



FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOL (SECONDARY)
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS / 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

HUMANITIES

2260/01

2261/01

Paper 1 Social Studies

Date: 24 August 2026

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, index number and class on all the work you hand in.

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Section B

Answer **both** questions.

You are to answer Section A and Section B on **separate** answer booklets. The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

Setter: Mr Joel Loke and Ms Wong Jiayi

This question paper consists of 7 printed pages, including the cover page.

[Turn over

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer **all** questions

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 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.

Why did the author publish this letter? Explain your answer. [6]
- 2** Study Source B and Source C.

How different is Source B and C? Explain your answer. [6]
- 3** Study Source D.

How useful is Source D in telling us about the reason for rising inflation? Explain your answer. [6]
- 4** Study Source E and Source F.

Having read Source E, are you surprised by Source F? Explain your answer. [7]
- 5** 'The government is solely responsible for managing rising inflation in Singapore.'

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

Is rising inflation an increasing challenge for Singaporeans?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Throughout 2023 and 2024, Singapore experienced a significant rise in the cost of living driven by high global inflation. Geopolitical conflicts, supply chain disruptions, and increased import costs drove up the prices of daily necessities, hawker food, and electricity. This financial pressure on citizens was further compounded by the scheduled increases in the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which rose to 8% in 2023 and to 9% at the start of 2024.

To address this, the government introduced successive financial support packages under the Assurance Package during the 2023 and 2024 National Budgets. This included distributing Community Development Council (CDC) vouchers to all Singaporean households, as well as providing cash payouts and utility (U-Save) rebates to cushion the impact of inflation. While Singaporeans expect the government to take the lead in managing inflation, others argue that addressing rising inflation requires a collective effort from governments, businesses and citizens.

Study the following sources to find out who is responsible for managing the impact of rising inflation in Singapore.

Source A: *A forum letter published on The Straits Times, 7 September 2023.*

Singaporeans generally accept and trust that the Government will always act fairly in their best interests. However, as most Singaporeans continue to struggle and cope with the higher cost of living, one wonders if the rising prices of goods and services might trap us in a vicious circle of unending price increases. The transport fare and GST increases are likely to trickle down into higher operating costs for all businesses, including hawkers and coffee shop operators, who will then be compelled to pass on the incremental costs by raising their prices to remain profitable and survive. When will this increasing price spiral end? Although the Government has been rolling out support measures to help low-income families, we should be mindful that they are still most vulnerable, especially the children who might be deprived of some development opportunities as these families scrimp to stay afloat.

Source B: *An online infographic from the website 'Unusual Hunts' posted by the Government of Singapore, October 2024.*



* House brands refer to budget-friendly items manufactured by the local supermarket.

Source C: *Adapted from an extract posted by FairPrice Group on its official website, January 2024.*

FairPrice Group (FPG) announced today a price freeze on popular seafood items and promotion for selected house brand items for the Chinese New Year period. To help all in Singapore to cope better with the cost of living crunch, FPG has been rolling out a series of measures, from GST absorption to CDC return vouchers, to help loosen the strain on household budgets. The price freeze is also part of FPG's commitment to ensuring that customers have access to quality and affordable produce for their Chinese New Year celebrations – traditionally a time where extended families and loved ones across Singapore gather to catch-up and deepen familial bonds.

Source D: *Adapted from an opinion article published on The Online Citizen, 27 November 2024. The Online Citizen (TOC) is an alternative socio-political platform.*

At the PAP's 70th Anniversary and the election of its 38th Central Executive Committee (CEC) on 24 November 2024, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong shifted the narrative by attributing Singapore's rising costs squarely to "global inflation."... This raises questions about whether PM Wong is avoiding a deeper issue: the impact of PAP's own policies in primarily causing high costs across Singapore... Policies such as high indirect taxes (GST and ERP), exorbitant land and rental prices significantly worsen inflation, disproportionately affecting ordinary Singaporeans. The government's control over land supply has driven up prices for housing, rentals, and properties. Policies such as the Goods and Services Tax, Certificate of Entitlement and Electronic Road Pricing significantly increase costs. The recent GST hikes from 7% to 8%, with another planned increase to 9%, have compounded domestic inflationary pressures, affecting every aspect of daily life.

Source E: *Adapted from a transcript of a speech delivered by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong at the PAP Party Conference commemorating PAP 70th anniversary, 24 November 2024.*

Frustration with rising cost of living overshadowed other matters, and contributed to strong anti-incumbency feelings. This means whoever is the incumbent in power (i.e. PAP) - there is a strong feeling against that incumbent party... We feel the pressure in Singapore too. The Opposition parties have tried to exploit this issue to turn sentiments against the PAP, even though they themselves do not have good solutions.

We hope Singaporeans understand that these are global inflation trends... In Singapore, the Government is doing its best to shield you, to shield all of us from the worst effects of global inflation. We've rolled out major packages over the last few years to support Singaporeans. And there's more help on the way in the coming months. Next month, in December, there will be some measures from the Assurance Package. And in January, another round of CDC vouchers coming up.

Source F: *Adapted from a speech delivered by Nominated Member of Parliament Mr Mark Lee during a Parliamentary debate, 7 November 2023. Mr. Mark Lee is a notable business leader who serves as the CEO of Sing Lun Holdings Pte. Ltd., a privately owned enterprise with a diverse range of business interests worldwide.*

In our journey to overcome and adjust to the evolving challenges of cost of living, it calls for unity and collective resolve, not division. We must resist the inclination to frame our challenges as conflicts between different segments of our society, be it local versus foreigner, business versus worker, or Government versus citizen. Instead, we must recognise that these economic hurdles are shared challenges that will be best overcome when we, as a united nation, pull together in the same direction. Fostering this unity requires a commitment from all sectors of society to engage in open, constructive dialogue... By standing in solidarity – citizens and Government, businesses and workers, locals and internationals – we can harness the full strength of our national character to address the cost of living issues in a manner that is not only effective but also equitable.

Section B (Structured-Response Question)

Answer **both** questions.

Being Part of a Globalised World

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1



Singapore

Fewer fresh graduates found work within 6 months in 2025; median salary held steady at S\$4,500: Survey

How fresh grads did in their job search in 2025



Proportion of graduates in the labour force who had:	2023	2024	2025
Secured employment	92.9%	91.2%	88.9%
Currently employed	89.4%	87.1%	83.4%
In full-time permanent (FTP) employment	83.7%	79.4%	74.4%
Freelancing	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%
In part-time/temporary employment	4.1%	6.0%	7.2%
Voluntary	2.9%	3.7%	4.1%
Involuntary	1.2%	2.3%	3.1%
Accepted a job offer & starting later	3.1%	3.7%	5.1%
Starting a business venture	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%
Not secured employment	7.1%	8.8%	11.1%
Received but rejected FTP job offers	2.3%	2.2%	2.0%
Applied but haven't received any FTP job offers	4.1%	5.7%	8.5%
Didn't search for any FTP job	0.6%	0.8%	0.5%
Median gross monthly salary (FTP)	S\$4,295	S\$4,500	S\$4,500

Note: Employment figures may not add up due to rounding differences.

Source: Joint Autonomous Universities Graduate Employment Survey, Mar 5, 2026
CNA GRAPHICS



Extract 2

Globalisation and advances in technology have increased the risk of cyberattacks, making it more difficult for countries to protect sensitive information and digital systems.

Extract 3

Globalisation has enabled terrorist groups to spread extremist ideologies and coordinate attacks across borders, posing a threat to national security and social harmony.

- 6 Extract 1 shows fewer university graduates able to secure full-time jobs within six months of graduation in 2025. This reflects the growing competition for employment opportunities for university graduates in Singapore.

In your opinion, how can university graduates stay competitive in a globalised world? Explain your answer with reference to **two** ways. [7]

- 7 Extracts 2 and 3 show the possible security impacts of globalisation.

Do you think cyber threats have a greater impact than transnational terrorism on Singapore? Explain your answer. [8]

- End of paper -

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source A: <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/forum/forum-more-help-needed-for-lower-income-families-affected-by-rising-prices>

Source B: <https://www.gov.sg/features/cost-of-living/unusual-hunts/>

Source C: <https://www.fairpricegroup.com.sg/fairprice-group-freezes-prices-of-popular-produce-amid-wet-market-markups-this-chinese-new-year/>

Source D: <https://www.theonlinecitizen.com/2024/11/27/whos-to-blame-for-singapores-cost-of-living-crisis-a-demand-for-clarity-and-accountability/>

Source E: <https://www.pap.org.sg/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/PAP70-Party-Conference-2024-Speech-by-Deputy-Secretary-General-Lawrence-Wong-Checked-transcript.pdf>

Source F: <https://sprs.parl.gov.sg/search/#!/fullreport?sittingdate=07-11-2023>

Extract 1: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/graduate-employment-2025-work-jobs-university-5973621>

ANSWER KEY

1.	Study Source A Why did the author publish this letter? Explain your answer.	[6]
L1	Not phrasing answer as a reason Copies/ lifts/ paraphrases from source E.g The author feels that although the Government has been rolling out support measures to help low-income families, we should be mindful that they are still most vulnerable, especially the children who might be deprived of some development opportunities as these families scrimp to stay afloat.	1
L2	Literal Message The author published this letter because the author is unhappy with the government. Source A states “Although the Government has been rolling out support measures to help low-income families, we should be mindful that they are still most vulnerable, especially the children who might be deprived of some development opportunities as these families scrimp to stay afloat.”	2
L3	Answers based on message Award 3m for main message, unsupported Award 4m for main message, supported <u>Message</u> The author published this letter because the author wanted raise awareness among Singaporeans and the Government about the challenges posed by the rising cost of living for low-income families. This is seen from Source A which states “However, as most Singaporeans continue to struggle and cope with the higher cost of living, one wonders if the rising prices of goods and services might trap us in a vicious circle of unending price increases.”	3-4
L4	Outcome <u>Outcome</u> The author published this letter because the author wanted to persuade the Government to take further action to address the rising cost of living. Source A states “Although the Government has been rolling out support measures to help low-income families, we should be mindful that they are still most vulnerable, especially the children who might be deprived of some development opportunities as these families scrimp to stay afloat.” Other acceptable answer: Persuade the government to provide assistance to vulnerable families	5

L5	L4 + Answer based on context of the source Award 5m to answers that includes context Award 6m to answers that provides explanation of context. In view of the government increasing its GST from 7 to 8% in 2023 [5m], the author published this letter because it wanted to persuade the government to introduce more measures to help Singaporeans cope with rising living costs and prevent vulnerable families from suffering further financial hardship. This is seen in Source A which states “The transport fare and GST increases are likely to trickle down into higher operating costs for all businesses, including hawkers and coffee shop operators, who will then be compelled to pass on the incremental costs by raising their prices to remain profitable and survive... we should be mindful that they are still most vulnerable, especially the children who might be deprived of some development opportunities as these families scrimp to stay afloat.” In view of high global inflation, the author published this letter because many people are frustrated by the rising cost of living. [6m – impact of cost of living] This is seen in Source A which states “The transport fare and GST increases are likely to trickle down into higher operating costs for all businesses, including hawkers and coffee shop operators, who will then be compelled to pass on the incremental costs by raising their prices to remain profitable and survive... we should be mindful that they are still most vulnerable, especially the children who might be deprived of some development opportunities as these families scrimp to stay afloat.”	5-6
2	Study Sources B and C. How different is Source B and C? Explain your answer.	[6]
L1	Diff in Provenance Source B is an infographic while Source C is from a website.	1
L2	False Matching Source C tells me that there is a price freeze to help Singaporeans cope with inflation while Source B does not.	2
L3	Difference/Similarity in Content <i>4 marks for 1 comparison, supported</i> Source B and C differ in the regarding how rising cost can be managed. Source B tells me that individuals can managing rising cost by adjusting their spending habits. Source B highlights shopping tips such as considering frozen produce or purchasing in bulk. Source C tells me that organisations such as FairPrice Group can help Singaporeans cope with rising cost by keeping prices affordable by freezing their prices for Chinese New Year. Source C states “FairPrice Group (FPG) announced today a price freeze on popular seafood items and promotion for selected FairPrice vegetables for the Chinese New Year period.”	3-4

	OR Both sources are similar in how Singaporeans can use more house brand items to manage rising inflation. Source B shows the use of house brands as one of the shopping tips. Source C states “FairPrice Group (FPG) announced today a price freeze on popular seafood items and promotion for selected house brand items for the Chinese New Year period.”	
L4	Similarity and Difference <i>Award the higher marks for more developed answer.</i>	5-6

3.	Study Source D How useful is Source D in telling us about the reason for rising inflation? Explain your answer.	[6]
L1	Useful / not useful based on underdeveloped assertion on provenance Source D is not useful because it is from an alternative socio-political platform.	1
L2	Useful / Not Useful based on one of the following: Award the higher mark for support provided. <u>Useful based on content</u> Source D is useful. Source D tells me that rising inflation is caused by government policies such as GST, COE and ERP. Source D states “The recent GST hikes from 7% to 8%, with another planned increase to 9%, have compounded domestic inflationary pressures, affecting every aspect of daily life.” This suggests that policies implemented by the government plays a large role in rising inflation. <u>Not useful due to undeveloped provenance (typicality)</u> E.g Not useful as it only shows us a one-sided perspective from the alternative media source.	2-3
L3	Useful / Not Useful based on cross-reference to other sources OR Limitation in perspective <i>Award the higher marks for more developed answer.</i> <i>Note:</i> <i>1. Must establish meaningful CR between Source D and other sources or BI</i> <i>2. Must have a valid point of comparison</i> <i>3. Failure to establish reliability, award L2/3</i> E.g. Source D is useful upon cross-referencing to Source A. Source D tells me that rising inflation is caused by government policies such as GST, COE and ERP. Source D states “The recent GST hikes from 7% to 8%, with another planned increase to 9%, have compounded domestic inflationary pressures,	4-5

	affecting every aspect of daily life.” This suggests that policies implemented by the government plays a large role in rising inflation. Source A supports this view as it tells me that government policies such as GST plays a part in causing inflation. Source A states “The transport fare and GST increases are likely to trickle down into higher operating costs for all businesses, including hawkers and coffee shop operators, who will then be compelled to pass on the incremental costs by raising their prices to remain profitable and survive.” <u>Since Source A supports Source D, Source D is reliable and hence useful.</u> <u>Limited in perspective</u> Source D is limited in perspective as it only focuses on challenges but does not show the solutions provided by the government. Source D tells me that “Policies such as high indirect taxes (GST and ERP), exorbitant land and rental prices significantly worsen inflation, disproportionately affecting ordinary Singaporeans” Source E disagrees with this view because it shows how the government has provided measures to cope with rising inflation. Source E states “Next month, in December, there will be some measures from the Assurance Package. And in January, another round of CDC vouchers coming up.” <u>Since Source E disagree with Source D, Source D is unreliable and hence less useful.</u>	
L4	Not Useful based on explanation of provenance / tone <i>Answers that do not explain unreliability should be capped at L2/3</i> <u>Provenance</u> E.g., Source D is not useful as it is the viewpoint of The Online Citizen. As an alternative socio-political platform, the author may be biased towards presenting viewpoints that challenge the Government's explanation that inflation is mainly caused by global factors. Hence, Source D is biased and limited in its usefulness. <u>Tone</u> E.g., Source D is limited in its usefulness in telling us about the reasons for rising inflation because its tone suggests that it is highly critical of the Government. The author uses phrases such as "This raises questions about whether PM Wong is avoiding a deeper issue" and describes land and rental prices as "exorbitant". This suggests that the author may have a negative view of the Government and may overemphasise the role of government policies while downplaying other causes of inflation. Hence, the source presents only one perspective on the causes of inflation, making it less useful for gaining a balanced understanding of the issue.	5
L5	Unreliable but still useful Source D is useful even though it has a biased purpose. Even though The Online Citizen is known as an alternative socio-political platform which will likely publish issues which are critical of the govern, it is still useful as it reflects	6

	sentiments on the ground. This is useful in providing the government with perspective from the ground so as to consider other measures to help resolve rising cost of living. Source E states “The government’s control over land supply has driven up prices for housing, rentals, and properties. Policies such as the Goods and Services Tax, Certificate of Entitlement and Electronic Road Pricing significantly increase costs. The recent GST hikes from 7% to 8%, with another planned increase to 9%, have compounded domestic inflationary pressures, affecting every aspect of daily life.”	
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4.	Study Sources E and F Having read Source E, are you surprised by Source F? Explain your answer.	[7]
L1	Surprised / not surprised by describing source (no common criteria) / lifting information with no explanation / Only mentioning the inference of Source E. Having read Source E, I am not surprised by Source F as Source E is from PM Lawrence Wong. I can infer from Source E that the government has implemented many policies to help manage rising inflation. Source E states “But here in Singapore, the Government is doing its best to shield you, to shield all of us from the worst effects of global inflation. We’ve rolled out major packages over the last few years to support Singaporeans.” Award L1 for answers that mention that both sources are only about rising inflation	1
L2	Surprised / not surprised trust based only on the inference / provenance of Source F (without comparison to Source E) Having read Source E, I am not surprised by Source F. Source F tells me that businesses and the government need to work together to manage rising inflation. Source E states “By standing in solidarity – citizens and Government, businesses and workers, locals and internationals – we can harness the full strength of our national character to address the cost of living issues in a manner that is not only effective but also equitable.”	2
L3	Surprised (because of contradiction between Source E and F) based on comparison of inference of both Sources E and F <i>Award the higher marks for more developed answer.</i> Having read Source E, I am surprised by Source F as they differ as to whether the government alone is sufficient to manage inflation. Source E tells me that the government plays an important role in managing rising inflation through support measures. Source E states “But here in Singapore, the Government is doing its best to shield you, to shield all of us from the worst effects of global inflation. We’ve rolled out major packages over the last few years to support Singaporeans.” Source F tells me that the government alone is inadequate in managing inflation and needs to work with various stake	3-4

	holders in society to overcome inflation. Source F states “By standing in solidarity – citizens and Government, businesses and workers, locals and internationals – we can harness the full strength of our national character to address the cost of living issues in a manner that is not only effective but also equitable.” <u>Since Source E disagrees with Source F, having read Source E, I am surprised by Source F.</u> <u>Also accepted</u> <i>Answers which shows not surprised because both sources suggest that Singaporeans should work together to overcome the challenges posed by the rising cost of living, rather than allowing divisions within society to worsen the situation.</i>	
L4	L3 + Surprised or not surprised based on cross-reference to other sources to check Source F <i>Award the higher marks for more developed answer.</i> L3 + When I cross-refer to Source C, it agrees with what Source F says. Source F tells me that other stakeholders such as businesses need to play a part in managing rising inflation. Source F says “To help all in Singapore to cope better with the cost of living crunch, FPG has been rolling out a series of measures, from GST absorption to CDC return vouchers, to help loosen the strain on household budgets.” Since Source C supports Source F, I am not surprised by Source F.	5-6
L5	Surprised / not surprised based on provenance L3 + I am not surprised by Source F. Source F a speech made by Mr Mark Lee. As a Nominated Member of Parliament and a notable business leader, he is expected to promote constructive dialogue and social cohesion rather than side any political party. Therefore, it is unsurprising that he calls for unity among the different segments of society and urges Singaporeans not to view cost-of-living challenges as conflicts between Government versus citizen or business versus worker.	7

- 5 Study all sources.**
'The government is solely responsible for managing rising inflation in Singapore.' Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement.

[10]

Source A: Agree – government policies e.g. GST

Source B: Disagree - individuals

Source C: Disagree - businesses

Source D: Agree – government policies contribute to high cost of living

Source E: Agree – government assistance schemes

Source F: Disagree – shared between different groups of society

Level	Band Descriptor	Marks									
L1	Writes about statement with no valid source use E.g. No it has cause more harm than good	1									
L2	YES or NO, supported by valid source use <u>1 SIDED ONLY</u> 1 source: 2 marks 2 sources: 3-4 marks Agree (Sources A, D, E) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sources</th><th>Inference</th><th>Evidence</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td><td> The Government is responsible for addressing rising inflation in Singapore because its policies can contribute to rising prices and vulnerable groups depend on government support. OR The Government is responsible for helping vulnerable groups cope with inflation through support measures. </td><td> "transport fare and GST increases are likely to trickle down into higher operating costs"; businesses "pass on the incremental costs by raising their prices" "Government has been rolling out support measures to help low-income families" </td></tr> <tr> <td>D</td><td> The Government is responsible for addressing rising inflation in Singapore because government policies are identified as a major cause of rising costs. </td><td> "high indirect taxes (GST and ERP)... significantly exacerbate inflation"; "government's control over land supply has driven up prices" </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Sources	Inference	Evidence	A	The Government is responsible for addressing rising inflation in Singapore because its policies can contribute to rising prices and vulnerable groups depend on government support. OR The Government is responsible for helping vulnerable groups cope with inflation through support measures.	"transport fare and GST increases are likely to trickle down into higher operating costs"; businesses "pass on the incremental costs by raising their prices" "Government has been rolling out support measures to help low-income families"	D	The Government is responsible for addressing rising inflation in Singapore because government policies are identified as a major cause of rising costs.	"high indirect taxes (GST and ERP)... significantly exacerbate inflation"; "government's control over land supply has driven up prices"	2-4
Sources	Inference	Evidence									
A	The Government is responsible for addressing rising inflation in Singapore because its policies can contribute to rising prices and vulnerable groups depend on government support. OR The Government is responsible for helping vulnerable groups cope with inflation through support measures.	"transport fare and GST increases are likely to trickle down into higher operating costs"; businesses "pass on the incremental costs by raising their prices" "Government has been rolling out support measures to help low-income families"									
D	The Government is responsible for addressing rising inflation in Singapore because government policies are identified as a major cause of rising costs.	"high indirect taxes (GST and ERP)... significantly exacerbate inflation"; "government's control over land supply has driven up prices"									

		The Government should address inflation by reviewing policies that increase the cost of living.	"GST hikes... have compounded domestic inflationary pressures"	
	E	The Government is responsible for protecting Singaporeans from inflation by providing financial assistance and support schemes. OR The Government has a responsibility to manage inflation because it possesses the resources and authority to implement nationwide measures.	"Government is doing its best to shield you"; "major packages"; "CDC vouchers"; "Assurance Package" "We've rolled out major packages over the last few years to support Singaporeans"	
	Disagree (Sources B, C, F)			
	Sources	Inference	Evidence	
	B	The Government is not responsible for addressing rising inflation in Singapore because <u>individuals</u> must take personal responsibility for adjusting their spending habits to cope with rising prices.	"Consider frozen produce, opt for house brand, purchase in bulk, explore new places and uncover good deals."	
	C	The Government is not responsible for addressing rising inflation in Singapore because <u>businesses</u> can help reduce the impact of inflation by keeping prices affordable. OR Businesses have a responsibility to support consumers through	"price freeze on popular seafood items" "GST absorption"; "help loosen the strain on household budgets"	

	corporate initiatives that reduce cost pressures.		
F	The Government is not responsible for addressing rising inflation in Singapore because managing inflation requires <u>cooperation between different groups in society</u>. Citizens, businesses and the Government must work together to develop solutions to rising costs.	"shared challenges"; "all sectors of society" "citizens and Government, businesses and workers"; "pull together in the same direction"	
L3	YES and NO, supported by valid source use i.e. both elements of L2 2 sources: 5m (1 'yes' & 1 'no') 3 sources: 6-7m (1 'yes' & 2 'no' OR 2 'yes' & 1 'no') 4 sources: 7-8m (2 'yes' & 2 'no')		5 - 8
	Bonus Marks <u>Reliability / Utility</u> Source E may not be entirely reliable as it is a speech delivered by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong at the PAP Party Conference. As the leader of the ruling party, he has a vested interest in defending the Government's handling of the rising cost of living and maintaining public support for the PAP. Therefore, he may emphasise the Government's efforts to help Singaporeans while downplaying the extent to which government policies have contributed to inflation. <u>Contextual Knowledge</u> My contextual knowledge tells me that the Government is not solely responsible for managing inflation in Singapore. Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine War, countries around the world experienced rising inflation due to disruptions in global supply chains and higher energy and food prices. As Singapore imports most of its food and energy, many of these inflationary pressures originated overseas and were beyond the Government's control. Therefore, inflation cannot be managed by the Government alone. <u>Balanced Conclusion / Resolution</u> Sources A, D and E suggest that the Government plays an important role in managing rising inflation because its policies can influence the cost of living and it has the resources to help Singaporeans cope through measures such as CDC vouchers, GST Voucher schemes and the Assurance Package. However, Sources B, C and F show that individuals, businesses and society also have a part to play in addressing rising		

	inflation by making prudent spending decisions, keeping prices affordable and working together to overcome cost-of-living challenges. Therefore, while the Government bears the primary responsibility for managing inflation, effectively addressing rising inflation requires a collective effort from the Government, businesses and citizens.	
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Suggested Answer Scheme: Structured Response Question

6	Extract 1 shows fewer university graduates able to secure full-time jobs within six months of graduation in 2025. This reflects the growing competition for employment opportunities for university graduates in Singapore. In your opinion, how can university graduates stay competitive in a globalised world? Explain your answer with reference to two ways.	[7]
L1	Describes the issue/topic. E.g. University graduates are finding it difficult to find jobs in Singapore. There is a growing job competition for university graduates in Singapore.	1
L2	Identifies/ Describes the strategies. <i>Award 2 marks for identifying a strategy.</i> <i>Award 3 marks for identifying two strategies.</i> <i>Award 3 marks for describing one strategy.</i> <i>Award 4 marks for describing two strategies.</i> E.g. Firstly, university graduates can continuously upgrade their skills and knowledge to meet changing industry demands. As technology advances rapidly, employers are increasingly looking for workers with relevant digital and technical skills, and the willingness to adapt to changing economic conditions. By participating in courses, gaining certifications and learning new skills, university graduates can remain employable and better compete with workers from around the world. For example, the graduates can make use of their SkillsFuture credits to take up courses in areas such as data analytics, artificial intelligence and digital marketing. Secondly, university graduates can gain practical work experience and develop transferable skills. These graduates can take on part-time or temporary jobs while seeking permanent employment. For example, companies such as DBS Bank, Singtel and ST Engineering offer internship programmes for students and graduates. Through internships, work attachments and part-time jobs, university graduates can develop skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving. These skills are valued across different industries and countries. In a globalised economy where employers have a larger pool of candidates to choose from, practical experience can help graduates stand out from other job seekers and improve their employability.	2-4
L3	L2 + Explains strategy. <i>Award 5 - 6 marks for one strategy that is explained</i> <i>Award 6 - 7 marks for two strategies that are explained well</i>	5-7

	E.g. Firstly, university graduates can continuously upgrade their skills and knowledge to meet changing industry demands. As technology advances rapidly, employers are increasingly looking for workers with relevant digital and technical skills, and the willingness to adapt to changing economic conditions. By participating in courses, gaining certifications and learning new skills, university graduates can remain employable and better compete with workers from around the world. For example, the graduates can make use of their SkillsFuture credits to take up courses in areas such as data analytics, artificial intelligence and digital marketing. By upgrading their skills through such programmes, these graduates remain competitive as they have the skillsets and knowledge that meet employers' needs, giving these graduates a better chance of securing employment upon graduation. Secondly, university graduates can gain practical work experience and develop transferable skills. These graduates can take on part-time or temporary jobs while seeking permanent employment. For example, companies such as DBS Bank, Singtel and ST Engineering offer internship programmes for students and graduates. Through internships, work attachments and part-time jobs, university graduates can develop skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving. These skills are valued across different industries and countries. In a globalised economy where employers have a larger pool of candidates to choose from, practical experience can help graduates stand out from other job seekers and improve their employability. Hence, through these opportunities, university graduates can gain industry exposure, build professional networks and acquire workplace skills that boost their portfolio and make them more attractive to employers in this competitive job market.	
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7	Extracts 2 and 3 show the possible security impacts of globalisation. Do you think cyber threats have a greater impact than transnational terrorism on Singapore? Explain your answer.	[8]
Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Writes about the topic without addressing the question.	1-2
L2	Describes the factors. <i>Award 3 marks for describing either factor.</i> <i>Award 4 marks for describing both factors.</i> E.g. Cyber threats can have significant social impacts on Singapore. In today's globalised world, large amounts of personal information are stored online, including data related to banking, healthcare, education and employment. This makes individuals, businesses and government systems more vulnerable to unauthorised access by cybercriminals. For example, in 2021, hackers stole the personal data of 129,000 Singtel customers and bank account details of former employees. In another	3-4

	case, over 130 people were arrested in Singapore in May 2026 in a crackdown on transnational scams link to \$963 million in losses to e-commerce scams, job scams, investment scams and impersonation scams. Nearly 102,000 bank accounts linked to the scams were frozen. Transnational terrorism can have serious social impacts on Singapore by threatening social harmony and national security. In a globalised world, terrorist groups are able to use the internet and social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook to spread propaganda, recruit supporters, raise funds and coordinate attacks across national borders. This makes it more difficult for governments to identify and stop potential terrorists before they carry out attacks. For example, a 16-year-old Singaporean was detained in December 2020 after the authorities found that he had made detailed plans and preparations to conduct terrorist attacks against Muslims in Singapore. The teenager “was self-radicalised, motivated by strong feelings towards Islam and fascination with violence. He watched the livestreamed video of the terrorist attack on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, and conducted online research using Google Maps and Street View in preparation for his attack on the two mosques near his home.	
L3	L2 + Explains the factors. <i>Award 5-6 marks for explaining either factor.</i> <i>Award 6-7 marks for explaining both factors.</i> E.g. Cyber threats can have significant social impacts on Singapore. In today's globalised world, large amounts of personal information are stored online, including data related to banking, healthcare, education and employment. This makes individuals, businesses and government systems more vulnerable to unauthorised access by cybercriminals. For example, in 2021, hackers stole the personal data of 129,000 Singtel customers and bank account details of former employees. In another case, over 130 people were arrested in Singapore in May 2026 in a crackdown on transnational scams link to \$963 million in losses to e-commerce scams, job scams, investment scams and impersonation scams. Nearly 102,000 bank accounts linked to the scams were frozen. As cyber threats become more widespread, they can undermine public trust in digital technologies and online services. Individuals may become fearful of using online platforms due to concerns about privacy breaches, scams, phishing attacks and identity theft. This can weaken Singapore's sense of safety and security, especially as the country becomes increasingly reliant on digital technology. Furthermore, vulnerable groups such as the elderly may be disproportionately affected because they may lack the digital literacy needed to protect themselves from cybercrime. As a result, cyber threats can deepen social inequalities and create feelings of exclusion among those who feel less able to participate safely in Singapore's digital society. Transnational terrorism can have serious social impacts on Singapore by threatening social harmony and national security. In a globalised world, terrorist groups are able to use the internet and social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook to spread propaganda, recruit supporters, raise funds and coordinate attacks across national	5-7

	borders. This makes it more difficult for governments to identify and stop potential terrorists before they carry out attacks. For example, a 16-year-old Singaporean was detained in December 2020 after the authorities found that he had made detailed plans and preparations to conduct terrorist attacks against Muslims in Singapore. The teenager “was self-radicalised, motivated by strong feelings towards Islam and fascination with violence. He watched the livestreamed video of the terrorist attack on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, and conducted online research using Google Maps and Street View in preparation for his attack on the two mosques near his home. Such incidents can create fear and anxiety among Singaporeans as they highlight the possibility of home-grown radicalisation and terrorist attacks. If an attack were to occur, it could lead to loss of lives and damage to property. More importantly, it may increase suspicion and prejudice towards certain racial or religious groups associated with the perpetrators, even though the vast majority of members of these communities do not support extremist views. This can weaken trust between different communities and undermine Singapore's multicultural harmony. Furthermore, the ability of terrorist groups to spread extremist ideologies globally through digital platforms means that the threat of radicalisation remains persistent, making Singaporeans feel less safe and secure. Therefore, transnational terrorism poses a significant challenge to Singapore by threatening both social cohesion and national security.	
L4	Both aspects in L3 + explains the relative importance of both factors E.g. In conclusion, I agree with the statement. While transnational terrorism can potentially cause greater damage in a single incident due to loss of lives and the risk of racial and religious tensions, cyber threats have a greater overall impact on Singapore because of their frequency, scale and growing relevance in a highly digitalised society. Almost every Singaporean relies on digital services daily, making cyber threats a constant concern. As Singapore continues its Smart Nation journey, the disruption caused by cyberattacks could affect essential services, businesses and individuals simultaneously. Therefore, cyber threats currently pose the greater challenge to Singapore. In conclusion, I disagree with the statement. I believe that transnational terrorism has a greater impact because of its potential to cause widespread fear, loss of life and long-term damage to Singapore's social cohesion. A successful terrorist attack could destabilise racial and religious harmony, which is a key pillar of Singapore's society. While cyber threats often result in financial losses and inconvenience, terrorist attacks can lead to casualties and create deep divisions among communities. Therefore, despite being less common, the consequences of terrorism can be more severe and far-reaching.	8