friendly by encouraging sustainable consumption, as seen by “Amazon is committed to cutting down waste and giving more products a second chance by helping customers shop secondhand”. Pushing consumers to buy secondhand items is environmentally-friendly because fewer new products will be made, which helps to conserve the Earth’s resources. [L4/6 marks]</p>	7

	<p>However, upon critical analysis, Source E is unreliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly. With or without Source D, Source E is still an unreliable source to use as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly. Source E is unreliable as evidence that multinational corporations can be environmentally-friendly because its provenance suggests it may have a hidden agenda. Source E is a statement made by Amazon’s Country Manager for the United Kingdom during the Christmas festive season. Many people would be looking to purchase presents for their loved ones during this festive season. Amazon would be able to achieve higher sales and profits if it can attract these christmas shoppers to order things from its company. As such, to appeal to shoppers, Source E would naturally present Amazon as an environmentally-friendly company people should purchase goods from. This makes us question if Source E’s claim that Amazon is an environmentally-friendly company is really to be believed in the first place. [L5/7 marks]</p>	
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4.	<p>Study Source F.</p> <p>How surprised are you by this source? Explain your answer.</p>	[7]
Level	Descriptors / Suggested Answers	Marks
L1	<p>Uses content from source F but fails to address element of surprise</p> <p>e.g. Source F tells me Amazon Prime Day has a negative impact on the environment. [1]</p>	1
L2	<p>Addresses element of surprise due to underdeveloped provenance</p> <p>e.g. I am not surprised that Source F, a news article about the environmental impact of Amazon Prime Day, is published on the day the shopping event started. [2]</p>	2
L3	<p>Addresses element of surprise due to reasoning internal to source F (i.e. due to what Source F said)</p> <p>e.g. I am surprised to learn from Source F that Amazon continues to rely on gas-burning vehicles for ground deliveries across the US when it has “publicly pledged to improve the sustainability of its operations”. This is surprising as it opens Source F to criticisms that it is deceiving the public about being an environmentally-friendly company (greenwashing) and damages its reputation.[3]</p>	3
L4	<p>Surprised / Not Surprised due to cross-reference to other sources or Background Information</p> <p><i>Students must cross-refer to the same focus. Award the higher marks for answers that are supported by valid evidence and have a well-developed explanation.</i></p> <p>e.g. I am surprised by Source F because it is contradicted by Source E. Source F tells me Amazon is destroying the environment in its pursuit for profits while Source E says otherwise. Source F states that “Prime Day generates more packaging waste and carbon emissions than any other period of the year.” Amazon is thus destroying the environment by holding shopping events like Prime Day in its continual push for more sales and profits. On the other hand, Source E tells me Amazon is not destroying the environment. In fact, Amazon is still able to achieve sales and profit without harming the environment by “giving more products a second chance by helping customers shop secondhand.” Since Source E contradicts Source F, I am surprised by Source F. [5]</p>	4-5

	<p>OR</p> <p>e.g. I am not surprised by Source F because it is supported by Source B. Source F tells me Amazon is incentivising consumers to keep shopping and buying new things. Similarly, Source B tells me major corporations are encouraging consumers to keep buying more things. Source F states that “It dangles attractive sales and free shipping, feeding into our worst habits, tempting us to consume more! faster! now!” Source B states that the “cycle of constant buying continues” because corporations keep “inventing better products with new features”. Since Source D supports Source F, I am not surprised by Source F. [5]</p> <p>OR</p> <p>e.g. I am not surprised by Source F because it is supported by the background information. Both Source F and the background information highlights the need for people to buy less things to reduce the environmental impact of their consumption. Source F states “only a concerted, global effort to produce and buy less can avert environmental disaster.” Similarly, the background information tells us “many are concerned about the impact on the environment if the global demand for goods continues to grow at an unsustainable pace” and suggests a possible solution is to adopt “practices such as buying fewer items and buying secondhand.” [5] <i>(Note: For the above paragraph, no further explanation needed as the evidence is straightforward)</i></p> <p><i>Accept any other logical cross-references.</i></p>	
L5	<p>Surprised AND Not Surprised, explained using cross-reference OR Two analyses of Surprised, explained using cross-reference OR Two analyses of Not Surprised, explained using cross-reference</p> <p><i>Students must cross-refer to the same focus. Award the higher mark for responses with developed explanations for both analyses.</i></p>	6
L6	<p>Not surprised due to critical analysis of provenance and purpose</p> <p>e.g. I am not surprised that Source F, a news article about the environmental impact of Amazon Prime Day, is published on the day the shopping event started. This is because I can understand why Source F chose to do this. Source F is written by an environmental reporter who is knowledgeable about the threats to our environment and is therefore, most likely concerned about the environment. He is aware that large-scale shopping events like Prime Day can impact the environmental negatively because buying more things - even goods that are eco-friendly - will lead to high volumes of packaging waste and transport emissions. As such, I can understand why the reporter, who is deeply concerned about the environment, would choose to publish his article in the same period as Amazon Day. This is because he is trying to warn the public about the damage Amazon Prime Day does to the environment and dissuade shoppers from buying into the Prime Day hype. This is seen from him asking the audience to “think twice before purchasing that biodegradable phone case or Adidas shoe made out of recycled plastic.” Since his purpose is not unexpected, I am not surprised. [7]</p>	7
5.	‘It is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things.’	

	Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement.	[10]																					
Level	Descriptors / Suggested Answers	Marks																					
L1	Writes about statement, no valid source use	1																					
L2	Agree / Disagree, supported by valid source use <table border="1" data-bbox="272 465 740 633"> <tr> <td>1 source</td> <td>2 marks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 sources</td> <td>3 marks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 sources</td> <td>4 marks</td> </tr> </table>	1 source	2 marks	2 sources	3 marks	3 sources	4 marks	2-4															
1 source	2 marks																						
2 sources	3 marks																						
3 sources	4 marks																						
L3	BOTH Agree & Disagree, supported by valid source use <i>Note: Consideration on number of sources used and the quality of analysis in deciding on the marks in L3.</i> <table border="1" data-bbox="272 871 1206 1373"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of sources</th> <th>Ratio Agree: Disagree</th> <th>Marks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3">Provides a Balanced perspective</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Sources</td> <td>1:1</td> <td>5 marks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 sources</td> <td>2:1 / 1:2</td> <td>6 marks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 sources</td> <td>2:2</td> <td>7-8 marks</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Provides an Unbalanced perspective</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 sources (imbalance)</td> <td>1:3 / 3:1</td> <td>6 marks</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of sources	Ratio Agree: Disagree	Marks	Provides a Balanced perspective			2 Sources	1:1	5 marks	3 sources	2:1 / 1:2	6 marks	4 sources	2:2	7-8 marks	Provides an Unbalanced perspective			4 sources (imbalance)	1:3 / 3:1	6 marks	5-8
Number of sources	Ratio Agree: Disagree	Marks																					
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4 sources (imbalance)	1:3 / 3:1	6 marks																					
<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 • By sharing example(s) from contextual knowledge • By giving a balanced conclusion/resolution 																							

Note to markers: This assertion question requires students to make arguments that address the idea of “possible” or “impossible”. A lengthy explanation is not needed as long as the keyword is sufficiently addressed and the argument is clearly supported by valid source use. Accept as valid source use if:

- students quoted the relevant evidence from the source
- make references to relevant statements made in the source. If a student did not clearly state the source he took the evidence from but the marker is able to clearly match / attribute the idea to a specific source, accept as valid source use too.

“It is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things .”	
Agree	Disagree
<p>A: Agree, it is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things. As seen from Source A, “Europe had passed a universal charger law requiring all electronic devices to adopt a common charging connection. This allows buyers to use one common charger across all devices.” This means the people in Europe can have the option not to purchase a new charger whenever they purchase a new device because they can simply use their old one. <u>This tells us governments are able to implement legislation to cut down on waste and prevent unnecessary purchase of new items.</u></p> <p>B: Agree, it is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things. <u>Corporations can remove the barriers to repair by making it less costly and easier for ordinary consumers to fix their own items. This would then encourage consumers to keep using the products they have until they are truly worn-out, instead of always turning to buying a new product to replace their old one.</u> This is seen from Source B stating the cycle of constant buying continues until the barriers to repair are removed.</p>	<p>A: Disagree, it is impossible to discourage the culture of buying new things. Source A shows a man who has “had every iPhone”. This man is emblematic of today’s consumer who will readily purchase new things regularly, such as purchasing new iPhones on a yearly basis, even if their gadget is still in good working condition. <u>This shows how impossible it is to discourage the culture of buying new things when people have the attitude of always wanting to purchase new products they perceive as better.</u></p> <p>B: Disagree, it is impossible to discourage the culture of buying new things. As seen in Source B, consumers “are all too happy to move on to the next new thing”. <u>This shows that society has become so obsessed with buying consumer goods (consumerism) that it is impossible to change their mind and stop them from readily purchasing new things.</u></p> <p>B: Disagree, it is impossible to discourage the culture of buying new things. <u>It has become impractical for the ordinary consumer repair faulty gadgets to extend their life span. As such, they will always choose to buy new replacement gadgets instead of taking the repair route.</u> This is seen from Source B’s statement that repairing tech goods require “the right equipment and serious skill” and “without warranty is so costly that it makes more sense to simply buy new.”</p>
“It is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things .”	

Agree	Disagree
<p>C: Agree, it is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things. As seen from Source C, European lawmakers had passed laws requiring product manufacturers to offer lifetime repair services, either for free or at a reasonable price. When products are longer-lasting, it removes the need for consumers to keep buying new ones and they can simply continue to keep and use devices they already have. Hence, <u>it is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things with the help of legislation that compels corporations to extend the lifespan of a product by repairing the product at reasonable prices.</u></p> <p>C: Agree, it is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things. As seen from Source C, there is a global movement of environmentally-conscious consumers who want to stop buying new things and keep using what they have until it is no longer repairable. They are advocating for laws that would compel product manufacturers to cooperate. <u>The fact that it is a movement that has spread globally suggests that numerous people worldwide have the desire to consume goods more sustainably. Hence, it is possible for the culture of buying new things to be less prevalent.</u></p> <p>E: Agree, it is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things. This is seen from Source E's statement that "Amazon* is committed to cutting down waste and giving more products a second chance by helping customers shop secondhand" and organising "free repairs workshops" for consumers. Hence, <u>it is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things when large global corporations like Amazon are taking the lead to shift consumers towards secondhand shopping and learning to fix what they own. This extends the use of a product and makes it unnecessary for consumers to always buy new.</u></p>	<p>D: Disagree, it is impossible to discourage the culture of buying new things. Source D shows us a man being inundated by TV advertisements enticing him to buy new things. In their push for profits, corporations keep coming up with new products and marketing them to customers through various media platforms. <u>This constant bombard of advertisements makes it impossible to stop being enticed to buy new things.</u></p> <p>D: Disagree, it is impossible to discourage the culture of buying new things. Source D tells us we are living in an era of badly-made products that are "shortlived" and "unrepairable". <u>As such, there is always a need to frequently keep buying new products to replace our old ones because current products are not long-lasting.</u></p> <p>F: Disagree, it is impossible to discourage the culture of buying new things. As seen from Source F, there are frequent shopping events like Amazon Prime Day that "dangles attractive sales and free shipping, feeding into our worst habits, tempting us to consume more! faster! now!" <u>The frequent presence of such sales will thus always tempt consumers to splurge and result in consumers wanting to keep buying new products.</u></p>

Examples for Bonus Route Attempts

- **Through analysing at least one source in relation to its reliability, utility or sufficiency**

Note: Students must have written about the source before they can analyse the source reliability / utility / sufficiency.

e.g. Source E is not useful as evidence that it is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things. Source E tells us Amazon can help to make this achievable through efforts such as “helping customers shop secondhand”. However, because Source E did not provide any firm numbers or sales figures to show us how well Amazon is doing for its secondhand business, it is difficult to determine how receptive consumers actually are to buying secondhand products. This makes source E less useful in helping us understand if it is truly possible to discourage the culture of buying new things.

e.g. Source D is **reliable** as evidence that it possible to discourage the culture of buying new things. Source D tells me it is possible as long as there are a group of people in the world who try to influence others to stop buying more things. A case in point would be the cartoonist in Source D. Source D is created by a cartoonist who is trying to warn consumers that corporations are tricking them into buying new things that are in fact “useless, shortlived, unrepairable”. This is in the hopes of convincing consumers to think carefully before they purchase a product and to only purchase what they truly need instead of being persuaded to buy unnecessary products that corporations are pushing on consumers. The fact that there are people like the cartoonist around to promote more sustainable consumption makes it possible to discourage the culture of buying new things. Source D thus **proves** it is possible to discourage the culture of buying new things.

- **By sharing example(s) from contextual knowledge**

Note: Students must first make reference to a source and then provide an example from their contextual knowledge to support the source’s point of view

e.g I agree with Source F that it is impossible to discourage the culture of buying new things. Source F tells us there are so many good deals being offered during Amazon Prime Day that consumers will not think twice before adding a product to their cart. I see this happening around me too. Shopping events have become so ubiquitous in today’s society. For example, in Singapore, besides Amazon Prime Day, we are faced with a barrage of sales online and at retail stores throughout the year such as the CNY Sale, Great Singapore Sale, National Day sale, Black Friday sale, Cyber Monday sale, Mega 11.11 sale and more. There are sales for products of all niche. Faced with a barrage of sales throughout the year, it is impossible to convince people to stop splurging and buying new things when they perceive it as a good deal in their mind.

OR

e.g I disagree with Source F that it is impossible to discourage the culture of buying new things. Source F tells us there are so many good deals being offered during Amazon Prime Day that consumers will not think twice before adding a product to their cart. I do not agree with it because I think consumers have been hit badly by the cost of living crisis today. No matter how good a deal may be, consumers will want to save their money instead of splurge. For instance, consumer spending in China has been faltering. Many chose not to participate in China’s mega online shopping festivals such as 618 and 11.11 sales.

- **By giving a balanced conclusion/resolution**

Note: Students must acknowledge the need for a concerted effort.

e.g. To conclude, the culture of buying new things contributes to overconsumption, which can spell disaster for the planet. To address this issue, there must be a collaborative effort involving various groups. Individual consumers, corporations and the government can all play their in encouraging more sustainable consumption.

Firstly, as seen in sources B, C and E, individuals can do stop buying new things all the time. They can take better care of the things they own and send them for repair if the product becomes faulty. They can also shop for secondhand goods.

Secondly, as seen in Sources A, B, D, E and F, large corporations can also encourage a culture of sustainable consumption. Instead of coming up with product after product and always tempting individuals to buy products that are unrepairable and damage easily, companies can focus on inventing products that are longer lasting. This removes the need for consumers to always buy new.

Lastly, as seen in Sources A and C, governments can implement policies that cut down on the need to purchase many different accessories just to use one product and make repairing a product more feasible, thus ensuring a product can be used for a longer time so that consumers do not need to buy a replacement product.

Just relying on one party alone will not help to discourage the culture of buying. For the issue to be tackled effectively, it has to be a collaborative effort among consumers, large corporations and governments.

Section B: Structured-Response Question [15 marks]

e.g.
[Identify strategy]
Schools
in

6.	Extract 1 highlights the importance for Singaporeans to be aware of local and global news. In your opinion, what can be done to improve Singaporean teenagers' awareness of current affairs? Explain your answer with reference to two ways.	[7]
Level	Descriptors / Suggested Answers	Marks
L1	Describes the topic i.e. Singapore teen culture / current affairs e.g. Improving Singaporean teenagers' understanding of local and global issues is crucial for fostering informed and engaged citizens who can contribute meaningfully to society. [1]	1
L2	Identifies / Describes strategy <i>Award 2m for identifying one strategy and 3m for identifying two strategies</i> <i>Award 3m for describing one strategy and 4m for describing two strategies</i>	2-4
L3	L2+ Explains strategy <i>Award 5-6 marks for explaining one strategy</i> <i>Awarded 6-7 marks for explaining two strategies</i> <i>Note: An explanation is showing how/why the proposed strategy will improve Singaporean teenagers' awareness of current affairs</i>	5-7

Singapore can keep students informed about current affairs through various platforms. **[Describe strategy using example]** For example, some schools have programmes where students will deliver a news presentation about local and global news to keep their peers up-to-date. Further discussions on these pieces of news can then be done during Character and Citizenship Education (CCE), English or Social Studies lessons. **[Explain Strategy] School-wide presentations on current affairs can thus regularly expose students to local and global news. Class discussions on the pieces of news can then help students achieve a better understanding of how it impacts them and develop their own thoughts and opinions about the news.**

e.g. **[Identify strategy]** Government agencies can engage influencers who are popular among Singapore teenagers to create social media content that is educational and informative. **[Describe strategy using example]** Government agencies can be strategic about the type of local news to implement this strategy for and only implement it for critical national updates like the Budget. For instance, in 2018, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) engaged over 50 social media influencers to explain the Budget to their followers. Many of the influencers posted photos and stories about how the Budget measures affects them and they would encourage their followers to visit the Budget website to learn more about the Budget measures for the year. Other government ministries and agencies can similarly follow this strategy to educate teenagers about the budget measures related to their area of work. **[Explain Strategy]** Engaging social media influencers to come up with educational content about current affairs can improve Singaporean teenagers' awareness of current affairs **because teenagers already spend a significant amount of time on social media.** They also find watching TikTok videos and Instagram stories more engaging than reading articles on mainstream media. Moreover, influencers would be able to present the current news to teenagers in a way that is relatable and easy for them to understand.

7.	<p>Extracts 2 and 3 reflect two principles shaping governance which have contributed to Singapore's development from a third-world to a first-world country in less than 40 years.</p> <p>For the continued development of Singapore, do you think it is more important for the government to uphold the principle of 'anticipating change and staying relevant' than the principle of 'providing a stake for everyone, opportunities for all'?</p>	[8]
Level	Descriptors / Suggested Answers	Marks
L1	<p>Describes the topic i.e. principles shaping governance</p> <p>e.g. Although there are systems and procedures to guide the government, it is necessary that the government make decisions shaped by principles to help them determine what is important and what should not be compromised as it governs for the good of the citizens. [2]</p>	1-2
L2	<p>Describes each principle shaping governance</p> <p><i>Award 3 marks for describing one principle.</i></p> <p><i>Award 4 marks for describing both principles.</i></p>	3-4
L3	<p>Explains e each principle shaping governance</p> <p><i>Award 5-6 marks for explaining one principle.</i></p> <p><i>Award 6-7 marks for explaining both principles.</i></p> <p><i>Note: An explanation is showing how/why each principle helps ensure Singapore's continued development. Students must include in their explanation a positive outcome for Singapore.</i></p>	5-7
L4	Both aspects in L3 plus Explains the relative importance of each principle	8

e.g.

[Describe the given factor] The principle of anticipating change and staying relevant involves being forward-looking and taking sound actions early to minimise threats. One example that illustrates this principle is the government taking early and vital action to prepare Singapore for the inevitable challenge of rising sea levels. In 2020, the government set aside a budget of \$5 billion for the Coastal and Flood Protection Fund which will finance the development and implementation of infrastructure projects over the next 50 to 100 years to protect Singapore's coastline from flooding. **[Explain the given factor]** The Coastal and Flood Protection Fund is critical in protecting low-lying residential areas such as East Coast, Punggol, Changi, Pasir Ris from flooding, protecting the lives and homes of the many residents living there. It is also critical in protecting key areas of Singapore's economy, such as Marina Bay and Tanjong Pagar, where office buildings for numerous multinational corporations are located, as well as Jurong Island, which hosts many of Singapore's petrochemical facilities. This thus shows how important anticipating change and staying relevant is for the continued development of Singapore because it lowers the chances of the problem becoming a crisis and causing hardships for the people. It will also enable key areas of the economy to continue to operate, which contributes to the country's economic growth.

[Describe the given factor] The principle of providing a stake for everyone, opportunities for all involves giving citizens a say in decision-making. One example is the nationwide engagement session "Forward Singapore". From 2022 to 2024, the government engaged over 10,000 citizens from all walks of life in face-to-face dialogues and surveys to hear citizens' views on key issues like the economy and environmental sustainability as well as their hopes for Singapore. **[Explain the given factor]** Engagement sessions such as this help the government to better understand the needs, concerns and priorities of citizens. After taking into consideration citizens' needs and concerns, the government can make new policies or revise existing policies to better meet the needs and interests of Singapore and its citizens. In turn, it helps the government gain the citizens' trust and contribute to a peaceful and politically stable society, which is necessary for the continued development of Singapore. Moreover, by actively involving citizens in developing policies, it makes citizens feel like their opinions are valued and they have a part to play in shaping Singapore. In turn, it develops citizens' sense of belonging to Singapore, which is also necessary for the continued development of Singapore.

[Stand] Both principles are important but in my opinion, the principle of 'providing a stake for everyone, opportunities for all' is ultimately more important than the principle of 'anticipating change and staying relevant' it comes to the continued development of Singapore. **[Explain why 'providing a stake for everyone, opportunities for all' is more important]** Providing a stake for everyone, opportunities for all' develops a sense of belonging to the country. It would keep citizens rooted to Singapore despite the various opportunities available to them worldwide, ensuring Singaporeans of all skills and talents continue to contribute to Singapore's economic progress. Furthermore, having a sense of belonging would help citizens become more willing to be involved in working for the good of Singapore by contributing to various areas of need in society. This is essential for the continued development of Singapore in an increasingly uncertain world. **[Explain why 'anticipating change and staying relevant' is less important]** To anticipate change and stay relevant, the Singapore Government may at times need to implement policies that may not go down well with certain sectors of the society. In such a situation, the principle of providing a stake for everyone, opportunities for all provided the opportunity for Singaporeans to make their concerns known to the government as well as to allow the government to engage Singaporeans in explaining the rationale for their policies and create buy-in for these policies. This generates trust in government policies and allows the government to do what is necessary for Singapore's future while keeping Singaporeans reasonably happy. This helps to maintain political and social stability, which promotes economic development.