Name: Register Number: Class:

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南僑中學

NAN CHIAU HIGH SCHOOL

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2025
SECONDARY FOUR

HUMANITIES (SOCIAL STUDIES)

2260/01
2261/01
2262/01
2263/01

Paper 1

21 August 2025, Thursday

1 hour 45 minutes

Additional Material: Writing paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Section A
Answer **all** questions.

Section B
Answer **both** questions on a fresh sheet of paper.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work for Sections A and B separately.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
The total marks for this paper is 50.

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SECTION A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer **all** questions.

Being Part of a Globalised World

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 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 cartoonist? Explain your answer using details from the source.
[5]

2 Study Sources B and C.

How far would the Singaporean jobseeker agree with the Prime Minister about skills upgrading? Explain your answer. [7]

3 Study Source D.

Does this source prove that the global economy improves individuals' job prospects? Explain your answer. [6]

4 Study Sources E and F.

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

5 'The global economy brings positive effects.'

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

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What are the implications of the global economy on individuals?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

In today's global and digitally connected economy, people and economic activities in different parts of the world are increasingly integrated. Businesses and individuals can access different markets, networks and resources worldwide, bringing in significant opportunities for profit or in employment. In this climate, countries also seek to strengthen infrastructure, embed new technologies and upskill their workforce to remain economically competitive and continually attract international trade (including tourism) and investments. However, the operations of multinational corporations, heightened competition, and evolving job requirements in industries worldwide can be disruptive, requiring individuals to navigate rapid changes in technology and skill requirements. Hence, some individuals find themselves challenged, while others can adapt and thrive.

Study the following sources to find out the implications of globalisation on individuals.

Source A: *A cartoon by an Italian artist, titled 'Hard times for Santa', 2024. It depicts Santa Claus conversing with Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, a multinational corporation involved in e-commerce.*



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Source B: *A Singaporean jobseeker's post on Reddit, an online forum, April 2025.*

I'm in my late 30s and, like many Singaporeans, I bought into the idea that upskilling would open new doors. I spent the past few years taking up different certifications in data analytics and technology-related skills that supposedly make you employable in this global economy. I've sent out hundreds of resumes in the past 8 months. What did I get in return? Rejection or absolute silence. Everyone says, "never too old to learn" and "mid-career switches are possible if you work hard." The reality is, once you hit your late 30s or 40s, employers look at you differently. You're compared against foreign or younger applicants who are cheaper and more "teachable". The Singapore government keeps pushing courses, but what we really need is for employers to give mature workers a fair chance, not just lip service.

Source C: *From Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's speech at the 10th anniversary of SkillsFuture, May 2025. The event was attended by about 300 business and industry partners as well as education and training providers.*

About one-fifth of our workforce participates in SkillsFuture-supported training annually. They secure better jobs with higher pay, adapting to changing job roles. Take Ms Kalai Selvi as an example. At 41, she successfully switched from 15 years as a preschool teacher to a Desktop Support Engineer after numerous courses in IT. Now, she is working towards a diploma in cloud administration!

As a government, we commit to working with industry partners to identify courses that give Singaporeans maximum benefits in this global and digital era, like AI competency or industry-specific skills. That is why we recently introduced the SkillsFuture Level-Up Programme, with $4,000 credits for those aged 40 and above and a monthly allowance for those pursuing full-time courses. I know employers may worry about investing in their workers, but we need your support to achieve business transformation and productivity.

Source D: *From a statement by the President of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), May 2025. WTTC is a non-governmental organisation representing the interests of companies in the global travel and tourism sector.*

The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) travel and tourism sector is projected to create 26,400 additional jobs this year to reach 925,000 jobs in 2025. By 2035, one million people in the UAE are expected to be working in tourism and travel. Growth is propelled by UAE's focus on building smart cities, use of biometric technology at airports, easy visa procedures and strong air connectivity. UAE keeps reinventing itself! From high-quality entertainment, artistic, culture and sport activities, to the upcoming Disneyland Abu Dhabi, little wonder that there are strong visitor numbers from diverse markets like India, Russia and the UK. Moreover, in a world that can feel a bit troubled, tourism and travel bring cultural connectivity.

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Source E: *From an article by an American business news website, June 2024.*

To the casual observer, TikTok is an app known for dance routines and comedy skits. But it's also become a popular destination for young jobseekers. Click on the hashtags #jobsearch, #careertok and you will find endless tips and tricks about work from worldwide, geared towards Gen Z and younger millennials. According to a survey of US adults aged 18 to 34, 41% have made career-related decisions based on TikTok advice, 15% received a job offer via the app, and nearly 80% have used it to network. Companies like Chipotle and Target advertised open roles on the app, inviting job seekers to create video resumes and hiring those with standout clips. 24-year-old Grace Dunlavy also shared that TikTok allowed her to find a mentor in the same industry.

Source F: *From an article by a Hong Kong newspaper, October 2023.*

Global demand for Chinese-made goods have slowed in recent years, directly impacting China's labour market. Even as youth face high unemployment rates, older workers have their own problems to confront. Thirty-year-old Zuo Nan lives in Sichuan province. Her father lost his job as a manager at a car factory and has been unable to find another job matching his previous salary. Living in a small town, opportunities are scarce compared with bigger cities.

Earlier this year, Chinese social media became a place for some young people to find work for their parents. While there are websites for job searching, social media gives users the chance to ask each other directly for recommendations. Search "help parents find a job" on *Xiaohongshu,* China's Instagram equivalent, and hundreds of posts pop up. Zuo has been posting to inquire about work opportunities for her father, but to little avail.

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SECTION B (Structured-Response Questions)

Answer **both** questions.

Living in a Diverse Society

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

In a 2024 study by the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore, racial, cultural and gender biases were flagged across multiple Artificial Intelligence (AI) models. The study highlighted concerns about AI and social media creating echo chambers and making it easier for youth to access extreme, biased or unverified views and generalisations.

Extract 2

Nordic countries like Sweden and Finland adopt a government-financed approach to meet citizens' needs. In such a model, social services are provided to citizens regardless of background or socio-economic status.

Extract 3

Singapore adopts a shared responsibility approach when responding to socio-economic issues. Individuals, families, community groups and the government work together to address diverse socio-economic challenges and meet the needs of society.

6 Extract 1 shows that the online space may reinforce stereotypes, encourage close-mindedness and undermine harmony.

How can Singapore encourage its youth to be more open-minded about differences? Explain your answer with reference to **two** ways. [7]

7 Extracts 2 and 3 show two approaches adopted by countries to support those of diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Do you think that the government-financed approach or the shared responsibility approach is more useful in helping citizens manage their socio-economic needs? Explain your answer. [8]

End of Paper

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Copyright Acknowledgements

Source A	https://www.cartoonmovement.com/cartoon/modern-times-repost
Source B	https://www.reddit.com/r/SingaporeRaw/comments/1k4wo0v/upskilling_in_my_late_30s_hundreds_of/
Source C	https://www.pmo.gov.sg/Newsroom/PM-Lawrence-Wong-at-the-SkillsFuture-10th-Anniversary
Source D	https://www.thenationalnews.com/business/aviation/2025/05/19/uaes-travel-and-tourism-sector-to-add-more-than-26000-jobs-this-year/
Source E	https://www.cnbc.com/2024/06/04/genz-uses-tiktok-for-career-advice-dream-jobs.html
Source F	https://www.scmp.com/yp/discover/news/asia/article/3238640/their-jobless-parents-are-abandoned-society-young-people-china-air-grievances-seek-help-social-media
Extract 1	https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/landmark-singapore-study-flags-racial-cultural-gender-biases-in-ai-models

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Suggested Marking Scheme

1 Study Source A.
What is the message of the cartoonist? [5]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	**Answers based on descriptions** e.g. The message of the cartoonist was that Santa was having a difficult time.	1
2	**Misinterpretations / Surface-level interpretations/ Partial interpretations** *Cap at 2m for MI* *Surface-level interpretations (i.e. detecting negative impact of globalisation, but not the critique on MNCs/technology) will be awarded 3m with evidence.* e.g. The message of the cartoonist was that big companies like Amazon provide employment for individuals. [Cap at 2m if student misinterprets cartoon as positive depiction] e.g. The message of the cartoonist is that globalisation leads to negative effects for individuals [2m]. This is seen in the caption 'Hard times for Santa', and the forlorn image of Santa, implying that the presence of large companies is harmful. [3m]	2-3
3	**Interpretations with concrete impact of MNCs on individuals** *Higher mark for strong explanation of supporting evidence and detecting of critical tone* ***Central idea*** – students should detect that traditional jobs or workers are threatened or become less relevant/secure due to technology / large companies / new services by MNCs. (Disruptive economy/technology) e.g. The message of the cartoonist was that MNCs are displacing traditional jobs of individuals. This is seen in how the cartoonist depicts the Amazon's CEO sinisterly with odd-shaped ears, asking a sad-looking Santa what job he is seeking. Santa's reply of 'delivery man' together with the caption 'hard times' implies that Santa's traditional role of making and delivering gifts to children have been displaced or less important with e-commerce and he is **now at the mercy of the decisions of Amazon.** The well-loved and popular Santa is now looking for a job, implying that **MNCs like Amazon are a disruptive force that prompts individuals to adapt.** The cartoonist is thus criticising the dominance of MNCs. [5m] **Other possible messages** e.g. The message of the cartoon is that technology / e-commerce disrupts traditional jobs / displaces workers. This is seen in how the cartoon shows Amazon – an e-commerce company – interviewing a forlorn Santa. This suggests that companies like Amazon may end up displacing workers (represented by Santa) for reasons such as outsourcing of jobs or use of disruptive technology. This **threatens the job security of workers** who may fall on 'hard times'.	4-5

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2 Study Source B.
How far would the Singaporean jobseeker agree with the Prime Minister about skills upgrading? [7]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	**Comparisons based on provenance** e.g. The jobseeker would agree with the Prime Minister as both are giving their viewpoints just one month apart.	1
2	**Comparisons without evidence** *Award 2m for one-sided; 3m for both agree and disagree* e.g. The two would agree on the importance of picking up technology-related skill sets. e.g. The two would agree about the need for employers to support skills upgrading. e.g. The two would disagree about the effectiveness of skills upgrading. OR **Comparisons that are not about skills upgrading** e.g. The two would agree about the challenges of the global economy, as seen from how the Redditor was worried about foreign competition, while PM Wong spoke of the need to adapt to rapid changes in jobs.	2-3
3	**Agree / Disagree based on content, with support from source** *Award the higher mark for strong comparisons* e.g. The two would agree about the need for employers to support skills upgrading. The Singaporean jobseeker shared that "the Singapore government keeps pushing courses, but what we really need is for employers to give mature workers a fair chance", which implies that **skills upgrading can only achieve its desired effect if employers are understanding and willing to let mature workers take on new roles.** Similarly, the Prime Minister highlighted the **need for employers to play their part if SkillsFuture were to truly have its intended effect**, as seen from "I know employers may worry about investing in their workers, but we need your support to achieve business transformation and productivity". This suggests that **employers, even if they are skeptical or concerned about skills upgrading, need to give it a real shot for Singapore's economy to continue adapting and staying relevant**. e.g. The two would disagree about the effectiveness of skills upgrading, with the jobseeker seeing it as **ineffective**, but the PM seeing it as **effective**. From Source B, the jobseeker states that employers are paying "lip service" and despite spending "years taking up different certifications", she is not employable and only faces "rejection or absolute silence". This suggests how **futile** the speaker believes skills upgrading really is. On the other hand, the PM highlighted **success stories** of "better jobs with higher pay, adapting to changing job roles", with the example of Ms Kalai Selvi's switch across sectors, and how there are courses which bring "maximum benefits in this global and digital era". This points to **his faith in SkillsFuture and skills upgrading being an effective tool to help individuals cope with disruptions in the global economy**.	4-5
4	**Agree AND Disagree based on content, with support from source**	6
5	**Disagree based on understanding of overall perspective / holistic interpretations of source**	6-7

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	To achieve 7m, students need to understand the overall positive perspective of the PM in context of it being the 10th anniversary of SkillsFuture/in context of having spent more on SkillsFuture, vs the overall negative perspective of the job seeker, in context of her being a mature worker who understandably faces more challenges in coping. Students who only mention purpose/tone without connecting to broader position/perspective of the writers awarded 6m) e.g. The Singaporean jobseeker would fundamentally disagree with the Prime Minister on the role of skills upgrading in the global economy, with the jobseeker having a negative outlook while the Prime Minister will have a positive outlook. In Source B, the jobseeker, as someone who is considered a mid-career or mature worker would naturally face various obstacles in the competitive job market. As someone unsuccessful for the last 8 months, it is natural that she would view SkillsFuture and skills upgrading with disillusionment, no longer seeing it as "open[ing] new doors" now that she has "hit...late 30s or 40s" and is up against "foreign or younger applicants". **She is heavily critical about its effectiveness**. On the other hand, the PM would naturally view SkillsFuture and skills upgrading in positive light given that it is a policy that his government is pushing heavily and investing heavily in, especially with the recent expansion to give "$4000 credits for those aged 40 and above" and even a monthly allowance. With it being 10 years since SkillsFuture was launched, **he would need to show its effectiveness**, citing statistics like "one-fifth" participation and "better jobs with higher pay", in order to **rally the different stakeholders to give the government support in the policy**. Hence, he speaks of **skills upgrading as essential to Singapore's competitiveness** to engender faith and trust in the policy.	

3 Study Source D.
Does this source prove that the global economy improves individuals' job prospects? [6]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	**Prove / Does not prove, based on undeveloped provenance** Source D proves that the global economy improves individuals' job prospects as it is by the WTTC chief who would know about the impact of tourism.	1
2	**Prove / Does not prove, based on content or content limitations** *Higher mark with supporting evidence from source content* **Does Not Prove** E.g. Source D does not prove that the global economy improves individuals' job prospects due to limitations in its content. While it shows that tourism creates more jobs, with one million new jobs in 2035 in UAE, it does not show if these jobs are sustainable, long-term or good jobs with high wages, hence it doesn't fully prove that the global economy improves job prospects. It is also speculative since it is simply 'projected' and 'expected' numbers that have yet to be shown. **Prove** E.g. Source D proves that the global economy improves individuals' job prospects as it shows that it can generate more job opportunities via tourism, as seen from 'The United Arab Emirates' travel and tourism	2-3

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	sector is projected to...reach 925,000 jobs in 2025' and 'one million people in the UAE are expected to be working in tourism and travel'. This suggests that with new developments and infrastructure to drive tourism in UAE, more opportunities will open up for people in the country to earn further income.	
3	**Prove AND Does not prove, based on content – 4m** **OR L2 + Cross-reference to other sources or contextual knowledge – 5m** e.g. L2 + This is supported by CR to Source E, which also shows that the global economy makes it easier for individuals to get jobs. This is seen in "41% have made career-related decisions based on TikTok advice, 15% received a job offer via the app, and nearly 80% have used it to network". This implies that the global economy, in being more digitally connected and with prevalence of social media, enhances the opportunities for individuals who can now reach out across borders to network, build connections and eventually secure better job options in line with their aspirations. Hence, as Source D is supported by Source E, Source D is reliable and proves that individuals' job prospects are bettered. e.g. L2 + However, Source D is disputed by Source B, which shows that the global economy brings challenges to individuals' job prospects, seen from "The reality is, once you hit your late 30s or 40s, employers look at you differently. You're compared against foreign or younger applicants". This implies that the global economy makes job prospects challenging, since there is now heightened competition within the labour market and individuals. Hence, as Source D is disputed by Source B, Source D is less reliable and does not prove that individuals' job prospects are bettered. [Can CR to Source A or F too]	**4-5**
4	**L2 + Prove / Does not prove, based on critical analysis of provenance** **Prove** E.g. L2 + Moreover, as a statement by the President of the WTTC, the speaker would have a good understanding of the developments happening in Dubai and UAE as she is well-versed in knowledge about the sector, representing many businesses globally, giving her the **credibility when she shares the likely positive outcome in terms of job prospects**. This is seen in how she cites concrete examples on a range of different factors, whether it is government foresight such as the policies taken by the UAE government, or the role of new developments like Disneyland Abu Dhabi. She is thus **convincing** and **comprehensive** when discussing the growing attractiveness of Dubai as a place for visitors from all over the world. **Does not prove** E.g. L2 + However, as a statement by the President of the WTTC, the speaker is representing the interests of the private sector, speaking on behalf of companies involved in the sector. Naturally, she would have	**6**

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	a stake in emphasising the positive impacts of travel and tourism as it directly affects the opportunities given to the entire sector. She would want to encourage UAE and other governments to continually invest in the sector by highlighting UAE as a model that other countries can draw from. Hence, she may not be fully reliable in proving that the global economy helps with individuals' prospects. Moreover, more jobs alone does not translate into more job security or stability or high-paying jobs. Hence her account may be one-sided. **students should link the intentions of the President of the WTTC to the success of the sector (e.g. willingness of workers to work in the sector to contribute to the continued viability of the sector)* **draw links to job prospects*	

4 Study Sources E and F.
Having read Source E, are you surprised by Source F? [7]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	**Surprised/Not surprised based on uncritical use of provenance** E does make me surprised by F as they are articles by American and Asian newspaper but they say similar points.	1
2	**Surprised AND/OR Not Surprised based on content or commonsensical reasoning, without evidence** • *Analysis of only one source (E/F), or comparisons without the logic of surprise explained, will be capped at 2m* • *3m as long as student can identify a common criterion and relate the similarity/difference to logic of surprise.* • *3m if surprised and not surprised, without evidence* <u>Surprised</u> E.g. Having read E, I am surprised by F as the sources provide **conflicting views on <u>the impact of the global economy</u>, hence making F unexpected**. E implies that the global economy makes it easier for individuals to access new opportunities, but F implies that the global economy makes individuals more vulnerable to insecurity. E.g. Having read E, I am surprised by F as the sources provide as the **sources provide differing accounts on <u>the usefulness of social media</u>**. E implies social media is a helpful tool in today's global economy, but F implies that it is not a helpful tool in today's global economy. <u>Not Surprised</u> E.g. Having read E, I am not surprised by F as both the **sources provide similar views on youths' reliance on social media, hence making F expected**. E shows how social media empowers Gen Z, while F similarly shows how social media is the preferred platform for young people.	2-3
3	**Surprised AND/OR Not Surprised supported with evidence** *Award 4m for one side, 5m for both sides* <u>Surprised</u>	4-5

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	E.g. Having read E, I am surprised by F as the sources provide **conflicting views on the impact of the global economy, hence making F unexpected**. E implies that **global economy makes it easier for individuals to access new opportunities**, as seen from "Click on the hashtags #jobsearch, #careertok and you will find endless tips and tricks about work from worldwide, geared towards Gen Z and younger millennials" and "15% received a job offer via the app". This suggests that the digital and connected nature of the global economy works in favour of job-seekers. However, this makes F surprising since F implies that the **global economy makes individuals more vulnerable to insecurity**. This is seen in "Global demand for Chinese-made goods have slowed in recent years, directly impacting China's labour market. Even as youth face high unemployment rates, older workers have their own problems to confront." This implies that China being reliant on exports only made the workforce vulnerable, and that the situation in China for individuals is bleak across age groups. E.g. Having read E, I am surprised by F as the sources provide as the **sources provide differing accounts on the utility of social media**. E implies social media is a **helpful tool in today's global economy**, as seen from 'Click on the hashtags #jobsearch, #careertok and you will find endless tips and tricks about work from worldwide, geared towards Gen Z and younger millennials'. This implies that there is **easy access to resources from all over the world, and individuals are not confined to the help they can get from immediate sources anymore**. However, F implies that it is **not a helpful tool in today's global economy**. It is said that "Zuo has been posting to inquire about work opportunities for her father, but to little avail" and "unable to find another job matching his previous salary". Hence, it is evident that **social media does not help individuals gain significant advantage**. Not Surprised E.g. Having read E, I am not surprised by F as both the **sources provide similar views on youths' reliance on social media, hence making F expected**. E shows how **social media empowers Gen Z**, as seen from TikTok being "a popular destination for young jobseekers" and how companies advertise on the app to reach out to job seekers. This implies the **centrality of social media for youths** such that companies need to recruit via this platform. Likewise, F similarly shows how **social media is the preferred platform for young people**, from "place for some young people to find work for their parents" and "while there are websites for job searching, social media gives users a chance to ask each other directly for recommendations". This shows the **reliance of youth on social media as a means to connect, get advice or help** over other conventional means.	
4	**Surprised/Not Surprised via cross-reference to contextual knowledge or other sources.** *Accept any CR as long as there is common criterion established across all 3 sources.* E.g. Having read E, I am surprised by F as the sources provide **conflicting views on the impact of the global economy, hence making F unexpected**. E implies that **global economy makes it easier for individuals to access new opportunities**, as seen from	**6**

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	"Click on the hashtags #jobsearch, #careertok and you will find endless tips and tricks about work from worldwide, geared towards Gen Z and younger millennials" and "15% received a job offer via the app". This suggests that the digital and connected nature of the global economy works in favour of job-seekers. However, this makes F surprising since F implies that the **global economy makes individuals more vulnerable to insecurity**. This is seen in "Global demand for Chinese-made goods have slowed in recent years, directly impacting China's labour market. Even as youth face high unemployment rates, older workers have their own problems to confront." This implies that China being reliant on exports only made the workforce vulnerable, and that the situation in China for individuals is bleak across age groups. Moreover, **Source D also shows how the global economy creates new and vibrant opportunities, further supporting E and opposing F**. This is seen in "one million people in the UAE are expected to be working in tourism and travel", showing the positive impacts of the travel and tourism on individuals. **Hence, F is even more unexpected and surprising in its negative accounts.** E.g. Having read E, I am not surprised by F as both the **sources provide similar views on youths' reliance on social media, hence making F expected**. E shows how **social media empowers Gen Z**, as seen from TikTok being "a popular destination for young jobseekers" and how companies advertise on the app to reach out to job seekers. This implies the **centrality of social media for youths** such that companies need to recruit via this platform. Likewise, F similarly shows how **social media is the preferred platform for young people**, from "place for some young people to find work for their parents" and "while there are websites for job searching, social media gives users a chance to ask each other directly for recommendations". This shows the **reliance of youth on social media as a means to connect, get advice or help** over other conventional means. My contextual knowledge supports both sources. I know that youth are reliant on social media and use applications like Telegram and LinkedIn, and forum pages like Reddit to connect, seek advice, form communities, find recommendations or publicise their thoughts. **As my knowledge supports both Source E and F's views, E does not make me surprised by F.**	
5	**Not surprised based on critical interpretation of source content / context** **Award 6m for reference to F's context only (about age group of the workers OR level of development of Sichuan compared to bigger Chinese cities)** E.g. Having read Source E, I am not surprised by Source F's claim that social media doesn't give a significant edge to individuals because the view that is reflected in the source is from Zuo's father who is from a 'small town' in Sichuan which may have less opportunities such as fewer investments from MNCs compared to more established and bigger Chinese cities. Therefore even having read Source E, I would not be surprised by Source F's claim since it is expected due to its context which would influence its assessment of social media. **OR**	**6-7**

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	E.g. Having read Source E, I am not surprised by Source F's claim that social media doesn't give a significant edge to individuals because the example it cited in Source F is more of youths seeking employment for parents who are from the older age group, hence the lack of success for Zuo. Therefore, it is expected that they have a greater challenge in securing a job due to employers' preference for younger workers and not because of the ineffectiveness of social media. ***Award as long as students see that different outlook on global economy / on utility of social media is unsurprising in view of different context of sources, with Source E focusing on younger demographic and F focusing on older demographic.*** E.g. I am not surprised that the two sources share differing perspectives on the utility of social media, since it is fully expected as both sources have slightly different context. While Source E implies **social media is a helpful tool in today's global economy**, it focuses on Gen Z and younger millennials from the 18-34 age group. **This group would be savvier in the use of social media and can fulfil employers' needs** like 'video resumes' and 'standout clips'. On the other hand, although F implies that **social media doesn't give a significant edge to individuals**, the example it cited are more of youths seeking employment for **parents who are from the older age group**, hence the lack of success for Zuo. It also highlights Zuo's father being in **a 'small town' in Sichuan which may have less opportunities such as fewer investments from MNCs compared to more established and bigger Chinese cities**. Hence the two sources look at different contexts and it is not surprising for them to have differing assessments on social media / different assessments on the impacts of the global economy.	

5 'The global economy brings positive effects.' Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

Level	- Descriptor	Mark
1	**Writes about the statement, no valid source use**	1
2	**Yes OR No, supported by valid source use** Award up to 4m for answers that use sources to only take one side of the stand	2-4
3	**Yes AND No, supported by valid source use** Award 5m for 1Y1N, and additional mark for each valid source use, up to 8 marks *Note: candidates are not confined to discussing the impacts on individuals for Q5.* *students should not repeat their explanation for the sources *unbalanced perspectives: e.g. 3Y 1N (Capped at L3/6) **Yes (Source C, D, E)**	5-8

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E.g. I agree as Source C shows that the global economy has positive effects such as promoting better standard of living for individuals who can get good jobs. This is seen in 'They then secure better jobs with higher pay…" and how the government is upskilling the workforce in "AI competency or industry-specific skills". This will mean that individuals have good prospects and can command high pay and stay relevant in the global economy, **allowing them to have better lives for themselves and their families.** (Can also focus on country/businesses being more competitive)

E.g. I agree as Source D shows that the global economy has positive effects, **spurring more choices for all, and even fostering mutual understanding across the world**. This is seen in "from high-quality entertainment, artistic, culture and sport activities, to the upcoming Disneyland Abu Dhabi, little wonder that there are strong visitor numbers from diverse markets like India, Russia and the UK" and "bring cultural connectivity". This implies that the global economy promotes travel and in the process, **brings people from all over the world together to enjoy unique experiences**. A tourist has more options to enjoy and embrace, improving quality of life. It could also **foster stronger ties between diverse populations and promote harmony in society with travel exposing people to different cultures.** (Can also focus on country angle – economic growth, reputation etc, or business/individual angle)

E.g. I agree as Source E shows that the global economy leads to youths being more empowered through social media, as seen from "endless tips and tricks about work from worldwide" and "nearly 80% have used it to network" and "Dunlavy also shared that TikTok allowed her to find a mentor in the same industry". This implies that the global economy provides individuals with ways to **enrich themselves and to meet new people and grow in their skills, making themselves more employable or qualified.** (Can come from cultural / social angle too, e.g. growing their network, having common experience with youth from all over the world, more exposure and widening perspectives)

No (Source A, B, F)

E.g. I disagree as Source A shows that the global economy only leads to MNCs being overly dominant, with conventional roles like "delivery man" being transformed or brick and mortar stalls **facing competition** from e-commerce as seen from the many Amazon parcels within the room. It implies that **locals or individuals may need to find new ways to adapt, forcing them into greater insecurity or gig jobs based on MNC needs.**

E.g. I disagree as Source B shows that the global economy leads to **more insecurity for older workers** by bringing **competition**. This is seen in how the jobseeker is struggling with "rejection or absolute silence" despite her efforts to upskill and that employers constantly have option amongst "foreign or younger applicants". This shows that there is **heightened competition, which means that individuals are less secure than before and may thus experience stress and decreases in opportunities impacting quality of life.**

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	E.g. I disagree as Source F shows that the global economy **makes countries interdependent, which correspondingly makes them vulnerable**. "Global demand for Chinese-made goods have slowed in recent years, directly impacting China's labour market". This implies that with the global supply chain, things happening in other parts of the world can lead to Chinese exports to suffer, and therefore lead Chinese businesses to suffer, **bringing a domino effect on the citizens, which compromises stability for local economy.** (Can focus on individual impact as well)	
Bonus	**To score additional 2 marks, candidates can take any of these three routes:** • Through analysing at least one source in relation to its reliability, utility or sufficiency) • By sharing example(s) from their contextual knowledge. • By giving a balanced conclusion/resolution **Note: 1m can be awarded if the bonus attempt is weak.* **Reliability / Utility / Sufficiency** E.g. [redacted] is limited in usefulness – focusing on her individual experience only. Tone is bitter and angry. Speaker does not give further information, for instance what sectors he/she is applying to and what his/her former job was, making it hard to see if the struggles faced are unique to the circumstances or representative of those in the late 30s. • Can use Source C also and question reliability • Can use Source E and question sufficiency (lack of info about the survey cited) **Contextual Knowledge** E.g. Moreover, my contextual knowledge further supports [redacted] I know that UAE is becoming popular among tourists, for example due to activities such as hosting the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, which further highlights how the global economy brings new opportunities for countries. With a global sporting event like F1, tourist arrivals were heightened in UAE and led UAE to be diversify and become even more economically vibrant. **Balanced Conclusion** E.g. Overall, while the global economy brings both positive and negative effects, the negative effects can be mitigated with careful planning and government policies (resolution). For example, although there could be greater insecurity and competition as seen in Source B and [redacted], there could also be new opportunities as seen in [redacted]. This means that it is dependent on the government and individuals to take steps to combat the negatives such as investing in retraining and the government providing support mechanisms for businesses hit through difficult times and to leverage opportunities.	**+2**

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Section B: SRQ

6. Extract 1 shows that the online space may reinforce stereotypes, encourage close-mindedness and undermine harmony.

How can Singapore encourage its youth to be more open-minded about differences? Explain your answer with reference to **two** ways. [7]

Note to markers: Qn is broad, and students do not need to limit their responses to open-mindedness in socio-cultural aspects. They can discuss political or socio-economic contexts too.

Level	Descriptor	Marks
1	**Describes the topic without addressing the question**	**1**
2	**Identifies / describes ways** *Award 2m for identifying 1 way* *Award 3m for identifying 2 ways / Describing 1 way* *Award 4m for describing 2 ways* e.g. Singapore can encourage its youth to be more open-minded about differences through **updating the school curriculum**. Schools can **conduct programmes to educate students on how to be discerning users of AI and social media** [2m]. For example, through assembly sharings on the racial, cultural and gender biases that may be prevalent on AI chatbots, and getting students to discuss or challenge such perspectives. The programmes can also emphasise things like the need to fact-check and cross-reference perspectives, so that youths do not just blindly accept views of others. It can also teach them to follow a range of influencers and media outlets from different countries, political or cultural backgrounds, thereby exposing them to different views. [3m] e.g. Singapore can encourage its youth to be more open-minded about differences through **providing opportunities for common experiences amongst people of different backgrounds** [2m]. For example, community clubs and People's Association can plan activities like home stays, visits to different cultural institutions or volunteering. For example, they can tie up with social service agencies like the Society for the Physically Disabled or organisations like Racial and Religious Harmony Circles. [3m]	**2-4**
3	**Explains how the way(s) proposed contributes to greater open-mindedness** Award 5-6m for one explained way Award 6-7m for two explained ways e.g. Singapore can encourage its youth to be more open-minded about differences through **updating the school curriculum**. Schools can **conduct programmes to educate students on how to be discerning users of AI and social media**. For example, through assembly sharings on the racial, cultural and gender biases that may be prevalent on AI chatbots, and getting students to discuss or challenge such perspectives. The programmes can also emphasise things like the need to fact-check and cross-reference perspectives, so that youths do not just blindly accept views of others. It can also teach them to follow a range of influencers and media outlets from different countries, political or cultural backgrounds, thereby exposing them to different views.	**5-7**

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	[redacted] **ensuring that they remain open minded towards differences, rather than uncritically believing what they encounter online. (longer term impact/ wider impact)** e.g. Singapore can encourage its youth to be more open-minded about differences through **providing opportunities for common experiences amongst people of different backgrounds**. For example, community clubs and People's Association can plan activities like home stays, visits to different cultural institutions or volunteering. For example, they can tie up with social service agencies like the Society for the Physically Disabled or organisations like Racial and Religious Harmony Circles. [redacted] This will **promote mutual understanding and help youths to value differences, fostering greater cohesion. (longer term impact/ wider impact)**	

7. Extracts 2 and 3 show two approaches adopted by countries to support those of diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Do you think that the government-financed approach or the shared responsibility approach is more useful in **helping citizens manage their socio-economic needs**? [8]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
1	**Describes the topic without addressing the question**	1
2	**Describe the government-financed approach and/or the shared responsibility approach** *Award 2-3 marks for describing 1 factor* *Award 3-4 marks for describing 2 factors*	2-4
3	**Explains the government-financed approach and/or the shared responsibility approach with reference to its impact on helping citizens manage their needs** *Award 5-6 marks for explaining 1 factor* *Award 6-7 marks for explaining 2 factors* e.g. The government-financed approach is useful in helping citizens manage their socio-economic needs, as it ensures that social services are accessible to all. For example, in Sweden, the government provides social services to citizens, regardless of their background or socio-economic status. For instance, education is government-funded for all Swedes and every child receives a free school lunch, with free access to school doctors and psychologists. In terms of healthcare, there is a medical protection scheme for all families, as well as free dental care up to the age of 23. In terms of housing, families that have children receive additional support, while lower-income elderly will get housing supplements. [redacted]	5-7

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	their household income and their station in life and could translate into high standard of living and quality of life. **(Layering of the impacts - with clear understanding of the key characteristics of the approach)** e.g. The shared responsibility approach is useful in helping citizens manage their socio-economic needs, as it provides differentiated assistance based on needs. In this approach adopted by Singapore, many helping hands work together to address socio-economic challenges. The government provides assistance while individuals exercise responsibility and support themselves and their families. Government subsidies are typically differentiated, with lower-income families receiving more. For instance, for medical treatment, government subsidies can be as high as 80% for those who need more support. At the same time, individuals co-pay for medical treatments through Medisave savings or Medishield insurance. This is useful because while all citizens receive some assistance from the government, those that are most needy will receive the greatest support, better uplifting them.	
4	**L3 (for both paras) + Evaluation / Weighing of shared responsibility vs government-financed approach** Possible arguments • Shared responsibility > government-financed as the former may be more sustainable in long-run (**time**). This is because the government-financed approach requires high taxation, but it is not possible to raise taxes infinitely. On the other hand, with the shared responsibility approach, societies rely on wider pool of support, with individuals, community, family and government playing a role and hence keeping taxes lower for longer. • Shared responsibility > government-financed as the latter may encourage a crutch mentality / breed over-reliance on the government. Individuals may lose their ability to extract themselves from situations of hardship and poverty if they are not able to self-help. • Government-financed > shared responsibility in terms of wider impact/scope. As all citizens benefit in the government-financed approach, it can build high trust and free citizens from day-to-day worries and thus contribute to social stability and willingness to contribute to the economy. Thus, it breeds social and political stability. On the other hand, the shared responsibility approach may feel insufficient for some individuals, such as those who are middle income—this group may not qualify for as much government support as the needy, but they may not be as able to support themselves like	8

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	the people from higher SES. Hence it may appear to benefit fewer people. • Equally useful, depending on context. Both approaches has its benefits and limitations, and it is dependent on how governments manage the trade-offs and whether citizens are willing to accept the trade-offs. For example, in Sweden, although taxes are high, it is accepted culturally as a social good. On the other hand, in Singapore, raising taxes is sensitive since it may make Singapore less attractive a destination, a risk for a small city-state without much resources.	

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