

## *Theme 1: Social issues (incl education)*

Qn 1) Consider the view that meritocracy has worsened inequality in your country.

Q: Cause-effect

D: meritocracy has worsened inequality in SG vs Meritocracy has NOT worsened inequality in SG

K: Meritocracy — rewarding/crediting someone for the work done through one's own effort/merit

- Political system where goods/services/political power is granted to/vested in individuals based on merit and talent/achievement rather than wealth or social status

Worsened — to exacerbate differences; create larger rifts in this context

- Made less advantageous/ increased discrimination/aggravate social inequalities

Inequality — different circumstances (eg social status/standing/class)

- unequal distribution of resources among members of a society (usually the rich stand to gain more than the poor)

C: Singapore has always based itself on the value of meritocracy, where people will be awarded success according to their own merit instead of through bribery/family connections.

- Singapore: globalised, competitive, fast paced, knowledge-based economy, high cost of living w moderate welfare social support

Singaporean society has long prided itself based on the values of equality and meritocracy, which has improved the lives of Singaporeans decades after independence. (Background info) Indeed, the political system where power is vested in individuals who have worked hard has seen everyday Singaporeans rise up the ranks in their respective fields and become notable figures on the world stage. Meritocracy has also provided a level playing field for everyone, regardless of race, gender, or social class to have the same opportunities to achieve success in their own right. (Supporting points) However, in reality, not everyone's innate talent has been duly recognised by the meritocratic system. Those who have previously benefited from the meritocratic system are now leveraging it in order to provide their children with a head start to their education journey, something those who did not benefit from the system can provide their children with. (Opposing points) This exposes the imbalanced "starting points" of children which has exacerbated differences between people of different social classes, achieving the exact opposite of what meritocracy was supposed to do — ensure equality. Hence, in my opinion, the effectiveness of a meritocratic system in Singapore has been diminished due to

changing social statuses of citizens, resulting in the widening gap between the rich and poor locally. (Thesis statement)

	reason #1	reason #2
Meritocracy worsened inequality in SG	<p>parents who have stable/successful jobs that pay well &gt;&gt; leverage that to give their children a head start in education so that they will be more successful than them when they grow up. As a result, children may have different head starts in life, some may have more extracurricular classes than others because their parents can afford &gt;&gt; set up for success. However, children of those who do not earn as much do not have the privilege of enjoying the head start in their education journey &gt;&gt; children begin at different starting points unlike their parents who more or less started out the same &gt;&gt; INEQUALITY in education (some can afford tuition, academically ahead of those w/o tuition in school)</p> <p>Those who are already successful can capitalise on their wealth to enable progeny (children) to enter elite schools in sg &gt;&gt; better head start in highly-competitive sg &gt;&gt; increasingly unequal system &gt;&gt; exacerbates the gap between the rich and poor in society/create larger rifts in society/ walls that we cannot break down</p> <p>Not all neighbourhood schools have the resources to set up niche CCAs (eg.</p>	<p>Meritocratic education system only recognizes certain gifts/talents among students (eg academic talent) &gt;&gt; other students who are not academically strong but are gifted in other areas may lose out in terms of receiving certain scholarships/bursaries or may not be able to enter an “elite school” because their PSLE score is not good enough &gt;&gt; those who are not academically inclined may find it hard to make a living in Singapore as well as the jobs they are passionate/interested in do not pay as well as jobs that require high qualifications &gt;&gt; have to fight for success or gain the same social standing as others</p> <p>Meritocratic education system only recognizes narrow set of talents &gt;&gt; economic rewards/opportunities given to those who possess desirable talents (esp in the tech sector since SG is a very tech-driven society) &gt;&gt; discriminates against those who lack such specific talents</p> <p>Eg. Students w the best academic results are able to enter the elite schools (rewarding academic excellence) &gt;&gt; go on to win prestigious scholarships with top universities both locally and internationally that cover education costs and guarantees a stable career after graduation &gt;&gt; FAST TRACK CAREERS that allow them to quickly rise up the ranks of the company they are</p>

	<p>Coding,gymnastics) &gt;&gt; students not exposed to the sport they are keen on or can leverage on when they DSA to secondary/tertiary education &gt;&gt; spend money and time to go for extra lessons outside of school, a resource not everyone has (esp lower income grps) &gt;&gt; difference in exposure starting frm pri sch &gt;&gt; meritocracy is no longer about merit and talent, but rather if one's parents have the resources to help the child be ahead of others</p>	<p>working for &gt;&gt; high remuneration (rewards, ie salary) &gt;&gt; enjoy higher quality of life as compared to those who are not recognized by the education system because they do not possess those desirable traits &gt;&gt; have to fight for success in this competitive society</p>
<p>Meritocracy has NOT worsened inequality in SG</p>	<p>Awards those who put in the hard work to strive to succeed one day. In the past, meritocracy in the form of scholarships or bursaries was the key to breaking the cycle of poverty for many families in Singapore. a few renowned scholars and politicians/ notable figures achieved their success today because of scholarships that allowed them to further their studies when they were younger</p> <p>steps being taken to increase diversification of student intake in SG's top elite schools such as RI. these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- waiving the monthly school fee from &gt;\$300/month to 25/month for low and middle income families</li> </ul> <p>Meritocratic system allows everyone regardless of race, religion, gender, or social class equal opportunities to become successful and compete on a level playing field &gt;&gt; SOCIAL MOBILITY</p>	

Qn 2) “it is important to foster a sense of belonging to one’s country.”

How far is this true in today’s world?

Q: simple polarity

D: impt to foster sense of belonging vs not important

K: important — critical;vital;instrumental one’s national identity

Foster — nurture/develop rootedness to country (patriotism)

Sense of belonging: connectedness to a community/group

C: globalised world w changing values and societal norms, pivotal that a citizens of a country sticks to its national values/identity so that there is a sense of direction for future development

	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
impt to foster sense of belonging	<p>volatile and uncertain world today w many global crises taking place &gt;&gt; impt for ppl to be connected with the nation so that the country can overcome anything together and emerge stronger as a nation</p> <p>Ukraine — in 2022, when russia invaded ukraine, Ukrainians came together to defend their country against those who invaded them &gt;&gt; fosters sense of belonging and loyalty to Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SG: melting pot, multi-racial/religio us country achieved through decades of nation-building, common spaces,experienc es and memories &gt;&gt; binds sgeans tgt &gt;&gt; sense of belonging</li> <li>USA: split among republicans and</li> </ul>	<p>shapes one’s identity as a citizen of the country &gt;&gt; more likely to stay and contribute to nations development rather than migrate to somewhere else &gt;&gt; brain drain</p>	<p>diversity in a country does not lead to disharmony &gt;&gt; citizens feel included in a larger community in an increasingly polarised world. Fractured by differences</p> <p>Pt 2: Inclusivity where everyone feels like they belong here prevents brain drain &gt;&gt; essential for a country to flourish economically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malaysia: about 1 million workers come to SG to work due to the incentive of higher pay&gt;&gt; due to lack of effort to create a sense of</li> </ul>

	<p>democrats who don't see eye to eye on most issues &gt;&gt; supporters of both sides push for what they consider the ideal american society &gt;&gt; fractured america &gt;&gt; no sense of belonging</p>		<p>belonging to the country . Certain political ideologies also highlight the fact that some communities dont belong here &gt;&gt; Malaysian chinese and indians more likely to contribute to HUMAN CAPITAL FLIGHT&gt;&gt; stunts economy</p>
not important	<p>other places have better opportunities for development of career (eg pay, career progression) which attracts young talent there</p>	<p>country plagued with issues and hence citizens may not feel proud if they identified themselves with such a country/government</p>	<p>too much — 'us' vs 'them' mentality or even extremism &gt;&gt; xenophobia, racism, discriminatory practices (see Hitler, Putin, Trump)</p> <p>Materialistic world — sense of belonging will not incentivise/drive/fuel ppl to stay and succeed in the country</p> <p>sense of belonging to a country is increasingly irrelevant in a highly globalised and interconnected world</p>

### Qn 3) Should young people in your society be involved in issues of national interest?

Q: simple polarity

D: young ppl should be involved in issues of national interest vs not be involved

- Immaturity/other associated traits (eg individualistic)

K: young people — young adults, adolescents, teens etc

Involved — take part in voicing out issues of nation

- Having a stake/opinion/view/being invested in

Issues — problems/phenomenons observed

1. National interest — large-scale, important issues worthy of govt's attention, to ensure survivability and economic growth of the nation

C: Singapore has low BR >> small young population that will lead sg to further heights in future >> critical that they know some of the issues in society now in order to keep up with macro changes in the wider society (eg media, tourism, STEM, living conditions)

Apathetic younger generation towards current national issues (eg ageing population), political issues left to the adults

	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
young ppl shld be involved in issues of national interest	<p>develop sense of belonging to one's country &gt;&gt; understand national issues better &gt;&gt; better recognize policies/legislations involved to address issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SG conversation — involves youths, current govt leaders and other stakeholders to discuss about societal issues and the impact of such issues on each group as well as current measures taken by the govt to resolve/address</li> </ul>	<p>they're the ones leading the next generation/ phase of a country's development and bringing the country to further heights &gt;&gt; cannot do so if they don't know what is gg on in SG right now and what they can do to resolve such issues</p> <p>Since youth inherit the future, they need to have a say in formulating today and tomorrow's politics</p>	<p>equitable political system that is a representation of what the people want for the country &gt;&gt; all parties to be included &gt;&gt; youth should be involved to best represent their demographic's interests</p> <p>SG's political system is technocratic and top-down policymaking &gt;&gt; not fully aware/in touch with ground interests &gt;&gt; govt-ground divide can be mediated by the young &gt;&gt;</p>

	<p>it to the best of its abilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SS lessons in sec sch that teach our societal values and issues present in current society &gt;&gt; patriotism and belonging to sg</li> </ul>		<p>shape SOCIETY'S SOCIAL LANDSCAPE IN THE LONG RUN</p>
<p>not be involved in issues of national interest</p>	<p>General apathy towards current trends/phenomenon in Singaporean society &gt;&gt; unwilling to be engaged in issues worthy of national attention.</p> <p>focus on things that affect themselves rather than wider society (individualistic value of younger generation) &gt;&gt; don't pay attention to national issues</p> <p><b>Insular</b> nature of sgean youth, <b>ill-informed of larger world affairs</b> and where singapore stands on the global stage &gt;&gt; not the best representatives/ role models for the country</p>	<p><b>immature</b>, lack life experience and hence are <b>unprepared to handle/discuss matters of that have lasting impacts on our social fabric</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Younger generation in SG sheltered as compared to previous generations as they were born when SG is ALREADY flourishing socially,economically and politically &gt;&gt; did not experience any major event (eg separation, war) &gt;&gt; dh life experience to steer the nation through crises/disaste</li> </ul>	<p>too <b>idealistic</b> &gt;&gt; not in touch with realistic everyday concerns &gt;&gt; diverse bunch w many opinions on what 'national interests' may be &gt;&gt; some youth may also push for socially unacceptable values or beliefs that do not best benefit society/ don't align w society's interests</p>

		rs (imagine asking an inexperienced driver to drive a truck carrying gasoline)	
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Qn 4) 'Education has killed passion.' Is this an accurate assessment of your society today?

Q: simple polarity

D: has killed passion vs has not killed passion

K: killed, passion

C: Singapore — pragmatic, obsession w grades, "pressure-cooker" education system, very reliant on manpower bc we have no other natural resources to attract FDIs, world-class education system, technologically advanced

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
has killed passion	<p>SG is a pragmatic society and we heavily rely on manpower to attract global investments in improve our economy &gt;&gt; need for top-quality workforce which starts with high-quality education &gt;&gt; every student's main priority &gt;&gt; learning in school is to get a stable job not to further one's passion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Singapore's education system focuses more on the science and</li> </ul>	<p>Constant pressure from parents and teachers to do well academically has stifled learning what we are genuinely interested in a way &gt;&gt; the academic calendar is packed with tests and exams the further we advance in our education system to the point that students at the tertiary level barely have any time to pursue their passions outside of academics &gt;&gt; pressure cooker</p>	



	<p>mathematical aspects because the local economy is tech-driven &gt;&gt; passion for the arts and humanities subjects is significantly lesser and deemed as “no future” if one wants to make a career out of the arts in SG</p>	system	
has not killed passion	<p>There are holistic programmes offered to students to further their interest in certain aspects through holiday job programmes or they can take up specialised routes by going to poly/ITE/SOTA/LASEL LE/NAFA after completing sec sch education &gt;&gt; focus on a specific passion that can help them launch a career</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job Experience Programme (JEP) in certain schools &gt;&gt; give students an opportunity to learn outside of the classroom by giving them a glimpse of the industries they are interested in</li> </ul>	<p>For primary and secondary education, more time has been made available for them to learn skills that can fuel their interest such as DnT/FCE/music/art &gt;&gt; develop passion in niche subjects</p> <p>Scholarships are given to outstanding students every year (eg DSTA scholarship, Humanities Scholar programme (HSP)) &gt;&gt; fuel student's interests in JC in both the sciences and humanities in the form of overseas learning journeys and specialised competitions</p>	

Qn 5) Is the concept of race and ethnicity still desirable in our globalised world?

Q: Time based qn

D: Still desirable in the globalised world vs is not desirable

K: race — Main group ppl belong to based on **physical characteristics** they are perceived to share

ethnicity — belonging to a group of people bc they have the **same culture, traditions, language and past hist**

Globalised world — to spread a system/operation **internationally**

C: look at the past and present — what has changed and what hasn't?

Past — wars started out bc of a certain race's "superiority" eg. Civil war, world war 2 ("Aryan superiority"), ethnic enclaves formed when forefathers first came to SG and raffles designated certain areas where the different ethnicities can reside

Present — interconnected world where there is a certain percentage of immigrants in each country

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
Still desirable in the globalised world	<p>Sense of belonging in a largely homogenous world that is dominated by western culture &gt;&gt; Ability to enjoy one's traditions and customs unique to his/her race/ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethnic chinese — celebrate Lunar New Year all around the world</li> <li>• We can speak our own mother tongues</li> <li>• In places like SG that is multiracial and</li> </ul>	<p>creates a culture of understanding among different races and ethnicities &gt;&gt; be able to see eye-to-eye w e/o &gt;&gt; catalyst for world peace and mutual understanding/respect/tolerance between people of differing race and ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holocaust during ww2 saw 6 million Jews who perished in the brutal German concentration camps, all because of Hitler's racist</li> </ul>	

	<p>multicultural — we celebrate different festivities all year round &gt;&gt; forms our social fabric that no other country has &gt;&gt; thought our official language in English, we still speak many other languages and dialects that sets us apart from others</p>	<p>and fascist views that the Aryan race was superior and the Jews + other ethnic minorities eg. Romany were inferior and “pigs”</p>	
is not desirable	<p>increased open discrimination/ perceived negative stereotypes one may have about a certain race/ethnicity</p> <p>past events of a country have caused deep fractures/rifts in different ethnic groups &gt;&gt; hard to fix because of the internalised racism that is passed down generations &gt;&gt; continued tensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US — George Floyd incident &gt;&gt; criticisms and demonstrations worldwide about the mistreatment of those who are of different coloured skin</li> <li>• SG</li> </ul>	<p>at the end of the day, we are all human beings who have the same dreams goals and passions we want to achieve that should not be hindered by the colour of our skin or what our faith is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jim Crow laws in the 19 and 20th centuries that enforced racial segregation (semblance to slavery era)(ie mistreatment of ethnic minorities in the US like the African-Americans) are no longer existent &gt;&gt;</li> </ul>	

		allowing for a lot more people to pursue their dreams and achieve their goals without being bounded down by racist laws that ban them from doing so	
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**Qn 6) How far do you agree that it is more challenging to be a woman today? (ACJC common exam 2016)**

Q: comparison, special context (the past vs present society)

D: it is more challenging to be a woman in today's society vs it is less challenging

K: more (must show comparison bet past & present), today (current context)

C: Modern society – there is more awareness of gender equality and the wider role of women in society (ie not just confined to domestic sphere), women now have more resources and opportunities to break the highest glass ceiling in different professions and capacities. However, there are still some entrenched inequalities and patriarchal systems in certain countries that makes it harder for women in such societies to break gender norms and exert their full potential. There is also increased sexualization of women, portrayal of women in media may have negative connotations, body image issues due to social media and echo chambers telling us what is perfect and what is not

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
it is more challenging to be a woman in today's society	There are still deeply entrenched inequalities and patriarchal societies that prevent women from defying gender norms due to harsh punishments/backlash/lack of support. This is despite movements/calls for greater protection of women's rights and safety	Proliferation of social media gave rise to new issues that previously did not exist – exploitation of women's physical insecurities to promote beauty products etc establishes the notion that there is an "ideal look" we need to achieve and	Politicians have the power to overturn women's rights on a whim >> return to the past where women's rights were limited >> not rly prevalent but women stuck in such systems are at the whims of male-dominated

	<p>(implementation of stricter laws and punishments of perpetrators)</p> <p>Eg. the brutal rape and murder of a female doctor in Kolkata in Aug 2024 shows how political inaction and lax enforcement of laws endangers women and is a show to future culprits that there are mild/no consequences for such disgusting behaviour &gt;&gt; triggered mass protests throughout Kolkata and the rest of India because obvious measures put in place were not effective from Nirbaya riots back in 2012</p>	<p>that there is always something wrong with our bodies that needs to be fixed</p> <p>Rise of the internet also leads to new trends emerging such as dieting/conforming to toxic beauty standards – pursuit of this leads to EDs, only focusing on our own insecurities instead of learning to appreciate/embrace different body types</p> <p>Eg. Korea beauty standards (KBS) that so many girls around the world strive to achieve to look like the “ideal face shape” of idols/celebs when they themselves also do undergo plastic surgery (should not take at face level)</p>	<p>political landscape</p> <p>Eg. abortion was made illegal in the US in 2022 after a supreme court ruling that Roe v Wade was overturned and over 1/2 the states in US were poised to immediately ban abortion &gt;&gt; debate of pro-life vs pro-choice (Hot button issue that shifted the conversation away from women's bodily autonomy one that is very politicized)</p>
<p>it is less challenging to be a woman in today's society</p>	<p>more awareness of gender equality and the wider role of women in society (ie not just confined to domestic sphere). Men are starting to realize their ability to thrive is closely intertwined with women, and that for society to progress, there has to be more rights for women to be on the same standing</p>	<p>women now have more resources and opportunities to break the highest glass ceiling in different professions and capacities. We see more women taking on leadership roles and defying gender norms of the past to carve out new pathways or fight for rights of</p>	

	<p>as them &gt;&gt; and to speak out against sexist/ misygynistic remarks when they hear one because women play an equally important role in society as men &gt;&gt; shld not be treated badly</p> <p>#itsjustaperiod movement in india which aims to normalize conversations about menstruation instead of viewing it as a taboo topic in India</p>	<p>other women in society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eg. SG has female politicians who are also prominent minsters: Grace Fu, Josephine Teo, Sim Ann &gt;&gt; worked their way up just like their male counterparts. In the US, prominent female politicians have/are running for president (Hilary Clinton and Kamala Harris)</li> <li>• Marie Curie's discovery of uranium opened the door to a world of radioactive elements &gt;&gt; used for groundbreaking research and developments in healthcare &gt;&gt; the first</li> </ul>	
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		<p>female laureate and only person to have won 2 Nobel prizes in 2 different fields</p> <p>role model esp to young girls that there are so many things they can be and not to conform themselves to the demure image society tends to have of us</p>	
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Qn 7) “too many historical figures are famous for the wrong reasons.”  
Discuss.

Q: Excess qn

D: most historical figures are famous for the wrong reasons vs the right reasons

K: historical figures — people in history who had a legacy (be it notorious or otherwise) (darwin, Einstein, Oppenheimer, Ida B Wells, marie Curie, Hitler, KIS, Alfred Nobel, Anne Frank)

Famous for the wrong reasons (ie. infamous/notorious)

C: Are all historical figures as morally righteous as we claim them to be? (Think of societal values/norms in the past!)

From tyrants and dictators to war criminals and oppressors, history often remembers those who have caused immense suffering and destruction. It cannot be denied that the actions of these individuals have left indelible marks on societies and the descendants of victims alike. However, this focus on infamous individuals can overshadow the countless others who have made significant positive contributions to the world. While it is crucial to acknowledge and learn from the mistakes of the past, it is equally important to celebrate and draw inspiration from those who have worked towards justice, peace, and progress. Their legacies continue to inspire us and future generations to strive for a better world. Hence, despite the permanent scars left by some, many more historical figures have gained renown for their contributions to the betterment of humanity.

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:
too many historical figures are famous for the wrong reason	most historical figures are remembered for their notoriety and the suffering they inflicted on people >> descendents of those affected continue to suffer the long-lasting impacts of genocide and war	<p>some historical figures don't deserve the fame they have because of patriarchal/social norms at the time &gt;&gt; those who should be given credit are not given enough recognition or none at all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many mathematical discoveries originated from india, but the way history is written makes it look like they were discovered by the greek</li> </ul>
Many more historical figures are famous for the right reasons	there are historical figures who displayed laudable qualities >> we should aim to emulate their spirit to make the world a better place	some historical figures laid the groundwork for much of our intellectual, spiritual and cultural development >> progress of mankind >> contributed to the understanding of our world and its various systems >> some take it a step further by ensuring that their work is being used for the right purposes

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
most historical figures are famous for the wrong reasons	<p>They are often credited with work they did not do entirely by themselves &gt;&gt; sexism and racism was at an all time high 100 years ago &gt;&gt; women and people of colour were usually not recognized for their contributions to society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NASA in the 1960s — sexism was rife in STEM</li> </ul>	<p>The horrors/atrocities they did left a lasting impact on the world that we are still reeling from today</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hitler — the notorious dictator of the fascist nazi regime during ww2 resulted in the unjust deaths of 6</li> </ul>	<p>These people may also have notable achievements/d discoveries &gt;&gt; the public forgets his past mistakes, even if they were grave</p> <p>Darwin — Notable</p>



	<p>fields across the US, particularly in NASA &gt;&gt; women were part of key operations, writing code for Apollo 11 (Margaret elaine hamilton), which contributed to the americans milestone landing on the moon in 1969 (rem, tech was in its infancy at the time) &gt;&gt; yet she was not duly recognized for her work</p>	<p>million Jews &gt;&gt; even after his death, anti-semitism continues to exist today and there are extremists who believe in such radical views &gt;&gt; synagogue shootings in the US</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pol pot — cambodian genocide &gt;&gt; 2 million people died because of his communist ideals for cambodia to be a self-sufficient country &gt;&gt; did not show remorse AT ALL</li> <li>• Stalin assassinated or jailed his political opponents &gt;&gt; ruled the ussr with an iron fist</li> <li>• mao zedong: cultural revolution, great leap forward</li> </ul>	<p>figurehead in biology and advanced scientific discovery through human anatomy &gt;&gt; BUT believed that women and animals were less superior as compared to man</p>
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<p>most historical figures are famous for the right reasons</p>	<p>Achievements of historical figures, especially those of colour and women and those who fought for social causes were largely overlooked because we are more likely to remember the wrongdoings than the good deeds done by man</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ida B Wells, journalist turned civil rights activist in the 19th century. Her work covers both racial and gender equality and she was not afraid to call out lynchings and other atrocities committed by white men against the blacks &gt;&gt;involved in the founding of the American civil Rights movement, but was sidelined by white women activists at the time</li> <li>• Rosa parks, MLK &gt;&gt; 2 impt figures often synonymous with the american civil rights movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ rosa park refused to give her seat to a white man</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>some historical figures laid the groundwork for much of our intellectual, spiritual and cultural development &gt;&gt; progress of mankind &gt;&gt; contributed to the understanding of our world and its various systems &gt;&gt; some take it a step further by ensuring that their work is being used for the right purposes</p> <p>With great power comes great responsibility &gt;&gt; even if there were those who made groundbreaking research in technology, they ensured that it was not misused or fallen into the hands of evil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientists of the manhattan project during ww2 (incl. J. Robbert oppenheimer) This was the team that developed the infamous atomic bomb used by the US on Japan to end ww2 in the Pacific. Although what the scientists invented was harmful to mankind, they recognized instead of</li> </ul>	
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	<p>on the bus &gt;&gt; nationwide bus boycott</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MLK “i have a dream speech”</li> <li>○ both faced death threats, mlk was assassinated, but their legacy/actions birthed many movements in the 60s which protested for an end to segregation</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nelson Mandela — jailed for 27 years in prison fighting against apartheid</li> <li>● Princess Diana — her gentle nature and humble personality made her a popular monarch among the british <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ hugged an AIDS patient at the height of the AIDS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>ignored the implications and even warned the US government against using it for the good of humanity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alfred Nobel, creator of the prestigious Nobel Prize, invented dynamite &gt;&gt; used for many unethical purposes such as in armed combat during ww1 &gt;&gt; guilt that came with inventing because it destroyed the lives of enemy soldiers&gt;&gt; used the profit he had from selling dynamite and used it for the Nobel Prize to recognize scientific and artistic contributions around the world(atonement for the unintended consequences of dynamite) (Peace, physics, chem, physiology, medicine, literature)</li> <li>● “We are</li> </ul>	
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	<p>epidemic in the 80s &gt;&gt; breaking stereotypes about those who have the disease</p> <p>There are historical figures that serve as inspiration as to how we can change our view of the world we live in or promote positive values that made a positive impact on society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who went into hiding from the Nazis for nearly 3 years during WW2, famously wrote in her journal "In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart." &gt;&gt; shows Anne's positive outlook on life even though she should be detesting the Nazis who caused her suffering and early death &gt;&gt; story of strength and hope even in the darkest moments of humanity</li> <li>"Think of the</li> </ul>	<p>become death, destroyer of worlds" — Oppenheimer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey — highlighted the harmful effects of thalidomide in the 60s and paved the way for stricter FDA guidelines on the sales of drugs in the US</li> <li>Marie Curie's discovery of uranium opened the door to a world of radioactive elements &gt;&gt; used for groundbreaking research and developments in healthcare</li> </ul>	
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	beauty still left around you and be happy." "What a wonderful thought that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet." >> shows hope and to be grateful for what we have even though times may be tough		
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Qn 8) Is there any point in studying history when we should look to the future? (ACJC 2024 prelim)

Q: Absolute

D: diminished relevance/importance in studying history when we should look to the future vs there is STILL a point in studying history even as we look to the future

K: any, Should

C: VUCA world, history in some areas may lose its relevance but there are still lessons we can take/learn from it so that we do not repeat the mistakes and strive towards building a better future for generations to come, also serves to ground us in trying times. However, harping too much on history hinders progress as we are still struggling to come to terms with our past, baggage we have to let go of in order to anticipate what is to come

**"Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it" – Winston Churchill**

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	Remarks
diminished relevance/importance in studying history when we should look	Societal and technological advancements have made past systemic issues seem less relevant >> we should look forward to new breakthroughs that advances humanity	There are people who purposely misinterpret history in a way that suits their narrative >> incites renewed hatred and violence for a particular group	See ChatGPT and given essay outlines for more elab and eggs  Being overly fixated on what happened in the past hinders growth and

to the future	<p>instead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-semitism was strife back in the 1930s but since then much progress has been made to stem such discriminatory views (eg in Germany, people are forbidden from doing the “heil hitler” sign and wearing anything related to nazism could land one in jail)</li> <li>• Industrial revolution + Renaissance era saw the transition from middle ages to modernity, challenging past ideas of classic antiquity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some unscrupulous politicians misconstrue history/ cherry pick certain parts of an event to prove their point &gt;&gt; followers fail to see the bigger picture behind the particular event &gt;&gt; poor decision making that leads to perpetuation of bias along ethnic/religious etc lines</li> <li>• Eg. Hitler capitalized on both existing and past fears of the german people to incite hate towards the Jewish, whom he blamed for Germany's defeat in ww1</li> </ul>	<p>development/ reopens old wounds &gt;&gt; further exacerbates/perpetuates biases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balkans in the 1990s re-weaponized historical grievances that led to a series of conflicts and bloodshed (see <a href="#">Yugoslav wars</a>)</li> </ul> <p>Overreliance on historical analysis may lead to flawed decision making because we tend to not consider changes in geopolitics/the world around us</p>
There is STILL a point in studying history even as we	It is imperative that we look back and reflect on past transgressions/ successes and strive to either emulate them or vow to never make the same mistakes >> forms the foundation	History serves as a guide for us to draw inspiration from and modify the methods used to curb/eradicate the spread of discriminatory behaviour that	Students learn about prominent activists for Black people's rights in school and the history behind key events that shape diversity in the US today

look to the future	of a brighter future for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Berlin wall came down in 1989 &gt;&gt; was once a symbol of communist oppression but now serves as a reminder that the walls we build up to divide a society can also be broken down &gt;&gt; foundations of a democracy that is still thriving today</li> </ul>	stemmed from past prejudices >> break them down in order to progress towards a more inclusive society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eg although there are still instances of blatant racism and xenophobia across the US, there are an increasing no. of ppl voicing their demands to eradicate racial inequality, sparking nationwide protests such as BLM and ALM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eg rosa parks, MLK &gt;&gt; fight for equality &gt;&gt; rights that should not be taken away easily</li> <li>Emancipation proclamation in 1865 that ended US civil war and declared all slaves were free &gt;&gt; Juneteenth</li> <li>“I have a dream that one day my 4 children will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character”</li> </ul>
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Qn 9) Consider the view that people imprisoned for crimes should lose all their rights.

Ref: Should criminals be given a second chance? (2018 TJC prelim)

Q: Simple polarity

D: criminals should lose all their rights vs criminals should not lose all their rights

K: imprisoned — prisoner

crimes — to do something wrong; to break the law

lose all their rights —

C: Negative stereotypes pertaining to inmates are still prevalent in certain sectors of society

**No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. (article 5 of the universal declaration of human rights)**

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
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<p>criminals should lose all their rights</p>	<p>they committed crimes regardless of severity &gt;&gt; deserve to be punished in accordance to the scale of their crimes which will involve taking away certain aspects of their freedom for them to learn their lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• criminals who committed grave offences such as drug dealing, child abuse /rape etc will be dealt in accordance to the law ie receive harsher punishment than those who committed minor offences</li> <li>• Cho Doo-Soon 57 y/o at the time of offence. he raped and SA an 8y/o girl in 2008 and caused her to sustain severe organ injuries. Cho Doo-soon was initially sentenced to life imprisonment but the sentence was reduced to 12 yrs bc he was drunk &gt;&gt; outrage from koreans — remain in prison for the rest of his life</li> <li>• restraining orders</li> </ul>	<p>political prisoners who oppose the government/regime live under harsh conditions &gt;&gt; barely fed adequate food nor are they allowed to have visitors; unsanitary living conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myanmar — those who oppose military government (the Junta) are thrown into prison</li> <li>• NK — prisoners are sent to work in labour camps and most do not come out alive due to lack of food</li> </ul>	
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<p>criminals should not lose all their rights</p>	<p>They are humans after all and thus deserve universal human rights, regardless of severity of crime (food, shelter, medical care) &gt;&gt; should be treated with dignity if we want criminals to turn a new leaf and better reintegrate into society and be able to safely return to their families</p>	<p>There is ongoing debate on whether the death penalty should be abolished — some argue that there are criminals (e.g. Ted Bundy, Huang na's murderer) whose crimes should not be excused and that they receive the full extent of punishment for their crimes which is the death penalty. HOWEVER, those who oppose the death penalty argue that it is not right to take someone's life in return for another &gt;&gt; option of life imprisonment, parole, or to receive the president's pardon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The infamous Hougang ritual murders whereby the 2 accomplices showed remorse for their actions as they were led to the gallows &gt;&gt; seeing their role of the crime, was it enough to warrant the death penalty? Or should all 3 be punished equally severely for</li> </ul>	
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		their involvement in the murder of children?	
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## Theme 2: The arts

Qn 1) To what extent is it important for students to study the humanities in school?

Ref: Consider the claim that the study of the humanities has little relevance in a technologically advanced world. (TJC 2018 prelims)

Q: simple polarity

D: it is important for students to study humanities in sch vs it is NOT important for students to study humanities in sch

K: important: vital, essential for development or holistic education

- Beneficial/desirable/preps students for work/develops interest and potential in a certain field/cater to individual interests

**Humanities: academic disciplines/subjects that require observing our surroundings and the study of human nature/culture/values**

- Subj that study aspects of human society, culture and liberal arts

C: Globalised, increasing number of pressing humanitarian issues that require solutions, tech-driven (STEM), humanities provides another perspective for students to view the same problem from different points of view (the human mind) other than just scientific facts. Humanities is about human mind, STEM is more technical application of concepts

- prepares students for a modern society where there is heavy emphasis on STEM skills, develop interests and competencies, fair assessment without disadvantaging any group of students, provide holistic/well-rounded education that equips students w skills and knowledge to navigate the modern world

Quote: J. Irwin Miller — “the calling of the humanities is to make us truly human in the best sense of the word”

	reason #1:	reason #2:	remarks/ additional pts
important for students to study	Allows students to gain a human perspective of viewing controversial societal issues >> be able to	humanities is the study of human behaviour and culture >> evokes sense of empathy in students and allows	Fosters national identity >> keeps students rooted to the country's core values and shared

humaniti in sch	<p>understand the intricacies of human nature and develops critical thinking skill since students will form their own opinion when applying the concepts learnt in humanities subs to real life situations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue of abortion/artificial wombs —&gt; scientific advancement, but is it ethical to do so? That's where humanities is relevant in considering the impact on different stakeholders for both issues</li> </ul>	<p>them to better understand how the world works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study about geography, learn about the effects of natural disasters, urban phenomenons and how they affect the livelihoods of people</li> <li>• History — study of human politics, learn from the mistakes made in the past to avoid repeating them in future (eg war, nuclear threats etc), understand the political and historical motivations behind why certain events took place (eg CMC, KW)</li> </ul>	<p>legacy in an increasingly globalised world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SG: SS is a compulsory subj for all secondary sch students &gt;&gt; teaches SG's core values, traditions and identity markers (what makes us Singaporean ) &gt;&gt; fosters patriotism and sense of belonging to SG, esp when there is severe brain drain in society where young talents are leaving for greener pastures</li> </ul> <p>Add on to pt 1: make btr decisions when diverse opinions and ideas are considered from both the humanities and sciences</p>
NOT important for students to study humaniti es in sch	<p>In this tech-driven world, STEM has better employment prospects (higher starting salary than humanities students) as it is a critical part of modern society (data</p>	<p>building up STEM knowledge is more practical in today's world where we are heavily reliant on scientific and technological advancements to</p>	<p>Jobs relating to the humanities are not as sought after as STEM careers</p> <p>Limited resources of schools/ other educational</p>

	analysts, scientists, doctors etc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Top 10 highest starting salaries in Singapore are mostly in STEM fields</li> </ul>	advance economically (esp true for developing countries where main priority is to have a thriving economy)	institutions to construct courses for a handful of people interested in the humanities; lesser demand for an education that does not specifically provide training for a job skill
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Qn 2) 'During difficult times, the arts are a waste of time.' How far do you agree with this statement?

Q: Simple polarity

D: the arts are a waste of time in difficult times vs not a waste of time

K: Difficult times — Crisis (economic/financial/political), distress, hardships  
the arts — visual and performing arts, literal arts (books, poems, music and dance, artworks, sculpture >> used to spread certain messages  
waste of time — useless/meaningless/pointless/unrewarding

C: Modern society, fast-paced, pragmatic, does not prioritise the arts, VUCA landscape, unpredictability, hyper-connected due to online platforms and social media (where different art mediums can spread)

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
the arts are a waste of time during difficult times	In times of crisis especially when government funds are limited, the govt may give less attention to or completely neglect the arts scene in society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During COVID, although more people were working at home, there was</li> </ul>	Under normal circumstances, most people would not consider the arts as a significant aspect of their lives as they are mostly work-centric >> arts take a backseat. (perceptions and viewpoints) However, during trying times, people's priorities would be to ensure survivability first. If they can barely ensure their own survivability,	

	<p>decreased participation in the local arts scene by 8% as no one could care less about the arts scene when they could not protect their own jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced funding from the government</li> </ul>	<p>how could they indulge in the arts?</p>	
not a waste of time	<p>the arts allows us to express ourselves and enable us to look up to others' work and find meaning in it &gt;&gt; source of comfort and reassurance during uncertain times &gt;&gt; emotional support for one to keep pushing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were impromptu karaoke sessions held by residents to cheer frontline healthcare workers on &gt;&gt; songs about resilience and unity (China and SG)</li> <li>• China — Gaokao season &gt;&gt;</li> </ul>	<p>Spread important messages of hope to people in times of war and economic uncertainty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ukrainian women painted images of sunflowers (is Ukraine's national flower) as a symbol of peace and optimism to encourage fellow Ukrainians to not lose heart whilst trying to escape the country</li> <li>• US — Great depression in late 1920s &gt;&gt; the federal govt hired more than 10k workers to create artworks of different mediums and styles throughout the</li> </ul>	<p>The arts are a method of calming people down during unexpected and unpleasant turn of events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the RMS titanic was sinking and as everyone was scrambling for the remaining lifeboats, a band on board the ship played classical music (nearer my god to thee) in an attempt to calm people down and to act as a form of reassurance that the passengers</li> </ul>

	students would often gather on school grounds at night and sing songs to encourage each other to never give up and is also a sign of unity	country (murals,theatre, fine arts, music,literature etc)	would survive the ordeal
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Qn 3) 'Fiction is enjoyable but of little value.' Is this a fair comment?

**Laughs in MDZS + Qian Qiu** – BL and historical sect politics rolled into one  
 Chance to analyze specific themes covered in such literary pieces (lmao its literally a web novel)  
 FANFICTION GOGOGOGOGO

### ***Theme 3: Mass Media***

Qn 1) In a free society, there should be no restrictions on the freedom of speech. Discuss.

Although freedom of speech is necessary as it is a fundamental element of a successful democracy, an entirely hands-off approach towards it may prove detrimental to society, especially if done so in the online world. Given the pervasiveness of the internet today, individual figures and groups with ill intentions may use it to perpetuate negative ideologies or speech online that incite feelings of hatred or animosity towards a certain group of people in a short amount of time. Moreover, these influential figures have a large following on social media, making it even easier for the public to be swayed by their flawed opinions, thus creating deep rifts in society that are hard to fix in the long run. For example, former United States (US) president Donald Trump took to social media platform Twitter to make a bold claim that the 2020 presidential election was "stolen" and that he should have won it by a landslide. Trump's controversial tweets about the supposedly "stolen" election incited thousands of his supporters to storm Capitol Hill on 6 January 2021, demanding that Trump be reinstated as president. French magazine Charlie Hebdo also came under fire for publishing racially offensive cartoons on the internet about the Prophet Mohammed and reinforcing several racial and religious stereotypes against Muslims, sparking a string of terrorist attacks in France and other parts

around the world against Muslims. These examples illustrate that by completely allowing free speech to take place online without putting guidelines in place, individuals have the right to express controversial or blatantly wrong opinions that may incite their followers to do the wrong thing, leading to violent clashes and social unrest throughout the country. Therefore, it is important to regulate freedom of speech in a way that does not entirely encroach on one's right to freely express his opinions and yet keep discussions in the online world civil and respectful. Only by achieving a balance between maintaining the right to free speech and being considerate of others' opinions can a free society be a successful one.

## Qn 2) Consider the view that the media encourages undesirable behaviour.

Q: cause-effect

D: The media encourages undesirable behaviour vs the media does not encourage undesirable behaviour

K: media — main means of mass communication (broadcasting, uploading, the internet, social media etc)

Encourages — promotes, advocates, pushing for

Undesirable behaviour — vices such as gambling, drug taking, cyberbullying (fat shaming, racism etc), anything that is not civilised

C: A society where almost every aspect of our lives is being heavily influenced by the media and the content we consume >> affects lifestyle choices and our way of viewing the world >> can lead to both positive and negative impacts

From the news to viral Tik Tok challenges, the media has become an increasingly ubiquitous part of our everyday lives. This phenomenon has had an impact on how we view the world and our interactions with others, both positively and negatively.

The media has been a platform for mass communications for the last two centuries and only recently have we seen the rise in online media which can be attributed to digitalisation and a shift in age demographics who engage the most with online media forms. While there have admittedly been instances where the media promoted negative social values or caused uncivilised online and offline behaviour, it is even clearer that the media transcends physical boundaries and enables people from all around the world to interact with one another. This has resulted in online communities of like-minded individuals and platforms where people can call out injustices within their respective societies and rally others around the world for a social cause. Therefore, in my opinion, the positive intended outcomes has far outweighed the undesirable behaviour as a result of exposure to the media.

	reason #1:	reason #2:	remarks/additional pts
The	proliferation of media	Anonymity of	Images on social media

<p>media encourages undesirable behaviour</p>	<p>in our daily lives &gt;&gt; we may consume content that is not beneficial/adversely impacts society, intentionally or unintentionally &gt;&gt; aka spread of false information that feeds on the fear of the masses to spread like wildfire online &gt;&gt; <b>FEAR MONGERING</b></p> <p>Eg: spreading of fake news in 2020 &gt;&gt; start of the pandemic, there was fake news that made false claims about the negative impacts of vaccination &gt;&gt; deterred people being vaccinated worldwide &gt;&gt; contributed to rising COVID/COVID death rates</p>	<p>social media emboldens people to cause harm to others in the cyberspace &gt;&gt; undesirable behaviour such as catfishing or online abuse (eg hate comments online, sasaengs stalking their idols wherever they go &gt;&gt; invasion of privacy)</p> <p>exposure to pornography or online illegal gambling &gt;&gt; cyberbullying &gt;&gt; increases rates of suicide or self-harm</p> <p><b>Expanded: ease of accessibility to violent or pornographic material &gt;&gt; impacts psyche (inner thought/feelings/mindsets) of viewers who are regularly exposed to the content &gt;&gt; COPYCAT BEHAVIOUR of aggression and objectification of women's bodies</b></p> <p>Eg. Uvalde, Texas school shooter, Salvador Ramos—earned the moniker “school shooter” when he</p>	<p>that show people having that “ideal body type” &gt;&gt; fuels envy and breeds discontent as people take extreme measures (eg diets) their bodies aren't accustomed to achieve the ideal standard of beauty &gt;&gt; result in ED (eating disorders) such as anorexia or bulimia</p> <p><b>Pervasiveness (presence) and reach of social media &gt;&gt; promote risky/thoughtless behaviour &gt;&gt; target young and IMPRESSIONISTIC ppl who want a quick way to be internet stars</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eg. Blackout challenge &gt;&gt; one chokes himself until he is unconscious &gt;&gt; may be fatal</li> <li>• Chroming: tiktok challenge where participants inhale toxic substances such as paint or harmful solvents. A 13-year old girl from Australia died recently because she inhaled deodorant as part of the challenge during a sleepover &gt;&gt; brain damage &gt;&gt; death</li> </ul>
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		was playing online games with other people. He also made over the top threats to women w graphic descriptions of rape and violence	
the media does not encourage undesirable behaviour	<p>also spread beneficial information that sparks change in societies, from fighting injustice to spreading vital information &gt;&gt; push for positive change in society</p> <p>Eg. #ARMYvaccinatedtoo — movement started by BTS's fans (ARMY) in which they shared their vaccination journey to persuade others around the world that the vaccination does not have adverse side effects as claimed by fake news sources &gt;&gt; more people will vaccinate</p> <p>Death of 23 year old Iranian Mahsa Amini quickly spread like wildfire on social media &gt;&gt; people around the world, not just in Iran, began protesting for change to the Iranian government's conservative laws to allow women more personal freedom</p>	<p>Allows people to connect with each other online and transcend physical boundaries &gt;&gt; can learn about other cultures around the world due to the media &gt;&gt; expand worldview &gt;&gt; a space for like-minded people around the world to connect with each other</p> <p>Eg. Rise of KPOP &gt;&gt; fans become increasingly interested in korean culture as they consume more korean content &gt;&gt; inculcate positive social values such as respect and humbleness</p>	<p>1st reason: encourages active citizenry &gt;&gt; cancels behaviour that is socially unacceptable AND shines a spotlight on worthy causes to inspire and rally people to take action (eg in 1st column)</p> <p>A space for like-minded people to connect for support from vocational and psycho-emotional to interest groups as the media is able to transcend physical boundaries to connect people globally, regardless of race, ethnicity or language</p>

	<p>BLM — a movement to protest the unjustified death of George Floyd at the hands of a policeman sparked protests across the america that spread across 20 countries via social media platforms. The protests eventually led to the policeman Derek Chauvin, who floored Floyd,to be held accountable for his actions. BLM eventually culminated in a bigger worldwide movement called All Lives Matter, which aims to end racism worldwide</p> <p>Sexual harassmet cases in Indoenesian universities &gt;&gt; professors involved suspended/fired</p> <p>Maharashtra, India: women cane cutters remove wombs after having 2-3 children by choice so that they won't get periods while working which mean taking leave &gt;&gt; dock pay. Men and women sold as a pair for easier management as well</p> <p>India:Activists and journalists report that married couples are hired as pairs so that they are easier to manage by plantation owners/contractors</p>		
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	>> suffer from subpar working conditions and sexual harrassment		
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#### Essay body paragraph

Certain celebrities are the top dogs of the entertainment industry today because they went through literal blood,sweat and tears in order to be successful and enjoy the fruits of their labour. These celebrities started out from humble backgrounds and a passion to bring joy to others using different forms of entertainment. The passion they had for entertaining others was what motivated them to keep pushing and to not leave the industry even though it may be physically and mentally demanding at times. Although naysayers would try to dissuade them from going down the path of becoming an entertainer because it is not worth their while or because they are not talented enough in their area of expertise, successful celebrities today learnt to not let such discouraging words hinder them from pursuing their dreams. As a result, they are able to emerge stronger and thus become renowned names in the entertainment industry. Famous Korean boyband BTS is a prime example of how perseverance and hard work always reap success. When the septet first debuted in 2013 under a small company, other musicians as well as the public would put down their music as “not hip-hop” and that the group would not make it big in the music industry. Fast forward ten years and many local and international accolades later, BTS has broken numerous records in terms of album sales and music streams on various platforms, and are adored by millions of fans, some of whom are celebrities themselves, around the world. Of course, none of their achievements would have been possible without the group’s tenacity,grit and passion for music that enabled them to push through even if they are unsure of what the future may entail. Therefore, through perseverance and passion for each aspect of entertainment, celebrities are able to reap the benefits of the work they put in when they first started out in the industry, making their achievements even more worthy of praise.

## Theme 4: Science and technology

Qn 1) To what extent should society encourage the widespread use of automation? (JC2 Common Exam 17)

Q: simple polarity

D: society shld encourage vs should not encourage widespread automation

K: encourage — to advocate

Widespread — used in many areas

Automation — Use of machines and computers that can operate w/o human control

C: society — need to mention key groups (govt, old, young, schools and workplaces etc)

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
society should encourage widespread use of automation	<p>Governments can make use of automation to resolve manpower crunch in certain aspects of society eg. Automated cleaning robots and servers</p> <p>Automation can also be employed as a way to maintain public health and safety</p> <p>Eg SG — given limited resources and declining manpower availability &gt;&gt; less people are willing to do blue-collared jobs &gt;&gt; manpower crunch in low paid areas of society &gt;&gt; use of automated robots to clean public areas such as MRTs</p> <p>Robot dog used in parks during COVID-19 pandemic to remind public to</p>	<p>enhances ability to innovate automation products that bring about convenience to our daily lives or allow us to focus on more important aspects of work instead of dealing with mundane admin duties &gt;&gt; already is a thing in many DCs</p> <p>Eg dispensing of medicine at pharmacies &gt;&gt; staff can pay more attention to patients</p> <p>Automation also does the heavy lifting for labour-intensive/ dangerous jobs &gt;&gt; does not risk human lives</p>	

	maintain 1m distance from each other >> safer alternative as compared to sending safety ambassadors down to physically maintain 1m rule as it poses a health risk to them and is physically tiring as well		
society should NOT encourage widespread use of automation	<p>ethical dilemmas that arise from increased usage of automation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployment of low-wage workers &gt;&gt; aggravates income inequality in DCs where automation is more widespread</li> <li>• Use of automation for unethical uses eg. Harmful weapons development/nuclear devt and testing &gt;&gt; breach of automation ethics</li> </ul>	High costs involved in spending on the development and maintenance of automation systems >> not every government/firm/individual can afford it	

Qn 2) Consider the view that we should welcome, not resist, the use of artificial intelligence in modern society. (JC2 Practice Paper 17)

Q: Simple polarity

D: we should welcome use of AI in modern society vs we should resist use of AI

K: welcome. — embrace

Resist — reject

Artificial intelligence — Use of machines and computers that can operate w/o human control

Modern society

C: modern society (how does AI meet and surpass our needs?) — fast paced, convenience is a must, highly automated  
 “Change is the only constant in our lives”

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
we should welcome use of AI in modern society	<p>The need for innovation to solve modern problems and allow for the further advancement of society “modern problems require modern solutions” eg. Manpower shortages, do the heavy lifting without putting human lives at risk, make more accurate predictions/test readings for humans &gt;&gt; make life saving medicine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Singaporean school teachers utilising AI platforms to better facilitate students’ learning</li> </ul> <p>AI also offers quick solutions to everyday inconveniences — eg we can easily Google how to fix a light bulb and we will have a multitude of ways to do so in a matter of seconds — CONVENIENCE and instantaneous answers</p>	<p>Need for scientific advancement in many industries today for a country to be economically productive and become more productively efficient (screams in econs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>However, this is something only developed countries can afford because developing, training and maintaining AI models is high cost and can strain govt budget of less developed countries &gt;&gt; lose out in the long run if they don't make such an investment now due to an increasingly automated world</li> </ul>	

we should resist use of AI in modern society	<p>over reliance on AI may lead to stagnation of the human mind and loss of creativity because we're not the ones innovating anymore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>students relying too much on ChatGPT for schoolwork will find it harder to think critically and lack basic cognitive skills needed for them in the workforce &gt;&gt; adverse impact on overall productivity &gt;&gt; loss of output and national revenue</li> </ul>	<p>Certain processes does not need the involvement of AI eg. hospice care, social work, education etc — must be an industry that require more human interaction &gt;&gt; AI can be a complement. but should not completely take over such jobs</p>	
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Qn 3) 'The results of scientific research should be made available to everyone.' How far do you agree? (A lvi 2022)

Q: Simple polarity

D: results should be made available to everyone vs should not be made available to everyone

K:

Results — outcomes, research findings/studies

Scientific research — Research conducted for the purpose of contributing towards science by the systematic collection, interpretation and evaluation of data in a planned manner

Made available — open viewing

Everyone — different stakeholders : individuals, family/community, society/govt, internationally

C: society that largely prizes facts and is one where scientific studies can impact our health and the way we view our environment

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
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results should be made available to everyone	<p>the public deserves to the full results of scientific research &gt;&gt; transparency in results and research methodology to prove that the study is a reliable and unbiased one &gt;&gt; serves the purpose of justice and can stop the spreading of fake news</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID vaccines were widely believed to have harmful effects to the human body but this theory has been disproved by medical researchers</li> </ul>	<p>something for future scientists to build upon, even easier if there is easy access to the findings of such studies &gt;&gt; sped up access of scientific breakthroughs</p>	<p>Could impact certain govt policies</p> <p>Promotes inclusivity &gt;&gt; scientists from LDCs are often not credited adequately for their role in research &gt;&gt; publish works &gt;&gt; more equal footing w scientists from DCs (levelling the playing field)</p> <p>Gives countries scientific know-how to combat infectious diseases (malaria, covid etc)</p>
should not be made available to everyone	<p>there are certain stakeholders who may misuse the results of research or even twist its results to paint a false narrative they want the public to believe or use those results to justify certain unforgivable crimes &gt;&gt; research being exploited to cause harm to others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological weapons</li> </ul>	<p>Jealous scientists in the research community may seek out to steal/fabricate results and pass it off as their own &gt;&gt; discredit the researchers who meticulously conducted research for the good of humanity (concerns over intellectual property laws)</p>	<p>some findings may not be entirely accurate or true and releasing it for open access to the public may lead to unsuccessful breakthroughs in medicine</p>

4. To what extent is artificial intelligence the answer to the world's most pressing problems? (JC2 Prelims)

5. To what extent is artificial intelligence replacing the role of humans? (GGE 19)



#### Qn 4) Do you agree that the digital age worsens the generational divide?

Q: Cause-effect (digital age >> generational divide)

D: Digital age worsens generational divide vs does not worsen generational divide

K: Digital age: a time where there is presence of tech in all aspects of our lives

Worsens: deteriorates, exacerbates young-old divide, aggravate, widens the gap between the young and old

Generational divide: differences in values, opinions, lifestyle etc between the youth and elderly

C: Younger generation hooked onto mobile devices and are more tech-savvy as compared to the elderly

Digitalisation >> elderly unable to catch up w current trends as fast as the younger ones do, but can also serve as a platform teach elderly basic digital literacy

	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
Digital age worsens generational divide	Younger generation exposed to more liberal values/beliefs that may directly contrast conservative values elderly may have >> conflicting values and beliefs >> exacerbates generation gap	Elderly lag behind the current trends in digitalisation >> unable to embrace new developments in digitalisation. Younger generation more used to it because they are <b>DIGITAL NATIVES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eg in thing now is e-payment/contactless payment eg. Paynow/Paypal, which the younger generation has easily incorporated into their lives. HOWEVER, older generation is more used to paying cash. With more stores transitioning to contactless payment only,</li></ul>	

		elderly will be unable to use certain goods/services	
does not worsen generational divide	Measures put in place by the govt to close the age gap by encouraging seniors to enrol for courses in CCs that coach them on the basics of using digital devices such as phones/ipads >> digital literacy >> facilities easier communication with younger generation	<p>Developments in medical technology &gt;&gt; increased life expectancy &gt;&gt; more ppl willing to learn, be productive and contribute to society's economic growth</p> <p>Firms must recognize that older workers are indispensable and just as valuable as younger workers in terms of expertise &gt;&gt; both can contribute differently to the company &gt;&gt; CREATE AGE-DIVERSE WORKFORCE &gt;&gt; bridge the age gap in society and change mindset towards older workers</p>	<p>add on to reason 1: SG progresses towards a smart nation &gt;&gt; need for elderly to be more tech-savvy to keep up w the times</p> <p><b>Mutual benefit of boot camps/community courses:</b> Seniors can learn tech skills to navigate the online world while younger generations also be more understanding towards elderly</p>

Qn 5) “We are scientific giants **but** ethical infants.” comment.

Q: Simple polarity

D: We are scientific giants but ethical infants vs we are scientific giants but NOT ethical infants

K: scientific giants, ethical infants

C: modern society – tech advancement has given rise to range of breakthroughs we can tap on to advance mankind >> eg AI, groundbreaking medical inventions, cybersecurity BUT there are instances where people misuse such forms of technology for their own gain/bring others down >> concerns over ethics, privacy issues, security and equity

DI	Reason #1	Reason #2	Remarks

## ***Theme 5: Government and politics***

Qn 1) Can the use of **violence** to achieve **political change** ever be **justified**?

Q: absolute word (ever)

D: Violence for political change is justified vs not justified

K: violence, Achieve, Political change, Justified

C: today

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
Violence for political change is justified	<p>Violence for political change can be seen as a "last-ditch attempt" if all other methods to curb such a change fails eg. Diplomacy and negotiations or peaceful demonstrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy of appeasement adopted by the allies at the start of WW2 to prevent Hitler from inflicting more damage in Europe because of his radical political views (about continuation of the Aryan race) &gt;&gt; diplomacy move.</li> </ul>	<p>the need to overthrow dictatorships/massive reform of a country's political system for the good of the country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towards the fall of the Soviet Union &gt;&gt; many uprisings against the one-party rule (communist rule) in Romania &gt;&gt; brutal clashes between govt and civilian forces to keep the political forces in power &gt;&gt; Romania became a</li> </ul>	

	<p>However, the policy emboldened the Nazi regime and that their war atrocities would be left unpunished &gt;&gt; start of ww2 &gt;&gt; critics blame the allies for not using harsher policies to nip in the bud and stop Hitler from committing his crimes against ethnic minorities in Europe</p>	<p>democratic state at the end of the day</p>	
<p>Violence for political change is not justified</p>	<p>violence is never the answer as it comes at great human cost &gt;&gt; violation of human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infringement of international law if the violence escalates to war and civilians are caught in crossfire &gt;&gt; war crimes (see russo-ukrainian war)</li> <li>• Alleged human rights violations by NK &gt;&gt; work camps, “education camps” to correct thinking of north koreans to treat</li> </ul>	<p>At the end of the day, change may not happen even after violence ceased because the message is not gotten across to those in power &gt;&gt; crackdown on dissent instead of reformation of the political system</p>	<p>To incite hate against one’s political enemy though means of violence is illegitimate and can breed resentment for the group who was deposed from power &gt;&gt; vicious cycle of conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• former United States (US) president Donald Trump’s controversial tweets about the supposedly “stolen” election incited thousands of</li> </ul>

	the Kim leadership like gods >> doing so through psychological violence		his supporters to storm Capitol Hill on 6 January 2021. They assaulted security guards at capitol hill and chanted violent slogans >> heightened simmering tensions in the country
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Qn 2) 'There is more to democracy than the right to vote'. Discuss.

Q: simple polarity

D: democracy is just the right to vote vs democracy is **MORE THAN** the right to vote

K: More to — equally important functions of a democracy (what other rights can the people exercise?)

Democracy — belief in freedom and equality between people; government system where power is held by representatives elected by the people

Right to vote

C: modern society's preoccupation with rights

One of the most prominent presidents of the United States, John F. Kennedy (JFK), once proclaimed that "democracy is not perfect, but we never had to build a wall to keep our people in." This statement was made in response to the instalment of the Berlin wall to separate East and West Berliners at the height of the Cold War in the 1960s. JFK's speech essentially entailed that democracy enables people the freedom of thought and movement and most crucially, the right to vote for who they want to represent them, something communist nations did not provide for its people, instead choosing to maintain its single-party rule. While opponents may posit that the

most crucial aspect being in a democracy is the right to vote, I believe that with the power to vote comes the responsibility to vote for the right people who will lead our country to greater heights and make lasting changes to a country's economic, social and political landscape. Therefore, there is more to a democracy than the right to vote as the implications of our single vote can make a ripple of change throughout our current and future society.

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
democracy is just the right to vote	The main function of a democracy is the ability to exercise one's rights through voting >> power is given to those who are elected by the people	issues of national concern and directly impact people's future are decided through referendums	
democracy is MORE THAN the right to vote	The core functions of democracy means people who are part of democratic institutions have the right to speech and are entitled to their own opinion and beliefs, something which the government is not in control of	with the right to vote comes the responsibility to ensure that those whom we vote for do not fail us which unfortunately has happened over the course of history and continues to prevail today	

Qn 3) How far is it possible for one country to forgive another for its past actions?

Q: Simple polarity

D: It is possible for one country to forgive another for past actions vs is not always/entirely possible to do so

K: forgive, past actions

C: must have a distinction between forgiving & forgetting vs seeking forgiveness for political gain (grey area). Factors that could affect the road to forgiveness & recovery of r/s:

- leadership change,
- changes in the political system
- how traditions and culture were affected by events

Impacts **relations** between countries!

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	Reason #3:
It is possible for one country to forgive another for past actions	<p>change in leadership &gt;&gt; opportunity for new policies/agreements/treaties to be signed that could revive relations (rapprochement efforts)</p> <p>sino-us r/s eg. Detente (temporary relaxation of strained r/s by agreeing to not use weapons against the other country), SALT treaty, sino-soviet summit towards end of CW,PING-PONG DIPLOMACY &gt;&gt; only made possible because of the leaders willingness to leave the past behind and pursue new diplomatic ties</p>	<p>the need to put aside differences/lingering disputes to achieve a common goal that would benefit both countries —</p> <p>Japan-US r/s rebounded after ww2 b/c of the need to limit growing communist sentiment in Asia</p> <p>Japan also has established extensive trade and bilateral rs with other SEA countries after ww2 (despite the atrocities committed eg. Sook ching, thai-burma death railway)</p> <p><b>After the Japanese Occupation of Singapore ended, Singapore wanted Japan to pay a 'blood debt' for slaughtering many Singaporeans. Japan agreed and Singapore was willing to forgive and forget as it was very business savvy and knew that building strong friendly ties is good for business.</b></p>	<p>Detente was also carried out for political gain (triangular diplomacy)</p>

<p>is not always/entirely possible to do so</p>	<p>ulterior motives — countries may only apologise because of international pressure &gt;&gt; not willing to take concrete action to make amends</p>	<p>the effect/impact past atrocities/wrongdoings have on these countries are deeply-seated in the affected country's history &gt;&gt; such suffering could have lasted for centuries &gt;&gt; thus it is hard for victims to forgive and forget and move on from the past</p> <p>British colonisation of Africa — took over land for crop cultivation and treated the africans like their slaves and exported slaves to different eu and us &gt;&gt; slave trade. However, britain continues to be a global superpower while some of the countries they colonised are still feeling the impacts of colonisation &gt;&gt; find it hard to forgive their colonial masters for the damage done and yet not have to be accountable for their actions &gt;&gt; when queen elizabeth II passed away, the ruling south african govt did not mourn her death due to the brutal history of colonisation (why should the oppressed mourn the oppressor?)</p> <p>eg. The jewel on the royal crown is actually a rare gem extracted from africa's mines</p>	<p>wrongdoers deny any involvement in atrocities/crimes they allegedly committed OR justify their actions but the other party thinks otherwise</p> <p>eg. Israel-Hamas war &gt;&gt; Israel claim that the occupation of Gaza is to take down hamas and exercise its right to self-defence but the palestinians and rest of the international community rebutted the claim, stating the escalating war as a "humanitarian crisis" and a "genocide"</p> <p>Japan-SK r/s — Japan's refusal to admit to wartime atrocities committed against the koreans during its 35 yr occupation makes it hard for both countries to reconcile and renew diplomatic relations ocide"</p>
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		<p>apartheid in south africa — the white minority ruling over the non-white majority in south africa for 46 years &gt;&gt; despite apartheid having ended so long ago, the socio-economic impacts are still felt by black south africans today. Today, 25 years post-apartheid, South Africa's population is over 75% black and only 9% white, yet the number of white South Africans earning more than \$60,000 a year is 20 times higher than the number of black South Africans (Klein, 2011 [website]). The majority of black South Africans still live in townships and informal housing throughout the country, and most work multiple jobs earning very little money, have little access to higher quality schools or health care for themselves and their children, and have few opportunities to move out of the townships.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Nanjing massacre during ww2 in china &gt;&gt; hindered dialogue and</p>	
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		<p>peace efforts (comfort women)</p> <p>north and south korea — differing ideologies led to the korean war that has yet to end to date &gt;&gt; north korean propaganda that south korea and the west are “imperialists” and that they are out to destroy the hermit kingdom &gt;&gt; hard to mend relationship between the 2 koreas</p>	
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Socio-political opposition/issues will hinder the pathway to forgiveness between countries

## *Theme 6: Economics*

Qn 1) How far should the rich be blamed for the plight of the poor?

**\*If the qn does not specify a certain period of time we shld look at (eg today, still, in the past) >> safely assume the time period to be in today's context.**

Q: Cause effect

D: rich should be blamed vs should not be blamed

K: Rich, Blamed, Plight, Poor

C:

### Intro

According to the United Nations (UN), one is said to be living below the poverty line if he or she is surviving on less than \$2.15 USD per day. Such a number may seem shockingly low to most of us, after all, in an increasingly consumerist society, what can we afford with only USD \$2? The short answer is: barely anything. However, nearly half the world's population, of which almost 1 billion are children, are living on or below the global poverty line, and if nothing is done, nearly 500 million more would descend into the depths of poverty. While there are some who assert that the poor themselves lament their plight yet still are unwilling to play their part to break the cycle of poverty, there are others who argue that the affluent and those who hold considerable power in society should be faulted for the dire situation the poor have to face every day. These people often hold important decision-making roles in the

government but yet seem to not put in much effort, if any, into improving the lives of the poor in the country. Therefore, in my opinion, the wealthy should be held accountable for their actions that have contributed to the plight of the indigent

Stand	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
The rich shld be blamed for plight of the poor	<p>Authoritarian/incompetent/corrupt govts taking top-down approaches in designing policies that are meant to benefit the poor when in reality it only benefits those in power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Govts may not be grounded enough to learn of the situation on the ground and understand the issues the poor actually face &gt;&gt; poorly designed policies</li> <li>US — medicare</li> </ul>	<p>The rich have the ability to buy and sell properties at exorbitant rates &gt;&gt; if the govt was a corrupt one or did not intervene to make housing affordable, the poor are denied the right to basic living accommodations through no fault of their own (disparity in purchasing power)</p> <p>History of colonisation — the colonial masters exploited the country's natural resources to the fullest such that when they left there was barely anything left for the natives of the country (esp prevalent in African nations)</p>	<p><b>POVERTY LINE</b> — surviving on 2 USD per family per day (abject poverty)</p>
shld not be blamed	<p>Fatalistic attitude of the poor &gt;&gt; notion that they will never be able to break the cycle of poverty &gt;&gt; choose to stay poor instead of trying to improve their livelihoods and SOL</p>	<p>there are ongoing efforts by the wealthier nations to help the poorer nations &gt;&gt; UNICEF, DWB (doctors w/o borders) &gt;&gt; free supply of food and healthcare and</p>	

		<p>other basic needs provided for through donations from people worldwide &gt;&gt; however, even though such NGOs are working around the clock to help the poor, it is still barely enough as it does not address the root cause of poverty — inequality and lack of education to bridge the inequality gap. if anything, these measures only serve to prevent the issue from worsening &gt;&gt; how sustainable is it in the LR?</p>	
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## Qn 2) Foreign aid **cripples** more than it **cures**. What is your view?

1/3 of world population faces food insecurity

Q — comparison (more than) (no comparison to be made here b/c the qn itself is already a stand) >> brief comparison

D — foreign aid cripples more than it cures vs foreign aid cripples although it can also cure

K — cripples;cures

C — **kind of world** we live in now that makes aid effective/not effective, aid under different modern contexts different types of aid rendered (medical, humanitarian, military, financial etc)

maslow's hierarchy of needs — by providing aid, what are we giving them? — fulfilling their physiological (physical) needs and providing sense of belonging + security to some ext

<p>foreign aid cripples more than cures</p>	<p><b>***Corruption</b> – why have so much &amp; which type of countries?</p> <p>it is unclear whether aid is successfully and equitably provided to the intended recipients of aid. Often times, when wealthier countries do provide aid, there is minimal follow through and what actually happens to aid is not within the donor country's jurisdiction anymore &gt;&gt; if govt of recipient country is corrupted, they may exploit such loopholes and keep most of the aid for themselves and let the rest trickle down to the masses whom the aid was originally intended for</p> <p>A new study has found that as much as a sixth of foreign aid intended for the world's poorest countries has flowed into bank accounts in tax havens owned by elites. (World bank 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official development assistance (ODA) as a tool of refining governance quality. It is also point worth noting that foreign aid (FA) recipient countries fails to promote more development and infrastructure due to poor governance of fund, which, in turn, reduces the amount of aid (International Monetary Fund, 2005) &gt;&gt; detrimental to the socio-economic stability of the recipient country</li> <li>• Moreover, it is also claimed that the financial assistance provided by the rich countries fail to fulfil the genuine needs of the recipient country due to ineffective public policies. Additionally, the corrupt governments are discriminated against for the flow of international aid. However, in actual, the FA received by the recipient countries induce more corruption by increasing the size of resources and the corrupt practices by the interest groups.</li> </ul> <p>Eg. middle east, within asia</p>
	<p><b>***Aid could be halted due to geopolitical tensions/certain significant events</b> Strengthen ties with another country (<b>diplomacy</b>) but there is a fear of damaging ties with other countries/fear of unknown internal situation &gt;&gt; more civil strife instead of helping to cure &gt;&gt; good intentions but unintended consequences</p> <p>eg. Give aid but it is limited &gt;&gt; people fight e/o to get aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However, the flow of Western aid to Ukraine looked uncertain in late 2023 as new funding measures were trapped in political logjams in both the United States and European Union. In the former, some \$60 billion for Ukraine has become tied into contentious debates over border security and Israel. Meanwhile, in the EU, leaders have wrangled over a fifty-billion-euro package for Ukraine, as well as the country's potential accession to the bloc, with Hungary mounting the primary opposition. (Council of foreign r/s)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaza — United nations relief and works agency for palestine (UNRWA)</li> </ul> <p>*** <b>Over Reliance on aid</b> — Aid after all is just temporary relief to help alleviate the impacts of crisis/disasters that put a dent in the country's operations, it is <b>not meant to solve a country's long term issues</b> (as seen by aid to african countries). Overreliance &gt;&gt; discourages self-sufficiency &gt;&gt; "Dutch Disease" &gt;&gt; The second aid is cut off, it will halt econ growth and many programmes that were available to assist the poor (social supp) due to aid will grind to a halt &gt;&gt; system crumbles down &gt;&gt; poor unable to receive aid anymore &gt;&gt; root cause of why aid is needed not addressed &gt;&gt; aid may not achieve full effectiveness  <b>(ie countries should not be over reliant on foreign aid)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dutch disease — concept that describes an economic phenomenon where the rapid development of one sector of the economy (particularly natural resources) precipitates a decline in other sectors.</li> <li>• Severe food aid cuts in Afghanistan in late 2023 are leading many mothers to undertake desperate measures, including sedation, to calm their hungry children. Over ten million Afghans have stopped receiving emergency food from the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) and other agencies due to funding shortfalls. Now, more than three million children are suffering from malnutrition, and over twelve million people are experiencing acute hunger. The two million households run by women in Afghanistan are disproportionately impacted by these aid cuts because the Taliban prohibits women from working, leading many women to rely on donations to feed their families.</li> </ul>
<p>foreign Aid cures (define cures)</p> <p><b>What will happen if no aid?</b></p>	<p>(EXAMPLE NOT REASON) Aid from international organisations goes toward funding programs that combat diseases like HIV/AIDS (e.g., Global Fund) or offer educational opportunities through scholarships (e.g., Fulbright program) &gt;&gt; can contrast pt on top</p> <p><b>Carry out contrast within eg also!</b>  eg. In 2022, WHO deployed HIV experts to 36 health facilities in 14 health districts in Cameroon East and Littoral regions. Around 200 health workers received training on various aspects of HIV care to be better prepared in providing treatment. In addition, more than 20 000 people were screened for HIV and, of the 590 who tested positive, 545 were put on treatment.</p> <p><b>Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):</b> Aid helps fund initiatives to address poverty, hunger, climate change, and other global challenges outlined in the SDGs.</p>

Eg kind of political, try to include others eg. poverty, health, basic needs, disaster aid  
CUT POINTS PLS TOO MANY >> then the lang more shun

Synthesised conclusion (nuance)

Can work both ways, except for certain circumstances if the situation is too political in nature. Even though the world is globalised and more interconnected, shld cont to be cautious when giving aid as it may worsen instead of help situation, unless when aid is needed for emergency purposes.

When should aid be provided?

Qn 3) “Foreign aid does not solve long-term problems.” To what extent is this a fair viewpoint?

When one suffers a chronic illness, medication such as painkillers are prescribed to keep the effects at bay. While a dose might alleviate immediate symptoms, it does not cure the underlying disease. Unfortunately, this is exactly how foreign aid operates: it acts as a painkiller to a host of long-term issues that plague a particular country or region but fails to solve the root cause of such problems. It should be noted that foreign aid manifests itself in different ways, ranging from life-saving humanitarian aid to developmental aid, all of which are essential to help a country get back on its feet. However, issues such as corruption and geographical proximity as to where aid is located hinder the extent of effectiveness of foreign aid as it does not go to those who actually need it. Therefore, while foreign aid can alleviate the impacts of certain long-term problems plaguing a country and help create a stable foundation for these countries to survive in the long run, it often creates a cycle of dependence, keeping developing countries hooked on temporary aid instead of building the internal strength needed for sustained growth.

Foreign aid does not solve long term problems	*** <b>Over Reliance on aid</b> — Aid after all is just temporary relief to help alleviate the impacts of crisis/disasters that put a dent in the country’s operations, it is <b>not meant to solve a country’s long term issues</b> (as seen by aid to african countries). Overreliance >> discourages self-sufficiency >> “Dutch Disease” >> The second aid is cut off, it will halt econ growth and many programmes that were available to
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	<p>assist the poor (social supp) due to aid will grind to a halt &gt;&gt; system crumbles down &gt;&gt; poor unable to receive aid anymore &gt;&gt; root cause of why aid is needed not addressed &gt;&gt; aid may not achieve full effectiveness (ie <b>countries should not be over reliant on foreign aid</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dutch disease — concept that describes an economic phenomenon where the rapid development of one sector of the economy (particularly natural resources) precipitates a decline in other sectors.</li> <li>• Africa, traditionally a food exporter, “lost its historic ability to feed itself”, precisely when donor agencies began to “smother Africa with project aid.” Many observers believe that the relationship is not accidental and that Africa’s economic deterioration, and in particular its tragic agricultural situation, was caused, in part, by “aid”. A 2014 study revealed that aid dependence has negative lingering effects on development for up to 15 years</li> </ul>
	<p>prevailing societal norms prevent the effectiveness of aid rendered (certain demographics may receive more aid than others)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women, the disabled, or other people discriminated in some way are more likely to recieve less aid (b/c of cultural practices, beliefs, conservative values that huinder women getting aid)</li> <li>• Severe food aid cuts in Afghanistan in late 2023 are leading many mothers to undertake desperate measures, including sedation, to calm their hungry children. Over ten million Afghans have stopped receiving emergency food from the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) and other agencies due to funding shortfalls. Now, more than three million children are suffering from malnutrition, and over twelve million people are experiencing acute hunger. The two million households run by women in Afghanistan are disproportionately impacted by these aid cuts because the Taliban prohibits women from working, leading many women to rely on donations to feed their families.</li> <li>• Yemen</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Unsustainable solutions:</b> Quick fixes like food handouts might address immediate needs but don't build long-term</p>



	solutions like functioning agricultural systems.
	<p><b>Conflict of interest arises</b></p> <p>In the face of global recessions, providers of aid would more likely prioritize the needs of their own citizens first before giving aid to poorer nations, resulting in inadequate or insufficient aid or aid that may arrive too late to alleviate a crisis</p>
	<p>foreign aid may solve long term problems, only if there are proper structures to ensure that the aid is employed in a proper way. → does not solve long term systemic issues that impede economic growth, such as corruption and poor economic infrastructures</p> <p><b>EG: The war in Afghanistan has led to a huge inflow of foreign aid, but while some of that money has gone on to meaningfully help genuinely needy people and to build public infrastructure, a large percentage of foreign aid has been diverted to corrupted politicians who have built business empires rather than to help the people (The Guardian, 2016). The Kabul Bank scandal stands out as an outstanding example, with US\$850 million disappearing from the bank through mysterious insider loans tied to many of the country's political elite.</b></p>
Foreign aid solves long term problems	<p>Provides a stable foundation for to help communities get back on their feet and thrive in a sustainable manner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Refugee Assistance:</b> The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) provides food, shelter, and other necessities to refugees fleeing war or persecution. This aid helps stabilize communities and allows refugees to rebuild their lives.</li> <li>● In 2022, WHO deployed HIV experts to 36 health facilities in 14 health districts in Cameroon East and Littoral regions. Around 200 health workers received training on various aspects of HIV care to be better prepared in providing treatment. In addition, more than 20 000 people were screened for HIV and, of the 590 who tested positive, 545 were put on treatment.</li> </ul>

	<p>Foreign aid has the ability to break down societal barriers and provide aid to those who need it the most across different demographics so that they are able to lead better lives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Education:</b> Programs that fund schools, train teachers, and provide learning materials can significantly improve literacy rates and educational attainment, especially for girls. This can lead to increased economic opportunities and improved health outcomes.</li> <li>● <b>Infrastructure:</b> Building roads, bridges, and irrigation systems can improve transportation, access to markets, and agricultural productivity. However, the long-term success of such projects depends on good governance and proper maintenance.</li> </ul>
	Increasing recognition for practical aid rather than just financial aid

Idea that foreign aid is like a crutch for countries to get back up on their feet and is a basis for countries to build on independently and become successful. However, if a country were to become overly reliant on foreign aid, it would only meet immediate needs instead of solving the root cause of the issue which eliminates the need for long term foreign aid

## Foreign Aid: Examples and Effectiveness

Foreign aid comes in many forms, and its effectiveness can be debated. Here are some examples:

### Humanitarian Aid:

- **Emergency Relief:** After natural disasters like earthquakes or floods, international organizations and wealthier countries provide food, water, shelter, and medical aid to affected populations. This can be highly effective in saving lives and alleviating immediate suffering.

### Development Aid:

- **Conditions and Transparency:** When aid comes with strings attached, like buying goods from the donor country, it can be less effective. Transparency and local ownership of projects are crucial for success.
- **Governance and Corruption:** In countries with weak governance or high levels of corruption, aid can be misused or mismanaged, reducing its impact.
- **Long-term vs. Short-term:** Building sustainable development takes time. Focusing on long-term goals like education and infrastructure may be more effective than short-term relief efforts.

Overall, foreign aid can be a powerful tool for alleviating poverty, improving lives, and promoting development. However, its effectiveness depends on a variety of factors, and ongoing efforts are needed to ensure aid is well-targeted, transparent, and used efficiently.

#### Qn 4) To what extent is consumerism beneficial to developing countries?

Q: Cause-effect (consumerism → benefits developing countries)

D: consumerism benefits developing countries vs consumerism DOES NOT benefit developing countries

K: consumerism — theory that increasing consumption of consumer goods is economically desirable

- Preoccupation of society w acquisition of consumer goods, excessive/unethical methods of production, apathy, ignorance of consumers

Beneficial — desirable, ideal/intended positive outcome

- Provide advantages for what is favourable to society

developing countries — NIEs (Newly Industrialised Economies) (BRICS), less developed countries that are on the rise

- Economies that have low income per capita, highly dependent on primary sector (eg agriculture, manufacturing), high rates of unemployment, low standard of living

C — Developing countries are focused on developing the economy so that it can be on par with the world's developed countries and enhance the standard of living for most people who are living below the poverty line. Developing the economy can be done through building more infrastructure to boost the economy, developing efficient methods of production to decrease the COP and increase allocative efficiency >> maximise societal welfare

- Globalisation, outsourcing of supply chains (imports and exports), rich-poor divide

	Reason #1:	Reason #2:	remarks
consumerism benefits	Formation of informal economies within slums in developing countries	Developing countries' populations	Consumerist boom in developed countries >>

developing countries	<p>that allow the low-income to get by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pag-pag in Philippines: scavengers would scavenge for food thrown out by fast-food outlets or restaurants either by collecting it directly from the owner or from landfills. The leftover waste is then cooked to get rid of bacteria or germs and consumed by the poor &gt;&gt; <b>small scale informal economies</b></li> </ul>	<p>receive basic education/illiterate BUT have a skilled manual labour force (things like manufacturing) &gt;. Given that many goods today require manual labour to a certain degree and the low COP in developing countries &gt;&gt; most companies would choose to manufacture their goods (or part thereof) in such countries, boosting the economy and creating job opportunities for more people &gt;&gt; <b>alternative to working as subsistence farmers w no paid employment &gt;&gt; upskill on the job and rise through the ranks to earn a decent living</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China – Apple microchip and other spare parts are manufactured there</li> <li>• Vietnam – Manufacturer of clothing brand Uniqlo due to its cheap</li> </ul>	<p><b>producers choose to outsource production to developing countries &gt;&gt; host countries will benefit from inflow of capital investment in infrastructure which the country can then use to enhance/improve economic growth</b></p> <p><b>Enjoy wider range of goods and services at AFFORDABLE PRICES for middle-class locals</b></p>
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		labour force	
consumerism DOES NOT benefit developing countries	<p><b>Intense competition</b> among developing countries to attract foreign investors/companies to set up businesses in the country because almost all developing countries supply the same kind of manual and manufacturing labour investors are looking for. However, some countries such as China, which has been rapidly developing economically and politically in recent years, has led to increased COP &gt;&gt; investors turn to other countries to produce their goods at cheaper cost (uniqlo shifted operations from China to Vietnam due to high cost of producing in China)</p> <p>Same thing, different POV: some countries have <b>more suitable climates or skills than other countries that investors are looking for to manufacture/grow products</b> &gt;&gt; choose to produce there because of the quality of the workforce/env &gt;&gt; certain countries can grow economically while others cannot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brazil has desirable conditions to grow coffee crops</li> </ul>	<p>Widen inequality gap between the rich and the poor: the rich keep buying while the poor are do not benefit from the rise in economic growth</p> <p>Does not break the cycle of poverty among the poorest in the country as children are now being sent to work as <b>child labour</b> in many developing countries to help their parents earn a living &gt;&gt; stuck with little education and menial skillsets learnt from young &gt;&gt; no means to pursue further education that would allow them to better contribute to the economy and better their quality of life</p>	<p><b>Violation of workers rights'</b></p> <p><b>Env pollution</b></p> <p><b>Global retailers are able to thrive while SMEs /other local businesses struggle to stay afloat</b></p>

	which are cash crops >> potential to contribute substantial part of the Brazilian economy		
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