

Full Name	Class Index No	Class



Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road)

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2024

SECONDARY FOUR EXPRESS

HUMANITIES (SOCIAL STUDIES)
(2260/01) (2261/01) (2262/01) (2265/01)

1 HOUR 45 MINUTES

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, index number and name on the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Section B

Answer **both** questions.
Write all answers on the answer booklet provided.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of 6 printed pages.

SECTION A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer all questions.

Living in a Diverse Society

Study the Background Information and 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.

What is the author's attitude towards the affordability of public housing in Singapore? Explain your answer using details from the source. [5]

2 Study Sources B and C.

Do these two sources agree in terms of how Built-To-Order (BTO) flats have met the needs of Singaporeans? Explain your answer. [6]

3 Study Source D.

How useful is this source as evidence of the challenges faced by home buyers in Singapore? Explain your answer. [7]

4 Study Sources E and F.

Having read Source E, was Source F unexpected? Explain your answer. [7]

5 'The Singapore public housing is accessible to the people.'

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

How far has Singapore's public housing policy met the needs of the people?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

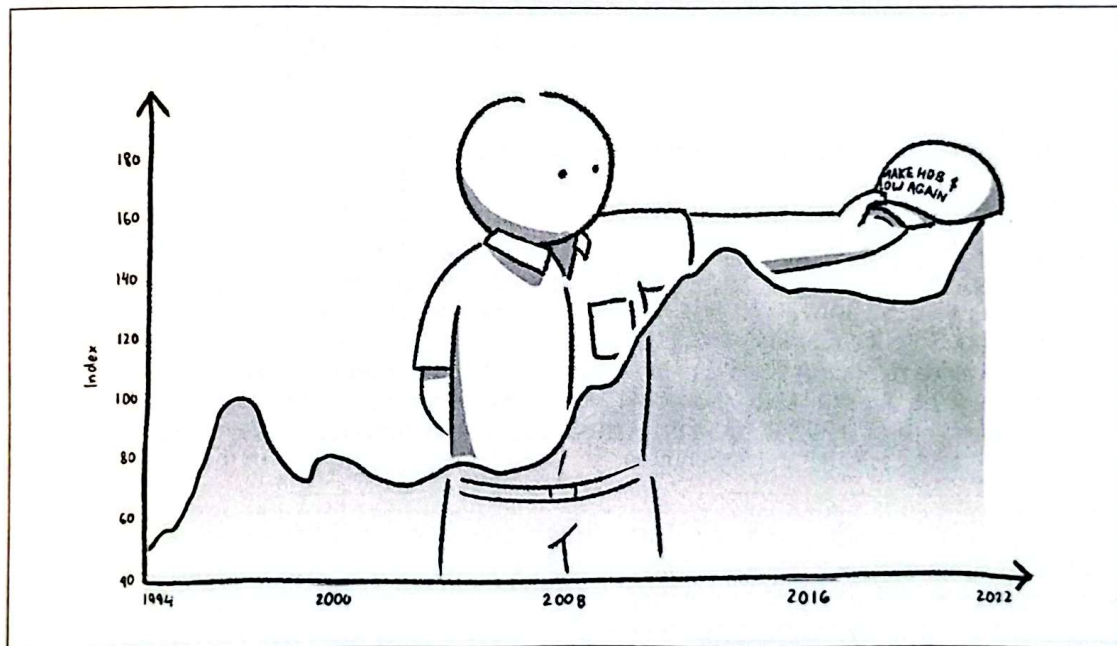
Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

In Singapore, nearly 80% of the population resides in public housing, developed, and managed by the Housing and Development Board (HDB). The major emphasis of Singapore housing policy has been on ensuring home ownership. New HDB flats can only be sold to Singaporeans at affordable rates and there are various grants to help young couples achieve home ownership. The HDB has also put in place policies to help Singaporeans of all backgrounds and socio-economic status (SES) own their own homes. There are avenues for those in more vulnerable situations to achieve home ownership, such as single parents, and the elderly.

In recent years, the accessibility of HDB flats has been questioned. This is due to the rising cost of living and more HDB resale flats being sold at extremely high prices. The HDB policies are being criticised for disadvantaging certain groups in the society, such as those who are single, widowed or divorced. Furthermore, new Built-To-Order (BTO) HDB flats have experienced significant delays in completion, due to the pandemic, and the BTO flats tend to be located away from the city centre.

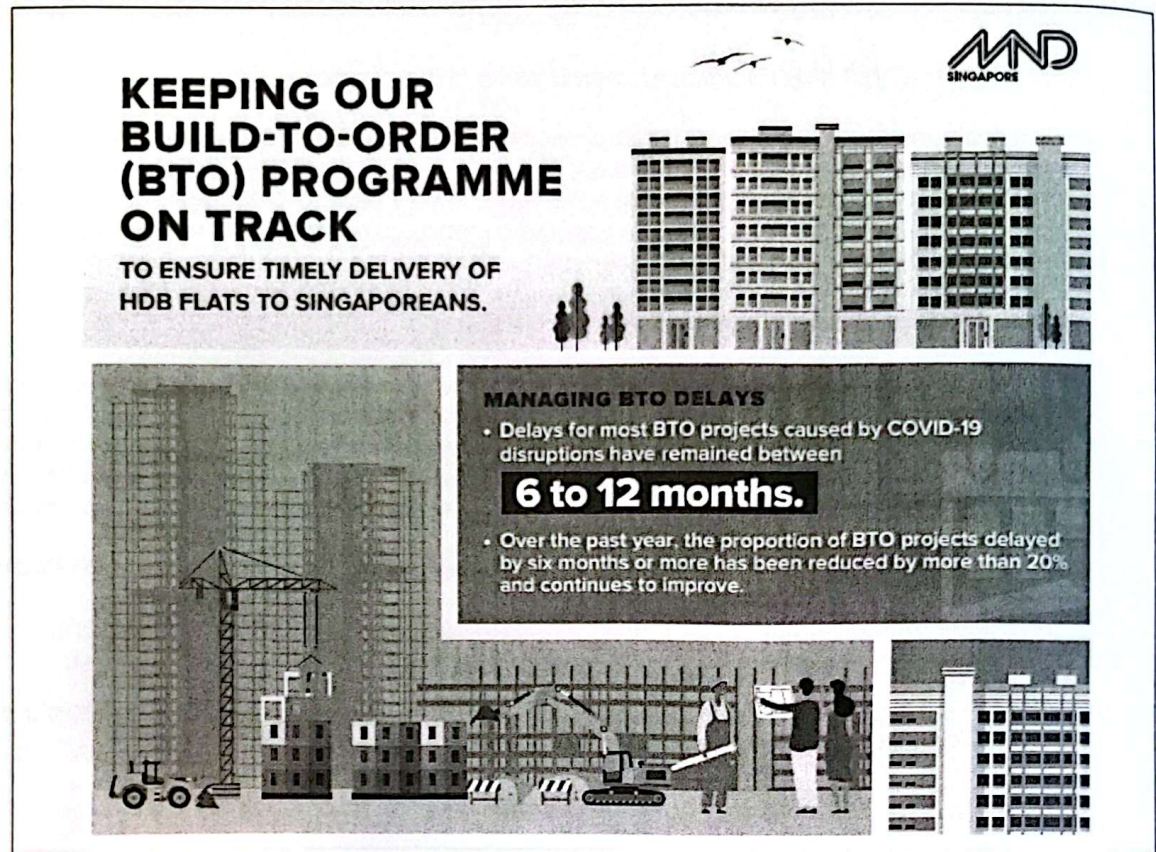
Study the following sources to find out how far Singapore's public housing policy has met the needs of the people.

Source A: A cartoon published on a local blog discussing the affordability of Singapore's public housing, 2022. The words on the cap read, "MAKE HDB \$ LOW AGAIN."



Note: The higher the index, the more expensive the prices of HDB flats are.

Source B: An infographic, published by the Ministry of National Development, June 2022.



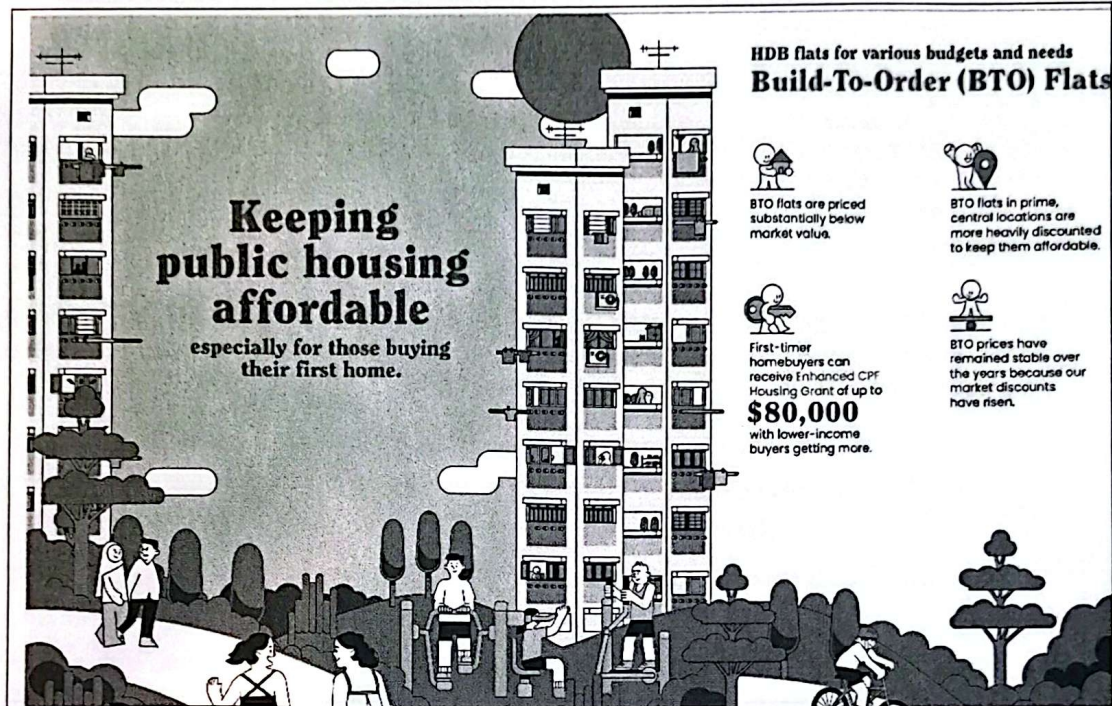
Source C: From a comment by the Chief Executive Officer of Housing and Development Board, providing update on the delayed HDB BTO projects, mid-2023.

About 40% of the HDB Build-To-Order (BTO) projects are delayed due to the pandemic. The proportion of such delayed BTO projects has come down from more than 90 per cent in 2021 due to improving Covid-19 and migrant manpower situation, and government support for the construction industry. In the past two years, HDB has completed 55 per cent of BTO projects – or 52 projects – delayed by pandemic-related factors. However, there will be projects delayed beyond 12 months and buyers will be compensated accordingly for this uncertainty and inconvenience. BTO flats remain popular due to the affordable prices and various housing grants, especially for first-time buyers who may not be ready to pay so much for resale flats.

Source D: Adapted from a report from a property analysis website by property experts, 2023.

The number of HDB flats sold at \$1 million increased during and in the aftermath of COVID-19. Buyers were willing to spend so much for various reasons, such as the location and accessibility of flats priced at this point, the larger living spaces at cheaper prices than private apartments, and the almost-immediate availability of the units, as compared to the long waiting time of Built-To-Order (BTO) flats, which would less likely be centrally located and have become increasingly more expensive as well. This raises concern on whether HDB flats remain affordable to the average Singaporeans, with more home buyers considering other housing options.

Source E: From an infographic published by the Housing and Development Board (HDB), October 2022.



Source F: From an online article discussing the feasibility of Built-To-Order (BTO) flats for young couples in Singapore, published in response to an infographic by the Housing and Development Board (HDB), October 2022.

For the older generations, housing was about having their own space to start families. BTO waiting time was not their concern. Young people today get married later so time is more important. Prices of BTO flats have appreciated too much over time, reducing affordability, hence the various government subsidies. However, it takes at least five years to build, and the Minimum Occupancy Period (MOP) takes another five years. This means that BTO flat owners are locked into the same location for around a decade before they can sell their flats at a profit. The short supply of BTO has led many buyers to buy resale flats, resulting in higher prices due to the increased demand, making HDB flats less affordable.

SECTION B (Structured-Response Questions)

Answer **both** questions

5

Being Part of a Globalised World

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

In its 2023 threat assessment report, Singapore's Internal Security Department (ISD) stated that the threat of terrorism to Singapore "remains high". Although there are no suggestions of an impending attack, Singapore continues to be viewed by extremist groups such as the Islamic State (IS) as a prized target for attacks. There also remains a persistent stream of self-radicalised cases.

Extract 2

As economic opportunities grow in the region, so will the number of technology-enabled crimes and security threats. Coupled with burgeoning travel, Singapore faces an uphill task of tackling more of such problems.

Extract 3

Law and Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam shared the need for greater international collaboration to tackle future security threats, adding that the borderless nature of tech-enabled crimes requires solutions that go beyond borders.

- 6 Extract 1 shows Singapore is not immune to threats of transnational terrorism and self-radicalisation.

What can Singaporeans do to deal with such threats? Explain your answer with reference to **two** ways. [7]

- 7 Extracts 2 and 3 reflect on the need for Singapore to respond to cyber threat, as a nation, and through collaboration among countries.

Do you think Singapore's response to cyber threats as a nation is more important than collaboration among countries? Explain your answer. [8]

END OF PAPER