



Suggested answers to 2015 O level Combined Humanities (Social Studies) 2204 Paper 1

2a) The principle “Leadership is Key” builds the people’s confidence in the government in Singapore as it assures people that the country is in good hands. The Singapore government goes to extreme lengths to choose only the best leaders for our country. For example Mr. Lee Kuan Yew putting right leaders like Goh Chok Tong, S Dhanabalan as ministers. These leaders are recognized to be those with capability and have high moral standards. This would especially include honesty, which is regarded highly among leaders of Singapore. Honesty in leaders is crucial to allow the country to remain incorruptible. This in turn will instill confidence in the people as they know the government can be respected and trusted with their affairs. Another aspect of leadership that the Singapore government focuses on is the ability to make the right, not only popular, decisions for the country. The government has realized the importance of making unpopular decisions for the sake of the country’s growth. As such Singaporeans will know that the government always has the best interests of the country, at heart. This will cause them to have increased confidence in their leaders. Thus, the principle “Leadership is Key” builds the people’s confidence in the government in Singapore as it the people are aware that the country is helmed by capable and well-intentioned individuals.

2b) Another principle of governance is to “Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant” and it builds confidence in the government as it assures the people that our country never loses out in competitiveness. The Singapore government focuses its policies on being forward-looking to anticipate future challenges. One good example of this would be our efforts to become self-sufficient in its water supply. Currently, Singapore is getting its water from Malaysia. However our leaders are only too aware of the impending end of the water agreement in 2061. As such with a need to become self-sufficient, the government has made plans to produce NEWater, which is produced by processing sewage water, and desalinated water. The fact that the government pushed ahead with the production of these alternatives, sends a very strong message to the people; the government will do anything it its power to allow Singapore to remain self-sufficient and competitive such that the growth and status of our country will not be affected. This instills confidence in the people because they know that the government is anticipating the challenges that we cannot foresee now, to build a better place for the next generation of Singaporeans to live in. As such, the principle of governance is to “Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant” and it builds confidence in the government as it gives hope to the people that their children will have a better place to live in.

The next principle of governance is “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” and it builds confidence in the government as it assures that each and every individual in the country is appreciated for the work that they do. The key idea of meritocracy in this principle aims to reward hard work and talent in the nation. The idea of reward for hard work encourages people to do better. Some examples of how these rewards are given include the, Edusave Scholarship and Merit Bursary schemes which reward the top 10-25% of students in schools and Institutes of Technical Education. This builds confidence in people because they know that the opportunities they are awarded are because of their own efforts and not because of their race, religion or socio-economic background. As such it ensures that the children of the underprivileged can compete on level ground with children from more affluent families. The introduction of the Progress Package in 2006, aimed to include more aspects of the people’s contribution under meritocracy. Under this scheme, the earnings of Singapore are equally shared among all, the elderly are aided to meet healthcare needs, low-wage workers are rewarded, low income households are receive help for living expenses, there is investment



in the next generation and the contribution of NSmen are recognized. This sense of equality creates confidence in people because they know that they are not left out and that the country cares for them equally. As such the principle of governance is “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” as it shows people that they have an equal chance to improve their lives under the leadership of the Singapore government.

Out of the two, the principle of governance is “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” can be said to be more important as it directly affects the lives and mentality of the people. People need to be encouraged to do their part to improve the country and to be shown that their efforts are appreciated. In order to do this, they must believe that they have a chance at succeeding. The principle of “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” does exactly that. Prove to people that the only thing that stands between success and failure, is themselves. This mentality will push them to work hard and in turn boost the country’s productivity, allowing for economic growth. The principle of “Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant” is also important, however I would say that it is secondary because in a small country like Singapore, where people are our main resource, we need to find ways to maximize the potential of that resource. Although “Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant” gives opportunities for workers to improve themselves, if the mentality to want to improve in order to reach success is not there, there will be a lack of results. Thus the principle of governance is “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” can be said to be more important.



3a) Lack of voting rights caused conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland as it increased the differences between the two religious groups. Before 1969, only those who had ownership over houses and businesses could vote. Each household was allowed 2 votes while companies were allowed more votes. The existing socio-economic gap at that time ensured that the richer Protestants, who owned more companies, received a larger portion of voting rights. In addition, the voting districts were drawn up such that a larger proportion of Protestants were included, thus overpowering the poorer Catholics in the region. As such it was inevitable that the Catholics felt extremely resentful at being unfairly treated. They felt that they were not given equal rights for voting thus causing a vicious cycle which would again lead to lack of improvements in lives of Catholics, due to the ruling government favouring Protestants. Eventually they decided to protest against the voting system. As such lack of voting rights caused conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland as it proved to the Catholics that they needed to fend for themselves either through protests or fights.

3b) Another cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland is the lack of opportunities for social interaction as it ensured that the 2 social groups never understood each other. Northern Ireland's education system ensured that fully funded public school's only catered to Protestants while private schools catered to the Catholics. Protestant children are taught to identify themselves as from British culture through learning British sports and history. Catholic children on the other hand learn Irish language, history and culture. They regard Britain as a foreign country. The difference in educational standards ensured that the young of the country can never see eye to eye. Both sides learn to learn and value different things such that they never could work together or agree on a certain issue. They viewed each other as foreigners and not as citizens of the same country. Also the separation of residential areas ensured that these differences remained as the children were unable to make friends who were not of the same religious ideology as them. The reduced opportunities for social interaction escalated the conflict as the two groups could never have opportunities to understand where the other was coming from. As such the lack of opportunities for social interaction was a cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.

Divided loyalties were also a cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland as it was so deeply ingrained in the minds of people that they were unable to think otherwise. Protestants and Catholics had inherent differences in political beliefs on top of religious beliefs. Most Protestants wanted Ireland to be part of Britain while Catholics wanted it as a separate nation. The Protestants and Catholics were driven by their personal interests, which led to the division between the two groups in the countries. Protestants wanted a pro-Protestant country while Catholics identified themselves as Irish and resenting the English conquest of Ireland, refused to accept integrating Northern Ireland as part of Britain. As both sides had different interests, it led to them trying to take over control to see who would be the last one standing in the fight over conflict of interests. This division between them ensured that it was impossible to solve the problems between the two groups, as there was no mutual understanding between both groups and sought to achieve different goals. It ensured that both sides did not compromise on their stance and continue to fight for their cause, escalating the conflict. As such, divided loyalties were a cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.



In conclusion, between the two reasons, it would seem that divided loyalties was a more important cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland than the lack of opportunities for social interaction as it was the main cause of the conflict. Divided loyalties were the root of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Due to the divided loyalties, the Protestants and tried to ensure that their children, and social groups in particular, remained painfully aware of the inherent differences between the 2 groups that would have a long lasting impact. If there were no divided loyalties between the two groups, there would naturally be more understanding between the groups and therefore they would be more willing to interact hence minimizing the problem of having a lack of social interaction. This would also mean that the groups could see eye to eye. Therefore since divided loyalties were the fundamental reason for the tensions between the two groups it was hence a more important cause of conflict.



4a) Nurturing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) help Singapore to maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world as they contribute greatly to the Singapore's economy. SME's are important to Singapore as they form a large percentage of the businesses here. As such the Association of Small Medium Enterprises (ASME) was set up to provide assistance to SME's. New companies are granted tax exemptions by the government on their first \$100 000 income up to three years. SME's are the key providers of jobs to many Singaporeans and also support the operations of TNC's by supplying parts of goods needed for manufacturing. This means that they play a key role in enhancing the manufacturing and services hub. It is important for Singapore to keep their competitive edge, amongst other countries in these industries to sustain economic growth. As such the importance of SME's to bigger companies and industries make their presence crucial in Singapore. Thus it is important to nurture these SME's such that they do not lose out in terms of competitiveness, which might eventually lead to a strain in the economy.

4b) Another way in which Singapore can maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world is to diversify the economy as it enhances our competitiveness. Singapore is venturing into various areas, which require technology-intensive and high value-added services. More specifically it has expanded into Life-Sciences and setting up supporting institutions such as A*STAR (Agency for Science, Technology and Research) to build up Singapore's Research & Development capabilities. On top of that it also aims to be a regional hub for services such as education and tourism. By honing our skills in various aspects of the industry, we ensure that the economy does not face the risk of dying out if any one industry faces a downturn. Moreover, given our limited resources, it would be unwise to only focus on one industry. As such the Singapore government has realized that even if they focus on one industry for the time being, other industries must also be given opportunities for growth, to boost the economy. This can be seen by how Singapore has built the Integrated Resort (IRs) in attempts to stay competitive, despite a lack of natural attractions, in the tourism industry. Yet they also invest heavily in the education industry to attract talent from all over the world to have a chance at quality education in Singapore, while contributing to our growth. This diversification allows Singapore to enjoy economic growth and would not be possible to do so by focusing on only one main industry. As such, Singapore can maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world by diversifying the economy.

Singapore can maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world by managing resources efficiently as we are a country with limited resources. Singapore aims to develop its main resource, the people, to the best of our abilities such that we contribute to the economy. The government can invest in the people by promoting local entrepreneurship and technopreneurship. As the business competition in a globalizing world increases, the government's need for entrepreneurs who are willing to take risk, increases, as they are needed to compete with foreign companies. For example, Kenny Yap, the Chairman of Qianhu fish farm was a successful entrepreneur whose business contributed to the economy. Through agencies such as the Workforce Development Agency (WDA) The government also can encourage workers to continue upgrading their skills even with the change in job scopes, due to globalization. This ensures that no worker in Singapore is left out in his contribution to Singapore's economy. This will also maximize the use of manpower resources in Singapore as the workers are continuously trained to meet up with the demands required in the ever-changing world. As a small nation facing an aging population, to compete in a globalizing world, Singapore needs to find ways to increase its manpower needs and new skills in a knowledge-based economy. Singapore can attract more foreign talent to enhance ties with



foreign contacts overseas thus creating more business opportunities. This will in turn lead to an improvement in the economy as these opportunities will allow for growth and development. As such, Singapore can maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world by managing resources efficiently.

In conclusion, it would seem that maximizing opportunities in a globalizing world by managing resources efficiently would be more important than diversifying the economy. Without being able to manage what we already have properly, Singapore would have little to no use in diversifying the economy. Singapore is a country with many limitations and recognizing these limitations and realizing the next step in managing them is crucial before stepping out to interact with the globalizing world. Managing resources efficiently ensures that we have a strong foundation and a fully capable workforce and environment that can contribute generously to our next step in plans, which could be to diversify the economy. As such seem that maximizing opportunities in a globalizing world by managing resources efficiently would be more important than diversifying the economy.



SOURCE- BASED QUESTION

1a)

The message of the cartoon is to tell us that terrorism is in the process of being exterminated. This can be seen from the source that terrorist leader, Osama, has been fatally injured and that a helicopter is headed towards the tower named Al-Qaeda Terror. This means that the terrorist group has lost its leader and is on the verge of being eliminated.

The message of the source is to mock Osama's acts of terrorism and how his actions have failed him. This can be seen from the source, which shows Osama and Al-Qaeda as being portrayed as the twin towers and being attacked. This means that the acts of terrorism to weaken and destroy the US have failed and now Osama is instead a victim of his own acts. Through the cartoon the cartoonist wants to criticize terrorism and how it would eventually fail instead of achieving its intended goals of destruction.

1b)

The newspaper printed the photograph to tell me that Osama's death was impactful for the Americans. This can be seen from the source, which shows a large number of Americans rejoicing in Ground Zero. This means that Osama's death was significant for the Americans as it made them feel that they have avenged the wrongful deaths of their family and friends in the 911 attacks.

The newspaper printed the photograph to highlight the victory of the US President Obama against terrorist leader Osama. This can be seen from the Source, which says "Obama 1, Osama 0". This means that the newspaper is promoting the US success in defeating the key leader of the terrorist groups. By highlighting this victory in the German newspaper, the Germans are therefore showing to the world that they are supportive of the fight against terrorism.

1c)

Source C and D are similar in telling me that the threat of Al-Qaeda and its supporters of terrorism still remain despite the death of Osama thus implying that terrorism will still prevail in the world. This can be seen from source C, which says "perhaps most of all in the US where Al-Qaeda-inspired militants will plot and plan" and in Source D "For his followers, he is a warrior who lived for Islam and died for it and with his death Al-Qaeda will not die." This means that Osama's death has not gotten rid of terrorism and threat of terrorism remains widespread and strong, if not increased.

The sources are similar in their purpose as Source C is from a Saudi Arabian newspaper and Source B is from an Arab journalist. Through the use of media both sources aim to raise awareness and bring up the issue that terrorism is a reality and threat globally and therefore would want to urge the world governments and people to stay vigilant of the threat of terrorism and how they could possibly expand their operations.

Optional 2nd para:

The sources are not similar because of their interpretations of the significance of Osama's death. Source C tells us that a great threat has been removed and lives would be made more peaceful and secure. This can be seen by Source C, which says "A powerful symbol has been destroyed" and that "death will bring to an end the mistrust that 911 has brought to the



world.” This means that Osama’s death is of significance and harmony can be brought about as people are less suspicious of one another. However, Source D is different from Source C as it tells us that the threat of terrorism has not reduced with its influence still strong in the society hence causing suspicion and fear between groups to be long lasting. This can be seen by source D, which says “his picture and his presence will continue for generations to come”. This means that there is even with his death there is still widespread threat terrorism due to Al-Qaeda.

1d)

Source E is useful as evidence about Bin Laden and his death as it tells us that there was a lot of speculation about the consequences of his death. This can be seen from source E, which says “on one hand he was a mass murderer!” and “on the other hand, the U.S extra-judicial killings are atrocious!”. This means that the source is telling us how there were many opinions about his death, thus showing the mixed ideas of how significant his death was. Cross-referencing to source C supports the idea. As Source C tells me that his death has led to positive impact yet acknowledges a continual threat in terrorism. This can be seen from source C, which says “For the Muslim world, it is like the lifting of a curse” yet “Greater vigilance will be needed than ever before”. This means that terrorism could indeed lead to positive and negative consequences. As such, since source C supports source E, source E is therefore reliable and useful as evidence of Bin Laden’s death.

The source is not useful as it is by a South African cartoonist, drawing about Bin Laden’s killing. As a cartoonist his purpose is to highlight how the killing of Osama had led to uncertain consequences. The cartoonist does not bring up actual facts and is not an expert in the field of politics and terrorism. As such since the source is not credible, it is therefore unreliable and not useful as evidence about Bin Laden and his death.

1e)

Source F proves that bin Laden’s death was a victory because it tells us that it was a form of revenge that the Americans succeeded in having. This can be seen by source F that says “No matter how long it takes, justice will be done” This means that the Americans wanted to prove to the world that it was good that he died because with his death Americans are able to feel satisfied and justified for the loss they had due to him. Cross-referencing to the background information which also proves this idea to be true as it tells me that the western countries are proud of the killing of the terrorist group leader . This can be seen by the background information, which says “Throughout the Western World, the killing was held as a triumph and a massive blow to international terrorism”. This means that it was indeed viewed as a success as it had severely crippled terrorism and its operations globally. Hence, since the background information supports source F, it means that source F is reliable and thus can prove that bin Laden’s death was a victory.

Source F does not prove that his death was a victory because it agrees that the death did not stamp out terrorism. This can be seen by the source, which says “ The fight against terrorism goes on”. This means that the death was not very significant or as victorious as America still has to fight terrorism. Cross –reference to source A supports this idea. Source A also tells us that his death did not kill Al-Qaeda, the organization, itself thus meaning that the fight continues. This can be seen by the source, which shows the pillar of Al-Qaeda still standing and not yet defeated. This means that even if Osama died, there is a continual threat of terrorism looming over America thus not making it a victory. Since Source A supports Source



F that regardless of the death of Osama, terrorism will still prevail therefore the source does not prove that his death was a victory.

Source F does not prove that his death was a victory because it was written by George W Bush who was the former American President. As the president of the US, he is likely to portray America in a good light and highlight that Osama's death was a victory. As such, since the source has a hidden agenda, it could be biased, thus making the unreliable and as such cannot prove that Osama's death was indeed a victory.



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1a) Study Source A

The cartoonist's message is that Iraq was threatening Kuwait. This can be seen from the source that depicts Saddam as "throwing down the gauntlet" over Kuwait. This shows that Iraq was aggressive and had intimidated Kuwait.

The cartoonist also seeks to highlight the effectiveness of the UN. This can be seen from the source that shows how the UN had stepped in to pick up the gauntlet. Saddam was also depicted as being small and frightened. The cartoonist hence wants to show how UN had been successful in protecting smaller nations such as Kuwait from the threat of Iraq. He therefore wants to promote the effectiveness of the UN to the British and how it is ever ready to face challenges by aggressive nations.

1b) Study Sources B and C.

Both sources are similar in content. Both sources tell me that the UN was proactive and had played a role in responding to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. This can be seen from Source B, which states, "With it, the Council initiated a move beyond its previous role as a mediator and peacekeeper between warring parties to a more active approach seeking to enforce obedience to its demands.", and from Source C, "The result was UN Resolution 678, which authorized forces to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, but gave Iraq a grace period of forty -five days to withdraw." This means that the US had taken steps against the violence of Iraq on Kuwait.

Both sources are different in telling me how quick the UN was in taking action against the US. Source B tells me that actions taken by the UN were almost immediate. This can be seen from Source B which states that, "The Security Council, within a matter of hours of the invasion, condemned it, and demanded a complete withdrawal. This means that the UN was fast in responding to the Gulf War. However, Source C is different as it tells me that UN was slower in its response to the Gulf war. This can be seen in Source C which states that, "Within days, the United States led efforts to organize an international coalition which, working through the United Nations Security Council, demanded Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal. This means that the UN did not respond as swiftly as it was portrayed to be in Source B, as they had taken a longer period of a few days, rather than a few hours in responding to the crisis in Kuwait. The sources are therefore different in content.

However, both sources B and C are similar in terms of their purpose. Both sources are from historians and are from the UN and the US respectively. Both sources hence seek to record details about the involvement of the UN in the Gulf War and thus promote its effectiveness. Since both sources aim to highlight the achievements of the UN, there are therefore similar in their purpose.



1c) Study Source D.

Source D is useful as evidence about the Gulf war as it tells me that the UN was too extreme in its methods to get Iraq out of Kuwait. This can be seen from the source D which states that “US used the cover of the UN to unleash a war and destroy a third world country whose ruler failed to appreciate the importance of US interests in the Gulf region.” This means that the UN had been too drastic in its approach of dealing with the crisis and had no considerations of consequences that Iraq would face after its invasion.

Source D is reliable and hence useful as evidence about the Gulf War as it is supported by Source E. Source E tells us that UN was too hostile in its approach to get Iraq out of Kuwait. This can be seen from Source E which pictures UN shooting a missile at an orange (Saddam) that was on top of the Iraqi people.” This means that UN had not considered the interests of the people in Iraq, as a strong and violent approach was taken to eliminate Iraq. Hence, since Source E supports Source D, Source D is hence useful and reliable.

However, Source D is unreliable and hence limited in usefulness as an evidence about the Gulf war as it is contradicted by Source C. Source C tells me that UN did deliberate on its aggression before taking action. This can be seen from Source C which states that, “The result was UN Resolution 678, which authorized force to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, but gave Iraq a grace period of forty five days to withdraw.” This means that the approach taken by the UN was not entirely harsh as what Source D claims to be, and ultimatum of violence could have prevented if Iraq had agreed to withdraw when given the chance to. Since Source D is contradicted by Source C, Source D is hence unreliable and limited in its usefulness as an evidence about the Gulf War.

Source D is unreliable and limited in its evidence usefulness as an evidence about the Gulf War as the source uses a harsh tone. This can be seen from “How did the US turn the UN into an instrument to further its military and political objectives?” as well as “UN was only a passive spectator”. The use of loaded language shows that India was biased against the efforts of the UN in defeating Iraq in the Gulf war. Hence, since the source is subjective and biased, it is limited in its usefulness as an evidence about the Gulf War.

1d) Study Source E

The source was published on 16th Jan 1991, one day before the UN invasion of Iraq by coalition forces on 17th Jan 1991. As the source was published one day before the invasion of Iraq by the US, I would think that the source seeks to criticise the tough stance taken by the UN against the Iraqis. This can be seen from Source E which depicts the UN shooting a missile at an orange on top of the head of a boy wearing a shirt labelled Iraqi people. This implies that the source wants to condemn UN for being overly aggressive as the Iraqis were completely helpless and unable to defend itself from the invasion. He also wants to highlight that in the midst of defeating its leader, Saddam, the UN’s harsh methods and could potentially harm innocent citizens in Iraq. The cartoon would hence want to raise awareness, to the British, of the adverse effects that the invasion could cause on Iraqis and convince them that a using such a strong approach as a method to deal with Iraq was not required.



1e) Study Source F

I am surprised by the source as Source F as Source F tells me that the US had instigated the UN to use military forces to get Iraq out of Kuwait. This can be seen from Source F which states that "The US engineered the Security Council resolutions: it pressured for the adoption of Resolution 678; it provided the bulk of the Coalition forces and retained their command." This means that the UN had superficial power in leading the campaign against Iraq as the US held on to most of the authority to control the campaigns. This is surprising as Source F is contradicted by Source C which tells me that UN had the ultimate rights to approve the use of force. This can be seen from Source C which states that, "By 30th October, the Bush administration made a decision to push Iraq out of Kuwait and petitioned the UN for authorization to use force." This means that the UN had the choice and made the final decision to invade Kuwait and its decision was not manipulated the US. Since Source F is contradicted by Source C, I am hence surprised by Source F.

However, I am not entirely surprised by Source F as Source F is supported by Source D. Source D tells me that the mission against Iraq was indeed driven by the US. This can be seen from Source D which states that, "And why did the UN, instead of preventing the war, become central to the US-led allied war plans." This means that the US had invaded Iraq using the name of the UN and it was not the UN's true intentions. Since Source F is supported by Source D, Source F is hence not entirely surprising.

Source F is surprising as it is an article published in 1998 in a journal of international affairs published by the Foreign Ministry of Turkey which is a member of the NATO, the military alliance headed by the US. As a member of the NATO, it is expected to support all efforts by the US in a positive light. However, the source did what is unexpected and criticized the US for damaging the reputation of the UN by coercing them to use violence instead of diplomatic means. Since the source does the unexpected, the source is therefore surprising.



Conflict in Sri Lanka

2a)

Foreign intervention was a political consequence of the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka. Due to the escalation of violence, India tried to play the role of a mediator in response to July 1983 riots by sending its foreign minister to mediate in a dialogue between Sinhalese and Tamils. However, both parties could not reach an agreement. As a result, on 3 June 1987, the Indian government sent 20 Indian ships to Jaffna to provide food and petroleum products to Sri Lanka Tamils. As the Sri Lankan navy had disapproved the shipments, the Indian Air Force dropped food and medicine in Jaffna the next day. Thus foreign intervention was a consequence of the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka as it had led to dire impacts on the lives of the Sinhalese as well as the Tamils and had to be mitigated with the help of foreign intervention by India.

2b)

Two other consequences of the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict includes economic impact as well as social impact.

Due to violence and riots in the country, foreign companies were deterred from investing in the Sri Lankan economy. From 1982 to 1986, foreign investments decreased continually as investors lost confidence in an unstable economy. This was detrimental as foreign investments were crucial for growth of the Sri Lankan economy. Tourism, a major income earner for Sri Lanka was also seriously affected by violence and internal conflict. The number of tourist arrivals had decreased after July 1983 riots as tourists feared for the safety of their own lives. A decrease in the number of tourist would mean higher unemployment rate and fall in earnings which in turn affected economy adversely. Hence, due to the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict, the economy went on a downward spiral. With investors withdrawing their businesses and the tourism sector badly affected, it became hard for the country to recover from the conflict between the Sinhalese and Tamils.

Another consequence of the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict was a social impact known as displacement. The conflict had caused large-scale displacement beyond its borders. During 1983 riots, thousands of Tamils fled to Tamil Nadu in South India. In the early 1990s, High Security Zones (HSZ) were set up by Sri Lankan Army to keep LTTE away. HSZ are areas in which entrance is controlled and the army occupied large parts of Tamil-dominated areas. For example, in 1995, many Tamils had to flee from their homes when Sri Lankan Army moves into Jaffna to take on LTTE. The impacts of the conflicts were everlasting and even till today, many Tamils are still living in overcrowded refugee camps or with relatives or friends. Hence, as a result of the conflict, the freedom of the citizens was infringed upon and many were left homeless. There was hence a decline in the standard of living of people living in Sri Lanka.

In conclusion, social impact was more important than economic impact. Although the Sri Lanka economy was badly affected by the July 1983 riots, however, policies introduced to stimulate the economy and international aid could be offered to Sri Lanka to help in restructuring its economy. Social impact was however more devastating as a large number



of people were left in displacement camps whereby living conditions were poor. The social impact was also long lasting and could potentially be life threatening as healthcare services and clean sanitation are a severe lack in these camps. Thus, social impact is a more important impact as compared to economic impact.



Singapore's Diplomatic Relations

3a)

Bilateral relations help a small country like Singapore cultivate relations directly with another country. Through bilateral ties with Japan, USA and Germany, Singapore have acquired advanced technological skills and increased trade with these nations. This has been crucial in developing Singapore's economy and allowing Singapore to become prosperous. Bilateral relations also promote political, economic and cultural ties between neighbouring countries and hence ensuring a continued and sustained economic progress and security benefits for both nations. By building good relationships between neighbours, a stable and peaceful environment is created thus driving economic growth. For example, Singapore develops good ties with Indonesia and Malaysia to ensure that the South East Asia can be united and prosperous. Bilateral relations has also built up the trust of other neighbouring countries in Singapore. For example, after the Asian Tsunami in 2004, Singapore sent humanitarian aid to Indonesia and Thailand hence earning Singapore goodwill, respect and trust of its neighbours. Hence as a result, when bilateral relations between neighbouring countries is built, Singapore will be seen as a more trust worthy partner hence facilitating cooperation in the region, thus allowing Singapore to achieve its diplomatic objectives.

3b)

Two other ways in which Singapore conducts diplomatic relations are through regional diplomacy as well as international diplomacy.

Singapore conducts diplomatic relations through regional diplomacy. Regional diplomacy occurs when Singapore works with nations in the region as a group via ASEAN. ASEAN is a platform to resolve differences peacefully between nations through the ASEAN regional forum. By promoting stability in the region, economic progress can be promoted in the region, hence benefiting Singapore. Being part of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement also facilitates economic cooperation as Singapore companies and ASEAN companies can trade within ASEAN without paying taxes. This will thus enhance trading between ASEAN nations. Through a collective ASEAN that is seen to have more political weight and clout, Singapore can also negotiate more effectively with larger nations like Russia or India as these nations are more willing to negotiate with a strong regional grouping like ASEAN rather than small states like Singapore. Thus through regional efforts, Singapore is able to build diplomatic ties in the region, hence allowing long term cooperation and trust.

Another way that Singapore conducts diplomatic relations would be through international diplomacy. Through international diplomacy, Singapore can also influence world affairs and decisions. For example, Singapore played a major part in the UN Law of the Sea Conference to decide on the laws that govern territorial rights of a country over its waters. It also served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council from 2001 to 2002 and has been involved in UN Peacekeeping missions since 1989. By 2005, Singapore had been involved in over 13 peacekeeping operations in 11 countries involving 1500 personnel. As such, being involved in global peace keeping efforts would make Singapore a



valuable member in the world community and a key to helping to promote peace and growth in the world.

In conclusion, regional diplomacy is more important than international diplomacy. This is because ASEAN offers immediate security and protection to Singapore. Being part of a collective organization would also serve as a foundation to facilitating diplomacy in the region as Singapore is being viewed as more trustworthy. Hence, regional diplomacy is more important than international diplomacy.



Environmental impacts of Globalization

4a)

Globalization has resulted in an increased demand for transportation, therefore leading to an increase in the usage of cars, aeroplanes, ships. The increase usage of cars, aeroplanes and ships produce large amount of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide gases (greenhouse gases) that pollute the environment. In addition, the increase in the amount of factories set up by TNCs also run on fossil fuels that release a great amount of carbon dioxide and harmful gases into the earth hence causing global warming. Increasing agricultural activities will also result in an increased amount of harmful gases being emitted due to the machines used in farms. As a result, globalization has thus led to negative impacts as economies and businesses all around the world are being developed at the expense of the environment. The increase in global temperatures has affected the ecosystem and has led to increased natural hazards. The phenomenon of increased temperatures is irreversible and would become more severe if companies persist on prioritizing revenues over the environment.

4b)

Two other impacts on the environment includes a negative impact, deforestation as well as a positive impact, environmental management.

As a result of deforestation, rainforests have been cut down to make way for development of industries, agriculture, housing and transportation. Some governments allow trees to be cut down at rapid rate as economic activities such as farming and pulp businesses can generate revenue for country. For example, the Amazon Rainforest is facing rapid deforestation due to high international demand for Brazilian beef. Cattle ranching has hence led to the destruction of millions of hectares of rainforests. Indonesia's tropical rainforests are also disappearing very quickly as countries and companies clear the land to plant cash crops and for development projects in order to achieve higher level of economic development. This has therefore led to environmental problems such as haze and extinction of plants and animals worldwide. The clearing of forests by the slash and burn method can lead to soil degradation and has also created haze which spreads around the region. The haze pollutes the air and further contributes to global warming. Thus, globalization has led to deforestation which has impacted the environment negatively.

However, globalization do not only result in negative impacts. Due to globalization, there has also been an increase in awareness of environmental management. Countries are now more aware that sustainable development (development that does not compromise future generations of the resources) is key to further growth. As such, many governments have switched to use alternative energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal power. For example, Iceland relies on geothermal energy to generate its power. Hence, due to globalization that facilitates and allows a deeper understanding about the methods of sustaining our environment as well as the harm that industrialization can bring to our climate, people and businesses, governments are now more aware of their actions. This thus encourages responsibility towards our environment. As governments and businesses



find alternative method to power to reduce pollution, the environment can be better sustained.

In conclusion, environmental management is a more important impact as compared to deforestation. With governments and businesses realizing the importance of the climate, they can adopt clean methods to protect the environment whilst maximizing their profits. As such, as it is impossible for countries and businesses to stop economic activities that can generate profits, it is hence more important that countries know the best and most sustainable way to carry out their businesses.



Suggested Answers to 2267 Social Studies 'O' LEVEL 2017

SECTION A (SBQ)

(a)

The cartoonist is unhappy with the methods of tackling the haze problem facing Singapore. This can be seen by the two schoolchildren who said that “Haze masks aren’t for breathing, they’re for gagging”, which implies that the haze masks were worn not as an effective solution, but as a widely accepted, temporary method of putting up with the haze.

The cartoonist has a cynical / disapproving attitude of the origins of the haze problem in Singapore. He feels that the problem is attributed to the irresponsible palm oil companies who are shirking the responsibility. This can be seen from how the people in the cartoon are commenting on the palm oil executives saying that “their haze masks are for gagging”. This means that he feels that the palm oil companies should be responsible for the management of the haze problem and yet they are trying to cover up the truth.

The cartoonist also believes that the haze issue is aggravated by the greed and incompetency of the oil companies. In the source, three men representing the Palm Oil Company Executives are looking out from a window of a building to where the two schoolchildren are walking by. The men are also wearing haze masks, but are standing behind the window, to show that they may be disconnected from the consequences of their actions, and hence may be driven by their own separate agenda to gain as much profits from the palm oil industry as possible.

As this cartoon originates from Singapore, it represents a local perspective and tells us of Singaporeans’ displeasure towards the origins and the management of the haze problem. The source wants to convince the public that the culprits of the haze problem – the palm oil companies – are not taking responsibility and are trying to cover up the truth behind their actions. The source hopes that the public can better understand the complexities of the haze problem and bring these culprits to justice.

(b)

The PM wanted to alert Singaporeans of the actions taken to shut down schools the day after the social media post was made, and assure the citizens of Singapore to stay vigilant as well as to offer support to one another during the haze crisis.

The PM gave updates on the current and expected PSI range to allow Singaporeans to make informed decisions for the day and the following days after. For example, the PM suggested to “drink plenty of water and avoid going outdoors” when the PSI entered the ‘very unhealthy’ range. Primary and secondary schools are going to be closed the following day to reduce occurrence of health risks from children. Singaporeans will resume working hours as per normal, with precautionary measures to be taken by employers so that the health of the workers will not be compromised.



The PM also wanted to inform Singaporeans of assistance from the government, to encourage solidarity in times of crisis by leading with exemplary action, by distributing “masks to vulnerable and needy Singaporeans at community clubs” and that “volunteers will visit residents who are unable to go to the CCs on their own”.

The Prime Minister makes this social media post to inform Singaporeans that the government is taking the necessary measures to deal with the increasingly serious haze problem. Source B says “we are closing all primary and secondary schools” and “we are also giving out masks to vulnerable and needy Singaporeans”. This shows that the government is taking the effort to help Singaporeans deal with the health impacts of the haze.

The Prime Minister makes this social media post to urge people and businesses to take good care of themselves and their employees. Source B says “employers should not compromise on the health and safety of their employees” and “please drink plenty of water and avoid going outdoors”. This shows that the Prime Minister is advising his people to stay strong and take care of themselves in the midst of this haze problem.

The Prime Minister also makes this social media post to reassure Singaporeans that the government has the people’s best interests at heart and that they will do all they can to take care of the people. This is to highlight the government’s efficiency and ensure that the people have faith and remain supportive of the government.

(c)

Sources C and D disagree on the effectiveness of the measures to tackle the haze problem. Source C believes that an effective measure is through palm oil organization policies that bans or restricts burning, whereas Source D believes that the haze problem can be curbed by tightening the guidelines for financial support to palm oil organizations.

Source C is from a sustainability document of an oil palm company called Wilmar International, released in September 2015. Being one of the members of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil, their proposal centers around an action-consequence method to prevent burning of plantations. This method involves “immediate termination of business dealings” with any operations that breaches their No Burn policy, and thus directly affects the primary players of the industry, namely the plantation owners themselves. However, in Source C, Wilbur International mentioned a drawback to the No Burn policy as “fires that start in areas controlled by small farmers and local communities who still burn land”.

Source D is from an article published in an online newspaper on October 2015. The article advocated the use of incentive approaches to encourage palm oil companies to be more responsible in their actions in the industry. One of the incentives stems from “peer pressure to keep lenders in line as no bank would want a reputational risk”, following the guidelines on responsible financing issued by The Association of Banks in Singapore (ABS). Another incentive is that palm oil companies that do not meet the requirements as per the guidelines would have limited access to financing options for their business operations. Thus, this method would directly affect the major palm oil companies.



Source C and D agree that there are various effective measures to deal with the haze problem. Source C says Wilmar International “has taken an active role in reducing the occurrence of haze” via their “No Burn policy”. Source D says that the Associations of Bank in Singapore (ABS) has “issued guidelines on responsible financing” of plantation groups. This shows that active efforts have been made to tackle the haze problem.

Source C and D however disagrees on the full effectiveness of the measures. Source C says that while the No-Burn policy is working towards corporate responsibility in the haze problem, “fires may occasionally occurs in our plantations, especially during dry seasons”. Source D however did not mention about possible ineffectiveness of the measures and in fact called the ABS move “a timely one”. This means that Source D is confident that the measures will be effective, while Source C recognises possible problems.

Source C and D would disagree on the effectiveness of the measures as they originate from two different viewpoints. Source C is from the Wilmar International which is a leading key player in the agribusiness of palm oil production. As such, it will definitely speak from a corporate perspective to find a solution that best merges corporate responsibility and profit, which explains why they are modest about the long term effectiveness of the solutions despite promising active efforts. Source D on the other hand originates from an online newspaper. With no corporate benefits in mind, the newspaper is supposed to report on the issue from a macro perspective that takes into account the views of various stakeholders including the ABS and the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA).

Source C and D would disagree on the effectiveness of the measures as they have different purposes. Source C wants to reassure the public that Wilmar International is taking an active stance towards irresponsible plantations so as to convince the public to have faith in Wilmar International. Source D on the other hand wants to report on the issue from various viewpoints – corporate, international, regional – so as to give the readers a comprehensive view of the whole haze problem.

(d)

Source E does not make Source F surprising. Source E and Source F both showed that Singaporeans have misconceptions or lack of action on sustainable consumerism with respect to the palm oil industry.

Source E shows a poster that was launched in a ‘We breathe what we buy’ campaign. The poster would be used and released in various platforms for extensive outreach to Singaporeans, to gain as much attention as possible to the message of the campaign. This shows that there is a need for Singaporeans to be more active in promoting sustainable consumerism, by using graphic and impactful images, such as the one used in the poster, where the fire and the toothbrush were used to represent the negative consequences.

Source F also stated the lack of action of sustainable consumerism habits of the public by showing the lack of demand for the inclusion of the Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) trademark on product packaging. Source F also stated the misconception of companies who are licensed to carry the trademark, but “would rather leave out the trademark to avoid



drawing attention to the existence of palm oil in their products". This is aligned to the context of the article which shows that Singaporeans are mostly unable or unwilling to identify green products when making consumer choices.

Source F is not surprising as it is supported by Source A. In Source A, it shows that the schoolchildren, representing the public, is aware that the haze problem is more severe than what is made to seem, but there is a lack of active response to the issue.

Source E does not make Source F surprising as the sources agree on the negative consequences of the haze problem and the importance of consumer choices in the problem. Source E shows us a picture of a toothbrush made of burning trees with toothpaste doubling up as the smoke and a caption "we breathe what we buy". This means that there is a close relationship between our consumer choices as well as the severity of the haze problem and that we should buy products that support sustainable palm oil sources. Source F supports this idea as Source F talks about how some products in the market carry the Certificated Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) labels. Since both sources raise similar points, Source E does not make Source F surprising.

Source E does make Source F surprising as Source E is highlighting the importance of making wise consumer choices as we might be using products from unsustainable sources which contribute to the haze problem while Source F is saying that consumers might not even know about this link as some brands prefer to "leave out the CPSO trademark to avoid drawing attention to the existence of palm oil in their products". Source F also says that we should not judge the sources of the products just because it does not have the CPSO trademark. This contradicts Source E urging consumers to make more informed choices.

Source E does not make Source F surprising as Source F can be supported by the Background Information. Source F says that there are many products in the market related to palm oil sources. This can be supported by the Background Information saying "huge range of everyday products from toothpaste to chocolate, are made using palm oil". Since the Background Information supports Source F, Source F is reliable and hence not surprising.

Source E does not make Source F surprising as Source F can be supported by Source A. Source F highlights how few companies want to acknowledge a link with palm oil sources as seen from "avoid drawing attention to the existence of palm oil in their products". This means that palm oil sources are deemed as something dubious / dodgy / less desirable. Source A supports this by telling us how palm oil companies are good at "gagging". Since the Source A supports Source F, Source F is reliable and hence not surprising.

Source E does not make Source F surprising as it is only normal for the two sources to differ as they serve different purposes. Source E is an advertisement / campaign poster that wants to raise awareness to let consumers know about purchasing products from sustainable sources so as to ease the effects of the haze problem. Source F is an informative article that wants to analyse the problem of pursuing sustainable consumerism so as to let people be aware of the practical realities of doing so.



(e)

Sources A, B, E and F support the statement while Sources C and D do not support the statement.

In Sources A, B, E, and F, the individual is shown to exert a significant power to influence the decisions of the palm oil industry. In Source A, the public is shown to be silenced by measures that provide temporary relief against the haze, as the schoolchildren are saying that “their haze masks aren’t for breathing, they’re for gagging”. The men in the cartoon is shown to be monitoring the schoolchildren from the supposedly safety of a building. It implies that the public are not being given full information on the activities of these palm oil companies which leads to the public not having a loud enough voice to raise their concerns and contribute to the haze issue in a positive way.

Source B supports the statement as it shows that society is encouraged to show solidarity in times of the haze crisis. The PM released a statement to “look out for neighbors and friends”, and led by example by deploying volunteers to “visit residents who are unable to go to the CCs on their own”, to give out “masks to vulnerable and needy Singaporeans at CCs”. This implies that a strong support network will help a nation to better shoulder the strains of a crisis.

OR

Source B supports the statement as it shows the Prime Minister urging Singaporeans to take care of themselves and one another. Source B says “employers should not compromise on the health of their employees” and “please drink plenty of water and avoid going outdoors”. This shows that the government is urging individuals to take responsibility of tackling haze in Singapore.

Source E supports the statement as the poster released in the campaign by the various environmental groups shows a lack of awareness and education among the public for the issue of sustainable consumerism with regards to palm oil industry and the burning of forests. The need for a change within the individual level in a society is important enough to release many such campaigns by these NGOs and other related groups.

OR

Source E supports the statement as it shows how the poster is urging Singaporeans to make wise consumer choices. Source E highlights the importance of making sure we buy products that are from sustainable palm oil sources since “we breathe what we buy”. This shows that our consumer choices may be from non-sustainable palm oil sources which contributes to the haze problem. Hence it is up to us to discern these sources so as not to contribute to the haze problem.

Source F supports the statement as it is proven that there is a lack of demand for CSPO trademarked products and thus, a severe lack of consciousness in green consumerism. All these implies that to effect a positive change in the haze situation, there must be a certain level of awareness and willingness to participate in promoting action within the individual level.

(Note: Source F can go both directions – alternative answer

Source F does not support the statement as it shows that while individuals try to make informed consumer choices to avoid contributing to the haze problem, they are unable to do



so as some companies “leave out the CPSO trademark to avoid drawing attention to the existence of palm oil in their products”. This shows that the companies themselves have a bigger role to play in ensuring sustainable palm oil production and not the individuals who play a passive role in the marketing of the products.)

Sources C and D do not support the statement as they believe that the palm oil companies are responsible for tackling the haze issue.

In Source C, the sustainability report included policies that are set up in a large palm oil company, Wilbur International, which involves a No Burn policy, where “suppliers have been notified that any international breach of our No Burn policy will result in the immediate termination of business dealings.”

OR

Source C does not support the statement as it shows how large corporate firms have a direct role in tackling haze in Singapore. Source C tells us how Wilmar International – a leading agribusiness dealing with palm oil production – has taken active efforts via their “No Burn policy” which punishes offenders with “immediate termination of all business dealings”. This shows that only large corporations have the ability to ensure corporate responsibility using legal means.

In Source D, the Association of Banks Singapore (ABS) released guidelines following the Transboundary Pollution Act 2014, which regulates financing options for palm oil companies. These sources imply that the major palm oil industry players are solely responsible for tackling the haze issue.

OR

Source D does not support the statement as it shows how large corporate firms have a direct role in tackling haze in Singapore. Source D talks about how the Association of Banks in Singapore (ABS) “has issued guidelines on responsible financing”. This shows that to tackle the haze problem, we must first target the financial sources of these plantations guilty of burning forests.

Source C may not be reliable as it is challenged by other sources. Source C is from Wilmar International, a leading agribusiness dealing with palm oil production and it is trying to reassure the public that it is being responsible for the production process and is actively dealing with businesses violating the “No-Burn Policy” so as to maintain its corporate image. This is challenged by Source A which hints that such large corporations tend to be hiding the truth for profit since they are good at “gagging”. Source F also challenges Source C as it tells us how some large companies are not telling consumers the truth about their palm oil sources. Since Source C is challenged by other sources, it is less reliable.



SECTION B: SRQ

a) Singapore is becoming an increasingly diverse society in this vastly cosmopolitan and globalised world. Such diversity can be seen from our varied food choices, interracial / interethnic marriages, as well as our rich popular culture. In my opinion, Singapore is becoming an increasingly diverse society due to the rising economic challenges which compels the government to seek more manpower as well as the fact that Singapore is an attractive destination for foreigners to settle down in.

Firstly, to deal with the rising economic competitiveness, Singapore has to ensure that it has enough labour. Since Singapore is grappling with an ageing population and declining birth rates, we are in need of labour and manpower. This resulted in the Singapore government's open door policy when it comes to engaging foreign labour. These foreigners may join the Singapore workforce in both white-collared and blue-collared jobs. Those highly skilled ones may hail from the developed Western world to take up office and banking jobs in Singapore, while those lowly skilled ones mainly focus on labour-intensive manual work in the construction and service industry. This will result in a broad range of employees in the Singapore workforce. As these foreigners settle down into Singapore to work, they bring with them their own unique cultures and traditions. A consequence of this would be the birth and flourishing of ethnic enclaves such as Little Thailand in Golden Mile Complex, Little Myanmar in Peninsula Plaza and Little Philippines in Lucky Plaza. These are popular locations for foreign communities to gather and interact. Sometimes Singaporeans may even fancy trying out these unique food products. An example would be how some Singaporeans enjoy eating Jollibee. Hence, this makes Singapore an increasingly diverse society.

Secondly, Singapore is also having an increasingly diverse society as it is an attractive destination for foreigners. This is attributed to the following reasons: we are a safe and politically stable country; we have vast economic potential, sound infrastructure in terms of education and healthcare. Singapore attracts a lot of foreigners to come and settle down here permanently as we are famed for our low crime rates. Our tough legal system also ensures social stability and political soundness. Singapore is harsh on criminals as seen from the existence of the death penalty for crimes like drug trafficking and murder. Being at the crossroad of Asia and the Western world also makes us an ideal location for investors who are shifting their focus to Asia and Southeast Asia in the last decade. Singapore's bilingualism also makes us a potential communicative channel between the East and the West. Lastly, Singapore's top education system with first-class universities such as the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University being the best in Asia, also attracts many foreigners to settle here. Our top-rated healthcare system also compels many visitors to seek medical treatments here in Singapore. All in all, Singapore being an attractive destination has the effect of bringing in many foreigners who help add to the diversity of the society.

Optional (additional reason): the fact that Singapore is a small country requires us to be open to foreign influences. This explains why we are situated at a comfortable midpoint between western and eastern influences. This is also the reason why our culture is so diverse. Singaporeans enjoy the Western influences as in American pop culture where we listen to popular artistes like Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber. We are also fans of Western blockbuster movies such as the Marvel series and the other superhero-themed movies on Netflix. Other



Singaporeans enjoy the Mandopop culture from Taiwan and the increasingly popular Korean pop culture. This manifests itself in the vast popularity of dramas, movies, and other merchandises. This is the reason why Singapore is always a pit stop for these Western and Eastern celebrities to hold their concerts and fan meets. Popular artistes like Jay Chou and Ed Sheeran are due to perform in Singapore in 2017 and 2018. With such influences, Singaporeans are very open to trying the other cultural products such as food and fashion, as seen from how Korean pop is gaining mass popularity among Singaporeans.

In conclusion, Singapore is becoming an increasingly diverse society due to our open door policy towards foreign labour and foreigners being attracted to our sound system and infrastructure. Such occurrences result in Singapore being very cosmopolitan in terms of its cultures and practices.

OR

Technological advancements progressed almost exponentially with the passing years. When transport is made more feasible and cheap, the settlers in Singapore may call their own families and friends from the different countries to come to Singapore. This promotes an even greater growth of diversity in Singapore. The Singapore government also created a vibrant environment to attract people from other countries. Some of the methods include having a world-class airport, that was ranked first in the world for many consecutive years, and promoting Singapore as a city of gardens. These methods greatly enhance the attractiveness of living in Singapore and contributes to the growth of diversity. Aside from accessibility to transport, technological progress also induced the growth of niches and hubs in the field of science, technology, and the arts. Singapore established the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) which contributes to research initiatives in Singapore. They hire scientists from all over the globe with the necessary expertise to participate in their researches, and funds exchange programmes for students. The exchange of skills and knowledge in this example promotes a partnership between Singapore and other countries. This may encourage mingling of people from diverse backgrounds, and may lead to the talent within these sectors to take up the Singapore PR citizenship.

Lastly, the rise of the Internet and social media leads to a globalization of products and cultures. For instance, the latest rise in the K-pop scene induced a demand of Korean related products from Singaporeans, such as music, beauty products, and cuisines, compared to about a decade ago. More Singaporeans travel abroad to these countries that interested them, and may bring back to Singapore diverse cultural practices from the travel experiences. This may also lead to opportunities for a fusion between two or more cultures with respect to food and entertainment. An example is the creation of the fusion dishes such as the Nasi Lemak burger and Nasi Lemak maki by Maki-san which fused Malay and Western flavours, and Malay and Japanese flavours respectively.

b)

Living in a diverse society has its pros and cons. While we are enjoying diverse cultures, we are also facing strong competition in terms of economic challenges. In my opinion, I feel that the positive impacts are more significant than the negative impacts.



The positive impacts are numerous. Firstly, our increasingly diverse society means that there are more people from various cultures here to share their skills and expertise to enhance our economic competitiveness. With varied skills and expertise, this makes Singapore's economy very attractive as we offer a diverse package to potential investors. This explains Singapore's open hiring policy with regard to foreigner lecturers and professors. National University of Singapore's staff body is hugely diverse with professors hailing from Germany and China, all of whom specialising in varied subjects. These people add diversity to the teaching culture in the school and value-add students immensely. In terms of social impacts, our diverse society allows us to be more cosmopolitan and understanding towards others. With the increased number of foreigners in our country, we are exposed to various different cultures such as Korean, Filipino, Indian and Japanese traditions and customs. This means that we are able to interact with people who hail from different parts of the world; we can learn their languages and share their interests. This can also manifest itself in the increasingly diverse food choices we have in Singapore which is a blessing to Singaporeans since we are a country obsessed with food. An example of such would be how hawker centres now serve authentic Korean, Japanese and South Chinese cuisines for all to enjoy.

However, living in a diverse society has its cons. Increased friction and conflict is inevitable. Not all Singaporeans are receptive to foreigners. Some are quite hostile towards them as they view foreigners as competitors for public goods like transport, healthcare and education. Singaporeans lamented the loss of jobs due to the ease of hiring foreigners. Local graduates also complain about how difficult it is to find a job given the influx of foreign scholars. This may result in xenophobic reactions and increased disputes. In the past few years, such disputes have made the news. An example would be the infamous Curry Incident of 2011 where a Chinese immigrant family complained about the curry smell coming from the flat of their Indian neighbours. The dispute supposedly ended with the mediation team requesting the Indian family to only cook curry when the Chinese family is out. This sparked a massive public outcry about foreigners being disrespectful to local cultures. Many Singaporeans saw this as an infringement of our rights as Singaporeans to enjoy our uniquely Singaporean food. Another incident was the case of the British expat Anton Casey who posted about Singaporeans being poor and smelly. This sparked public fury as Singaporeans were angry about the foreigner being rude to Singaporean culture while living on Singaporean soil. Thus, this shows that living in a diverse society sometimes has its cons.

In my opinion, I feel that the positive impacts outweigh the negative impacts. This is because the negative impacts such as increasing xenophobia and disputes can be mediated with educational campaigns and policies facilitating mutual understanding and respect. For example, the Singapore government does plan cultural activities to help foreigners and Singaporeans understand each other better. One such example would be conducting community celebrations of festivals which implores foreigners and locals to interact and understand each other better. Since the negative impacts of living in a diverse society can be mediated, I feel that the more important thing to do is to maximize the positive impacts. These positive impacts can be enhanced and further capitalised on as we are living in a globalised society. It is impossible for Singapore to close our doors to foreigners since we are an open society which depends on regional and international influences to survive and thrive. Hence, it is of utmost importance for Singapore to capitalise on the positive impacts of diversity than be



bogged down by the negative ones.

OR

I agree to a large extent that the positive impacts of living in a diverse society is more significant than the negative impact.

The exchange of knowledge and skills gives rise for opportunities for skills transfer and a positive complementary partnership. Parties involved stand to gain from sharing their skills and expertise to strengthen collaborations within industries in Singapore. The A*STAR funding of research initiatives in Singapore provides an avenue for local talents to learn from foreign talents. This creates a skillful workforce environment that is useful in propelling Singapore to further heights in the pursuit of knowledge and excellence. The exchange of information and skills would make Singapore be better equipped with advanced technology to meet with rising global threats and issues. As a result, this would promote a more cohesive society as Singaporeans become more well-prepared and thus possess greater confidence in tackling a crisis together.

With the rise of the number of talents in Singapore, competition for resources is becoming more tense. There are numerous voices who spoke out against the foreign talents in the recent years. These were aggravated by the clashes in cultural practices of the different cultures involved, especially when observed in public spaces. These voices may stem from a fear of losing their rights as a citizen in terms of security and jobs. In my opinion, these fears are founded on a lack of communication with the foreign talents. There are many examples of different cultures and foreign talents living harmoniously together in Singapore.

Although there are possibilities for prejudice and misconceptions, there are also opportunities to learn and grow from these experiences. These opportunities, such as new fusion food, and creating activities in common spaces, will create a Singapore that will be better equipped to handle future issues in Singapore with regards to diversity.

Suggested Answers to 2018 O level Humanities (Social Studies) 2272/ Paper 1

Section A

- 1(a)** The cartoonist's message is that globalisation can unite the world, overcoming differences. This is evident through the fact that all the four individuals, despite their differences in terms of skin colour and dressing indicating the possibility of different races, nationality and social class, all sharing the same food preference. All the four of them ordered "big mac. Fries. Large coke", representing the takeover and influence of American fast food culture as a result of globalisation. The man at the back of the queue is dressed vastly different from the other three; he is wearing formal office attire, and the rest are dressed in hip-hop style clothes. Yet, all of them are ordering the same food and the last man said "me too! Who says we all can't get along", thus showing that the globalised fast food culture makes all of us the same.
- 1(b)** The cartoonist of Source B would agree with the author in Source C in terms of the consequence of globalisation, in the sense that similar brand items can be found in different parts of the world. In source B, the cartoonist suggests that Nike can be found in Paris, Disney in London and Gap in Rome despite them originating from America. Similarly, source C suggests that "your morning cappuccino is the same no matter whether you are sipping it in Tokyo, New York, Bangkok or Buenos Aires" suggesting that globalisation has resulted in the same products being found worldwide.

However, the cartoonist of Source B would disagree with the author in Source C in terms of whether globalisation is truly beneficial. This is because Source B is mocking the impacts of globalisation, thus suggesting it is not beneficial whereas Source C truly embraces and supports the idea of globalisation as it can bring about benefits to our society. This is evident through the fact that source B is mocking globalisation as the three individuals have been to different countries but ended up buying items belonging to American companies. For an instance, "great shirt at the Disney store in London" and "Nike Town in Paris" when Disney and Nike are clearly American. This shows that globalisation is not beneficial as everywhere you go, you will be purchasing the same things. On the contrary, source C states that "it increases our sense of togetherness via the sense of shared culture, increasing harmony" thus showing that globalisation is beneficial as it is an agent that unites people.

- 1(c)** Source D raises a few concerns with regards to the rise of Pokemon Go in the world. It suggests that there could be an addiction to the game, disrespect and dilution of others' cultures and traditions. This is evident in that "the game might provoke many to enter places of worship, disturbing prayer and creating law and order problems". Also, another concern raised is with regards to physical safety as the "game has been blamed for a wave of crimes, traffic violations and injuries".

Cross-referencing to source E; source E does prove that Source D's concerns are unjustified. This is because Source E states that Pokemon Go actually provides an opportunity to foster a deeper understanding of different culture, and in this case foster a deeper understanding of British wildlife. I know this because source E states that "it is free advertising with a huge audience" and with a wider audience, a deeper understanding of others culture will be inculcated. In addition, Source E did not flag out any concern with regards to physical safety and the only point raised was to make good use of this opportunity to educate and raise awareness of the museum and its collection of wildlife species as it states that "Maybe museums need to do something to convert their visiting Pokemon Go players into visitors of the displays and exhibits in the museum". As such, since Source E does not support any of the concerns raised by Source D, Source E does prove that Source D's concerns are unjustified.

- 1(d)** I am not surprised by Source F in talking about the negative consequences of globalisation. Source F states that globalisation has led to the dilution of local Bhutan culture as people now look up to the Western culture and there is dominance and growing prevalence of Western culture in Bhutan. I know this as Source F states that "People admire western culture and prefer western sports and games to traditional pastimes". This means that Western culture is preferred over the local.

Similarly, when I cross-refer to Source A, Source A also agrees that Western culture is taking prevalence in society today. This is evident from the fact that everyone, regardless of their differences, is eating fast food and ordering the same order of Big Mac, fries and a large coke. This means that society is largely dominated by Western culture, and local culture is slowly being diluted away.

Thus, since Source A supports Source F, I am not surprised by the source.

- 1(e)** Sources C and E agree that globalisation of culture has positive effects whereas Sources D and F disagree with it.

From Source C, I can infer that globalisation of culture is positive as it unites people together as they can identify towards the same things. I know this as source C states that “even if it makes a loss of cultural diversity, it increases our sense of togetherness via the sense of shared culture” and can “increase harmony”. As such, there will be less fighting. Thus this speaks of the positive aspect of the globalisation of culture.

From Source E, I can infer that globalisation of culture is positive as it can educate and lead to the spread of ideas globally. This is evident from the fact that Pokemon was created “to give city-living children a chance to collect creatures”. This means that it will help children to be more curious and allow the spread of positive ideas and experiences across generation and space.

However, Source F begs to differ as Source F feels that the globalisation of culture has led to a dilution of local culture and in fact, divides society. This can be seen from the fact that “it is quite embarrassing to see our own cultural identity and values have diminished” and “social media has made individuals more individualistic” thus stating the ill-effects of the globalisation of culture.

Lastly, Source D also states of the ill effects of globalisation of culture as it may lead to the disrespect of local culture. For instance, the source states that “might provoke many to enter places of worship, disturbing prayers and creating law and order problems” thus stating that cultural globalisation has led to global ideas being more influential and important than local beliefs, thus leading to the disrespect of local culture.

In sum, I agree to a larger extent that globalisation of culture has positive effects on society. This is because the globalisation of ideas will promote understanding across cultures and inculcate in individuals that we are ultimately but human innately and that these differences make us better individuals.

- 2(a)** The first reason is due to ageing population. An ageing population means that there will be more elderly in society and a smaller working population. Since there is lesser working population supporting the elderly, the government has to step in to help with the needy elderly. As such, more spending is required on healthcare. This is so that we have a larger number of nurses, caregivers, allied healthcare staff, doctors and also the infrastructure to support to growing number of elderly. With more elderly, more hospitals and hospices need to be constructed and that would mean more spending on healthcare as well. This is to cater to the growing number of elderly who would require more hospital beds as well.

The second reason could be due to a widening income gap. As a society, Singapore has a widening income gap, that is the poor become poorer and the rich are getting richer. As such, since the divide is getting bigger, the government needs to provide more subsidies for the less wealthy and this would then result in a greater expenditure on healthcare. This is especially so when there are more in the category of “very poor” as compared to the previously middle-class individuals. With more needy individuals, more subsidies at a higher rate need to be given, and as such, healthcare spending in Singapore is likely to increase in the coming years.

- 2(b)** Healthcare can be managed in various ways. In some countries, such as the US, a market-based approach is taken to manage healthcare. A market-based approach means that individuals have to take responsibility for their healthcare cost completely. For instance, in the US, there is no single national policy guiding healthcare system, and both public and private hospitals provide healthcare to American citizens. The government does not intervene. The middle and higher income group individuals can obtain their medical insurance as a part of their employment package. Everything related to healthcare in the US is extremely expensive as the market-based system is one that is made to make profits. As such, not everyone can afford medical insurance in the US. As such, Americans have to cope with healthcare costs on their own, and those in the lower income group are more likely to be affected due to the high cost which may result in them stopping their treatment.

An alternative way to manage healthcare is via the government-financed approach. Under this approach, the government provides substantial subsidies and services for most of the healthcare needs of its citizens as it is believed that



all citizens should have access to healthcare services regardless of their background or socio-economic status. For an example in Sweden, Swedish pay a high tax rate to support universal healthcare. As such, governments can play a huge responsibility in managing healthcare as well.

In conclusion, I believe that the individual should play a greater role in healthcare cost. This is so that the individual will take responsibility for his health. If healthcare were to come so freely and easily, it might be taken advantage of. Furthermore, it may also lead to the exploitation of healthcare services which may be detrimental to those who genuinely require the healthcare services. As such, individuals should play a greater role in healthcare cost to ensure the quality of healthcare provided.

1a)

This poster was produced to criticise the Indian government for curtailing individual freedom in an attempt to promote healthy living. This can be seen from the source, “#NoNanny” and “My Life, My Choice”. This suggests that the government is acting like a nanny who, through its laws, controls how people should live their lives. Thus, the poster was produced to condemn the Indian government for overexerting its influence on its citizens and depriving them of a choice to decide on what they want to consume. As such, the Students for Liberty group is doing this in an attempt to convince the Indian citizens that the government’s laws are too strict, so that the citizens will not support the imposition of the government’s taxes.

1b)

Source B and Source C are different in terms of the effectiveness of the sugar tax. Source B tells me that the sugar tax has been successful in cutting down the amount of sugar that consumers consume. This can be seen from Source B, “Better off consumers have been moving away from high sugar fizzy drinks for some time”, and “...dropped by 17% among the poorest groups”. This means that consumers are staying away from sugary drinks as a result of the imposition of the tax by the government. However, Source C tells me that the sugar tax is not completely effective as the sugar tax only provides a superficial solution to the consumption of the sugary drinks. This can be seen from, source C, “Other studies merely note the lower amount consumers spend on soft drinks, but not the volume they consume as they may have simply switched to cheaper brands.” This means that the sugar tax has not been totally effective in reducing the sugar intake as people could just be switching to more cost-effective alternatives rather than reducing the amount they consume.

Both sources are however similar as they both tell me that taxes can disincentivise people from consuming sugary drinks. This can be seen in Source B, “After the sugar tax was introduced in 2014 the greatest success was among the poorest people.” This means that the sugar tax is able to reduce the consumption of sugar amongst the lower income group. Similarly, this can be seen from Source C, “A report claims the volume of unhealthy soft drinks sold fell by 6% in the first year.” This means that the tax has been helpful in decreasing the sale of soft drinks, hence resulting in lesser consumption of these unhealthy drinks.

Both sources are different in terms of their tone. Source B adopts an optimistic tone towards the results of the implementation of the sugar tax. This can be seen from Source B, “Just the threat of tax may bring a significant change in soft drinks formulas.” The source is thus in full support of the introduction of the tax as Source B feels that the tax will bring about definitive changes to both consumers and producer actions. The outcome would thus be for Britons to support the sugar tax. However, Source C adopts a critical tone towards the outcomes of the implementation of the sugar tax. This can be seen from Source C which uses loaded language such as, “entirely overlook” and “the state has assumed authority”. The source is hence condemning the sugar tax for being negligent towards the consumers’ needs and is ineffective in totally resolving the issue. The outcome is to convince Australians that the sugar tax is ineffective so that they will not support its implementation.

2020 O Level Social Studies Paper Suggested Answers

Section A

1. The message of this source is that the minimum wage law is beneficial for workers. The source shows a wealthy looking man in a large chair, saying “Raise the minimum wage and people will lose jobs!” and a butler saying “You’re right! I would finally be able to quit my two other jobs!”. The source is mocking at the opponents of the minimum wage law, who are mainly rich people, for failing to understand the impact of the law on workers. The source says that instead of causing workers to lose their jobs, the law would allow them to work less jobs as it would provide them with more salary.
2. The author in Source B would agree with the cartoonist in Source C about how workers are currently exploited by employers despite the minimum wage law. Source C shows a worker with “the minimum wage job” working hard in a deep trench, while his employer shouts at him from above saying “Keep working. It’s the only way out!” This means that employers are forcing workers to work under poor conditions. Source B agrees with this, as it states, “At the end of the day, a minimum-wage worker is making massive profits for his employer at the expense of his own well-being.” This also shows that workers’ welfare is being compromised in order to benefit their employer.

However, the author in Source B would not agree with Source C’s view on how to improve the situations of workers. Source C is published by an organisation who campaigns workers’ rights. It was published to criticise employers for exploiting workers, so that employers would improve the working environment and working conditions of the workers. On the other hand, Source B is by a worker who states, “What is the point of poverty wages if not enough is earned to be spent or saved in the economy?” The worker made the comment in hopes that the minimum wage will be increased so that his situation can be improved. Therefore, while Source C views that employers are responsible in improving the situations of workers, Source B thinks that there is a need to increase the minimum wage.

3. This source is useful as evidence about arguments for introducing a minimum wage in Singapore. Source D says that various parties can work together to successfully implement the minimum wage in Singapore. It states, “We have the National Wages Council... If at this stage, our companies cannot fully afford a decent minimum wage, the difference can be topped up by the Workfare Income Supplement (WIS).” This means that the government, councils and companies can work together to ensure all workers are paid a fair minimum wage. This is supported by Source B, which states “The trade unions have called for the minimum wage to be raised significantly”. Hence, Source D is reliable in showing how various groups can fight for workers’ rights and ensure that a fair minimum wage is paid. Furthermore, Source D is reliable as it was made by the former Chief Executive of the Singapore Government Investment Corporation. As a person with a high level of income, he does not have any obvious agenda in supporting a minimum wage, which would benefit people with low levels of income. Therefore, Source D is useful as it is reliable.

However, Source D is not useful in saying that the minimum wage can help end poverty in Singapore. Source D states, “A minimum wage is needed to help bring our working poor up to a decent standard of living... only then can we begin to make poverty a thing of the past in Singapore.” This means that the minimum wage law ensures that poor workers earn enough to get out of their financial predicament. However, Source D fails to consider other

possible implications of a minimum wage on the poor, as seen in Source F, which states that “not all employers would want to employ workers at this expensive rate.” This means that the minimum wage may actually worsen poverty in Singapore, as the minimum wage law may reduce the number of jobs available, and hence the poor would be unable to earn a living. Hence, Source D is not completely useful as it is limited in offering a comprehensive view of the employment and poverty situations in Singapore.

4. Source E makes Source F’s view on the impact of the minimum wage law on jobs surprising. Source E says that the minimum wage creates more jobs. It states, “minimum wage rises create more jobs than they remove... they are positive for the economy as giving low-paid workers more money allows them to go out and spend.” This means that have a higher minimum wage would give workers more spending power that would ultimately allow businesses to make more money and create more jobs. On the other hand, Source D says that the minimum wage will reduce the number of jobs. It states, “not all employers would want to employ workers at this expensive rate, which could lead to lower levels of employment.” This means that the minimum wage law will cause companies to hire less people to save cost. As both sources have differing views, Source F is surprising.

However, Source E does not make Source F completely surprising as both sources are evaluating the impact of the minimum wage in different contexts. Source E uses the analysis of experts like the Washington-based National Employment Law Project on the impact of a rise in the minimum wage in Canada. As Canada already has the minimum wage law in place for many years, there would be diverse opinions on whether the minimum wage law is beneficial for employment. On the other hand, Source F uses the opinion of the Manpower Minister on the impact of the minimum wage in Singapore. The minimum wage is not implemented in Singapore, and the government in Singapore is known for its stance against the minimum wage and its refusal to implement in Singapore. As Source F says what I expect it to say, Source E does not make Source F surprising.

5. I agree with this statement as it is supported by Sources B, C and F. The sources show that the minimum wage has done little to improve the conditions of workers, as poverty and exploitation continue to persist. In Source B, the minimum wage is too low “to be spent or saved” and workers continue to be poor, while in Source C, workers continue to be exploited by their employers despite the minimum wage law. The sources also show that instead of improving workers’ conditions, the minimum wage may lead to more problems. In Source B, tax payers “have to pay for more welfare allowances” to help the poor workers and in Source F, employers will be more unwilling to hire workers, leading to “lower levels of employments”.

However, I disagree with this statement as it is supported by Sources A, D and E. The minimum wage can be implemented successfully if various parties, such as “the National Wages council... companies...” and the government, work together to ensure a fair minimum wage is implemented as seen in Source D. This would then bring positive outcomes. It would reduce the need for workers to take on multiple jobs as seen Source A. It can also give workers “a decent standard of living” and therefore eradicating poverty, as seen in Source D. Finally, in Source E, it can provide workers greater spending power, which can reduce “costs for businesses by increasing profits” and help the economy grow.

Overall, I disagree that minimum wage laws do more harm than good if they are implemented fairly. Sources B and D show that the various parties can work together to

ensure that a fair level of minimum wage is paid to workers. Councils and unions can represent the workers to demand for an amount of wage that is sufficient for the workers to have a decent standard of living, while the government can provide subsidies to companies to ensure that they can continue to make profits and hire more workers despite the minimum wage law. The government can also implement other laws to ensure that workers are not exploited by the minimum wage law.

Section B

6. I would share that reducing plastic waste is crucial to Singapore. According to Extract 1, there was 822200 tonnes of plastic waste generated in Singapore in 2016. This large amount of plastic waste must be disposed, but Singapore is a very small country with limited land size. It does not have enough landfills to contain the waste and would need to send its plastic waste to other countries for disposal. This makes Singapore reliant on other countries to get rid of its plastic. If other countries are unable to dispose Singapore's waste, Singapore will have to convert its land into landfills, and the land cannot be used to develop the country. Therefore, Singaporeans will be motivated to reduce their plastic waste, to reduce Singapore's reliance on other countries and ensure it has sufficient land space.

I would also share that reducing plastic waste is easy. According to Extract 1, 93% of the plastic waste in Singapore was not recycled in 2016. This could be due to a lack of knowledge of how to recycle the plastic. One way people can recycle their plastic is to clean them and dispose them at recycling bins, which can be found in every neighborhood. Plastic waste can also be reduced by reusing the plastics. For example, plastic bags from shops and supermarkets can be reused when Singaporeans buy something again. Plastic containers can also be used to store food at home. Therefore, Singaporeans will be more motivated to reduce plastic waste if they realise how easy it is to do so.

7. It is challenging for a government to manage the competing needs and interests of citizens. In a diverse population, different people have different things they need and want. For example, an efficient public transportation system is an important priority for those without cars. The Thomson-East Coast MRT line in Singapore was thus built to meet the needs of these people. However, those with their own cars may be more concerned about an efficient road network. Due to limited resources, the government cannot meet everyone's needs. Hence, decisions on how the resources should be used must be carefully made to meet these competing needs and interests.

It is also challenging for a government to strengthen citizens' sense of belonging. In a diverse population, different people have different views and ideas about their nation. If they feel that their opinions are not being heard, they will feel neglected and that they do not belong to the country. For example, the government introduced "Our Singapore Conversation" in 2012 for citizens to share their views and ideas about what matters to Singapore. The government must also address all these views and make sure nobody's opinion is left out. Therefore, it is a challenge for a government to ensure that citizens can provide their full feedback properly so that they will have a sense of belonging.

Overall, I think that it is more challenging for a government to strengthen citizens' sense of belonging than to manage the competing needs and interests of citizens. Careful planning and allocation of resources by the government can help ensure that competing needs and interests are addressed without too much trade-offs, but it has been increasingly more

challenging to strengthen citizens' sense of belonging due to the rapid growth of social media. Citizens are exposed to polarising political, social and economic views online, not only within the country, but from different parts of the world. It will become harder for a government to listen to everyone's view to make sure they feel they belong to a country.