

4E5N PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026
SOCIAL STUDIES [LORMS]

Section A Source-Based Case Study [35marks]

1. Study Source A.

What does it suggest about radicalisation today? Explain your answer.

[5]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Describes source, no clear message mentioned. e.g The cartoon shows a terrorist holding onto a handphone with words like “Spread Propaganda!” “Our Best Weapon”. e.g. Radicalisation is done by terrorist	1
L2	Valid interpretation of the source but not detecting the message i.e. not an adjective about the process / nature of radicalisation <i>Award the higher mark for more developed answer.</i> e.g. Source A suggests that technology or handphones are the main reason for radicalization. (L2/2) This can be seen from Source A which shows “Spread Propaganda!” “Our Best Weapon” suggesting that the technology is what is allowing for the spread of radicalisation. Possible L2: Radicalisation happens because of propaganda online / online recruitment / any of the sub messages shown in cartoon.	2-3
L3	Main message of the source (process / nature of radicalisation) <i>Award the higher mark for more developed answer to explain WHY the process/ nature is as such.</i> e.g. Source A suggests that it is easy/convenient/widespread for radicalisation to spread. (L3/4) due to the use of technology / handphones (L3/5). This can be seen from Source A which shows “Spread Propaganda!” “Our Best Weapon” suggesting that the technology is making it easy for radicalisation. Possible L3: Radicalisation occurs easily. Radicalisation is difficult / hard to stop/ difficult to detect.	4-5

2. Study Source B.

Why do you think this was published? Explain your answer.

[6]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
0	Answer not presented as reason	0
L1	Purpose based on provenance Because it is published by official US Homeland Security website and so they want to counter terrorism.	1
L2	Purpose based on context (anything about extremist groups using online propaganda and recruitment) Because at that time rise in radicalisation is largely driven by algorithmic online propaganda OR Because today, extremist groups are weaponising technology to recruit, radicalise and exploit young people, and they are infiltrating some unexpected arenas – gaming and Artificial Intelligence (AI) OR Because extremist groups use digital networks to target vulnerable individuals, drastically shortening the timeline between exposure and radical action. OR Al – Qaeda’s propagandist started running pro–Al Qaeda blogs and translated Al-Qaeda materials from his parents’ house in USA as early as 2004 but because he had not broken any U.S. laws, American authorities couldn’t arrest him or take down his websites.	2
L3	Purpose based on message of source Award 4m for answers supported. Because it wants to convince US government that censorship of the internet is crucial / more and more are spreading extremist ideas or radicalising online.	3 - 4
L4	Purpose based on intended outcome of source Because it wants to encourage US government to adjust their laws to arrest those who are spreading radicalisation and extremist ideas online.	4
L5	Purpose based L2+ L3 + L4 Award 5m if no L2. Because it wants to convince US government that censorship of the internet is crucial so that they will be more willing to adjust their laws to arrest those who are spreading radicalisation and extremist ideas	5 - 6

	online. Because at that time, extremist groups are weaponising technology to recruit, radicalise and exploit young people, like Al – Qaeda’s propagandist but because he had not broken any U.S. laws, American authorities couldn’t arrest him or take down his websites.	
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3. Study Source C.

How useful is Source C as evidence that technology drives radicalisation? Explain your answer.

[6]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Useful based on uncritical use of source provenance E.g. This was published by from a research article by S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, a prominent research institution that conducts studies in national security, counterterrorism and non-traditional security hence it will be useful.	1
L2	Useful based on use of Source content [Any use of source content]	2
L3	Useful / Not Useful based on cross reference Note: Answers will be capped at L2/2 if no reference to RELIABILITY not about technology driving radicalisation <i>Award the higher mark for more developed answer.</i> <u>Useful as reliable</u> e.g. Useful [ATQ] as reliable [LOR] as supported by Source A/B/D [LOR]. Both [CW] suggest that technology drives radicalisation. [CC] <u>Not useful as unreliable</u> Not useful [ATQ] as unreliable [LOR] as refuted by Source D/F[LOR]. C suggests that technology drives radicalisation. but [CW] F suggests that technology can only counter radicalisation. [CC]	3 – 4
L4	Both sides L3	5
L5	Useful based on holistic interpretation of source <i>Award the higher mark for a more developed answer.</i>	6 - 7

	C is useful as it is reliable since it is adapted from a research article by S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, a prominent research institution that conducts studies in national security, counterterrorism and non-traditional security,(WHO) which means they will have done in-depth research to be well informed and specialized in the area of terrorism (Exp) and hence, more reliable (Vocab) about the methods which terrorist groups are using to influence innocent young minds ISIS, created The Clanging of the Swords, a video game where players engage in simulated attacks against targets representing ISIS' enemies and also able to make sound workable solutions to counter terrorism (WHAT-threat) because since the terrorist tactic transforms terrorist activities into a shared group experience, fostering a sense of camaraderie and purpose among players who might be searching for a sense of belonging. Then the solution for those seeking to counter radicalisation can also use gaming as a powerful medium for promoting empathy, understanding and resilience, (WHAT-solution) so that governments can consult these and apply these solutions to counter terrorism more effectively (WHY), making their knowledge of terrorist tactics updated and relevant to serve counter radicalisation organisations and governments. (Exp)	
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4. Study Sources D and E.

D and E differ in their opinion on the ways to manage radicalisation. Does it mean one of them is less reliable? Explain your answer.

[7]

Level	Descriptor	MARKS
L1	Reliable/ less reliable based on uncritical use of provenance Yes it mean one of them is less reliable because one is from a research institute hence will be reliable, but E is less reliable because it is only by one person from RRG and the one person could have their personal opinion which tends to be less reliable.	1
L2	Reliable / Less reliable but use of only one source (D or E)	2

	Eg. Means one of them is less reliable because E is only by one person from RRG and the one person could have their personal opinion	
L3	One of them is more/ less reliable because they are talking about completely different ways of managing radicalisation (Use of both D & E) <i>Note: Focus for this level isn't on whether they are reliable or not, but simply that they are talking about completely different things. (Just comparing the difference in sources given)</i> Eg. One of them is less reliable because they differ in the ways of managing radicalisation. Source D suggests the way is through use of technology to counter radicalisation but Source E suggests that it is through family support/ awareness. (L3/3) + Evidence of D and E (L3/4)	3 - 4
L4	None of them are less reliable / Both are reliable through cross referencing of sources to other sources. OR L3 + One of them is less reliable/ reliable through cross referencing of sources to other sources. <i>Award 5m for CR of either (D or E) to other sources.</i> <i>Award higher mark for CR of both Sources D & E to other sources.</i> Eg. L3 + Source D is not less reliable / more reliable because it is supported by Source C. Both suggest that radicalisation can be managed through the use of technology. (L4/5) OR Eg. None of them are less reliable. Source D is reliable as it is supported by Source C. Both suggest that radicalisation can be managed through the use of technology. Source E is also reliable because it is supported by BI or Source B. Both suggest that radicalisation can be managed through parents/ family support. (L4/6)	5 - 6

L5	None are less reliable / Both are reliable based on <i>critical analysis of Sources D and E</i>	7
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5 “Technology is effective in countering terrorism.”

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

L1	Writes about statement, no valid source use e.g. A multi-approach is needed to combat scams such as implementing harsher laws and increasing awareness among Singaporeans on how to combat terrorism.	1
L2	Yes / No, supported by valid source use 1Y/1N = 2m 2Y/2N = 3 – 4m Sources that agree: B, C, D, F Sources that disagree: A, B, E ** Possible vocab for outcomes for “managing terrorism”: 1. stop the terrorist act/ threat 2. know how to react in times of terrorist threat 3. reduce / limit/ influence others to steer away from radical influences 4. remove radical influences <u>YES: Technology is effective in countering terrorism.</u> E.g. I agree (A) with this statement as Source C says “Similarly, those seeking to counter radicalisation can also use gaming as a powerful medium for promoting empathy, understanding and resilience. (B) As a result, when more people are empathetic and understanding, they are better able to relate to others, avoiding running into the problem of isolation and being misunderstood. This will breed happier and positive feelings, reduces number of people who are isolated and seek affirmation and connection online in communities that play up the idea of violence and radicalization to attack communities. (S) <u>NO: Technology is ineffective in countering terrorism</u> E.g. I disagree (A) with this statement, because technology is what spreads terrorism as Source A shows a cartoon where a terrorist is holding onto a handphone and saying that it is their best weapon, it coordinates attacks by texting, order weapons online, and recruits through social media	2 - 4

	and spreads propaganda.”(B) As a result, more terrorism influence and networks are expanded globally through technology, radicalizing many more people to think and want to join the terrorist groups, causing the influence to grow and therefore becoming even harder to combat. (S)	
L3	Yes and No, supported by valid source use $1Y+1N = 5m$ $2Y+1N/2N+1Y = 6m$ $2Y+2N = 7 - 8m$	5-8
	To score additional 2 marks, candidates can take any one of these 3 routes: Note: Must be tagged to Source through analysing at least one source in relation to its <u>reliability, utility or sufficiency (4Ws + Vocab)</u> Eg. Source C can be used to agree with the claim that technology is effective at countering terrorism because it is a reliable hence useful source. Source C is adapted from a research article by S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, a prominent research institution that conducts studies in national security, counterterrorism and non-traditional security,(WHO) which means they will have done in-depth research to be well informed and more reliable (Vocab) about the methods which terrorist groups are using to influence innocent young minds ISIS, created The Clanging of the Swords, a video game where players engage in simulated attacks against targets representing ISIS’ enemies and also able to make sound workable solutions to counter terrorism (WHAT-threat) because since the terrorist tactic transforms terrorist activities into a shared group experience, fostering a sense of camaraderie and purpose among players who might be searching for a sense of belonging. Then the solution for those seeking to counter radicalisation can also use gaming as a powerful medium for promoting empathy, understanding and resilience, (WHAT-solution) so that youths will be more united rather than isolated, and not resort to violence as a natural reaction. (WHY) by sharing example(s) from their contextual knowledge <u>Matching CK to what Source mentions</u> Eg. Source A can be used to disagree with the claim that technology is effective at countering terrorism because it is the one which is causing the spread of terrorism through self-radicalization. For example, in Singapore, there has been an increasing number of youths, as young as 15yo, have been detained under the ISA. Both cases highlight the growing trend of young people consuming extremist propaganda entirely online, suggesting that Source A is true and hence can be used to disagree with the claim	

	because technology seems to be the main driving force behind self-radicalisation more than countering terrorism. • by giving a balanced conclusion/resolution Eg. After looking at the sources, I think technology is as much a cause as it is a solution to counter terrorism because technology is itself a tool/ platform/ means but depends on the intention of the users of the technology whether it is effective or ineffective in countering terrorism. Just as Source A shows that terrorism can be actively spread through technology, Source C also shows that counter terrorism groups and governments can use technology to minimize the possibilities of spread of terrorism through promoting more games intended at building empathy, understanding and unity among youths around the world. Individuals and families can also be more cautious and aware of what they are accessing online and alert authorities or simply turn away from the website. Hence, it isn't whether technology is effective or not in countering terrorism but rather who is using technology to counter terrorism.	
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Section B SRQ [15 marks]

6. Extract 1 shows that nationally Singapore should develop a “We-First” society where Singapore’s collective well-being and cohesion is prioritised over individual self-interests.

In your opinion, why is it important to promote a “We-First” society in Singapore? Explain your answer using 2 reasons.

[7]

L1	Describes the topic [restating of extract/ question] i.e. Singapore should develop a We First society so that we can make sure collective well-being and cohesion is prioritised over individual self-interests.	1
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L2	Identifies/ Describes reason(s) Award 2 marks for identifying one reason and 3 marks for identifying two reasons. Award 3 marks for describing one reason and 4 marks for describing two reasons. Take note: Describing means to give context for that reason or how We-First can be demonstrated in Singapore. <i>Egs below are just examples and ideas of what students could raise</i> Eg. One reason is so that people will feel cared for / happy / more willing to contribute (L2/2) Eg. Another reason is so that people in Singapore will be inclusive / will get along (L2/2) Eg. One reason is because with greater worries such as job insecurity in Singapore today, and rising costs of living, people are no longer as concerned about the well-being of their neighbours or people living around them and has led to an increasingly distant and fragmented society. (L2/3 - context) Eg. Another reason is because as Singapore becomes an increasingly diverse society, with a growing population made up of increasing numbers of immigrants or new citizens, it becomes more important that Singapore stays united, in order to work towards a common and forge a better future together. (L2/3- context)	2-4
L3	L2 + Explains reason(s) Note: An explanation is the benefit that having We-First mentality brings up to the country Award 5-6 marks for explaining one reason. Award 6-7 marks for explaining two reasons. Eg. One reason is because with greater worries such as job insecurity in Singapore today, and rising costs of living, people are no longer as concerned about the well-being of their neighbours or people living around them and has led to an increasingly distant and fragmented society. With companies such as Gardenia shifting its bakery production from Singapore to Malaysia, it has led to retrenchment of workers. Meta also retrenched employees globally. With rising job insecurity due to AI, restructuring, cutting production costs, At the cost of living, such as food, utility bills have also increased. Families and individuals will understandably be more focused on their personal and individual needs rather than caring for others in society. (Detailed context)	5-7

	Hence it is important to build a We-First society where we are aware that we are not going through this alone, that as a nation, the government is aware of these issues and are trying to minimize its impacts such as through providing CDC vouchers to relieve our immediate stresses, so that when we are less stressed and worried, we can better able to seek common understanding with others around us, show more patience, build better relationships with each other and build a more united and harmonious society. Eg. Another reason is because when the collective interest in Singapore is met, people living in Singapore will be happier, find their needs and concerns are heard, they will trust the government and be more willing to work with each other, ensuring the continued stability and growth of Singapore. For example, during COVID-19, the government had to make the decision to insist on compulsory mask wearing, circuit-breaker and even social distancing. Even though this meant that it was uncomfortable for individuals to keep their masks on all the time, and was difficult to not meet family and friends in big gatherings as we traditionally do, but the collective well-being was achieved because it meant that the COVID virus could not spread as easily, and infect large numbers. (Example of We-First in action) This leads to increased health and safety of people in the country, leading to increase in quality of life among the people and creating greater satisfaction which leads to sustained stability and peace. Hence, it is important to promote a We-First society.	
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7. Extracts 2 and 3 talk about the different impacts of living in a diverse society. Do you think living in a diverse society has more pros or cons? EYA.

[8]

Level	Level Descriptor & Suggested Answers	Marks
L1	Writes about the topic	1 – 2
L2	Describes the pros and/or cons <i>Award 3 marks for describing one factor.</i> <i>Award 4 marks for describing two factors.</i> (Relevant Name + 2 details)	3 - 4
L3	Explains the pros and/or cons <i>Award 5 – 6 marks for explaining one factor.</i> <i>Award 6 – 7 marks for explaining two factors.</i>	5- 7

Note: An explanation is a sequence of outcomes showing how the example leads to positive / negative experience in a diverse society.

A pro of living in a diverse society is the exchange of skills and knowledge occurs when there is diversity in society. This is especially evident in research and development with overseas experts. Foreign scientists share their knowledge and expertise to help strengthen research competencies and collaboration with Singaporeans. For example, the Biomedical Research Council (BMRC) of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) funds and supports public research initiatives in Singapore. Through the efforts of the BMRC, Singapore has been able to leverage on the expertise and knowledge of these foreign scientists to jumpstart the country's biomedical sciences. OR. American biopharmaceutical firm Arcturus Therapeutics work together with scientists from Duke-NUS Medical School to develop COVID-19 vaccines. In this process, Singapore has also invested \$45 million to support the manufacturing process of the vaccine. Through this openness to learn and collaborate with overseas scientists, robust research can be carried out, which has in turn led to significant breakthroughs such as the development of the H1N1 flu vaccine. This benefits society in the long run as Singapore leverages on the exchange of skills and knowledge to grow and progress the country's expertise in a variety of fields. This in turn results in increased levels of productivity of the country, which ultimately leads to greater economic development for Singapore.

OR

The con of living in a diverse society is that stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination can take root and occur when there are misunderstandings and conflicting views in a diverse society. Such misunderstandings could be perpetuated by having generalized thoughts of different groups of people in society, known as stereotypes. When stereotypes are negative, they cause people to become prejudiced against specific groups of people in society. Stereotypes, and especially prejudice, can cause tension and distrust between people, which then leads to discriminatory behavior towards specific groups of people. For example, the denial of rental accommodation based on their races and nationalities to some foreigners in Singapore has led to great inconvenience for them in their search for an accommodation in Singapore that would allow them to live and work here. This can then lead to the foreigners becoming unhappy as they feel disrespected by Singaporeans. This will in turn cause tensions and conflicts to arise in a diverse society, which affects the society in the long run and makes it difficult for the society to progress as a country due to it

	being fragmented and disunited. Consequently, the social stability of Singapore is negatively affected.	
L4	Both aspects in L3 plus explain the relativity of the pros and cons or the balanced conclusion of equal parts pros and cons. Eg: In conclusion, I feel that living in a diverse society has more cons than pros because the cons will dilute the effectiveness and frequency of the pros. With inner enduring cons of stereotyping, casual racism and discrimination, the outward pros of cultural and knowledge exchange is greatly reduced because of the perpetual distance and unwillingness to understand, work with and value the wealth of knowledge that people from diverse cultures and backgrounds bring, hence to ensure the pros, one must fix the inner con of bias and stereotype first. OR Eg: In conclusion, I feel that living in a diverse society has more pros because the pros are enduring and benefits the whole society, such as developing new ideas and building on diverse mindsets, experiences and know-hows to build on and improve current practices but the cons are sporadic, solvable and not enduring, since it is not the majority who are racist or discriminatory. In addition, the cons can be reduced with continuous efforts to educate and remind people of the pros that others from different backgrounds bring both socially and economically.	8