

Montfort Secondary School

SBQ Notes (G3 2025)

Name: _____

Analysing Sources Framework: Thinking Moves

Details (What you See)

- 1) Who is the provenance?
Whose perspective does he represent?
- 2) Who are the possible target audience?



Thinking Moves

Thinking Move 1: Predict what the author is trying to suggest

Adopt the lens of the author.
Read the source from his perspective, not your perspective.

- 3) Read each source line by line. What are the big ideas? (SEE)



Thinking Move 2: Infer Message

Summarise the big ideas back to yourself. (SEE)

What is the source suggesting / implying / hinting at? (INFER)



Thinking Move 3: Develop further

- Reasons why?
- Potential outcomes?

Thinking Move 4: Infer Purpose

What is the context / background circumstances?

What could be the hidden agenda of the author?

What outcomes does he want to achieve?

What could he be influencing the target audience to do?

Skill 1: Making Inferences

Objective

- To infer what the source is suggesting / hinting at
- To interpret what source is really suggesting, you should take into consideration:
 - a) the Provenance: Origin of source
 - b) the Context: Background Circumstances surrounding the source when it was created

Possible question types

- What can you infer about _____?
- What can you tell about _____?
- What does this source tell you about _____?
- What is the author's attitude about _____?
- Does the author support _____?
- What is the message of the source?

Structure of Answers

Example 1

What does this source tell you about the GST increase (QI)?

Mirror Question and Infer	The source tells me that the GST increase (Mirror QI) _____ (Infer what source is suggesting about the Question Issue) Note: When you mirror the question, you are making an intentional effort to answer the question focus / question issue.
Explain inference with reasons why	because _____ (Develop inference further with reasons why / outcomes).
Content Evidence	This can be supported from the source which shows "....".
Additional Inferences (If any)	Thus, the source is further suggesting that the GST increase _____ (Additional inference) because _____ (Develop inference further).

Note: When you give additional inferences, you should mirror the question again. In this way, you are making an intentional effort to answer the question focus / question issue.

Example 2

What is the author's attitude towards the GST increase?

Mirror Question and Infer	The author's attitude towards the GST increase is _____ (Infer author's attitude) Examples: - Critical / Not supportive / against - Supportive - Uncaring / unbothered Note: When you mirror the question, you are making an intentional effort to answer the question focus / question issue.
Explain inference with reasons why	because he is suggesting that _____ (Develop inference further with reasons why).
Content Evidence	This can be supported from the source which shows "....".
Additional Inferences (If any)	Thus, the author's attitude towards the GST increase is _____ (Infer author's attitude) because he is suggesting that _____ (Develop inference further with reasons why). Note: When you give additional inferences, you should state author's attitude again. In this way, you are making an intentional effort to answer the question focus / question issue.

Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Answers question issue / question focus directly.
- ☐ Inferences do not copy / paraphrase source.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting (about the question issue)
- ☐ Inferences are well-developed with reasons why explained
- ☐ Inference / Message answers the question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Additional inferences answer the question issue.

Skill 2: Purpose

Objective

- To infer
 - a) why the author created the source
 - b) what he wants to achieve by creating the source.
- You should take into consideration:
 - a) the Provenance: Origin of source
 - b) the Context: Background Circumstances surrounding the source when it was created
 - c) the key message source is implying

Possible question types

- Why did the author create / publish this source?
- What is the author's intention by creating this source?

Structure of Answers

Example

Why did the cartoonist publish this cartoon?

Mirror Question	The cartoonist published this cartoon to
Purpose word / Intention	criticise / praise / convince / persuade / defend / reassure
Inference / Message	that _____ (What is the author trying to suggest?) because _____. (Develop inference further with reasons why and outcomes)** He is further suggesting that _____. (Additional inferences if any)
Audience	He wants _____ (Target Audience)
Outcome	to _____ (Outcome - What does the source want the audience to do?)
Content Evidence	This can be supported from the source which says "....".

Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Answers question focus directly.
- ☐ States clear Purpose Word / Intention of author.
- ☐ Inferences do not copy / paraphrase source.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting (about the question issue if any)
- ☐ Inferences are well-developed with reasons why explained
- ☐ Inference / Message answers the question issue if any.
- ☐ Target Audience identified correctly (takes into consideration Provenance and Context).
- ☐ Outcome identified correctly (takes into consideration Provenance and Context).
- ☐ Outcome is a clear action performed by the Target Audience.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.

Skill 3: Making Comparisons

Objective

- To identify what is similar and different in the 2 sources
- Clearly explain how they are similar / different to each other.
- You can compare in terms of Content, Tone, Intention, Purpose etc.

Low level responses	Compares details in Provenance such as author, date, type of source etc
Mid level responses	Finds 2 comparisons in Content - 1S and 1D - 2S - 2D } Depends on Question Type
High level responses	Compares Purpose, Intention, Tone etc

Possible question types

1S 1D	2S OR 2D
• How similar / different are the sources? • To what extent are the sources similar / different? • How far are the sources similar / different? • To what extent do the source agree / disagree with each other?	• How are they similar / different? • In what ways are they similar / different?

Structure of Answers

Example

How similar are Sources A and B?

Para 1 and 2: Compare Content (Compulsory)

Mirror Question / State clear stand Comparison topic (CT): State clearly what argument the 2 sources agree / disagree on.	Sources A and B are similar / different as they agree / disagree on _____ (CT). **CT must answer Question issue if there is any
Explain how the sources agree / disagree in CT. Show a clear similarity / contrast in their arguments.	Source A says that _____ (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more), thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). Similarly / However, Source B says that _____ (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more), thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). **Make sure CTs show a clear similarity / contrast in arguments.

Para 1 and 2: Comparing Content - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand about whether the sources are similar or different.
- ☐ Identifies a clear Comparison Topic (CT) the 2 sources agree / disagree on.
- ☐ Valid Match: Shows a clear similarity/ difference in arguments. (This is possible if you related back to CT when explaining each source)
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.

Para 3: Compare Purpose (If sources present the opportunity to do so)

Note: Focus on the key message of the source to help you in identifying the purpose of the author.

State clear stand	Sources A and B are similar / different in purpose.
Explain how the 2 sources are S/D in purpose - <u>PAO</u>	Source A wants the _____(Audience) to _____(Outcome / do what?). Similarly / In contrast, Source B wants the _____(Audience) to _____(Outcome / do what?). Make sure outcomes show a clear similarity / contrast.
<u>Content Evidence</u>	This can be supported from Source A which says "...” and Source B which says "...”. No need to copy evidence if you did Para 1 and 2.

Para 3: Comparing Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question: Clear stand about whether the sources agree or disagree with each other in purpose
- ☐ Explains the purpose of the 1st source with valid audience and outcome
- ☐ Explains the purpose of the 2nd source with valid audience and outcome
- ☐ Purpose shows a clear similarity / contrast in agenda and outcomes
- ☐ Supported with content evidence

Alternative Para 3: Compare Tone (If sources present the opportunity to do so)

State clear stand	Source A and B are similar / different in tone.
Explain how the 2 sources are S/D in Tone	Source A has an <u>accusatory tone</u> towards the government through its use of words such as "..." (Evidence) It is clearly <u>very critical</u> of the government by suggesting that ... Similarly / In contrast, Source B has a <u>defensive tone</u> towards the government through its use of words such as "..." (Evidence) It is clearly <u>supportive</u> of the government by suggesting that Make sure tone shows a clear similarity / contrast.

Para 3: Comparing Tone / Intention - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question: Clear stand about whether the sources agree or disagree with each other.
- ☐ Explains the Tone / Intention of the 1st source with clear support from source.
- ☐ Explains the Tone / Intention of the 2nd source with clear support from source.
- ☐ Tone shows a clear similarity / contrast
- ☐ Supported with content evidence

Skill 4: Reliability

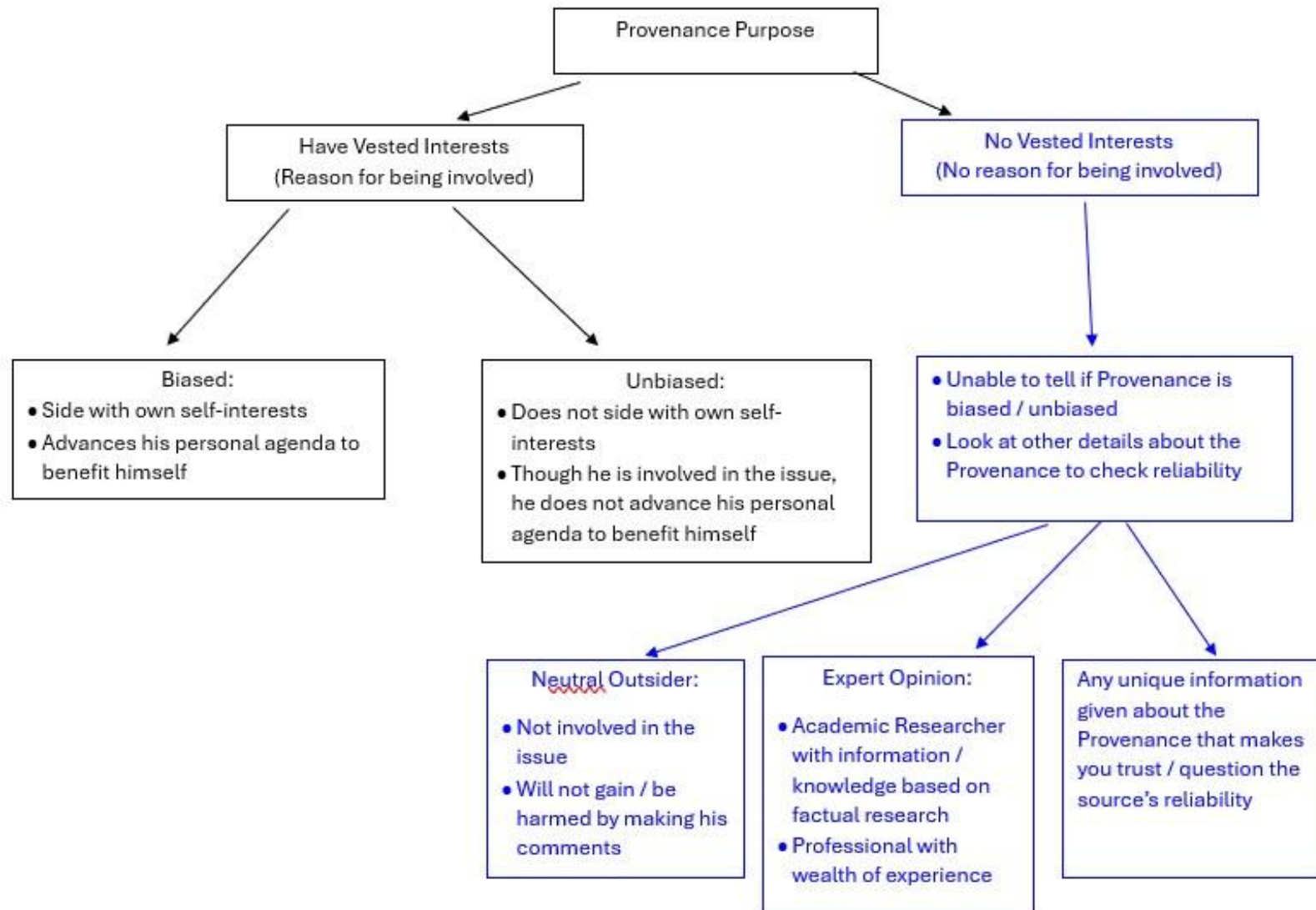
Objective

- To analyse whether a source can be trusted
- You should take into consideration:
 - a) the Provenance (Origin of source)
 - b) the Context (Background Circumstances surrounding the source when it was created).
- Consider the following:

Low level responses	Blindly accepts / trusts <u>content</u> of source
Mid level responses	Checks reliability of source by <u>cross-referencing</u> / verifying with another source. • Are there other sources that support / contradict what this source is suggesting?
High level responses	Checks reliability by analysing <u>vested interests</u> of author • Does the author have any vested interests in the issue? ie. Does he have a reason for being involved in the issue? • If he has vested interests in the issue, is the author being biased / unbiased in his comments? Will he stand to benefit / gain from making these comments? • Are there any other distinguishing factors that make you trust / distrust this source?

Possible question types:

- How reliable is this source _____?
- How far can you trust this source about _____?
- How far does this source prove that _____?
- Do you believe what this source says about _____?



Structure of Answers

Example

How far can you trust Source A in its comments about cost of housing in Singapore?

Para 1: Provenance Purpose (When source is biased / unbiased)

State stand	I can trust / cannot trust Source A
State reliability**	as Source A is reliable / unreliable.**
State Provenance / Author	It is by _____ (Author).
Infer main message of source.	The source is suggesting that _____ (Infer). **Inference must answer the Qn Issue.
Evidence.	This can be supported from the source which shows "....." (Quote evidence)
Explain why the author is unbiased / biased using 1) author's background 2) Author's vested interests 3) Author's purpose	Being _____, (Move 1: Explain author's background, who / what he is affiliated to) he will want to _____ (Move 2: Explain his vested interests, how he is involved in the issue, what would he likely do to protect his self-interests) By saying _____ (Explain message of source) , he is trying to advance his own self-interests, thus this is a biased source. OR By saying _____ (Explain message of source) , he did not try to advance his own self-interests, thus this is an unbiased source. His purpose could be to _____ (Purpose Word and Message) . He wants the _____ (Audience) to _____ (Outcome / do what) .

Possible Explanations for Move 2

- He will want to defend / cast a positive light on / garner support for
- He will want to discredit / cast a negative light on / reduce support for

Exemplar

I can trust Source A in its comments about cost of housing in Singapore as it is reliable. It is by Minister of National Development. He is suggesting that cost of housing in Singapore is too high because current government policies have not been effective in preventing property speculation. This has led to many Singaporeans struggling to afford housing. This can be seen from the source which shows “current policies have failed to prevent property speculation which has caused prices of resale flats to soar. We will do better”. Being the Minister in charge of housing policies,

(Move 1: Explain author’s background, who / what he is affiliated to)

he will want to cast his ministry in a positive light. He will want to paint a picture of the government being effective in meeting the needs of citizens to prevent any criticisms against the government.

(Move 2: Explain his vested interests, how he is involved in the issue, what would he likely do to protect his self-interests)

By saying that housing policies have not been meeting citizens’ needs **(Explain message of source)**, he is taking responsibility for his ministry’s failures and did not try to advance his own self-interests, thus this is an unbiased source.

His purpose could be to acknowledge responsibility for his ministry’s failures in cost of housing **(Purpose Word and Inference /Message)**. He wants the Singaporeans **(Audience)** to be patient and give his ministry more time to address the problems with cost of housing **(Outcome / do what)**. Thus, this is an unbiased source and can be trusted.

Para 1: Provenance Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ States reliability of source.
- ☐ States author.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting. Inference answers question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Explains reasons why author is biased / unbiased using
 - Move 1: Author’s background
 - Move 2: Author’s vested interests
 - Move 3: Author’s Purpose
- ☐ Purpose of author illustrates how source might be biased / unbiased.

Alternative Para 1: Provenance Purpose (When source is neutral outsider ie. No vested interests)

State stand	I can trust Source A
State reliability	as Source A is reliable
State Provenance / Author	It is by _____ (Author).
Infer main message of source.	The source is suggesting that _____ (Infer). **Inference must answer the Qn Issue.
Evidence.	This can be supported from the source which shows "....." (Quote evidence)
Explain why the author is neutral.	Being _____ (Author's background) , he is a neutral source and will not take sides with _____ (List all parties involved in the issue) . He is not involved in the issue and has no vested interests in the issue. He is merely giving an objective opinion about the issue.

Para 1: Provenance Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ States reliability of source.
- ☐ State author.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting. Inference answers question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Explain why author is neutral by listing all parties involved, thus proving that author is a third party not involved in the issue.

Alternative Para 1: Provenance Purpose (When source is an expert opinion)

State stand	I can trust Source A
State reliability	as Source A is reliable
State Provenance / Author	It is by _____ (Author).
Infer main message of source.	The source is suggesting that _____ (Infer).
Evidence.	**Inference must answer the Qn Issue. This can be supported from the source which shows “.....” (Quote evidence)
Explain why the author is an expert opinion.	Being _____ (Author’s background), he is giving his expert opinion on the _____ (Issue), based on his wealth of knowledge and years of experience as He has done extensive research in / His renowned reputation as ... / His wealth of experience in ... makes him a reliable source. He has no vested interests in the issue and is merely giving his expert opinion about the issue.

Para 1: Provenance Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ States reliability of source.
- ☐ State author.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting. Inference answers question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Explain why author is an expert opinion by relating to his professional knowledge / past experience/ reputation.

Para 2: Cross-referencing

State clear stand	I can trust / cannot trust Source A
State reliability	as Source A is reliable / unreliable.
Comparison topic (CT): State clearly what argument the 2 sources agree / disagree on.	as Source B agree / disagree on _____ (CT) **CT must answer Question issue
<u>Explain</u> how the sources agree / disagree in CT.	Source A says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT).
Show a clear similarity / contrast in their arguments.	Similarly/However, Source B says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). **Make sure CTs show a clear similarity / contrast in arguments.

Para 2: Cross-referencing - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ States reliability of source.
- ☐ Identifies a clear Comparison Topic (CT) the 2 sources agree / disagree on.
- ☐ CT answers the Question Issue.
- ☐ Valid Match: Shows a clear similarity/ difference in arguments. (This is possible if you related back to CT when explaining each source)
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.

Skill 5: Usefulness

Objective

- To analyse the **reasons why** a source is **useful and not useful** in helping you to understand an issue.
- Important Notes:

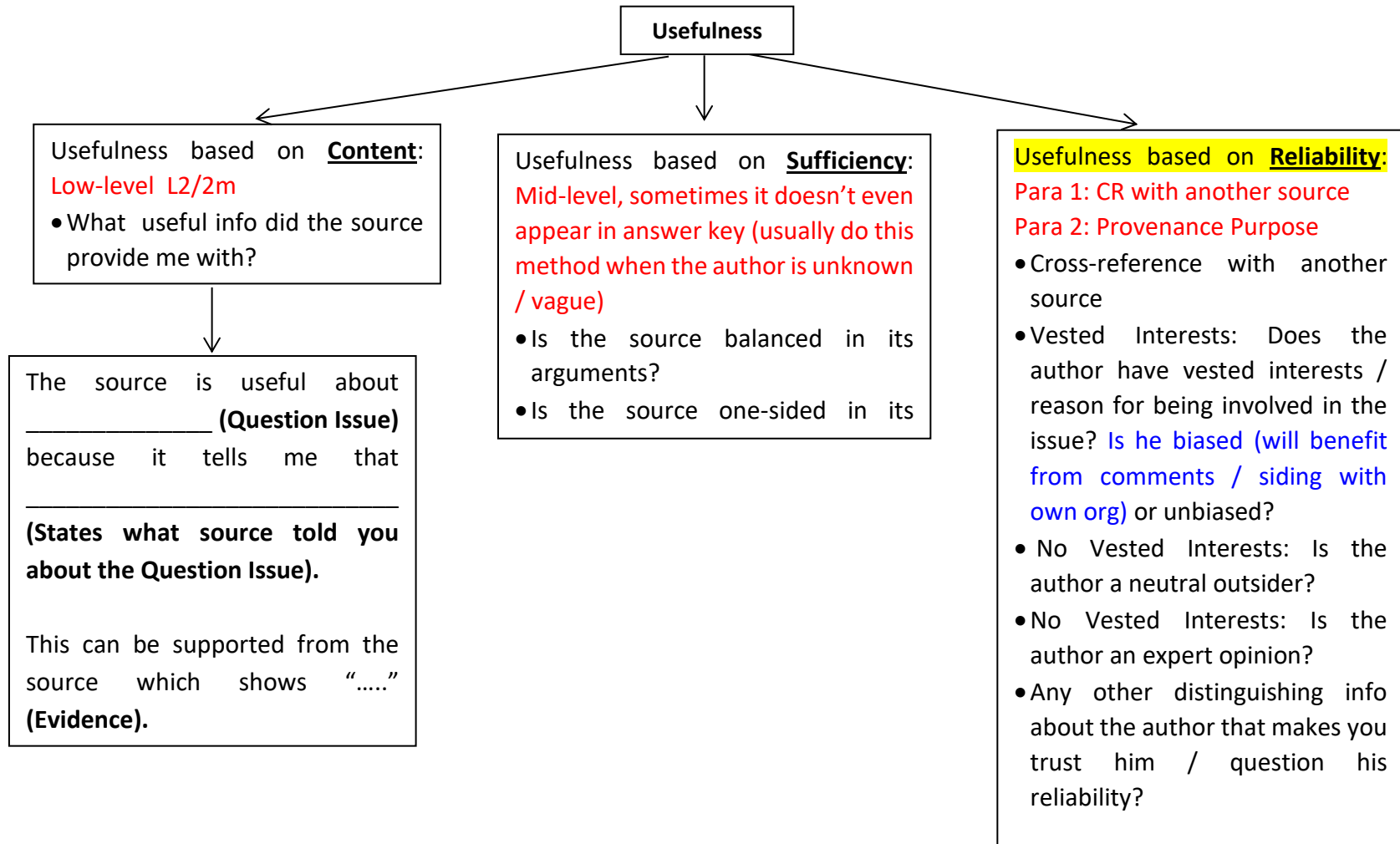
Content	A source is always useful for what it is telling you as it has helped you learn something about the issue. There is no source that is completely useless.
Sufficiency	A source is useful if it has provided me with sufficient information and multiple perspectives. It has provided comprehensive and balanced arguments to help me understand the issue. (Balanced source) However, a source is not useful if it is insufficient and one-sided in its opinions. It has not provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the issue. (One-sided)
Reliability	A source is useful when it is reliable and not useful when it is unreliable. You can analyse reliability of a source by: 1) Analysing Provenance and its Purpose (vested interests) 2) Cross-referencing with another source
This means that a source may be useful because it has provided some information to you. However, it is also not useful at the same time because it is an unreliable source.	

- Consider the following:

Low level responses L2/2m	Useful, because of what the source tells me (Content) Not useful, because it has failed to provide certain information (Content)
Mid level responses	Useful / Not useful, because of Sufficiency May not exist in the mark scheme all the time. Usually, we analyse sufficiency because the author is too vague and it is not possible to analyse provenance's reliability
High level responses	1) Useful, Not useful, Checks reliability by analysing vested interests of author - Does the author have any vested interests in the issue? Does he have a reason for being involved in the issue? - If he has vested interests in the issue, is the author being biased / unbiased in his comments? Will he stand to benefit / gain from making these comments? - Are there any other distinguishing factors that make this source reliable / unreliable? 2) Useful / Not useful, Checks reliability of source by cross-referencing / verifying with another source. - Are there other sources that support / contradict what this source is suggesting?

Possible question types:

- How **useful** is this source as evidence about _____?
- How far does this source **help you to understand** _____?



Structure of Answers

Example

How useful is Source A in its comments about cost of housing in Singapore?

Para 1: Provenance Purpose (When source is biased / unbiased) with VI Thinking Process (PP)

- What is the source suggesting about the QI?
- Does the author have VI? → Yes
- Is he biased ie benefit unfairly?

State stand	Source A is useful / not useful
State reliability**	as Source A is reliable / unreliable**.
State Provenance / Author	It is by _____ (Author).
Infer main message of source.	The source is suggesting that _____ (Infer). **Inference must answer the Qn Issue.
Evidence.	This can be supported from the source which shows “.....” (Quote evidence)
Explain why the author is unbiased / biased using 1)Author’s background (BG) 2)Author’s vested interests (VI) 3)Author’s purpose (PMAO)	Being _____, (Move 1: Explain author’s background, who / what he is affiliated to) he will want to _____ (Move 2: Explain his vested interests, how he is involved in the issue, what would he likely do to protect his self-interests) His purpose could be to _____ (Purpose Word and Message). He wants the _____ (Audience) to _____ (Outcome / do what). By saying _____ (Explain message of source), he is trying to advance his own self-interests, thus this is a biased source. OR

	By saying _____ (Explain message of source) , he did not try to advance his own self-interests, thus this is an unbiased source.
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Possible Explanations for Move 2

- He will want to defend / cast a positive light on / garner support for
- He will want to discredit / cast a negative light on / reduce support for

Exemplar

Source A is useful in its comments about cost of housing in Singapore as it is reliable. It is by Minister of National Development. He is suggesting that cost of housing in Singapore is too high because current government policies have not been effective in preventing property speculation. This has led to many Singaporeans struggling to afford housing. This can be seen from the source which shows “current policies have failed to prevent property speculation which has caused prices of resale flats to soar. We will do better”. Being the Minister in charge of housing policies,

(Move 1: Explain author’s background, who / what he is affiliated to)

he will want to cast his ministry in a positive light. He will want to paint a picture of the government being effective in meeting the needs of citizens to prevent any criticisms against the government.

(Move 2: Explain his vested interests, how he is involved in the issue, what would he likely do to protect his self-interests)

By saying that housing policies have not been meeting citizens’ needs **(Explain message of source)**, he is taking responsibility for his ministry’s failures and did not try to advance his own self-interests, thus this is an unbiased source.

His purpose could be to acknowledge responsibility for his ministry’s failures in cost of housing **(Purpose Word and Inference /Message)**. He wants the Singaporeans **(Audience)** to be patient and give his ministry more time to address the problems with cost of housing **(Outcome / do what)**. Thus, this is an unbiased source and can be trusted.

Para 1: Provenance Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ States reliability of source.
- ☐ States author.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting. Inference answers question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Explains reasons why author is biased / unbiased using
 - Move 1: Author’s background

- Move 2: Author's vested interests
 - Move 3: Author's Purpose
- ☐ Purpose of author illustrates how source might be biased / unbiased.

Alternative Para 1: Provenance Purpose (When source is **neutral outsider ie. No vested interests) **neutral → uninvolved 3rd party, outsider, No VI, will not benefit from comments → reliable and useful****

State stand	Source A is useful
State reliability**	as Source A is reliable / unreliable**.
State Provenance / Author	It is by _____ (Author).
Infer main message of source.	The source is suggesting that _____ (Infer).
Evidence.	**Inference must answer the Qn Issue. This can be supported from the source which shows "....." (Quote evidence)
Explain why the author is neutral.	Being _____ (Author's background), he is a neutral source and will not take sides with _____ (List all parties involved in the issue). He is not involved in the issue and has no vested interests in the issue. He is merely giving an objective opinion about the issue.

Para 1: Provenance Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated about usefulness.
- ☐ States reliability of source.
- ☐ State author.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting. Inference answers question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Explain why author is neutral by listing all parties involved, thus proving that author is a third party not involved in the issue.

Alternative Para 1: Provenance Purpose (When source is an expert opinion)**Wealth of knowledge → research and fact-checking****Wealth of relevant experience**

State stand	Source A is useful
State reliability**	as Source A is reliable / unreliable**.
State Provenance / Author	It is by _____ (Author).
Infer main message of source.	The source is suggesting that _____ (Infer). **Inference must answer the Qn Issue.
Evidence.	This can be supported from the source which shows "....." (Quote evidence)
Explain why the author is an expert opinion.	Being _____ (Author's background), he is giving his expert opinion on the _____ (Issue), based on his wealth of knowledge and years of experience as He has done extensive research in / His renowned reputation as ... / His wealth of experience in ... makes him a reliable source. He has no vested interests in the issue and is merely giving his expert opinion about the issue.

Para 1: Provenance Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated about usefulness.
- ☐ States reliability of source.
- ☐ State author.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting. Inference answers question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Explain why author is an expert opinion by relating to his professional knowledge / past experience/ reputation.

Para 2: Cross-referencing 7min**Thinking process:**

- What is base source suggesting about QI → Plan CT
- Find another source to CR with
- Plan CT b4 writing answer

State clear stand	Source A is useful / not useful
State reliability**	as Source A is reliable / unreliable**.
Comparison topic (CT): State clearly what argument the 2 sources agree / disagree on.	as Source B agree / disagree on _____ (CT) **CT must answer Question issue
Explain how the sources agree / disagree in CT.	Source A says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT).
Show a clear similarity / contrast in their arguments.	Similarly/However, Source B says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). 5 **Make sure CTs show a clear similarity / contrast in arguments.

Para 2: Cross-referencing - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ States reliability of source.
- ☐ Identifies a clear Comparison Topic (CT) the 2 sources agree / disagree on.
- ☐ CT answers the Question Issue.
- ☐ Valid Match: Shows a clear similarity/ difference in arguments. (This is possible if you related back to CT when explaining each source)
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.

Mid-Level Response: If you wish to assess Usefulness due to Sufficiency (not about reliability)

Only use this when the **author is vague**, thus **unable to analyse reliability** of author

Sufficiency (When source is sufficient / insufficient)

State stand	Source A is useful / not useful
State sufficiency	as Source A is sufficient / insufficient in its comments about _____ (Question Issue) .
State Provenance / Author	It is by _____ (Author) .
Explain why the source is balanced / one-sided	It is a balanced source as it talks about both sides of the issue. It talks about _____ (One argument about the issue / positive side of the issue) such as _____ (Copy evidence and Explain more). It also talks about _____ (Opposing side of the issue / negative side of the issue) such as _____ (Copy evidence and Explain more). OR It is a one-sided source. It only talks about _____ (One argument about the issue) such as _____ (Copy evidence and Explain more). It does not talk about _____ (Opposing side of the issue) such as _____ (use own knowledge or info from other sources) OR It is an insufficient source as it is merely his own personal opinion about _____ (Question Issue). He is simply giving his own beliefs and opinions but whatever he said might not be representative of the entire country. Thus, it is not useful in helping me understand all Singaporeans' views about _____ (Question Issue).

Sufficiency - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ States sufficiency of source.
- ☐ State author.
- ☐ Explain why author is balanced by stating both sides of the argument.
OR
- ☐ Explain why author is a one-sided by stating which argument he stated and which argument he left out.
- ☐ Evidence from source

Skill 6: Surprised

Objective:

- To analyse the reasons why you might find a source surprising (it said something unexpected) or unsurprising (It said something that was expected).
- You should take into consideration
 - a) the Provenance (Origin of source)
 - b) the Context (Background Circumstances surrounding the source when it was created).
- Consider the following:

Low level responses	Surprised / Not surprised, based on <u>content</u> of source
Mid level responses	Surprised / Not surprised, by <u>cross-referencing</u> / verifying with another source. • Are there other sources that support / contradict what this source is suggesting? Another source supports: Not surprised** Another source contradicts: Surprised**
High level responses	Surprised / Not surprised, by analysing <u>vested interests</u> of author • Does the author have any vested interests in the issue? Does he have a reason for being involved in the issue? • If he has vested interests in the issue, is the author saying something expected / unexpected of him Did the expected: Not surprised Did the unexpected: Surprised

Possible question types:

- Are you surprised by this source?
- How far does this source surprise you?

Not to be confused with hybrid surprised qns: Having read Source A, are you surprised by Source B?

Structure of Answers

Example

Are you surprised by the comments made in Source A about the environmental impact of the Cross Island Line?

Para 1: Provenance Purpose

State stand	I am surprised / not surprised by Source A
State Provenance / Author	It is by _____ (Author). No need to state reliability for surprised qns
Infer main message of source.	The source is suggesting that _____ (Infer). **Inference must answer the Qn Issue.
Evidence.	This can be supported from the source which shows "....." (Quote evidence)
Explain why the author is unbiased / biased using 1) author's background 2) Author's vested interests 3) Author's purpose	Being _____, (Move 1: Explain author's background, who / what he is affiliated to) how is he involved? he will want to _____ (Move 2: Explain his vested interests, how he is involved in the issue, what would he likely do to protect his self-interests) How will he benefit? By saying _____ (Explain message of source) , he is doing the expected, thus I am not surprised. OR By saying _____ (Explain message of source) , he is doing the unexpected, thus I am surprised. His purpose could be to _____ (Purpose Word and Message) . He wants the _____ (Audience) to _____ (Outcome / do what) .

Possible Explanations for Move 2

- He will want to defend / cast a positive light on / garner support for
- He will want to discredit / cast a negative light on / reduce support for

Exemplar

I am not surprised by Source A in its comments about the environmental impact of the Cross Island Line. It is by Nature Society. He is suggesting that the Cross Island Line will have a destructive impact on the environment as it will remove the natural habitat of wildlife and cause them to go extinct. This can be seen from the source which shows “the Cross Island Line will cut across the Bukit Timah Nature reserve which is home to more than 20,000 wildlife. This will have a devastating impact on the biodiversity of wildlife in Singapore”. Being an environmental group that is passionate and committed to protecting the natural environment in Singapore,

(Move 1: Explain author’s background, who / what he is affiliated to),

it will want to highlight the negative impact of Cross Island Line so as to protect the natural wildlife in Singapore.

(Move 2: Explain his vested interests, how he is involved in the issue, what would he likely do to protect his self-interests)

By talking about the negative impact caused by the Cross Island Line **(Explain message of source)**, he is doing the expected, thus I am not surprised.

His purpose could be to persuade that the Cross Island Line will cause irrevocable damage to the environment **(Purpose Word and Inference /Message)**. He wants the the government **(Audience)** to come up with alternative plans to build the Cross Island Line without harming the environment. **(Outcome / do what)**. Thus, I am not surprised.

Para 1: Provenance Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ States author.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting. Inference answers question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Explains reasons why author is doing the expected / unexpected using
 - Move 1: Author’s background
 - Move 2: Author’s vested interests
 - Move 3: Author’s Purpose
- ☐ Purpose of author illustrates how source is doing the expected / unexpected

Para 2: Cross-referencing

State clear stand Comparison topic (CT): State clearly what argument the 2 sources agree / disagree on.	I am not surprised / surprised by Source A as Source B agree / disagree on _____ (CT) **CT must answer Question issue
Explain how the sources agree / disagree in CT. Show a clear similarity / contrast in their arguments.	Source A says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). Similarly/However, Source B says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). **Make sure CTs show a clear similarity / contrast in arguments.

Para 2: Cross-referencing - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ Identifies a clear Comparison Topic (CT) the 2 sources agree / disagree on.
- ☐ CT answers the Question Issue.
- ☐ Valid Match: Shows a clear similarity/ difference in arguments. (This is possible if you related back to CT when explaining each source)
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.

Skill 7: Assertion

Objective:

- It is important to unpack and understand what the question is asking.
- Use the sources in the case study to **justify whether the sources agree or disagree with the question issue.**

Possible question types:

- How far do the sources in the case study show that increasing the CPF minimum sum is an effective strategy to help Singaporeans prepare for their retirement? Explain your answer. (N Level)
- “Increasing the CPF minimum sum is an effective strategy to help Singaporeans prepare for their retirement.”
Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. (O Level)

Para 1: Explain 1 source that agrees

Para 2: Explain 1 source that disagrees

Para 3: Explain 1 source that agrees

Para 4: Explain 1 source that disagrees

Para 5: Bonus Points (Only for O Levels)

Pick source you are most confident in scoring

(must use 1 of the sources from Para 1-4)

1) Method 1: Relate what 1 source says with Contextual Knowledge (Use a real-life example that can be verified)

2) Method 2: Assess usefulness / reliability of 1 source **(must use Provenance Purpose)**

3) Method 3: Assess sufficiency of 1 source **(balanced VS one-sided)**

4) Method 4: Balanced conclusion between 2 sources

****Pick 1 method for Bonus Points**

Para 1 – 4: Cannot repeat the same inferences (3-5min per para)

State stand	Source A agrees / disagrees with the statement.
Evidence	The source says that “....”. (Quote evidence) Use the evidence as a landing point to develop your inferences
Infer / Justify	It is suggesting that _____ (Mirror QI) because (para a bit to use source as a landing point → develop further) (Justify why with reasons and outcomes) **Inference must not copy / paraphrase ideas found in source. **Inference must extend beyond the ideas found in the source **Inference must answer Question Issue **Inference must not be the same as another source

Para 1 – 4 Success Criteria:

- ☐ Clear stand stated.
- ☐ Quotes content evidence.
- ☐ Inference answers question issue ie. Inference able to justify why source agrees / disagrees with Question Issue.
- ☐ Inference does not copy / paraphrase ideas found in source.

Bonus Points (Contextual Knowledge) Only for O Levels

Infer	Source A suggests that (State what source said)
Relate to real-life example	This is true because **Real-life example must be something markers can verify its accuracy.

Bonus Points (Reliability) Only for O Levels (provenance purpose method)

Explain reliability	Source A is reliable / unreliable because....
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Bonus Points (Sufficiency) Only for O Levels

Explain sufficiency	Source A is a balanced source as it talks about both sides of the issue. It talks about _____ (One argument about Question Issue) such as It also talks about the _____ (Opposing argument about Question Issue) such as OR Source A is a one-sided source. It only talks about _____ (One argument about Question Issue) such as It does not talk about _____ (Opposing argument about Question Issue) such as ...
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Bonus Points (Balanced Conclusion) Only for O Levels

State stand	Source A agrees with the statement because it suggests that ____ (Infer) . However, Source B disagrees with the statement because it suggests that ____ (Infer) .
Explain balanced conclusion: 1) Weigh how 1 argument is more valid than the other argument. 2) Help both arguments come to a resolution by offering solutions	Source ____ has a more valid argument because (Explain why) OR Both arguments are valid and reasonable. Perhaps we can address the concerns raised in both sources by (Provide resolution)

Para 1: Comparisons - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ Identifies a clear Comparison Topic (CT) the 2 sources agree / disagree on.
- ☐ CT answers the Question Issue.
- ☐ Valid Match: Shows a clear similarity/ difference in arguments. (This is possible if you related back to CT when explaining each source)
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.

Para 2: Provenance Purpose - Check reliability of base source****Decide what is the source's reliability before stating your stand**

- If A is reliable, _____
- If A is unreliable, _____

State stand	Source A proves / does not prove that comments made in Source B is wrong
State reliability***	as Source A is reliable / unreliable***.
State Provenance / Author	It is by _____ (Author).
Infer main message of source.	The source is suggesting that _____ (Infer).
Evidence.	**Inference must answer the Qn Issue. This can be supported from the source which shows "....." (Quote evidence)
Explain source is reliable / unreliable	Refer to notes on <u>Reliability:</u> Provenance Purpose (Vested Interests: Biased / Unbiased source) Provenance Purpose (Neutral source) Provenance Purpose (Expert Opinion)

Para 2: Provenance Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ State author.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting. Inference answers question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Explains reasons why author is biased / unbiased using
 - Move 1: Author's background
 - Move 2: Author's vested interests
 - Move 3: Author's Purpose
- ☐ Purpose of author illustrates how source might be biased / unbiased.

Alternative Para 2: Check reliability of base source by CR with another source****CT must be the same as Para 1**

State clear stand State reliability** Comparison topic (CT): State clearly what argument the 2 sources agree / disagree on.	Source A proves / does not prove that comments made in Source B is wrong as Source A is reliable / unreliable as _____ (Another Source) agree /disagree that _____ (CT). **CT must answer Question issue if any **CT must be the same as Para 1
<u>Explain</u> how the sources agree / disagree in CT. Show a clear similarity / contrast in their arguments.	Source A says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). Similarly/However, _____ (Another Source) says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). **Make sure CTs show a clear similarity / contrast in arguments.

Para 1: Comparisons - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated.
- ☐ Identifies a clear Comparison Topic (CT) the 2 sources agree / disagree on.
- ☐ CT answers the Question Issue.
- ☐ Valid Match: Shows a clear similarity/ difference in arguments. (This is possible if you related back to CT when explaining each source)
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.

Para 2: Cross-reference Base source with another source (Seek a 3rd opinion)**CT must be the same as Para 1**

State clear stand Comparison topic (CT): State clearly what argument the 2 sources agree / disagree on.	When I cross-reference Source B (Base source) with _____ (Another source), I am surprised / not surprised by Source B. as _____ (Another source) disagree / agree on _____ (CT) **CT must answer Question issue if any **CT must be the same as Para 1
Explain how the sources agree / disagree in CT. Show a clear similarity / contrast in their arguments.	Source B says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). Similarly/However, _____ (Another Source) says that _____, (Copy evidence + Explain a bit more) thus suggesting that _____ (Relate back to CT). **Make sure CTs show a clear similarity / contrast in arguments.

Para 2: Cross-referencing - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated on base source: Surprised or Not Surprised by Source B.
- ☐ Identifies a clear Comparison Topic (CT) the 2 sources agree / disagree on.
- ☐ CT answers the Question Issue.
- ☐ Valid Match: Shows a clear similarity/ difference in arguments. (This is possible if you related back to CT when explaining each source)
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.

Alternative Para 2: Analyse Provenance Purpose of both sources, thus forming a judgement on Base Source. **(not always possible to do this, only possible when the 2 authors have a r/s)**

State stand	Having read Source A, I am surprised / not surprised by Source B.
State Provenance / Author	Source A is by _____ (Author) and Source B is by _____ (Author) .
Infer main message of source.	Source A is suggesting that _____ (Infer) while Source B is suggesting that _____ (Infer) **Inference must answer the Qn Issue.
Evidence	This can be supported from the source which shows "....." (Quote evidence)
Analyse Provenance of both sources, hence forming a conclusion on Base Source	Possible Examples: Both Source A and B are from the same organization. One would expect them to support each other and say the same things about _____ (Question Issue) . This is because _____ (Explain using authors' background, vested interests and purpose) They did the unexpected by disagreeing with each other. Thus, Source A does not surprise about Source B. Both Source A and B are from the opposing organizations. One would expect them to criticise each other and disagree about _____ (Question Issue) . This is because _____ (Explain using authors' background, vested interests and purpose)

	They did the unexpected by agreeing with each other. Thus, Source A surprises me about Source B.
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Para 2: Provenance Purpose - Success Criteria:

- ☐ Mirrors question. Clear stand stated on base source: Surprised or Not Surprised by Source B.
- ☐ State author.
- ☐ Infers message author is suggesting. Inference answers question issue.
- ☐ Supported with content evidence.
- ☐ Explains relationship between provenance of both sources.
- ☐ Relationship justifies why you are not surprised by base source, with context explained.

SRQ Qn 6 – Recommendations

<u>Identifies</u> recommendation L2/2m: 1 factor L2/3m: 2 factors	One recommendation is to - Carry out an outdoor activity such as a walkathon - Carry out a games carnival with exhibition - Conduct school talks - Carry out a social awareness campaign using posters and social media
<u>Describes</u> how to carry out recommendation - Context (background information about the issue) - Describe 2-3 details about the recommendation - Examples - Key messages you want to convey L2/3m: 1 factor L2/4m: 2 factors	Currently, (Provide context). We can do this by (Provide 2-3 details on how to carry out the recommendation and what will be taught specifically). For example, (Provide some real-life details about your recommendation) We can spread important messages such as “....”.
<u>Explains</u> recommendation - Link back to Question Issue - Explain why the recommendation will be effective by stating outcomes. L3/5-6m: 1 factor L3/6-7m: 2 factors	Due to _____ (Recommendation), it will _____ (Question Issue) as it will lead to (Outcomes) **Outcomes provided must answer the Question Issue.

Success Criteria:

- ☐ Recommendation stated is feasible / easy to implement.
- ☐ Describes context / background situation.
- ☐ Describes how to carry out recommendation.
- ☐ Describes messages and specific content to be conveyed.
- ☐ Explains outcomes of recommendation.
- ☐ Outcomes explains why recommendation will be effective in addressing the Question Issue.

SRQ Qn 6 – Reasons:

<u>Identifies</u> reason: L2/2m: 1 factor L2/3m: 1 factors	One reason is
<u>Describes</u> reason: - Context (background information about the issue) - Describe 2-3 details about the <u>reason</u> - Real-life Examples: Must support the reason you are talking about L2/3m: 1 factor L2/4-5m: 1 factor	
<u>Explains</u> reason: - Link back to Question Issue - Explain why the reason caused the Question Issue: L3/5-6m: 1 factor L3/6-7m: 1 factors	Due to _____ (Reasons), it will lead to (Outcomes) Thus, it is the main reason that caused _____ (Question Issue) **Outcomes provided must answer the Question Issue.

Success Criteria:

- ☐ Reason stated is logical.
- ☐ Describes context / background situation.
- ☐ Describes details how the reason led to the question issue.
- ☐ **Gives an example supporting the reason.**
- ☐ Explains outcomes of reason.
- ☐ Outcomes explains why reason led to the question issue.

SRQ Qn 6 – Consequences

<u>Identifies</u> consequence L2/2m: 1 factor L2/3m: 2 factors	One consequence is
<u>Describes</u> consequence - Context (background information about the issue) - Describe 2-3 details about how question issue led to the <u>consequence</u> - Real-life Examples: Must support the reason you are talking about L2/3m: 1 factor L2/4m: 2 factors -	
<u>Explains</u> consequence - Link back to Question Issue L3/5-6m: 1 factor L3/6-7m: 2 factors	Due to _____ (Question Issue), it will lead to (Consequence) Thus, it led to _____ (Further outcomes) **Outcomes provided must answer the Question Issue.

Success Criteria:

- ☐ Consequence stated is logical.
- ☐ Describes context / background situation.
- ☐ Describes details about how question issue led to the consequence.
- ☐ **Gives example illustrating the consequence.**
- ☐ Explains further outcomes of the consequence

SRQ Qn 7**Possible Question Types:**

- Explain how good leadership and practicing meritocracy are important to the development of the country. (NA)
- Do you agree that good leadership is more important to the development of the country than practicing meritocracy? (O Levels)

Para 1-2: Describe and Explain each factor

Identifies factor: - Mirror question - State factor	Good leadership is important to the development of the country.
Describes factor: - Definitions - Elaborating descriptions - Example**	Good leadership refers to For example,
Explains factor: - Link back to Question Issue - Explains how the factor contributed to the Question Issue by stating outcomes	Due to <u>good leadership</u> (Factor) , it will lead to (Outcomes) OR Thus, <u>good leadership</u> (Factor) <u>is important to the development of Singapore</u> (Question Issue) because (Reasons and Outcomes) **Outcomes provided must answer the Question Issue.

Para 3: Weigh Both Factors (Only for O Levels)

State stand	Good leadership is more important than meritocracy.
Explain why 1) Justify why 1 factor is the root factor by explaining how the other factor is dependent on it. OR	Good leadership is the root factor as ... (Explain why meritocracy is dependent on good leadership to function). OR

2) Compare both factors using a comparison criteria.	Good leadership has a larger impact as it <u>affects more citizens</u> (Comparison Criteria). This is because (Explain why good leadership affects more citizens than meritocracy).
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Para 1 and 2 Success Criteria:

- ☐ Factor stated and Mirrors question.
- ☐ Describes factor by providing definitions.
- ☐ Describes factor by providing examples.
- ☐ Explains how factor contributed to the Question Issue by providing outcomes.
- ☐ Outcomes provided answers the Question Issue.

Para 3 Weighing Success Criteria: Comparison Criteria

- ☐ State stand using a comparison criteria
- ☐ Explain why 1 factor is more important than the other.
- ☐ Explain why the other factor is less important than the other.
- ☐ Weighing is logical in answering the question issue.

Para 3 Weighing Success Criteria: Root Factor

- ☐ State stand using root factor
- ☐ Explain why / how 1 factor is dependent on the other factor.
- ☐ Weighing is logical in answering the question issue.