

HWA CHONG INSTITUTION

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2nd SEPTEMBER 2010 8:15 – 9:45 AM

GENERAL PAPER

8806/1

PAPER 1 (1 HOUR 30 MINUTES)

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer one question from this Paper.

Answers should be between 500 and 800 words in length.

Write your name, class and question number clearly.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use highlighters, glue, correction tape or fluid.

Staple this question paper to the back of your answer at the end of the examination.

1. Does foreign aid usually do more harm than good?
2. 'There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.' (*Nelson Mandela*) Comment on this observation with reference to your own society.
3. Does the prospect of a genetically engineered future fill you with hope or despair?
4. 'Desperate situations demand desperate measures.' Discuss the applicability of this advice to any two major problems confronting the world today.
5. Do you agree with the criticism that most people have been so brainwashed by advertising that they are unable to appreciate true beauty?
6. 'Most international organizations are all bark and no bite.' To what extent do you agree with this criticism?
7. 'Live our dreams, fly our flag.' What would your 'dream Singapore' be like? What significant changes would be needed to make your dream come true?
8. 'The use of any performance enhancing technology or substance in sporting competitions is cheating.' Discuss.
9. Do you agree that the most important human right is the freedom of speech?
10. 'The notion that nuclear power is the answer to our energy problems is not only gravely mistaken but also extremely dangerous.' What are your views?
11. 'Population problems eventually solve themselves – government meddling only makes things worse.' Discuss.
12. What distinguishes a truly great work of art from a merely average one?