SECTION A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer **all** questions.

Living in a Diverse Society

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer all the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the issue to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

What is the message of the source? Explain your answer. [5]

2 Study Source B.

Why do you think this source was published? Explain your answer. [6]

3 Study Sources C and D.

Does Source D prove that Source C is wrong? Explain your answer. [7]

4 Study Sources E and F.

Having read Source E, are you surprised by Source F? Explain your answer. [7]

5 An increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity.

Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

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Are governments building national identity effectively in an increasingly diverse world?

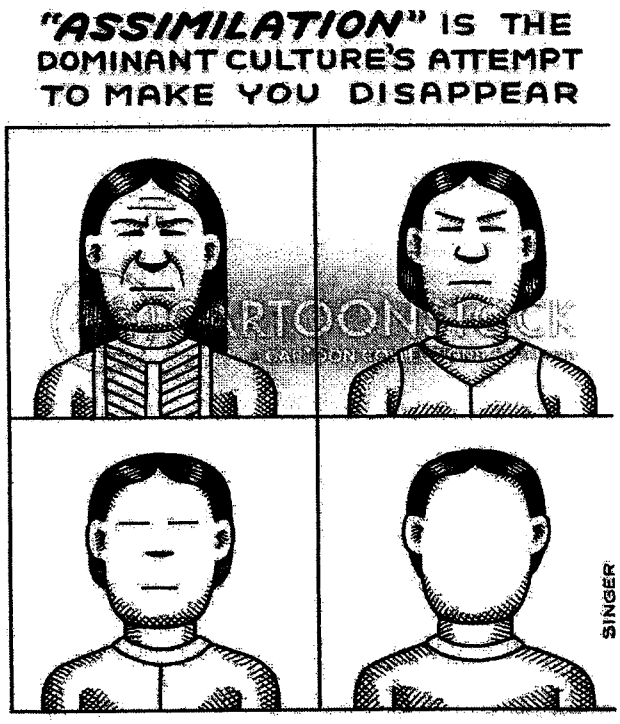
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

Living in a diverse society can lead to both positive and negative experiences for individuals, while also shaping broader societal outcomes. Building a strong national identity becomes even more complex when policy design may hinder the formation of a unified national identity. France's assimilation policies illustrate this challenge well: immigrants are expected to adopt the beliefs and practices of the majority culture, often with little room for preserving their own identities. This approach can foster a sense of alienation among immigrant communities. In addition, external influences and global events continue to make integration even more challenging. In such diverse societies, fostering connections that transcend race, religion, and socio-economic status is a delicate and challenging task for governments worldwide. The presence of differing values and beliefs can threaten national unity, potentially leading to division and adverse consequences. Political parties and government actions are crucial in either fostering or obstructing the development of a cohesive national identity.

Study the following sources to find out if governments have been building national identity effectively in an increasingly diverse world.

Source A: *A cartoon on France's assimilation policy in managing socio-cultural diversity.*



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Source B: *Insights by Brussels Signal, a group that challenges prevailing ideas and polic* [Turn over
positioning itself as a counter voice in addressing Europe's complex challenge... responses to the France riots in 2023.

France's riots have sparked debate about the integration of communities from North and Sub-Saharan Africa into French society.

Immigration has evolved and changed over the past century in France. Acceptance took place based on these migrant groups adopting French values and the country's way of life. But these immigrant groups were neither given the tools nor the opportunity to assimilate, and they come from a background where French power is treated with hostility. Assimilation verges on the impossible for them. Instead, tensions continue to rise.

While the riots have now subsided, the situation in the city is a ticking time bomb. Despite promises of alleviating social tensions and divisions in French society, little has been achieved. The dilemma France faces is that policies aimed at pushing assimilation are likely to be seen as racist, especially nowadays. But ignoring the tensions will only lead to them stewing even more.

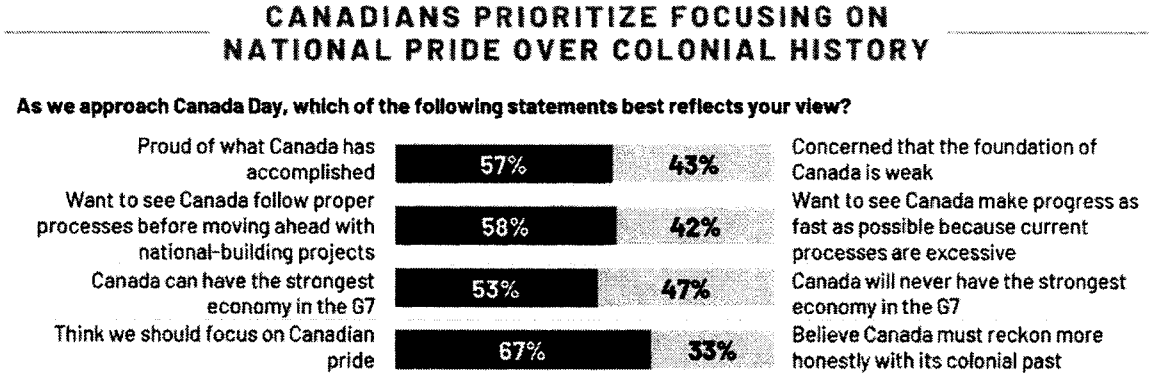
Source C: *An article on Canada patriotism by Associate Professor, Faculty of Humanities, McMaster University on 17 April 2025.*

As the U.S. institutes increasingly racist, xenophobic and authoritarian policies, this moment may be just the warning Canadians need to imagine a more just and grounded country.

Canada has grown significantly more diverse in recent years. Yet popular narratives of "Canadianness" can be narrow and out of step with the experiences of diverse segments of the population. Some scholars point out that the idea of Canada as a "hockey nation" is sometimes contested by communities marginalised by the sport's ties to white male dominance.

Youths in the country have increasingly challenged and questioned who Canadians are? To move forward, Canada must build a collective story rooted in truth and one that confronts contemporary inequities and reflects the rich diversity of its people. Only then can we begin to imagine a future Canada worth rallying behind.

Source D: *Survey findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between 17 and 20 June 2025, on behalf of Global News on the topic of national identity. For this survey, a sample of 1,000 Canadians aged 18+ was interviewed online. Ipsos is a global market research and polling company.*



Source E: *A New Year message by Singapore's then Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, published*

In an era of rapid external and internal change, Singapore must work ever harder to keep its society together, and strengthen its sense of shared identity and nationhood, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in his annual New Year message.

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in December 2023.

Source F: *An article published in May 2024 based on interviews with then Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong about national identity in an increasingly diverse society.*

The Singaporean identity is stronger than it was 20 years ago, as the nation has weathered many storms that helped foster better understanding and respect among people, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said.

Mr. Lee was responding to a question from CNA about the strength of the Singaporean identity, following several such sensitive issues that came to the fore during his term as Prime Minister.

Mr. Lee then said that as a multiracial and multicultural society, it is unavoidable that racism permeates all levels of society. Although this occurs less in Singapore than in most other countries, Mr. Lee affirmed that the government would keep working to move things in the right direction.

"To make (racism) completely disappear, I think, would be very difficult. I think that we will improve, we will do more... to nudge this in the right direction."

SECTION B (Structured Response Questions)

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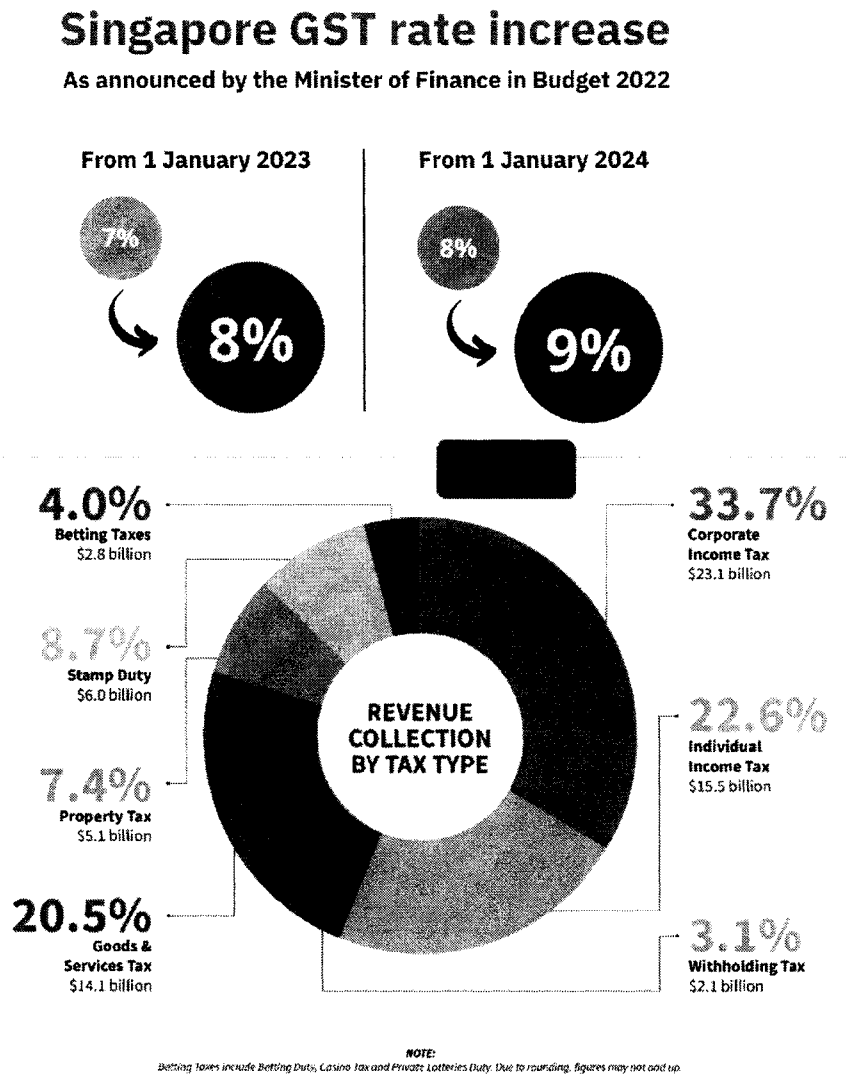
Answer **both** questions.

Exploring citizenship and governance

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

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Extract 2

Governments play an important role in addressing the needs of society by providing resources and expertise on specific social issues. For example, in Singapore, the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) was established to help address the needs of Social Service Agencies.

Extract 3

Individuals can play a part in addressing the needs of society by volunteering their time, money and skills to help a cause that they feel passionate towards. Homage is an example of an individual's initiative.

6 Extract 1 shows the Singapore's government tax revenue for 2022 which was the same year of announcement of the Good and Service Tax (GST) hike from 7% to 9%.

In your opinion, what are some reasons behind the Singapore's government's decision to raise the GST? Explain your answer with reference to **two** reasons. [7]

7 Extracts 2 and 3 reflect on the role of the government and role of individuals in addressing the needs of society.

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Do you think the role of the government is more important than the role of individuals in addressing the needs of society? Explain your answer.
[8]

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Source B © https://brusselssignal.eu/2023/07/why-is-france-so-bad-at-assimilating-migrants/.

Source C © https://theconversation.com/rising-canadian-patriotism-is-a-chance-to-rethink-who-gets-to-belong-here-252482

Source D © https://www.ipsos.com/en-ca/canadian-pride-rise

Source E © https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/work-harder-to-keep-society-united-and-strengthen-shared-identity-says-pm-lee

Source F © https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/pm-lee-sensitive-issues-global-crisis-racism-4324026

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1. Study Source A. **What is the message of the source? EYA.** [5] *Target Skill: Inference* ***NO KEYWORD = ZERO***		
L1	**Invalid Inference/Answer based on description of source/topic**	**1**
L2	**Sub/Literal messages- Inferences that does not address role of government's policies on national identity or impact on national identity** Award 3 marks for answers with support E.g. of literal/sub-messages - Assimilation policies are making person losing their identity.	**2-3**
L3	**Main Messages – Inferences that address the role of the government's policies and their impact on national identity (SUPPORTED)** *Award 5 marks for answers that considered both the role of government and impact on national identity.* **Suggested Answer** **PT:** The message of the source is that the French government is not building national identity effectively. **Evidence from Source A:** The source's caption says "Assimilation" is the dominant culture's attempt to make you disappear with images of an ethnic minority man losing his face. **Explanation of Source A:** This suggests that assimilation policies are making the minorities losing their identity and losing themselves, which diminish the sense of belonging of a person. At the same time, the use of the word 'disappear' has the negative connotation of not being seen and hence, it reflects the feeling of not being recognised or valued. Given that assimilation policies are implemented by the French government, it can be inferred that French government is not building national identity effectively. Instead, it has created alienation in the country among certain groups of people.	**4-5**

2. Study Source B. **Why do you think this source was published? Explain your answer.** [6] *Target Skill: Inference with purpose* ***Answers not presented as a REASON = ZERO***		
L1	**Because of the provenance** E.g. This source is being published because it is by Brussel Signal which is a group that challenges prevailing ideas and policies.	**1**
L2	**BECAUSE of context** *Award 2 marks for such answers.* E.g. This source was published as a response to growing concerns about protests and riots in the country.	**2**

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L3	**BECAUSE of valid content OR outcome** *Award 3 marks for literal answers* *E.g. of literal messages:* *This source is being published because immigrants in France felt their identity has been threatened.* *Possible Valid Messages:* *-An Increasingly diverse society is bad for building national identity.* *- The French government is not working/has not been effective in building strong national identity.* *- Assimilation policies in France hinder the building of a cohesive national identity.* *E.g. of valid outcome - This source was published in the hope that the French government can take more deliberate actions and make policy changes to build a national identity.*	**3- 4**
L4	**BECAUSE of valid VMAO (supported)** *Award 6 marks for strong support* **[Point Line – ATQ + vAMO]** This source is published because Brussel Signals wants to convince the French government that it has a critical role to play in building cohesive national identity in an increasingly diverse society so that it will take more deliberate actions in making policies changes that helps to build a more cohesive national identity. **[Evidence + Explain]**	**5-6**

3 Study Sources C and D. Does Source D prove Source C is wrong? Explain your answer. *Assessing by Comparison and Reference* *MEAC = WHORD + ZEROAT*		[2]
L1	**PROVE OR NOT PROVE based on underdeveloped provenance** *E.g. Source D prove Source C is wrong because D is from survey from a global research organisation while C is from a professor.*	**1**
L2	**Prove OR Does Not Prove based on what Source C OR D says** *Award 3 marks for supported answers.* **Suggested Answer (Based on C's content)** **Point:** Source D proves Source C is wrong because Source C says increasingly diverse society is bad for building national identity. **Evidence & Explanation from Source C**: In Source C, it states, "Youth in the country has increasingly challenged shallow and question who are we?" This suggests that, in today's complex and diverse society, defining a clear national identity has become increasingly difficult. The lack of a unifying	**2-3**

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	sense of national identity can be troubling, as it leaves people without a solid foundation or anchor to connect with, which is bad.	
L3	**PROVE OR NOT PROVE due on reliability of Source C OR D** **Suggested Answer (reliable/unreliable due to motive/purpose of C)** **Point:** Source D does not prove Source C is wrong because Source C is reliable due to its purpose/motive. Source C is trying to convince the Canadians and their government that the increasingly complex diverse society calls for intentional actions and sense making for a unifying national identity to advance the country. **Evidence & Explanation from Source C:**	**4**
L4	**PROVE OR NOT PROVE based on Similarity/ Difference on content (SUPPORTED)** **Suggested Answer** **(Based on content comparison of Sources C and D - Similarity)** **Point:** Source D does not prove the claim in Source C is wrong because they are similar in agreeing that more concerted efforts are required to move the country forward in building a strong, cohesive national identity. **Evidence & Explanation from Source D:** From Source D, it is seen that 58% of the respondents "want to see Canada follow proper processes before moving ahead of national- building projects". This suggests that there must be processes in place before moving forward as a country, reflecting the sentiment for more concerted efforts to be seen/required. **Evidence & Explanation from Source C:** Similarly, from Source C, it can be seen "To move forward, Canada must build a collective story rooted in truth and one that confronts contemporary inequities and reflects the rich diversity of its people." This suggests that there must be clear narrative and processes before the society can move forward in building a cohesive national identity, which again reflected the sentiment for the need for more concerted efforts. **LINK:** Since Source C supports the claim in Source D, Source D does not prove that the claim in Source C is wrong. Other possible similarity: - Government's effort is lacking/ineffective/insufficient in building national identity in midst of increasing complex and diverse society. Acceptable content difference- - increasingly diverse society is bad for building national identity (Source C) vs good (Source D)	**5**
L5	**PROVE AND NOT PROVE based on Similarity AND Difference (SUPPORTED)**	**6**

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L6	**DOES NOT PROVE due to reliability of C or D based MOTIVE/Purpose (SUPPORTED with implicit/explicit use of content from both sources- i.e. content comparison between C & D must still be addressed)**	**7**

4. Study Sources E and F.
Having read E, are you surprised by Source F? Explain your answer. **[7]**
Target Skill: Comparison & logical deduction
NO KEYWORD = ZERO

L1	**Surprised OR Not Surprised based on difference based on provenance.** *E.g. After reading E, I am not surprised by F as both sources are by Mr Lee Hsien Loong.*	**1**
L2	**Surprised OR NOT Surprised (without element of surprised/Not surprised)** *E.g. After reading E, I am not surprised by F as both are talking about building national identity in Singapore.*	**2**
L3	**Surprised OR Not Surprised based on content comparison (SUPPORTED)** *Award 3 marks for weak support, 4 marks for strong support.*	**3-4**

Suggested Answer (On Similarity in content)

PT: After reading E, I am not surprised by F as both sources are similar in agreeing that the Singapore government has been proactively building national identity in the country.

Evidence from Source E: From Source E, it states that "In an era of rapid external and internal change, Singapore must work ever harder to keep its society together, and strengthen its sense of shared identity and nationhood, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in his annual New Year message." **Explanation of Source E:** This evidence suggests that the Singapore government is urging Singaporeans to work alongside with them in building strong national identity, which reflects their proactiveness in this matter.

Evidence from Source F: Similarly, from Source F, it states "Although this occurs less in Singapore than in most other countries, Mr. Lee affirmed that the government would keep working to move things in the right direction." **Explanation of Source F:** This evidence suggests that the government is proactively managing the diverse society to safeguard and build a cohesive national identity. **LINK:** Since Source F shares similar idea as Source E in suggesting that the Singapore government has been proactively building national identity in the country, it matches my expectation and hence I am not surprised by Source F.

Other possible similarities:

- *Each Singaporean plays a key part in building/strengthening the national identity in Singapore.*
- *Singapore can overcome differences and build a strong national identity.*

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	- *There has been increased tensions and challenges in diverse societies that the Singapore government needs to handle with care.* *Possible differences:* - *Threaten National Identity vs Strengthen National identity.* - *Singapore government worried vs government not worried.* - *Who to act (Singaporeans vs Government)* - *Increasing diverse society is good vs bad for building national identity*	
L4	**Surprised <u>AND</u> Not Surprised based on content comparison (SUPPORTED)**	**5-6**
L5	**Not Surprised based on difference in Timeline/Context/Purpose in justifying the difference in content from both sources (SUPPORTED)**	**7**

5. 'An increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity'. Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. **[10]**

Target Skill: Recognise value, detect bias and draw conclusions, ability to EXTEND ideas to justify the stand.

L1	**Writes about statement, no valid source use**	**1**
L2	**Yes/No, supported by valid source use** *Award 2 -3 marks for use of one source, 3-4 marks for use of two sources*	**2-4**

	Agree (Bad for building national identity)	**Disagree (Good for national identity)**
Source A	Source A agrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity. Idea of ***<u>losing their identity and themselves, which diminish the sense of belonging of a person to the society, difficult for country to move forward as one.</u>*** Hence, Source A agrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity.	

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	Source B	Source B agrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity. – Idea of **fueling feelings of hostility and frustration** that **risks deepening the alienation of immigrants from diverse backgrounds**. Hence, an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity.	Source B disagrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity. Source B = **More awareness on national identity**. Hence, an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity.		
	Source C	Source C agrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity. there is a stronger **sense of disconnect among the minorities which alienated them**. This is bad for building a cohesive national identity as **they felt excluded and not included as part of the society, felt left behind.** Hence, Source C agrees with the statement.	Source C disagrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity. - concern and behaviour reflected the **heightened awareness and the desire to build a cohesive national identity**. Hence, Source C disagrees that it is bad.		

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	Source D	Source D agrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity. - ***risk of further weakening an already fragile foundation.*** Hence, Source D agrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity.	Source D disagrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity. - ***paying more attention in building national pride to strengthen their national identity.*** Therefore, Source D disagrees.		
	Source E	Source E agrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity. - ***strained relationship between different groups of people in the society. This would create hostility, distrust and disharmony in the country which are unfavourable conditions to build a cohesive national identity.*** Hence, Source E agrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building national identity.	Source E disagrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building a cohesive national identity. - ***challenge is a good test and reminder to rally Singaporeans to be mindful and stay together, which helps to build a stronger national identity***. Hence, Source E disagrees.		
	Source F		Source F disagrees that an increasingly diverse society is bad for building national identity. - journey to ***bond our people together, leading to***		

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		greater unity and stronger sense of national identity is made possible due to the increasing diverse society. Hence, Source F does not agree that an increasingly diverse is bad for building a cohesive national identity.	
L3	**Yes + No, supported by valid source use** i.e. Both elements of L2. See L2 for suggested answers. **Note: Consider the number of sources used and the quality of analysis to decide whether answers fit into L2 OR L3.**		**5-8**
+2 option	**** To score an additional 2 marks, candidate can take any ONE of these THREE routes:** **1. Through analysing at least one source in relation to its reliability, utility or sufficiency.** - For utility & sufficiency – Source D can be used. E.g. I disagree with Source D as it is limited by the small sample size of respondents in the poll. With only 1,000 participants, it is insufficient in representing the broader population and therefore may not be accurate for determining whether a strong national identity is being built. However, it is still useful in illustrating some of the sentiments and attitudes currently present in Canada on the issue. - For reliability routes on Motive/Purpose – Source E can be used. **2. By sharing example(s) from their contextual knowledge.** **For example:** I agree with Source B that an increasingly diverse society can pose challenges to building a strong national identity. This is evident in many protests and riots revolving immigrants and minority groups in the France society such as the banning of wearing of clearly visible religious attire and symbols in public school (Pg 195 to 197 of Textbook) as well as the burkini ban and even the recent protest of the immigrants law are reflection of how increasingly diverse society is bad for building national identity where the individual's identities have to be taken into account which increases the complexity of building national identity. **3. By giving a balanced conclusion/resolution.** An increasingly diverse society is not necessarily bad for building a cohesive national identity, as shown in the sources. While it is true that diversity brings inherent differences in values, beliefs, and identities—which can lead to challenges in fostering unity—it is	

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	also evident that with deliberate and sustained efforts from both the government and citizens, these challenges can be managed. In fact, such efforts are crucial in forging a shared national identity. When these efforts are lacking, it is not surprising that diversity may hinder cohesion.

SECTION B: Structured Response Questions

6 Extract 1 shows the Singapore's government tax revenue for 2022 which was the same year of announcement of the Good and Service Tax hike from 7% to 9%.

In your opinion, what are some reasons behind the Singapore's government's decision to raise the GST? Explain your answer with reference to two reasons. [7]

L1	**Describe the topic**	**1**
L2	**Identifies/Describes valid reasons(s)** *Award 2 marks for identifying one valid reason, 3 marks for two valid reasons.* *Award 3 marks for describing one valid reason, 4 marks for two valid reasons.* ***Possible acceptable reasons:*** **1. Ageing Population & Healthcare** (Rising costs need sustainable funding). **2. Fiscal Prudence** (Prevent deficits and preserve reserves). **3. Revenue Diversification** (Avoid over-reliance on volatile taxes). **4. Competitiveness** (Keep income & corporate tax rates low). **5. Social Support** (Assurance Package and GST Vouchers to protect vulnerable groups). For description of reason(s) – it can take the routes of providing context/significance of the reason stated/outcomes	**2- 4**
L3	**L2 + Explain** *Award 5-6 marks for explaining one valid reason, 6-7 marks for two valid reasons.* One of the reasons behind the Singapore's government's decision to raise the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from 7% to 9% is to address the financial demands arising from an ageing population and the corresponding increase in healthcare costs. As Singapore moves towards becoming a super-aged society, the proportion of elderly citizens is expected to grow substantially. With advancing age, individuals typically require more frequent medical attention, yet many are retired or have reduced incomes, increasing their reliance on public healthcare support. This trend necessitates greater investment in healthcare infrastructure and services, such as the *construction of a new hospital in Tengah and the expansion of home care initiatives. Additionally, the government has introduced higher subsidies and extended financial support for CHAS to healthcare services that were previously not covered.* These factors contribute to a significant rise in national healthcare expenditure. To ensure long-term financial sustainability and continue providing quality healthcare, the GST hike serves to generate the necessary revenue to support these increasing costs.	**5-7**

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7 Extracts 2 and 3 reflect on the role of the government and role of individuals in addressing the needs of society.

Do you think the role of the government is more important than the role of individuals in addressing the needs of society? Explain your answer. [8]

L1	**Writes about the issue**	**1-2**
L2	**Describes Factor(s)** *Award 3 marks for describing one factor, 4 marks for two factors.*	**3-4**
L3	**L2 + Explains the role(s)** *Award 5-6 marks for explaining one factor, 6-7 marks for explaining two factors.* Governments play an important role in addressing the needs of society. Governments can set up structures and programmes that provide resources in a targeted manner. For example, government agencies such National Council of Social Service (NCSS) develop resources to enhance the capabilities of Social Service Agencies (SSAs), including those who are committed to meeting the needs of the elderly. NCSS developed the Volunteer Management Toolkit 2.0 to provide SSAs with framework and guidelines on how to manage volunteers effectively. It worked with various partners such as RSVP Singapore to contribute to the development of the Toolkit by sharing their best practices. Through government's effort, there can be better structures, programmes, resources and expertise that helped to develop capabilities and equip others to help address the needs of society. Hence, the government plays an important role in addressing the needs of society. Individuals play an important role in addressing the needs of society. Individuals can volunteer their time, resources or expertise or form community groups to address the needs of society. For example, Mdm Malligesvari volunteers her time as am instructor for the Age Well Everyday (AWE) Programme which promotes active ageing and healthy lifestyles for seniors to reduce the risk of dementia. She teaches senior citizens how to stay healthy, exercise and keep active through brain-simulating activities. RSVP Singapore also run programmes to supports at-risk children from low-income families. RSVP volunteers serve as mentors to these children. After-school programmes are held at these children's schools where they experience arts and craft and storytelling activities. With a mentor to turn to, these children's emotional needs are met. Their learning needs are also met through the activities carried out – something which their families might not have been able to support. Through individual efforts, they can offer their knowledge, skills and experiences and initiate new efforts to fill the gaps that government cannot	**5-7**

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	fill. They can also use the resources, programmes and structures provided by the government to supplement their efforts to maximise the impact and better address the needs of the society in Singapore.	
L4	**Both aspects in L3 plus explains the <u>relative importance</u> of each role** E.g. In conclusion, both government and individuals play an equally important role in addressing the needs of society as they complement each other. While governments have the resources, programmes and structures, they would need individuals to volunteers and do the grassroots of connecting with others. Individuals are the ones who have interactions with others daily. Hence, while governments can have a larger impact through the scale of their programmes or policy, they would still need individuals' support. Neither can individuals' efforts work without governments' efforts as individuals do not have the scale of impact that government has. Therefore, both government and individual complement each other to be able to address the needs of society effectively.	**8**

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