

GP Notes

Chang Si Yuan

May 21, 2016

(ver 0.0.1a)

This compilation of notes are meant to be used as a reference for the GCE “A”-level General Paper essay as well as an evidence database, typically presented in the form of essay question analysis and outlines. These notes are meant for free, public use, but at the reader’s own risk.
Good luck with your exams.

Legend:

DYA = Do you agree

TWE = To what extent

D = Discuss

1 Media

1.1 Purpose and Value

Purpose and value are two very distinct sets of questions, but still govern the questions asking the whys of media. Purpose itself pertains to the idealistic use case of different forms of media and less so of how efficient they are at achieving goals, whereas value pertains to the worth of the existence and use of a form of media be it originating from the way it is conveyed to the content that is conveyed to the effectiveness of the form of media, typically alternating between different timeframes of past success and future potential of a form of media to argue for one's value or lack thereof.

1.1.1 Purpose

Consider the argument that the main purpose of television should be to educate than simply to entertain. (GCE-A/15) -

How far is the media responsible for promoting democracy in your society? (RJC/14) -

DYA that the mass media should pursue responsibility and not profit? (RJC/11) -

1.1.2 Value

Consider the view that spoken language is more important than the written form. (GCE-A/13) -

Do films offer anything more than an escape from reality? (GCE-A/14) -

Is there any value in horror films and books? (RJC/14) -

Are bookstores still relevant in today's world? (RJC/13) -

TWE does the media create mediocrity? (RJC/11) -

1.2 New Media

'Books serve little purpose in education as technological developments become more sophisticated.' How far DYA? (GCE-A/15) -

In the digital age, do newspapers still have a role in your society? (GCE-A/11) -

Are we overdependent on digital technology? -

To what extent has new media made us poor communicators? (RJC/14) -

To what extent is social media a useful platform for change? (RJC/13) -

Discuss the impact of new media on social cohesion in your society. (RJC/12) -

To what extent are young people in your society slaves to the mass media? (RJC/12) -

'New media is a new evil.' Discuss. (RJC/12) -

TWE has new media changed the face of human interaction? (RJC/11) -

TWE DYA that the media has been a liberating force? (RJC/110) -

'Social media has changed the face of politics.' TWE is this true? (RJC/11) -

1.3 Privacy

'Personal privacy and national security cannot coexist.' Comment. (RJC/15) -

‘There is no such thing as privacy today.’
Comment. (RJC/15) -

To what extent have people given up
their freedom for comfort? (RJC/14) -

1.4 Advertising

‘There is no such thing as bad publicity.’
TWE is this true? (GCE-A/15) -

To what extent do advertisements have
a negative impact on society? (RJC/13)
-

‘Public campaigns are rarely effective.’
TWE is this true? (RJC/13) -

‘Advertising reflects the values of society
but does not influence them.’ What are
your views? (RJC/12) -

‘Advertisements truly reflect what a so-
ciety desires.’ DYA? (RJC/11) -

1.5 Censorship and Free Speech

How far, in your society, should unpopu-
lar views be open to discussion? (GCE-
A/13) -

With the rise of new media, censorship
is needed now more than ever. DYA?
(RJC/15) -

‘Freedom of speech should be a privi-
lege, not an entitlement.’ How far DYA?
(RJC/15) -

‘The media needs to exercise more re-
sponsibility.’ DYA? (RJC/15) -

‘Censorship is both harmful and futile in
today’s society.’ Comment. (RJC/14) -

‘With the emergence of new media, there
is a greater need for censorship.’ How
true is this of your society? (RJC/13) -

‘We should have the freedom to read
and watch what we like.’ Comment.
(RJC/13) -

2 Social Issues

2.1 Title

2.2 Gender (Inequalities)

2.2.1 Causes of Gender Inequality

‘The media is to blame for gender in-
equalities.’ DYA? (RJC/14) -

2.3 Title

2.4 Title

2.5 Title

2.6 Title

2.7 Title

2.8 Education

2.9 Method of Education

‘Books serve little purpose in educa-
tion as technological developments be-
come more sophisticated.’ How far DYA?
(GCE-A/15) See section 1.2 New Media

2.10 Title

2.11 Title

3 Arts

3.1 Title

3.2 Language

3.3 Value of Language

Is there any value in preserving minority
languages in the world? (GCE-A/12) -

4 Science

4.1 Title

4.2 Title

4.3 Title

4.4 Title

5 Politics

5.1 Title

5.2 Title

5.3 Title

6 Philosophy

6.1 The Human Condition

6.1.1 Immorality

To what extent is fame overrated?
(RJC/14) -

7 Essay Technique

7.1 Title

7.2 Question Prompts

DYA Thesis is a distinct stand

TWE Thesis contains qualifying criteria and then determines a slant. This is generally the most demanding question, consider all questions as a **TWE** question

when revising to account for worst case scenario

Comment Thesis involves some synthesis / balancing of information to reach a conclusion

How far... Similar to **TWE**

7.3 Question Triggers

Your Society implies that points need to pertain to the local, Singaporean situation. Hence, knowledge of the local culture, demographic, current affairs, politics and other matters are crucial to GP, especially once the application question comes into play.

Globalised implies that points should be applicable across physical and political boundaries, hence examples should either be applicable to many countries at once or should be sourced from multiple different countries, opposite that of **Your Society**. Pulling examples which directly involve increased cross-boundary flows of humans and knowledge are best.

Modern/Today limits the key scope to the near past. Points need to have some involvement with recent global trends, specifically that of technology, globalization and so on. Points involving the internet, travel, economic growth, global trends are good to tap on.

7.4 Title