Question 1
'Increased international cooperation has failed to make the world a better place.' Do you agree?

Question Analysis	
Issue: Countries are now cooperating with one another for a variety of reasons more so than in the past. The expected outcome of this cooperation is a more desirable standard of living and improved living conditions. Yet, this is not necessarily so.	Context: Global

Key words:
- Increased – more than before
- International cooperation – countries coming together to work together or collaborate to trade, for defence purposes or tackle global issues (such as poverty, migration, trafficking, social injustice, climate change, debt and outbreak of diseases)
- Failed – not successful; intended goal or mission is not achieved
- Make the world a better place – physical environment has improved; earth's inhabitants have a higher standard of living; global problems have been alleviated

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- How are countries cooperating with each other?
- What are the purposes behind their cooperation?
- How have cooperative efforts increased over the years? Why?
- What needs to be improved in the world (consider SPECTRAM)?
- How has the collaboration between countries led to improvement?
- How has the collaboration between countries not led to improvement (status quo or deterioration)?

Possible Stands
• Increased international cooperation has failed to make the world a better place to a large extent. • Increased international cooperation has failed to make the world a better place to a limited extent.

Reasons why increased international cooperation has **failed** to make the world a better place.	Reasons why increased international cooperation has **not** failed to make the world a better place.
• Countries come together more frequently together than before to engage in debates and discussions. However, despite their verbal discussions and commitments, problems continue to be dragged out and improvements slow to be enacted. *Eg Countries' emissions pledges still fall short of global climate goals according to the UN. Nearly 200 countries signed the 2015 Paris Agreement and agreed to try to limit human-caused global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. However, under countries' current pledges, global emissions would be 16% higher in 2030 than they were in 2010 - far off the 45% reduction by 2030 that*	• The world has become better off due to greater pooling of resources and sharing of knowledge between countries facilitated by online platforms, especially in the management of pandemics. *Eg 1. When the new coronavirus (formally known as SARS-CoV-2) was identified in China in January, scientists around the world were ready to respond. The virus's entire genetic makeup, or genome, was published online within days. By comparison, during the SARS coronavirus outbreak in 2003, this took almost three months. The power of gene sequencing*

scientists say is needed to stave off disastrous climate change. Without more ambitious commitments which translate to actions, global temperatures could hit 2.7C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. Nations responsible for about half the world's emissions have yet to set tougher emission-cutting targets. China, India and Saudi Arabia are among them. Brazil and Mexico submitted updated pledges that analysts said would cause higher emissions than those countries' previous targets. COP26 president Alok Sharma said that "without action from all countries, especially the biggest economies, these efforts risk being in vain."

Developing countries including India have said they cannot cut emissions faster unless they receive more support from rich nations to invest in low-carbon energy and industries. So far, promised support has not arrived. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), it was likely that wealthy countries missed a goal to contribute $100 billion in 2020 to help developing nations cope with climate change.

comes from comparing the results across different cases in different countries. The significant increase in the level of collaboration internationally brought about by open data and greater sharing aided scientists in their work, allowing them to better manage the current COVID-19 outbreak compared to previous ones.

Eg 2. The Global Clinical Platform for COVID-19 set up by WHO helps the world to manage COVID-19 effectively through global data sharing. The COVID-19 Platform is an online data repository which facilitates rapid and systematic collection and analysis of anonymized, individual, clinical data of hospitalized COVID-19 cases to improve the global understanding of the virus. WHO has appealed to Member States, health facilities and research networks to voluntarily contribute to the WHO Global Clinical Platform for COVID-19 so that effective management of the virus can continue.

- Increased international cooperation in the form of international organisations meant that countries in the same alliance have the added commitment of helping or bailing out countries or even dealing with spill-over problems.

Eg. In 2008, the world's worst financial crisis resulted in the European debt crisis. Five countries – Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Cyprus – received bailout loans from the EU, and at the most intense points of the crisis there were genuine doubts about whether the eurozone would survive, or at the very least whether some countries would drop out. The European Union, led by Germany and France, struggled to support these members. They initiated bailouts from the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund, but these measures didn't keep many from questioning the viability of the euro itself. Huge contributions to the bailout programme meant that countries in the EU have less resources for their own citizens. Many European countries had huge government debts but Greece was worst affected, with a spiralling spending deficit. It had borrowed much more money than it was able to make in revenue through taxes. In 2010, Greece asked for a financial rescue by the European Union and International Monetary Fund. Bailouts - emergency loans aimed at saving sinking economies – then began. Greece received three successive packages, totalling £259bn.

- Increased efforts to cooperate led by international organisations bring about a greater capacity to alleviate global problems such as poverty and inequality.

Eg. 1 With more contributions from member states, there has been marked progress in reducing poverty over the past decades by the United Nations (UN). According to the most recent estimates, in 2015, 10 per cent of the world's population lived at or below $1.90 a day. That's down from 16 per cent in 2010 and 36 per cent in 1990. This means that ending extreme poverty is within our reach.

Eg 2 In 2012, the UN Secretary-General launched the Zero Hunger Challenge to inspire a global movement towards a world free from hunger within a generation. It calls for: Zero stunted children under the age of two 100% access to adequate food all year round All food systems are sustainable 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income Zero loss or waste of food. In 2021, the UN Secretary-General convened a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit brought together key players from the worlds of science, business, policy, healthcare and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous people, youth organizations, consumer groups, environmental activists, and other key stakeholders. Such increasing

	efforts to cooperate provides hope for a future where the impoverished will be significantly reduced.
• Greater trade between countries over the years has led to more hardships for some in lower income groups due to job loss as a result of import competition. Eg. *Trade between the United States (US) and China has grown enormously in recent decades, especially since China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) twenty years ago. Today, the US imports more from China than from any other country, and China is one of the largest export markets for US goods and services. This trade has helped the US in the form of lower prices for consumers and higher profits for corporations, but it has also come with costs. Though consumers in the US benefited from the flood of cheaper goods from China, millions of Americans have lost their jobs due to import competition. Beijing has also embraced state-led development, pouring subsidies into targeted industries (such as manufacturing and technology) to the detriment of the US and foreign companies. Meanwhile, investment by Chinese companies in the US has increasingly raised national security concerns.*	• Greater cooperation in terms of trade has led to economic growth and improved quality of life, resulting in a better life for citizens in many countries. Eg. *The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and its five FTA partners (Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea). It was signed in November 2020 and entered into force on 1 January 2022. One of its key achievements is that it eliminates tariffs for about 92 per cent of goods traded among the members, benefitting both businesses and consumers. A study published by the East Asian Economic Review estimates that the RCEP should increase regional incomes by US$245 billion on a permanent basis and create 2.8 million jobs in the region.*

Related recent examples

- Eurozone bailout programme is finally over
  https://www.bbc.com/news/business-45186511
- Countries' emissions pledges still fall short of global climate goals, UN says
  https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/countries-emissions-pledges-still-fall-short-global-climate-goals-un-says-2021-09-17/
- Covid-19: How unprecedented data sharing has led to faster-than-ever outbreak research
  https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/horizon-magazine/covid-19-how-unprecedented-data-sharing-has-led-faster-ever-outbreak-research

Markers' Comments

Strengths
- Range of examples across different countries
- Attempt to scope the areas where the world has improved / worsened (i.e. economy, safety/peace, health, environment)
- Some insightful points about the uneven nature of the increase in international cooperation (i.e. the deliberate exclusion of rogue nations; how increased cooperation is mainly among nations with something to offer thus widening global inequality)
- Some students had a range of areas of international cooperation.
- Some students had good balance paragraphs that attributed elements of international cooperation to making life worse.

Areas for improvement
- Misunderstanding of 'international cooperation' (a collaborative relationship between entities to work toward shared objectives through a mutually agreed division of labour) as 'globalisation' or 'greater connectedness among countries' or 'the internet' or 'ability to travel across borders', etc

- Examples generally reflect how a particular country is making itself a better place, rather than how international cooperation is making the world a better place
- Merely listing/describing the problems that countries face, without sufficient links to how these problems are the result of international cooperation, let alone increased international cooperation
- Confusing "cooperation" with "corporation"
- Some students merely stated that 'international cooperation, made the world a 'better place' without any explanation or evaluation of how the world was made 'better'.

Question 2
How relevant is religion in an age of scientific advancement?

Question Analysis

Issue:	Context:
Scientific advancement and religion aim to help us make sense of the world, but some may find that they conflict.	Global

Key words:
- Relevant: appropriate to what is being done or considered
- Religion: the belief in and worship of a god or gods, or any such system of belief and worship
- Age: a distinct period of history
- Scientific advancement: developments or improvements based on or characterised by the methods and principles of science.

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- What is the relationship between religion and science?
- Who might find religion relevant or not relevant in an age of scientific advancement?
- How might religion be relevant or not relevant in an age of scientific advancement?

Possible Stands

- Religion is largely relevant in an age of scientific advancement.
- Religion is largely not relevant in an age of scientific advancement.

Reasons why religion is largely relevant in an age of scientific advancement	Reasons why religion is largely not relevant in an age of scientific advancement
• Scientific advancements help to improve our physical and material environment but they do not claim to answer people's spiritual questions. People may find spiritual fulfilment in religion. *E.g. The most advanced scientific theories only seek to explain the physical world. Spiritual questions, like the meaning of life and what happens after death, cannot be tested empirically. Hindus, for example, believe in reincarnation, and the cycle of death and rebirth is called samsara. Release from samsara is seen as a spiritual goal in Hinduism, and it provides a framework for understanding life, its meaning, and its goal.*	• Scientific advancements have allowed us to gain greater control and mastery over the physical world. Religious teachings are difficult to apply broadly and directly. *E.g. Different religions have different explanations for the creation of life. While they offer possible explanations for the cosmic significance of life, these teachings are difficult to apply broadly. Advances in genetic engineering, on the other hand, allow us to modify the DNA of plants and animals for immediate benefit. Adoption of genetic modification, for example, has reduced chemical pesticide use, leading to ecological benefits.*
• Scientific advancements deepen our understanding of our physical world, but they do not provide a moral framework for human life. Religion is one of the possible sources of morality. *E.g. Most religions offer a framework for guiding human action. In Buddhism, the Five Precepts help people behave in a moral and ethical way. In Judaism and Christianity, the Ten Commandments provide a set*	• In an age of scientific advancement, the success of science in helping us understand the world has increased the credibility of the scientific method. The scientific method entails objectively establishing facts through testing and experimentation. Religious claims, on the other hand, are difficult to test empirically and require some degree of faith.

of principles, some of which relate to ethics. Scientific advancements, on the other hand, do not claim to provide moral guidance. Advances in nuclear physics, for example, have given rise to nuclear power and nuclear weapons, and it depends on external moral systems to guide the usage of our scientific knowledge.	*E.g. In Singapore, from 2010 to 2020, the share of residents with no religion increased across all age groups. According to Dr Mathew Mathews, principal research fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), the increasing number of people without religion is "an expected trajectory". According to him, people "rely less on religion to provide them an explanation for the many things that happen in life but instead look to the sciences".*

Related recent examples

- More S'poreans have no religious affiliation: Population census
  https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/more-sporeans-have-no-religious-affiliation-population-census
- No religion: Why more in Singapore are turning away from traditional faiths
  https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/no-religion-humanist-society-singapore-census-2003576

Markers' Comments

Strengths
- Stronger responses provided apt illustrations that showed an understanding of religion and scientific advancements.
- Quite a few scripts made the effort to bring in multiple religions
- While rare, there were instances where students were able to bring in a historical perspective of the clash between religion and science (Galileo, Darwin etc).

Areas for improvement
- Weaker responses discussed religion or scientific advancements separately without understanding how they related to each other.
- Not fully answering the question. Often, scientific advancement is used as vaguely e.g. in this age of scientific advancement religion is still relevant as people believe in their religion. This is evident by the number of people who go to their places of worship.
- Many students did not understand the relationship between religion and science - many are not picking up on the idea that science has the potential to undermine religious teachings (i.e. the concept of 'debunking' religious precepts using science). This leads to rather insignificant/shallow arguments about the relevance of religion in an age of scientific advancement
- Many students explained some scientific advancements and then made statements about how religion restricted the research for advancements but did not explain the ways in which religion had done this.

Question 3
'Honesty is no longer the best policy.' What is your view?

Question Analysis

Issue:	Context:
Increasing acts of dishonesty permeate society today, prompting us to question the value of telling the truth – a moral principle much valued by all across different aspects of society all this while.	Global

Key words:
- Honesty – the act of telling the truth and being trustworthy
- No longer – evident in the past but not now
- The best policy – the most, suitable, effective or desirable way of conducting oneself or managing a situation

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- Why do individuals choose to be or not to be honest?
- How has the world changed?
- What is the impact of honesty?
- What is the impact of dishonesty?
- Which aspects of society are affected by an individual's honesty or dishonesty?

Possible Stands

- It is largely true that honesty is no longer the best policy.
- It is largely not true that honesty is no longer the best policy.

Reasons why it is largely true that honesty is no longer the best policy	Reasons why it is largely <u>not</u> true that honesty is no longer the best policy
• Unlike what parents and teachers have conventionally been teaching their children and students respectively, researchers are increasingly arguing that we have been wrong about the relationship deception, truth and trust. Lying the right way can actually help build connections and trust between individuals. The truth could deliver a blow to self-image, self-esteem and trust in a world which is becoming more competitive as well as stressful, and individuals more emotionally vulnerable. *Eg. New studies show that lying can be the best course of action as the truth might be hurtful to the listener, affecting both self-image and trust between people. Maurice Schweitzer, a professor at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, who studies deception and trust argues that we should be teaching our kids, students and employees when and how to lie. "prosocial" lies—fibs intended to benefit others—can actually build trust between people. According to Schweitzer, lies are most beneficial when they're not selfish. Telling your partner he or she looks great before*	• Given how online sharing platforms enable the proliferation of fake news and echo chambers, governments worldwide are taking actions against online misinformation, highlighting that it is still important to be honest and that our laws and regulation need to evolve to ensure that truths are shared and not misinformation. *Eg. 1 In 2017, Germany passed the Network Enforcement Act (NetzDG). The law is the most ambitious effort by a Western democracy to control what appears on social media. It will enforce online Germany's tough curbs on hate speech, including pro-Nazi ideology, by giving sites a 24-hour deadline to remove banned content or face fines of up to 50 million euros. In June 2021, the Act to Amend the Network Enforcement Act entered into force in Germany. The amendment aims to increase the information content and comparability of social media providers' transparency reports and improve the user-friendliness of the reporting channels for complaints about unlawful content. Furthermore, the amendment introduces an appeals procedure for measures taken*

a date to boost his or her self-esteem is different from saying it just to get one's loved one out the door because one is already late. Lying has benefits in building interpersonal relationships.

by the social network provider. The amendment emphasises the importance of maintaining honesty while at the same time not violating freedom of speech.

Eg 2. In Singapore, the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act came into effect in October 2019. The law applies when there is a proven falsehood and it is in the interest of the public for the government to act. 'Public interest' covers factors such as the security of Singapore and its friendly relations with other countries among other things.

- In a polarised yet highly interdependent world today, countries fear honesty could worsen diplomacy or throw relations into chaos. Hence, they choose to abstain from being honest.

Eg 1. The United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to reprimand Russia for invading Ukraine and demanded that Moscow stop fighting and withdraw its military forces, an action that aims to diplomatically isolate Russia at the world body. While the resolution was supported by 141 of the assembly's 193 members, thirty-five members, including China, abstained. The act of abstaining suggests that these thirty-five countries have deliberately chosen not to be honest about what they truly think so as not to jeopardise relations with Russia.

Eg 2. The World Health Organization said its latest investigation into the origins of COVID-19 was inconclusive, largely because data from China is missing. At the moment, available data showed the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 probably came from animals, likely bats. Yet, it cannot be confirmed due to missing data which focused on the first cases reported in December 2019. This meant it was not possible to identify exactly how the virus was first transmitted to humans. The WHO team investigating the origins of Covid-19 is of the perspective that investigation is highly geopolitical and there is no complete honesty as China fears the amount of blame associated with the outbreak the country might have to shoulder.

- Despite the likes of Donald Trump and Boris Johnson having a place in the political arena in recent times, honesty and transparency continue to be what the world values in most democratic states.

Eg 1. In January 2022, University College London (UCL) Constitution Unit published a report on a major study about public attitudes to democracy in the UK that sheds new light on what matters most to voters. When the team asked about a range of characteristics that politicians should have, "being honest" came top. When they asked respondents to "imagine that a future prime minister has to choose between acting honestly and delivering the policy that most people want", 71% chose honesty. The vast majority of voters expect politicians to act honestly.

Eg 2. Singapore Prime Minister spoke in Parliament in February 2022 that integrity is the 'linchpin' of democracy, and Parliament must be respected and its members trusted for Singapore's system to function properly. He spoke about the need to 'tell the truth always' in the context of Ms Khan's (former MP) lies in Parliament. In the 'contested landscape' that Singapore is currently in, it is all the more important that members of any party are honest and trustworthy. Otherwise, they risk being voted out.

- The fact that fake news today is flourishing as both politicians and citizens are increasingly engaging in spreading untruths show that honesty is not much valued as a moral principle.

Eg 1. An increasing number of current world leaders have used untruths to justify their actions. The Washington Post estimates Mr Trump uttered 30,573 untruths in his four years as president – 21 on average per day. Across the Atlantic, Boris Johnson lied about

- Honesty has always been crucial to the building of a fair and progressive society for all, especially in democratic states. Many democratic states have been harsh on acts of dishonesty in various aspects of life as a fair and transparent society is a basic tenet of sound governance.

Eg 1. Dishonesty in sports has never been tolerated. In 1988, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson was stripped of his Olympic 100m gold medal after testing positive for

Brexit, about the economy and about parties he hosted when his country was in the lockdown he ordered. When caught, he stood firm on his rectitude, sometimes scapegoating others. Russian President Vladimir Putin justified Russia's invasion of Ukraine by saying that he needed to demilitarize and 'denazify' Ukraine, as well as bring to trial those who perpetrated numerous bloody crimes against civilians. There was no evidence to support his narrative. He claimed that his soldiers do not attack civilian targets. Yet, facts show quite the opposite. Thousands of Ukrainians have been killed in Russian rocket attacks since February 24. Not only do leaders get away with falsehoods, some flourish, suggesting that honesty is not viewed as an essential trait even of world leaders

Eg 2. The hundreds of fake news websites and social media facilitates the spread of misinformation by individuals. For instance, according to the Centre for Information Resilience, a British-based NGO, a network of hundreds of fake Facebook, Twitter and YouTube profiles now steers the online narrative in a direction favourable to Beijing's priorities. The aim of the network appears to be to delegitimise the West by amplifying pro-Chinese narratives, according to the organisation's chief. During the United States election campaign, fake news - from false celebrity gossip to the fabricated story of Pope Francis endorsing Donald Trump – also became a huge issue. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, online fake news concerning the origin and treatment of the virus abound, making it difficult for individuals to know the truth concerning the virus. More and more people have no qualms spreading misinformation, implying that honesty is not being prized as an integral principle of life.

anabolic steroids. In 2012, Lance Armstrong was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles and handed a lifetime ban in 2012 following a United States Anti-Doping Agency investigation. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) banned Russia from international sporting competitions for four years in 2019 due to an extensive state-sponsored doping programme although this punishment was cut in half on appeal by the Court of Arbitration for Sport in late 2020. Chinese swimmer Sun Yang served a three-month ban in 2014 after testing positive for trimetazidine. Then, in 2018, the three-time Olympic champion refused to let anti-doping officials leave his home with a sample of his blood, reportedly ordering someone from his entourage to smash the casing of a blood vial with a hammer so that it would not be valid for testing. He was banned from competing at the Tokyo Olympics.

Eg 2. In education, acts of dishonesty are never tolerated as well. In 2019, Yale University revoked the admission of a student whose family is accused of spending $1.2m (£907,000) in a bribery scheme to ensure admittance. An ex-football coach allegedly accepted a $400,000 bribe to fraudulently mark the non-athletic student as a recruit. The case is linked to the cheating scandal that snared celebrity parents who resorted to dishonest acts to secure places for their children in elite US universities.

Related recent examples

- What if we knew when people were lying?
  https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20190324-what-if-we-knew-when-people-were-lying
- COVID-19 pandemic's origins obscured by lack of Chinese data: WHO panel
  https://www.channelnewsasia.com/world/covid-19-pandemic-origins-missing-data-china-2737761
- Fact check: Putin's lies about the bombing of Ukraine
  https://www.dw.com/en/fact-check-putins-lies-about-the-bombing-of-ukraine/a-62419749
- Sorry, I'm not going to say it
  https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/sorry-im-not-going-to-say-it
- Voters value honesty in their politicians above all else – new study
  https://theconversation.com/voters-value-honesty-in-their-politicians-above-all-else-new-study-175589

Markers' Comments

Strengths
- Some provided examples to support their claim that honesty is the best policy.
Areas for improvement

- Sometimes the ideas are not clear as relevant examples are not provided to support the claim, for example during elections there is a possibility to be dishonest by claims made and no example provided to support this
- Did not attempt to address the idea of 'no longer'. The idea of 'best' was also seldom discussed.

Question 4
Assess the importance of traditional buildings in your society.

Question Analysis

Issue:	Context:
Land constraints have been a perennial concern in Singapore and the priority in Singapore's early years was to maximise land use in order to meet the growing needs of its population. However, in recent years, the calls to preserve traditional buildings have become louder, so that we do not continue to lose these pieces of culture and heritage. Given these competing concerns, how important are traditional buildings in Singapore.	Your society

Key words:
- Traditional buildings: structures (with walls and a roof) that have existed for a long time
- Important: of value
- In your society: considering the characteristics and priorities of your society

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- What kind of traditional buildings are there in your society?
- What value do traditional buildings have in your society?
- Who decides if traditional buildings have value in your society?
- What are the features of your society that may limit/enhance the value of traditional buildings?

Possible Stands

- Traditional buildings have great importance in my society
- Traditional buildings have limited importance in my society

Reasons why traditional buildings do have great importance in my society	Reasons why traditional buildings do not have much importance in my society
- Given Singapore's relatively short history as an independent nation, traditional buildings serve as visible and important markers of national identity, embodying key moments in Singapore's history and preserving them in our nation's shared consciousness. *e.g. The Fall of Singapore in 1942 and the subsequent occupation by the Japanese from 1942-1945 marked a dark and significant time in Singapore's history and as a result, many of the buildings that were involved in key events during that time are not only seen as historically significant, but significant markers of the hardships that Singaporeans have undergone and the sacrifices made on the road to building Singapore to be the nation that it is today.* *Buildings such as the former Ford Factory, where the British surrendered to the Japanese, or Changi Prison, which served as an internment camp for civilians and Prisoners of War, are still preserved today to serve as*	- Singapore's small land size has meant that we have always had to keep a close eye on how we utilise land. In Singapore's land-use planning process, we will have to balance various competing uses for land to meet our various social, environmental, and economic goals of today as well as the future. As a result, while some traditional buildings are important and preserved for their social or economic value, most traditional buildings are often torn down with a "tabula rasa" approach (demolishing old buildings in favour of rebuilding new ones that will better serve our needs). *e.g. In studying buildings and structures for conservation, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) has to consider their architectural, historical and social significance, the trade-offs for competing land needs and the interests of building owners, heritage stakeholders and the wider public as well as*

visible reminders of these shared experiences and provide a meaningful avenue for future generations to form memories and connections with earlier generations.

e.g. Buildings from more modern periods of Singapore's history are also equally important. Many of Singapore's post-independence modernist buildings such as Golden Mile Complex, Pearl Bank Apartments and People's Park Complex, have become icons in their own right, and are also places where Singaporeans have built fond personal memories of.

The 16-storey Golden Mile Complex, which was completed in 1973, embodies the architectural and engineering innovations of Singapore's pioneer generation of architects. The 48-year-old building also exemplifies Singapore's urban renewal in the early independence years as one of the first high-rise mixed-use developments here, and the decision to gazette it in 2021 proves Singapore's concern in protecting buildings that makes up our uniquely post-independence Singaporean identity and history.

the national interest. This has meant that it is the rare traditional building that does get preserved – even if the traditional buildings have had some significance, most are deemed less important and unworthy of the trade-offs that must be made. Examples of such buildings include the Old National Library, the Singapore National Theatre, and the Old Kallang Stadium. All were iconic in their own way, yet none stood the scrutiny of Singapore's hawkish urban planners.

- Singapore's multiracial and multi-religious society is one that requires careful tending, and traditional buildings serve an important role in this. Not only do these buildings continue to serve a practical purpose by allowing various groups to gather and worship but they also serve as physical symbols of the importance Singapore places on ensuring freedom of religion and harmony between the various cultures.

e.g. Telok Ayer Street is famous for being the physical embodiment of Singapore's religious harmony. Once part of Singapore's shoreline, migrants who arrived by sea in the 19th century built their places of worship nearby to give thanks for a safe journey.

Today, more than a century later, a short 350m stretch along the street is still home to four religious buildings – Al-Abrar Mosque, Nagore Dargah Indian Muslim Heritage Centre (formerly the Nagore Dargah shrine), Thian Hock Keng Temple and the Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church – which have all been gazetted as national monuments.

By gazetting them as national monuments, the National Heritage Board is according them the highest level of protection in Singapore, recognising the social importance of the building and its cultural importance for all Singaporeans.

- Compounding the problem is Singapore's high population density, which necessitates that our residential buildings must be as efficient as possible. Unfortunately, that often means that many traditional buildings get the axe.

e.g. Traditional residential buildings such as the public housing flats in Dakota Crescent and Tanglin Halt have made headlines for the respective announcements of their demolition. Developed by the Singapore Improvement Trust in the 1950s and 1960s, they were one of the first examples of public housing in Singapore and many of the residents who lived there have been there for decades. To these elderly residents, the erasure of these traditional buildings also means the erasure of communities and a disorientating and profound emotional loss. Yet, while these buildings have great sentimental value, they are nowhere as efficient as the public housing flats of today. Prior to the 1990s, public housing flats were not the most land-efficient, since they did not adhere to the plot ratio system (gross floor area divided by land area) used today. Instead, they were planned using a standard density measure of 200 dwelling units per hectare. This resulted in bigger flats being closer together while smaller flats were further apart, which is not good use of space in land-scarce Singapore.

e.g. The iconic horseshoe-shaped Pearl Bank Apartment block completed in 1976 and beloved by

	shutterbugs and architecture buffs alike, was ultimately demolished in 2020 as the ageing building no longer met the residents' needs adequately, and the costs involved in maintaining the premises are high. The owners of the building spent $2.5 million every two years just to maintain and repair key facilities every two years.
• There is also significant economic value in preserving some traditional buildings as they serve to give the city a sense of character and uniqueness that cannot be found elsewhere, adding to the vibrancy of the city which draws tourists and investors alike. *e.g. The National Gallery of Singapore was formed from the combination of the former Supreme Court and City Hall. Renovation and restoration works created a new tourist attraction that also allowed visitors to peek into rooms that bore witness to historical events, such as the officiating of the Japanese surrender during World War II. Shortly after opening in 2015, the National Gallery took home the breakthrough contribution to tourism award given by the Singapore Tourism Board, for its role in adding to the vibrancy of Singapore's tourism landscape and increasing awareness of Singapore as a must-visit destination.* *Such adaptive reuse of traditional buildings is a way of building depth to a nation; physically, intellectually, socially. As a young country, Singapore is still in the process of generating depth. It is a very human instinct to tie our social memories to physical spaces. The stories, emotions, and communities of an older building therefore add an intangible value and build a richer urban fabric.*	• While there is a small group of ardent conservationists in Singapore passionate about preserving traditional buildings, the large majority of Singaporeans are pragmatists and seem apathetic to the loss of many traditional buildings. *e.g. The vast majority of traditional buildings slated for demolition have not seen a groundswell of support from the public. Most buildings have in fact only registered in the public consciousness after the announcement of their imminent destruction, such as the Ellison Building – when it was announced that it would be partially demolished to make way for the construction of the North-South Corridor. In fact, the Ellison Building had been gazetted for conservation in 2008. This decision was met with protests and outrage from the heritage community in Singapore, but everyday Singaporeans were largely indifferent to the decision.*

Related recent examples

- Singapore a rare, precious example of harmonious multiracial, multi-religious society: PM Lee
  https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/singapore-a-rare-and-precious-example-of-a-harmonious-multi-racial-multi-religious-society
- Conservation of Golden Mile Complex paves way to protect S'pore's modernist buildings
  https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/debrief-conservation-of-golden-mile-complex-paves-way-to-protect-spores-modernist
- For old folks, leaving Tanglin Halt is like losing a kampung family. Can it be replaced?
  https://www.channelnewsasia.com/cna-insider/tanglin-halt-SERS-relocation-2111806
- Choosing to forget: Demolished Buildings in Singapore
  https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/gia/article/choosing-to-forget-demolished-buildings-in-singapore
- Preserving a unique national identity
  https://www.sg101.gov.sg/infrastructure/urban-planning/unique

Markers' Comments

Strengths
- Some students wrote about temples, mosques, museums and when they did so were able to make a good case for the importance of traditional buildings.
- Most scripts understood what a building was
- Some attempts to discuss SG features (most notably land scarcity, multicultural identity and the need for economic progress)

Areas for improvement
- While most could point out traditional buildings, many were unable to discuss how the buildings themselves are important. This is especially so for scripts that discuss traditional buildings that have been repurposed to serve as museums (i.e. The Old Ford Factory, The Peranakan Museum, The Asian Civilisation Museum) - the students would be discussing how the museum exhibits have value, but not how the building itself is important
- Weaker scripts would discuss SG examples, but often did not discuss any SG features
- Misunderstanding of what "traditional buildings": the Padang is not even a building, shophouses in Kampong Glam are not kampong houses

Question 5
'The individual, rather than the government, is responsible for his or her own health.' How far do you agree?
Question Analysis

Issue: The individual often has autonomy over his health. Yet, his or her own health is affected by more than his or own actions. Living conditions, often not a fault of the individual, plays a role in affecting his or her health too, making it debatable as to whether the individual or the government should be shouldering a larger portion of the responsibility.	Context: Global

Key words:
- The individual – the citizen
- The government – the group of people who officially control and run a country
- Responsible - having good judgment and the ability to act correctly and make decisions on your own; having the duty to taking care of something; to be fairly blamed for consequences
- Health – physical and mental well-being

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- What affects health?
- Why and how is an individual responsible for his or her health?
- Why and how is the government responsible for the health of its citizens?

Possible Stands

- The individual, rather than the government, is responsible for his or her own health to a large extent.
- The individual, rather than the government, is responsible for his or her own health to a limited extent.

Reasons why the individual, rather than the government, is responsible for his or her own health	**Reasons why it is <u>not</u> true that the individual, rather than the government, is responsible for his or her own health**
• The individual has the basic right and autonomy to make decisions which affect his or her health. The government therefore has limited accountability as though they can influence individual actions via public campaigns and advice, the individual ultimately has the final say over his body and has the freedom to decide what to consume as well as the lifestyle he or she should adopt. *Eg 1. Just as human beings have the basic right to freedom of thought, education, work as well as rest and leisure as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they should also have the freedom to decide what they want to consume, whether they should exercise, go for vaccination or engage in activities that are detrimental to health such as smoking.*	• Taking care of citizens' health and well-being is a fundamental responsibility of the government, especially when it is voted in by citizens. The government is therefore obliged to shoulder the responsibility of ensuring the well-being of its citizens to achieve the twin aim of improving the quality of people's living in and not burdening public and private healthcare facilities. *Eg 1. On top of existing public education efforts, the Health Promotion Board in Singapore announced in March 2022 that it will launch a nationwide campaign to encourage Singaporeans to take steps to reduce their sodium intake so as to develop a healthier nation.* *Eg 2. Indonesia's Jakarta is among the world's most polluted capital cities due to rapid industrialization. Residents of Jakarta had sued the government in 2019 over worsening air pollution in the city, demonstrating that it is a government's responsibility to ensure that living conditions are suitable for one's good health.*

• Despite efforts by governments to improve individual and public health via education and campaigns, some individuals choose to turn to or persist in the adoption of unhealthy habits. The individual therefore has to accept culpability for the health conditions brought about by his actions rather than the government. *Eg 1. Substance use disorder can lead to short- and long-term negative health effects. These effects can be physical and mental and can range from moderate to severe. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), people with addiction often have one or more associated health issues, which could include lung or heart disease, stroke, cancer, or mental health conditions. Imaging scans, chest X-rays, and blood tests can show the damaging effects of long-term drug use throughout the body.* *Eg 2. A report into addiction services in North Ireland showed that harms caused by drug and alcohol use are "significant and likely to get worse". The report by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) also highlights consistent increases in drug-related deaths over the past decade. The number of alcohol-specific deaths in Northern Ireland in 2020 was the highest on record. Alcohol-specific deaths as deaths resulting from health conditions that are a direct consequence of alcohol misuse.* *Eg 3. Despite the COVID-19 vaccination being proven to be safe and able to provide protection against infection and severe disease among immunocompromised people who are at increased risk of complications, some individuals have chosen to be unvaccinated as a lifestyle choice. In Singapore for instance, there have been deaths or severe COVID-19 symptoms amongst vulnerable immunocompromised individuals who have delayed vaccination or did not wish to get vaccinated despite being eligible for vaccination. These individuals are hence responsible for their poor health upon infection rather than the government.*	• In some contexts, the individual is not responsible for the conditions bringing about poor health. Neither are such conditions within the individual's authority to control. They are often the result of poor government legislation, regulation and monitoring. *Eg 1. 21 of the world's 30 cities with the worst air pollution are in India. Ghaziabad, a satellite city of the capital New Delhi in northern Uttar Pradesh state, is ranked as the world's most polluted city, with an average PM 2.5 concentration measurement of 110.2 in 2019. The figure is nine times more than the level which the US Environmental Protection Agency regards as healthy. Coal-fired power plants, factories, vehicles and the burning of crop stubble are among the major sources of pollution. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government faced criticism for extending deadlines for power plants to enforce pollution standards and has not yet set any date to reduce consumption of coal which produces 70% of the country's electricity. Limited funding, the lack of tighter emissions standards for industries including metal smelters to oil refineries and slow progress on adding monitoring stations are all factors hampering work to improve air quality.* *Eg 2. Researchers at the University of Toronto Scarborough recently reported that some countries in Europe, North America and parts of Asia have continued offloading polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) emissions to less developed parts of the world. Exposure to PBDEs, a group of chemical fire retardants commonly associated with the disposal of electronic waste, is likely to cause thyroid problems, neurodevelopmental deficits and cancer. PBDE emissions are highest in areas of China, India, Bangladesh and Western Africa. The governments of these countries are to be blamed for allowing such toxic e-waste to enter their countries due to a lack of regulation and control.*
	• Unlike ordinary citizens, the government has resources and expertise needed to bring about change so that the environment does not negatively affect health. *Eg. Beijing was once known as one of the world's most polluted cities, with dense smog and acrid air a daily reality for residents as a result of industrialisation and coal production and consumption. Now, its skies are mostly blue. In 2013, the government invested billions of dollars into a national air pollution action plan. It*

	rolled out new regulations, set up nationwide air monitoring stations, and began shutting down coal mines and coal plants. By 2014, China had declared a national "war against pollution". The turnaround in Beijing's air quality illustrates how successful the country's anti-pollution campaign has been due to the resources and expertise pumped in.

Related recent examples

- Drug and alcohol harms 'significant and growing', says Stormont report
  https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-60154203
- MOH to introduce measures to curb salt consumption
  https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/salt-intake-singapore-moh-measures-curb-consumption-2551416
- India's Deadly Air Pollution Keeps Getting Worse Not Better
  https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-11/india-s-deadly-air-pollution-keeps-getting-worse-not-better
- From 'air-pocalypse' to blue skies. Beijing's fight for cleaner air is a rare victory for public dissent
  https://edition.cnn.com/2021/08/23/china/china-air-pollution-mic-intl-hnk/index.html
- More developed countries dumping toxic e-waste in Global South, U of T researchers find
  https://www.utoronto.ca/news/more-developed-countries-dumping-toxic-e-waste-global-south-u-t-researchers-find

Markers' Comments

Strengths
- Some students wrote well when they were able to make a comparison of what health matters were the responsibility of the individual and what health matters on a macro scale would have to be the responsibility of the individual.

Areas for improvement
- Limited understanding of the idea of responsibility (i.e. not many students understood the role of the government vs the individual; why certain things would be in the purview of the government and why certain things would be in the purview of the individual)
- Largely describing what has been done by the government or the individual w/o linking it to the issue of the roles and responsibilities of either party (i.e. explaining how the SG government provides Medisave or ActiveSG)
- Idea of health is also restricted to food/exercise. Few discussed health at a more macro level (i.e. public health issues, provision of healthcare etc)
- Ability to compare is also rather limited. Tended to focus on one party per paragraph.
- Examples are also very Singapore-centric, which is unnecessarily narrow
- Students made some comparisons between developing countries' health systems and the health systems of wealthy countries. This was often done with very general statements about developing countries and few strong examples.
- Some students changed the question to what the individual and the government should be responsible for rather than making a comparison of individual and government responsibility for health. Not addressing the question requirement of "rather than".
- Tendency to use economic jargon without any explanations

Question 6
Is freedom always desirable?

Question Analysis

Issue:	Context:
Most of us would view freedom as a good thing. But there is an argument to be made that there are other things that are more important, which freedom must take a backseat to. There is also the argument to be made that, in certain situations, freedom is not good or beneficial.	Global

Key words:
- 'Freedom'- The ability to do what wants without being constrained.
- 'Always'- In every instance; without exception.
- 'Desirable'- Something we should want because it is good on a moral and/or practical level.

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- Students can contrast Asian collectivism (the idea that the most important priority in society is promoting the 'greater good') with western individualism (the idea that the most important priority in society is the maximisation of personal liberty).
- The pandemic has brought into stark relief the need for there to be certain restrictions of people's freedom. But this raises the question of the degree to which personal liberty may be legitimately constrained by the authorities. It also raises the more fundamental question of how desirable freedom is relative to other important things like public health and national security.

Possible Stands

- **Freedom is almost always desirable**
- **Freedom is sometimes desirable, but often not**

Reasons why freedom is almost always desirable	Reasons why freedom is sometimes desirable, but often not
- Generally, freedom is desirable because it is core to our humanity; what sets humans apart from mere animals is our ability to rise above mindless instinct and—in the immortal words of the British poet William Ernest Henley—to be the captain of our own soul. It is for this reason that limiting the individual's freedom is widely seen as an inherently dehumanising act. - *E.g. Slavery is universally seen as one of the greatest evils humans have ever engaged in, and rightly so. Whether it was the West African being forcibly transported across treacherous seas to North America to work cotton fields in the 18th century, or the white European being captured and forced into labour along the Barbary Coast in the 16th century, history supplies us many lessons on what happens when we disregard the absolute importance of freedom to each person's humanity. Slavery is judged (by modern eyes) to be an egregiously evil act primarily because it is the*	- In many situations, freedom is not desirable because it undermines societal welfare. After all, when individuals in a society are allowed to act, without any restraint, in purely self-interested ways, it is almost guaranteed that there will be socially undesirable outcomes (given our natural tendency to pursue our own goals at the expense of others', and our readiness to, wherever possible, externalise the costs of our actions). Thus, the firm hand of the state must be present to ensure that, even as they pursue their own interests, members of society do so in ways that do not harm others in society. - *E.g. During the Covid-19 pandemic, governments who have been better able to impose coercive measures such as masks and vaccine mandates, social distancing rules, and lockdowns have been far more effective at maximising socially desirable outcomes—namely, a slowed spread of the virus and a reduced mortality rate. Singapore is a prime example of this, where citizens have*

robbery of the thing most core to a person's humanity–his personal autonomy.	*been understanding of the need to put aside certain minor freedoms in order to effectively mount a whole-of-society approach to minimising the destructive impacts of Covid-19. By contrast, in societies such as the US, individual freedom has been overemphasised to the point where authorities have had difficulty enforcing even the most rudimentary of public health efforts, such as mask-wearing.*
• Additionally, even in cases where the authorities claim that freedom must be curtailed for the greater good of society, or for the sake of the welfare of the individual, freedom is still highly desirable. The very point of government and modern society is to safeguard the individual's basic rights and freedoms, which should never be sacrificed in the name of some vague or imagined "greater good". • *E.g. Those who claim that freedom is sometimes not desirable because it undermines the "greater good" of society are failing to heed an important lesson from history: even in situations where it would seem to be a net benefit to restrict the freedom of a small section of the population, humanity and justice demand that we refrain from trampling the rights of the minority. Early attempts to abolish slavery in American society was met with resistance precisely because many felt that the emancipation of slaves would cause the collapse of the economy, which they claimed heavily depended on forced labour. Yet, on hindsight, it is indisputable that the freedom of the slave worker was highly desirable, regardless of how much it vexed slave owners, or negatively affected the economy.*	• On an individual level, too much freedom can be highly detrimental and therefore undesirable. In instances where individuals lack the necessary maturity, prudence, or self-restraint, a surfeit of freedom is likely to result in self-sabotaging or even -destructive behaviour. • *E.g. Neuroscience has shown us that our brains do not fully develop till our mid-20s, with the prefrontal cortex—the area responsible for impulse control and planning—being one of the last regions to reach maturity[1]. Little wonder, then, that a lack of parental guidance and supervision (i.e. too much freedom) is a major cause of delinquency in children[2]. Simply put, it would be to the detriment of children and teenagers to offer them absolute freedom which they lack the mental resources to exercise responsibly.* *Source:* *[1] https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/the-teen-brain-7-things-to-know#:~:text=Though%20the%20brain%20may%20be,%2C%20prioritizing%2C%20and%20controlling%20impulses* *[2]https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341315958_EXPLORING_PARENTAL_RISK_FACTORS_IN_THE_DEVELOPMENT_OF_DELINQUENCY_AMONG_CHILDREN#:~:text=Main%20Findings%3A%20Absence%20of%20proper,cause%20of%20delinquency%20in%20girls.*

Related recent examples

The Teen Brain- *tinyurl.com/4cvx44yn*
How and West Think in Profoundly Different Ways- tinyurl.com/kwsrfzjs
Risk factors in delinquency among children- tinyurl.com/5648mnts

Markers' Comments

Strengths
- Attempted to provide scope to the idea of freedom (i.e. freedom in multiple aspects; most would definitely cite freedom of speech and the benefits/detriments of it)
- Some students discussed and had coherent stands about a range of freedoms movement, association, worship and wrote well about these.

Areas for improvement
- Describing actions rather than analysing the issue of the desirability of freedom

- Weaker scripts chose rather trivial examples of freedom such as the freedom to go to the supermarket and hoard food, the freedom to create products, the freedom to return your own trays in Singapore
- Many students claimed that freedom of speech would lead to social unrest, chaos, riots without providing any clear examples of why or how this would happen.

Question 7
Evaluate the effectiveness of sport as a platform to tackle social injustice.
Question Analysis

Issue:	Context:
Sport has traditionally been seen as a social leveller – a place where who you are or where you come from does not matter. Yet increasingly, we are seeing the politicisation of sport, where athletes, sporting organisations and even sport commentators and broadcasters use sport as a platform to highlight their solidarity with social causes, champion reform and use their power to tackle injustices. While there is potential for success, this has however met with some pushback, as spectators and investors feel that such activism distracts from what sport should be focusing on.	Global

Key words:
- Sport – Activities involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment.
- Effectiveness – successful in achieving the desired results
- Platform – the opportunity to make one's ideas or beliefs known publicly
- Tackle – to deal with/address
- Social injustice – when a group's rights have been infringed / when a group has been marginalised or treated unfairly

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- Who uses sport as a platform to tackle social injustice?
- Why would they use sport as a platform to tackle social injustice?
- What are the impacts when sport is used as a platform to tackle social injustice?

Possible Stands

- Sport is largely an effective platform to tackle social injustice
- Sport is rarely an effective platform to tackle social injustice

Reasons why sport is an effective platform to tackle social injustice	Reasons why sport is <u>not</u> an effective platform to tackle social injustice
• Given the huge audiences sporting events draw, sport serves as a highly effective platform to spread awareness about injustices that the spectators may have never heard about, marking the first step towards social change. *e.g. Like many other occupations, athletes are not exempt from discrimination by gender. The gender pay gap is an injustice that continues to exist in many societies, and sport has served as an effective platform to shine a spotlight on this issue. In 2022, the United States women's soccer team made headlines for winning their lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation over their unequal pay as compared to the men's team, with the U.S. Soccer Federation agreeing to now pay*	• Not all spectators and fans might be glad to see their favourite athletes using the sport to send a message about social injustice, preferring to have athletes simply focus on delivering the entertainment value that they signed up for. The controversy generated can also distract from the fight against social injustice. *e.g. One of the most well-known examples of athletes becoming activists must be American National Football League (NFL) player Colin Kaepernick. In 2016, Kaepernick began kneeling in protest during the national anthem to call for an end to racial injustice and police brutality towards people of colour. While his actions made headlines and shone a light on the*

men and women at an equal rate in the future in all friendlies and tournaments, including the World Cup. The lawsuit garnered international attention and led to stadium chants of "Equal Pay!" when the U.S. women's team won the 2019 World Cup in Paris.	*continued problem America faces with racial injustice, spectators did not look kindly on his actions, with Kaepernick being booed on several occasions when he took a knee. The topic that Kaepernick said drove his protest — wrongdoings against minorities — was often lost amid the takeaways that dominated several local talk shows and commentary on national websites in the US.*
• Athletes today have much more power and influence as compared to their predecessors, with some even gaining celebrity status. Athletes can use this influence to show their solidarity with movements or even advocate and champion causes. *e.g. Cristiano Ronaldo is one of the most well-known and successful soccer players in the world, and has gained a huge following for his prowess on the soccer field. With half a billion followers on Instagram, Ronaldo uses his influence to advocate for a variety of causes, including the prevention of slavery and human trafficking. In recognition of his ability to use his platform to champion causes, various non-governmental organisations like Save the Children, UNICEF and World Vision have named him an ambassador.*	• Athletes may also find that their attempts to use their platform to tackle social injustice might be constrained by their management teams or even the event organisers or broadcasters, thus limiting the effectiveness of the efforts. *e.g. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has long had a rule that bans athletes from participating in acts of protest and acts of solidarity. Ahead of the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, the committee chose to continue to implement Rule 50, described by the Olympic governing body as a rule protecting the neutrality of the sport and the games.* *e.g. In 2019, China's state broadcaster CCTV removed Arsenal's Premier League game from its broadcast schedule. This was in response to then Arsenal player Mesut Özil's social media posts criticising China's policies towards its Muslim Uighur minority. This is not the first time China has punished efforts to tackle perceived injustices. In 2019, Daryl Morey, the general manager of the NBA's Houston Rockets, wrote a tweet reading "fight for freedom, stand with Hong Kong." Following that tweet, nearly every Chinese entity suspended its ties to the Rockets. With the National Basketball Association (NBA) in America makes approximately $4bn annually from its relationship with China, Morey quickly deleted his tweet and expressed regret and the NBA itself also issued a statement of contrition.*
• Sport also serves as neutral platform, allowing groups that are experiencing injustice to find common ground with either side. *e.g. Non-profit organisations around the world now seek to eliminate hatred by getting warring groups to play sports together. For example, Los Angeles Lakers guard Jordan Farmar led basketball camps in Israel that brought together Arab and Jewish children. An organisation called PeacePlayers International runs similar youth basketball leagues for Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland, blacks and whites in South*	

| *Africa, Israelis and Palestinians, and Turkish and Greek factions in Cyprus. And UK-based Football 4 Peace International uses soccer much the same way in Israel and in Northern Ireland.* | |

Related recent examples

- U.S. soccer has equal gender pay. Will other sports follow?
  https://www.cbsnews.com/news/gender-pay-gap-sports-soccer-tennis-basketball/
- Colin Kaepernick takes a knee during national anthem in San Diego and is booed
  https://www.latimes.com/sports/nfl/la-sp-chargers-kaepernick-20160901-snap-story.html
- Politics and Protest at the Olympics
  https://www.cfr.org/timeline/olympics-boycott-protest-politics-history
- China bends another American institution to its will
  https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2019/10/nba-victim-china-economic-might/599773/

Markers' Comments

Strengths
- Some students were able to link Black Lives Matter" players kneeling before games as a good example of sport as a platform to fight the injustice of racism.

Areas for improvement
- Excessive description of the social injustice
- Misconceptions about what social injustice is (i.e. discussing how Singaporeans failed to support Joseph Schooling and criticised him for not medalling)
- Limited understanding of sport as a platform
- Very limited evaluation of, or reference to the 'effectiveness' of sport as a platform. Described sport as a platform but effectiveness not addressed.

Question 8
Consider the view that making a profit should never be the main concern of the press.

Question Analysis

Issue: The press serves a vital function as the fourth estate, and in order to fulfil this function, it requires a degree of independence, which is hard to achieve without the press being beholden to a profit-making motive. The goal of profit-making is therefore often at odds with the practice of responsible journalism.	Context: Global

Key words:
- Making a profit – Money that a business earns above what it costs to produce and sell the goods/services
- Should – Used to say or ask what is the correct or best thing to do; used to indicate obligation, duty, or correctness
- Never – Not at any time or on any occasion
- Main concern – Most important priority
- The press – Newspapers and magazines, and those parts of television, radio and social media that broadcast news, or reporters and photographers who work for them

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- What are the functions of the press?
- Why does the press need to be concerned with making a profit?
- What are the impacts when making a profit is the most important priority?

Possible Stands

- Making a profit should be the main concern of the press to a large extent
- Making a profit should be the main concern of the press to a limited extent

Reasons why making a profit should be the main concern of the press	**Reasons why making a profit should <u>not</u> be the main concern of the press**
• In most free societies, the press is just like any other business, and needs to make a profit in order to ensure its viability as a business. This has been made more challenging amidst the digital era, where many press outlets have seen a loss in readership and ad revenue, eventually causing them to fold. *e.g. According to the Pew Research Centre, circulation of print and digital newspapers in the United States has been steadily dropping, reaching an all-time low in 2020. Approximately 2 newspapers close every week, leaving about one-fifth of the population without access to a local news organisation. When communities do not have a strong print or digital news organisation, voter participation declines and corruption increases, and it contributes to the spread of misinformation, and political polarisation.*	• When the press prioritises profit over all other concerns, it might affect the veracity of content as the press censors itself to keep its shareholders, investors, and advertisers happy. Conversely, when journalism is independent of such profit motives, it is better able to fulfil its function of keeping the public informed and serve as an effective check and balance on those in power. *e.g. Unlike other British newspaper groups, the Guardian is not owned by a rich individual or a listed company that has to return profits to shareholders. Instead, its proprietor is the Scott Trust, a not-for-profit organisation which maintains an investment fund that is used to subsidise the newspaper and secure the Guardian's editorial independence, ultimately keeping it free from commercial or political interference. Any profits that are made are reinvested in journalism rather than distributed to owners*

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<td>or shareholders. This has then led to The Guardian being able to deliver quality journalism and not feel that it must censor itself, as seen in how it broke the news of the secret collection of Verizon telephone records by the Obama administration in 2013, or the investigation it led into the Panama Papers in 2016 that exposed then-Prime Minister David Cameron's links to offshore bank accounts.</td>
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- Profits do not have to be such a corrosive force. In fact, when the press prioritises profit making without compromising on its journalistic ethics, those profits could go into improving the quality of the content the audience receives.

e.g. When the New York Times introduced its paywall in 2011, few people believed that readers would pay for the news online. However, revenues from online advertising were not sufficient to replace the loss of print revenue, and many publishers had to explore charging readers for content if they wanted to turn a profit and stay in business. Today, the newspaper has more than 1.6 million digital subscribers—a number that is growing rapidly in the aftermath of the 2016 US elections. There is one overwhelming reason why the New York Times has been able to make a success of its paywall, and that is its commitment to quality journalism. In an age where news is commoditised and stories are shared via social media in seconds, the quality and depth of the New York Times's reporting and analysis are second to none. That ground-breaking paywall has also led the company in the development of successful new digital products such as NYT Cooking.

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- When profit is the main concern, the press can end up devoting excessive attention to pander to their customer base, to the detriment of underserved communities. This pandering can even end up with the press framing issues in a way that gives the audience a disproportionate sense of what is happening in the world.

e.g. American media outlet CNN, dedicated six weeks of coverage to the downing of Malaysian Flight MH370 in 2014. During the first three weeks of coverage, CNN's Nielsen ratings absolutely soared, with primetime household viewing increasing by 94 percent. However, during this time, other important news events also occurred such as Russia's annexation of Crimea. CNN sacrificed its coverage of this equally important information in favour for the more newsworthy MH370 crisis. This idea of newsworthiness is something that the media extends into its coverage of areas like the Middle East or Africa very thoroughly, choosing to only focus on terrorism, oil and Islamism, which it deems as worth reporting on, and ignoring the complex factors that shape these areas such as culture, gender roles, or societal changes, exacerbating our ignorance about these areas, as these are deemed to be less popular among the audience and therefore less profitable to cover.

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- Today's media landscape is vastly different from one 20 years ago. In a social media age when provocative articles get shared more widely than studiously objective ones, it is increasingly more challenging for the press to vie for attention in order to generate profit. This has encouraged reporters to sensationalise stories, trivialise the news or make news out of trivia, negatively impacting their ability to inform.

e.g. A prime example of this is the emergence of an online phenomenon known as 'clickbait'. Clickbait is where the press deliberately sensationalises a headline to encourage readers to click on it, only for the reader

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	to realise that it was a false promise and that the actual news is nowhere as exciting as the headline promised. This has led to an increasing number of privately owned media outlets to tie the compensation of its journalists to the amount of web traffic they generate, compromising the journalist's ability to report accurately and encouraging them to cherry-pick information that will be 'click-bait'.

Related recent examples

- Newspapers have been struggling and then came the pandemic
https://www.forbes.com/sites/bradadgate/2021/08/20/newspapers-have-been-struggling-and-then-came-the-pandemic/?sh=a58f96012e64
- As newspapers close, struggling communities are hit the hardest by the decline in local journalism
https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2022/06/newspapers-close-decline-in-local-journalism/
- Guardian Media Group records strongest financial results since 2008
https://www.theguardian.com/media/2022/jul/20/guardian-media-group-records-strongest-financial-results-since-2008
- Saving Journalism: What Big Media Can Learn from Non-profits
https://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article/saving-journalism-what-big-media-can-learn-from-non-profitsnon-profits/
- How journalism can survive and thrive
https://www.thedrum.com/opinion/2019/11/12/how-journalism-can-survive-and-thrive

Markers' Comments

Strengths:
- Some students were able to explain well the requirement of the press to truthfully highlight important matters and bring these issues to people's attention.
- Some were also able to address the idea that the press may not accept such responsibility and publish sensational, trivial news items as these may get more readers and hence more profit.

Areas for improvement:
- Poor understanding of the role of the press.
- General statements without explanation of why the press should not have the main concern of profit.

Question 9
How far should a government intervene in people's decisions about having children?

Question Analysis

Issue: People's decisions about having children seem to be a highly personal matter that bears no interference. But there also seem to be instances where the government seem to have legitimate reasons for intervening in these decisions. What, then, is the correct balance to strike?	Context: Global

Key words:
- "How far"- Extent must be evaluated. Specifically, the degree to which governments should intervene must be addressed.
- "Government"- The state; the authorities who govern the country.
- "Intervene"- Exert an influence so as to change the natural course of the decision.
- "People's decisions about having children"- The choices that individuals, on their own, without outside influence, would have made concerning having (or not having) kids.

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- Important issues such as the government's attempts to exert an influence on a country's demographics (to increase or lower birth rates) should be addressed.
- The issues of abortion laws should be addressed too, since they are an example of the government intervening in people's reproductive decisions.

Possible Stands

- **The government should intervene, to a significant degree, in people's decisions about having children**
- **The government should not, to any significant degree, intervene in people's decisions about having children**

Reasons why the government should intervene, to a significant degree, in people's decisions about having children	Reasons why the government should not, to any significant degree, intervene in people's decisions about having children
• Collectively, people's decisions about having children have a massive demographic impact on society. Thus, the government should carry out interventions—even very significant ones—where a population crisis is looming, since it is the government's duty to protect the greater good of society. • *E.g. China's One Child policy, the population programme that limited most families in China to just one child, ran from 1980 to 2016, and has been credited by many for helping China to avert an overpopulation crisis—in the late 1970s, a burgeoning was putting severe strain on water and other resources—and for facilitating China's rapid economic development.* • *E.g. Facing an dropping birth rates, an ageing population, and a potentially shrinking workforce, the Singapore government has carried out the*	• While incentivising childbirth is perhaps justified, governments should not intervene to the point of coercing people to have (or to not have) children, since an individual's decision on whether or not to have children is a sacred human right that the government has no right to impinge upon. • *E.g. Though touted by its supporters as a major contributing factor to China's rapid economic growth, it cannot be denied that China's One Child policy involved enforcement methods that excessively and unjustifiably restricted individual's reproductive rights. Not only did individuals face harsh punishments (such as being fined, or even fired from one's job) for having more than one child without permission, there were even reports of forced sterilisations and even abortions being performed in the case of errant mothers.*

necessary interventions to incentivise people to have more children. Perhaps the most striking of this in 2020, after receiving feedback from many couples that they would postpone plans for having a baby due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Singapore government announced the Baby Support Grant, a SG$3,000, one-time payment to encourage parents to have kids. This one-time payment was a supplement to the existing Baby Bonus Cash Gift, which already provides up to SG$10,000 to parents per child. Using taxpayer dollars to contrive financial incentives aimed at motivating couples to procreate is definitely a significant intervention in peoples' decisions on having children, but is justified because the severity of the population issues confronting Singapore justify desperate measures.	• *E.g. With the recent overturning of Roe v. Wade in the US, regulations concerning abortion and its legality will be devolved to individual states, many of which are now seeking (or have already started) to restrict abortions. In Arkansas, for instance, anyone who performs an abortion can be jailed for 10 years and/or fined US$100,000 (except in cases where the mother's life is in danger). Many have complained that such anti-abortion laws are an unacceptable violation of a woman's bodily autonomy.*
• Especially in conservative societies where the concept of the traditional family is still extremely important, the government should carry out significant interventions in the form of pro-family policies which incentivise people to only have children one they are married. • *E.g. As Singapore is a largely conservative society that believes the traditional family is the basic building block of society, and the optimal environment for raising children, the Singapore government does—and rightly so, in accordance with the will of the majority—ensure that there are many policies to encourage the birthing of children only within the context of a traditional marriage. For instance, the financial incentives such as the Baby Bonus Cash Gift does not apply to single mothers, while the fact that only married couples are eligible to buy Built-to-Order flats before the age of 35 makes it extremely difficult for non-married couples in Singapore to secure the housing arrangements needed for starting a family. The Singapore government's "pro-family" policies thus represent a very significant intervention in people's decision about having children. Nonetheless, it is a justified intervention, since it is productive towards maintaining the primacy of the traditional family structure, which the majority of Singaporeans are in support of.*	• Given that many developed countries are facing ageing and shrinking populations, it is understandable that governments are carrying out interventions to encourage people to have more children. But these interventions should never cross the line into becoming "pro-family", since so-called "pro-family" government policies—by promulgating heteronormativity as the ideal standard—stigmatise and marginalise sexual minorities and alternative family structures. • *E.g. Even though there has been increasing support for single mothers in Singapore, it is well known that discrimination against this demographic is still extremely prevalent. Many blame Singapore's "pro-family" policies for stigmatising and discriminating against single unwed parents. Single mothers do not enjoy tax reliefs for having children, unlike married mothers, nor are they eligible for the Baby Bonus Cash Gift of SG$3,000. Apart from being outright discrimination, such interventions of the state (that is, the offering child support to only select groups of people within the population) have the effect of sending the message that family structures which depart from the heterosexual norm are somehow deviant and inferior.*

Related recent examples
• One Child Policy and Forced Abortions- tinyurl.com/y5jtcnka • Strong and Stable Families in Singapore- tinyurl.com/bdjfkjvm • One Child Policy's Impacts- tinyurl.com/3b7cp2rv

Markers' Comments
Strengths

- Some understanding of why a government might intervene (i.e. ageing population; overpopulation)
- Some understanding of how a government might intervene (i.e. limiting the number of children one might have)
- Some awareness of the tension between individual freedom and government intervention (but the reasoning as to why government intervention is ultimately undesirable tends to be hazy)
- Some students made a good case as to why or why not governments should intervene in decisions of women to have or not have abortion. Roe v Wade was uppermost in their content.

Areas for improvement
- When explaining why the government should not intervene, the focus is largely on how it is an individual's decision, without sufficient links as to how the government might intervene and why that intervention is undesirable
- Scope is rather narrow (i.e. intervention is usually limited to laws/policies that limit the number of children; not really considering how the intervention might differ depending on the society's definition of a family unit. Largely focused on limiting the number of children, rarely discussing how countries can also intervene to increase the number of children)

Question 10
'The most popular films are those with the least value.' Do you agree?

Question Analysis

Issue: Some films that are blockbuster hits may occasionally be described as "mindless action". Films are also a medium through which valuable ideas and opinions can be conveyed. What is the relationship between the popularity of a film and its value?	Context: Global

Key words:
- Popular: Liked by many people
- Film: A series of moving pictures, usually shown in a cinema or on television, and often telling a story. Compared to TV shows, film usually has a clear beginning, middle, end. TV shows tend to be episodic and allow for multiple beginnings, middles and ends.
- Value: The regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, worth, or usefulness of something
- Most popular, least value: The films which are most liked have the least importance, worth or usefulness

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- How might value be perceived differently from different perspectives?
- What could be the social, political or economic value of film?
- What makes films popular? What makes films valuable?

Possible Stands

- It is largely true that the most popular films are those with the least value.
- It is largely not true that the most popular films are those with the least value.

Reasons why it is largely true that the most popular films are those with the least value	Reasons why it is largely not true that the most popular films are those with the least value
• The most popular films tend to grab people's attention with lots of action in fantastical settings. As a result, these films are very divorced from reality and have little value in the real world. *E.g. The Avengers film series is a series of superhero films. The movies in the film series were very popular and are some of the highest grossing films. Avengers: Endgame featured superhero action and time travel, elements which were riveting for the audience but highly unrealistic.*	• The most popular films prove to be films that are enjoyed by the most number of people, and the enjoyment and entertainment that people derive from such films is a form of value. *E.g. The Titanic was a romance film that told the love story of Rose DeWitt Bukater and Jack Dawson on board the doomed Titanic. Titanic was a box office hit. Although the love story between Rose and Jack was fictional, their romance captured the emotions and imagination of the audience. The entertainment and enjoyment the film brought to the audience is already a form of value.*
• The most popular films make for easy entertainment, bringing the audience for a ride. The flipside is that they are not thought-provoking, and they hold little significance for the society. *E.g. Jurassic World, a science fiction action film, was a hit in the box office. In the film, a transgenic dinosaur,*	• The most popular films make a lot of money, and that is the value that major film studios are interested in. Popular films may also draw visitors to the filming sites, providing value for the location.

the Indominus rex, wreaks havoc. According to the director, Colin Trevorrow, the Indominus embodies our worst tendencies – the desire to want things bigger, faster, louder and better. This message, however, is not emphasised. As a result, the social commentary is lost in the midst of entertaining the audience.	E.g. The Harry Potter film series has taken billions of dollars worldwide. The success of the film has also translated to revenue from merchandise and the theme park rights to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. In addition, according to the London School of Economics, the Harry Potter franchise is worth about £4bn to the London's economy. Sites like King's Cross station routinely attract fans looking to reminisce over scenes from the films.

Related recent examples

- Fantastic riches and where to find them: how to grow a $22bn franchise
  https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/nov/21/fantastic-beasts-harry-potter-franchise-wizarding-world-jk-rowling
- Colin Trevorrow on 'Jurassic World's monster star Indominus Rex
  https://ew.com/article/2015/05/25/meet-new/

Markers' Comments

Strengths
- Stronger responses demonstrated in-depth knowledge of films and the value (or lack of value) of these films
- Students who chose this question answered it quite well. This was a niche area of interest and as a result the students who chose this question had a good background knowledge of the content required for a good answer.
- These students were able to describe elements of popular films and not so popular films and explain/evaluate the values that these films analysed.

Areas for improvement
- Weaker responses discussed the value of films in abstract terms without concrete illustrations
- Most were unable to discuss the impacts of popularity on the values (i.e. generic discussions about films promoting moral values)
- Value was also restricted to moral values (i.e. the entire essay being about whether popular films are able to promote moral values or not)
- Tended to be rather descriptive in nature – long chunks of detail about the movie, without sufficient analysis of its popularity and subsequent relationship with its value)

Question 11
To what extent should plant and animal species be protected in your society?

Question Analysis

Issue: Different societies have different physical environments and different priorities when it comes to biodiversity conservation, and the significance of protecting plant and animal species may differ from country and country.	Context: Your society

Key words:
- Should: Used to say or ask what is the correct or best thing to do; used to indicate obligation, duty, or correctness
- Plant and animal species: Living organisms that make up the biodiversity of an area
- Protected: Keep safe from harm or loss
- In your society: Considering the characteristics and priorities of your society

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- How are plant and animal species important or not important for your society?
- Do plant and animal species have economic or ecological value in your society?
- Who, in your society, might find plant and animal species important to protect? Who might disagree?

Possible Stands

- Plant and animal species should be protected in your society to a large extent.
- Plant and animal species should not be protected in your society to a large extent.

Reasons why plant and animal species should be protected in your society	**Reasons why plant and animal species should not be protected in your society**
• Singapore has rapidly developed over the past two cenuties, during which little attention was paid to the country's biodiversity. Singapore already has very limited biodiversity, and it is important to protect whatever is left. *E.g. The climatic climax vegetation in Singapore is the tropical evergreen rainforest, the richest of all known ecosystems. Only 5 percent of this still remains. According to a study in 2020, Singapore has lost at least 32% of its plant species since 1822. Much of Singapore's originally rich biodiversity has been lost, and now that we have the resources to do so, it is only right that we protect what is left.*	• Singapore has limited land, and it is impractical to protect plant and animal species at the expense of development. *E.g. Almost 180 square kilometres of coastal land required for development and infrastructure has been created through reclamation. This, however, has come at a significant cost to natural marine habitats. Approximately 60% of Singapore's original reefs have been lost to reclamation, but this has also expanded the land available for Singapore's development. Reclaimed land now account for more than 30% of the current land area.*
• Singapore prides itself as a City in a Garden. Protecting plant and animal species helps to make highly urbanised Singapore more liveable, with more greenery and nature among the built environment. *E.g. As part of the Singapore Green Plan 2030, the Singapore National Parks Board (NParks) envisions that*	• Singapore is highly urbanised, and wild animals may collide with inhabitants who are unprepared and unused to wildlife. *E.g. In 2021, a visitor to the Singapore Botanic Gardens was bitten by otters. The news reported that the otters pinned him to the ground and bit him 26 times in 10 seconds. In 2017, a five-year-old girl was*

Singapore will become a City in Nature. By 2030, NParks will implement species recovery plans for over 160 plant and animal species, restore and enhance 30 hectares of forest, marine, and coastal habitats, and restore ecological habitats. People living in Singapore will enjoy greater access to nature and its associated benefits on health and well-being. This results in a win-win situation for plant and animal species and people in Singapore.

bitten by an otter at Gardens by the Bay. The large population in Singapore and the lack of familiarity that most people have with animals lead to higher chances of problems with animals.

Related recent examples

- Biodiversity conservation in Singapore https://www.nparks.gov.sg/-/media/cuge/ebook/citygreen/cg1/cg1_11.pdf
- Visitor to Singapore Botanic Gardens 'bitten 26 times' by otters; such incidents rare, says Gardens https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/visitor-singapore-botanic-gardens-bitten-26-times-otters-such-incidents-rare-says-gardens-1765791
- Cross Island MRT Line to run directly under Central Catchment Nature Reserve https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/transport/cross-island-mrt-line-to-run-directly-under-central-catchment-nature-reserve

Markers' Comments

Strengths
- Stronger responses examined the significance of biodiversity conservation in relation to Singapore's priorities.
- Almost all scripts made an attempt to address both plants and animals
- Relevant examples of challenges faced in SG with regards to conservation (i.e. trade-offs with land usage seen in the Dover Forest and Cross Island line debates)
- Many students had a good knowledge of programmes/ policies to protect animals and plants in Singapore. SingaporeZoo, Botanic Gardens and issues of loss of habitat for plants and animals as a result of development.

Areas for improvement
- Weaker responses often described examples of environmental conservation with vague or limited connection to the protection of plant and animal species, which was the focus of the question.
- Some misconceptions about what protecting means (i.e. rearing animals as livestock = protecting them)
- Narrow interpretations of protection (i.e. entire essay about zoos/animals in captivity)
- Limited analysis of Singapore (confined to citing SG examples, without discussing the limitations/challenges/issues SG faces)
- Very descriptive content but limited evaluation of the issue of how far animals and plants should be protected.

Question 12
'Originality is dead.' Discuss.

Question Analysis

Issue:	Context:
In today's world, it is often claimed that there is a dearth of originality. But is this really the case?	Global.

Key words:
- "Originality"- The characteristic of being special or interesting, or exhibiting creativity and independence of thought.
- "dead"- No longer existent (or existing but in much lower quantities).

Significant aspects/areas to be discussed (5W1H, Multiple Perspectives, Significant Trends, SPECTRAM):
- There are many forces in the modern world—such as globalisation, Americanisation, technological advancement, and the proliferation of social media—that seem to detract from originality.
- At the same time, there seem to be in the modern world unprecedented opportunities for the individual to express originality of thought.

Possible Stands

- Yes, originality is dead for the most part. That is, we live in a time where original ideas and innovations are in short supply.
- No, originality is certainly not dead. In today's world, we see a great deal of originality.

Reasons why originality is dead	Reasons why originality is not dead
- In today's world, the use of online platforms for interpersonal communications has resulted in an abject lack of originality in the modes whereby we express our ideas as well as in the content of our ideas. - *E.g. When we spend hours each day on social media, the manner in which we communicate is being shaped by the particular functions on these social media platforms. Instagram habituates its estimated 1.2 billion "Instagrammers" worldwide into sharing photographs or stories, often captioned with hashtag phrases; TikTok—which is even more popular than Instagram by some measures—has popularised the short-form video format; and Twitter (which has over 80 million users in the US alone), with its 280-character limit, has honed people's skill at generating pithy soundbites. In each of these cases, social media users are conforming rigidly to communication conventions determined by the design of the social media platform; there is very little room for genuinely innovative or creative expression. To make matters worse, the vast majority of content on social media platforms is highly derivative, as social media users—ever craving for attention— blatantly copy the ideas of successful social media personalities, or if not conform to the latest viral trend. Consequently, today's social media*	- Equipped with greater scientific knowledge and ever-advancing technology, humankind is highly adept at coming up with original solutions to the problems that face us today. - *E.g. Many diseases that were considered incurable throughout human history can be treated in today's world thanks to creative and innovative applications of medical knowledge and technology. The first medical implantation to replace an organ function was a thyroid transplant, and was conducted in relatively recent human history—1883. The first hand transplant was done only slightly more than 20 years ago, in 1998. Currently, the state of medical science is that we are able to use cutting edge CRISPR technology—which allows doctors to precisely target sections of a person's DNA to make necessary edits—to cure individuals of previously incurable genetic diseases, such as sickle cell disease. In the near future, doctors could well treat patients with wholesale replacements of diseased tissue and organs in what is being called regenerative medicine, in which stem cells are used to grow replacement tissue and organs. Each of these medical innovations are undeniable manifestations of originality. To the objective observer, these treatments are special and interesting, if only*

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landscape resembles a hot, lifeless desert starved of originality, where there is nothing new under the sun: jokes are told by sharing tired, overused memes; emotions are conveyed by posting the same emojis that everyone else uses; and even complex thoughts and arguments are reduced to hashtag statements.

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because they are unprecedented in history. Moreover, the application of science to solve real-world problems is an inherently creative process, requiring us to approach old problems in fresh ways, think outside the box, and apply existing knowledge in innovative ways.

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- In its quest for profit, the entertainment media of today's world has often forgone creating truly original content, opting instead to use tried and tested methods, stereotypes, and plot formulas, or if not revive old classics. Thus, the vast majority of the entertainment media we consume today is bereft of true creativity or innovativeness.
- *E.g. The 2019 live-action film, The Lion King, was widely panned for being an inferior reproduction of the original, 1994 animated film. Many criticised Disney's decision to try to remake the original film as an "unimaginative cash grab"—a shameless attempt to monetise the nostalgia of audiences while not creating any truly new content. This is part of a broader pattern of behaviour from Disney. Animated classics such as Lady and the Tramp, Mulan, One Hundred and One Dalmatians, and Pinocchio, all have been remade or will soon be. Additionally, instead of creating their own version of a space opera to capture the imaginations of today's children and teens, Disney bought over the rights to Star Wars so that they could milk the franchise for all that it is worth. There is little incentive for Disney to create something new; why not just ride on the nostalgia of a franchise already loved by millions?*

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- In search of profit, corporations seeking to sell their consumer products in highly saturated markets must necessarily differentiate their product, often by coming up with innovative and unique features. In other words, there is in today's world a very strong impetus for product manufacturers to use originality as a selling point for their wares.
- *E.g. Especially in the area of consumer electronics, companies need to constantly innovate to stay relevant and maybe even achieve market dominance. The introduction of the iPhone in June 2007 heralded the transformation of the mobile phone market into the smart phone market, and knocked mobile phone manufacturer Nokia off its perch because of the introduction of a new feature—the touch screen. More recently, major smartphone manufacturers (most notably, Samsung and Huawei) were engaged in the race to achieve the foldable phone screen, no doubt seeing as the next step in smartphone evolution. While cynics may argue that foldable phones are not original, the fact is that the technology that goes into creating a bendable smartphone screen is itself an exercise in creativity: improving upon existing flexible display technologies (built around Organic Light Emitting Diode screens), Samsung utilised what it called "ultra-thin glass technology" to create the Galaxy Z flip—a world first because it is a foldable smartphone with an actual glass screen (up till then, plastic had been the default material).[1]*

[1]Source: https://www.makeuseof.com/how-do-foldable-smartphone-screens-actually-work/

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Related recent examples

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- The Internet of Me- tinyurl.com/4psvvmc3
- The Lion King Remake: An Unimaginative Cash Grab- tinyurl.com/27faukmb
- How the iPhone destroyed Nokia- tinyurl.com/muhz2prd

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Markers' Comments

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Strengths

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- Very few students attempted this question. A few were able to take a stand that there was still originality in areas of scientific and technological research. Students who took this stand and argued it effectively did well.

Areas for improvement
- Scripts overlooked that the question word "dead" suggests that originality was once alive and present and well. Weaker scripts did not analyse how things have changed or persisted.