

SOCIAL STUDIES Weighing/Evaluation Skills

SOCIAL STUDIES Weighing/Evaluation Skills

What is Weighing?

- Weighing involves comparing the relative importance, significance, effectiveness etc. of two (or more) factors e.g. causes, impacts, strategies.
- In the context of the Social Studies examination, we often do weighing in:
 - Balanced conclusion for SBQ5 which is the Evaluation/Assertion question.
 - Balanced conclusion for SRQ7 which involves weighing two factors.

How much weightage does Weighing hold in my exams?

SBQ5 LORMS

L1: Writes about statement, no valid source use (1m)

L2: Explain agree OR disagree, supported.

- Award 2 marks for explaining from 1 source
- Award 3 marks for explaining from 2 sources
- Award 4 marks for explaining from 3 sources

L3: Explain agree AND disagree, supported.

- Award 5 marks for explaining from 2 sources (1-1)
- Award 6 marks for explaining from 3 sources (1-2)
- Award 7 marks for explaining from 4 or 5 sources (2-2 or 2-3)

To score additional 2m, candidates can take on any of these three routes:

- Through analysing at least one source in relation to its reliability, utility or sufficiency
- By sharing example(s) from their contextual knowledge
- **By giving a balanced conclusion / resolution**

SRQ7 LORMS

L1: Writes about topic but without addressing question.

- Award 1 mark for describing the topic.
- Award 2 marks for additional details.

L2: Describes factor(s).

- Award 3 marks for describing one factor
- Award 4 marks for describing both factors

L3: Explains factor(s).

- Award 5-6 marks for explaining one factor
- Award 6-7 marks for explaining both factors

L4: L3 + Evaluate importance of factors (8m)

SOCIAL STUDIES Weighing/Evaluation Skills

In sum, Weighing weighs 2 marks in SBQ5 (only if you select the Balanced Conclusion route) and 1 mark in SRQ7. This means that you should **NOT** be spending too much time on Weighing in exam conditions. Spend at most 3–5 minutes for Weighing and focus on your core content paragraphs that form the bulk of your responses and marks.

Even for SBQ5, your school may advise you against the Balanced Conclusion route as it can get tricky at times as compared to the other two routes (CK and Reliability/Utility/Sufficiency).

How do I weigh in my conclusion?

You may consider using the **SWIRL** framework!

For SBQ5 (if you decide to attempt the Balanced Conclusion route for +2m):

Stand	In my final judgement, I agree with the statement to a small/large extent.
Weighing Criterion	Upon comparing...
Importance (relative)	Factor X is more important/effective/significant... than Factor Y.
Reason	This is because...
Link	Factor X is more important/effective/significant... than Factor Y and hence I agree with the statement to a small/large extent.

For SRQ7:

Stand	In my final judgement, I think that Factor X is more important/effective/significant... than Factor Y.
Weighing Criterion	Upon comparing...
Importance (relative)	Factor X is more important/effective/significant... than Factor Y.
Reason	This is because...
Link	Thus, I posit that Factor X is more important/effective/significant... than Factor Y.

SOCIAL STUDIES Weighing/Evaluation Skills

What weighing criteria can I use?

This is a **non-exhaustive** list of possible weighing criteria with their accompanying examples:

Scale	Personal level vs Local (neighbourhood/town) scale vs National scale vs Regional scale vs International scale
	The larger the scale, the more impactful/effective/significant the factor.
	e.g. The wind power projects may cause some form of impact in terms of altering the natural landscape and producing noise pollution which might have inconvenienced nearby residents. (Local neighbourhood/town scale) However, the wind power projects have provided America with an alternative energy source which is much greener and more sustainable compared to conventional fossil fuels. (National scale) The tradeoff here is that the minority of residents living near the wind turbines have to suffer minor inconveniences (Local neighbourhood/town scale) in exchange for a greater outcome of environmental sustainability and reduced environmental footprint in energy production processes. (National scale)
Time period	Short-term vs Long-term
	The longer-term the time period, the more impactful/effective/significant the factor.
	e.g. Cultural evolution is inevitable in the long run, and while globalisation of the entertainment industry catalyses transformations in these cultures, it mitigates the negative impact of cultural changes, ensuring that in the long term, the future generations will still continue to appreciate the cultures that exist today, perhaps just in a different form due to the unavoidable reality of cultural evolution over time. (Long-term) On the other hand, the resistance against the entry of foreign cultures in local entertainment industries is felt in only a select few places around the world that feature societies of a more conservative attitude. In the short run, they may fear the potential risks of changes to their local cultures (Short-term), however in the long run, the benefits brought about by cultural homogenisation and hybridisation would be very important in protecting their local cultures (Long-term).
Magnitude	Minority vs Majority
	As a whole, impact on majority is far larger than impact on merely the minority. <i>(tbh this is a very weak argument cuz if we're looking from a pov that somewhat resembles that of "conventional historiography", you'll come to realise that even impact on merely the minority can be more far-reaching</i>

SOCIAL STUDIES Weighing/Evaluation Skills

	<i>than impact on majority. but for 0-level standard, this argument on majority vs minority is logical enough and thus accepted.)</i> e.g. The positive impact of employing foreign manpower reaches the masses, with most, if not all, Singaporeans experiencing the contributions made by foreign labour. The infrastructure and services that many locals enjoy using come from these foreign workers working tirelessly on a day-to-day basis. (majority) On the other hand, the negative impact of foreign manpower on social cohesion would only affect Singaporeans with a cynical mindset which causes their xenophobia. The increased job competition that Singaporeans perceive foreign workers causes is only to a limited extent as the majority of the foreign manpower that Singapore employs work in blue-collared positions that Singaporean workers are unwilling to take up. (minority)
Root cause	Root cause vs Non-root cause (e.g. contributing cause, trigger cause) Root cause is arguably the most important. e.g. This is because a society requires a capable and exemplary leader with the right qualities and skills to come up with the right policies and vision to propel the country forward. As such, a good leader will be able to formulate good policies to anticipate change and stay relevant. (anticipating change and staying relevant DEPENDS ON good leadership) However, when a leader is not capable enough, anticipating change and staying relevant will then have limited effectiveness because leaders are not well-equipped with the necessary skills to help the society. (anticipating change and staying relevant DEPENDS ON good leadership)
Equal roles	Highlight complementary relationship between various factors. Hence no single “most important” factor. e.g. It is difficult to ascertain who is the most important line of defence as all parties play different, complementary roles in assisting one another to fight online scams. The government plays an important role due to its authority and resources, they can push or guide banks to make changes or come up with new initiatives to combat the threat nationwide. Individuals are important too, because it is their judgment and good sense that can prevent scams from succeeding. Banks are still important though because when there are new evolved scams, their efforts can greatly assist their customers to not fall for these trickier ones. Hence, all play an equally complementary role in the fight against online scams.

SOCIAL STUDIES Weighing/Evaluation Skills

	e.g. Neither protective nor responsive measures are more important than the other in meeting the challenges posed by terrorism. Due to the complex nature of the problem posed by terrorism, neither is sufficient on its own to deal with the dangers posed by terrorism. The protective measures and responsive measures must work hand in hand to protect the nation and people. Before a terrorist attack can take place, protective measures are absolutely necessary to minimize any possibility of terrorists carrying out a successful attack in Singapore. This is through vigilant surveillance that will deter or stop attacks from posing a danger to society. However these protective measures are not infallible, and should terrorists manage to carry out an attack, we need to be prepared to manage the situation. Responsive measures are carried out openly to prepare us to help to save lives and minimize the damage caused by such an attack. However, we cannot depend on responsive measures alone, because Singapore must stop attacks from being carried out and causing harm in the first place. Thus, it is vital for Singapore to implement both protective and responsive measures in tandem.
--	---

How do I apply these Weighing concepts into my conclusion?

Sample SBQ5 Assertion/Evaluation balanced conclusion using SWIRL

Q: 'The policy of employing foreign manpower has had a negative impact on Singapore.' Using sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement. [10]

In conclusion, I agree with the statement to only a small extent. (Stand) Upon comparing the relative magnitudes of the positive and negative effects of employing foreign manpower (Weighing Criterion), it becomes apparent that the positive impact has outweighed the negative consequences (Importance). The positive impact of employing foreign manpower reaches the masses, with most, if not all, Singaporeans experiencing the contributions made by foreign labour. The infrastructure and services that many locals enjoy using come from these foreign workers working tirelessly on a day-to-day basis. On the other hand, the negative impact of foreign manpower on social cohesion would only affect Singaporeans with a cynical mindset which causes their xenophobia. The increased job competition that Singaporeans perceive foreign workers causes is only to a limited extent as the majority of the foreign manpower that Singapore employs work in blue-collared positions that Singaporean workers are unwilling to take up. (Reason) Therefore, in my final evaluation, I believe that the positive impact of this manpower policy outweighs the negative impact, compelling me to agree with the statement to merely a small extent. (Link)

SOCIAL STUDIES Weighing/Evaluation Skills

Sample SRQ7 conclusion using SWIRL

Q: Extracts 2 and 3 reflect the positive and negative cultural impacts of globalisation in the entertainment industry. Do you think that the positive impact is more significant than the negative impact? Explain your answer.

[8]

In conclusion, I think that the positive impact outweighs the negative impact. (Stand) Upon comparing the positive and negative impacts on the time horizon (Weighing Criterion), it becomes apparent that the positive impact of globalisation in the entertainment industry outweighs the negative impact (Importance). Cultural evolution is inevitable in the long run, and while globalisation of the entertainment industry catalyses transformations in these cultures, it mitigates the negative impact of cultural changes, ensuring that in the long term, the future generations will still continue to appreciate the cultures that exist today, perhaps just in a different form due to the unavoidable reality of cultural evolution over time. On the other hand, the resistance against the entry of foreign cultures in local entertainment industries is felt in only a select few places around the world that feature societies of a more conservative attitude. In the short run, they may fear the potential risks of changes to their local cultures, however in the long run, the benefits brought about by cultural homogenisation and hybridisation would be very important in protecting their local cultures. (Reason) Therefore, in my final evaluation, I believe that the positive impact outweighs the negative impact. (Link)