

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Answer **all** Questions

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 question, in addition to the sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use the knowledge of the issue to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1. Study Source A.

Why was this article published? Explain your answer. [5]

2. Study Sources B and C.

How far would the cartoonist in Source C agree with the journalist in Source B? Explain your answer. [7]

3. Study Source D.

Does this source prove that efforts to reduce plastic use are sufficient? Explain your answer. [7]

4. Study Sources E and F.

Does Source E make Source F surprising? Explain your answer. [6]

5. "Waste management efforts are effective."

Using sources in this case study, how far would you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

How is waste managed in different societies?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

The world faces a rapidly escalating waste crisis. Projections indicate a staggering 73% increase in global waste generation by 2050. This can lead to severe environmental damage, water pollution and health hazards. Proper waste management is crucial to address these problems.

Many countries promote reducing, reusing and recycling to manage waste. In Singapore, the Zero Waste Masterplan, part of the SG Green Plan 2030, was implemented to foster sustainable living and minimise waste sent to the Semakau Landfill. Similarly, Japan enforces strict recycling laws to handle waste effectively, with local communities educating residents on proper waste segregation.

Despite these efforts, environmentalists warn that recycling alone is insufficient. They emphasize the need to reduce overall waste generation and encourage more sustainable lifestyles to truly tackle the growing waste crisis and protect the environment for future generations.

Study the following sources to find out how waste is managed in different societies.

Source A: *An online article about eco-friendliness, written by a journalist, for a well-known international newspaper.*

When my daughter was in preschool, we played a clean-up game on the iPad together. We looked at an object and sorted it into the correct bin: trash, recycle, reuse, compost. The mindset of "do your part, recycling is smart," misleads us into believing that recycling alone is enough. More than 90% of recycling ends up in landfills, rather than being converted to new material.

Now, my daughter has learned modern eco-friendly practices from school, television, games and songs. She'd like to reuse every bottle, can and carton for crafts. Wanting to encourage her, I picked up a book on crafting with recycled materials. Now, thanks to my kids, we craft with cartons and recycle bottles left on the ground.

Source B: *Adapted from a newspaper article on recycling efforts in Singapore, published by the Straits Times.*

Conducted from April to June 2023, a survey of 2,180 respondents found that 89 per cent were aware that common items like rinsed plastic shampoo or detergent bottles can be placed in recycling bins and chutes, up from 71 per cent in 2021.

However, contamination remains a major challenge for domestic recycling in Singapore. When non-recyclables like food are thrown into the bins, they spoil the entire batch, which must be discarded into landfills. The National Environment Agency estimates the contamination rate at about 40 per cent. Zero Waste SG executive director noted that while more households are recycling, doubts remain about whether recyclables in blue bins are properly processed. She added that the high contamination rate has discouraged some from recycling, based on feedback from residents, companies and schools.

Source C: *A cartoon by a New Zealand cartoonist, depicting a businessman presenting his company's recycling efforts to the government agency.*



Source D: *A cartoon by an award-winning Canadian cartoonist. This cartoon was published on many international websites discussing plastic use.*



Source E: *From an online article published by a non-profit organization who believes in creating a better world.*

The Zero Waste Center in Kamikatsu, Japan, resembles a unique flea market, with everything from bottle caps to thermometers neatly sorted into rows of yellow baskets. Residents carefully separate waste into 45 categories — a challenging task, but one they're committed to.

The town of less than 2,000 people has become a world-leading example of how a community can eliminate waste. Today, only a few types of waste, like PVC* and disposable diapers, are incinerated. Even that is changing, as since 2017, the town has provided reusable cloth diaper starter kits to families with infants to further cut waste.

Japan has made progress in recycling laws, waste sorting and thermal recycling technology. However, it remains the world's second-largest producer of plastic packaging waste, with high consumption of disposable items. A shift in mindset is needed to reduce unnecessary waste.

**PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) is a common, strong plastic used in many everyday items like water pipes and flexible materials such as raincoats and electrical wire coatings.*

Source F: *From an online article highlighting waste management measures adopted by some countries. This was published by a group of companies who specialise in waste management solutions throughout the United Arab Emirates.*

Germany has no match when it comes to implementing robust waste management and plastic reduction practices. The country recycles about 67% of its waste owing to its mandatory waste sorting as well as impressive deposit refund schemes.

Germany implemented the Packaging Act in 2019 which was aimed at reducing excessive packaging. This law requires manufacturers to contribute to the cost of recycling their packaging which incentivizes the less use of plastic-based packaging materials.

Another innovative policy that Germany has adopted is called the Deposit Return System which allows you to get some cashback when you return the packaging of the product back. Germany has effectively educated its public about this system which has led to a 98.4% return rate.

SECTION B (Structured-Response Question)

Answer **all** questions.

Living in a Diverse Society

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

Popular social media platforms are often used by people to express their thoughts and discuss socio-political issues. Given the anonymous nature of such online platforms, there has been a rising trend of netizens posting comments that touch on sensitive socio-cultural and socio-economic issues such as race, religion, nationality, socio-economic status.

Extract 2

Individuals have an important role to improve and sustain the well-being of a society. For those who are less privileged, individual efforts can help improve their life circumstances and enable them to experience social mobility.

Extract 3

The government is given the authority to govern the country. It implements policies to safeguard the interests of citizens. By addressing societal inequalities, the government plays a role in fostering a more equitable and inclusive society.

6. Extract 1 shows how some netizens had made use of social media platforms to post insensitive remarks online.

In your opinion, what are the consequences for Singapore when people make insensitive remarks on others online? Explain your answer using **two** consequences. [7]

7. Extracts 2 and 3 reflect the need for individual actions and government measures in addressing socio-economic diversity in Singapore.

Do you think that individuals play a more significant role than the government in managing socio-economic diversity? Explain your answer. Explain your answer. [8]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source A: <https://www.businessinsider.com/mom-shares-how-her-children-made-her-more-eco-conscious-2022-7>

Source B: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/domestic-recycling-rate-stalls-at-12-despite-decline-in-household-waste>

Source C: <https://www.cartoonstock.com/cartoon?searchID=CS475151>

Source D: <https://siaindependent.com/editorial-cartoon-cutting-down-on-plastics/>

Source E: <https://globalexuae.com/blogs/top-countries-leading-the-way-in-waste-management-practices/>

Source F: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/kamikatsu-japan-zero-waste-recycling-town/>

**2025 Preliminary Examinations
Suggested LORMS**

1	Study Source A. Why was this article published? Target skill: Inference with purpose	[5]
L1	Answers based on provenance/description of source	1
L2	Because of the context/sub-message Sub-message: recycling is insufficient Context: people are not recycling enough	2
L3	Valid Impact	3
L4	Valid Message	4
L5	Message and Impact, supported This article was published to convince readers that waste can be better managed/everyone plays a part in managing waste in society. This is evident in “we looked at an object and sorted it into the correct bin” and “ we craft with cartons and recycle bottles left on the ground”. This means that more can be done to change individual’s lifestyle to manage waste better, just like what the author did. Thus, the article was published to convince readers to rethink their own actions/be more proactive in changing their behaviours to be more eco-friendly.	5

2	Study Sources B and C. How far would the cartoonist in Source C agree with the journalist in Source B? Explain your answer. Target skill: Comparison	[7]
L1	Use of content but no valid matching	1
L2	Agree/Disagree because of provenance/source type/topic	2
L3	Agree/Disagree based on content Agree The cartoonist in Source C will agree with Source B as both sources are similar in stating that people are not putting in effort to manage waste properly/recycling efforts are limited. This is evident in B which states “doubts remain about whether recyclables in blue bins are properly processed” and “the high contamination rate has discouraged some from recycling”. This is also evident in C which shows green/plastic/paper waste all ending up in the same place. This means that there is the lack of genuine effort to properly manage waste. Disagree The cartoonist in Source C will disagree with Source B as both sources differ in stating who should be responsible for waste management. Source B states that individuals/community should be responsible while C states that companies should be responsible. This is evident in B which states “when non-recyclables like good are thrown into the bins, they spoil the entire batch, which must be discarded”. This means that individuals need to be more aware about how they go about recycling. This is evident in C which shows a cartoon and a businessman stating that “we take our environmental responsibilities very seriously” while the different categories of waste are not sorted but all processed together. This means that companies need to take waste management seriously as they are not managing waste correctly.	3-4
L4	Agree and Disagree based on content Award 6 marks for well-supported answers	5-6
L5	L3 + Agree in perspective/attitude or purpose	7

3	Study Source D. Does this source prove that efforts to reduce plastic use are sufficient? Explain your answer.	7
L1	Answer based on provenance, unexplained or typicality	1
L2	Prove - literal interpretations Prove that efforts are sufficient – company is “trying to cut down on use of plastic”	2-3
L3	Does not prove – valid inference/ Source D does not prove that efforts to reduce plastic use are sufficient. This is evident in the source which shows many items being covered in plastic as much as the cashier saying that “we’re trying to cut down on our use of plastic”. This means that efforts to reduce plastic use is piecemeal and ironic as the supermarket is selling items that uses plastic-based packaging materials.	4
L4	L3 + Cross Reference <i>*CR to E and F only</i>	5
L5	L3 + Developed Evaluation of Source D In my final analysis, Source D does not prove that efforts are sufficient. Source D was published by an award-winning Canadian cartoonist and it was published on many websites discussing plastic use. It intends to convince the international community that efforts to reduce plastic use are insufficient so that they will reflect on their current efforts and put in more effort to manage the use of plastic better. For it to be published on many websites discussing plastic use, it is to raise awareness and to champion for the good of society.	6-7

4	Study Sources E and F. Does Source E make Source F surprising? Explain your answer.	[6]
L1	Surprised/Not surprised based on provenance/literal matches	1
L2	Surprised/Not surprised – based on content of both sources Surprised Source E makes F surprising as they are different in stating who should be responsible for waste management in society. Source E states that the community should be responsible while Source F states that the government is responsible. This is evident in Source E which states that “The town of less than 2000 people has become a world-leading example of how a community can eliminate waste”. This means that the community, through the actions of its residents is the driver of waste management in the town. This is also evident in Source F which states that “Germany implemented the Packaging Act” and “Another innovative policy that Germany has adopted is called the Deposit Return System”. This means that the government through its policy has created framework and incentives for effective waste management, showing their role in waste management. Not surprised Source E does not make F surprising as they are similar in stating successful waste reduction strategies. This is evident in Source E which shows Kamikatsu, Japan as a “world-leading example” through extensive sorting and reusing. This is also evident in Source F which shows Germany for her “robust waste management and reduction practices”. This means that in both sources, they showcase countries that have achieved success in reducing waste through well-implemented strategies.	2-3
L3	Surprised and Not Surprised based on content/CR to other sources	4-5
L4	Not surprised – context/purpose of both sources	6

5	“Waste management efforts are effective”. Using sources in this case study, how far would you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. Effective – reducing amount of waste generated; minimise environmental impact, lesser waste sent to landfills, lesser consumption of goods	[10]								
L1	Writes about statement, no valid source use	1								
L2	Yes/No, supported by valid source use	2-4								
L3	Yes + No, supported i.e. Both elements of L2. Note: Consideration on number of sources used and the quality of analysis in deciding on marks in L2 and L3. <table><tr><td>Agree (effective)</td><td>Disagree (ineffective)</td></tr><tr><td>Source A “Now, thanks to my kids, we craft with cartons and recycle bottles left on the ground.” This means that people are putting in effort to reuse and recycle waste □ change in mindset as promoting eco-friendly practices</td><td>Source B “NEA estimates the contamination rate is at about 40 per cent”. This means that nearly half of what is collected for recycling is not actually recyclable □ people are not aware of how to properly recycle □ recyclables have to be discarded</td></tr><tr><td>Source B “89 percent were aware that common items like rinsed plastic shampoo or detergent bottles can be placed in recycling bins and chutes, up from 71 per cent in 2021”. This means that there is a clear positive result in public education efforts □ people are more aware of what to do</td><td>Source C “Recycling, why of course we do.. we take our environmental responsibilities very seriously” – juxtaposed against the actions of the company directly dumping waste into water/lack of separation of waste. This means that companies are not really being environmentally responsible and are not recycling, instead are engaged in highly polluting practices</td></tr><tr><td>Source E “Today, only a few types of waste, like PVC and disposable diapers, are incinerated.” This means that Japan has managed to cut waste, leading to</td><td>Source D Overuse of plastic – as seen in the plastic packaging This means that plastic reduction is still lacking as much as there are efforts</td></tr></table>	Agree (effective)	Disagree (ineffective)	Source A “Now, thanks to my kids, we craft with cartons and recycle bottles left on the ground.” This means that people are putting in effort to reuse and recycle waste □ change in mindset as promoting eco-friendly practices	Source B “NEA estimates the contamination rate is at about 40 per cent”. This means that nearly half of what is collected for recycling is not actually recyclable □ people are not aware of how to properly recycle □ recyclables have to be discarded	Source B “89 percent were aware that common items like rinsed plastic shampoo or detergent bottles can be placed in recycling bins and chutes, up from 71 per cent in 2021”. This means that there is a clear positive result in public education efforts □ people are more aware of what to do	Source C “Recycling, why of course we do.. we take our environmental responsibilities very seriously” – juxtaposed against the actions of the company directly dumping waste into water/lack of separation of waste. This means that companies are not really being environmentally responsible and are not recycling, instead are engaged in highly polluting practices	Source E “Today, only a few types of waste, like PVC and disposable diapers, are incinerated.” This means that Japan has managed to cut waste, leading to	Source D Overuse of plastic – as seen in the plastic packaging This means that plastic reduction is still lacking as much as there are efforts	5-8
Agree (effective)	Disagree (ineffective)									
Source A “Now, thanks to my kids, we craft with cartons and recycle bottles left on the ground.” This means that people are putting in effort to reuse and recycle waste □ change in mindset as promoting eco-friendly practices	Source B “NEA estimates the contamination rate is at about 40 per cent”. This means that nearly half of what is collected for recycling is not actually recyclable □ people are not aware of how to properly recycle □ recyclables have to be discarded									
Source B “89 percent were aware that common items like rinsed plastic shampoo or detergent bottles can be placed in recycling bins and chutes, up from 71 per cent in 2021”. This means that there is a clear positive result in public education efforts □ people are more aware of what to do	Source C “Recycling, why of course we do.. we take our environmental responsibilities very seriously” – juxtaposed against the actions of the company directly dumping waste into water/lack of separation of waste. This means that companies are not really being environmentally responsible and are not recycling, instead are engaged in highly polluting practices									
Source E “Today, only a few types of waste, like PVC and disposable diapers, are incinerated.” This means that Japan has managed to cut waste, leading to	Source D Overuse of plastic – as seen in the plastic packaging This means that plastic reduction is still lacking as much as there are efforts									

only a few categories being sent for incineration.	
Source F “Germany recycles about 67% of its waste owing to its mandatory waste sorting as well as impressive deposit refund schemes”. This means that the policies in place are effective and the public have changed their behaviour as they are now able to sort waste and recycle them correctly	Source E “However, it remains the world’s second-largest producer of packaging waste, with high consumption of disposable items”. This means that Japan is still not changing consumption habits as there is still a lot of packaging waste generated

****To score additional 2 marks, candidates can take any one of these 3 routes:**

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

This allows scope for candidates to decide what comes more naturally for them, and will invite meaningful thinking, without making any of the above a direct requirement.

6. In your opinion, what are the consequences for Singapore when people make insensitive remarks on others online? Explain your answer using two consequences.		
Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Describes the topic	1
L2	Identifies / Describes consequence <i>Award 2 marks for identifying 1 consequence and 3 marks for identifying 2 consequences.</i> <i>Award 3 marks for describing 1 consequence and 4 marks for describing 2 consequences.</i>	2-4
L3	L2 + Explanation <i>Award 5-6 marks for explaining 1 consequence.</i> <i>Award 6-7 marking for explaining 2 consequences.</i> E.g. One consequence for Singapore when people make insensitive remarks on others online would be a threat to social harmony. This is especially when people make insensitive remarks targeting racial or religious communities in Singapore. For instance, a 17-year-old blogger was arrested for making insensitive remarks about Christianity in a video posted online. In 2016, the teenager was fined and jailed again for repeatedly and deliberately using offensive words and profane gestures to hurt the feelings of Christians and Muslims. In doing so, such offensive remarks can lead to increased prejudice and discrimination against different social groups in Singapore if misconstrued by other netizens. This can create divisions and tensions in society. As such, such hurtful remarks can lead to resentment and mistrust among communities which would tear up our social fabric. E.g. One consequence for Singapore when people make insensitive remarks on others online would be damage to Singapore's global image. This is especially so when Singapore prides itself as a multiracial, harmonious and globalised society. In 2019, a YouTuber made racist remarks about Indians and Filipinos in Singapore. The incident sparked backlash both locally and internationally, with foreign media questioning how Singapore government manages racial relations in the country. In doing so, it goes against the idea of racial and religious harmony which is deeply ingrained in Singapore's national identity. It would undermine Singapore's long-term efforts in promoting peace and harmony among its citizens. Therefore, it might make Singapore seem intolerant and damage our reputation for harmony, inclusivity and respect. Foreign investors, tourists and foreign workers might be discouraged to come Singapore which could, in turn, hurt Singapore's attractiveness as a financial hub.	5-7

	(Other accepted answers: cyberbullying, legal consequences / POHA, spreads misinformation and fear)	
--	---	--

7. Do you think that individuals play a more significant role than the government in managing socio-economic diversity? Explain your answer. [8]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Writes about the topic without addressing the question	1-2
L2	Describes the factors Award 3m for describing one factor Award 4m for describing two factors	3-4
L3	Explains the factors Award 5-6m for explaining one factor Award 6-7m for explaining two factors E.g. Individuals play a significant role in managing socio-economic diversity. They can respond by contributing their time, effort and money to meet areas of need for society through ground-up initiatives or voluntary work. For instance, Mr Luo Chen Jun founded a ground-up initiatives called Uplift to empower underprivileged families and vulnerable children across Singapore. It started as a food distribution platform that worked closely with food banks, suppliers and community centres to distribute necessities to underprivileged families. In the recent years, Uplift has also pivoted to kindness workshops that provided career guidance and family bonding activities. Therefore, individuals are crucial in contributing to the needs of society as they could provide more specific and immediate assistance by contributing resources and taking concrete actions to those in need. When individuals act against social inequality, they learn to be fair, respectful and inclusive which will help to create a caring and compassionate society. As such, they contribute to long-term peace and harmony. E.g. Governments play a significant role in managing socio-economic diversity. The Singapore government provides targeted assistance to individuals and families who are unable to provide for themselves. This targeted assistance takes the form of subsidies, financial assistance and skills training to increase one's employability. For example, ComCare was set up by the Ministry of Social and Family Development to work with community groups and organisations to provide financial and social assistance to individuals and households in need. In addition, the SkillsFuture Mid-Career Support Package provides course fees, subsidies and training allowances for mid-career workers. Therefore, these government support would provide a safety net for all citizens in order to ensure that they could enjoy a basic standard of living. By taking	5-7

	care of the people's welfare and needs, this would ensure a sense of security living in the country. As such, it is the government's responsibility to ensure the well-being, stability and fairness of society.	
L4	L3 plus weighs the relative importance of each factor	8