



Suggested answers to 2015 O level Combined Humanities (Social Studies) 2204 Paper 1

2a) The principle “Leadership is Key” builds the people’s confidence in the government in Singapore as it assures people that the country is in good hands. The Singapore government goes to extreme lengths to choose only the best leaders for our country. For example Mr. Lee Kuan Yew putting right leaders like Goh Chok Tong, S Dhanabalan as ministers. These leaders are recognized to be those with capability and have high moral standards. This would especially include honesty, which is regarded highly among leaders of Singapore. Honesty in leaders is crucial to allow the country to remain incorruptible. This in turn will instill confidence in the people as they know the government can be respected and trusted with their affairs. Another aspect of leadership that the Singapore government focuses on is the ability to make the right, not only popular, decisions for the country. The government has realized the importance of making unpopular decisions for the sake of the country’s growth. As such Singaporeans will know that the government always has the best interests of the country, at heart. This will cause them to have increased confidence in their leaders. Thus, the principle “Leadership is Key” builds the people’s confidence in the government in Singapore as it the people are aware that the country is helmed by capable and well-intentioned individuals.

2b) Another principle of governance is to “Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant” and it builds confidence in the government as it assures the people that our country never loses out in competitiveness. The Singapore government focuses its policies on being forward-looking to anticipate future challenges. One good example of this would be our efforts to become self-sufficient in its water supply. Currently, Singapore is getting its water from Malaysia. However our leaders are only too aware of the impending end of the water agreement in 2061. As such with a need to become self-sufficient, the government has made plans to produce NEWater, which is produced by processing sewage water, and desalinated water. The fact that the government pushed ahead with the production of these alternatives, sends a very strong message to the people; the government will do anything it its power to allow Singapore to remain self-sufficient and competitive such that the growth and status of our country will not be affected. This instills confidence in the people because they know that the government is anticipating the challenges that we cannot foresee now, to build a better place for the next generation of Singaporeans to live in. As such, the principle of governance is to “Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant” and it builds confidence in the government as it gives hope to the people that their children will have a better place to live in.

The next principle of governance is “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” and it builds confidence in the government as it assures that each and every individual in the country is appreciated for the work that they do. The key idea of meritocracy in this principle aims to reward hard work and talent in the nation. The idea of reward for hard work encourages people to do better. Some examples of how these rewards are given include the, Edusave Scholarship and Merit Bursary schemes which reward the top 10-25% of students in schools and Institutes of Technical Education. This builds confidence in people because they know that the opportunities they are awarded are because of their own efforts and not because of their race, religion or socio-economic background. As such it ensures that the children of the underprivileged can compete on level ground with children from more affluent families. The introduction of the Progress Package in 2006, aimed to include more aspects of the people’s contribution under meritocracy. Under this scheme, the earnings of Singapore are equally shared among all, the elderly are aided to meet healthcare needs, low-wage workers are rewarded, low income households are receive help for living expenses, there is investment



in the next generation and the contribution of NSmen are recognized. This sense of equality creates confidence in people because they know that they are not left out and that the country cares for them equally. As such the principle of governance is “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” as it shows people that they have an equal chance to improve their lives under the leadership of the Singapore government.

Out of the two, the principle of governance is “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” can be said to be more important as it directly affects the lives and mentality of the people. People need to be encouraged to do their part to improve the country and to be shown that their efforts are appreciated. In order to do this, they must believe that they have a chance at succeeding. The principle of “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” does exactly that. Prove to people that the only thing that stands between success and failure, is themselves. This mentality will push them to work hard and in turn boost the country’s productivity, allowing for economic growth. The principle of “Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant” is also important, however I would say that it is secondary because in a small country like Singapore, where people are our main resource, we need to find ways to maximize the potential of that resource. Although “Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant” gives opportunities for workers to improve themselves, if the mentality to want to improve in order to reach success is not there, there will be a lack of results. Thus the principle of governance is “Reward for Work and Work for Reward” can be said to be more important.



3a) Lack of voting rights caused conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland as it increased the differences between the two religious groups. Before 1969, only those who had ownership over houses and businesses could vote. Each household was allowed 2 votes while companies were allowed more votes. The existing socio-economic gap at that time ensured that the richer Protestants, who owned more companies, received a larger portion of voting rights. In addition, the voting districts were drawn up such that a larger proportion of Protestants were included, thus overpowering the poorer Catholics in the region. As such it was inevitable that the Catholics felt extremely resentful at being unfairly treated. They felt that they were not given equal rights for voting thus causing a vicious cycle which would again lead to lack of improvements in lives of Catholics, due to the ruling government favouring Protestants. Eventually they decided to protest against the voting system. As such lack of voting rights caused conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland as it proved to the Catholics that they needed to fend for themselves either through protests or fights.

3b) Another cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland is the lack of opportunities for social interaction as it ensured that the 2 social groups never understood each other. Northern Ireland's education system ensured that fully funded public school's only catered to Protestants while private schools catered to the Catholics. Protestant children are taught to identify themselves as from British culture through learning British sports and history. Catholic children on the other hand learn Irish language, history and culture. They regard Britain as a foreign country. The difference in educational standards ensured that the young of the country can never see eye to eye. Both sides learn to learn and value different things such that they never could work together or agree on a certain issue. They viewed each other as foreigners and not as citizens of the same country. Also the separation of residential areas ensured that these differences remained as the children were unable to make friends who were not of the same religious ideology as them. The reduced opportunities for social interaction escalated the conflict as the two groups could never have opportunities to understand where the other was coming from. As such the lack of opportunities for social interaction was a cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.

Divided loyalties were also a cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland as it was so deeply ingrained in the minds of people that they were unable to think otherwise. Protestants and Catholics had inherent differences in political beliefs on top of religious beliefs. Most Protestants wanted Ireland to be part of Britain while Catholics wanted it as a separate nation. The Protestants and Catholics were driven by their personal interests, which led to the division between the two groups in the countries. Protestants wanted a pro-Protestant country while Catholics identified themselves as Irish and resenting the English conquest of Ireland, refused to accept integrating Northern Ireland as part of Britain. As both sides had different interests, it led to them trying to take over control to see who would be the last one standing in the fight over conflict of interests. This division between them ensured that it was impossible to solve the problems between the two groups, as there was no mutual understanding between both groups and sought to achieve different goals. It ensured that both sides did not compromise on their stance and continue to fight for their cause, escalating the conflict. As such, divided loyalties were a cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.



In conclusion, between the two reasons, it would seem that divided loyalties was a more important cause of conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland than the lack of opportunities for social interaction as it was the main cause of the conflict. Divided loyalties were the root of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Due to the divided loyalties, the Protestants and tried to ensure that their children, and social groups in particular, remained painfully aware of the inherent differences between the 2 groups that would have a long lasting impact. If there were no divided loyalties between the two groups, there would naturally be more understanding between the groups and therefore they would be more willing to interact hence minimizing the problem of having a lack of social interaction. This would also mean that the groups could see eye to eye. Therefore since divided loyalties were the fundamental reason for the tensions between the two groups it was hence a more important cause of conflict.



4a) Nurturing small and medium enterprises (SMEs) help Singapore to maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world as they contribute greatly to the Singapore's economy. SME's are important to Singapore as they form a large percentage of the businesses here. As such the Association of Small Medium Enterprises (ASME) was set up to provide assistance to SME's. New companies are granted tax exemptions by the government on their first \$100 000 income up to three years. SME's are the key providers of jobs to many Singaporeans and also support the operations of TNC's by supplying parts of goods needed for manufacturing. This means that they play a key role in enhancing the manufacturing and services hub. It is important for Singapore to keep their competitive edge, amongst other countries in these industries to sustain economic growth. As such the importance of SME's to bigger companies and industries make their presence crucial in Singapore. Thus it is important to nurture these SME's such that they do not lose out in terms of competitiveness, which might eventually lead to a strain in the economy.

4b) Another way in which Singapore can maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world is to diversify the economy as it enhances our competitiveness. Singapore is venturing into various areas, which require technology-intensive and high value-added services. More specifically it has expanded into Life-Sciences and setting up supporting institutions such as A*STAR (Agency for Science, Technology and Research) to build up Singapore's Research & Development capabilities. On top of that it also aims to be a regional hub for services such as education and tourism. By honing our skills in various aspects of the industry, we ensure that the economy does not face the risk of dying out if any one industry faces a downturn. Moreover, given our limited resources, it would be unwise to only focus on one industry. As such the Singapore government has realized that even if they focus on one industry for the time being, other industries must also be given opportunities for growth, to boost the economy. This can be seen by how Singapore has built the Integrated Resort (IRs) in attempts to stay competitive, despite a lack of natural attractions, in the tourism industry. Yet they also invest heavily in the education industry to attract talent from all over the world to have a chance at quality education in Singapore, while contributing to our growth. This diversification allows Singapore to enjoy economic growth and would not be possible to do so by focusing on only one main industry. As such, Singapore can maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world by diversifying the economy.

Singapore can maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world by managing resources efficiently as we are a country with limited resources. Singapore aims to develop its main resource, the people, to the best of our abilities such that we contribute to the economy. The government can invest in the people by promoting local entrepreneurship and technopreneurship. As the business competition in a globalizing world increases, the government's need for entrepreneurs who are willing to take risk, increases, as they are needed to compete with foreign companies. For example, Kenny Yap, the Chairman of Qianhu fish farm was a successful entrepreneur whose business contributed to the economy. Through agencies such as the Workforce Development Agency (WDA) The government also can encourage workers to continue upgrading their skills even with the change in job scopes, due to globalization. This ensures that no worker in Singapore is left out in his contribution to Singapore's economy. This will also maximize the use of manpower resources in Singapore as the workers are continuously trained to meet up with the demands required in the ever-changing world. As a small nation facing an aging population, to compete in a globalizing world, Singapore needs to find ways to increase its manpower needs and new skills in a knowledge-based economy. Singapore can attract more foreign talent to enhance ties with



foreign contacts overseas thus creating more business opportunities. This will in turn lead to an improvement in the economy as these opportunities will allow for growth and development. As such, Singapore can maximize its opportunities in a globalizing world by managing resources efficiently.

In conclusion, it would seem that maximizing opportunities in a globalizing world by managing resources efficiently would be more important than diversifying the economy. Without being able to manage what we already have properly, Singapore would have little to no use in diversifying the economy. Singapore is a country with many limitations and recognizing these limitations and realizing the next step in managing them is crucial before stepping out to interact with the globalizing world. Managing resources efficiently ensures that we have a strong foundation and a fully capable workforce and environment that can contribute generously to our next step in plans, which could be to diversify the economy. As such seem that maximizing opportunities in a globalizing world by managing resources efficiently would be more important than diversifying the economy.



SOURCE- BASED QUESTION

1a)

The message of the cartoon is to tell us that terrorism is in the process of being exterminated. This can be seen from the source that terrorist leader, Osama, has been fatally injured and that a helicopter is headed towards the tower named Al-Qaeda Terror. This means that the terrorist group has lost its leader and is on the verge of being eliminated.

The message of the source is to mock Osama's acts of terrorism and how his actions have failed him. This can be seen from the source, which shows Osama and Al-Qaeda as being portrayed as the twin towers and being attacked. This means that the acts of terrorism to weaken and destroy the US have failed and now Osama is instead a victim of his own acts. Through the cartoon the cartoonist wants to criticize terrorism and how it would eventually fail instead of achieving its intended goals of destruction.

1b)

The newspaper printed the photograph to tell me that Osama's death was impactful for the Americans. This can be seen from the source, which shows a large number of Americans rejoicing in Ground Zero. This means that Osama's death was significant for the Americans as it made them feel that they have avenged the wrongful deaths of their family and friends in the 911 attacks.

The newspaper printed the photograph to highlight the victory of the US President Obama against terrorist leader Osama. This can be seen from the Source, which says "Obama 1, Osama 0". This means that the newspaper is promoting the US success in defeating the key leader of the terrorist groups. By highlighting this victory in the German newspaper, the Germans are therefore showing to the world that they are supportive of the fight against terrorism.

1c)

Source C and D are similar in telling me that the threat of Al-Qaeda and its supporters of terrorism still remain despite the death of Osama thus implying that terrorism will still prevail in the world. This can be seen from source C, which says "perhaps most of all in the US where Al-Qaeda-inspired militants will plot and plan" and in Source D "For his followers, he is a warrior who lived for Islam and died for it and with his death Al-Qaeda will not die." This means that Osama's death has not gotten rid of terrorism and threat of terrorism remains widespread and strong, if not increased.

The sources are similar in their purpose as Source C is from a Saudi Arabian newspaper and Source B is from an Arab journalist. Through the use of media both sources aim to raise awareness and bring up the issue that terrorism is a reality and threat globally and therefore would want to urge the world governments and people to stay vigilant of the threat of terrorism and how they could possibly expand their operations.

Optional 2nd para:

The sources are not similar because of their interpretations of the significance of Osama's death. Source C tells us that a great threat has been removed and lives would be made more peaceful and secure. This can be seen by Source C, which says "A powerful symbol has been destroyed" and that "death will bring to an end the mistrust that 911 has brought to the



world.” This means that Osama’s death is of significance and harmony can be brought about as people are less suspicious of one another. However, Source D is different from Source C as it tells us that the threat of terrorism has not reduced with its influence still strong in the society hence causing suspicion and fear between groups to be long lasting. This can be seen by source D, which says “his picture and his presence will continue for generations to come”. This means that there is even with his death there is still widespread threat terrorism due to Al-Qaeda.

1d)

Source E is useful as evidence about Bin Laden and his death as it tells us that there was a lot of speculation about the consequences of his death. This can be seen from source E, which says “on one hand he was a mass murderer!” and “on the other hand, the U.S extra-judicial killings are atrocious!”. This means that the source is telling us how there were many opinions about his death, thus showing the mixed ideas of how significant his death was. Cross-referencing to source C supports the idea. As Source C tells me that his death has led to positive impact yet acknowledges a continual threat in terrorism. This can be seen from source C, which says “For the Muslim world, it is like the lifting of a curse” yet “Greater vigilance will be needed than ever before”. This means that terrorism could indeed lead to positive and negative consequences. As such, since source C supports source E, source E is therefore reliable and useful as evidence of Bin Laden’s death.

The source is not useful as it is by a South African cartoonist, drawing about Bin Laden’s killing. As a cartoonist his purpose is to highlight how the killing of Osama had led to uncertain consequences. The cartoonist does not bring up actual facts and is not an expert in the field of politics and terrorism. As such since the source is not credible, it is therefore unreliable and not useful as evidence about Bin Laden and his death.

1e)

Source F proves that bin Laden’s death was a victory because it tells us that it was a form of revenge that the Americans succeeded in having. This can be seen by source F that says “No matter how long it takes, justice will be done” This means that the Americans wanted to prove to the world that it was good that he died because with his death Americans are able to feel satisfied and justified for the loss they had due to him. Cross-referencing to the background information which also proves this idea to be true as it tells me that the western countries are proud of the killing of the terrorist group leader . This can be seen by the background information, which says “Throughout the Western World, the killing was held as a triumph and a massive blow to international terrorism”. This means that it was indeed viewed as a success as it had severely crippled terrorism and its operations globally. Hence, since the background information supports source F, it means that source F is reliable and thus can prove that bin Laden’s death was a victory.

Source F does not prove that his death was a victory because it agrees that the death did not stamp out terrorism. This can be seen by the source, which says “ The fight against terrorism goes on”. This means that the death was not very significant or as victorious as America still has to fight terrorism. Cross –reference to source A supports this idea. Source A also tells us that his death did not kill Al-Qaeda, the organization, itself thus meaning that the fight continues. This can be seen by the source, which shows the pillar of Al-Qaeda still standing and not yet defeated. This means that even if Osama died, there is a continual threat of terrorism looming over America thus not making it a victory. Since Source A supports Source



F that regardless of the death of Osama, terrorism will still prevail therefore the source does not prove that his death was a victory.

Source F does not prove that his death was a victory because it was written by George W Bush who was the former American President. As the president of the US, he is likely to portray America in a good light and highlight that Osama's death was a victory. As such, since the source has a hidden agenda, it could be biased, thus making the unreliable and as such cannot prove that Osama's death was indeed a victory.