

SBCS Skills

Syllabus: [Singapore-Cambridge NA Level 2125 Humanities \(SS + Geography\) syllabus for 2026](#)

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Inference

Question types:

- What is the message of this source?
- What does the source tell you?
- Does the author agree...?
- What can you infer about the...?

Answer format: 1 Paragraph

ATQ (Inference)	
Expand on inference	because...
Evidence + explanation	Source A states that "...". This means...

Inference - Supporter/Opponent

Question types:

- How supportive is the...?
- Is the author supportive of...?

Answer format: 1 Paragraph

ATQ (Supporter?)	The author in Source A is a supporter of.../does not support
Inference	I can infer from source A that...
Evidence + explanation	This is because Source A states that "...". This means...
Author's background + purpose	As the author is ... (background/position + context), he would want to convince (purpose), hence we would portray ... (positively/negatively), thus making him a supporter/opponent.

Inference - Purpose

Question types:

- What is the purpose of source?
- Why did X make this speech?
- Why was the source published?
- Why do you think this source was published?

Answer format: 1 Paragraph PIER

Purpose + Inference	Convince/persuade/educate/inform/criticise (who) that ____
Evidence + explanation	The source states that "...". This means that...
Rationale	

Comparison

Question types:

- How similar are sources X and Y in _____(criteria)_____?
- How far would source X agree with source Y?

Answer format: 2 Paragraphs

P1 - Similarity/Difference in content

ATQ	Sources X and Y are similar/different in content.
Source X	Source X tells me (inference). This is because source X states "...". This means that...
Source Y	However/Similarly, Source Y tells me (inference). This is because source Y states "...". This means that...

P2 - Purpose/tone

ATQ	Sources X and Y are similar/different in purpose/tone.
Source X Purpose	Source X purpose is to convince _____. This is to (rationale)
Source Y Purpose	However/Similarly, Source Y purpose is to convince _____. This is to (rationale)

Reliability

Question types:

- How reliable is the source?
- Is the claim about reliable?
- Does the source prove that...?
- Do you believe/trust this source?

Answer format: 2 Paragraphs (First is cross-reference, second is CAP)

Paragraph 1: Cross-reference (reliable)

Reference source	Source X is reliable as it claims _____. This is because source X states "...". This means...
Cross-referenced source	Furthermore, it is supported by source Y as it claims that _____. This is because source Y states "...". This means...
Link	Therefore, source X is reliable as it is supported by source Y.

Paragraph 1: Cross-reference (unreliable)

Reference source	Source X seems reliable at first as it claims _____. This is because source X states that "...". This means...
cross-referenced source	However, it is contradicted by source Z as it claims _____. This is because source Z states that "...". This means...
Link	Therefore, source X is not reliable as it is contradicted by source Z.

Paragraph 1: Cross-reference (prove)

Reference source	Source X proves/does not prove that _____ because it is reliable/not reliable. Source X states that "...". This means that...
Cross-referenced source	Source X proves/does not prove that _____ because it is supported/not supported by source Y. Source Y states that "...". This means that...
Link	Therefore, source X proves/does not prove that _____ as it is reliable/not reliable and supported/contradicted by source Y.

Paragraph 2: Critical Analysis of Provenance (Refer below)

Usefulness

Question types:

- How useful is.. in ____ (criteria) ____?
- ...Does this make the source more/less useful?

Answer format: 2 Paragraphs (First is cross-reference, second is CAP)

Paragraph 1

ATQ - reference source is always useful	Yes/No, source A is useful .
Inference	The source claims that (inference).
Evidence + explanation	This is because source A states "...". This means that...
ATQ - cross-referenced source	The source is useful/not useful because it is reliable/unreliable as it is supported/contradicted by source X.
Inference	Source X claims that (inference).
Evidence + explanation	This is because source X states "...". This means that...
Link	Therefore, source A is useful because it is reliable/unreliable as it is supported/contradicted by source X.

Paragraph 2: Critical Analysis of Provenance (Refer below)

Surprise/Complex

Question types:

- Are you surprised by this source?
- Is the source surprising?
- Does source C make source D surprising? (complex)
- Having read source E, are you surprised by source F? (complex)

Answer format: 2 Paragraphs

Surprise skill

Reference source (P1)	I am surprised/not surprised by what source A says about (focus). Source A tells me that (inference) This is because source A says "...". This means that...
Cross-referenced source (P1)	When I check against source B, I am (not) surprised. Source B tells me that (inference) This is because source B says "...". This means that...
Link (P1)	Therefore, I am surprised/not surprised.
CAP (P2)	Who, What, Why (Refer below)

Complex/hybrid (2 Paragraphs)

- Paragraph 1 is compulsory
- Paragraph 2 has 2 options. First is Critical Analysis of Provenance (P2 CAP), which gives the highest mark. Second is cross-reference (P2 CR), which is not recommended)

ATQ (Compulsory Paragraph 1)	• Having read source E, I am surprised by source F because they are different in terms of _____. • Having read source E, I am not surprised by source F because they are similar in terms of _____. • Source C makes source D surprising because they are different in terms of _____.
Inference (Compulsory Paragraph 1)	Source 1 tells me that...
Evidence + explanation (Compulsory Paragraph 1)	This is because source 1 states "...". This means...

Inference (Compulsory Paragraph 1)	Source 2 tells me that...
Evidence + explanation (Compulsory Paragraph 1)	This is because source 2 states "...". This means...
ATQ (P2, CAP)	(Response = not surprised) • Having read source G, I am not surprised by source F in terms of _____. • Source C does not make source D surprising in terms of _____.
Source 1 (what, who, why) (P2 CAP)	In source 1, _____(what did they do)_____. As _____(who)_____, they wanted to _____(why they did it)_____.
Source 2 (who, what, why) (P2 CAP)	However, _____(who)_____ in source 2 wanted _____(what did they do)_____ to _____(why they did it)_____.
Connection and outcome (P2 CAP)	Thus, as _____, they were responding to _____ so _____.
ATQ (P2 CR)	• Having read source E, I am surprised by source F because it is supported by source B. • Having read source G, I am not surprised by source F because it is supported by source B. • Source C makes source D surprising because source C is supported by source A.
Inference of main sources (P2 CR)	While source 1 focuses on _____, I can infer that source 2 focuses on _____.
Introduce source 3 (P2 CR)	This is supported by source 3. I can infer from source 3 that _____. This is because source 3 states "...". This means..., which supports source 2.

Evaluation

Question types:

- “.....”

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

Answer format: 4 Paragraphs

Stand	Source A agrees/disagrees with the statement.
Inference + reason	I can infer that _____.
Evidence + explanation	This is seen in source A “...” This means...
Impact and outcome	(impact and outcome)

Critical Analysis of Provenance (CAP)

ATQ	• I am surprised/not surprised by what the author wrote. (Surprise - Expectation vs Reality) • By what the author wrote, it is reliable/not. (Reliability) • The source is useful/not useful as what the author wrote is reliable/not reliable. (Utility) • Having read source E, I am not surprised/surprised by source F in terms of... (Complex - Paragraph 2)
When (context)	The source was written during..., which means...
Who (author)	The author is (position) writing to ____ (audience)____, so I would expect them to _____ (expectation)_____.
What (claim/action)	The author claims that... This is evidenced by “...”
Why (purpose)	The author aims to...
Analysis/summary	This matches/contradicts my expectation because the author is (position) and during..., it is typical/unusual for them to (claim) with the aim to (purpose).
Link to ATQ	Therefore, [ATQ].

Analysis of questions

	Inference	Purpose	Comparison	Reliability	Usefulness	Surprise/ Complex	Evaluation
2025	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
2024	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
2023	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
2022	✓				✓	✓	✓
2021	✓		✓		✓		✓
2020	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
2019	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
2018	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
2017	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓