

Section A Suggested Answer (MGS Prelims 2023)

- 1 Study Source A.
Do you think the cartoonist supports the American healthcare system? Explain your answer, using details of the cartoon.

Suggested Answer		Success Criteria
The American cartoonist does not support the American healthcare system (A) as he is mocking it. (A- using the tone/ sarcasm in the source) Source A shows the "poor, the black, and nursing home resident" as "COVID fatalities" with "underlying conditions." The cartoonist is critical of the limitation of the American healthcare system in responding to the pandemic. The high rate of deaths amongst the poor, African Americans, and nursing home residents was due to not getting their underlying medical conditions treated and being exposed to the virus infection. America's market-based approach is mainly based on private health insurance coverage that does not work well for lower-income individuals who cannot afford to get themselves insured and thus cannot access affordable healthcare.	•	ATQ
	•	Evidence (Describe the source)
	•	Explanation

- 2 Study Sources B and C.
How different are the sources? Explain your answer.

[6]

Suggested Answer		Success Criteria
Sources B and C are different in their pandemic-response strategies. Source B, Singapore adopted a more stringent lockdown/top-down approach (CC) to control the spread of the pandemic but (CW) Sweden's pandemic-response strategy focuses more on a less stringent/open/bottom-up approach (CC). Source B states that "the disruptions caused by containment measures have been especially stressful for low-paid workers. They had to forgo wages—or jobs—in order to care for their children when schools or childcare centres closed, and when they or their family members fell sick." (EV) This shows that Singapore relies on a government-dictated lockdown to contain the spread of the virus in the earlier phase. (EXP) However, Source C states that "it focused on voluntary measures" (EV) This shows that it was dependent on the people to want to act on it or not.	•	ATQ
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence x2 1 best line
	•	Explanation x2
Both (CW) sources are similar (A) in showing that the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened socio-economic inequalities. (CC) Source B states that "Staying safe comfortably, working from home and getting paid: these are marks of privilege, and out of reach for many lower-income families who lived in overcrowded conditions and faced mental health issues. Similarly, (CW) Source C states that "The pandemic has exposed social inequalities within Swedish society" between the healthy and the sick, the employed and unemployed. This reveals that the pandemic has exposed the rich-poor divide and made lower-income households, the sick, and unemployed even more vulnerable. Or Both (CW) sources are largely similar (A) in providing a balanced treatment of the importance of individual responsibility and government responsibility (CC) when responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Source B states that "The government led the way with four budgets for COVID-19 support measures. To flatten the virus curve, everyone had to assume responsibility for their personal safety, as caring for oneself was caring for the community." Similarly, Source C states that "To contain the spread of the pandemic, Sweden focused on voluntary measures regarding individual hygiene, social distancing, and travelling." and "Sweden relies on universal protection systems in protecting lives and livelihoods. Existing social insurance provisions were temporarily reinforced." Both sources show how	•	ATQ
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence 1 best line
	•	Explanation

individuals complement their governments in minimising the spread of the pandemic and how both governments help the vulnerable with financial support.		
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3 Study Source D. How useful is this source as evidence of the role of governments in responding to healthcare needs? Explain your answer. [7]

Suggested Answer		Success Criteria
Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always begin with USEFUL - "About" = Need to infer about the role of government using adjective - Successful CR requires proper LOR → Reliable therefore useful/unreliable therefore less useful 		
Source D is useful (A) as reliable as supported by E (LOR) as evidence about the important/ crucial role of governments (Inference about role of govt) in making healthcare available for all citizens. Both (CW) suggests that the role of government is crucial. (CC) This can be seen from C that "all governments must immediately resume and accelerate efforts to ensure every one of their citizens can access health services without fear of the financial consequences". (EV) This tells me that governments need to put in place a system to ensure that the low-income groups are not deprived of receiving healthcare support. (EXP) Similarly, E says "Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat when he announced the Solidarity Budget, Singapore's third fiscal package—out of five, totalling \$100 billion in pandemic support measures."(EV) suggesting that the role of government is important in helping to ensure that their is money to support the ones who need it during the pandemic. (EXP)	•	ATQ + LOR
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence x2 1 best line
	•	Explanation x2
NO CR TO SHOW GOVT ROLE IS UNIMPORTANT / INSIGNIFICANT		
Useful: Purpose/ Explained Provenance Source D is useful (A) as evidence about the role of governments in responding to healthcare needs as the WHO Director-General speaks with authority.(LOR) As it is a WHO Director General speech (D1) he would be proving findings that were well researched and data backed hence making him reliable (EXP1) Source D states that "Even before the pandemic, half a billion people were being pushed or pushed still further into extreme poverty because of payments they made for healthcare." This means that the WHO Director-General has access to data/findings about how the pandemic has made it even more challenging for the vulnerable in countries to have access to affordable healthcare. As WHO, they would want countries around the world (A) to address the severity / pressing issue brought about by the pandemic (A) hence they would need to stress on the severity of it (M) by showing data about the situation (M) so that countries will feel pressured (F) and get to action in order to resolve the issue. (A) Hence will be giving them the accurate situation that requires governments' attention.(EXP)	•	ATQ + LOR
	•	Details from provenance D1, D2, D3
	•	Explanation of how it makes the source reliable therefore useful EXP1. EXP2, EXP3

4. Study Sources E and F. Having Source E, are you surprised by Source F? Explain your answer. [7]

Suggested Answer		Success Criteria
Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Para 1: Must use both sources given → compare E & F - Para 2: Should move on to higher level skills like CR of main source / Explained provenance 		
Comparison of E and F	•	ATQ + LOR

<p>After reading E, I am not surprised by F (A), as F is expected as E supports F (LOR). E and F both (CW) suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened socio-economic inequalities in Singapore. (CC) Source E states that the pandemic “aggravated socio-economic fault lines along class” and “The public and policymakers are aware of the spotlight on inequalities, ‘invisible populations’, and ‘digital divides’”. Similarly, Source F also shows the inequalities between higher and lower-income households in Singapore during COVID-19 pandemic. The lower-income family is standing on fewer gold coins symbolising lower income and they are sinking in a sea of virus. Source F is not surprising as the pandemic has exposed the vulnerable groups even more when jobs especially in the services and retail sectors were lost. This resulted in the loss of income and lower standard of living that affected their well-being.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>After reading E, I am surprised by F (A) as F is unexpected as E refutes F (LOR). F suggests that lack of unity (CC) but (CW) E suggests solidarity during the pandemic. (CC) Source E states that “numerous community efforts to aid migrant workers, lower-income households, seniors, and more during the pandemic”, and “What matters is how to improve the lives of all residents where the government and people will look out for the least among us.” This suggests that Singaporeans were united in looking out for each other during a crisis and reaching out to the vulnerable groups by sharing resources and providing a network of support. However, Source F reveals the social division between the higher-income household and the lower-income household. Source F shows a student in a higher-income household using a computer during a lockdown. It also shows his father in formal office attire using a mobile device to continue working online and his mother in exercise attire. In contrast, the lower-income family is standing on fewer gold coins symbolising lower income and they are sinking in a sea of virus. They look hapless. This implies the lack of social cohesion that is worsened by the pandemic. It reveals that the higher-income households live comfortably with access to more resources whereas the lower-income households have limited access to resources and are stuck in poverty.</p>	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence x2 1 best line
	•	Explanation x2
<p>Cross referencing of main source F</p> <p>After reading E, I am not surprised by F (A) as F is expected as it is supported by Source B.(LOR) Both (CW) F and B suggest that social division/ lack of unity during the pandemic. (CC) This can be seen from F which shows a student in a higher-income household using a computer during a lockdown. It also shows his father in formal office attire using a mobile device to continue working online and his mother in exercise attire. In contrast, the lower-income family is standing on fewer gold coins symbolising lower income and they are sinking in a sea of virus. They look hapless. This implies the lack of social cohesion that is worsened by the pandemic. It reveals that the higher-income households live comfortably with access to more resources whereas the lower-income households have limited access to resources and are stuck in poverty. Similarly Source B says “Staying safe comfortably, working from home and getting paid: these are marks of privilege, and out of reach for many lower-income families who lived in overcrowded conditions and faced mental health issues.” suggesting that there is a divide between the high and low income in society during the pandemic.</p>	•	ATQ + LOR
	•	Common Criteria
	•	Comparison word
	•	Evidence 1 best line
	•	Explanation
<p>Possible highest levels have to include the holistic use of provenance, context</p>	•	ATQ + LOR

<p>and content (L5/6)</p> <p>Highest level: 4W3V of F + in the context of E (make connection to E)</p> <p>After reading E, I am not surprised by F (A) as E and F happened at different times. (LOR) F is in 2021 where COVID measures have just eased, but social gatherings are still capped(When) and hence as a Singapore news website (Who), it is expected that they want to show the glaring difference between the high vs low income households and how the difference in coping with the pandemic (WHAT) so that they can pressure the Singapore government to provide more for the low income families (Why) and allow them to regain a better quality of life (Exp). Hence having read E, F isnt surprising because E is the response to the problems raised in F. E happened in 2022 when the pandemic has come under control, (Exp context of E) and people's lives are back to normal. Hence, it is unsurprising that in E in 2022, the news website would be focused more on recounting the Singapore's COVID story and stressing on continued solidarity and unity in response to the problems during the COVID period, such as " The public and policymakers are aware of the spotlight on inequalities, 'invisible populations', and 'digital divides' "and affirming what was done to resolve these Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat when he announced the Solidarity Budget, Singapore's third fiscal package—out of five, totalling \$100 billion in pandemic support measures."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details from provenance Who, When, What, Why 4W3Vs + include context of E if possible • Explanation of how it makes the source expected/unexpected and thus not surprising/surprising.
<p>'Individual effort is the best way to survive a pandemic.'</p> <p>Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]</p> <p>Note: Agent Question → AWBRS</p> <p>Agree: Disagree: A (Indiv), B (Indiv), C (Indiv), E (Groups)</p> <p>Suggested Answer</p>	<p>Success Criteria</p>
<p>I disagree as A (A) suggests that individual effort is not the best way. Instead, A suggests that government efforts (W) is the best way because A shows US Healthcare needing to take care of the COVID fatalities with underlying issues such as poverty, black and nursing home residents. (B) It needs to be the government efforts as only they have the authority to allocate more resources to help the neglected and lower income groups in society. (r)By doing so, more resources and help can go to these groups (S) , they would have the resources and ability to afford the measures to manage COVID such as buying masks and going for vaccination. (S) Reducing the chances of them contracting COVID and dying as a result. (S)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATQ
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best evidence 1 line
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason why
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence of outcomes beyond source (S1→ S2→S3)
<p>I agree (A) as C suggests that individual effort is the best way (W). This can be seen from "Sweden focused on voluntary measures regarding individual hygiene, social distancing, and travelling.(B). Individual effort will be the best way as only they have the decision making power to decide if they want to mask up, take extra care of their hygiene, sanitise and distance themselves and avoid crowded spaces. (R) By doing so, they can reduce the chance of contracting COVID, (S) reduce the chance of spreading to others around them, (S) reducing number of COVID casualties. (S)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATQ
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best evidence 1 line
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason why
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequence of outcomes beyond source

		(S1 → S2 → S3)
<p>I disagree (A) as E disagrees and suggests that government efforts is the best way (W). E says, "DPM Heng Swee Keat when he announced the SOLidarity Budget, Singapore's 3rd fiscal package of 5, totalling 100 billion in pandemic support." (B) Government efforts are the best because only have the resources to reach out to the many affected in SG, such as the migrant workers, low incomes, seniors and people who lost their jobs as a result. (R) By doing so, the more affected in society can receive help they need to carry on with day to day life (S). Able to maintain a decent standard of living and stay more resistant to COVID. (S) This will minimise the spread of the virus to the people around them (S) reducing number of COVID casualties. (S)</p>	•	ATQ
	•	Who
	•	Reason why
	•	Best evidence 1 line
	•	Sequence of outcomes beyond source (S1 → S2 → S3)
<p>I agree (A) as B agrees that individual effort is the best way (W). This can be seen from "everyone had to assume responsibility for her personal safety as caring for self was caring for the community.(B). Individual effort will be the best way as only they have the decision making power to decide if they want to mask up, donate resources such as food, masks, reach out to the less fortunate in society, sanitise and social distance themselves and avoid crowded spaces. (R) By doing so, they can increase the chance of the less fortunate to receive help and measures such as masks, kits, and food to ensure continued well being (S). This will reduce the chance of contracting COVID, (S) reduce the chance of spreading to others around them, (S) reducing number of COVID casualties. (S)</p>	•	ATQ
	•	Who
	•	Reason why
	•	Best evidence 1 line
	•	Sequence of outcomes beyond source (S1 → S2 → S3)
<p>Possible bonus must be tagged to specific sources Note: every bonus attempt must be linked to a source, and not writing about integration in general.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contextual Knowledge B can be used to agree with the claim because based on my contextual knowledge, Singapore did have several fiscal packages where they used to extend help to households. This can be seen in the COVID test kits, masks, hand sanitisers which we received from the government. Also vaccinations were free and extended to everyone in the country, reinforcing what the source said about COVID 19 support measures by the government. - RELIABILITY/ SUFFICIENCY/ UTILITY - Balanced Conclusion/ resolution Ultimately, a balance of international, government, community, and individual efforts is the best way to survive a pandemic. Surviving a large-scale pandemic requires a concerted effort with targeted measures from international organisations, government, local community, and individuals when responding to the greater socio-economic diversity caused by it. As suggested in Sources B, C, D, and E, individual effort alone is not the best way in surviving the pandemic. Pandemic response strategies have created tensions between public health measures and the socio-economic inequalities that come with them. Thus, a collaboration of international organisations, government, local community, and individuals is the best way to manage the trade-offs of pandemic response strategies. This will help improve citizens' life circumstances, especially for the vulnerable groups, and also enable them to experience social mobility. 		

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

7

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

Explains ONE OR TWO REASONS

5 - 7

Award 5 – 6 marks for 1 reason explained

Award 6 – 7 marks for 2 reasons explained

Note: Accept feasible, logical strategy, strategies should have details

One reason why Singapore needs to strengthen our food resilience is because Singapore is a small city-state with limited resources, (D) with only 1% of land available for food production given the many competing land needs. Currently, less than 10% of Singapore's food is locally grown. Hence, Singapore came up with the 30 by 30 - Our Food Future to overcome the land and resource constraints, there is a need to innovate and increase our capabilities to increase local production. (E) By doing so, we will be able to have our own supply of food (O) Even in crisis we would be able to feed our ourselves (O) Singapore will be able to sustain itself instead of worrying about the loss in food supply (O) ensuring the well being and that the people's needs are met. (O)

Another reason why Singapore needs to strengthen our food resilience is because Singapore is heavily reliant on imports for our food. Over 90% of Singapore's food is imported from overseas. For example, during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, global supply chain fallouts have led to an increase in frequency and scale of disruption in food supply.(E) This leaves us exposed to external forces, from supply shocks in source countries to disruptions in global supply chains. Hence, there is a need for Singapore to strengthen our food resilience through diversifying or local production (O) to ensure that we are not susceptible to geopolitical conflicts and we can be self-sustained. (O)

- 7 Extracts 2 and 3 highlight the preventive and responsive measures in managing transnational terrorism. [8]

Do you think preventive measures are more important than responsive measures in managing transnational terrorism in Singapore? Explain your answer.

3	<p>Explains factors Award 5 – 6 marks for explaining one factor Award 6 – 7 marks for explaining second factor</p> <p>Preventive measures are important in keeping Singapore safe because it serves as a deterrence against potential transnational terrorist attacks (D). Preventive measures include effective border controls. For example, in Singapore, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) invests in specialised capabilities like biometric technology and radiographic image analysis to better identify people who enter and leave Singapore at her borders. (E) Hence, when the terrorists know that surveillance is enhanced at the borders (O1), potential terrorists would not be so bold to carry out their attacks (O2) and this would help prevent the carrying out of operations (O3) and thus, prevents a disruption to normalcy and prevents loss of life and damages in Singapore (L).</p> <p>Responsive measures are important in helping to manage transnational terrorism in Singapore too. This refers to dealing with damages or harm brought about by transnational terrorist acts (D). For example, in Singapore, frequent exercises are conducted by Singapore Police Force and Singapore Civil Defence Force to test their contingency plans for potential terrorist acts, such as Exercise Heartbeat and Exercise Northstar which are carried out at crowded places or important interchanges such as Raffles Place MRT station. Our internal effort ensure that our defence forces are prepared and know what to do in the event of a terrorist attack (O1), and this reduces panic amongst citizens (O2) and our defence forces will be able to respond more effectively and efficiently (O3) and thus, keeping disruptions to society, damage and loss of lives low (O4), managing transnational terrorist attacks. (Link)</p>	<p>DEOL</p> <p>Eg needs to specific Name + 2 details</p>
4	<p>L3 – 2 factors explained + Weighs factors</p> <p>Accept any conclusions that are valid.</p> <p>I disagree (Stand)that preventive measures are more effective than response measures in managing transnational terrorism. I feel that for transnational terrorism to be effectively managed in Singapore, both preventive and responsive measure are different and as such <u>equally important</u> (Stand). If Singapore has equipped herself with all the preventive measures to deter a potential terrorist from stepping into the country but has no proper responsive measures in place, her nation will not be able to respond or react swiftly and appropriately in an emergency, making it easy for transnational terrorists to be in control of a hostage situation, causing heavy damages. These response measures would also be paramount to allow Singapore to bounce back from attacks and recover to normalcy as quickly as possible. In the same way, Singapore can have all the responsive measures in place but if she</p>	8

	does not ensure and upgrade her national security measures, Singapore will be an easy target for transnational terrorists.	
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