**Outline for CA2 - Articulating and Defending a Stand (70% weighting)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Module Class**: TCU | **Team No.: 5** |
| **Debate Issue**: Should smoking be banned in Singapore? | |
| **My Team is the** :  **~~PROPOSITION~~ / OPPOSITION** (strikethrough or underline where appropriate) | |
| **Team Members**:  Student Name (Adm. No.)  1. Li Yongjie (2342377)  2. Luong Kah Onn Jovan (2342898)  3. Lim Joon Wei (2342900)  4. Nyan Hein (2340911)  5. | |

1. What are the arguments, counter-arguments and rebuttals in relation to your team’s stand? Fill in the table accordingly:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Arguments (reasons and evidence):** | **Counter-arguments from the opponent (if any):** | **Rebuttals to defend your stand (if any):** |
| 1. | *P- Cigarettes are a source of tax-revenue in Singapore.*  *E-* Our**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Mr Lawrence Wong stated that between 2019 and 2022, the Government collected about $1.3 billion from tax generated from the sale of tobacco per year on average. This is more than double of the** reported social cost of smoking in Singapore from MOH, which been conservatively estimated to be at least S$600 million a year in direct healthcare costs and lost productivity.  *E- This shows that Singapore generates an estimate of $700 million from the sale of tobacco each year. By, banning smoking in Singapore, it takes away a source of tax revenue for Singapore, reducing its budget for development.*  *L- Hence, smoking should not be banned as it contributes to the economy which in return helps to develop our Singapore.* | Government should not disregard the health of its citizens to generate an income. | While it is true the Government should not disregard the health of its citizens it's important to note that the money made from smoke taxes can be reinvested into better healthcare system for smokers, incentives to quit, welfare systems or programmes such as the “I quit programme” by MOH to help smokers quit smoking for good.  Therefore, the smoking taxes is not the government trying to obtain more wealth, but a way to invest more into preventing the start of smoking and helping smokers with the healthcare cost or to quit. |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2. | P- Banning cigarettes could lead to increase in smuggling and black-market activities.  E- Evidence 1: Looking at Bhutan a country that banned smoking as an example. According to Straits Time and Kopi Co, Bhutan banned smoking in public places, offices, pubs, and bars in 2004. Later, Bhutan also banned the sale, distribution, and manufacture of tobacco in 2010, but still allowed controlled imports of tobacco for personal use after paying a hefty tax, creating a thriving black-market. This became a problem in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic as  The number of cases was surging due to the smuggling of tobacco from India which has much high number of cases compared to Bhutan. As a result, Bhutan temporarily lifted its ban. A survey done in 2019 by Health Ministry also showed that smoking increased from 4% in 2014 before the ban to 9% in 2019 after the ban showing that the ineffectiveness of the ban.  Evidence 2: Secondly, there already is an existing black-market for cigarettes in Singapore, just earlier this year in April 2023 CIA caught smugglers trying to smuggle in 314 cartons and 1,558 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes from Malaysia into Singapore reported by Straits Time and this is just one of the several cases in Singapore.  E- Bhutan shows a ban is more complicated than it might seem and there are many different concerns whether tax policies, or prohibition and abolition, will stop tobacco use.  The survey also shows that a ban may be ineffective, and Singapore could suffer the consequences of doing so. The ban could also increase already existing black-market activities in Singapore.    L- Therefore, banning cigarettes is not the best solution as it would be hard to enforce. Furthermore, there will be more problems that arise along with the ban encouraging of illegal activities such as smuggling and black markets. | Although there may be illegal smuggling, by banning smoking, it will still reduce the number of smokers in Singapore. | This may not be true, and the reduction may not be as effective as you may think, taking vape as an example, despite the ban of vape in 2018, the number of people getting caught using vapes is increasing. In 2021, HSA dealt with 7,593 vape cases, compared with 2,477 cases in 2019. Therefore, not only will the problem of smoking still be prominent, but the Singapore government also loses out on the tax the could've be generated as these smokers would have gotten their cigarettes from illegal imports. |
| 3. | P- A smoking ban will not be easy to enforce in Singapore.  E- According to an article from Kopi.co, with New Zealand’s approach to a cohort ban on cigarettes, many tobacco smokers see vaping as a substitute for smoking, and a tobacco ban may merely nudge smokers to shift from smoking to vaping.  The article also suggests given that Singapore receives a vast quantity of imports (and pre-pandemic, large numbers of visitors) everyday, enforcing against the illegal import of cigarettes would be very resource intensive.  E- This shows that, not only will a ban on cigarettes in Singapore be resource-intensive making it hard to implement, but it also risks contributing to the ever-growing problem of e-cigarettes which the government is actively trying to tackle. Since we generate a large amount of revenue from taxes of cigarettes, it is much better for the government to tax cigarettes.  L- Hence, a ban would not be the best option as it is not easy to enforce and brings forth other issues. | Even if smokers convert to using vape, vape is not as harmful as cigarettes. | That is not true as vape produces second hand Vape aka Aerosol contains several harmful substances such as nicotine, ultrafine particles and various other toxins including several cancer-causing agents  Along with nicotine, non-vapers are also exposed to ultrafine particles from second-hand vape aerosol, which may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease.  Second-hand vape aerosol also contains several known carcinogens that may increase the risk of certain cancers.  Although e-cigarettes are less harmful than cigarettes, according to studies, it is more addictive than traditional cigarettes hence making it as harmful as cigarettes. |
| 4 | P – As suggested in our previous arguments, a ban would not be the best solution, instead we can use an existing solution.  E- According to an article from CNA, Senior Minister for Health Koh Poh Koon said that “Studies have shown that for every 10 per cent increase in real price, there will be about a 3 per cent to 5 per cent decrease in tobacco consumption”  E- This shows that a price increase will not only be beneficial for the government in terms of revenue generated revenue from tax, it will also reduce smoking numbers. So instead of banning smoking which is resource intensive and may not produce a desirable outcome, the government can take a better approach which reaps more benefits.  L- Therefore, instead of imposing a ban, the government should look at other alternative solutions that produce a better outcome such as increasing the price | A tax increase doesn’t decrease the overall tobacco consumption as it will return to normal after a short while. A gradual Tax increase is not enough as smokers will simply adapt and buy cheaper brands. Or buy and smoke in Malaysia. | A tax increase increases the revenue which can then be used to assist smokers to quit through programmes or fund hospital bills for smokers or education campaigns to prevent children/teens from starting.  While we cannot stop smokers from buying cheaper brands or buying and smoking in Malaysia, we are already taxing anyone that brings in cigarettes. This also shows that a ban on smoking would not be a good choice as the smokers will find another way. |
| 5. | P - Singapore shouldn't ban smoking since it violates people's rights to personal freedom and autonomy and ineffectively addresses the problem.  E- There is no rule that forbids people from partaking unhealthy lifestyle like indulging in junk food or alcohol.  In Singapore unhealthy eating is causing 1/3 to be at risk of diabetes and a study by the national Health survey found that 10.5% of Singaporeans are obese. From CNA and Straits time, the number of people arrested for drink driving has increased by 16% in 2021-2022. 155 accidents to 175 accidents and from 8 fatal cases to 10 fatal cases All cases being under the influence of alcohol.  E- Even though these activities and lifestyles are harmful the government has not put a ban on drinking or put a ban on unhealthy eating and even if people's personal decisions are unhealthy, the government shouldn't meddle in them. People should be allowed to live their life as they see fit and have the freedom to make their own health-related decisions.  L - In conclusion, Singapore should think about establishing harm reduction techniques that find a compromise between individual freedom and public health rather than enacting a total ban on smoking. To address the issue responsibly while upholding individual autonomy, designated smoking locations, extensive awareness campaigns, and support for smoking cessation programs can be implemented. We can build a more informed and healthy society for everyone by adopting a more balanced stance. | Once it harms others, it should not be classified as freedom anymore | Currently, there are laws in place which restricts smokers from smoking at certain places and the government also introduced designated areas where smokers can smoke to reduce exposure to second hand smoke for nonsmokers.   However, even with these laws, there are still people complaining about second hand smoke in residential areas, so if a ban to smoking is implemented, existing smokers will smoke at home illegally to avoid getting caught outdoors where children and elderly folks live, who are more vulnerable to second hand smoke.  Yes, a ban would reduce the exposure to second-hand smoke to the public but make it more harmful for already vulnerable children and elderly. |

1. **References for CA2** (in Harvard citation format)

Example:   
United Nations, Department of Public Information (2016) Sustainable development goals - United Nations, United Nations Sustainable Development, Available at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> (Accessed: 7 March 2017)

Admin of Kopi Co (2022), Singapore’s MPs Raise the Possibility of a Smoking Ban. But is it Really Viable? - Kopi Co. Available at: <https://thekopi.co/2022/03/23/singapores-smoking-ban-explained/#:~:text=Furthermore%2C%20given%20that%20Singapore%20receives> (Accessed: 30 Jul. 2023)

Min, C.H. (2023) “IN FOCUS: Snuffing out smoking - is this the last mile in Singapore’s fight against tobacco?,” CNA, 25 February. Available at: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/quit-smoking-tobacco-tax-hike-ban-vaping-addiction-3295746#:~:text=Studies%20have%20shown%20that%20for%20every%2010%20per%20cent%20increase%20in%20real%20price%2C%20there%20will%20be%20about%20a%203%20per%20cent%20to%205%20per%20cent%20decrease%20in%20tobacco%20consumption%2C%20Senior%20Minister%20for%20Health%20Koh%20Poh%20Koon%20said%20in%20a%20parliamentary%20reply%20in%20January%202022>. (Accessed: 30 Jul 2023)

Santos-Longhurst, A. (2020). Secondhand Vape Exposure: Effects, Who’s at Risk, and More, Healthline. Available at: <https://www.healthline.com/health/second-hand-vape#best-practices>. (Accessed: 30 Jul 2023)

Michelle Chin (2023) “Over 300 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes found in car at Woodlands Checkpoint,” The Straits Times, 10 May. Available at:<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/over-300-cartons-and-1500-packets-of-duty-unpaid-cigarettes-found-in-malaysian-registered-car-at-woodlands#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20ICA%20detected%2035%2C000,at%20Pasir%20Panjang%20Scanning%20Station>. (Accessed: 30 Jul 2023)

Admin of Straits Time (2020) “Bhutan lifts tobacco ban to temper demand for smuggled cigarettes during Covid-19 pandemic,” The Straits Times, 29 August. Available at: <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/south-asia/bhutan-lifts-tobacco-ban-to-temper-demand-for-smuggled-cigarettes-during-covid-19>.

(Accessed: 30 Jul 2023)

CNA. (2023). Amy Khor on feedback on second-hand smoke in homes, CNA Available at: https://www.channelnewsasia.com/watch/amy-khor-feedback-second-hand-smoke-homes-3310821 (Accessed: 30 Jul 2023)

# CNA Lydia Lam. (2023) CNA Explains: Are Singapore's laws adequate to tackle the problem of drink driving?

# Available at: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/drink-driving-laws-explainer-fatal-accidents-3556076#:~:text=Statistics%20provided%20to%20CNA%20by,2021%20and%20175%20in%202022>.

(Accessed: 30/7/2023)

# Straits Time Andrew Wong (2023) Road accidents linked to drink driving up again with return of nightlife activities

Available at: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/road-accidents-linked-to-drink-driving-up-again-with-return-of-nightlife-activities>

(Accessed 30/7/2023)