

HWA CHONG INSTITUTION

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

4 SEPTEMBER 2009

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. 'Fine in principle but a failure in practice.' How far do you agree with this assessment of democracy?
2. 'Nothing is worth dying for.' Do you agree?
3. 'The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.' (*Isaac Asimov*) Discuss.
4. 'Instead of developing its identity, Singapore is gradually losing it.' How far do you agree?
5. Is it true that our environmental problems are so incredibly huge and complex that it is impossible for an ordinary individual to make a difference?
6. Is it ever acceptable to break the law?
7. 'All ideologies are dangerous and delusive.' Discuss.
8. 'Technology is the great leveller of the 21st century.' How far do you agree?
9. 'Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.' (*John F. Kennedy*) To what extent do people in your country heed this advice?
10. Do you agree that aid should never be given to countries with poor human rights records?
11. Should it be a cause for concern that the Internet is putting conventional newspapers out of business?
12. 'Modern Art: A product of the untalented, sold by the unprincipled to the utterly bewildered.' (*Camus*) Comment.