



General Paper Bulletin 2020 (JC 2)

Welcome to the final issue of TMJC's GP Bulletin for 2020! Here are a few more essays written by your peers during the recent Preliminary Examination. Once again, thanks to the students who have contributed their essays, who have proven that good writing is very possible despite the exam conditions.

Do take note again that these essays are not perfect or model essays, and while reading these essays, you may find some of the examples and points useful for application to other questions. Please exercise judgment and discretion in using such information in a manner that is relevant to the question you are answering. Pay extra attention to the comments on the right column, which corresponds to the marking rubrics on which essays are assessed.

Lastly, you should not attempt to copy and hand them in as your own!

All the best for the upcoming A-Level Exam!

Editorial Team

Mdm Aslindah
Mrs Wendy Goh
Mdm Sukhvinder Kaur
Ms Jacqueline Tan
Mr Max Cheong

Contents

Q2: 'My life, my choice.' Is this good advice for the young people in your society?.....	2
Q4: Should businesses focus solely on making profits in today's world?	4
Q5: 'Digital technology is making humans intellectually and socially deficient.' Discuss.....	7
Q7: 'Both developed and developing countries should bear equal responsibility for climate change.' Discuss.....	12
Q8: To what extent are museums still relevant today?	14
Q12: 'History has shown that Man never learns from his mistakes.' Is this a fair comment?.....	17

Q2: 'My life, my choice.' Is this good advice for the young people in your society? (TMJC JC2 Prelim 2020)

Sample Essay	Comments
<p>Adolescents today have the propensity to desire living life to the fullest. The notion of 'you only live once' has been reiterated time and time again when making impulsive decisions to act on their feelings. Some may say that they ought to be reined in and controlled, before they do something that is deemed to be 'wrong' or something that they would regret. However, the saying 'my life, my choice' has been uttered by teenagers who wish to do as they please and not be controlled by overbearing parents or adult figures. But should this saying be something that one advises adolescents? Especially in today's day and age and the nature of our stressful, meritocratic society, most would argue that the saying 'my life, my choice' should not be used for teenagers as it may be ruinous to them, but I, for one, do not think so. I believe that 'my life, my choice' would be good advice for the young people in my society.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Clear definition of terms, defining what 'my life, my choice' means and describing the characteristics of Singapore society.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Avoid too many repetitions of the saying, 'my life, my choice'. Also, a brief description of the characteristics of young people could be provided.</p>
<p>A famous saying, 'what does not kill you makes you stronger' may be clichéd, but still proves true today. One would grow and learn the most when one makes mistakes, and this is why I postulate that 'my life, my choice' is good advice for adolescents. They should be able to know that whatever decisions they choose to make has an impact on their own life, and not anyone else's. Being left to make possible mistakes may be the best way for them to actually know for themselves that what they have done should not be repeated, and they would thus be more careful with what they choose to do. When one gives teenagers the freedom to choose what they do, the teenagers might also tend to be more careful as they will not be guided by anyone but themselves, and this allows them to mature even as they make mistakes. There are inevitably some exceptions who would not be concerned about the consequences of their actions, but ultimately, as human beings, deep down, they would not have the desire to destroy their own lives. Also, being able to decide for themselves is key in my society's landscape, with overbearing and overprotective parents usually planning out one's life from the minute one is born. It is thus imperative for the youth to make their own decisions with whatever opportunities they have, as they should not be overly reliant on parents and what their parents have mapped out for them, as that will entail no growth since they are practically not allowed to make their own mistakes and thereby learn. Being told the saying 'my life, my choice' would let them know that the consequences which resulted from their actions would impact their lives, not their parents' or friends', and every decision they make would result in some form of growth. Thus I feel that it is a saying that is valuable advice for adolescents, since growth would make them stronger.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Clear stating of society's characteristics in the form of Singapore parenting styles.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Clear explanation and elaboration of the argument on learning from their mistakes.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Although valid, the examples are rather generic.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Give clear and specific examples and the lessons learnt.</p>
<p>Besides, the saying 'my life, my choice' encapsulates letting teenagers do what they love, and this is good as they make certain decisions to pursue their passions based on what is important to</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Relevant and well-developed point on pursuing passions.</p>

them. They may end up flourishing or further realising their strengths and interests. Allowing adolescents to decide what they do will give them room to either discover their previously unfound passions, or be able to do well if they make the choice that is right for them. A Harvard Business Review study found that people tend to do better when they are doing what they love. Of course, passion may not be a priority compared to income and wealth given today's materialistic society. However, allowing the youth to make their own decisions based on their priorities in life is pivotal as, even if they choose to pursue something they do not particularly adore, they would want to do it due to other reasons. The importance is in the fact that they made the choice for themselves. Adolescence may also be the only time one can truly experiment with various activities and this may lead to teenagers changing their minds about what they want to pursue based on their experiences, thus allowing them to be on the right path. Being able to decide and do as they please will indubitably lead to them possibly doubting themselves but they learn how to figure it out along the way and not be overly dependent on external sources. Also, as hedonists would claim, doing what one loves is imperative to one's life as one can always develop the skillset even if one starts off not being particularly talented in that area. As teenagers do what they like, they can determine for themselves if they have the grit to develop their skills if they are not well-versed in that area, or if they want to do something they are more talented in. Also, adolescents being able to do what they love and what they want will, more often than not, lead to success when they are able to find themselves. With specialised schools in my society such as the Singapore Sports School, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Lasalle, School of the Arts and others, teenagers will be able to find what they desire and what they want to pursue. Hence, I believe that 'my life, my choice' is good advice for youths, when they get to decide what is best for them to pursue.

However, detractors would posit that 'my life, my choice' is ruinous advice for young people in my society as adolescents do not have their pre-frontal cortex developed yet, and making rash decisions would not be beneficial for them. Moreover, peer pressure has been impacting more people in today's day and age, with multifarious trends one is expected to keep up with. It is said by critics that when one conforms to peer pressure, one would make decisions that adversely impact their lives. Bad influences may make one not know how to control oneself, and give in to the pressure to vices, such as drugs and alcohol. Therefore detractors often claim that giving teenagers the freedom to make their own decisions and shape their own lives is disadvantageous. On the other hand, I do not agree with this as this is not the case most of the time, and being told 'my life, my choice' would let the youths know that their futures are at stake and even if a smidgen of these teenagers would be nonchalant and continue making mistakes, it is a matter of time before they move on from giving into peer pressure and make their own decisions based on themselves. The adolescents would have the epiphany that, precisely because it is their own life that is being affected, they should make decisions

Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Depth of argument shown in elaborating on youth as the only time to experiment, and developing a skillset.

Use of Illustrations: Valid examples but not developed enough to support the point on passions.

Suggestion for Improvement: Though the examples are from Singapore, better links to society's characteristics in relation to the point on pursuing passions could have been included.

Relevance to Question Requirements: Good elaboration on the qualities of young people in society in relation to peer pressure.

Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Valid rebuttal with good hedging in terms of the saying not being applicable to a small number of youth.

Use of Illustrations: The examples are relevant and support the argument but they sound too general.

Suggestion for Improvement: It is not clear what 'epiphany' would happen, or whether this would even happen. Also, a clearer link to how laws would help in good decision-making could be made.

that they know will be beneficial to them. Also, there are laws and rules in place in society, and their getting into trouble because of breaking these laws or rules would put them in place and make them realise what they should do. The ability to think for themselves would let them make their own decisions.	
Overall Comments: Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-considered points, which are directly relevant and with a clean logical flow. • Solid analysis backed by deep contextual knowledge. • Language use displayed personal voice and fluency. Areas for improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a conclusion. • Paragraphs are too long. There is depth, but scope is compromised. • Clear trends and research were cited but it would be good to include more concrete examples. Tan Xuan Yu 19S302	

Q4: Should businesses focus solely on making profits in today's world? (TMJC JC2 Prelim 2020)

Sample Essay	Comments
<p>'Today, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to introduce everyone to the new Iphone!' - Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple, would then unveil his magnum opus, the revolutionary 'Iphone', and awe the world. With the growing demand for novel, groundbreaking technology at that time in mobile phones, such as touchscreens, greater device specifications and upgrades, Apple would find their golden goose in the Iphone as consumers worldwide clamoured for the new Iphone, which heralded the new age of smartphones. Billions of dollars would be made as Apple gradually became one of the world's most valuable companies in the 21st century. However, while it must be said that making profits should be one of the aims of businesses, in today's world there are growing concerns being raised about businesses and how they operate, such as ethical and environmental issues, as well as concerns about product quality. Hence I largely disagree that businesses should focus solely on making profits in today's world.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: The Iphone example lacks a clear link to the question on the pursuit of profits, but the stand is clear.</p> <p>Suggestion for Improvement: Shorten the Iphone example and focus on profit-making. The link between the Iphone example and today's world could also be made clearer.</p>
<p>In circumstances where economic growth is a priority, I concede that businesses should focus on making profits in today's world. In many less-developed nations, Multinational Corporations (MNCs) are an integral part of society at large. Their businesses provide employment for the masses and they allow for economic development, which is essential for nation building. This is seen in countries with lower wages for employees, facilitating larger profit margins for these large businesses and corporations. Many sportswear and apparel companies also produce their goods in nations like Bangladesh and Vietnam. This allows for reduced costs for the company. It also benefits these developing nations</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Clear link made to today's world (businesses, MNCs, developing countries). However, there is some digression when describing how the consumers benefit.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Good use of concession, though the actual 'circumstances' could have been clarified.</p>

<p>as significant portions of the population are often not highly educated enough to take on white collar professions, relying on manual labour and blue collar jobs to earn a living. The consumers of these products are also able to benefit in that as production costs for these businesses decrease, the businesses are able to be more competitive with pricing to appeal to market demands. Nike produces much of their footwear in Vietnam, making their footwear more accessible in terms of price. Hence, in the pursuit of economic development, profit making should be a main focus of businesses today.</p>	<p>Use of Illustrations: Valid use of developing countries to support the need for MNCs pursuing profits in these countries.</p> <p>Suggestion for Improvement: A valid point though clearer development is needed. For example, there could be focus on the huge stakes or huge consequences of companies not focussing on making profits.</p>
<p>I also concede that businesses should also be profit-driven when it comes to innovation. Being competitive in the unforgiving world of business motivates innovative new developments for the goal of turning profits and surviving. Failure to do so would not allow these businesses to thrive, resulting in losses for business owners. Bankruptcy and termination threaten any business that refuses to innovate and compete to make profits. In the 1990s and early 2000s, Nokia and Kodak dominated the mobile phone and film photography industries respectively. Both were at the peak of their powers and had a majority of the market share. However, a lack of innovation and adapting to the times resulted in these two companies failing. Nokia has since lost a majority of its market share, and was acquired by Microsoft after nearing bankruptcy. Kodak filed for Bankruptcy protection in 2012. Their places in the market were superseded by technologically superior corporations. Hence, profit making should be a target for businesses as it encourages innovation, allowing these enterprises to stay afloat.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Clear topic sentence on innovation and the description of today's business context.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Good argumentation on the negative impacts of not innovating enough.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Valid use of the 2 companies to prove the need to innovate.</p> <p>Suggestion for Improvement: Could have considered the impact of innovation, by elaborating on how innovation can help businesses keep afloat or even flourish.</p>
<p>However in recent times, many issues have been brought to the spotlight. Businesses are now scrutinised by the watchful eyes of the consumers and watchdogs as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) takes a higher place in today's businesses. Businesses today should have an increasing focus on the environment. Pollution is a major byproduct of most industries. Many businesses in industries such as technology, fashion and food are all complicit in contributing to a lot of pollution in today's world. It was discovered that many leather tanneries had been discarding wastewater polluted with chromium salts and other chemicals into rivers and streams in India, where leather production is a key player, and a big part of the fashion industry's supply chain. India has some of the most polluted rivers in the world as enterprises remain nonchalant about their environmental impact. However, the corporations that buy the leather from these tanneries do not seem fazed by their continual havoc on the environment, with companies like Hermes, Louis Vuitton and Gucci still sourcing their leather from India, despite the lack of adequate management of pollution. They have drawn flak from consumers who demand increased CSR, and want to reduce the pollution businesses emit with more sustainable practices. In light of the environmental trouble our planet faces, businesses should be more focussed on protecting the environment in today's world, or there would be</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Good transition (and clear signposting) to the next part of the essay, focussing on reasons why profit-making should not be the focus.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Clear, cogent argument on the environmental impacts of profit-making by companies.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Good illustration of the Indian leather industry and the subsequent impacts.</p> <p>Suggestion for Improvement: Could have provided more elaboration on how businesses could also gain by being more environmentally responsible in their practices.</p>

<p>irreparable damage that yields devastating consequences on humanity.</p>	
<p>Businesses today should also focus on human rights as recent revelations have also shown that businesses today have little regard for human rights and would readily exploit people to turn profit. It was uncovered in China that a large scale electronics manufacturer, Foxconn, severely violated the rights of their workers. As worker suicide rates continued to increase due to poor working conditions and low remuneration, Foxconn literally installed 'safety nets' in their factory to prevent their workers from dying due to attempted suicides. This revelation led to a massive public outcry as consumers demanded better rights for the workers. The sentiment of today's consumers are heard loud and clear with the advent of social media and rapid communication networks. The basic rights of all humans should be treated with greater respect and hence businesses should also have an increasing focus on protecting their workers' human rights.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Valid reference to business conditions, addressing 'today's world'.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Valid point on the employees' consequences if companies focus on profits and ignore human rights.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Valid example, with apt illustration of the adverse consequences. Faced by the workers under the inhumane conditions.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Could perhaps have argued how, in the long term, such profit-motives and disregarding human rights could or would ultimately hurt companies.</p>
<p>Businesses today should also have a greater emphasis on product quality and longevity. Many businesses have compromised product quality and longevity for increased profits by reducing raw material quality and cutting corners during mass production. Shockingly, some businesses even resort to 'planned obsolescence', a phenomenon where manufacturers plan for their products to fail at a certain time, mostly prematurely, so that more profits could be made as more goods are sold. There are numerous examples. 'The great light bulb conspiracy' came about as a group of light bulb manufacturers in the early 20th century realised that their products were working for far too long. Instead of being proud of this achievement, they intentionally set up a union and dictated that light bulbs made should only last for a set amount of hours, much shorter than previous industrial standards. This would result in a greater turnover for light bulb companies, with consumers none the wiser. Fortunately this union eventually disbanded due to internal conflict on pricing and after WWII, they were no more. That does not take away from the fact that many modern companies still engineer their products to fail right after the warranty date, like cars, printers, other electronics and even daily necessities. This would result in lemon laws and greater consumer watchdog power in dealing with such companies who proliferate such 'throwaway' consumer culture and being wasteful in search of profits. Hence companies should have a greater focus on product quality and longevity to reduce waste and to be more transparent in serving the consumer in order to gain their trust for continued patronage.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: The paragraph could have started with why businesses should not be solely focussed on profits, instead of what they should focus on- this makes it more directly relevant to addressing the question.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Good elaboration of the process involved in 'planned obsolescence', though more convincing evidence needs to be provided on companies actually adopting such a mindset in their product design.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Valid, but could have used a more recent example of 'planned obsolescence' by companies, together with proof of this practice.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: More of the paragraph could have been used to show the consequences for companies if they focussed too much on profit-making.</p>
<p>In conclusion, although being profit-oriented favours economic development and innovation from competitiveness, businesses should have an increased focus on the preservation of the</p>	<p>Suggestions for Improvement: Conclusion could paint a more positive picture of the gains reaped by everyone,</p>

environment, human rights and product quality in today's world as industrial practices worsen. This favours the businesses at the expense of everyone else, like the workers or the consumers. The new Apple Iphone? Does it still have the same allure as it once had? Steve Jobs would probably be ashamed of his company if he was still alive. Apple had been guilty of damaging the environment, human rights abuse and even planned obsolescence in their devices. The consumers will have the final say in today's world.	not just businesses if they are not solely focussed on profits.
Overall Comments: Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good range of points, with apt use of concessions. • Relevant points and examples, showing clear understanding of question requirements. • Language is fluent with few errors. Areas for improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer links need to be made to profit-making for the last 3 points. Poj Kia Jin 19S309	

Q5: 'Digital technology is making humans intellectually and socially deficient.' Discuss. (TMJC JC2 Prelim 2020)

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
In recent years, the advent of digital technology in the form of physical devices like smartphones, smart watches and other forms, such as improved internet speed from the development of 5G, has been of great help to us by providing more convenient means to perform our daily tasks. Especially in the current Covid-19 pandemic the world is tackling, digital technology has allowed us to learn and communicate with others in light of the safe distancing measures or quarantines implemented by various countries around the globe. However, despite the ability of digital technology to help people around the world expand their horizons with the vast library of courses and educational videos online, it still strips mankind of opportunities to connect and interact with others meaningfully despite us being able to communicate more conveniently through text messages or calls. Thus, I believe that while digital technology is boosting our intellectual ability, it is, however, making us more socially deficient at the same time.	Relevance to Question Requirements: Introduction gave a good overview of what digital technology entails and how it might affect humans intellectually and socially. It is evident that both aspects – intellectually and socially deficient – are addressed in the essay.
The availability of online courses from various sources like Khan Academy and DuoLingo, along with the tremendous number of educational videos available on video streaming platforms such	Relevance to Question Requirements: This paragraph offered an alternative perspective to the claim that digital

<p>as YouTube, has given us more opportunities to build our knowledge with the help of a simple device like a laptop or smartphone. With the help of digital technology, people nowadays have access to such a wide array of resources to supplement their learning. In addition, it is able to help slower learners in school catch up through recorded lectures and lessons. Digital technology has promoted independent learning online, and consequently benefitted many around the world looking to hone new skills or further their knowledge in fields of passion. The potential of digital technology to improve our intellectual ability is unprecedented, and can possibly help humanity as a whole become smarter. Hence, digital technology is improving the intellectual ability of humans rather than making us intellectually deficient.</p>	<p>technology is making humans intellectually deficient. The argument is that this is not true, which is an acceptable take on the issue.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): There is an attempt to consider the impact of digital technology on learning, the acquisition of knowledge and honing new skills. Some links were made to explain the significance of the examples to the issue.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: While there were examples of Khan Academy and DuoLingo, along with educational videos on Youtube, there is not much by way of concrete explanation of HOW these sources improve our intellectual ability. There is an assumption that more resources to supplement learning will enhance our thinking. Helping slower learners catch up is a good point, but more must be said about how digital technology aid learning. Perhaps it is because the interactivity of digital sources allows students to learn at their own pace, or generate more discussion and thought.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: While the paragraph development and focus were generally clear, more can be done to ensure that the topic sentence at the start more successfully captures what the paragraph is about, rather than begin with a series of examples and waiting till the concluding sentence to draw everything together.</p>
<p>Critics may claim that the use of digital technology facilitates the sharing of views online, leading to many spreading unreasonable views or false information online with the help of anonymity on the Internet protecting them from slander. The sharing of such views or information causes gullible people to believe in them, thus making them more intellectually deficient. One such example is the 'Flat Earth Society' which has garnered the support of</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Clearly signposted as an OV. Relevant point on how digital technology may be responsible for the spread of misinformation and half truths and people may not be discerning enough to tell the difference between fact and fiction.</p>

<p>thousands of people around the world on various social media platforms such as Twitter and Reddit, even though it has been long proven that the Earth is not actually flat. People can abuse the anonymity they have on the Internet to openly spread misinformation which can go viral quickly, thus lowering the intellect of many around the world. However, this claim is not entirely true as most of the gullible people on the Internet tend to be younger. Parents can utilise parental controls, which include restriction of their children's usage of digital devices or even blocked access to certain websites or materials, to prevent their children from viewing such content. Moreover, with lessons conducted in schools to help them spot false information and to not trust everything they see online so easily, these young people are less likely to believe in such views and information, thus protecting them from becoming intellectually deficient.</p>	<p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): There is development of the OV point, with examples to illustrate the point. There is also a rebuttal provided to the OV. However, while a rebuttal was provided, it is less convincing than the OV point presented. The rebuttal suggests that the younger people are less discerning – a flawed assumption. The solutions to help the young overcome their 'gullibility', for example, blocked access to certain websites and lessons in school are also dubious as solutions to the issue of misinformation on the internet. In fact, the mention of these examples serve to reiterate that the problem is a very real one.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Relevant examples are given to support the OV. Examples to support the rebuttal are less convincing / irrelevant.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Perhaps the rebuttal could be about how digital technology necessitates new sets of technical skills to be learnt and this would bring about an evolution in the critical literacy skills people possess today. Processing and interpretation of knowledge make people more perceptive and equipped to differentiate fact from fiction.</p>
<p>Although digital technology is able to make us more intelligent, it is unfortunately making us more socially deficient. The prevalent use of digital devices now has caused us to interact less with others in real life. This is especially true now, as working from home or attending lessons at the comfort of our homes has become the norm, in light of the current pandemic. Due to this, many of us are unable to meet with others and interact with them face to face, causing us to have fewer opportunities to develop social skills such as communication and appropriate body language. Consequently, due to this lack of social skills, we have become more socially deficient.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: The second issue of digital technology and social deficiency is addressed.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): There is some complexity in the arguments presented. In one sense, digital technology has made us more capable intellectually, but socially, we have become more deficient. That said, the emphasis on the current pandemic was unnecessary, because the focus is</p>

	<p>on the social impact of digital technology on our lives, not just during the pandemic.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: No specific examples given, though there were general references to the use of digital devices that allow us to work from home.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: What about capitalising on what was raised in the concluding sentence on 'the lack of social skills'? Perhaps the focus of the paragraph can be on digital technology reducing 'opportunities to develop social skills such as communication and appropriate body language'.</p>
<p>Moreover, digital technology has reduced family bonding as many children and teenagers have access to digital devices and choose to interact less with their family members. Coupled with the usual dual-income families in current times, this leaves little to no time for these young people to interact with their parents, who most children and teenagers pick up social skills from, such as social cues or appropriate habits and behaviours in public. As a result, more young people will have difficulties communicating with others in the outside world due to a lack of social skills. This is becoming increasingly common in recent years as more and more youths are becoming addicted to using digital devices due to the various features available such as social media or video games. Thus, humans as a whole are becoming more socially deficient due to digital technology.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: The main argument on young people losing their sense of connection in the real world as a result of excessive use of digital devices is relevant.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): The causal links established in the first part of the argument are suspect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) young people learn social cues from parents b) teenagers on digital devices interact less with their family c) young people are therefore lacking in social skills. <p>However, the second part of the argument on addiction shows more promise.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: More specific examples needed of why and how and what has resulted in young people being glued to their digital devices.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: There is a need to develop the argument more fully. Give examples of social media platforms and why people are addicted to them and the impact this addiction has on</p>

	self-actualisation and self-worth and how it leads to social isolation.
<p>It can be argued that digital technology can increase our interactions with others due to how convenient it is to communicate with others with the help of smartphones, making us less socially deficient. The ability for us to send text messages or call another person at any time increases our communication with others. Video conferencing platforms such as Skype and Zoom allow us to connect with our loved ones when we go overseas for business or education opportunities. We can even form new connections through social media such as Facebook and Twitter, and get to know and interact with celebrities through live streaming platforms available on Twitch and Instagram which have live chat features to facilitate interaction. With all these available at our fingertips, we can supposedly form new bonds and connections with like-minded individuals around the globe. However, while these platforms allow us to interact more, it does not necessarily make us less socially deficient. Conversely, this actually harms our social skills, as communicating behind a screen does not invoke the same emotional connections that we feel when interacting with others face to face. By communicating online, we are unable to pick up social cues such as appropriate body language, and we are void of other features of interacting with others, such as physical touch. Additionally, we do not feel the same presence of people when communicating online as compared to communicating in real life. Thus, digital technology has actually caused us to become more socially deficient.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: A relevant OV with an apt rebuttal.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): There is development of the points, both for the OV and the rebuttal and this was done with clarity.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: A range of relevant examples given, with adequate elaboration.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: A strong paragraph. May run the risk of repeating one of the points mentioned earlier, so it might be a good idea to amalgamate the paragraphs containing overlapping points.</p>
<p>In conclusion, while digital technology provides many benefits such as increased intelligence, it does, however, strip us of opportunities to communicate meaningfully and form emotional connections with others. Therefore, while digital technology does improve humans' intellectual ability, it conversely makes us more socially deficient.</p>	<p>An apt conclusion that summarises the main points raised in the essay.</p>
<p>Overall Comments:</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decent attempt to provide scope of points. • Some relevant examples cited. • Both POCs were addressed. • Clear organisation of points <p>Areas for Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation was uneven across paragraphs. Some paragraphs were superficial or had meandering paragraph development. 	

- Avoid run-on sentences. Convolutd sentences result in more grammatical errors.

Nicolas Koh 19S201

**Q7: ‘Both developed and developing countries should bear equal responsibility for climate change.’
Discuss. (TMJC JC2 Prelim 2020)**

Sample Essay	Marker’s Comments
<p>‘The environment belongs to everyone,’ as the former First Lady of the United States, Claudia Alta ‘Lady Bird’ Johnson once astutely pointed out. Everyone must take responsibility for the environment for all of us have a stake in it. While environmental degradation was not alien to her and her era, her view is arguably anachronistic, failing to take into account how countries have developed at varying pace over the decade. This question posits the view that all countries, regardless of whether they are Annex-1 or Non-Annex 1 countries, must play equal and comparable roles in reversing the effects of climate change. Ultimately, I am of the stand that developed countries should shoulder a larger responsibility for climate change as they are not only better equipped to deal with environmental issues, but are also the main contributors to climate change. Furthermore, developing countries cannot afford to deal with climate change given their dire lack of resources and urgency of other more pressing issues at hand.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Introduction is focussed on question, with a well-chosen quote and details, setting the context for discussion of issues.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Stand would be better placed at the end of the paragraph, rather than as the second last sentence. This would add to the fluency of the essay. Could also have briefly described what Annex 1 and Non-Annex 1 countries are, since these are not commonly used terms.</p>
<p>Proponents of the argument posited by the question might be quick to say that all countries, regardless of whether they are developed or developing, must play an equal role in reversing climate change because climate change is a transboundary issue that does not discriminate. They might argue that since climate change would affect every country, the attempt to partition responsibilities would be rendered ineffective - every country is a stakeholder and should contribute collectively to salvage what is left of the environment as it is mutually beneficial for everyone. As such, Non-Annex 1 countries might argue that developing countries should be held to the same carbon emission standard given to developing countries. While climate change indeed affects everyone, these detractors are too parochial in their outlook to notice that some countries are in fact more plagued by the effects of climate change than others. Credence for this view can be seen from how the Maldives and Singapore are projected to be underwater by 2100 due to rising sea levels. This elucidates how certain countries might stand to benefit more from the reversal of climate change than others and should thus contribute more proportionately to the amount they benefit. Furthermore, different countries have varying capabilities. To assure equal responsibilities for climate change might prove to be a greater burden for developing countries than that for developed countries. Hence, very paradoxically, the idealistic assumption of equal roles in the reversal of climate change is an unfair one.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Clearly relevant paragraph, topic sentence on climate change affecting all countries is addressing the question.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Paragraph shows some degree of control – presenting opposing view and providing quite an effective rebuttal; with a smooth transition and clear signposting.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Examples given but could give more details to show their relevance – just a mere mention is insufficient. Could also give more examples to fully support the point being made.</p>

<p>Developed countries should bear a greater responsibility for climate change as they are better equipped to deal with climate change. Indeed, developed countries are far more economically prosperous than their counterparts and could thus afford to invest in technology that could render certain processes more environmentally friendly and sustainable, thereby reducing their carbon emissions and contribution to climate change. This stance is perfectly encapsulated by the use of new technology such as carbon capture and storage by Canada's recently built power plant in 2014. This technology aims to collect carbon dioxide from its large point sources and store it in deep geological formations and deep ocean basins. This advanced and costly technology could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by an astonishing and record breaking 80 to 90 percent. However this technology has yet to be employed widely due to its exorbitant costs, making it a luxury that only richer developed countries can afford. Similarly, Tesla's all-electric vehicle aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing a much more environmentally friendly alternative to the conventional fuel and gas cars which necessitate the burning of fossil fuels, in turn leading to the increased greenhouse gas emissions. While ground-breaking and idealistic, it also comes with a huge price tag which only economically richer citizens can afford. This is exactly why very few Tesla cars or even electric cars are spotted in most developing countries. These examples clearly reflect how richer developed nations have a greater ability to afford and therefore should invest in exorbitant but highly effective solutions to combat climate change. Hence, given the costly nature of climate change technology, it is only a luxury that developed nations could afford while developing nations are deprived of.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Topic sentence effectively reflects the stand – that the developed countries are responsible for dealing with climate change.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Point is quite effectively developed, with sufficient explanation and relevant elaboration of both examples about Canada's power plant and Tesla's electric vehicles.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Examples are apt, with enough details to prove the point being made – that the developed countries have the financial means and can thus take the responsibility to address climate change.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Perhaps an example could be given of how a developing country would struggle to afford the costly technology needed to combat climate change.</p>
<p>In addition, developed countries should shoulder a larger responsibility as they are in fact the largest contributors, given their historic emissions and it could even be said that they are the root cause of the problem. In the heated debate on responsibility of nations in climate change efforts between Annex 1 and Non-Annex countries, Annex 1 countries often argue that they should be held to lower greenhouse gas emission standards as they should be accorded the 'right to development' just as developed countries were previously. The 'right to development' states that a country has to pollute in order to obtain economic progression, a right that was never accorded to them. Indeed, developed countries have contributed to the worsening of climate change drastically. This is robustly supported by the statistics of how 2 major superpowers, inclusive of America, account for up to 40 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, more industrialised and developed countries were said to have relied on more environmentally unsustainable practices in the past as a cost-saving and efficient way of obtaining economic progress. Thus, this clearly demonstrates that developed countries are the largest contributors to climate change. As such, developed countries should be obliged to reverse the damage that they have</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Effectively written topic sentence on developed nations being the largest contributors, clearly supporting the stand.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Well-developed argument with sound reasoning for the point stated in the topic sentence. Clear explanation on the concept of 'right to development' and how this links to the greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Illustration could be more wide-ranging and more detailed to fully substantiate the point made.</p>

caused to the climate by taking part in more climate change efforts.	
<p>Lastly, developed countries should bear a greater responsibility for climate change given the inability of developing countries' to do so due to more pressing issues at hand. Indeed, developing countries are faced with more urgent issues such as famine, poverty and lack of healthcare. The same amount of money used by developing nations to resolve these issues is used by developed nations to sustain their luxurious lifestyles. This is robustly supported by Venezuela, one of the most urbanised but yet to be developed countries that is dealing with high levels of poverty. In fact, 10% of the Venezuelan population has fled the country due to poverty. This elucidates the urgency of other issues developing nations face which forces the seriousness of climate change to pale in comparison. Hence, developing countries are faced with a Catch-22 situation where they have too few resources to deal with too many problems. Consequently, climate change is forced to be their lowest priority amongst other pressing issues. Hence, developed nations should take the lead in mitigating climate change as developing nations are simply unable to do so.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Another well-stated point, this time about developing countries' inability to be responsible for climate change.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Logical development of the point with explanation for the current state of affairs and reason why it is the responsibility of the developed countries</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Apt illustration, with some details to explain its validity.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Perhaps Cleary explain how it is a Catch-22 situation? If not, then the term Catch-22 could be omitted.</p>
In the final analysis, while developed nations should bear a larger responsibility, both developed and developing nations must work hand in hand in order to effectively mitigate climate change.	<p>Conclusion: Seems a little brief, perhaps rushed.</p>
<p>Marker's Overall Comment:</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-written essay with a good range of points. • Relevant points and examples, showing clear understanding of question requirements. • Good use of Language – fluent, showing some flair. <p>Areas for Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustration could be more detailed in some paragraphs; need to show greater substantiation of the point. <p>Ng Jeng Swen 19S307</p>	

Q8: To what extent are museums still relevant today? (TMJC JC2 Prelim 2020)

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
<p>From the Louvre to the British National Museum, to the multiple heritage museums in Korea, and even to the ArtScience Museum in Singapore, museums all over the world have played a significant role in the arts and cultural scene. The popular belief is that museums are 'boring' or 'not engaging', considering the complex modern world we live in today, and the abundance of fresh, exciting things it has to offer. Rather, museums are far from that. Museums offer so much more than mere paintings or statues</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: The introduction keeps in mind the question and provides sufficient scope / content overview. The choice of the word 'shortcomings' could be reconsidered – what exactly does this word mean in light of the issue of relevance?</p>

<p>- they are places of knowledge and education, they offer trips 'into the past' unlike any other, and they preserve what would otherwise be lost in time. In light of this, museums are indeed still relevant today, though they do have their shortcomings.</p>	
<p>Museums are still relevant today as they protect and preserve artistic and historical relics. Ancient artefacts from decades ago are fragile and prone to erosion. Having existed for such a long time, the only reason why they have stood the test of time is because museums take the effort to care for such precious items and keep them in the best conditions. The British National Museum, for instance, houses the famous Parthenon marbles. These elegant, life-like sculptures by the Greeks allude to the cultural heritage of Greece and are symbols of their past. While they were originally from Athens, had the Parthenon marbles been left there, erosion and the heavily polluted air containing toxic particles would have taken its toll on the statues and destroyed their intricate designs. As climate change continues to take its toll on the earth, historical artefacts left to the environment may soon be no more. In fact, the famous Stonehenge is already starting to see the effects of being constantly exposed to the environment. As such, museums are extremely important as they serve to preserve significant historical items that would otherwise be lost to mankind.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Clear topic sentence that directly addresses the question, and highlighting an important function of museums – protect and preserve.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Sufficient explanation provided on the historical significance of the relics.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: A relevant example is given, with clear details linked to the main point of protecting and preserving historic relics</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Cite an example to show how artistic works are protected and preserved for greater coherence to topic sentence.</p>
<p>Museums are still relevant today as they are cultural institutions of education and knowledge. Museums offer a rich variety of knowledge about diverse people and places that can teach the young and old alike about stories, experiences, ideals, and traditions that can only be impactful through a trip to the museum. Some museums in London, for example, display facts and figures of animals that teach children about animal diversity and evolution. Notably, one particular museum displays the skeletons of a Dodo bird and dinosaur. Although these animals are extinct, the museum offers information on their biology and origins, which serve to capture audiences, particularly curious young children. In fact, perhaps museums are still relevant today because of the knowledge they offer to the future generations. Such stories are extremely important not only as scientific lessons, but as life lessons as well. The African National Museum displays numerous galleries on Apartheid South Africa - a painful era for the country. This serves to educate visitors on the horrors of Apartheid and the pain that black people had to go through as a result - a harrowing story that has been taught to students in history and literature lessons. Such lessons impart valuable insights onto audiences, in this case, how blatant prejudice and unfounded discrimination caused the suffering of an entire race, so that future generations may understand and prevent such horrors from repeating themselves. Thus, through such displays, museums convey moral and historical lessons. Furthermore, it is because many museums have taken to the study of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics that we now have a better understanding of this ancient language. The Rosetta Stone, a huge rock with Egyptian hieroglyphic carvings, has literally been a keystone in the research of Egyptian history.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Good inclusion of a valid point that is easily explained with ready examples to be included.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Range of examples (from the Dodo bird to Egyptian hieroglyphics) provided some 'depth' to this otherwise straightforward point.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Examples were well developed; varied and with details flashed out to link to main point.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: The paragraph read as if it was approaching conclusion with this sentence: 'Thus, through such displays, museums convey moral and historical lessons.', only to be further expanded. Perhaps, modify the sentence to make it sound less conclusive, and link it to the next example on Egyptian hieroglyphics.</p>

<p>Museums from all over the world have shared research on these carvings and presented their finds to audiences, who gain new insights into how people used to communicate in Egypt. Although communication has progressed since then, hieroglyphics enable linguists to decipher and understand past events, giving people of today an idea of how Egyptians worked in the past. Therefore, museums are still relevant today as they educate people through lessons from the past.</p>	
<p>Critics may argue that in the advanced modern society we live in today, museums are no longer relevant as museum displays can be viewed online and there is no need for a physical trip to the museum. However, how can watching a Korean drama on a screen equate to the experience of visiting the numerous heritage galleries in Korea, that allow visitors to don the traditional Korean Hanbok step inside historical 'saeguk' palaces, and fully immerse in Korean culture. Similarly, the watchful eyes of the Mona Lisa that are said to follow the visitor can never have its eerie impact through a screen. Most of all, it is the experience of stepping into a place of historical value, such as the Kensington Castle and Windsor Castle, the Vatican Museums, the Smithsonian Institution, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Van Gogh museum, that truly immerse the audience and hook their attention. Therefore, museums are indeed still relevant today.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Context of today's world (technologically advanced) aptly included as part of evaluation or consideration of opposing view. Signposting for rebuttal was clear and thus paragraph demonstrated coherence in argument.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Demonstrated knowledge of museums and good choice of example (Mona Lisa and her watchful eye) to reinforce the point on museum providing an authentic experience that cannot be replicated through online viewing.</p>
<p>Critics may also argue that museums serve little purpose as what is displayed is too foreign for modern audiences to relate to or empathise with. After all, equestrian portraits from the Renaissance century are much too alien for the people of today, who travel in cars and airplanes. However, it is exactly because such experiences are so foreign to viewers that because they have never experienced it, the displays can 'transport' audiences to a different time and place, allowing them to gain deeper understandings on anthropology, imagine what past civilisation and culture was like, and see how much progress man has made. As the 4th Industrial Revolution continues to take place, technology is becoming increasingly infused into our lives today, hence all the more, it would make for a fresh experience to immerse in what museums have to offer. In fact, it would do people good to remember what the world was like when the pace of life was slower and the highlight of social events was the social interaction itself rather than gadgets or films and movies. Museums remind us of a time when the human spirit was the centre of attention, rather than technology - a notion that would be charming and nostalgic to the digitized netizens of today. Therefore, museums are indeed still relevant today.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Valid counter-argument provided on how many may not be able to relate to museum contents. However, the idea of what 'too foreign' may need further clarification before examples are cited.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): There is some overlap with the points raised in previous paragraphs: 'deeper understanding', which is similar to the earlier mentioned points of education and knowledge. Having said that, some insights thoroughly demonstrated the idea of nostalgia being appealing to digitized netizens.</p>
<p>Ultimately, museums are indeed still relevant today as they have bountiful treasures to offer audiences and valuable knowledge to be imparted onto humans. Be it in the form of paintings, sculptures, calligraphy, or other forms, museums convey special and important messages that cannot be erased from mankind. In an era where people constantly have their sights set on the latest and greatest, on what the future will be, museums offer eye-</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Good use of connector to signal the end of essay and citing the relevance of museums against the backdrop of modernity. The penchant with the latest and humanity's focus on the future, lends greater credibility to the need and the</p>

opening insights into how the past shaped the world it is today, and highlight the beauty and significance of museums in preserving culture, thereby offering rich, engaging, inspiring one-of-a-kind experiences.	relevance of museum for other insights and the important function of preservation (of relics, artefacts, culture, past experiences).
Marker's Overall Comment: Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows concrete knowledge of the question topic, with close attention to the POC 'still', and some good examples. • Fluent language, with very few errors, showing personal voice. Areas for Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples require greater scope and evaluation. • More contextual knowledge would have made for stronger analysis of the need of museums despite legitimate criticisms of their current role and format. • 'To what extent' also needs attention. • To improve language further, vary sentence length more consciously, and keep expanding vocabulary. Clara Goh 19A301	

Q12: 'History has shown that Man never learns from his mistakes.' Is this a fair comment? (TMJC JC2 Prelim 2020)

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
As the saying goes, 'Those who do not learn from History are doomed to repeat it.' Indeed, problems have persisted over the decades in spite of them happening earlier in the past, which shows that mankind has made insufficient efforts to rectify their ancestors' mistakes. Problems such as dictatorships have persisted in current times despite History's lessons that these authoritarian regimes would inevitably collapse after their citizens' dissent are expressed through protests and revolutions. As such, I largely agree that History has shown that Man never learns from his mistakes.	Relevance to Question Requirements: Choice of quotation is apt given that the question is about learning from History. A clear link is made between the quotation and the question immediately after the quotation is presented. The stand clearly answers the question. Suggestions for Improvement: Although the example on dictatorships is relevant, it is only one narrow aspect of the topic. It would be good if the scope can be widened before leading into the stand.
It has been proven that humans never learn from their past errors in History as countries continue to maintain hostile relationships with one another instead of rectifying their differences. This is because countries continue to view themselves as righteous in their views and ideologies. Thus, they refuse to compromise their ideologies with the opposing country instead of maintaining diplomatic relations, thus causing problems to remain unresolved and tensions to persist. This can be illustrated in the Cold War between the USA and the USSR, which lasted from 1945 to 1990 as both countries refused to compromise their different ideologies and persisted in fighting for spheres of influences. For	Relevance to Question Requirements: The topic sentence clearly brings out hostile relationships as a mistake. Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): The reason is given for why countries persist in their mistake of maintain hostile relationships. However, further explanation could be given as to why countries 'countries continue to view themselves as righteous in their views and ideologies' by linking this to the wider context of power relations.

<p>example, the USSR launched aggressive policies such as sending missiles to Cuba in 1962 and invading Afghanistan in 1979. The USA retaliated by calling the USSR an ‘evil empire’ in 1982 and implemented the Strategic Defence Initiative by launching satellite orbits into space to engage the USSR in an arms race. The tensions only ended when the USSR agreed to sign nuclear treaties with the USA, which led to its collapse in 1991. However, the USA still continues to maintain hostile relationships with other countries by engaging in aggressive policies. This is shown in the US-China Trade War when the USA and China launched tariffs on each other, which hindered trade between them. The USA also banned the Chinese TikTok application from being used in the USA in 2020, as it claimed that it threatened its citizens’ safety. Hence, I agree that History has shown that Man never learns from his mistakes as shown when countries continue to maintain hostile relationships with one another.</p>	<p>Use of Illustrations: The example raised is valid and care is taken to extend the historical example to the present context to show how the USA continues to maintain hostile relationships with other countries.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: A better link between the example and the question could be made by clearly explaining why hostile relations were a mistake and why it is something the USA should have learnt from and avoided. The paragraph could also elaborate on how US ideologies prevented them from learning from their mistakes.</p>
<p>Moreover, History has proven that humans tend to repeat their former transgressions as shown from how they refuse to help others in need. This is because it is in the nature of humans to be selfish, in which they tend to look out for their own needs and desires before reaching out to help the less fortunate. As such, this causes others to suffer instead of having a better life. This can be shown in Nazi Germany and its occupied borders during the Second World War in the 1940s, where some of its citizens were willing to betray their Jewish friends and neighbours to the Nazis in exchange for food and security. This caused many Jews to be deported to concentration camps where many were killed in gas chambers or died from starvation and mistreatment by the Nazis. Despite the fact that these incidents have been recorded in History, humans still continue to engage in self-serving acts instead of helping others in need. This is illustrated during the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 where many people have hoarded excessive utilities such as toilet paper and instant noodles from supermarkets to ensure that they have sufficient materials to survive. However, they failed to consider the consequences of their actions on others, such as the low-income households, who may have insufficient items at home. Hence, it can be argued that History has implied that humans never learn from their past mistakes as shown when they refuse to help others in need during difficult times.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: The topic sentence clearly highlights the refusal to help those in need as a mistake.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Clear reasons are provided for why humans tend to not lend a helping hand even when the situation calls for it. However, the reasons provided could be more convincing than merely attributing it to human nature. There is also a need to better explain why choosing to prioritise one’s own interest is considered a mistake instead of something understandable.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: Relevant historical example are provided with sufficient details given. Again, the historical example is clearly linked to a present example (COVID 19 pandemic) which is equally relevant.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: The analysis of the example could include examining reasons for why people should learn from the Holocaust and consider stakeholders beyond the individual (like the government) who have the power to better prevent mistakes from being repeated. In the examples, more reasons can be provided for why people chose to prioritise their own needs.</p>
<p>Furthermore, it has also been proven through History that Man never learns from his mistakes as humans continue to blame others whom they have a huge disdain for, for causing crises, despite the fact that these people may possibly be innocent. This is because when humans experience crises,</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: Topic sentence addresses the question by highlighting the mistake although it can be phrased less awkwardly.</p>

<p>they languish during tough times, which causes them to experience a wide array of emotions such as anger and resentment. This may cause them to target their prejudices onto minority groups whom they dislike, which causes them to discriminate against these minority groups. This can be illustrated during the Great Depression in the 1930s, where many Germans were unemployed and resentful at their circumstances. Their emotions were further exacerbated when the Nazis rose to power and blamed the Jews for their misfortune, which caused the Germans to become prejudiced against the Jews and ostracise them from German society. The prejudice against the Jews was so extreme that the Jews were deported to concentration camps and murdered there, which resulted in the Holocaust where approximately 6 million Jews were murdered. Unfortunately, humans have not learnt from their mistakes in learning to avoid shifting the blame onto others from History, as shown from the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020, where many Chinese were blamed by the Europeans and the Americans for spreading the virus globally, in which some of the Chinese were brutally beaten by the Westerners. This 'blame game' is a mistake as it does not help to solve the problem. In fact, it could even lead to more problems, further complicating the situation. Hence, I agree that Man never learns from his mistakes as it is shown that humans continue to pin their prejudices onto others for causing crises.</p>	<p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Reason for Man's behaviour of blaming those who are innocent can be strengthened as it is unclear how 'languish' is appropriate here.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: The examples on the Holocaust and COVID 19 are relevant albeit repeated from previous paragraph. The examples illustrate Man's tendency to find a scapegoat during times of crisis, even if there are baseless claims.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Topic sentence also appears to be specific to the subsequent example raised. A broader topic sentence (remove 'whom they have a huge disdain for'), could help to make the topic sentence clearer, giving room for a better explanation as well. Given that wide-ranging use of illustration is credited in the essay marking rubric, it would help to vary the use of the type of examples.</p>
<p>However, detractors of my view may argue that History has shown that Man learns from his mistakes as some changes have been implemented to help the oppressed races. Learning from History, care is taken to ensure that some of the suffering and injustice from the past are not carried forward to the present. Man does take heed from his past mistakes, using it to guide his way forward, even if the context is no longer the same, to pave the way for human progress. For instance, in the USA, more lessons have been given on Black History to show the consequences of racism that led to the Blacks having to fight for their own rights in 1956. Some schools are also considering a mandatory full-year Black history curriculum. Such measures which are put in place shows Man's attempt to learn from the past by educating the future in the hopes of preventing the mistakes from being repeated. Yet it can be argued that despite these changes, oppressed races are still being discriminated against by dominant races. This is because people from the dominant races may still choose to stick with their own prejudices despite learning about the History of racism. Their prejudices stem from much more relatable and personal cultural and historical experiences. Merely learning about the suffering of others is often insufficient to undo the profound effects of socialisation. As such, they may refuse to mend their ways and continue to engage in oppressing minor groups. This can be illustrated in the murder of African American George Floyd in 2020 when the American police</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: The topic sentence is logical as it shows how Man learnt from his mistakes through making positive changes.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): The opposing view is elaborated on to clearly show why some could argue otherwise, acknowledging some element of truth even in the opposing view.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: A range of examples is provided to show the positive changes implemented to help the oppressed. Examples are also analysed to draw out their link with the topic sentence raised at the start of the paragraph.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Subsequent examples on George Floyd can be strengthened by examining the consequences of the incident and analysing it to show how the subjugation of the oppressed remains a mistake Man commits.</p>

<p>applied excessive force in apprehending him, which caused him to suffocate from being pinned on the neck, which led to his death. Hence, it shows that humans repeat their past errors as they continue to discriminate against minority groups.</p>	
<p>Moreover, governments have argued that Man learns from his mistakes as they have implemented policies to reduce income inequality to help the less fortunate. Attempts are made to level the playing field and to lend the poor a helping hand so that they have a better chance at life. This is shown when current Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte claims that he has tried to assist the poor in the Philippines by giving them cash handouts during the COVID 19 pandemic after learning from his predecessors' corrupt actions which left many living in destitute. Nevertheless, it can be argued that human greed still prevents Man from learning from his mistakes as his policies failed to address the root cause of the problem as the cash handouts were delayed for approximately two months due to corruption by government officials. Corruption still exists and it caused poverty to remain unresolved when the poor are made to scavenge for leftover rotten vegetables for their survival. Hence, it is still undeniable that History has proven that Man never learns from his mistakes as past issues continue to resurface in present times.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: There is a clear topic sentence on another positive action taken (policies implemented to reduce income inequality) as Man's way of learning from and rectifying his mistake.</p> <p>Quality of argument (Depth and Scope): Good use of signposts to clearly indicate a change in the line of argument. The opposing view is also presented with appropriate diction ('attempts') which suggests that though valid, the opposing view is not strong.</p> <p>Use of Illustrations: The example on President Duterte's economic measure though valid in showing the help provided to the poor, is somewhat narrow in scope.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: The example on cash handout is too narrowly focused on a single action and is not really a policy. Evaluate Duterte's economic policies in other ways to show its ineffectiveness.</p>
<p>In conclusion, it is undeniable that History has proven that humans never learn from their past transgressions in spite of their efforts to rectify them. Hence, the saying that 'those who do not learn from History are doomed to repeat it' can be reflected when humans choose to engage in self-serving acts to attain their needs and desires at the expense of others, when they project their prejudices onto others during crises and when they refuse to compromise their ideologies with one another to achieve peace.</p>	<p>Relevance to Question Requirements: It is apt that the quotation used at the start is used to bring out the main points raised in the essay. Using the quotation again also helps to link the conclusion to the introduction, providing a nice end to the essay.</p>
<p>Marker's Overall Comment:</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is clear and well-organised. • Good attempt to provide reason and explanation before examples. • Relevant examples provided from a range of contexts. <p>Areas for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, examples tend to be more about matching similar situations rather than highlighting the mistake that should have been learnt but was instead overlooked. • Clearer explanation and links will help. <p>Tan Wen Xuan 19A301</p>	