

**SECTION A (Source-Based Case Study)**

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

**1 Living in a Diverse Society**

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer all the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the issue to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

**(a) Study Source A.**

Why do you think this cartoon was published? Explain your answer, using details of the cartoon. [6]

**(b) Study Sources B and C.**

Does Source C prove that Source B is wrong? Explain your answer. [7]

**(c) Study Source D.**

Are you surprised by Source D? Explain your answer. [6]

**(d) Study Sources E and F.**

Is Source E or F more useful as evidence of the cause of social inequality in Singapore? Explain your answer. [6]

**(e) "Governments are the cause of social inequality in their country." Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]**

## Who is responsible for social inequality?

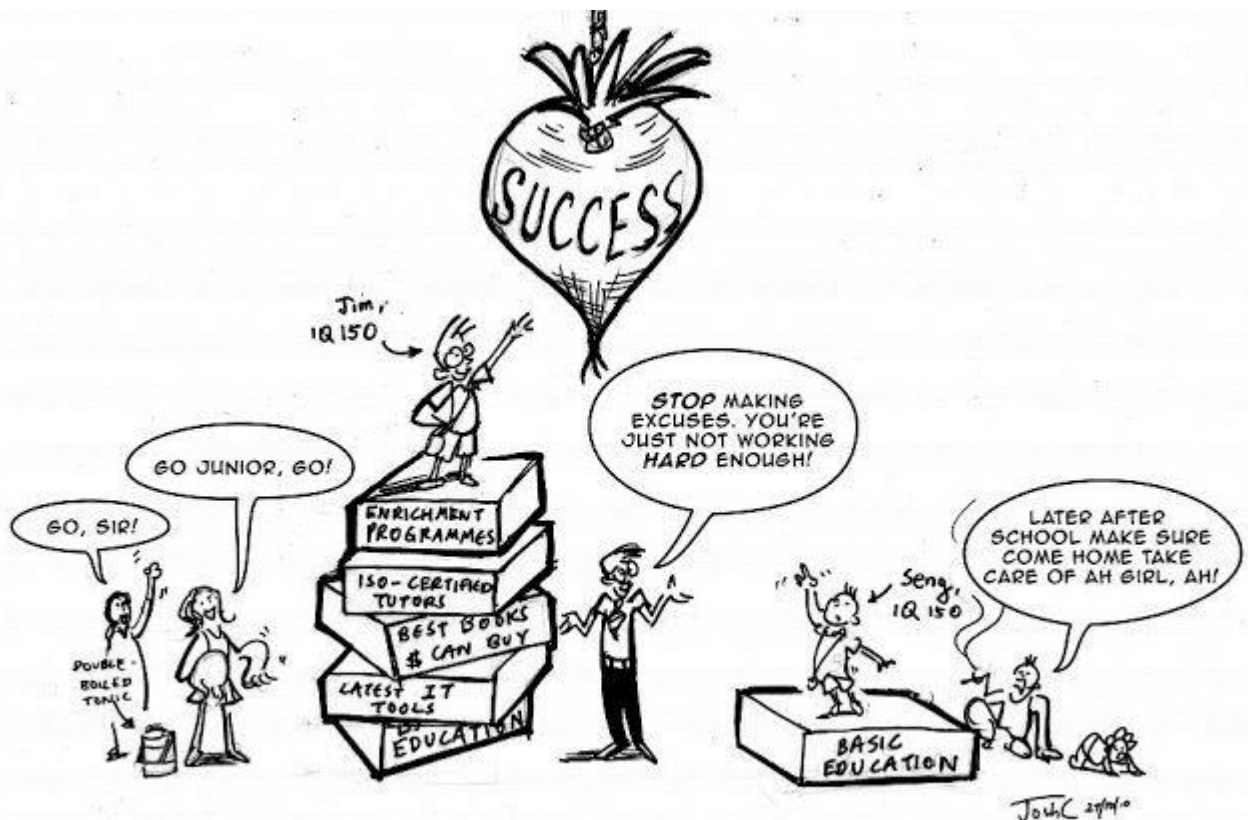
### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

Social inequality occurs when resources within a country are unevenly distributed and there is a divide between the rich and the poor and as time progresses, resulting in people being segregated by the amount of wealth or power that one has. Eventually, the divide may become so great which may lead to a political problem. Many countries, as a result have been working to alleviate the problem with various policies so as to ensure that stability within the country is ensured.

In Singapore, there has been great debate and talk about social inequality and it has been seen as a threat and challenge that has to be dealt with. Many Singaporeans have commented about this issue and have deliberated on the causes of social inequality. Study the following sources to assess who or what is responsible for social inequality in Singapore.

**Source A:** *An online cartoon about the issue of social inequality in Singapore published by an online site which is usually critical of the government and the policies that have been implemented.*



# MERITOCRACY

**Source B:** *An online commentary by The Straits Times journalist published on 18 February 2018.*

To be sure, there is nothing very wrong with privilege being passed on - it is the trait of societies that stratification\* is transmitted to future generations, as parents pass on their socio-economic advantages to their children. So the taxi driver's son who managed to get into a brand-name school in the past and becomes a lawyer, thus joining the elite ranks, will pass on his advantages and alumni access to his son. That lawyer's son may then gain a coveted place in a brand-name school, depriving today's taxi driver's son of one.

\* Stratification refers to the classification of something into different groups

**Source C:** *An online article published on 3 October 2018 on a site known to be critical of the government. It was writing about a local documentary, 'Regardless of Class' which was about social inequality in Singapore.*

The documentary neglects to mention our government's role in creating the inequality that has now become our No.1 problem. This is the main problem with the documentary and, to a larger extent, our policymakers. They want to address the symptoms of inequality without tackling the disease. Negative stereotypes, class tensions, and snobbish attitudes are rightly condemned, but what about the deeper problems?

These causes of inequality went unexamined in 'Regardless of Class'. Government policy, as always, seemingly got a free pass. As if inequality came into being one day without any factors, independent of government, economics or history.

**Source D:** *A research paper on the causes and effects of income inequality in Singapore published in 2008 by a local university.*

The individual tax system in Singapore is progressive such that low-income households do not pay any tax and at the same time receive subsidised government services, while the high earners pay progressively higher tax. However, Singapore does not tax on the wealth that people have accumulated over their lifespan to encourage wealth to stay within the country. Therefore the rich can transfer most of their wealth to the next generation which will have a rub-off effect on inequality.

**Source E:** *A Channel News Asia article on social inequality published on 2 June 2018.*

Higher-income families invest more in private tuition for academic subjects, extracurricular enrichment activities, and parental attention. This enhances their children's school performance and chances of getting into "good" (elite, brand-name) schools and universities, thus achieving credentials that employers value and reward with "good jobs" and high salaries.

Employers are known to use educational certification and school reputation as "screening devices" that differentiate between job candidates, and as proxies for behavioural characteristics and social networks they believe enhance employees' contribution to the enterprise.

**Source F:** *A research paper written by a university which focuses on government policies published in 2012.*

There is sufficient evidence to suggest that domestic policies may have worsened Singapore's income inequality picture in the last decade. First, the aggressive reductions in personal income tax rates for top earners— from 28% in 2002 to 20% in 2007 – combined with the increases in the Goods and Service Tax, have made the tax system less progressive as the poor would have to pay GST on necessities.

## SECTION B (Structured-Response Question)

Question 2 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

### 2 Being Part of a Globalised World

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

#### Extract 1

Almost all organisations and businesses polled in a new survey have suffered close to four cyber attacks in the last year. Of the 250 company leaders and executives polled, only four per cent said their organisations were not attacked, according to private cybersecurity provider Carbon Black.

#### Extract 2

Mobile phones have been around for many decades now. However, it was in the 1990s when the first Smartphone was created and introduced to the market. Then, it was in the early 2000s that it became a hit to consumers. Smartphones are mobile phones that run a built-in operating system.

#### Extract 3

The development from steam-hauled trains to diesel-powered trains, and then to electric trains were advances in transportation made possible by technological development. Performance and energy efficiency were improved, and the operation costs were reduced consequently.

- (a) Extract 1 states that companies in Singapore are being targeted by cyber attackers.

In your opinion, what can companies can do to deter cybersecurity attacks?  
Explain your answer using **two** ways. [7]

- (b) Extracts 2 and 3 reflect the drivers of globalisation.

Do you think that advances in communication or advances in transportation is a greater driver of globalisation? Explain your answer. [8]

**END OF PAPER**

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#### Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source A: <https://www.theonlinecitizen.com/2015/07/05/natural-aristocracy-the-myth-of-meritocracy/>

Source B: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/inequality-is-a-threat-name-it-and-face-it>

Source C: <https://www.ricemedia.co/current-affairs-cna-regardless-class-everything-thats-wrong-singapores-inequality-debate/>

Source D: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/242593839\\_Income\\_Inequality\\_in\\_Singapore\\_Causes\\_Consequences\\_and\\_Policy\\_Options](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/242593839_Income_Inequality_in_Singapore_Causes_Consequences_and_Policy_Options)

Source E: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/can-education-fix-growing-inequality-in-singapore-10308796>

Source F: <https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/docs/default-source/ips/singapore-perspectives-2012-background-paper.pdf?sfvrsn=f6bd73>

### SOURCE-BASED CASE STUDY

- 1(a) **Study Source A.**  
**Why do you think this cartoon was published? Explain your answer, using details of the cartoon.** [6]

Level	Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks Allocation
L1	<b>Because of what was happening at that time</b>	1m
L2	<b>Because of what it wanted to say (Sub-message)</b> <i>Award 2m for inference unsupported.</i> <i>Award 3m for inference supported</i>  E.g., This cartoon was published because it wants to show that school education alone is insufficient to attain success. This is supported by the source which shows 2 boys with the same IQ, however, Jim has more steps like enrichment programmes which has helped him to reach success as compared to Seng who only has basic education. This suggests that one needs more than just basic education to succeed in life.	2-3m
L3	<b>Because of what it wanted to say (Main Message) OR Outcome</b> <i>Award 4m for main message supported</i>  <i>Main message has to address failed idea of meritocracy or address idea of privilege to attain success.</i>  This cartoon was published because it wants to show that success is determined by the amount of opportunities given to one instead of education. This is supported by the source which shows 2 boys with the same IQ, however, Jim has more steps like enrichment programmes which has helped him to reach success as compared to Seng who only has basic education. This suggests that being rich would help someone to attain success as the family is able to provide more help for their child to attain success.  OR  The cartoon was published because it wants Singaporeans to pressurise the government to help those who are not as well off have a better chance of attaining success.	3-4m
L4	<b>Because of the Impact the cartoonist wanted to have (Main Message and Outcome)</b>  <i>Award 6m for purpose with context.</i>  This cartoon was published because it wants to show that success is determined by the amount of opportunities given to one instead of	5-6m

education. This is supported by the source which shows 2 boys with the same IQ, however, Jim has more steps like enrichment programmes which has helped him to reach success as compared to Seng who only has basic education. This suggests that being rich would help someone to attain success as the family is able to provide more help for their child to attain success. As a result, Singaporeans would pressurise the government to help those who are not as well off have a better chance of attain success.

**1 (b) Study Sources B and C.**

**Does Source C prove that Source B is wrong? Explain your answer.**

**[7]**

Level	Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	Answer based on Provenance / Describe source / No matching	1m
L2	Proves/Does not prove through comparison	2-3m

Source C proves Source B wrong in terms of who is responsible for the social inequality in Singapore. Source C says that the government is responsible for the social divide as supported by, "The documentary neglects to mention our government's role in creating the inequality that has now become our No.1 problem. This is the main problem with the documentary and, to a larger extent, our policymakers." This suggests that the government's policies have created the social divide. Source B says that it is a societal problem. This is supported by, "To be sure, there is nothing very wrong with privilege being passed on - it is the trait of societies that stratification is transmitted to future generations, as parents pass on their socio-economic advantages to their children." This suggests that social divide is an inevitable part of society as the rich are able to pass down their wealth to the next giving the next generation a headstart.

L3	L2 + Proves by establishing reliability of B	4m
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Source C proves Source B wrong because Source B is unreliable. Source B is contradicted by Source D. Source D says that the government is responsible for the social inequality in Singapore. This is supported by, "However, Singapore does not tax on the wealth that people have accumulated over their lifespan to encourage wealth to stay within the country and thus the rich can now transfer most of their wealth to the next generation which will have a rub-off effect on inequality." This suggests that the government is the one that allowed the rich to become richer thus increasing the divide.

L4	L2 + Proves/ Does not prove by establishing reliability of C using cross referencing.	5m
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Source C proves Source B wrong because Source C is reliable. Source C is supported by Source D. Source D says that the government is

responsible for the social inequality in Singapore. This is supported by, “However, Singapore does not tax on the wealth that people have accumulated over their lifespan to encourage wealth to stay within the country and thus the rich can now transfer most of their wealth to the next generation which will have a rub-off effect on inequality.” This suggests that the government is the one that allowed the rich to become richer thus increasing the divide.

**L5 L2 + Does not prove by establishing reliability of C through its provenance, explained** **6-7m**

Award 6m for Bias Or Motive. Award 7m for Bias And Motive.

Source C does not prove B wrong because Source C is unreliable. Source C is written by an online news site that is known to be critical of the government and thus they are expected to be write negatively about the government. (Bias) The article was written to convince Singaporeans that the government was responsible for the social inequality that is present and wants Singaporeans to pressurise the government to take greater action to address social inequality. (Motive)

**1(c) Study Source D.**  
**Are you surprised by Source D? Explain your answer. [6]**

Level	Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	<b>Surprised/Not surprised based on unexplained provenance</b>  <b>Or No element of Surprise</b>	<b>1m</b>
L2	<b>Not surprised based on content</b> <i>Award 2m for inference, unsupported.</i> <i>Award 3m for inference supported.</i>  I am not surprised by Source D which claims that the government is the cause for the social inequality in Singapore. This is supported by, “However, Singapore does not tax on the wealth that people have accumulated over their lifespan to encourage wealth to stay within the country and thus the rich can now transfer most of their wealth to the next generation which will have a rub-off effect on inequality.” This suggests that government policy has given the rich an advantage.	<b>2-3m</b>
L3	<b>Surprised/Not surprised based on content + Cross referencing</b> <i>Award 5m for more developed answers</i>  I am not surprised by Source D which claims that the government is the cause for the social inequality in Singapore. This is supported by,	<b>4-5m</b>



“However, Singapore does not tax on the wealth that people have accumulated over their lifespan to encourage wealth to stay within the country and thus the rich can now transfer most of their wealth to the next generation which will have a rub-off effect on inequality.” This suggests that government policy has given the rich an advantage.

I am not surprised because Source D is supported by Source C which also suggests that government policies have created this social divide. This is supported by, “Government policy, as always, seemingly got a free pass. As if inequality came into being one day without any factors, independent of government, economics or history.” This suggests that the author in Source C believes that the government policies played a critical role in the creation of this social inequality.

**L4      L2 (Inference supported) + Provenance explained      5-6**

I am not surprised by this report as it was a research paper by the university and they are expected to research deeply before making a conclusion therefore they would published their findings based on their research so as to help the government formulate better policies.

**1(d)      Study Sources E and F.  
Is Source E or F more useful as evidence of the cause of social inequality in Singapore? Explain your answer.      [6]**

Level	Level Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
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<b>L1</b>	<b>Utility based on provenance, unexplained</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>L2</b>	<b>Useful based on Source Content/Not Useful based on lack of information/Failed reliability</b>	<b>2-3</b>
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*Award 2m for utility of one source  
Award 3m for utility of both sources*

Source E is useful in showing that household income levels are the cause of social inequality. This is supported by, “Higher-income families invest more in private tuition for academic subjects, extracurricular enrichment activities, and parental attention. This enhances their children’s school performance and chances of getting into “good” (elite, brand-name) schools and universities, thus achieving credentials that employers value and reward with “good jobs” and high salaries.” This suggests that a person from a privilege background has a greater chance of succeeding.

Source F is also useful in telling me that the government tax policies are the cause of social inequality. This is supported by, “First, the aggressive

reductions in personal income tax rates for top earners– from 28% in 2002 to 20% in 2007 – combined with the increases in the Goods and Service Tax, have made the tax system less progressive as the poor would have to pay GST on necessities.” This suggests that the rich gets a discount on the amount of tax they pay but the poor has to pay more in the form of GST.

**L3 L2 + reliability based on cross referencing**

**4-5**

*Award 4m for reliability based on one source*

*Award 5m for reliability based on two sources*

Source E is useful because it is reliable. This is supported by Source A which shows 2 boys with the same IQ, however, Jim has more steps like enrichment programmes which has helped him to reach success as compared to Seng who only has basic education. This suggests that being rich would help someone to attain success as the family is able to provide more help for their child to attain success.

Source F is also useful because it is reliable. This is supported by Source C which suggests that the government’s policies have caused social inequality. This is supported by, “The documentary neglects to mention our government’s role in creating the inequality that has now become our No.1 problem.”

**OR**

Source E is not useful because it is unreliable. Source E is contradicted by Source C which shows that the government is responsible for the social inequality. This is supported by, “The documentary neglects to mention our government’s role in creating the inequality that has now become our No.1 problem.” This suggests that the government is responsible for social inequality.

Source F is not useful because it is unreliable. Source D contradicts Source F in saying that the rich does pay higher taxes than the lower income earners. This is supported by, “The individual tax system in Singapore is progressive such that low-income households do not pay any tax and at the same time receive subsidised government services, while the high earners pay progressively higher tax.”

**L4 L2 + Reliability based on provenance**

**5-6**

Source E is useful as it is reliable. This article is a report by Channel News Asia a news agency and they are expected to report objectively about issues based on their research findings. This is seen where they explain the rationale of how social inequalities exists as a result of a person coming from a privilege background. They talk about the perception of those of higher income by using phrases like “‘good’ school’

and “good jobs” which suggests that this is a perception rather than a fact.

Source F is equally as useful as it is reliable. This is a report from a university specialising in government policy where they are expected to critically analyse government policies as accurately as they can based on their research findings. The purpose of the report is to convince the government about certain shortcomings of their current policy in addressing social inequality and the government would as a result review their policy to deal with social inequality more effectively.

- 1(e) Study all sources.**  
**“Governments are the cause of social inequality in their country.”**  
**Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement.** [10]

Level	Level Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	<b>Writes about statement, no valid source use</b>	1
L2	<b>Yes / No, supported by valid source use</b> <i>2m for one source inference without support</i> <i>3m for one source inference with support</i> <i>4m for two sources' inferences with support</i>	2-4
L3	<b>Yes + No, supported by valid source use</b>	5-8

Source A disagrees with the statement as it shows that the wealth of families are responsible for the social inequalities in a country. This is supported by the source which shows 2 boys with the same IQ, however, Jim has more steps like enrichment programmes which has helped him to reach success as compared to Seng who only has basic education. This suggests that being rich would help someone to attain success as the family is able to provide more help for their child to attain success.

Source B also disagrees as it is the social status of a person and the family that he/she is born into that leads to social inequality. This is supported by, “To be sure, there is nothing very wrong with privilege being passed on - it is the trait of societies that stratification is transmitted to future generations, as parents pass on their socio-economic advantages to their children.” This suggests that social divide is due to the status one is born into as the rich are able to pass down their wealth to the next giving the next generation a headstart.

Source E also disagrees with the statement as it is the employers who are driving these inequalities. This is supported by, “Employers are known to use educational certification and school reputation as “screening devices” that differentiate between job candidates, and as proxies for behavioral

characteristics and social networks they believe enhance employees' contribution to the enterprise." This suggests that because employers discriminate based on certification, parents would then provide support to their children to help meet the expectation of the future employers and only those with the means to do so would be able to meet the demands to earn a good paying job and those who are not able would be left behind and this would continue to perpetuate resulting in social divide.

However Source C agrees with the statement as it shows that government policies have led to social inequalities in the country. This is supported by, "These causes of inequality went unexamined in 'Regardless of Class'. Government policy, as always, seemingly got a free pass." This suggests that the policies have not closed the gaps between classes but it has widened.

Source D agrees with the statement as it shows that the tax system which is created by the government of the country has resulted in the social divide. This is supported by, "Singapore does not tax on the wealth that people have accumulated over their lifespan to encourage wealth to stay within the country and thus the rich can now transfer most of their wealth to the next generation which will have a rub-off effect on inequality." This suggests that rich will continue to be rich and the next generation and well placed for their future.

**Note: Consideration on number of sources used and the quality of analysis in deciding on marks in L2 & L3.**

**\*\* To score additional 2m, students can take any one of these 3 routes:**

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

Source A could be said to be reliable as it was produced by an online site that is usually critical of the government, in this cartoon however, it was trying to convince Singaporeans that the problem of inequality isn't the fault of the government's educational policy but rather a societal issue and thus Singaporeans would contribute in other ways to manage this inequality.

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

I understand that social inequality is due to the privileges enjoyed by others as I can see that my friends who are more well off are going for more tuition classes and enrichment classes to help them to succeed in the future. As a result of these classes, these are ones who are doing well in their studies or are the top positions in the level. This shows that being born into a privilege background helps one to succeed and would thus

widen the social divide.

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

Social inequality can be said to be due to the wealthy elite where these wealthy elites are able to pass down their wealth to future generations which would widen social inequality but the government has a part to play as the government would have tools at their disposal to equalise or minimise the social divides through governmental policies and thus would be able to tackle the issue of social inequality effectively.

**2(a) Extract 1 states that companies in Singapore are being targeted by cyber attackers.**

**In your opinion, what are the ways companies can do to deter being attacked? Explain your answer using two ways. [7]**

Level	Level Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
<b>L1</b>	<b>Describes the topic</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>L2</b>	<b>Identifies / Describes ways</b> Award 3m for identifying a way Award 4-5m for describing a way	<b>2 – 4</b>
<b>L3</b>	<b>L2 + Explains way</b>  Award 5-6m for explaining one way. Award 6-7m for explaining two ways.	<b>5 – 7</b>

One way is through education. Companies can educate their staff about cybersecurity. These education programmes would teach the staff how to identify emails which are potentially malicious, they could also teach staff on what they should do whenever they encounter a suspicious email attachment or website. As a result, the staff would be more competent and thus able to take the right actions which would prevent an occurrence of a malicious software being downloaded resulting in a possible cyberattack.

Another way is to bolster the IT security team in the company. The company can hire more cybersecurity staff. These staff would be dedicated towards ensuring the security of the data within the company, they would also be in charge of monitoring the cyber activities within the company and would be called on to fight off cyberattacks when it occurs. As a result, the company would be less likely to encounter a successful cyberattack as the IT personnel would be bolstering the security infrastructure as a protective measure and would also work as a responsive measure to deal with the threat in a timely manner when it occurs.

**2(b) Extracts 2 and 3 reflect the drivers of globalisation.**

**Do you think that advances in communication or advances in transportation is a greater driver of globalisation? Explain your answer. [8]**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Level Descriptor and Rubrics</b>	<b>Marks</b>
<b>L1</b>	<b>Writes about the topic (i.e. the good of society) but without addressing the question</b>	<b>1 – 2</b>
<b>L2</b>	<b>Describes the role(s) of government</b>  Award 3m for describing one role. Award 4m for describing two roles.	<b>3 – 4</b>
<b>L3</b>	<b>Explains the role of government</b>  Award 5-6m for explaining one role. Award 6-7m for explaining two roles.	<b>5 – 7</b>
<p>One of the driving forces of globalisation is the developments in communications. Improvements in technology has made communications among people in different locations faster and more convenient via tools like telephones, electronic mails, fax and video conferencing. The invention of the internet has enables consumers to access information about new products and places more conveniently. One can even make reservations of hotel room in another country or buy an air ticket via the internet without even leaving home. As a result, advances in communication technology allow and enable trading, business and even tourism to take place across great spaces and places. Therefore, developments in communications do drive globalisation.</p> <p>However, development in communications is not the only factor that helped to drive globalisation. Another driving force is the developments in transportation. Improvements in transportation technology has ‘shrunk’ the world considerably in terms of time taken to get from one place to another. In recent years, commercial jet aircrafts, large ocean vessels and containerization greatly increased the movement of goods and people over great distances, the time taken is reduced as containers can be easily transferred from ships to trucks. In the globalizing world, countries have built efficient and integrated transportation infrastructure such as airports, seaports, railways and highways. As a result, this leads to the increased mobility of people and goods. The efficient transport network made it possible for goods and people to move around easily. Therefore, developments in transport also drive globalisation.</p>		
<b>L4</b>	<b>Both aspects in L3 plus explains the relative importance of each group</b>	<b>8</b>

In conclusion advances in communication is a greater driver of

globalisation. When there is greater connectivity between people around the world, it drives up demand of goods and services around the world which results in a greater amount of goods being transported across the world. In addition, with advances in communication, it drives up demand of people travelling due to promotions over the internet and people who yearn to work overseas which as a result leads to a greater demand for transportation.