

Name : _____

Class

Index Number

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METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL

Founded in 1887



PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026 Secondary 4

Humanities

Paper 1 Social Studies

Wednesday

12 August 2026

2260/2261/2262/01

1 hour 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Section B

Answer **both** questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question.

SECTION A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer **all** questions.

Being Part of a Globalised World

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

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

1. Study Source A.

What is the message of this source? Explain your answer using details from the cartoon.
[5]

2. Study Sources B and C.

How different are these two sources? Explain your answer. [6]

3. Study Source D.

How useful is this source as evidence about the challenges of implementing tariffs?
Explain your answer. [7]

4. Study Source E and F.

Having read Source E, was Source F unexpected? Explain your answer. [7]

5. "Tariffs bring more harm than good."

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

What is the impact of tariffs?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

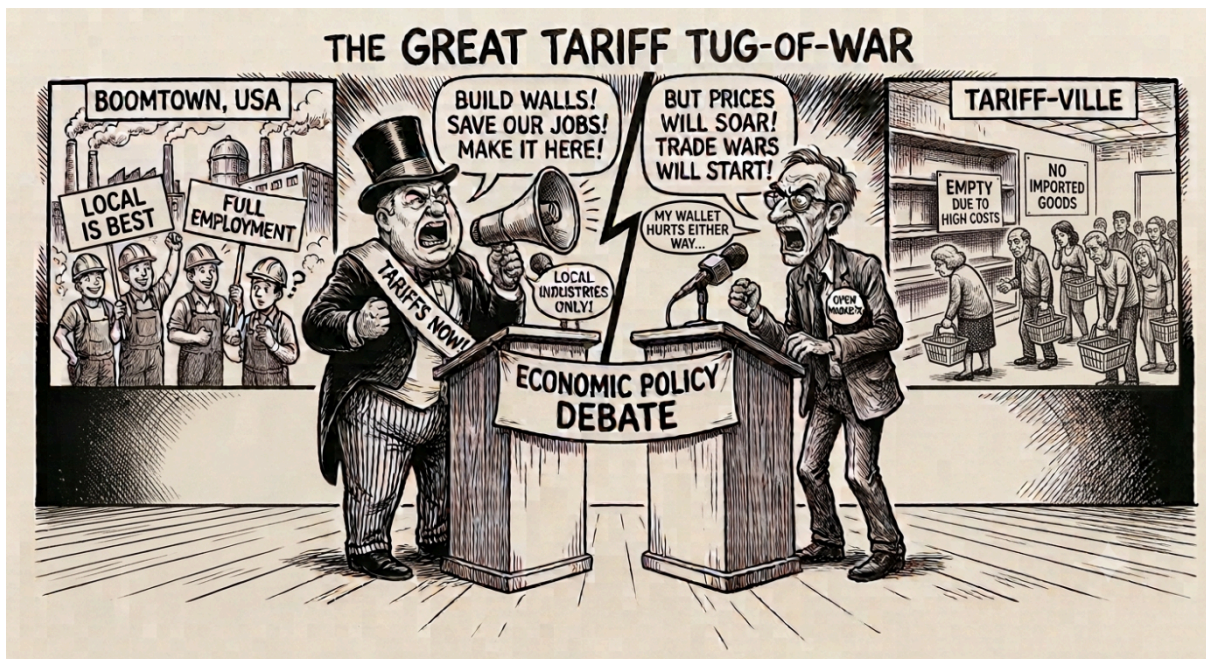
Globalisation has led to increased interconnectedness and interdependence among countries through international trade and investment. However, while global trade can bring economic growth, it can also create challenges, such as large trade deficits and a decline in domestic manufacturing bases.

In response, some governments adopt protectionist policies, such as introducing higher tariffs—which are taxes on imported goods. The main goal of these tariffs is to protect local industries, secure domestic supply chains, and save local jobs from foreign competition.

However, protectionism has sparked intense debate. Critics argue that tariffs create new economic vulnerabilities.

Study the following sources to examine whether protectionist policies are beneficial to a country.

Source A: Adapted from a cartoon published on an online platform, 4 March 2026.



Source B: *Adapted from a statement issued by the United States government regarding its trade policies., 2 April 2025.*

President Donald J. Trump has declared that foreign trade practices have created a national emergency. To protect American workers and strengthen the economic position of the United States, his government has introduced new tariffs on foreign goods.

For years, the U.S. has faced a massive trade deficit, meaning it buys far more goods from other countries than it sells to them. This has severely damaged the country's manufacturing sector and reduced the incentive to develop advanced domestic industries. Furthermore, this reliance on foreign trade has weakened critical supply chains. As a result, America's defense industry has become dangerously dependent on foreign competitors for essential resources.

Source C: *Adapted from an article published in an American news magazine, discussing the impact of government trade policies., 3 June 2024.*

Although higher tariffs are introduced with the objective of protecting local industries and securing domestic jobs, they can create unintended economic challenges. Even though these new import taxes initially caused only small price increases, businesses have recently started passing these extra costs onto consumers.

Furthermore, financial experts note that massive increases in tariffs historically lead to higher unemployment rather than job protection. This happens because businesses grow deeply uncertain about how to manage sudden changes in their operating costs. Due to a lack of clarity regarding government trade policies, many companies have indefinitely paused their hiring plans, while some have even laid off workers to cut expenses.

Source D: *Adapted from an economic commentary on the U.S. tariff policy published on a renowned news portal, 3 June 2026.*

Despite claims that foreign countries pay for the tariffs, these taxes on imports are actually paid by American importing companies. These businesses must then decide whether to bear the extra costs themselves or pass them on to local consumers through higher prices.

However, price increases are only part of the problem. Evidence shows that to handle the heavy financial burden of tariffs, companies have also frozen or cut down on workers' wages. Financial reports from Morgan Stanley* confirm that overall labour costs remained stagnant for a year after the tariffs were introduced. Economists noted that businesses successfully protected their profit margins by doing two things simultaneously: restricting worker pay and raising prices for consumers.

* Morgan Stanley is a premier global financial services firm renowned for investment banking, wealth management, and institutional securities.

Source E: *Adapted from an official statement issued by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding global trade barriers, April 2025.*

The unilateral imposition of sweeping tariffs by other governments is a destructive practice that violates international trade rules. It severely damages the legitimate rights and economic interests of our country, harming global industries and supply chains. We strongly urge these governments to immediately correct their erroneous actions and lift these unfair trade measures against us. No nation should mistake our patience for weakness. If other countries choose to continue escalating this economic aggression, our government will not stand by idly. To safeguard our national interests and protect our domestic industries, we are fully prepared to fight back. We will firmly implement decisive, equal, and forceful retaliatory tariffs on their goods until fair trading conditions are fully restored.

Source F: *Adapted from a public address by Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong regarding the impact of international trade barriers, April 2025.*

The global calm and stability we once knew will not return anytime soon. We can no longer expect that the international trading rules which protected small states will still hold. The introduction of sweeping tariffs by major economies will severely accelerate the fracturing of the global trade system. This rising trend of protectionism creates an environment of deep uncertainty that could easily tip the global economy into a severe recession. As a small country that relies heavily on international trade, Singapore will inevitably take a bigger financial hit than others. Despite these challenges, Singapore has decided that it will not impose retaliatory tariffs on other nations. Instead of taking revenge, we must focus on standing firm, staying united, and helping our local businesses and workers adapt to this hostile new economic environment.

SECTION B (Structured-Response Questions)

Answer **both** questions.

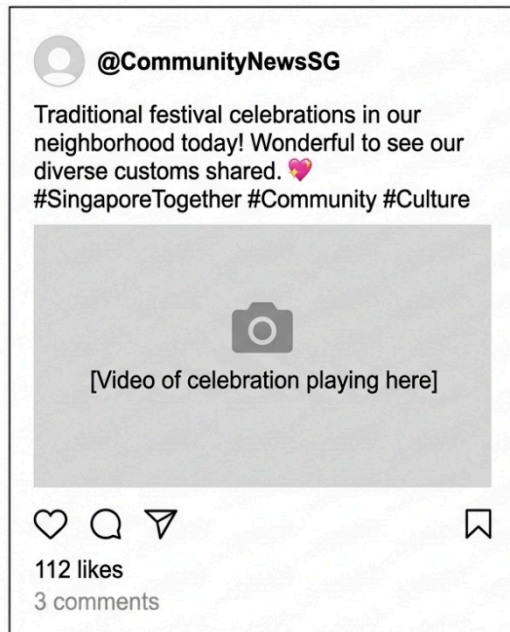
Living in a Diverse Society

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

Singapore's changing demographics have led to greater diversity in views and expectations. However, insensitive narratives and insensitive comments popularised through social media have sometimes led to greater division in society.

For instance, after a video was posted online showing a group of new immigrants celebrating a traditional festival in a local neighbourhood, several netizens left harsh, insensitive comments mocking their accent, cultural dress, and customs, telling them to "go back to their own country."



@localresident77: "Why can't they celebrate at home? It looks and sounds so different from what we're used to."

@SGproud: "Honestly, their clothes and accent are a bit much... 'go back to where you came from' if you don't like it here."

@thoughtfulobserver: "Let's be respectful. Diversity is our strength."

@KiasuKing: "Seriously? These new people need to integrate, not isolate. SMH."

Extract 2

Singapore's diverse society provides opportunities to interact with people of different backgrounds. This allows for cultural exchange to take place with the sharing of ideas, customs, and traditions. This deepens peoples' understanding and appreciation of diverse ethnic groups and enables them to build meaningful relationships and learn from one another's cultures.

Extract 3

Interaction within a diverse society also allows for the exchange of knowledge and unique skills among individuals from different backgrounds. People can share their distinct professional, artistic, or academic expertise creating a collaborative learning environment.

6. Extract 1 shows how comments regarding diversity can have an impact on the society.

In your opinion, how can individuals in Singapore constructively respond to insensitive comments about a person's identity to promote harmony? Explain your answer with reference to **two** ways. [7]

7. Extracts 2 and 3 describe the benefits brought about by interaction in a diverse society.

Is the exchange of cultural traditions more effective in promoting social harmony than the sharing of diverse knowledge and skills? Explain your answer. [8]

**Secondary 4 Social Studies Preliminary Examination
Levels of Response Marking Scheme (LORMS)**

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

1. Study Source A.

What is the message of this source? Explain your answer using details from the cartoon.
[5]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
L1	Description of the source. Candidate describes the surface details of the cartoon without an inference. Do not award any mark if candidate fails to address the question. e.g. The cartoon shows two men who are engaging each other on an “Economic Policy Debate”. There are also a few signs with text related to tariffs.	1
L2	Valid Sub-message. Valid inference based on a specific detail but missing the overall point of the inquiry. Award 2 marks if there is no evidence provided. Award 3 marks for answers supported with evidence. e.g. The message is about the positive effects of tariffs. The cartoon shows two men having an “Economic Policy Debate”. One of the men says that tariffs is good as it results in domestic employment being protected and increase local production (2m). He says, “Build Walls! Save our Jobs! Make it here!” (3m) OR e.g. The message is that tariffs have a negative effect. The cartoon shows two men having an “Economic Policy Debate”. One of the men says that tariffs is bad as it negatively affects the people’s cost of living and could start economic wars. (2m) He says, “Prices will soar! Trade wars will start”. (3m) OR e.g. The cartoon shows that tariffs result in negative consequences. It shows two men having an “Economic Policy Debate”. (2m) The cartoon shows that tariffs result in “no imported goods”, and stores being “empty due to high costs”. (do not need to list all the texts.) (3m) OR e.g. Tariffs result in positive consequences. The cartoon shows two men having an “Economic Policy Debate”. (2m) The cartoon shows that tariffs	2-3

Level	Descriptors	Marks
	bring about “full employment”, things being made locally – “local is best”. (3m)	
L3	Valid main message. Explains the cartoonist's main point about the economic impact of tariffs Award the higher mark for better developed answers with support. e.g. The main message is that tariffs have both positive and negative effects therefore it is debatable whether it should be implemented. The cartoon shows two men having an “Economic Policy Debate”. One of the men says that tariffs is good as it results in domestic employment being protected. He says, “Build Walls! Save our Jobs! Make it here!” On the other hand, the other man says that protectionism is bad as it negatively affects the people’s cost of living and could start economic wars. He says, “Prices will soar! Trade wars will start”. The cartoon also shows that tariffs could result in “full employment” and goods can be manufactured locally. On the other hand, it could result in a loss of “imported goods” and stores being “empty due to high costs”. Thus, the message of the source is that tariffs can have positive and negative consequences affecting different economic areas of the country.	4-5

2. Study Sources B and C.

How different are these two sources? Explain your answer.

[6]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
L1	Similar because of topic e.g. The two sources are similar as they both are about tariffs.	1
L2	Use of content but no valid matching e.g. The sources are different because Source B talks about foreign trade practices but Source C does not.	2
L3	Similar or Different based on content Award the higher mark for better developed answers with support. Similar e.g. The two sources are similar in that they both are about the reason higher tariffs were introduced in the US to protect local employment. Source B says, "To protect American workers and strengthen the economic position of the United States, his government has introduced new tariffs on foreign goods." Thus Source B says that the reason is to take care of the American worker and improve the economy of the US. Source C says, "Although higher tariffs are introduced with the objective of protecting local industries and securing domestic jobs". Source C thus shows that the tariffs are implemented to take care of local industries and protect jobs. Thus, the two sources are similar about why the tariffs are introduced i.e. protect jobs and strengthen the US economy. OR Different The two sources are different in the possible effects of the imposition of higher tariffs. Source B says that will "strengthen the international economic position of the United States and protect American workers" claiming that the effect of implementing tariffs will help improve the economic status of the US and also take care of the workers in the US. However, Source C says that "massive increases in tariffs historically lead to higher unemployment rather than job protection" claiming that the tariffs will result in the workers losing jobs. Thus, the two sources are different in the effects of introducing tariffs – source B says that the effects are positive for the US whereas Source C says that the effects are negative for the US.	3-4

Level	Descriptors	Marks
L4	Both aspects of L3 i.e. similar and different	5
L5	Different in perspectives e.g. L3 + this shows that the sources are different in their perspectives on whether introducing tariffs is positive or negative. Source B thinks that tariffs are positive whereas Source C thinks that tariffs are negative. Source B is by the US government and it says that it is introducing the tariffs to improve the economic position of the US whereas Source C is by an American news magazine which focuses on the possible negative impacts of tariffs such as “higher unemployment” and the uncertainty that tariffs introduce to businesses. Thus, Source B is supportive of tariffs whereas Source C is against tariffs.	6

3. Study Source D.

How useful is this source as evidence of the challenges of implementing tariffs? Explain your answer. [7]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
L1	Useful based on provenance The source is useful as it is an economic commentary on the US tariff policy.	1
L2	Useful OR Not useful based on content Award 2 marks if there is no evidence provided. Award 3 marks for answers supported with evidence e.g. The source is useful in showing the challenges on the economy because of tariffs. The businesses in the US have to figure out how to manage the costs associated with the tariffs. The source says tariffs “are actually paid by American importing companies. These businesses must then decide whether to bear the extra costs themselves or pass them on to local consumers through higher prices.” Thus, the challenge to the businesses is whether to absorb the extra costs due to the tariffs or pass these onto their customers. They have to figure out the better approach to minimise their losses. OR e.g. The source is useful in showing the challenges on the economy of introducing tariffs. The source says it may affect labour costs. It says, “Evidence shows that to handle the heavy financial burden of tariffs, companies have also frozen or cut down on workers' wages”. Thus, the challenge is figuring out how to manage the cost of paying tariffs and the welfare of their workers. OR e.g. The source is not useful in showing the challenges of tariffs on prices as it talks about the possibilities but not actual results. It says, “These businesses must then decide whether to bear the extra costs themselves or pass them on to local consumers through higher prices”. What if the companies decide to not pass on the costs to consumers. This then will not result in any major challenge for the business.	2-3
L3	Useful AND Not Useful based on content Award the higher mark for better developed answers with support.	4

Level	Descriptors	Marks
	Both sides of L2	
L4	Content + Provenance e.g. The source is useful in showing the potential challenges on the economy of introducing tariffs. It may affect labour costs. It says, "Evidence shows that to handle the heavy financial burden of tariffs, companies have also frozen or cut down on workers' wages". Thus, the cost of paying tariffs may result in employers either lowering workers' wages or salaries may remain stagnant thus making it a challenge for the business to manage costs and their workers' welfare. As the source is an economic commentary published by a renowned news portal, this source is useful in showing the potential challenge.	4-5
L5	Limited in Usefulness based on cross-reference to another source (content only) Award higher mark for more developed answers e.g. The source is limited in usefulness in showing the potential challenges caused by the increase in the cost of labour through the introduction of tariffs. The source says tariffs may affect labour costs. It says, "evidence shows that to handle the heavy financial burden of tariffs, companies have also frozen or cut down on workers' wages". Thus, the cost of paying tariffs may result in employers either lowering wages or salaries may remain stagnant. However, source B says that "to protect American workers ..., his government has introduced new tariffs on foreign goods." Source B says that President Trump introduced higher tariffs to protect workers and not cause harm to the workers. Thus, the source is not useful in showing what the impact on the economy will really be on workers. That is, tariffs are not meant to freeze workers' wages or will it protect these workers' from losing their jobs. Thus, Source B contradicts Source D and therefore, the source is limited in its usefulness because while there is potential challenge on the protecting the workers, the tariffs were introduced to protect the workers and in reality, it may not result in any challenge for the businesses.	5-6
L6	Content + Cross reference + Provenance e.g. The source is useful in showing the potential challenges on the economy of introducing tariffs. It may affect labour costs. It says, "Evidence shows that to handle the heavy financial burden of tariffs, companies have also frozen or cut down on workers' wages". Thus, the cost of paying tariffs may result in employers either lowering workers' wages or salaries may remain stagnant thus making it a challenge for the business to manage costs and their workers' welfare. As the source is an economic commentary published by a renowned news portal, this source is useful in showing the potential challenge especially since the	7

Level	Descriptors	Marks
	information is provided by Morgan Stanley and other economists who are credible.	

4. Study Source E and F.

Having read Source E, was Source F unexpected? Explain your answer.

[7]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
L1	Answers using source content from Source E/F but did not respond to the question (E.g. <i>I am surprised that... with no link back to Expected/Unexpected</i>) e.g. Source E is about the impact of the tariffs.	1
L2	Identifies what is Expected/ Unexpected in F using source content (not explained) OR provenance, undeveloped e.g. Source F is expected as it is about how the “introduction of sweeping tariffs by major economies” have “create(d) an environment of deep uncertainty the could easily tip the global economy into a severe recession”.	2
	Expected/ Unexpected by using Source F due to internal reasoning (accept all logical reasoning) e.g. Source F is unexpected because it says that “Singapore will inevitably take a bigger financial hit than others. Despite these challenges, Singapore has decided that it will not impose retaliatory tariffs on other nations.” (2m) This is unexpected as I would expect a country that has been negatively affected by the tariffs to want to retaliate but it says that the country has chosen not to do so.	3
L3	Expected <u>OR</u> Unexpected by Source F due to comparison of content with Source E (Content from BOTH E & F) <i>4m for more fully developed answers</i> e.g. Having read Source E, Source F is unexpected to me because Source E says “To safeguard our national interests and protect our domestic industries, we are fully prepared to fight back. We will firmly implement decisive, equal, and forceful retaliatory tariffs on their goods until fair trading conditions are fully restored”. This means that a country that is unfairly treated will retaliate against this unfairness. However, in Source F, I am told that “despite these challenges, Singapore has decided that it will not impose retaliatory tariffs on other nations”. This inconsistency makes Source F unexpected to me as why is a country that is being unfairly treated not retaliating? OR e.g. Source F is expected. Source E says, “the unilateral imposition of sweeping tariffs by other governments is a destructive practice that violates	3-4

	international trade rules. It severely damages the legitimate rights and economic interests of our country, harming global industries and supply chains” while Source F tells me “the global calm and stability we once knew will not return anytime soon. We can no longer expect that the international trading rules which protected small states will still hold”. Thus, as both sources say that the introduction of the sweeping tariffs will affect global trade and I have learnt that anything that disrupts trade will affect many countries, what Source F says is expected.	
L4	Both sides of L3 Expected <u>AND</u> unexpected, with comparison of Source E <u>AND</u> F content	5
	L3 AND CAP of F	
L5	Content AND CR • There must be a common thread (focus) between Sources E, F and third source • Conclusion must be on Source F (i.e. why is it Expected/ Unexpected) e.g. Source E says, “the unilateral imposition of sweeping tariffs by other governments is a destructive practice that violates international trade rules. It severely damages the legitimate rights and economic interests of our country, harming global industries and supply chains” while Source F tells me “the global calm and stability we once knew will not return anytime soon. We can no longer expect that the international trading rules which protected small states will still hold”. These messages are supported by Source A where one of the debaters declared that “trade wars will start”. Thus, as all these sources say that the introduction of sweeping tariffs will affect global trade and I have learnt that anything that disrupts trade will affect many countries, what Source F says is expected. Also, Source F is by the Prime Minister of Singapore, a small country that is dependent on global trade. Thus, it is expected that Singapore will have to accept what is imposed on it as the PM says, “Despite these challenges, Singapore has decided that it will not impose retaliatory tariffs on other nations. Instead of taking revenge, we must focus on standing firm, staying united, and helping our local businesses and workers adapt to this hostile new economic environment.”	6
	Content AND CAP of E AND F	
L6	L5 AND CAP • CAP must compare Sources E to F	7

5. Tariffs bring more harm than good.'

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

Level	Description	Marks									
L1	Writes about the statement, no valid source use	1									
L2	Agree OR Disagree, supported by valid source use <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sources used</th><th>Sources: Agree/ Disagree</th><th>Marks</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>One</td><td>One</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Two</td><td>Two</td><td>2-4 Award the higher mark for more developed answers</td></tr> </tbody> </table> Agree Source A: Source A agrees with the statement. The source says that tariffs will lead to “price increase”, “trade wars”, “high costs” and “no imported goods”. Thus, source A shows that tariffs will result in a few negative consequences such as increased costs for consumers and the loss of access to some imported goods. Source C: Source C agrees with the statement. The source says that with the introduction of tariffs, “businesses have begun to pass along the tariff costs to consumers” and this “could lead to slow down in employment rates” and an “increase in unemployment”. Thus, the introduction of tariffs can result in higher prices and negatively affect employment rates in the country, leading to lower standard of living as livelihoods are negatively impacted. Source D: Source D agrees with the statement. The source says that the introduction of tariffs could result in “increase(d) prices” and “wages stagnat(ing) or cut”. Thus, tariffs do harm by increasing costs for the consumers and affect salaries negatively. - Host countries pay the tariffs to continue importing, increase in cost for their businesses which in turn means they have to either absorb the losses or transfer the cost to employees by reducing wages or customers by increasing costs. Source E: Source E agrees with the statement. The source says that the introduction of tariffs “damage the rights and economic interests of countries”, “harm global industries and supply chains” and could result in a “trade war”. Thus, tariffs bring harm to countries’ economies, and affect	Sources used	Sources: Agree/ Disagree	Marks	One	One	2	Two	Two	2-4 Award the higher mark for more developed answers	2-4
Sources used	Sources: Agree/ Disagree	Marks									
One	One	2									
Two	Two	2-4 Award the higher mark for more developed answers									

Level	Description	Marks
	negatively global distribution chains and inciting trade wars/ tension/ conflict between countries. Source F: Source F agrees with the statement. The source says that the introduction of tariffs “affect global calm and stability”, “fracture the global trade system”, and “tip the global economy into a severe recession”. Thus, tariffs bring harm by introducing instability in global trade relations and cause the global economy to suffer a recession. - Can also mention how small countries are harmed. Disagree Source A: Source A disagrees with the statement. The source says that the introduction of tariffs will result in “full employment”, “save jobs” and protect “local manufacturing”. Thus, tariffs will actually result in positive effects in making secure employment rates and protect domestic industries. - Can also argue that Source A disagrees because it shows both the harms and good. This requires evidence and explanation of both harms and good. Source B: Source B disagrees with the statement. The source says that the introduction of tariffs will result in “strengthen(ing) international economic position of the US”, “protect American workers”, “balance the trade deficit”, “revive the manufacturing sector”. Thus, tariffs will actually result in positive effects such as making employment secure for workers, help with the trade deficit and help the manufacturing sector improve. - Less dependent on foreign countries for importing products especially items related to the defense system that requires higher level of security. Source C: Source C disagrees with the statement. The source says that the introduction of tariffs will result in “protect(ing) local industries” and “secure domestic jobs” Thus, tariffs will actually result in positive effects such as safeguarding the operations of domestic businesses and keep local workers employed. Source F: (Possibly – for lateral thinking students), Source F disagrees with the statement. The source says that the introduction of tariffs will result in “giv(ing) countries that are unfairly treated a platform to unite its citizens - we must focus on standing firm, staying united, and helping our local businesses and workers adapt to this hostile new economic environment”. Thus, tariffs will actually result in positive effects such as uniting the people in a country who have to address the challenges of tariffs. <i>(Do not accept that Source E is good just because tariffs are useful to retaliate. 2 wrongs does not make 1 right. The initial issue is because of the imposition of tariffs)</i>	

Level	Description	Marks																								
L3	Agree AND Disagree, supported by valid source use <i>i.e., Both elements of L2.</i> Note: Consideration of the number of valid sources used and the quality of analysis in deciding marks in L2 and L3. <table><tr><th>Sources used</th><th>Sources: Agree</th><th>Sources: Disagree</th><th>Marks</th></tr><tr><td>Two</td><td>One</td><td>One</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Three</td><td>One/Two</td><td>Two/One</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Four</td><td>Two</td><td>Two</td><td>7-8 Award the higher mark for more developed answers</td></tr><tr><td>Five</td><td>Three</td><td>Two</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Six</td><td>Four</td><td>Two</td><td>8</td></tr></table> **To score additional 2 marks, candidates can take any one of these three routes. through analysing at least one source in relation to its reliability, utility, or sufficiency (Source D, E and F are ineligible) e.g. Source B is unreliable. It is by the American government and is aimed to promote the President's decision to support tariffs. Hence the source only reflects the positive impacts of what tariffs will do but does not discuss on the long-term implications should tariffs be imposed. OR by sharing example(s) from their contextual knowledge e.g. Source D says, "evidence shows that to handle the heavy financial burden of tariffs, companies have also frozen or cut down on workers' wages" I know that this is true as I have read in the news that there are many protests that have taken place against the rising costs and fall in employment rates. <i>Since Donald Trump took office in 2025, inflation has reaccelerated to 4.2% annually, largely driven by surging energy costs and tariff implementations. The average American household is spending approximately \$1,625 more annually across the board compared to when he took office, with steep price hikes affecting groceries, housing, and electricity. (CK)</i> OR by giving a balanced conclusion/resolution e.g. Tariffs have short-term benefits but long-term harms. Employment for local industries seems to have been secured but in the long run because local businesses might struggle to keep costs low for their production, this	Sources used	Sources: Agree	Sources: Disagree	Marks	Two	One	One	5	Three	One/Two	Two/One	6	Four	Two	Two	7-8 Award the higher mark for more developed answers	Five	Three	Two	8	Six	Four	Two	8	5-8
Sources used	Sources: Agree	Sources: Disagree	Marks																							
Two	One	One	5																							
Three	One/Two	Two/One	6																							
Four	Two	Two	7-8 Award the higher mark for more developed answers																							
Five	Three	Two	8																							
Six	Four	Two	8																							

Level	Description	Marks
	might lead to businesses cutting down on wages or letting go of workers. This explains how unemployment and inflation will then become the long-term harms. e.g. Tariffs affect different countries different. Because of a globalised world, we are interconnected and interdependent. When tariffs are imposed, there is a stop to the connections of the world and thus, smaller countries are more susceptible to experiencing challenges as they rely on other countries to supply goods. This explains why big countries like USA seems unfazed to a large extent whereas countries like Singapore will struggle. e.g. Tariffs bring about harm because it cuts off the connectedness between the economies of the world. However, this is a short-term implication should countries choose to adapt and be resilient. By upskilling and innovating, tariffs could be good to develop a country's economic resilience.	

Section B: Structured Response Questions

6. Extract 1 shows how comments regarding diversity can have an impact on the society.

In your opinion, how can individuals in Singapore constructively respond to insensitive comments about a person's identity to promote harmony? Explain your answer with reference to **two** ways. [7]

Level (L)	Suggested Answer	Mark
L1	Describes the topic i.e. Harmony is important to any society.	1
L2	Identifies/Describes the way(s) <i>Award 2 marks for identifying one way. Award 3 marks for identifying two ways.</i> <i>Award 3 marks for describing one way. Award 4 marks for describing two ways.</i> e.g. Individuals can choose to engage in constructive dialogue to address ignorance. Instead of reacting in anger, which only fuels sentiments of unhappiness and criticism, individuals should respond by helping the other person understand the impact of their insensitive words. For example, if someone makes a stereotypical comment about a specific race or religion—factors that are central to a Singaporean's identity—an individual can calmly explain why the comment is hurtful. This approach addresses the "ignorance" that often leads to prejudice. AND / OR e.g. Individuals can demonstrate perspective-taking and openness in common spaces. Singaporeans interact daily in common spaces like schools, hawker centers, and community clubs. When encountering an insensitive view, an individual can practice "active listening" to understand the other party's perspective before sharing their own. By being open-minded and receptive to new or opposing views, individuals can respectfully challenge generalisations and share accurate information about their own customs and traditions. For instance, a student could share their personal ethnic practices to clarify a misunderstanding.	2-4
L3	L2 + Explains how it / they are effective (requires an example) <i>Award 5 -6 marks for explaining one way</i> <i>Award 6-7 marks for explaining two ways</i> <i>Award the higher mark for more developed answers.</i> e.g. Individuals can choose to engage in constructive dialogue to address ignorance. Instead of reacting in anger, which only fuels sentiments of unhappiness and criticism, individuals should respond by helping the other person understand the impact of their insensitive words. For example, if someone makes a stereotypical comment about a specific race or religion—factors that are central to a Singaporean's identity—an individual can calmly explain why	5-7

Level (L)	Suggested Answer	Mark
	the comment is hurtful. This approach addresses the "ignorance" that often leads to prejudice. <i>By raising awareness in a respectful manner, individuals help others gain a deeper understanding of cultural differences, which paves the way for meaningful engagements rather than social fractures therefore resulting in promoting harmony.</i> AND / OR e.g. Individuals can demonstrate perspective-taking and openness. Singaporeans interact daily in common spaces like schools, hawker centres, and community clubs. When encountering an insensitive view, an individual can practice "active listening" to understand the other party's perspective before sharing their own. By being open-minded and receptive to new or opposing views, individuals can respectfully challenge generalisations and share accurate information about their own customs and traditions. In other words, understand why others think the way they do and accept it. For instance, a student could share their personal ethnic practices to clarify a misunderstanding while still understanding why someone else may think differently. <i>This spirit of mutual accommodation and trust helps to build meaningful relationships across different backgrounds, ensuring that diversity remains a source of national strength and harmony rather than a cause of conflict.</i>	

Extracts 2 and 3 describe the benefits brought about by interaction in a diverse society.

Is the exchange of cultural traditions more effective in promoting social harmony than the sharing of diverse knowledge and skills? Explain your answer. [8]

Level (L)	Suggested Answer	Mark
L1	Writes about the topic (i.e), but without addressing the question e.g. There are many factors that can affect harmony in society.	1-2
L2	Describes the factor(s) Award 3 marks for describing one factor Award 4 marks for describing two factors e.g. Cultural exchange and appreciation have a significant positive impact on harmony because they foster mutual respect. In a diverse society like Singapore, interactions in common spaces allow for the sharing of ideas, customs, and traditions among people from different backgrounds. This deepens an individual's understanding and appreciation of the unique practices of various ethnic and religious groups. For example, when Singaporeans of different races celebrate each other's festivals, they learn to move beyond mere tolerance to genuine appreciation. This builds meaningful relationships and a spirit of mutual accommodation and trust, which are essential to harnessing diversity as a national strength rather than a source of conflict AND / OR e.g. In a workplace staffed with diverse groups, the workers will usually be able to share their diverse knowledge and skills. Coming from differing backgrounds and even countries, these workers will have had different experiences and would have learnt different skills. Thus, these workers will be able to share these with each other and learn how to do the work with best practices learnt from the others. For example, if a workplace has a Filipino who is willing to share her knowledge and skills picked up while working in the Philippines with her colleagues in Singapore, this will help prepare the Singaporean worker to work in the Philippines as well.	3-4
L3	Explains impact the factor(s) on harmony Award 5-6 marks for explaining Award 6-7 marks for explaining <i>Give the higher mark for answers with elaboration.</i> <i>Explanations without good descriptions will be awarded L2.</i> e.g. Cultural exchange and appreciation have a significant positive impact on harmony because they foster mutual respect. In a diverse society like Singapore, interactions in common spaces allow for the sharing of ideas, customs, and traditions among people from different backgrounds. This deepens an individual's understanding and appreciation of the unique practices of various ethnic and religious groups. For example, when Singaporeans of different races celebrate each other's festivals, they learn to move beyond mere	5-7

Level (L)	Suggested Answer	Mark
	tolerance to genuine appreciation. This builds meaningful relationships and a spirit of mutual accommodation and trust, which are essential to harnessing diversity as a national strength and harmony rather than a source of conflict. AND / OR e.g. In a workplace staffed with diverse groups, the workers will usually be able to share their diverse knowledge and skills. Coming from differing backgrounds and even countries, these workers will have had different experiences and would have learnt different skills. Thus, these workers will be able to share these with each other and learn how to do the work with best practices learnt from the others. For example, if a workplace has a Filipino who is willing to share her knowledge and skills picked up while working in the Philippines with her colleagues in Singapore, this will help prepare the Singaporean worker to work in the Philippines as well. This will enhance social harmony in the workplace as the workers can see value in learning from one another.	
L4	L3 + which has a greater impact In my opinion, cultural exchange and appreciation have a more significant impact because they provide a proactive and long-term foundation for harmony. While it is valuable to have an exchange of knowledge and skills in the workplace and this does contribute to social harmony, this is limited when compared to cultural exchange and appreciation and the latter can be done in all aspects of society compared to knowledge and skills which usually take place at work places.	8