



**COMMONWEALTH SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**MID-YEAR EXAMINATION 2022**

**HUMANITIES (SOCIAL STUDIES, HISTORY)  
HUMANITIES (SOCIAL STUDIES, LITERATURE IN TAMIL)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDARY FOUR EXPRESS/  
SECONDARY FIVE NORMAL (ACADEMIC)**

Paper 1: Social Studies

Additional Materials: Answer Papers

**2273 / 01  
2289 / 01  
5 MAY 2022  
0800 - 0945  
1 hour 45  
minutes**

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your name, index number and class on the question paper and on any separate answer sheets used.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, and glue or correction fluid.

**Section A**

Answer **all** questions

**Section B**

Answer **both** questions

Fasten and submit your answers for Sections A and B separately.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.

**Commonwealth Secondary School 2022 MYE****SECTION A (Source-Based Case Study)**

Answer **all** questions.

**Being part of a Globalized World**

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 which 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.

**1 Study Source A**

Why was Source A created? Explain your answer with details from the source. [5]

**2 Study Sources B and C.**

Do you think the software engineer in Source C would have agreed with the author in Source B? Explain your answer. [6]

**3 Study Source D.**

How useful is Source D in showing the effects of COVID-19 on big companies? Explain your answer. [7]

**4 Study Sources E and F.**

After reading Source F, do you trust Source E? Explain your answer. [7]

**5 “Globalisation has made the global economy more vulnerable to crisis.”**

Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. Explain your answer. [10]

## How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the global economy?

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

In December 2019, the first known outbreak of the COVID-19 virus strain was reported from Wuhan, China. Since then, the World Health Organisation has declared a global pandemic and countries all around the world were affected not just in terms of healthcare, but also economically. Global supply chains (network between companies and their suppliers to produce and distribute a product to the final buyer) were disrupted. Multiple national lockdowns around the world in 2020 slowed or even temporarily stopped the flow of raw materials and finished goods, disrupting manufacturing as a result. Reduction in business activities had also led to an increase in unemployment for various industries, with the hardest hit being small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as brick and mortar companies (companies that do not operate over the internet). At the same time, various parties ranging from governments, private companies to individuals have responded in different ways and to varying success.

Study the following sources to assess how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the global economy.

**Source A:** *Taken from the International Chamber of Commerce's (ICC\*) official website.*

ICC has launched a call for urgent and decisive action to Save Our SMEs\* and combat the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. As many as 24.7 million jobs are at risk. In the Bangladeshi garment sector alone, more than US\$2.7 billion in orders have been cancelled since the start of the year, resulting in the closure of thousands of factories putting four million workers at risk. The ICC is witnessing, first-hand, the severe impacts of COVID-19 on business and people worldwide. SMEs and their workers, as well as entrepreneurs and the self-employed are among those affected.

*\*ICC: an international business organization that is affiliated to the United Nations*

*\*SMEs: Small-Medium Enterprises*

**Source B:** *An interview with the president of a prominent plantation company in Malaysia.*

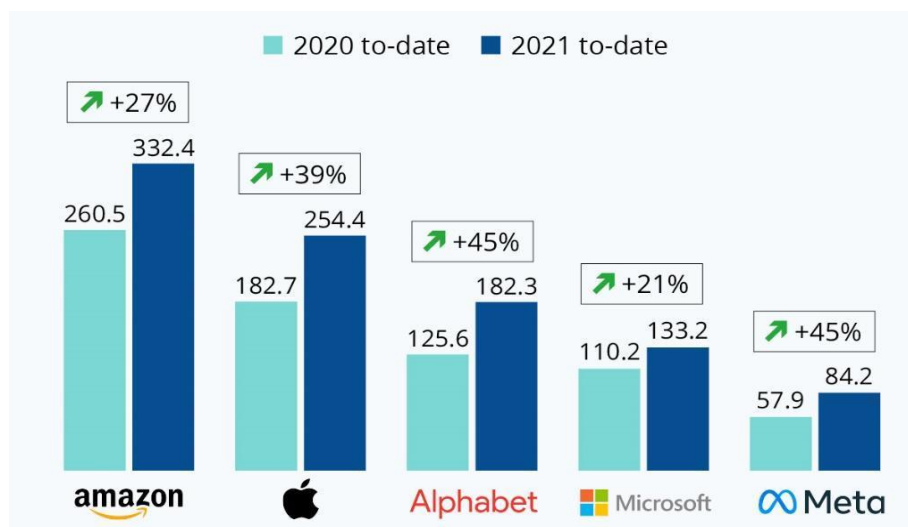
COVID-19 restrictions did create a ripple effect on the supply chain, and there was also a shortage of workers caused by border controls. This led to the palm oil industry appealing to the government authorities. Still, the palm oil industry has generated massive positive impact for Malaysia, with four million jobs created throughout the supply chain, providing a livelihood for 650,000 smallholders and contributing to the economy with 90% of the palm products exported. Palm kernel oil massively contributed to global healthcare in the making of soaps and detergents — literally lifesavers during the pandemic. The oil palm sector has offered constructive solutions to counter COVID-19 by keeping all our workers fully employed and secure.

**Source C:** *Interview with a former software engineer at an IT company.*

I had my wonderful children, got a master's degree in computer science and a Master's degree, and checked all the boxes. When the pandemic hit, I was working at a small startup as a software engineer. Right at the first week of June they laid me off. It was very unexpected because they said they had gotten the payroll protection, and we weren't to worry about losing our jobs. And then they called me up that morning before I was supposed to come in and said, "Hey, pack up your stuff." Getting laid off right in the middle of this whole situation is a nightmare.

**Source D:** *A graph published online by an independent company which analyses data.*

**Revenue earned by BigTech companies in US\$ billion**



**Source E:** *A media release by the Singapore Tourism Board\* (STB), on its main website.*

Singapore's tourism sector has had to fight for survival in 2020. Our tourism businesses have displayed immense resilience throughout this difficult period, reinventing their business models and benefitting from various government support measures to transform their products and offerings. STB remains confident in Singapore's position as one of the world's safest and most attractive leisure and business destination, and the long-term prospects of Singapore's tourism sector. STB has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with travel agencies in November 2020 to jointly market Singapore as a destination of choice for travellers over the next three years.

*\*Singapore Tourism Board is a statutory board under the Ministry of Trade and Industry*

**Source F:** *A political cartoon from an independent journalism website.*



**SECTION B (Structured-Response Questions)**

Answer **both** questions.

**Living in a Diverse Society**

Study the extracts carefully and then answer the questions.

**Extract 1**

An Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) report found that seven in 10 of 2000 respondents in Singapore favoured placing strict limits on the number of foreigners entering the country for work. This showed that while Singaporeans generally appreciated the value of immigration, it is still often a controversial issue at home.

**Extract 2**

One of the benefits of welcoming immigrants in Singapore is the exchange of skills and knowledge towards the contribution of economic growth. Statistics from the Ministry of Manpower revealed that Singapore's economic growth grew in tandem with increased immigration between 2001 to 2019.

**Extract 3**

Another benefit of welcoming immigrants in Singapore is in the exchange and appreciation of culture. A local survey found that more than 70% of Singaporeans believed that they can learn a lot from the cultures that foreigners bring into Singapore.

- 6** Extract 1 shows the response of Singaporeans to foreigners entering Singapore.

In your opinion, why is there unhappiness over increasing the flow of immigrants to Singapore? Explain your answer by providing **two** [7] reasons.

- 7** Extracts 2 and 3 depict different benefits of welcoming immigrants in Singapore.

Do you think that exchange of skills and knowledge between immigrants and Singaporeans brings more benefits to society than exchange of culture? Explain your answer.

[8]