



General Paper Bulletin 2023 (JC 1)

Dear TMJC students, welcome to the year-end issue of TMJC's GP Bulletin for 2023. This is a selection of the essays written by your schoolmates during the recent Year-End Examination. Thanks to the students who have contributed their essays.

While these essays are not perfect or model essays, there is a lot of merit in them, and they are clear evidence that good quality writing is possible under exam conditions.

While reading these essays, you may find some of the content useful for application to other questions; do be judicious in using such information in a manner that is relevant to the question you are answering.

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

Editorial Team

Mdm Tan Soo Lin

Mr Max Cheong

Contents

Q1: Is ageing to be welcomed or feared today?.....	2
Q3: 'Censorship is neither desirable nor realistic.' How far is this true of your society?	4
Q5: Consider the view that young people are too dependent on technology.....	7
Q5: Consider the view that young people are too dependent on technology.....	10
Q6: 'It is increasingly challenging to preserve one's culture in the modern world.' How far do you agree?.....	13

Q1: Is ageing to be welcomed or feared today?

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
<p>In many countries worldwide, the ageing population has been on the rise with lower birth rates in these countries. Recently in Singapore, it has been recorded that the average number of childbirths has declined again to only about one per family. With the ageing population, it is likely that the future working population would have a heavier burden on their shoulders with higher taxes needed to care for the ageing. There may be problems with slow economic growth with a declining workforce. However, there have been steps taken for the old to pass down skills and traditions to the young, as well as chances for upskilling to remain relevant in the ever-changing society. Travelling by the ageing population is also a crucial factor to boost economic growth in countries relying heavily on tourism for revenue. Hence, ageing is to be welcomed rather than feared today.</p>	<p>Clear Stand: A clear stand is provided at the end of the paragraph.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: There should be more clarity on the concepts of 'welcomed' and 'feared', which are not simply pros and cons.</p> <p>Contextualisation: The global context is given, with some description of the issue within the context of Singapore society.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: The description of the problems and benefits could be summarised, and more could be written about the current context instead.</p>
<p>It is argued that with increased demand for healthcare due to the rise of the ageing population, more burden has been put onto tax payers. As people age, it is difficult to prevent the development of degenerative illnesses that take a toll on the health of the aged. With the average lifespan of the population being on the rise to approximately 85 in Singapore, there has been a rise in the need for healthcare. For subsidies in public healthcare, funded by tax revenue of the government, there is the need to increase income taxes for the working population. This does bring a burden to young workers with limited pay to even survive with the high cost of living in many cities today. However, this may not be true due to the initiatives by governments to help the aged to prepare for future spendings on healthcare. In today's world, there has been a rise in the number of knowledge or capital-intensive jobs, allowing people to have accumulated income that can be saved up and used for medical expenditures in the future. One initiative is Medishield in Singapore, where a part of people's income is set aside and deposited into this account monthly. In the long run, even when one has retired, they would not need to rely entirely on government subsidies to afford healthcare as they are able to fund their own healthcare. This poses little burden on tax payers as a result with less government spending required to subsidise healthcare.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear topic sentence on tax burden.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Clear addressing of the fear involved in increasing tax burden due to the healthcare needs of an ageing population in the OV.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Although the example of Singapore's Medishield is valid, it must be noted that Singapore is an exception. For most countries, their healthcare system is not as effective.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: The argument may have to be modified to take into consideration the rest of the world, and how, if at all, governments are able to help defray the healthcare costs of an ageing population. The rebuttal point on the rise in the number of knowledge or capital-intensive jobs also needs explanation.</p>
<p>It can also be argued that ageing results in decline of the working population, resulting in slower economic growth for countries. The rise in ageing workforces also account for rise in retirement rates, greatly reducing the human resources available to bring economic growth for countries. This is true in societies such as Japan, where the working population has decreased over the years with a fast rise of the ageing population. Japan's growth economically has definitely slowed down and remained partially stagnant as compared to the past. However, there have been efforts put in place for the upskilling of the elderly workforce that enables them to continue working as they age. For instance, Singapore's SkillsFuture initiative has introduced many technologically related courses, with its aim to equip older workers with the relevant technological skills to adapt to the shifts</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear and succinct topic sentence.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: An apt example on Japan's economic issues caused by an ageing population.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Today's context of upskilling in relation to technology-related skills is clearly elaborated.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement:</p>

<p>towards Artificial Intelligence (AI) and smart technologies in many workplaces. With relevant skills needed for work today, the aged may still be able to continue working and extend their retirement age beyond that of the past. For instance, the average retirement age has risen to 62 as compared to 58 to 60 in the past. This allows the ageing population to continue to contribute to the economy for a longer time, or even in capital-intensive jobs that generate greater economic revenue for countries instead.</p>	<p>Perhaps the words 'welcomed' and 'feared' could be used to more explicitly link the arguments to the POC.</p>
<p>Ageing is also welcomed today as skills and culture, which take years to master, can be passed on from generation to generation. The ageing population in niche crafts, especially those by the indigenous people, can be passed down to their future generations. For example, rice wine making is a specialised craft by the indigenous groups in Taiwan. With its people having longer lifespans when integrating into modern life while maintaining their traditional practices, these practices are able to be passed on to their future generations. This enables many diminishing specialised crafts to remain within their small communities, giving the young a sense of belonging and identity as part of the indigenous group. With the young having a greater pride and understanding on their culture, and the importance to preserve them, they find new ways to spread awareness and share their practices with others, such as in the form of tourism. This brings not only benefits in the preservation of cultures, but also more economic prospects for these indigenous groups. When done on a larger scale, they may also gain government support, further improving their livelihoods from social and economic development.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Succinct and clear topic sentence provided.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: The POC of 'welcomed' is clearly addressed, given the benefits to be reaped. However, this point has very little to do with ageing, and more to do with whether such 'niche crafts' will be passed down to future generations: whether a society is ageing or not has little bearing on whether such crafts will be passed down.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: There are several assumptions here that need to be re-examined: that only the old possess these skills and culture; that the young will want to take over such crafts/learn such skills or that they will necessarily be proud of their culture, especially in today's context where the young want to embrace technology and advancements.</p>
<p>Ageing is also welcomed today as experienced workers can be beneficial in workplaces. With great experience and understanding of their job, these experienced workers are great mentors to new graduates with little knowledge of the real-world applications to their textbook knowledge. For instance, senior nurses with great experience in actual application when taking care of patients can be good mentors to new nurses with mainly theoretical knowledge of the various medication or illnesses available. With an increasingly ageing population, even in workplaces, new entrants are able to receive more guidance and better adapt to their new job environments and roles with the help of these experienced colleagues. Hence, it remains beneficial for the young with an ageing workforce.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Clear, concise.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: 'Welcomed' is quite clearly addressed in today's context.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Relevant example cited. Perhaps more details could be provided regarding the difference between the theory and practice in the nursing profession, and how experience is key.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Depth could be achieved by also looking at how the older workers themselves benefit.</p>
<p>Lastly, ageing is also welcomed to generate economic growth with the rise of travel by the ageing population. With the development of many cities, the rise of the knowledge-based sector has allowed many workers to have high accumulated income over the years. Coupled with improvements in technology and transport systems, it has encouraged many retirees to travel during their free time. For instance, the elderly retired population are the main consumers of tour packages especially for East Asia. This is due to the huge economic growth over the years with industrialisation and eventually the rise of the tertiary sectors in the region, accounting for the rise in accumulated incomes of its people. With the rise in elderly travellers, countries with tourism as their main source of revenue will also be able to benefit socially</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Again, a short but clear topic sentence.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Bali is a tourist destination, but is it a popular tourist destination for retirees? If it is, then proved some details on which aspects of Bali are retiree-friendly.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Clearly explained, with the increase in travel by retirees.</p>

and economically. For instance, Bali in Indonesia is a well-known tourist destination. From its revenue from tourism, Indonesia has seen a significant growth socially and economically. More funds can be used for social development in terms of better education and economic growth by attracting Transnational Corporations (TNCs) such as Tesla most recently with infrastructural developments.	Suggestions for Improvement: The paragraph should just have stopped at mentioning the economic growth helped by the tourist industry. There is no need to elaborate further on the social development and other areas the funds could be used for - these are unnecessary and makes it sound over elaborated.
Overall, ageing is to be welcomed more than feared. While the growth of the ageing population is very rapid, it does not mean that this group would pose significant trouble to our societies. With years of economic development, the ageing population are able to survive on their accumulated spendings, not only for healthcare but even for leisure. The rise of lifelong learning also enables the ageing population to remain in workplaces and continue to contribute to economic growth, along with the young. Their experience and expertise in their field is definitely beneficial for the young with greater guidance when newly entering the society for work. Most importantly, it is undeniable that the aged are the most knowledgeable in traditional practices and it is up to them for sustained cultural practices to be able to be seen and understood by future generations, within and beyond their communities. The ageing population is not a burden as it seems to be, but an opportunity for the growth of society socially, economically and culturally.	Suggestions for Improvement: Conclusion is too long and largely repeats what has already been said in the essay. Instead, comment on the context of the modern world in terms of ageing and the possible future trends.
Marker's Overall Comment: Content + Good range of arguments that are relevant and well developed. + Illustrations are aptly used to support the arguments. Language + Good control of language when explaining the points. + Overall well organised. Ng Kuan Ning 23A301	

Q3: 'Censorship is neither desirable nor realistic.' How far is this true of your society?

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
Censorship has always been a contentious issue in Singaporean society, and views on whether the government should continue its role as a judge, censor and executioner has remained divisive over the years. Being an autocratic regime under the rule of one-man Lee Kuan Yew for many decades, the nation state is no stranger to draconian censorship laws, all in the name of preserving social order and a sense of stability in society. In this essay, I will be discussing whether censorship, with reference to Singaporean society, is desirable or realistic. I largely agree that censorship, in all its forms, is undesirable, yet realistic and practical to implement in my society, Singapore.	Clear Stand: A clear stand given, with reference to both POCs. Contextualisation: Context of Singapore society with a bit of history is quite clearly stated.
Firstly, censorship is undesirable as it limits the freedoms of speech of its people. Singapore has been no stranger to strict censorship laws which have been continually implemented for a very long time. For example, take the case of Singaporean blogger Ngering Roy, who published videos containing	Quality of Topic Sentences: Clear topic sentence given, with a reason. Understanding of POC: 'Desirable' is clearly addressed.

<p>defamatory statements on the government. Ngerng was fined SGD\$150,000, and then fired from his job at Temasek Holdings for expressing his views on how Singapore was being run. He later relocated to Taiwan. This, I believe, is a very dangerous and draconian precedent that our government is setting, as it serves to illustrate how harsh and severe the punishments are for being critical of the Singaporean government. The harsh punishments that the Singapore Court has meted out towards Ngerng is evident of the government's insistence on making an example out of his case, thereby heavily discouraging future critics lest they get sued into oblivion. The air of intimidation imposed by such harsh punishments leads to the lack of questioning over the government's actions, which without a system of checks and balances, may lead to corruption and stagnation over the political environment and the standards of living in Singapore. Hence, I agree that censorship is undesirable as it limits dissidents of the Singaporean government's ruling, leading to complacency and potentially, corruption if its citizens do not scrutinize its actions.</p>	<p>Relevance of Examples: Is Roy Ngerng a typical example or an exception? How about the numerous other criticisms of the government by others? Why have they not faced harsh punishments? Could it be that as long as the criticisms are fair and objective, one would not be censored so easily?</p> <p>Contextualisation: Clear context given of Sg's censorship landscape.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Although the argument is valid, the claim that governmental censorship 'may lead to corruption and stagnation over the political environment and the standards of living in Singapore' is not/has not been proven. It may be preferable to state tangibly the negative impacts of limiting freedom of speech in Sg.</p>
<p>However, detractors may argue that censorship is indeed desirable as it can help to preserve the social stability of Singaporean society. Being a nation with a past fraught with racial riots and conflict between different ethnic groups, the Singaporean government has cited the preservation of order in society as one of its main motivators for its Orwellian censorship laws. In order to uphold Singaporean values and stability in society, the government justifies that the media Singaporeans consume should not be divisive in nature or offend any of its major religious or racial groups. Such is especially true for Singapore's industry for movies, underpinned by the Films Act of 1981 which gives the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), Singapore's presiding authority over what media is allowed into the country, the power to strike down any film without appeals if it deems its nature to be divisive. For example, the IMDA has slapped a harsh NC16 age limit for the movie Lightyear because it featured a kiss between two female characters. Because of the conservative nature of Singaporean society, IMDA saw the age limit as fitting to limit how many people can watch the film because of a single kiss scene between two LGBT+ characters. Homosexuality, even post-377A, has largely been seen as a vile idea by most Singaporeans due to the teachings from Christianity and Islam which both forbid it.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Valid topic sentence on social stability.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Another valid point addressing the first POC of 'desirable'.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: See below on suggestions for improvement.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Valid context of Sg's turbulent past of instability.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: The link between racial riots/ethnic conflict and the example banning LGBT+ content in movies is not clear. Perhaps a better example might be to cite how censorship has ensured stability between the various ethnic groups.</p>
<p>However, I would instead argue that a change in social order in this regard would not necessarily be a bad thing, contrary to what the Singaporean government believes. Cultures change and evolve over time. It would be unrealistic, but also naïve for the Singaporean government to believe that such a stance towards homosexuality cannot change in Singaporean society. In 2022's Ipsos survey, 45% of respondents said they were more accepting of same-sex relations than they were 10 years ago, reflecting a drastic change in attitude towards this divisive issue. Given the nation state's push towards a more inclusive society, it has to accept some liberal changes in social norms and not be exclusively inclusive to certain groups, but also ostracise others. Hence, in the short term, although the Singaporean</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: The OV above is about preservation of social stability. This R is valid as it is about how the lack of social stability is not necessarily a bad thing.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Although the POC of desirability is addressed, it could be more explicitly stated at the start of the paragraph, rather than leaving for the end.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: A relevant example on the change in attitudes over time.</p>

<p>government's push towards resisting change through its censorship is correct in preserving societal order in the short run, such a resistance would be detrimental to its development in the long run. Therefore, censorship justified to preserve the social order is not in fact desirable, but undesirable.</p>	<p>Contextualisation: A relevant description of Sg's context of our push towards inclusivity.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: More could be said about the detrimental effects of maintaining the status quo in the long run.</p>
<p>Addressing the practicality of whether censorship can be implemented, I believe censorship is realistic, and already has been implemented successfully for many years in Singaporean society due to Singaporeans' reliance on technology for day-to-day activities. Given Singaporeans' mobile phone penetration rate of 158% in 2018 (meaning that each person has on average of 1.58 mobile phones), the Singaporean government has already been monitoring the activities of its citizens online easily. For example, from 2020 to 2022, there were a total of seven POFMA directives issued under the Protection Against Online Falsehoods and Manipulations Act (POFMA) to combat against people who spread disinformation on COVID-19. It is hence very easy for the Singapore government to carry out censorship online by scanning through social media posts and blurring the line between free speech and disruptive speech online because of the prevalence of Internet usage in Singapore.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: The topic sentence could be more succinct, whether Sg has implemented censorship is not the issue, so this part can be omitted.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: 'Realistic' is quite clearly proven here.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: 2 valid examples given, both of which complement each other to support the point of censorship being realistic.</p> <p>Contextualisation: A valid elaboration of Sg's context: high handphone penetration rate enables monitoring, surveillance and censorship.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: There is a bit of an overlap with the next paragraph on laws. Perhaps leave the example of POFMA for the next point.</p>
<p>Furthermore, censorship is realistic as it is shockingly easy for the government to carry out censorship on a mass scale outside of the digital world through its many strict laws on censorship. Singapore is a nation with a parliament dominated by a single party, called the People's Action Party, Therefore, to get a law approved, it can very easily be done if it manages to get all its party members onboard. Such was the case for the Personal Data Protection Act which got passed fairly quickly as many lawmakers approved of the law. Hence, if a new problem regarding the freedoms of speech of Singaporeans arises, it can very easily pass a law unimpeded through its legislature to limit these freedoms. As if that was not enough, the extensive censorship laws already present serve to limit public activism. For example, if one wanted to organise a protest in Singapore, organisers would have to specify the order of events planned during the protest, the date and time of the protest, and also any risks involved. They are also limited to protesting in a few designated areas like Hong Lim Park if they wanted to organise one. One can easily see how a system can be abused by the Singapore government, as it can simply reject protests that do not align with their viewpoints or point out criticisms which it does not like, hence severely limiting public dissent.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A valid and clear topic sentence to begin the paragraph.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Although the point of 'realistic' is shown, the paragraph seems to want to show why censorship is undesirable rather than just objectively prove 'realistic'.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: PDPA is a valid example cited, which is fairly well explained in the context of Sg.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: As mentioned above, this paragraph could sound more neutral and show how/why censorship is realistic in Sg.</p>
<p>Nonetheless, I do concede that a full state of censorship is impossible to implement without strong public backlash. The aforementioned strict laws on censorship have only been tolerated because many Singaporeans also want to maintain stability in society. Given that many Singaporeans have a very</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: The topic sentence could be made clearer by stating the reason why it may not be realistic.</p> <p>Understanding of POC:</p>

<p>pragmatic, conservative mindset towards issues like censorship as they have seen and read about the possible implications a polarised society can bring, they will only continue to support the government's efforts to be the judge and censor, which may change as time passes due to the differing values of younger generations. Furthermore, the nationalistic attitude that the government has been trying to instil has become less relevant as youths today are continually exposed to more westernised, liberal ideals on social media which espouses values of freedom and a lesser emphasis on the nuclear family structure, which is diametrically opposed to what the Singaporean government has been trying to encourage. It is hence ultimately impossible to fully censor everyone, even in countries like North Korea which sits at the bottom of the Freedom of Press Index, as there is too much leeway for what is said in private spaces or at home for the government to constantly shadow what they are saying. However, as evidenced by the Singapore government's legislature above, it is still completely for public dissent, on the surface, to be heavily regulated for Singapore to maintain its image as a world-class leader in GDP and smart governance.</p>	<p>'Realistic' is quite nicely unpacked, with depth achieved in explaining the changing attitudes of young people, and the practical difficulty of monitoring/censoring everyone.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Fully relevant to Sg context.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Although the example of North Korea is not wrong, it would have been better to add an example from Sg society.</p>
<p>Ultimately, I do believe that while a surveillance state is indeed realistic for Singapore, and already has been implemented, it is ultimately undesirable for the development of Singaporean society if it wants to present itself as a country that takes superb care of its citizens. Perhaps, censorship laws must be slackened, or more outlets to be opened by the government to gather feedback so that we can forge a better and more dynamic nation embracing progress. As Ray Bradbury once wrote, 'A book is a loaded gun in the house next door.' In relation to why censorship has been tolerated in the society of his novel Fahrenheit 451, which is also evocative of how censorship is currently being viewed by the Singapore government, perhaps a change of how it views censorship is needed to facilitate progress and not devolve into a society like the one warned in Bradbury's novel.</p>	<p>Suggestions for Improvement: Some valid comments on the way forward for Singapore society are provided. However, the introduction of the novel by Ray Bradbury seems abrupt, and perhaps not that impactful given that not enough details about what happens in the novel are given. It may be advisable to omit it.</p>
<p>Marker's Overall Comment:</p> <p>Content + Consistent and coherent line of argument with many apt examples to support the points. + Rather insightful ideas raised in the later part of the essay.</p> <p>Language + Control and mastery over language with minor errors. + Frequent felicitous expressions that are aptly used.</p> <p>Koh Jun Wei 23A101</p>	

Q5: Consider the view that young people are too dependent on technology.

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
<p>In today's modern world, technology is all around us, from the laboratories to our pockets, there is hardly a place untouched by technology. Technology is often viewed as a system or programme that works towards a certain function. It is undeniable to say that technology has taken the world by storm, a revolution in the way we do things. Given that technology is so ingrained into our</p>	<p>Clear Stand: Stand is clear that young people are not too dependent on technology.</p> <p>Understanding of POC:</p>

<p>society, this begs the question, are our youths becoming too dependent on it? To this I say not as I believe that youths are only doing what they can to keep up with the rapid developments going on around them.</p>	<p>Even though the stand is that youth are not too dependent on technology, there is no attempt to address the 'too' element of the question. This could have been unpacked to serve as the balance.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Contextualisation is evident: how technology has become ingrained into our societies today.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Characteristics of young people can be better explained / unpacked to link them to the PoC of 'too dependent' which should also be unpacked.</p>
<p>One likely reason why some may claim that youths are too reliant on technology would be the high internet penetration rate of cities around the world. As people see more and more youths getting access to things like smartphones, they begin to think of all of them as too reliant on such pieces of technology. I believe that this is a likely result of technology being highly embedded in the fabric of our society, throughout the world one would be unlikely to find a city untouched by technology. Especially in advanced countries where innovation is key, technology is always present to drive it. The ease and convenience of technology has allowed youths to improve their quality of life with the multifaceted advantages of technology. It is very difficult nowadays to do anything without the use of technology, especially present in the education we give our children now. Schools in Singapore have begun rolling out Personal Learning Devices to make learning easier for our children. Many schools rely on Student Learning Space or have their own websites containing resources for children to rely on if they ever have the need. This has resulted in many students relying on such pieces of technology. This is especially evident at higher levels such as tertiary education and above where more rely entirely on technology to study. This is driven by the push for technology in recent times due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This is unlikely to be the result of people becoming too dependent on technology but rather following the trends and progressing with the times as globally, we have shifted to becoming much more globally based.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: Clear topic sentence (OV) about how technology is highly embedded in every aspect of society. However, the topic sentence for the OVR is not clear.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Fair and rather descriptive explanation of the advantages of technology leading to youth using it. However, the point seems rather generic for everyone, not just the young people.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The example of the technology used in Singapore's education is apt.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Need a clear segment for rebuttal. This is not an OVC. Hence, a segment for OVR is needed – OVR topic sentence, explanation, example. The part on how young people need to learn and use technology to function in a globalised digital world needs to be explained and elaborated.</p>
<p>Another reason why I believe youths are not overly dependent on technology would be the fact that youths today are not incapable of doing things without technology, despite popular beliefs. However, many claim that youths do not have the skills to do things such as writing a letter or reading cursive writing and yet I would argue that these are expired skills that hardly have a space in our world. This is shown by how just last year Singapore Postal service made a loss for the first time due to the decreased demand for post. Many traits that used to be necessary are now redundant in our world simply because they can be done better using technology. This is not showing overreliance but instead it is resourcefulness as youths learn to use what is at hand to do something better. This is the core of innovation and creativity, which is the desire to do better. Hence I believe that youths are not being overly reliant but are simply resourceful in their usage of technology.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: It is not clear which is a more suited topic sentence: youths today are not incapable of doing things without technology or youths are resourceful in their usage of technology?</p> <p>Understanding of POC: There seems to be some repetition of ideas from the previous paragraph. The argument is that youths are not too dependent on technology but just resourceful in using them. But there is no explanation nor any suitable examples of this argument.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The example is not relevant to the point made. There is no relevance to young people nor the skills they have acquired. It is an off-tangent</p>

	<p>example about technology replacing certain human functions.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: How are they resourceful in their usage of technology? This needs to be made clear.</p>
<p>Another reason why youths are not too dependent on technology, I believe, is that technology serves an almost irreplaceable function in our daily lives. Not many things have been as advantageous to society's progress as technology has been. The development of technology has transformed so many sectors, from farming to healthcare, we have seen it all and youths are at the crux of our society. Its usage has allowed not only us but our youths to enjoy the benefits as well. From ride hailing services to personal coffee machines, such have served to improve our lives bit by bit. These help increase convenience in daily tasks for all and not just youths. As people we usually seek the more efficient ways to do things or the more convenient way and technology helps us serve that purpose by plugging the gap between our own abilities and improved function. Technology is being leveraged for our own better quality of life. This is definitely not unique to youths but is simply true for most of our society, thus I would not say that youths are overly reliant on technology but instead that they are using it to the right amount as is the rest of our society.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: The topic sentence is that technology serves as an almost irreplaceable function in our daily lives. Although clear, it seems like a repetition of the above arguments.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: There are hardly any concrete examples here. Largely descriptive.</p> <p>Contextualisation: This point is mostly discussing the impact not only on youths but also the rest of the people. Youths are not well contextualised here.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Examine the differentiated characteristics of technology as well as that of the youths and discuss why there is not an over dependence.</p>
<p>A common argument that youths are overly dependent on technology would be that youths spend a lot more time near technology than any other age group and are most often the target of technology developers. While this may be true for some cases, it is not universally true as such cases only make up a small percentage of the advancements we have seen in technology. Technology can be designed for everyone. Technology is an all encompassing term yet many use it freely and loosely. Technology applies to things from cars and smart devices to digital locks. These are often everyday items that only serve to make life easier or solve a problem initially faced without the use of technology. Such has made technology a frequent occurrence in our homes and it is therefore inevitable that we use such technology with such frequency. As such, I do not believe that youths are being too dependent on technology but rather that technology has served an everyday function in our lives that leads to their recurring usage. The youth are likely seen as too dependent as they are most often seen with technology but that is likely because they are at the age group where they have both the ability and time to fully take advantage of technology causing it to appear as though they spend too much time near technology compared to other age groups. Hence I believe that young people are not overly reliant on technology but that technology has made itself a part of our everyday lives and youths are able to take advantage of that.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: The topic sentence is that technology has served an everyday function in young people's lives and that leads to their recurring usage. Hence they are only mistaken as having an over reliance on technology. It is yet again a repetition of previous points.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Repetitive points, examples are largely descriptive.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: See above.</p>
<p>Many have argued that the youth are spending too much time online as opposed to the previous generations. While the online space is not synonymous with the usage of technology, one can see where they coincide. However, in response to this I would think that youths spend that much time online because it is online where most of youths social groups can be found, the interconnectedness of the internet and the rise of technology has made making friends online much easier for youths who again have both the ability and</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: The topic sentence is clear that youths are not too dependent on technology, they just appear to be because they are always online which is necessary for social interaction in their generation.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: No examples provided.</p>

time to take full advantage of such benefits. Their usage of the online world to connect with others is likely just as much or perhaps slightly more than that of the past generations simply due to the increased convenience. As things continue to digitalise and move online, it is only logical that youths move online as well due to the shift in society. Hence I do not believe that youths are too dependent on technology.	Suggestions for Improvement: Work on using appropriate examples to substantiate your argument.
In conclusion, I believe that young people are not too dependent on technology as with current global trends it is only natural that they spend more time making use of resources available to them. As more technology develops it is likely that technology will only improve and make its way into more homes with the purpose of improving our lives and increasing our reliance on them as a whole.	Need to focus on youths. Not just the general public.
Marker's Overall Comment: Content + Arguments are largely relevant. + Some illustrations are aptly used to support the arguments. - Did not unpack the phrase 'too dependent'. For a question with a 'too' element, there is a need to include both the reasons + impacts. - Plan your essay better, this will stop the repetition of ideas. Cut down on unnecessary paragraphs and focus on explaining and elaborating better examples to support your points. Language + Some good use of language when explaining the points. - Rather confusing with the use of OV+OVR technique. Needs to have better control in the writing if choosing to use this style. Goh Tze Hian Sherry 23S308	

Q5: Consider the view that young people are too dependent on technology.

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
Within just two decades of the 21st century, there has been a remarkable change in the way we as humans communicate, move around, eat and traverse due to the advancements in technology, especially the ones in our pockets. No longer does one have to bring cash for payment and gone are the days where people communicate using pay phones and landlines. It is undeniable that these changes have impacted the way young people nowadays live, with the sheer convenience of technology, paving the way for new unseen paths and career opportunities. However, the ease of convenience has led many young people to be over reliant on technology in many aspects, such as in their daily livelihoods, education and entertainment.	Clear Stand: There is a clear stand stating young people being over reliant on technology. Understanding of POC: The stand of over reliance is addressed, however, 'too dependent' is not unpacked. Contextualisation: Contextualisation of today's world is evident. Suggestions for Improvement: A good introduction should have a clear balanced stand. Balance is lacking here. A clear setting of perimeters of what 'too dependent' is also good to have.
If you were to ask any young person nowadays how to get from location A to B, 9 times out of 10 you would see them immediately whip out their mobile phones to check. With the fruition of applications such as Google Maps, it seems that many young people today seemingly cannot do without their smartphones to get from one place to another. It is almost	Quality of Topic Sentences: Topic sentence can only be found at the end of the paragraph. It is largely descriptive at the beginning of the paragraph. Understanding of POC:

<p>second nature - and this applies to miscellaneous aspects of their lives too. According to a study done by CNA, close to 3 in 4 youths use mobile payment today as opposed to cash, to the extent that when there is a situation where only cash is accepted, their wallets would be empty. Additionally, with e-commerce on the rise in regions such as Southeast Asia, with big names such as Taobao, Lazada and Grab, it has become common, if not the norm, for young people to seek online shopping as opposed to window shopping due to its convenience and relatively low cost. It is apparent that young people today rely on technology too much for basic aspects of their day to day lives. However, it is not just limited to basic day to day activities.</p>	<p>A rather brief elaboration on why young people are too dependent on technology.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: A relevant example of youth dependent on e-payment to the point they do not usually carry cash.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Write a clear topic sentence as to why youths are so dependent on technology in their daily lives and the impact of this over reliance. This should be done right at the start of the paragraph.</p>
<p>With increasing digitalisation globally and the catalyst effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, the notion of 'online learning' and the use of technology in education across the globe has increased drastically. With policies such as the provision of Personal Learning Devices (PLD) in Singapore to young people in secondary schools, the shift towards the use of technology in the education sector is more apparent than ever. Although the objectives of many governments and schools implementing 'smart learning', the idea of blending face to face lessons with digital aspects such as the use of Google Classroom - which allows teachers to disseminate information, assign homework and even mark with the help of third party applications such as Kami, was to encourage a healthy blend of mixed modes of learning, young people are becoming too reliant on technologies such as PLDs to learn. One pertinent example that illustrates my point would be ChatGPT. ChatGPT is a form of artificial intelligence (AI) that is able to answer seemingly any question posed to it. Many students globally have used the capabilities of this AI perhaps a bit too well, to not only do their homework for them but even write entire essays or generate points for essays. This has caused a variety of repercussions on their quality of learning, and demonstrates the grip that technology can have on young people to the point of overreliance in their education.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear topic sentence on how the increased use of technology in education has led to young people's reliance on it.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: Both the reason for reliance and the impact of the over reliance are given. However, the impact can be better elaborated.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Examples are largely relevant, although the first example was overly descriptive with some irrelevant portions.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Need to elaborate what these 'repercussions' are. Elaborate, give an example of it.</p>
<p>Moreover, their reliance on technology has also been seen in the way they communicate - via social media. The technological boom of the 21st century has led to the fruition of applications such as Instagram and YouTube with the purpose to entertain. More recently, short form content has begun to plague the young people of the 2010s to 2020s due to the rise of TikTok. With over 400 million users globally, it is estimated that nearly 40% of their users are between the ages of 14 to 25. Coupled with increasing screen times among youths along with decreasing attention spans, there has been an increasing dependence on technology - in the form of social media, to entertain young people worldwide with a vicious cycle of decreased attention spans and increasing reliance on social media to fill the seemingly obligatory need of young people to be constantly entertained.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear topic sentence stating the rise of social media leading to young people being too dependent on it for entertainment. The impact is that with increasing screen time, there is decreasing attention span.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The examples are on the high usage of social media like TikTok. However, there is no example of the impact of increasing short attention span.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Work on explaining how increasing screen time for entertainment on social media is linked to decreasing attention span. Does it mean that young people are spending too much time on it? Are there no other forms of entertainment?</p>
<p>Detractors of my stand would argue on the basis that there is not over dependence on technology due to unequal distribution of technologies between developed and developing countries such as smartphones, readily available Internet access and laptops,</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: An OV paragraph. There is a clear OV topic sentence as well as a clear OVR topic sentence.</p>

<p>citing that those in the lower strata of society do not have said issues with over dependence, and that the argument is unrepresentative of many young people globally. While it is true that regions that are poorer such as Sub Saharan Africa have less access to technology, the same cannot be said for other developing nations due to increased disposable income arising from the technological boom. With many economies shifting away from just labour and instead focusing on developing human capital in the form of higher skilled workers, the distribution of technologies to young people from different parts of the world has become more even in recent years. An example of this would be the developing economies of countries in the ASEAN region such as Indonesia and Vietnam, leading to growth rates on incomes increasing drastically. Therefore the argument that developing nations do not have good access to technology and therefore young people there would not be reliant on technology is flawed as such gaps are closing fast, and is a dated argument.</p>	<p>Understanding of POC: The argument here is not very precise. It focuses more on the development of technology in developing countries, hence arguing that people there are also dependent on the technology. It did not really explore if they too are too dependent on it nor the consequences of this over reliance.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Examples are relevant to the point made. But the point / argument is not precise / accurate.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Need to focus on the point that young people in developing countries are also too dependent on technology and explain why, as well as explain the impact of this over dependence.</p>
<p>Another counter argument would be that young people today are not overdependent on technology because several aspects of their daily lives simply cannot be replaced by technology or has not had large scale implementation. For example, learning to drive still requires one to pass a written test on theory, as well as practical tests such as driving on a road, turning, and parking. While it is true that aspects such as driving has not been replaced by technology, technology can definitely play a role in aiding young people to the point of overreliance. Take for example the previously mentioned example of driving. With developments in technology, there have been improvements such as parking aids in the form of cameras at the rear of the car and guiding lines to help one not overshoot. Therefore, although not completely replaced by technology, some aspects of life still can heavily rely on technology and therefore young people could have overdependence on said features.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: There is a clear topic sentence present in OV argument.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: However, the point is illustrated with a rather straw-man argument of driving. It is a known fact that all these advancements have already existed for years.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Use a better illustration.</p>
<p>Overall, technology has definitely been a crutch to young people with its numerous benefits. However, the increasing reliance on technology should not necessarily be seen as a bad thing, but more of a rite of passage. Just as humanity shifted from using slates to write to using the pen and paper, society should not restrict its growth and potential to develop further and improve itself, but rather we should embrace the changes instead of sticking to established roots and practices. A bird would never have learnt to fly had it not taken the leap of faith from its nest.</p>	<p>Suggestions for Improvement: Conclusion needs to be synced with your stand. The stand is that young people are indeed too dependent on technology but yet in the conclusion, it is now considered a rite of passage?</p>
<p>Marker's Overall Comment:</p> <p>Content + A relevant response that is fairly well argued, with an attempt at balance. +/- Arguments, although valid, are largely area-driven. Hence most have similar characteristics. +/- Apt use of illustrations, though some could have been better developed.</p> <p>Language + Good linguistic ability with some evidence of variety of sentence structure and vocabulary.</p> <p>Jethro Richardson Chua Ray 23S101</p>	

Q6: 'It is increasingly challenging to preserve one's culture in the modern world.' How far do you agree?

Sample Essay	Marker's Comments
<p>The hit K-Pop group BTS took the world by storm, becoming a global phenomenon and leaving behind a remarkable legacy. Not long after, the world was swept by the K-wave, with sharp increases in Korean drama viewership on Netflix, and concerts by countless K-Pop groups such as BlackPink and Stray Kids performing all over the world. Despite all their songs being in Korean, they managed to spread their culture across the world, greatly preserving Korean culture. However, is it really that easy to keep one's culture alive? Though Korea remains an extraordinary example of cultural preservation with its popularity, the unfortunate reality is that in today's highly technologically advanced and globalised world, conserving culture may lead to cultural homogenisation, may not be in a country's best interests, or may even be viewed as redundant in today's society. Thus, it is becoming more difficult to preserve one's heritage in the world today.</p>	<p>Clear Stand: Clear stand stated that it is becoming more difficult to preserve one's culture in the world today.</p> <p>Understanding of POC: There is an understanding that certain characteristics of today's globalised world will lead to difficulties in preserving one's culture.</p> <p>Contextualisation: Characteristics of today's world are briefly mentioned.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Perhaps the general statement could be shortened and more could be said about the characteristics of our modern world and why they may make preserving one's culture increasingly challenging.</p>
<p>The greater interconnectivity that globalisation has facilitated has made it so cultural homogenisation occurs, so one feels more disconnected from their heritage. When different people from a diverse range of cultures are able to mix, people are able to adopt different cultures. As a result, preserving one's culture is more difficult when one begins to lose touch of their roots due to constant exposure to different cultures especially if they enjoy another culture more than their own. For instance, Americanisation has led to there being over 1000 McDonald's outlets in Japan, which used to be closed off for centuries, and English being the third most spoken language. Even Westernisation has caused a shift in Japanese clothing preferences from traditional kimonos to mass-produced business suits, T-shirts and jeans. This paradigm shift has resulted in less people preserving their culture as Western attire becomes the norm rather than tradition. Thus, with the spread of different cultures today, one's own culture begins to dilute, resulting in increasing difficulty in preservation.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear topic sentence stating that the greater interconnectivity brought on by globalisation has led to cultural homogenization.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Adequate example of how Japanese culture has undergone some dilution due to Americanisation.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Need to explain clearer why one may enjoy another culture more. Is it due to soft power of the media?</p>
<p>Furthermore, with rapid technological advancements such that urbanisation and development become a country's priority, cultural preservation becomes more complicated as a country has to prioritise one over the other. Preserving heritage sites takes up space and money, resulting in opportunity cost when a country could be constructing housing or offices for economic growth instead. For example, the Singapore government wished to build a new train network across the island, but the tracks would result in having to demolish Bukit Brown Cemetery. As a result, they had to consider building the track deeper underground, which would cost more and result in longer travel time. This may not be in Singaporeans' best interests as efficiency is highly valued. Thus, the country was split on what to do with the cemetery, debating whether cultural preservation or efficiency should be prioritised. Hence, preserving one's culture has become more</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear topic sentence on how development and urbanisation have led to countries prioritising the economy over cultural preservation.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: An appropriate example of how a developed country like Singapore has to struggle with cultural preservation versus economic development / urbanisation.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: It will be good to explain why cultural / heritage sites are important aspects of one's cultures. Why it is thus important to preserve these locales in order to know and understand one's culture better.</p>

<p>difficult as it can conflict with a country's development, forcing a government to make difficult decisions on what to prioritise.</p>	
<p>Additionally, people are starting to see less value in cultural preservation due to the notion that their heritage may be redundant. As time goes by, people move on from the past and ancient or traditional practices become obsolete due to technological advancements. The world has also increased in speed and efficiency, due to automation and technology, thus people begin to prioritise the new and modern over engaging in traditional practices. To illustrate, the Japanese Kabuki theatre industry has declined rapidly as nobody wishes to perform or watch such performances. Additionally, in 2023, a section of the Great Wall of China was demolished by construction workers who wanted a shortcut to their construction site. This shows that less people are interested in cultural preservation, and preserving culture becomes more difficult as less people wish to spend their precious time and resources on their culture.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear topic sentence stating how people may view certain traditional practices as redundant due to advancements in technology.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Examples although relevant, are not well explained. The Japanese lack of interest in the Kabuki theatre is not well linked to the reason of technological advancement. Neither is the China example.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Use more varied examples. For the second example on Japan, link the examples better to the reason stated in the topic sentence.</p>
<p>However, some may argue that cultural preservation is being seen as more valuable by people as not difficult as preserving one's heritage boosts the economy, thus cultural preservation is seen as valuable by the government. A country's growth and conserving its culture can go hand in hand, as seen by the millions of people who visit the Train Market or temple ruins in Thailand, or the tripling of National Gallery Singapore visitors in 2021. On the contrary, cultural preservation can, in fact, result in losses in some cases. There are cases of vandalism on the Great Wall of China, and the stones that build Machu Picchu are eroding due to all the visitors. Thus, preserving heritage would need greater government spending, which increasingly becomes difficult when the structures become more worn out and eventually disappear.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: The OV topic sentence is about how, when a country's growth and conserving of its culture can go hand in hand, it will be easier to preserve one's culture. The rebuttal topic sentence is however, preserving heritage sites is an increasingly expensive task. The link between the OV and R needs to be clear.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: Relevant examples that support both OV and OVR.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: It is similar to the point made in SV2. It may be better if another argument was put forth.</p>
<p>Moreover, some people may say that cultural preservation now is easier as more people are accepting of different cultures. With advancements in technology, one can easily travel all over the world to experience different cultures, fuelling the demand for locals to preserve their culture as more people arrive to appreciate it. An illustration would be the people watching street performers and dances, or trying traditional art and games. In Singapore, people are largely accepting of each other's cultures, such as by having a diverse cuisine for people of different races to enjoy. However, this greater acceptance is not true for many groups around the world. Many discriminate against indigenous people for the preservation of skulls, finding such a practice unacceptable in today's society as they are unfamiliar with it. There are Quran burnings in Sweden and Denmark, and demolition of Muslim buildings in India. A significant proportion of the global population still do not tolerate other cultures that deviate from their own, thus cultural preservation is still difficult as discrimination and hate crimes are still rampant globally.</p>	<p>Quality of Topic Sentences: A clear OV topic sentence of tourism fuelling cultural preservation. However, the rebuttal seems to respond to the example more than the topic sentence put forth.</p> <p>Relevance of Examples: The example for the OVR is not that appropriate. The Singapore example is not one about cultural tourism at all.</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement: Ensure that topic sentences and examples illustrated are in sync. The examples need to be explained to substantiate the key idea in the paragraph.</p>

Looking at Korea again, it is truly exceptional that a country's cultural influence could be so significant all over the world, but we cannot ignore the other minority cultures that are struggling to even survive. Though there is increasing difficulty to preserve one's culture in today's world, there is still hope that people will be more tolerant, if not accepting, of different cultures that may even potentially clash with their own. Countries could also do more to help locals preserve customs and practices while promoting acceptance. Thus, despite the increasing difficulty in cultural preservation, many cultures will certainly not disappear if both the government and individuals do their part, and our world will still be a highly diverse one.

Suggestions for Improvement:

A good and clear conclusion that encompasses the key ideas raised as well as the hope for the future.

Marker's Overall Comment:**Content**

- + Arguments are largely relevant and developed.
- + /- Illustrations are mostly appropriate to the topic being discussed. However, there is a need to work on ensuring that the arguments and examples are in sync.

Language

- + Relatively clear language when explaining the points.
- + Overall well organised.

Magbitang Callista Ysabelle Acuna 23S301