

Assertion Skills

Key Understanding

1. Unpack the question issue

Assertion	Inference
Stand	P
Evidence	E
Extension	E

B.S.A (Beyond the Source)

Summary

Assertion comprises of:

- Prediction
- All sources except Background Information
 - Background Information can only be used for Surprise + Reliability + Utility
- Roles
 - Show the other roles
- Perspective (Y/N)

What is Assertion?

SBQ Assertion

- Last question in SBQ segment
- Requires an understanding of all sources Assertion question is typically a broader scope compared to the SBCS issue.

"The American healthcare system has been successful in meeting the healthcare needs of the American people."

vs

"How much should the Government interfere in the provision of healthcare in the USA?"

How to Approach Assertion?

Steps to Approach Assertion

1. Categorise sources into two sides (e.g. agree/disagree)
2. Choose 2 sources from each side to address the question
3. Write one paragraph per source
 - Framework: Stand, Evidence, BSA (SE + BSA)

Before we go any further...

Notice you only need to select 4 sources out of the 6 provided

Choose the **4** that you are **most confident** in.

Mistakes to avoid

- Source A shows that "...". (No stand stated)
- I disagree with the statement as source A, D, and E contradicts the statement. Source A states "...", while source D states "...". and source E states "...". (Multiple sources in 1 paragraph)
- I disagree as the source mentions how people in America are not able to be insured if they have pre-existing conditions. (No specific source identified and no direct quote of the source)

Writing Frames

SE + BSA

- Stand
 - I agree with the statement as Source A supports it
 - I disagree with the statement as Source B contradicts it by showing _____
- Evidence
 - Source A states "...". (directly quote)
- Because... So... As a result (Linking to a larger context)

How do I do BSA?

1. Identify the **main information** that the source is telling you

* **Predict the effect of this information**

1. Because: Immediate impact/implication of the information
2. So: **Result** of the immediate impact highlighted previously
3. As a result: **Wider outcome** based on what was identified in your previous 2 portions.

Larger Outcome (individual → community → national)

Further consequence (Because of this, something else will happen)

EIP → Common Space → Interaction → Understanding → Friendship → Overcome tensions → Reduce stereotypes → Manage challenges

I agree with the statement as Source B supports it. Source B states "the ACA will offer you a variety of quality, affordable, private health insurance plans to choose from. Insurance companies will no longer be able to discriminate against any American with a pre-existing health condition". Because more individuals would be able to obtain access to affordable insurance coverage, so their medical needs would be addressed more promptly as individuals no longer have to worry about being unable to afford the medical costs. As a result, the overall health of the American population would increase as illnesses are addressed more promptly and not allowed to deteriorate further, ensuring that a larger proportion of the population remains healthy for a longer period of time. Therefore, the American healthcare system has been successful in meeting the healthcare needs of the public.

Analysis of Response

Evidence

The ACA will offer you a variety of quality, affordable, private health insurance plans to choose from. Insurance companies will no longer be able to discriminate against any American with a pre-existing health condition.

Because

More individuals would be able to obtain access to affordable insurance coverage.

So

Their medical needs would be addressed more promptly as individuals no longer have to worry about being unable to afford the medical costs.

As a result

The overall health of the American population would increase as illnesses are addressed more promptly and not allowed to deteriorate further, ensuring that a larger proportion of the population remains healthy for a longer period of time. Therefore, the American healthcare system has been successful in meeting the healthcare needs of the public.

Point to Note for BSA

- **Cannot repeat** similar analysis points for multiple sources
- Must ensure that you link to the **wider context** beyond what the source tells you
- **Link back** to the assertion statement.

Bonus Tasks

1. Bring in own examples from contextual knowledge relevant to **a source**
 - Parallel example OR deeper insight
2. Reliability/utility of **a source**
3. [VERY RISKY] Balanced conclusion on the assertion statement (Why each view is valid. Explain why using provenance and association)
 - Very strictly marked during O Levels

Bonus Analysis

- Bring in own contextual knowledge
 - Information that cannot be found in any of the sources but adds on to what the source tells you
- evaluate reliability, utility and sufficiency of source
 - HLA: quite difficult to accomplish

LORMS

LORMS	Description	Mark
L1	No valid use of source	1
L2	Valid use of source/s (A OR DA)	2-4
L3	Valid use of source/s (A AND DA)	5-8
	Special Bonus	8-10

Types of Strategies

Type	Agree	Disagree	Basic Marks	Well-Supported Answer
Highest Marks	2	2	7m	8m
Time Constraint	1	1	5m	-

Example

Paragraph 1 [Agree]

- SEBSA [L2/3]
- Contextual Knowledge [+1m]

Paragraph 2 [Disagree]

Example Question

Unpacking

"Dyson's move to Singapore is bad for Britain." Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. "Individual responsibility is the best way to manage the spread of fake news" Using the sources...

Bad for Britain

- Job loss
- Decrease in GDP
- Decrease in revenue
- Slow economic growth

Government

- Authority
- Resources

How many paragraphs?

- 4, alternated.
 - A + Bonus, DA, A, DA
 - Time constraint: A + Bonus, DA

Example Response

Agree

- Evidence: "The commitments (of companies) are voluntary..."
- Extension: Because IT companies do not want to lose user who feel controlled or watched, so they are usually reluctant to collaborate with governments. As a result, it makes it even harder to curb the spread of extremist views.
- Because promises of IT companies to take down extremist content is optional and not mandatory, so it is very challenging to get IT companies to take full responsibility for the content they allow on their platforms. As a result, it may lead to potential further spread of extremist views.

Disagree

- Evidence: "The Christchurch Call to Action"