

SOCIAL STUDIES Evaluation/Assertion Source-Based Skills

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What is the Evaluation/Assertion SBQ?

- It is Question 5 of Section A (SBCS) in your Social Studies paper.
 - This weighs 10 marks (which is 20% of your entire SS weightage!)
 - *History students will also see this in Question 1(e) of Section A (SBCS) in the History paper but as an 8-mark question. Do note that the requirements for SS Evaluation and History Evaluation are different, and the approaches you adopt for this question in both subjects also differ.*
 - Examples of an Evaluation SBQ in your SS paper would be as such:
5. “Singapore is heading in the right direction to achieve sporting success.” Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]
5. “Government support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore’s film industry.” Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

How do I approach an Evaluation question?

Step 1: Read the assertion and identify the question type. (see the following pages on the two main question types)

Step 2: Devise an approach based on the assertion. (see the following pages on how to unpack the assertion and plan your Agree vs Disagree arguments)

Step 3: Skim through all six sources and identify which sources agree and which sources disagree with the assertion BASED ON THEIR MAIN MESSAGES. (e.g. The main message of Source X supports the assertion, but there’s one particular quote from Source X that can challenge the assertion. In that case, it is recommended to use Source X to SUPPORT the assertion since that’s its main message.)

Step 4: Identify the 2 Agree sources and 2 Disagree sources STRATEGICALLY. (see the following pages on how to select your 2 Agree sources and 2 Disagree sources strategically)

Step 5: Write out your answer in full. (See the following pages on how to craft a good response)

Step 6: Attempt the +2m bonus route if time permits. (See the following pages on bonus routes)

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Step 1: Identify assertion type

We can broadly categorise assertions in the Evaluation question into 2 types.

1. **Judgement-type assertion:** Usually an adjective/trait that you have to argue for and against, and typically there are two extremes presented to you. Examples include Justified vs Unjustified, Success vs Failure, Effective vs Ineffective, Significant vs Insignificant etc.
2. **Factor-type assertion:** Usually a Given Factor is in the assertion that you have to argue for and against, and typically you would have to raise Other Factors to challenge the Given Factor. Typically phrased as “The most important/effective/impactful/helpful cause/strategy/impact/way/stakeholder in... is XXX.”

This categorisation for different types of assertions also applies for the 10-mark History essay questions in Section B of your History papers! You can use this method to categorise different types of statements in the essay questions.

Step 2: Unpack assertion and devise supporting and opposing arguments

When you are unpacking the assertion, take note of the following:

- **What's the Given View/Factor?**
 - For a Judgement-type assertion, identify the Given View e.g. successful/failed/effective/ineffective/important/not important.
 - For a Factor-type assertion, identify the Given Factor e.g. cause/impact/policy/strategy/stakeholder.
- **What's the Outcome?**
- **What are the arguments I have to argue for and against the assertion?**
 - For a Judgement-type assertion, bring in Given View and Opposing View.
 - For a Factor-type assertion, bring in Given Factor and Other Factor(s).

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Examples of how you can unpack the assertion

5. “Singapore is heading in the right direction to achieve sporting success.” Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

This is a Judgement-type assertion, where there are two clear and distinct views that can be argued for and against the assertion.

In this assertion, the Given View is that SG is “heading in the right direction” and the Outcome is “achieve sporting success”.

- If you agree with the assertion, your argument is that SG is “heading in the right direction” → SG can achieve sporting success through its current efforts
- If you disagree with the assertion, your argument is that SG is not “heading in the right direction” i.e. the wrong direction → SG’s current efforts cannot help SG to achieve sporting success

5. “Government support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore’s film industry.” Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

This is a Factor-type assertion, where there are more than two alternative views on the topic that can be argued for or against the assertion.

In this assertion, the Given Factor is “government support” and the Outcome is “success of Singapore’s film industry”.

- If you agree with the assertion, your argument is that “govt support is the best way” → govt support is the most effective in ensuring the success of SG’s film industry
- If you disagree with the assertion, your argument is that “govt support is not the best way” → factors aside from govt support are equally as effective as OR more effective than govt support in ensuring the success of SG’s film industry

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Step 3: Skim through all six sources and identify Agree/Disagree

Let's use this question as an example for the subsequent steps!

Taken from PASIR RIS CREST SECONDARY SCHOOL Social Studies Preliminary Examination 2024

“Government support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore’s film industry.” Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

Can Singapore’s film industry compete in a globalised world?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Once dubbed the Hollywood of Southeast Asia, Singapore’s filmmaking industry was a formidable presence in the region from the late 1940s to the early 1970s. However, interest in Singaporean films dwindled since then as audiences’ attention were diverted to foreign productions, notably those from Hollywood.

In the past decade, there has been a resurgence in Singaporean cinema. Leading this resurgence is a new breed of Singaporean film makers who have won accolades at renowned international film festivals such as the Cannes International Film Festival and the Academy Awards (Oscars).

These notable achievements were also a result of the efforts of The Singapore Film Commission (SFC), a division under the Info-communications Media Development Authority (IMDA), a statutory board under the Ministry of Communications and Information. The SFC and IMDA’s main role is to support and promote Singapore film through funding, training and public education.

Study the following sources to assess whether Singapore’s film industry can compete in a globalised world.

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Source A: From an online magazine from the Netherlands which covers topics like globalisation. The magazine featured the poster of Singaporean feature film, Ilo Ilo; the first local film to win an award at the international Cannes Film Festival. The film was also selected as the Singaporean entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 86th Academy Awards, 2013.
(disagree – international recognition)



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Source B: From a press release by the IMDA on Singapore films, 2024.

(agree)

We are ecstatic that Singapore's talents have continued with our strong showing last year to once again make their mark at the upcoming Cannes Film Festival. More films produced by Singapore talents have been given the opportunity to shine at the prestigious annual event this year. These include two feature films – Viet and Nam, which was co-produced by Singaporean producer Lai Weijie and Mongrel by Singaporean director Chiang Wei Liang. Both films have been purchased for global distribution by one of the biggest independent French movie distributors.

This demonstrates the confidence that the distributors have in the quality of the two films and reflects SFC's and IMDA's success in supporting our local media talents and productions on the global stage. To date, we have had over 30 projects by Singaporeans premiering at the Cannes Film Festival, which is remarkable for a small city-state like Singapore.

Source C: From an online post by a Singaporean published on an American forum website, 2022.

(agree/disagree)

It's honestly very disappointing because the local films can only be appreciated by Singaporeans and a few countries around Singapore. The reason Hollywood films are a success even in countries where the audiences are non-English speaking, is not only because they have money but because they have invested years and years on improving storytelling, script writing, filming, editing, acting, etc.

I believe one day Singapore can be a major film industry if we spend some time working on it. The government should provide sufficient funding and make collaborative deals with other A-list companies like Netflix to distribute films created by us to be viewed around the world. (govt responsibility) Local film makers should also learn from Hollywood so that the standard of local films will be upgraded. (role of the film producers themselves)

Someday, I hope that I will be telling my children that we should check out the latest local film instead of another Hollywood film.

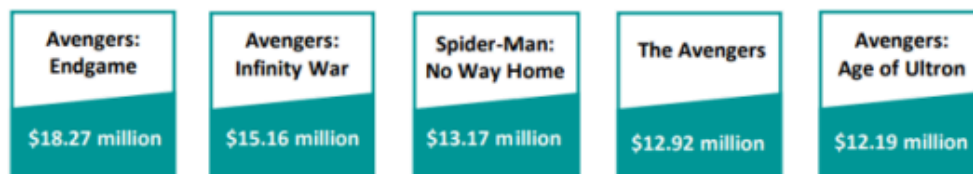
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Source D: From a report by the IMDA on Singapore cinema which highlights the performance of foreign and local films in terms of ticket sales, 2022.

(disagree – local audience support)

OVERVIEW OF SINGAPORE CINEMA 2022

Singapore's top 5 grossing movies of all time as at 2022 (S\$)



Top 10 grossing movies in Singapore (in millions S\$)*

Avatar: The Way Of Water	10.67
Marvel Studios' Doctor Strange In The Multiverse Of Madness	9.29
Top Gun: Maverick	7.96
Marvel Studios' Black Panther: Wakanda Forever	7.64
Marvel Studios' Thor: Love And Thunder	7.42
Jurassic World Dominion	6.72
Minions 2: The Rise Of Gru	4.71
The Batman	4.59
Black Adam	4.16
Fantastic Beast: The Secrets Of Dumbledore	3.07

List of Singapore movies & box office (S\$)*

Ah Girls Go Army (M) (Local)	2,100,464
Ah Girls Go Army Again (Local)	873,703
Reunion Dinner (M) (Local)	843,223
Ajoomma (Local)	671,219
Deleted (Local)	191,584
The Antique Shop (Local)	58,301
Some Women (Local)	11,601

* All figures provided nett off 7% GST as at 31 Dec 2022, and estimates based on major cinema exhibitors

Box office sales from local films are lower than international films by at least \$1 million.

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Source E: From an article published in a local newspaper, 2018.

(disagree – local audience support)

With the international success of Ilo Ilo, winning the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and the best feature film at the 50th Golden Horse Awards, followed by more global accolades for other local films, we can safely say Singapore filmmaking has come of age.

A recent independent survey shows that over 80 per cent of Singaporeans think it is important to support local films. Yet less than 30 per cent of Singaporeans have seen a Singapore film in the last year.

In a country where Hollywood titles dominate, our homemade films are shut out because they do not have the funds to compete for visibility. Ultimately, Singaporeans must want to watch a Singapore film. And this comes down to taking pride in the made-in-Singapore label.

Source F: From an interview with a Singaporean film researcher and editor of a local film journal published on the website of Singapore Global Network, a division under the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Economic Development Board which aims to promote and connect Singapore and Singaporeans to the global community, 2020.

(agree)

I feel a country as small as Singapore is really punching above its weight. The Singapore film scene is at an interesting stage of their development with great potential for global eminence. Singapore films have obtained global prominence with critically acclaimed productions such as Anthony Chen's Ilo Ilo.

There is also currently more active government support in funding for film production here.

This is something that is needed to nurture a new generation of filmmakers. A common misconception about local films that I feel is actively damaging our filmmaking scene would be that they are not good. This is not to say that all works from here are good by default, I just often see audiences not having the open mind and good faith to try such films. Supporting local filmmakers is easy; we just have to keep on watching their films and talking about them.

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As you identify Agree/Disagree, you can note down at the side of each source very quickly whether it agrees/disagrees with the assertion and annotate key evidence that shows this stance. Since this is a Factor-type assertion, for sources that disagree, quickly note down the Other Factor that the source shows. In the previous pages, you can see how I would annotate the question paper. In Orange words are my annotations.

Step 4: Strategically identify which sources you are using

Refer to the typical LORMS below for an Evaluation question.

L1: Writes about statement, no valid source use (1m)

L2: Explain agree OR disagree, supported.

- Award 2 marks for explaining from 1 source
- Award 3 marks for explaining from 2 sources
- Award 4 marks for explaining from 3 sources

L3: Explain agree AND disagree, supported.

- Award 5 marks for explaining from 2 sources (1-1)
- Award 6 marks for explaining from 3 sources (1-2)
- Award 7-8 marks for explaining from 4 or 5 sources (2-2 or 2-3)

To score additional 2m, candidates can take on 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

As can be seen, to maximise your L3 marks (i.e. 8 marks), you need 4-5 sources.

- 4 sources can earn you 8 marks if your PEEL analysis of each source is detailed, relevant and insightful enough.
- If your analysis is lacking in CERTAIN areas, 5 sources can still earn you 8 marks.

Moreover, you **MUST** show balance for L3 i.e. 2 agree + 2 disagree OR 2 agree + 3 disagree OR 3 agree + 2 disagree.

Zistory advises 2 agree + 2 disagree for two reasons:

1. It is sufficient to have 2 agree + 2 disagree sources in Evaluation.
2. You risk running out of time if you write more than 2 agree + 2 disagree.

Now that we know that we need 2 agree + 2 disagree, how do we know which four of the six sources to choose?



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In this Evaluation question,

- **Agree sources: B, C (mixed), F**
- **Disagree sources: A, C (mixed), D, E**

Exam hack time! Zistory usually chooses the two sources for Agree and two sources for Disagree based on the below criteria:

- 1. Best to choose TEXTUAL sources to prevent misreading/misinterpretation which is more likely for PICTORIAL sources.**
- 2. Best to choose sources you are confident to analyse the reliability of AND/OR to apply contextual knowledge to (for your +2m route!)**
- 3. If you are confident in your answer from a previous question, choose the source from a previous question so that you can just copy and paste the Evidence and Explanation parts over!**

Based on these criteria, I would avoid Sources A and D because they are pictorial.

Hence, I would choose Sources B, C, E, and F!

Since Source C is a mixed source, I can use it as an Agree source OR a Disagree source.

However, in this case, I MUST use Source C as a Disagree source in order to get the full 8 marks for L3. This is because I must adhere to the 2 Agree + 2 Disagree requirement.

So, for this question, I choose to use:

- **Agree: B and F**
- **Disagree: C and E**

Step 5: Write out your L3 answer

Each L3 body paragraph MUST have the following:

- **Point: Agree/Disagree + Source's Message**
- **Evidence: Quote from source**
- **Explanation: Explain the quote (NOT a word-for-word paraphrase) + Extend BEYOND the source and link to the bigger picture (what implications does this have on the overall issue?) → Make sure your explanation is TIGHT and LOGICAL. Close up any gaps in between the chain of outcomes.**

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As I write the answer, I will deliberately alternate between Agree and Disagree sources.

- Para 1: Agree because Source B...
- Para 2: Disagree because Source C...
- Para 3: Agree because Source F...
- Para 4: Disagree because Source E...

This is so that in case I run out of time after writing Para 2, I have achieved balance by writing 1 Agree + 1 Disagree and hence secured an L3/5m. If I have not achieved balance yet i.e. I only wrote 2 Agree/Disagree, I will score a maximum of L2/3m. THE SOCIAL STUDIES PAPER IS A STRATEGIC GAME TESTING YOUR TIME MANAGEMENT.

For this question, the answer below will earn the full 8 marks:

I agree with the statement as Source B suggests that government support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore's film industry. (Point) This is seen from the source which states "This demonstrates the confidence that the distributors have in the quality of the two films and reflects SFC's and IMDA's success in supporting our local media talents and productions on the global stage." (Evidence) This shows that government support is the best way as they have the resources to stretch local filmmakers to achieve their potential (EX 1), and by doing so, they can gain global recognition (EX 2), which helps to attract a global audience from other countries (EX 3). This thus spreads awareness of local media talents (EX 4), which hence builds up Singapore's reputation in the industry (EX 5), thereby ensuring its success (Link).

I disagree with the statement as Source C suggests that local film producers themselves can also play an equally important role in ensuring the success of Singapore's film industry. (Point) This is seen from the source which states that "Local film makers should also learn from Hollywood so that the standard of local films will be upgraded." (Evidence) This shows that local film producers have to also put in the effort to enhance their skills so that they can produce better-quality films (EX 1), which translates into a larger audience both locally and internationally (EX 2). In the local film scene, more Singaporeans will be attracted to local films should their quality rise (EX 3), which thus increases box office sales for local films (EX 4). This increases revenue for local film producers (EX 5), which gives them more capital to produce even more higher-quality films in the future (EX 6), and this cycle repeats itself in the long run to ensure the sustainable success of Singapore's film industry (EX 7). On the international stage, learning from Hollywood and other successful foreign film makers can tailor local Singapore films to suit the tastes and preferences of foreign consumers (EX 8), which then attracts foreigners in other countries to watch Singapore's films (EX 9), thereby not just raising revenue

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for local films (EX 10) but also increasing awareness of the Singapore film scene (EX 11), which hence improves Singapore's reputation in the industry (EX 12), ensuring its success (Link).

I agree with the statement as Source F suggests that government support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore's film industry. (Point) This is seen from the source which states "There is also currently more active government support in funding for film production here. This is something that is needed to nurture a new generation of filmmakers". (Evidence) Government support is the best way as the government has sufficient resources and funding to aid the industry compared to private stakeholders (EX 1), and thus, as a result, with the government funding, filmmakers can refine their work (EX 2) or even learn from others to improve on their films (EX 3), gain more support and traction around the world (EX 4), and thereby, earn more revenue (EX 5) which leads to their success (Link).

I disagree with the statement as Source E suggests that local audience support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore's film industry. (Point) This is seen from the source which states "Yet less than 30 per cent of Singaporeans have seen a Singapore film in the last year". (Evidence) Local audience support is the best way because they have the choice to pay more attention to local films and to show their support (EX 1), and by doing so, local films will have more audience (EX 2), awareness and positive reviews will rise (EX 3), box office sales will increase (EX 4), generating revenue (EX 5) and ensuring their success (Link).

Compare this against a lacklustre answer below:

I agree with the statement as Source B suggests that government support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore's film industry. (Point) This is seen from the source which states "This demonstrates the confidence that the distributors have in the quality of the two films and reflects SFC's and IMDA's success in supporting our local media talents and productions on the global stage." (Evidence) This shows that government support can stretch local film makers to their best potential and hence ensure their success. (Explanation – Lacking in clear links. Big jump from maximising potential to success!)

I disagree with the statement as Source C suggests that local film producers themselves can also play an equally important role in ensuring the success of Singapore's film industry. (Point) This is seen from the source which states that "Local film makers should also learn from Hollywood so that the standard of local films will be upgraded." (Evidence) This shows that local film makers themselves have to upgrade their skills so as to ensure their success. (Explanation – Lacking in clear links. Big jump from upskilling to success!)

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I agree with the statement as Source F suggests that government support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore's film industry. (Point) This is seen from the source which states "There is also currently more active government support in funding for film production here. This is something that is needed to nurture a new generation of filmmakers". (Evidence) Government support can help to enhance the quality of local filmmakers, thereby ensuring the success of the film industry. (Explanation – Lacking in clear links. Big jumps from govt support to quality of films and then to success!)

I disagree with the statement as Source E suggests that local audience support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore's film industry. (Point) This is seen from the source which states "Yet less than 30 per cent of Singaporeans have seen a Singapore film in the last year". (Evidence) Local audience support can support local film productions and hence ensure the success of the film industry. (Explanation – Lacking in clear links. Big jumps from local audience support to local film productions and then to success!)

The preferred method of explaining outcome by outcome as seen in the sample answer should also be seen in your Social Studies SRQ and History Essay responses.

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Step 6: Attempt a +2 bonus marks route

To score additional 2m, candidates can take on 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

We'll now be focusing on this component of the Evaluation question. You should attempt this component **IF AND ONLY IF** you have secured the L3/8m in Step 5 (i.e. **VERY SOLID 2 agree + 2 disagree**)

- **Through analysing at least one source in relation to its reliability, utility or sufficiency**

In the context of Evaluation, you

- Analyse reliability by looking at provenance and purpose.
- Analyse utility or sufficiency by looking at missing information / limited perspectives.

However, Source C is insufficient to conclude whether government is the best way to ensure the success of local movie industries. (Bonus Route) Source C is a singular opinion on the success of local films, which is not representative of other Singaporeans or individuals who might actually enjoy Singaporean films. Furthermore, Source C does not take into consideration the recognition and awards attained by local films, but states that Singaporean films are only appreciated by Singaporeans and neighbouring countries. However, in Sources A, B and F, local Singaporean films have gained recognition internationally. As such, Source C is insufficient and cannot be used to disagree with the assertion. (Elaboration) This compels me to agree with the statement to a larger extent. (Link)



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- **By sharing example(s) from their contextual knowledge**

Your contextual knowledge must be **DETAILED** (names, dates, figures etc.) and **RELEVANT** (directly address a source).

You should

1. Anchor CK to a source (My CK supports/challenges Source X)
2. Elaborate on CK
3. Link to YOUR Agree/Disagree stance

Moreover, Source C is supported by my contextual knowledge. (Bonus Route) Local filmmakers like Eric Khoo, often considered the “godfather of Singapore cinema,” paved the way for modern Singapore film through works such as *Mee Pok Man* (1995) and *12 Storeys* (1997), both of which gained international festival recognition despite limited government support at the time. Similarly, Royston Tan and Anthony Chen honed their craft by studying overseas and learning from global film standards, then applying those lessons back home. These directors’ individual effort, persistence, and willingness to learn from international best practices helped lift the quality of Singapore films, showing that local filmmakers themselves can play a decisive role in the industry’s success. (Elaboration) This compels me to disagree with the statement to a larger extent. (Link)

- **By giving a balanced conclusion / resolution**

Refer to the previous skills notes on evaluating/weighing factors.

In conclusion, I agree to a large extent that government support is the best way to ensure the success of Singapore’s film industry (Stand), as it provides funding, training, and international exposure that individual filmmakers or audiences cannot achieve on their own. However, non-government factors such as filmmakers’ efforts to improve their craft and audience willingness to support local films are also necessary to sustain growth over time. While government support may be the stronger factor in laying the foundation, long-term success ultimately depends on both government and non-government actors working together. (Elaboration)