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Class

Index Number

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METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL

Founded in 1887



PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2021 SECONDARY 4 Humanities (Social Studies)

Monday
2 August 2021

2272/2273/2274/1
1 hour 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this paper until instructed to do so.
Write your class, index number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Section B

Answer **both** questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question.
The maximum mark for this paper is **50** marks.

Answer Questions 6 and 7 on a fresh sheet of paper.
At the end of the paper, fasten your responses securely together in different sections.
Hand in **Sections A and B separately**.

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer **all** questions.

Being Part of a Globalised Word

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 were told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the issue to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

Do you think the Chinese business experts are optimistic about China's bilateral trade during the United States (US)-China trade war? Explain your answer, using details of the source.

[5]

2 Study Sources B and C.

How similar are these two sources? Explain your answer.

[6]

3 Study Sources D and E.

Does Source E prove Source D wrong? Explain your answer.

[7]

4 Study Source F.

How useful is this source as evidence about the response to cultural identity in a globalised world? Explain your answer.

[7]

5 "Globalisation brings about benefits only."

Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement.

[10]

What are the responses to globalisation?

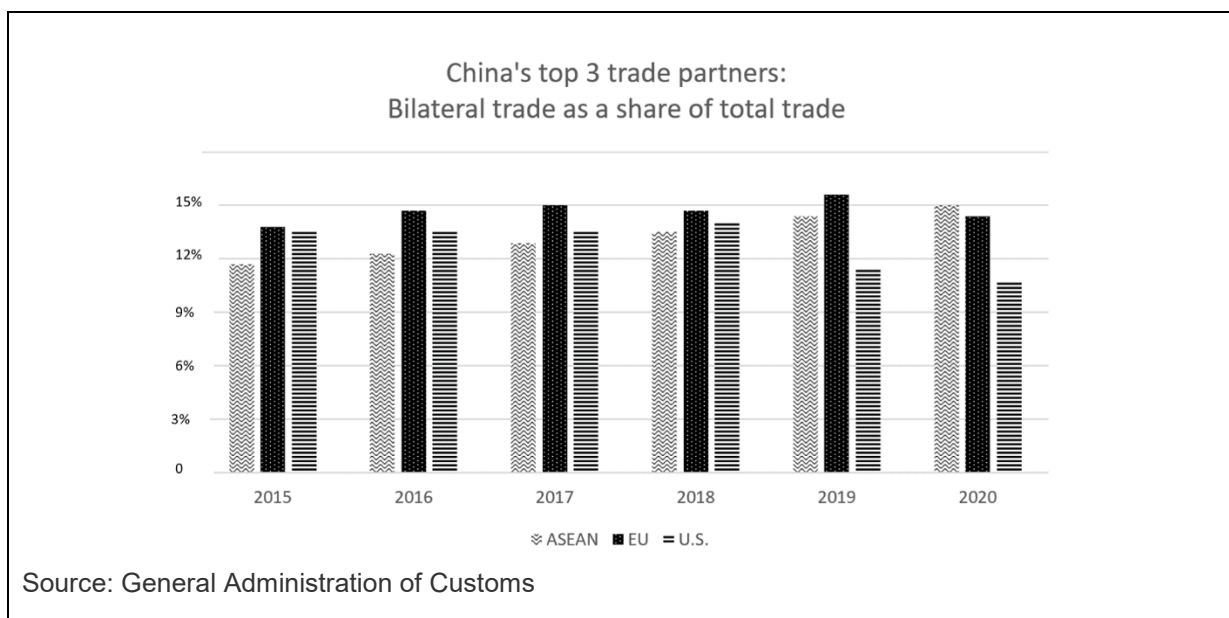
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Globalisation is a process of interconnection and interdependence of economic and cultural activities around the world. It creates tensions due to the uneven impacts. The United States (US) and China, the world's two largest economies, have been locked in a trade battle that started during the former US President Trump's administration in 2018. The US-China trade war has seen the US and China impose tariffs on one another's goods and services, causing high prices. This is worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic that emerged in late 2019, resulting in the shutting of borders and a worldwide economic recession. However, China continues to trade with other partners such as ASEAN by establishing the ASEAN*-China Free Trade Area where trade in the area can enjoy tariff elimination and guarantee of market access. By 2018, ASEAN's share of the global economy has expanded. ASEAN was ranked fourth after the European Union (EU), China, and the US in global trade of goods and services. The spread of global brands, global connectivity, and the Internet in the global economy has also broken down identity as a strictly national idea. Cultural exchanges can result in cultural hybridisation and diversity where there is a fusion of foreign and local cultures, leading to diverse responses.

Study the following sources to consider the responses to globalisation.

Source A: *From a report on a Chinese news site, September 2020, by Chinese business experts about China's bilateral* trade during the US-China trade war.*



**ASEAN: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organisation that addresses economic, security, and political issues. Its members are Myanmar, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.*

**Bilateral: Involving two groups or countries: for example, China-ASEAN, China-EU, China-US*

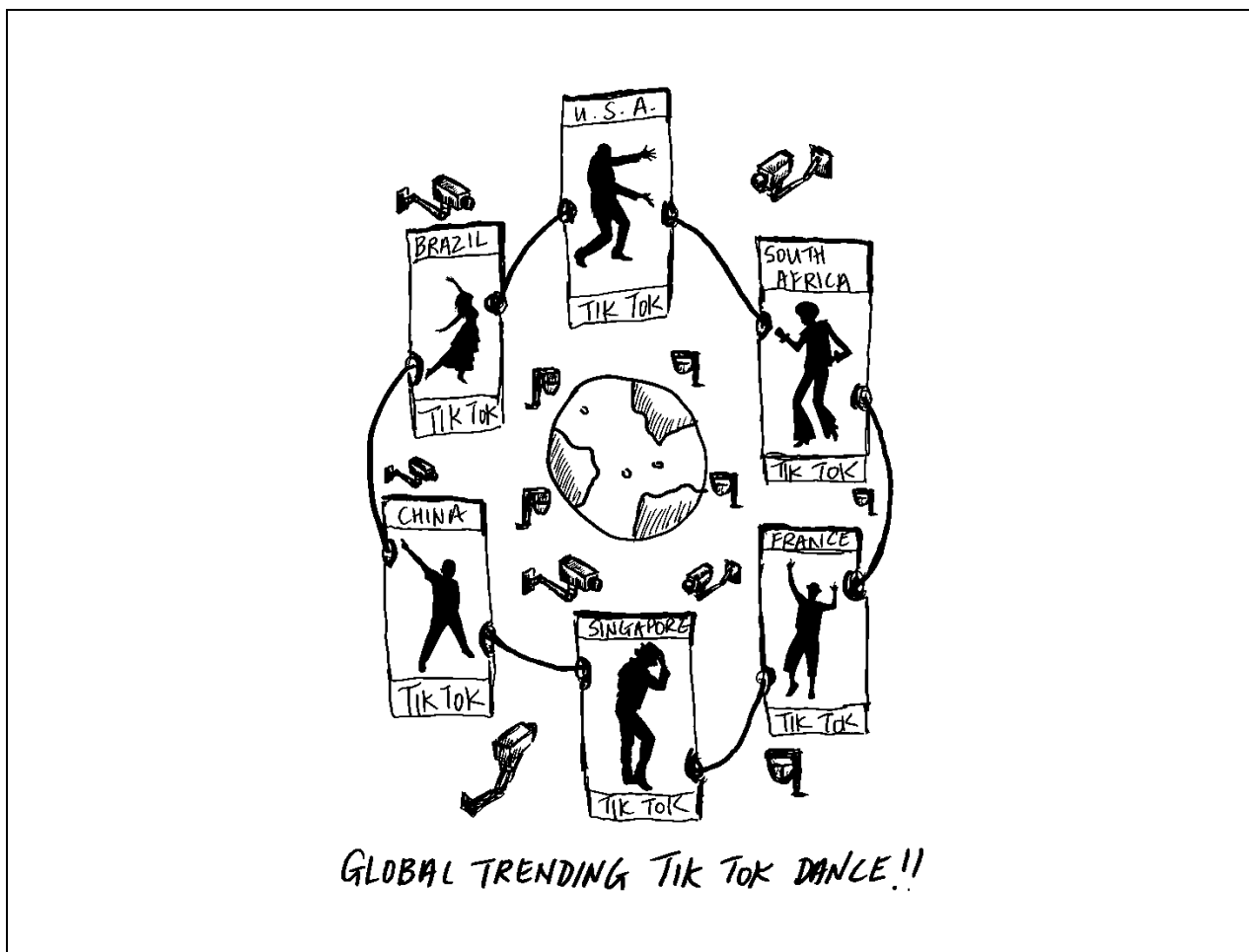
Source B: *From an online Japanese newspaper on the China-owned app, TikTok. It is a user-friendly short video app that allows users to create fast-moving content and share it on their mobile phones with the world, February 2021.*

TikTok has found widespread success overseas. India, along with the United States (US) was one of its biggest markets out of the 100-plus countries where it is available. It aggressively sold advertising space to Indian companies and in 2019 announced plans to invest \$1 billion in India. TikTok was a source of joy for India's users especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. India's TikTok users received millions of followers worldwide by mimicking Bollywood* entertainment.

However, Indian and US officials are suspicious of TikTok for illegally extracting user data for the Chinese government. India banned TikTok in June 2020. Subsequently, TikTok's company left India, retrenching local employees. Yet many similar apps have launched in India since the ban. TikTok has also been embroiled in the US-China trade war when the former US President Trump threatened to shut TikTok down in late 2020 but a US judge overturned it.

*Bollywood: A blend of India's *popular film industry*, based in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and America's Hollywood film culture.

Source C: *A cartoon on TikTok users around the world, 2021.*



Source D: *From a paper by a Japanese academic on national identity and globalisation, 2015.*

Due to Japan's constant desire for progress, many of the old traditions are forgotten and society now sustains a culture that predominantly revolves around consumerism. *Matcha** has entered the efficient system of mechanical mass production that sees the increase in sales. However, matcha has become just another commodity, removed from its cultural context.

None of these large fast food multinational corporations (MNCs) prepare matcha in the traditional Japanese tea ceremony setting. Like Starbucks, they may preserve the term matcha but many of these matcha drinks are often blended with milk and sugar to weaken the bitter taste that is often undesirable for Western taste. Even Asian bubble tea houses discard the traditional for "modern" sweetness as they advertise bubble green tea milkshakes. When cultures are blended together, it is questionable whether or not they are able to retain their authenticity and unique national identity.

*matcha: Japan's powdered green tea

Source E: *An interview conducted in 2020 with Hollywood celebrity Chase Tang, a 32-year-old Taiwanese-Canadian actor and Presotea Global brand ambassador. Presotea Global is a Taiwanese bubble tea company that has over 400 locations globally.*

Growing up in Toronto's Chinatown, I was ashamed to be associated with Asian things such as bubble tea when it was unknown back then in the West.

With the rise of social media came a shift in bubble tea trends. Now, everybody takes pictures of their drinks. For many Asians, bubble tea is a symbol of our unique and special culture that is becoming widely accepted within the Western food and beverage industry. Likewise, my work as an actor is another cultural bridge between the East and the West. Now, bubble tea makes me feel proud as an Asian. I am honoured to represent Presotea Global. It is an innovative and adaptable company that is determined to expand beyond China, Canada, and the United States. Its bubble tea is customised according to local flavours: Japanese matcha flavours are popular with Chinese whereas sweeter concoctions are what North Americans enjoy more.

Source F: *From a blog about the lure of bubble tea on identity, community, and addiction by a young Singaporean writer-intern who worked for Singapore's most-read food and beverage online publication during her internship, December 2020.*

An American's analysis of bubble tea in the United States shows that it has become a token of Asian-American popular culture and an identity. This shared bubble tea cultural identity also applies to the largely Asian demographic in Singapore. The ingredients used in bubble tea—sugar levels, types of pearls, flavour combinations—are the language drinkers use to define themselves.

The herd junkie mentality amongst bubble tea fanatics feeds the mindless consumption of bubble tea. Right before the nationwide partial lockdown to contain the pandemic, these young people formed long queues around these bubble tea shops for a final fix. As of today, there are over 50 bubble tea brands that operate in Singapore. In this cycle of addiction where the needs for sugar and identity feed and justify each other, bubble tea poses as much of a poison as it does a pleasure.

SECTION B (Structured-Response Questions)

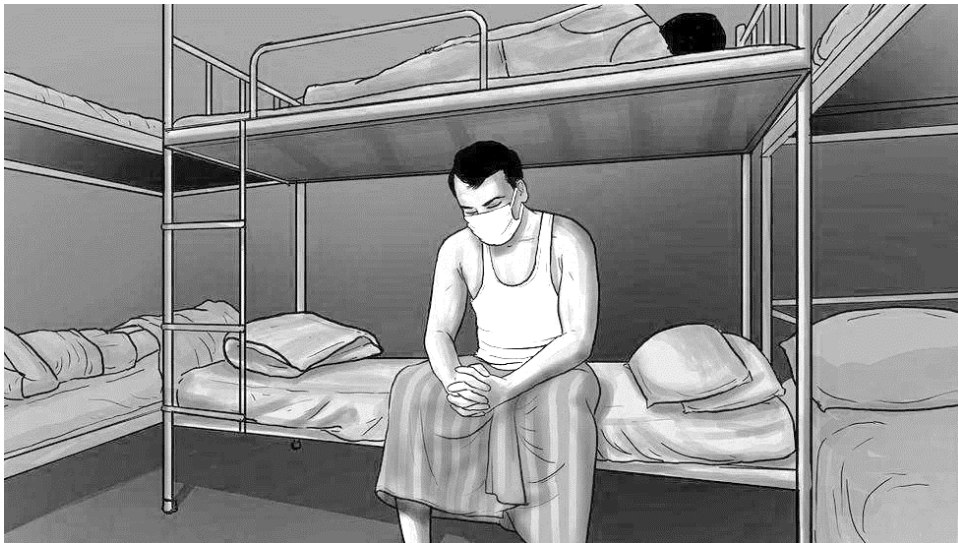
Answer **both** questions.

Living in a Diverse Society

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

Migrant workers in Singapore live in cramped and unhygienic dormitories.



Extract 2

Integration is a process where immigrants can become a part of their host community. This is done by allowing the immigrants to learn about the history and culture of their host community, and yet retain their unique identities and differences.

Extract 3

Immigrants can be assimilated into their host society by maintaining a single and uniform identity with everyone else within that society. This reduces visible differences between the immigrants and the locals as both parties adopt one single dominant political and cultural identity.

- 6 Extract 1 shows the living conditions of migrant workers in Singapore.

In your opinion, what can we do to improve the living conditions of migrant workers in Singapore? Explain your answer with reference to **two** strategies. [7]

- 7 Extracts 2 and 3 reflect the different approaches of helping immigrants become part of the host society.

Do you agree that integration is a more effective way of maintaining a harmonious society than assimilation? Explain your answer. [8]

END OF PAPER

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source A © <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-09-09/China-and-ASEAN-will-strengthen-ties-despite-the-U-S-factor-Experts-TEsRi6G4AE/index.html>
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