

CHRIST CHURCH SECONDARY SCHOOL
2026 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
FOUR EXPRESS/ FIVE NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

CANDIDATE
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INDEX
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HUMANITIES (SOCIAL STUDIES)

Paper 1

2260/01, 2261/01

14th August 2026

1 hour 45 minutes

Additional Material: Answer Booklet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

1. Do not turn this page over until you are instructed.
2. Write your Centre Number, Index Number, Name, Class, and Register Number on all work and on the question paper.
3. This paper has two sections:
 - **Section A: Source-Based Case Study [35 marks]**
 - **Section B: Structured-Response Questions [15 marks]**
4. Start each section in a new answer booklet and each question on a fresh page.
5. Use dark blue or black pen and write on both sides. Do not use staples, clips, highlighters, glue, or correction fluid.
6. At the end, fasten Section A and B separately and hand in both answer booklets and the question paper.
7. This Social Studies component is worth 50% of the Combined Humanities Subject.

FOR EXAMINER'S USE	
Section A	
Section B	
TOTAL	

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

All questions are **compulsory** for candidates.

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 do so. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the issue to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

Source A is a political cartoon published by a Western media platform. Is it still useful as evidence of how women are treated in Iran? Explain your answer. **[6]**

2 Study Source B.

Why did the Iranian news agency (IRNA) circulate the official government announcements? Explain your answer. **[5]**

3 Study Sources C and D.

How different are Sources C and D? Explain your answer. **[7]**

4 Study Sources E and F.

Both Sources E and F present contrasting views about women's rights in Iran. Is Source E more reliable than Source F? Explain your answer. **[7]**

5 'The Iranian government disregards women's rights.'

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

To what extent does the Iranian government support or suppress women's rights?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Women's rights in Iran continue to draw global attention. Women's rights are the basic freedoms women are entitled to on equal terms with men — such as access to education, work, fair treatment in family life, freedom of movement and dress, and a life free from violence. Iran is an Islamic republic where clerics, or Muslim religious leaders, set rules on dress, family, and behaviour. In 2022, protests broke out after the death of Mahsa Amini, detained for wearing the hijab "improperly." The hijab, a headscarf covering the hair, is legally required in public. Authorities say women's access to education and jobs has improved, but Western human rights groups say rules still restrict women's daily lives.

Study the following sources to find out whether the Iranian government supports or suppresses women's rights.

Source A: A political cartoon by Western cartoonist Patrick Chappatte, showing a soldier in the foreground with a cleric wearing a turban standing in the background, published during mass protests in Iran over the treatment of women.



Source B: *Adapted from official government announcements published by Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).*

Our universities continue to welcome increasing numbers of young women. This year, women make up more than half of all new students, and now account for 56% of students in state universities across the country. Many of them are pursuing medicine, engineering and advanced sciences.

We have also seen an increase of over 33% in the number of female university faculty members, with women making up 34% of faculty in medical universities. These achievements reflect our long-term commitment to expanding opportunities for girls and supporting their participation in national development.

Source C: *An article published in the Tehran Times on 24 November 2024 titled "Iran highlights empowering women in all aspects."*

Iranian officials say they have expanded programmes designed to empower women in the workforce. New business-training courses, micro-loans and leadership workshops have opened more paths for women to join sectors such as healthcare and education.

Officials emphasise that these efforts are part of a wider plan to improve women's economic participation and strengthen families. They also say that Iran has shared these developments at international meetings to show progress in improving women's welfare. At the same time, some officials acknowledge that social expectations remain a challenge in certain regions.

Source D: *Adapted from activist accounts and details reported by The Guardian on increased surveillance. The Guardian is a British daily newspaper.*

Everywhere I go now, there seem to be new cameras watching us. They are mounted along main roads, outside metro stations, inside shopping malls, and even above the entrances of neighbourhood shops. Friends tell me the authorities are using these cameras to identify women who appear in public without the hijab.

One friend received a warning message ordering her to pay a fine after she appeared unveiled in a short online video. Another was contacted and told to report to the police for questioning. Many of us feel constantly monitored. It has become difficult to live normally when every movement feels recorded and judged.

Source E: *An extract from a Human Rights Watch report titled “Iran: New Hijab Law Adds Restrictions and Punishments,” published 14 October 2024.*

Iran’s newly amended compulsory veiling law introduces far heavier penalties for women and girls who fail to follow the state’s dress requirements. Under these rules, violations can result in substantial fines, restrictions on bank accounts and financial services, and even imprisonment for repeat offences. Authorities have also widened the use of surveillance cameras and digital monitoring systems to identify women who appear unveiled in streets, public buildings, and vehicles.

Human Rights Watch warns that these measures further undermine women’s autonomy and reinforce systemic discrimination that has long shaped daily life. The tightening of these regulations reflects a broader effort by the state to reassert control following the widespread nationwide protests that grew after the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022.

Source F: *Extract adapted from UN Women’s “National Review: Islamic Republic of Iran”, 2023, analysing women’s roles in education and research.*

Women and girls now make up a substantial share of students enrolled in universities and higher-education institutions across Iran. Many are actively involved in scientific research, technology projects and innovative entrepreneurial ventures. These developments stem from decades of investment in girls’ education and long-term policy support from both government agencies and academic institutions.

As opportunities in certain fields expand, more women are taking on roles in research labs, postgraduate programmes and small business start-ups, becoming increasingly visible in academic and professional spaces. Although persistent barriers still limit how fully women can translate academic success into equal participation in all sectors of the economy, the overall trend points toward steady progress in educational inclusion and skill development for women.

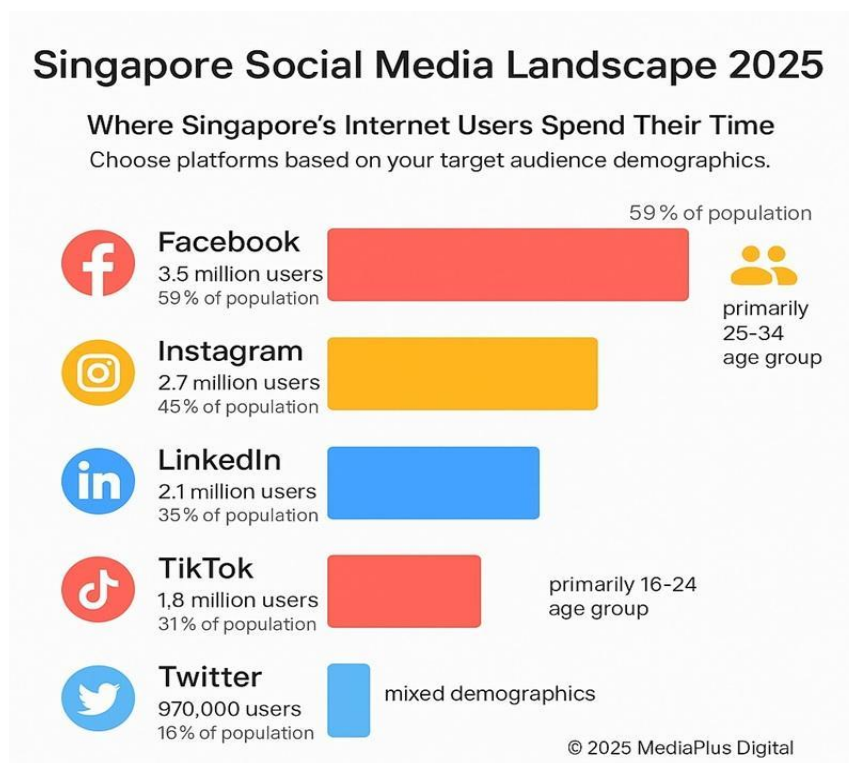
Section B (Structured-Response Questions)

All questions are **compulsory** for candidates.

Being Part of a Globalised World

Study the extracts carefully and then answer the questions.

Extract 1



Extract 2

Many young people today spend much of their time on platforms like Netflix and TikTok, following foreign influencers, and as a result become less fluent in their dialect, adopt foreign slang, and lose interest in traditional customs. While globalisation drives these shifts, the responsibility for keeping local culture alive rests with each individual, who must take deliberate steps to preserve it.

Extract 3

In July 2023, the Infocomm Media Development Authority launched the Code of Practice for Online Safety. It requires social media services with significant reach or impact in Singapore to put in place measures to minimise users' exposure to harmful content on their platforms. These include additional measures to protect children below the age of 18.

- 6 Extract 1 shows data on how social media platforms influence the daily lives of Singapore residents.

In your opinion, what are some responsibilities Singaporean youths should practise when using global digital platforms? Explain your answer with reference to **two** responsibilities. [7]

- 7 Extracts 2 and 3 show the different responses of individuals and countries in managing the cultural impacts of globalisation, such as the spread of dominant media and dilution of local traditions.

Do you think responses of countries play a more important role than individual responses in managing the cultural impacts of globalisation? Explain your answer. [8]

-End of Paper-

Acknowledgements

Source A — Chappatte, P. (© 2022, October 8). <i>Repression of Iranian women</i> [Editorial cartoon]. Chappatte.
Source B — Islamic Republic News Agency. (© 2023). <i>Female university enrolment surpasses 50% in Iran</i> .
Source C — Tehran Times. (© 2024, November 24). <i>Iran highlights empowering women in all aspects</i> . Tehran Times.
Source D — The Guardian. (© 2023, April 10). <i>Iran installs cameras to identify unveiled women</i> . The Guardian.
Source E — Human Rights Watch. (© 2024, October 14). <i>Iran: New hijab law adds restrictions and punishments</i> . Human Rights Watch.
Source F — UN Women. (© 2023). <i>National review: Islamic Republic of Iran</i> [Report extract, section on women's roles in education and research]. UN Women.
Extract 1 — MediaPlus Digital. © 2025. <i>"How to Extract Actionable Customer Insights from Social Media in Singapore."</i> MediaPlus Digital, May 28, 2025.
Extract 2 — Adapted for this examination.
Extract 3 — Teo, J. (© 2024, January). <i>Building an inclusive and safe digital society</i> [Speech in Parliament]. Ministry of Digital Development and Information.