

Section A (Source-based Case Study)

Answer **all** questions.

EXPLORING CITIZENSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

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 can you infer from Source A? Explain your answer. [5]

2 Study Source B.

Why was this infographic published? Explain your answer. [6]

3 Study Sources C and D.

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

4 Study Source E

How useful is this source as evidence about the government's efforts in managing the pandemic? Explain your answer. [7]

5 Study all Sources.

How far do the sources show that the governments respond well to the needs of its citizens during the Covid-19 pandemic? Explain your answer. [10]

Do governments respond well to the needs of its citizens during the Covid-19 pandemic?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

COVID-19 started in late 2019 and it had a significant impact on the entire world, affecting many aspects of life, including health, education, and daily routines. Governments around the world had to take swift and comprehensive actions to address the onset of challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

People of all ages were affected and economic stimulus packages were introduced to support individuals, businesses, and industries affected by the pandemic. School learning was remodelled to ensure continuity of learning and there were greater demands placed on all healthcare systems.

All governments had to adopt a multi-faceted approach to manage the health crisis, support their populations, stabilize economies, and ensure effective communication and cooperation both domestically and internationally.

Study the sources on the following pages to determine whether governments respond well to the needs of its citizens during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Source A: From The Straits Times article published on 3 February 2020 titled, "Wuhan virus: Smooth start to free mask distribution islandwide".

The Government announced that all 1.3 million households in Singapore would be given a pack of four masks each amid reports of shops running out of stocks. Member of Parliament, Mr Darryl David said, "It's gone very efficiently and very smoothly. This shows that residents are very sensible and very reasonable. They understand that you don't need a mask if you are well. These masks are a precaution for those who are not well." Ms Denise Phua, Mayor of Central Singapore District, said that the relative calm was due to grassroots efforts to communicate with residents, whether by posting the mask distribution schedules on community noticeboards and in lifts or informing participants at events and functions over the last few days.

Source B: An infographic from the Ministry of Finance sharing about the 2020 Singapore's financial budget and Solidarity Package given to Singaporeans.



*Levy means a tax which employers must pay to hire the workers

*Waiver means they do not need to pay the levy

Source C: An excerpt from a parliamentary reply given by Singapore Ministry of Education (MOE) titled, “Impact of Covid-19 pandemic on students’ learning”, 5 October 2021.

MOE has taken steps to ensure that students' learning is not compromised. We do so by keeping schools open as far as possible, and by ensuring that learning can still take place even under Home-Based Learning conditions. We have surveyed our students on their Full Home-Based Learning experiences and majority of them have indicated that their learning has not been severely affected. There will be some impact on learning with the loss of conventional in-person schooling. We will continue to take steps to improve these issues with the help of technology, the commitment of our teachers and the support of our parents.

Source D: An excerpt from The University of Melbourne online article titled, “India’s Covid-19 divide in digital learning”, 1 August 2021.

More than 300 million students in India have had their learning disrupted by school closures as a result of the pandemic. Many schools have turned to digital learning as the solution. While there are advantages to this approach, the limitations of moving education online are there. A study showed that almost 60% of school children in India cannot access online learning opportunities and that infrastructure that supports learning is sorely lacking. Many struggled with internet signal, speed and many had to share their devices. Teachers were also ill-prepared for online learning and had found it ineffective. There are stark inequalities in India’s education system and more needs to be done.

Source E: An excerpt from an online news article “Angry about Lockdowns, Chinese Protesters Call for Xi’s Resignation” by Voice of America#, 27 November 2022.

Three years after the virus emerged, China is the only major country still adopting a “zero COVID” policy that regularly sees millions of people confined to their homes for weeks at a time and requires near-constant testing. On Friday, 10 people died in a fire in an apartment building, and many believe their rescue was delayed because of excessive lockdown measures. Hundreds of demonstrators gathered late Saturday in Shanghai, which experienced a devastating lockdown in which people struggled to secure groceries and medicines and were forcefully taken into centralized quarantine. A protester named Zhao said his friends were beaten and pepper sprayed by police. The protesters were yelling, “(We) do not want PCR (tests), but want freedom.”

*Xi refers to the President of People's Republic of China

Voice of America (VOA) is the largest U.S. international broadcaster, it is funded by the U.S government.

SECTION B (Structured-Response Questions)

Answer **both** questions.

Being Part of a Globalised World

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

Amazon laid off employees and as many 9,000 employees were affected. Those from the Singapore office were not spared. Many units in Amazon had expanded their manpower rapidly during COVID-19 pandemic due to high demand for digital services but it has since slowed down.

Extract 2

Individuals experience the economic impacts of globalization as citizens or residents of a country. Many see their standard of living increase due to globalization.

Extract 3

Being part of the global economy can bring about opportunities for economic growth for countries. Singapore has seen an increase in the production of goods and services over time.

- 6 Extract 1 states that many employees experienced employment challenges such as retrenchment.

In your opinion, what can be done to support these individuals who have lost their jobs? Explain your answer using **one** strategy. [7]

- 7 Extract 2 and Extract 3 state the economic impacts faced by individuals and countries respectively.

Explain the positive impact of globalization on individuals and countries. [8]

END OF PAPER

Acknowledgements

Source A: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/health/wuhan-virus-smooth-start-to-free-mask-distribution-islandwide>

Source B: <https://www.mof.gov.sg/news-publications/press-releases/government-to-continue-support-measures-to-protect-livelihoods-and-stabilise-businesses-during-extended-circuit-breaker-period> (edited text)

Source C: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/parliamentary-replies/20211005-impact-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-students-learning>

Source D: <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/india-s-covid-19-divide-in-digital-learning>

Source E: <https://www.businessinsider.com/brick-and-mortar-retailers-getting-hit-the-hardest-2018-5>

Extract 1: Adapted from <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/singapore-not-spared-as-amazon-carries-out-retrenchment-exercise-affecting-9000-workers?close=true>

Extract 2: Adapted from Social Studies Coursebook, Chapter 9

Extract 3: Adapted from Social Studies Coursebook, Chapter 9

Section A (Source-based Questions) (35m)

1	Study Source A. What can you infer from Source A? Explain your answer.	Marks [5m]
L4	I can infer that the government has cared for the healthcare needs of Singaporeans [4] /responded swiftly to the lack of masks supply among Singaporeans [5] This is seen from, "The Government announced that all 1.3 million households in Singapore would be given a pack of four masks each amid reports of shops running out of stocks." This shows that the government was able to quickly address the issue of lack of masks and procure sufficient supplies for Singaporeans and even gave it freely to residents. This shows the efficiency and care of the government towards the healthcare needs of Singaporeans at the onset of the pandemic.	[4-5]

2	Study Source B. Why was this infographic published? Explain your answer.	Marks [6m]
L5	Purpose (both message & impact), explained E.g. The Ministry of Finance wants to convince Singaporeans that the government cares for the needs of Singaporeans by providing a comprehensive range of financial support to Singaporeans/ the government understands the financial difficulties brought by the pandemic. (Message), given that many people were badly affected by Covid-19 and are in desperate need of assurance and support from the government (Context) This was seen from the "Jobs Support Scheme" whereby "government pays 75% of the first \$4600 of monthly wages paid in April and May 2020" and the "Covid-19 Support Grant of \$800 a month for three months for those who are unemployed due to Covid-19." (Evidence) This suggests that different people will benefit and be aided financially by the government's measures to help cope with the financial burdens brought by the pandemic. (Explanation) This is so that Singaporeans will feel more assured and satisfied with the government's competence to deal with the pandemic (Feeling) and be more supportive of the government's policies and be more confident in the government's ability to ride through the difficult times brought by Covid-19. (outcome)	[6]

3	Study Sources C and D. Having read Source C, are you surprised by Source D? Explain your answer.	Marks [7m]
L4	Having read Source C, I am not surprised by D as it says that school learning has changed to the digital mode. This can be seen from "Many schools have turned to digital learning as the solution." This suggests that the pandemic has caused schools to adopt a different mode of learning as traditional face-to-face learning is now unsafe. This is similar to Source C which also says that Singapore has adopted online learning in schools. This can be seen from "We do so by keeping schools open as far as possible, and by ensuring that learning can still take place even under Home-Based Learning conditions." This suggests that Singapore schools adopted online learning at homes so that education is not disrupted. Therefore, I am not surprised by Source D as it is supported by Source C. Having read C, I am surprised that Source D says that online learning is much more effective than traditional mode of learning. In source C, it was said that online learning was not that disadvantageous to students' learning. This is seen from "We have surveyed our students on their Full Home-Based Learning experiences and majority of them have indicated that their learning has not been severely affected." This suggests that Singaporean students found online learning as effective and was able to continue their learning properly. This is contradicted by Source D which says students struggled with online learning. This can be seen from "A study showed that almost 60% of school children in India cannot access online learning opportunities and that infrastructure that supports learning is sorely lacking. Many struggled with internet signal, speed and many had to share their devices." This suggests that online learning has hindered the students' learning tremendously. Therefore, I am surprised by Source D as it is contradicted by Source C.	[7]

	Having read Source C, I am not surprised by Source D as both sources are talking about two different countries' management of online learning due to the safe distancing measures brought about by Covid-19. It is not surprising that India, a country much bigger than Singapore (context based on provenance and content) will face more significant issues in ensuring that online learning takes place effectively for its students as they will need to grapple with a lot more issues and infrastructures may not be ready to support online learning. Hence, it is not surprising that in Source C, Singapore seems to be managing its online learning effectively with not much disturbances to its learning as compared to India which will face more resources constraints due to its massive land size and communication channels and information will take a longer time to be communicated. Thus, policies will also not be as effectively implemented.	
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4	Study Source E. How useful is this source as evidence about the government's efforts in managing the pandemic? Explain your answer.	Marks [7m]
L4	Source E is useful as it showed the ineffective government's measures in managing the pandemic as the citizens' needs were not met. This is seen from "On Friday, 10 people died in a fire in an apartment building, and many believe their rescue was delayed because of excessive lockdown measures. Hundreds of demonstrators gathered late Saturday in Shanghai, which experienced a devastating lockdown in which people struggled to secure groceries and medicines and were forcefully taken into centralized quarantine." This suggests that people are upset with the overbearing measures and the government's efforts to manage the pandemic were not well-received by the people. Source E is not useful as it is only talking about the people's unhappiness with the government due to its strict Covid-19 restrictions but it did not mention other aspects such as healthcare or financial support given by the government. Source E is useful as it showed the ineffective government's measures in managing the pandemic as the citizens' needs were not met as it is supported by Source D. Source D says that the government did not manage to implement online learning structures for the students effectively. This can be seen from "A study showed that almost 60% of school children in India cannot access online learning opportunities and that infrastructure that supports learning is sorely lacking. Many struggled with internet signal, speed and many had to share their devices." This suggests that the government's efforts in helping to manage the learning challenges brought by the pandemic were lacking and insufficient too. Therefore, as Source D supports Source E, Source E is reliable and thus useful. Source E is not entirely useful as it is from the Voice of America online news which is funded by the U.S government. As the U.S is often critical of the Chinese government due to their differing political views, news from the U.S tend to be reflect poorly on the Chinese government as they want to criticize the Chinese government for its poor management of Covid-19 as it was said that "Hundreds of demonstrators gathered late Saturday in Shanghai, which experienced a devastating lockdown in which people struggled to secure groceries and medicines and were forcefully taken into centralized quarantine." This suggests that the Chinese government has done poorly and did not manage to address the needs of its citizens and such news shine badly on the Chinese government. After reading this news, the international public or netizens may develop poor perception or become more critical of the Chinese government. Hence, this source is bias and thus not reliable and therefore not useful.	[5-6]

5	Study all Sources. How far do the sources show that the governments respond well to the needs of its citizens during the Covid-19 pandemic. Explain your answer.	Marks [10m]
L	Source A shows that the Singapore government responded well as they were swift in addressing the shortage of mask supply. This is seen from, "The Government announced that all 1.3 million households in Singapore would be given a pack of four masks each amid reports of shops running out of stocks." This shows that the government was able to quickly address the issue of lack of masks and procure sufficient supplies for Singaporeans and even gave it freely to residents. This showcases the efficiency and care of the government towards the healthcare needs of Singaporeans at the onset of the pandemic. Source D shows that the government did not respond well to the needs of its citizens as students' learning was affected severely during the pandemic. This can be seen from "A study showed that almost 60% of school children in India cannot access online learning opportunities and that infrastructure that supports learning is sorely lacking. Many struggled with internet signal, speed and many had to share their devices." This suggests that online learning has hindered the students' learning tremendously and the government did not manage to implement better learning structures for the students. Source B shows that the Singapore government responded well as they were giving various financial support to the different groups of Singaporeans to cope with the financial difficulties as seen from the "Jobs Support Scheme" whereby "government pays 75% of the first \$4600 of monthly wages paid in April and May 2020" and the "Covid-19 Support Grant of \$800 a month for three months for those who are unemployed due to Covid-19." This suggests that different people will benefit and be aided financially by the government's measures to help cope with the financial burdens brought by the pandemic. This can make good use of the financial to tide through this difficult time without having to worry about basic need, this shows that government responded well to the worries of citizens. Source E shows that the government did not respond well to the needs of its citizens as they were treated unfairly during the pandemic with shortage of basic needs. This can be seen from "Hundreds of demonstrators gathered late Saturday in Shanghai, which experienced a devastating lockdown in which people struggled to secure groceries and medicines and were forcefully taken into centralized quarantine." This suggests that the government did not manage to provide the adequate supply of food and necessities and the citizens were living in dire conditions which caused the demonstration. Thus, the Chinese government did not respond well to its citizens' needs during the pandemic, so much so that they had to protest to survive. Source C shows that the Singapore government responded well to the needs of the students during Covid-19 as their learning were not disrupted. This was seen from "We do so by keeping schools open as far as possible, and by ensuring that learning can still take place even under Home-Based Learning conditions." This suggests that Singapore schools adopted online learning at homes so that students' learning could continue and the government was prompt in helping schools to adopt such online learning model and responded well.	[3-6]

Section B (Structured-Response Questions) (15m)

- 6 Extract 1 states that many employees experienced employment challenges such as retrenchment.

In your opinion, what can be done to support these individuals who have lost their jobs?
Explain your answer using **one** strategy. [7]

Level of Response	LEVEL DESCRIPTOR	Marks Allocation
L3	The government can help to educate and re-train individuals with relevant skills. [Identify] For instance, the Ministry of Manpower can come up with a re-skilling and re-training masterplan to support retrenched Singaporeans so that they can remain relevant and employable with newer, better or even different set of skills that are required for them to switch jobs. This can be done through providing training courses and modules that are relevant to the job market. [details/example] <u>Through education and re-training, these workers will experience an upgrading of skills and they will feel more confident in switching job roles, job types and explore different careers. Some newer job roles might even bring higher incomes. With these options, individuals will regain their financial stability and be able to continue having their desired standard of living and quality of life. [explanation]</u>	[6-7]

- 7 Extract 2 and Extract 3 state the economic impacts faced by individuals and countries respectively.
Explain the positive impact of globalization on individuals and countries. [8]

Level of Response	LEVEL DESCRIPTOR	Marks Allocation
L3	Globalisation has led to economic growth for countries. Since opening its economy in the 1965, Singapore has experienced tremendous economic growth. By 2010 Singapore traded goods to the value of S\$907 billion. In 2022, this had increased to S\$1365 billion. <u>Hence, globalization has brought about positive economic impacts on countries, as it results in country's overall economic growth. This economic growth generates more domestic revenue, allowing governments to invest more in public services such as healthcare, education and infrastructure. With this increased revenue, countries are also able to invest further in its economic growth by investing in businesses and thus creating more jobs for its citizens. Hence, this brings about even more positive economic impacts for the country.</u> Globalisation has led to employment opportunities for individuals. When more companies invest and set up business in Singapore, more high skill jobs are created and Singaporeans enjoy job opportunities in different economic sectors e.g., IT, Pharma, Banking, Bio-medical, Engineering. These opportunities provide Singaporeans with greater employment choices and ability to negotiate higher wages. <u>Thus, globalization has brought about positive impacts on individuals as it increases job opportunities and diverse employment opportunities locally and internationally, contributing to higher income levels for individuals. With increased wages, individuals will experience a higher quality of life as they can access better goods and services and better work conditions.</u>	[6-8]