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GENERAL PAPER STUDY PACKAGE

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A-Level General Paper

Topic: Racism/ Xenophobia

Lesson Focus: Comprehension

Skills Focus -

- (1) Identify and infer relevant information from the text(s)
- (2) Apply understanding and interpretation in a task derived from the text(s)
- (3) Summarise and evaluate information from the text(s)
- (4) Express understanding as well as critical and creative thinking through informed personal response



1

A) Read & Discuss

To what extent is Singapore a racist and/or xenophobic society?

Related resources:

- <https://www.ricemedia.co/current-affairs-commentary-lets-talk-about-the-history-of-xenophobia-in-singapore/>
- <https://mothership.sg/2021/05/covid-19-xenophobia-racism-commentary/>
- <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/336/6083/825>

¹Photo by [headwayio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

B) Comprehension

Tom Oliver writes about the need to learn to overcome xenophobia and bigotry.

- 1 Humans are the most cooperative species on the planet – all part of a huge interconnected ecosystem. We have built vast cities, connected by a global nervous system of roads, shipping lanes and optical fibres. We have sent thousands of satellites spinning around the planet. Even seemingly simple objects like a graphite pencil are the work of thousands of hands from around the world. Yet we can also be surprisingly intolerant of each other. If we are completely honest, there is perhaps a little bit of xenophobia, racism, sexism and bigotry deep within all of us. 5
- 2 Most human attitudes and behaviour have both a genetic and an environmental component. This is also true for our fear of others who are different to us, and intolerance of their viewpoints. Hardwired into the brain's amygdala region is a fear reflex that is primed by encounters with the unfamiliar. In premodern times, it made sense to be fearful of other groups. They might be violent, steal our resources, or introduce new diseases we are not adapted to. Conversely, it was beneficial to trust those who looked similar to us – they were more likely to be related. And when we helped these kin, our own genes were more likely to be passed to future generations. 10 15
- 3 Beyond evolutionary instincts, our human culture strongly influences our attitudes and behaviour, either suppressing our instincts or encouraging them further. Whether we tolerate and trust someone or fear and reject them is influenced in large part by this culture. Think about it as software updates that modify what is built-in into our hardware. Modern civilisation in general encourages the extension of attitudes such as respect and tolerance beyond those who look similar to us, to those who we have no relation to. We reinforce and codify these values, teaching them to our children, while some religious and secular spiritual leaders promote them in their teachings. That is because they generally lead to a more harmonious, mutually beneficial society. 20
- 4 But sometimes our cultures can be less progressive. What people around us say and do subconsciously influences the way we think. We soak up this cultural context like a sponge, and it subtly shapes our attitudes and behaviours. If we are surrounded by people that stigmatise those different to themselves, this also encourages distrust or aggression in us. It presses the buttons of certain deep-seated racist or xenophobic attitudes within us. In fact, it discourages the hard-learned inhibitory responses in the brain's prefrontal cortex that get built up under more progressive contexts. 25 30
- 5 Supremacist movements such as Nazism have openly promoted xenophobia and bigotry, gaining strength as they hide behind the cover of freedom of speech. These movements encourage a strong tribal loyalty to the "in-group" (one's own group), which is not bad in itself, except they do it by stigmatising others. A healthy pride in one's country can similarly tip into unhealthy nationalism, when we identify with our own nation at the exclusion of others. Things seem to be moving in this direction today. Leaders with nationalist leanings are more frequently taking centre stage around the world. In the UK, figures such as Nigel Farage, posted this tweet about the 2020 coronavirus outbreak: "It really is about time we all said it. China caused this nightmare. Period." When people and organisations we trust talk in such a way, it has a profound effect on our receiving minds, shaping our beliefs about what we might think are purely rational issues. This is because we tend to adopt a common position on a topic to signal that we are part of a group, just like football fans wear certain colours or have tattoos to show their tribal loyalty. This tribalism can all feel very visceral and natural because, well, in a way, it is. It fires up the primal parts of our brain that evolved for such responses. 35 40 45

- 6 Going forward, the sense of potential threat to our survival could also fan the flames of bigotry and xenophobia. The cultural psychologist Michele Gelfand has shown how environmental shocks can cause societies to become “tighter” – meaning the tendency to be loyal to the “in-group” gets stronger. Such societies are more likely to elect authoritarian leaders who show prejudice towards outsiders. This has been observed under past ecological threats, particularly when there is a perceived scarcity of resources and people feel they need someone to fight for their interests. With the recent increase in extreme weather events and disease outbreaks like the coronavirus pandemic, we can expect this trend to only get worse. A 2001 United Nations initiative which sought to explore how global trends might unfold predicted a scenario called “order from strength”, in which nations see looking after their own interests as the best defence against economic insecurity. Later iterations of the scenario have been dubbed “fortress world”, describing a dystopian vision where order is imposed through an authoritarian system of global apartheid, with elites in protected enclaves and an impoverished majority outside. In the face of fear, it is easy to shed our facades of civility and let our baser instincts take over. And when we can hide behind the guise of survival, we feel morally justified in demonstrating a blatant disregard and intolerance for those we do not consider part of “our” tribe. 50
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65
- 7 One can only hope that we will use rational thinking to develop strategies to overcome these attitudes. We should reinforce positive values, build trust and compassion, and reduce the distinction between “our” in-group and the “other”. An important first step is appreciating our connectedness to other people. Our minds are closely linked through social networks, and the things we create are often the inevitable next step in a series of interdependent innovations. Innovation is part of a great, linked creative human endeavour with no respect for race or national boundaries. Beyond theory, practice is also necessary to literally rewire our brains – reinforcing the neural networks through which compassionate behaviour arises. Outdoor community activities have been shown to increase our psychological connectedness to others, albeit right at this moment they are off-limits for those in lockdown. Similarly, meditation approaches alter neural networks in the brain and reduce our sense of isolated self-identity, instead promoting compassion towards others. Even computer games and books can be designed to increase empathy. Finally, at the societal level, we need frank and open debate about social inequality and discrimination – crucially, how our own attitudes and values can affect other lives and livelihoods. We need public dialogue around widening societal divides, and how we respond to that as a society, allowing us to mitigate the knee-jerk reaction of devaluing others, which occurs just because it is easier to look for scapegoats than bear responsibility. 70
75
80
- 8 Let’s defuse this ticking time bomb and shame those who stoke the flames of bigotry beneath it. It is possible to steer our cultures and rewire our brains so that xenophobia and bigotry all but disappear. Indeed, working collaboratively to overcome the global challenges of the 21st Century relies upon us doing just that - or we don’t stand a chance. 85

(Adapted from: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200403-how-to-overcome-racism-and-tribalism>)

Read the passage above and then answer the question which follows.


Tom Oliver shares his concerns about what fuels xenophobia and bigotry and what we can do to overcome it. How applicable do you find his observations to you and your society? [10]

Question Requirements:

- Address the key parts of Tom Oliver’s argument:
 - (a) we have a tendency in the current climate to be more xenophobic/ racist, due to the various reasons/ factors outlined in the essay
 - (b) but we have the power to shape a more inclusive culture if we take active steps at individual & societal level
 - Agree or disagree with support from SG context.
 - Argument should be about whether or not the trends of xenophobia and bigotry are evident in Singapore’s context, whether they can be justified with the reasons outlined by the author, and whether or not there is more that can be done as suggested by the author
- Balance will be present where students are able to see some validity in the opposing view of whatever stand they are taking for each of the claims they choose

Sample responses

Reference	Relevant SG examples/ evaluation
<p>A healthy pride in one’s country can similarly tip into unhealthy nationalism, when we identify with our own nation at the exclusion of others. Things seem to be moving in this direction today. Leaders with nationalist leanings are more frequently taking centre stage around the world. In the UK, figures such as Nigel Farage, posted this tweet about the 2020 coronavirus outbreak: “It really is about time we all said it. China caused this nightmare. Period.” When people and organisations we trust talk in such a way, it has a profound effect on our receiving minds, shaping our beliefs about what we might think are purely rational issues. (lines 35-43)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been concerns among Singaporeans of foreigners taking job opportunities away from locals, which were voiced by certain opposition parties during the 2020 General election. This reflects the author’s observations of how anxieties to safeguard the rights of a country’s citizens could in turn lead to feelings of negativity/ hostility towards foreigners. • On the other hand, leaders in Singapore do not stoke flames of xenophobia, in fact publicly denounce/ decry it, and warn against its consequences. In this case, xenophobia and bigotry are not stoked by an increasingly nationalist leadership.
<p>Going forward, the sense of potential threat to our survival could also fan the flames of bigotry and xenophobia. The cultural psychologist Michele Gelfand has shown how environmental shocks can cause societies to become “tighter” – meaning the tendency to be loyal to the “in-group” gets stronger. (lines 48-51)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the wake of the recent covid pandemic, there was an increase in xenophobic/ racist attacks, such as calls for Indian travellers to be banned from Singapore, public attacks/ harassment of Indians • On the other hand, these attacks have triggered a backlash and there were many netizens and online media platforms that stood up against these attacks. There were also a number of non-profit organisations that sprung up during the initial outbreak of Covid-19 which had the specific aim of

	<p>supporting migrant workers, such as the Covid-19 Migrant Support Coalition. This showed that there were Singaporeans who, instead of becoming more loyal to the “in-group”, in fact became more protective of those marginalised by the “in-group”.</p>
<p>One can only hope that we will use rational thinking to develop strategies to overcome these attitudes. We should reinforce positive values, build trust and compassion, and reduce the distinction between “our” in-group and the “other”...(lines 66-68)</p> <p>...at the societal level, we need frank and open debate about social inequality and discrimination – crucially, how our own attitudes and values can affect other lives and livelihoods. We need public dialogue around widening societal divides, and how we respond to that as a society (lines 79-82)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some hopeful trends in Singapore that indicate that it is possible for rational thinking and trust and compassion to trump our tendencies to discriminate against those that are different from us, and to show that some of the frank and open debate suggested by the author is already happening. This has been made possible largely by social media and an increasingly educated and vocal public. For instance, a blackface incident in RI that took place many years ago only recently came to light in the past year, sparking conversations about casual racism. Some citizens have even called out those in power/ authority for their acts of casual racism, such as the recent case of Sarah Bagharib calling out People’s Association on their insensitivity by using her wedding photographs as part of a Hari Raya decoration. This has in turn spurred members of the majority race in Singapore, such as a Chinese clinical psychologist, to speak up in solidarity with her, and Sarah also publicly acknowledged these acts of solidarity. This showed that it is possible to bridge the distinction between one in-group and “the other” with frank public dialogue, and as long as both parties are willing to demonstrate trust and compassion. • On the other hand, the extent to which we can rely on the rationality and values of individuals as well as on open debate to truly eradicate societal faultlines/ divides is questionable. There are still people who are reluctant to acknowledge the existence of such faultlines, instead blaming it on external influences like the importation of US racial politics. The lack of transparency by the government over some immigration-related policies such as CECA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement) between Singapore and India also continue to encourage the spreading of misinformation and xenophobia.
<p>Let’s defuse this ticking time bomb and shame those who stoke the flames of bigotry beneath it. It is possible to steer our cultures and rewire our brains so that xenophobia and bigotry all but disappear. Indeed, working collaboratively to overcome the global challenges of the 21st Century relies upon us doing just that - or we don’t stand a chance. (lines 85 - 59)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Singapore, due to our aging workforce, we definitely need to rely on foreign labour in the long run. More intermarriages between races and nationalities also means that the demographics will become increasingly diverse. If we do not overcome xenophobia and bigotry in our society, there will very likely be increased social and economic instability in the long run as faultlines deepen.

A-Level General Paper**Topic:** Technology/ Future of Work**Lesson Focus:** Comprehension**Skills Focus -**

- (1) Identify and infer relevant information from the text(s)
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2

A) Read & Discuss

Do you think Singaporeans are adequately prepared for the future of work?

Related resources:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ildMRB52pW4&t=4s> (watch until 5:40 mark)
- <https://www.todayonline.com/daily-focus/education/what-skills-does-singapore-need-future-economy>
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/550315a>

B) Comprehension

Passage 1. Issy Beech writes about preparing for the future of work by being more human.

- 1 Remember when you were a teenager, and some stuffy authority figure in your life—uncle at Christmas, Grandma at birthday—told you to all but give up on that burning creative passion of yours and focus your talents on something practical? Something that'd put food on the table? Remember when they told you that your penchant for drawing anime eyes on everything would never amount to anything other than a useless, frivolous hobby? Well, you have my permission to call up that adult right now and berate them because as it turns out, they were wrong. 5
- 2 The future of work on Earth is looking increasingly different to how our parents and our parents' friends seemed insistent on having us believe it was going to be when we were growing up. What research is now showing, it would seem, is that practical disciplines and career trajectories are, in the future, going to be less stable and certain, whereas creative and adaptable ones may thrive better. Because the workplace will change to include non-biological workers (like robots), biological workers will be somewhat unnecessary in industries that have routine or predictable outcomes—like, for example, medicine and law, Dad. So while the fat cats in government may hesitate to say this to you out of fear of some imaginary social upheaval, I'm willing to: you should've kept on with those anime eyes, pal. That was your ticket to ride. 10 15
- 3 Research has indicated that future jobs will require 70 percent more 'enterprise skills'—transferable and non-industry specific skills—than jobs of the past. Heather McGowan, who assists businesses and educators in preparing for future workplaces, says that we should be figuring out what we're interested in in a much more generalised way than we're used to. This includes focusing more on all-rounded skills like communication and critical thinking instead of practical, specialised skills. "We're stuck in this paradigm of asking people what they want to be when they grow up. Asking young people to think about the future in such specific terms when 55% of future jobs are yet to be created and half of existing work will be replaced by automation is ridiculous." What we're probably best off doing is defining whether the ways we imagine making our money can be replaced by technology or not. "How are you going to navigate the future of work where anything mentally routine or predictable will be replaced by an algorithm? That's not just putting parts together in a factory, it's a huge part of our financial system, our legal system, our medical system," she says. Entire groups of trained specialists will be rendered redundant. 20 25 30
- 4 Similarly, Ushma Dhanak, a leading expert in the field of HR, highlights that research has shown that emotional intelligence will likely be in the top desired job skills by 2020, Dhanak says "empathy is a key competence in the workplace and one which is not taught or discussed as often as it should be. We need to train future generations to be better equipped at managing the emotions of employees and equip them with the skills to be able to respond to the situation, rather than react." In gist, we need to leverage our most human qualities, instead of trying to compete with robots. 35
- 5 So while parents and guardians might take a distinct liking to telling us we're better off preparing for jobs in traditional industries, research now shows otherwise. Careers your parents don't know are lucrative could be anything from ceramics to running an Instagram meme account. Words of advice from industry voices all seem to echo similar things: choose a career path in a broad sense and don't get too bogged down in specifics, because planning for an uncertain future is futile; master skills that can be useful no matter where you end up; work on your communication, empathy, and your creative passions. In short, do everything you can to be more human. You've got this. 40 45

(Adapted from:

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/9kngxe/empathy-and-creativity-will-save-our-jobs-in-the-future>)

Passage 2. Marcus Wohlsen writes about digital literacy being key to the future.

- 1 The entrance to GitHub is the most Instagram-able lobby in the technology industry. It's a recreation of the Oval Office, except instead of the arrow-clutching eagle that graces Obama's office rug, it shows the code-sharing site's mascot gazing into the digital future, just above the motto: "In Collaboration We Trust." Apt, considering that the future of the nation hinges upon technology. One morning, just past this presidential decor, representatives of the tech industry and academia sat on massive leather couches trying to figure out how to give more people the means to participate in that future. The theme in play was "digital literacy," the idea that the world's citizens, and kids in particular, will benefit if they're skilled in the ways of information technology. 5
- 2 "The amount of potential unlocked by the industrial revolution is dwarfed in information terms by what you can do with computers," said Ari Geshner, a senior software engineer at Palantir, a much-discussed data analysis startup whose customers include US intelligence and defense agencies. "Digital literacy is about learning to use the most powerful tools we've ever built." But defining what exactly is meant by "use" is not so black-and-white. Most people who use computers don't know how to build software, and merely know software works. Does that make them digitally illiterate? 10 15
- 3 For some, it does. It has become commonplace to argue that everyone is better off learning at least basic programming skills---that coding itself is the new, necessary literacy. We've seen online courses, games, new programming languages, and even children's books pushing kids and their parents in this direction. But "learning to code" is an exceedingly broad concept, and one which without more specifics risks oversimplifying conversations about what digital literacy really means. And how digital literacy is defined is important. This isn't just about filling Silicon Valley jobs. It's about educators, policy makers, and parents understanding how to equip the rising generations of digital natives with the skills they need to define the future of technology for themselves. 20 25
- 4 For Carol Smith, who oversees Google's Summer of Code program, learning to program, while important, is about more than just learning to program. "It's more about giving people the skills and the tools they learn in the act of coding," she said during the roundtable at GitHub. "It gives them the critical thinking skills that are important whether or not they go into computer science as a profession." Among other things, it helps people understand the power of algorithms. Armando Fox, a professor who teaches an introductory software engineering course, defines the algorithmic mindset as, somewhat ironically, applying structured linear thinking to a seemingly open-ended problem. For most of the time computer science has existed, Fox said, its practitioners have focused attention inward, on making computers faster and getting them work better. Only recently, he said, has this focus been overcome to the extent that computer scientists can start looking outward toward figuring out how to apply computational thinking to problems beyond computing. 30 35
- 5 "Our tools have become good enough that we can become outward-facing," he said, adding, "It's difficult for me to think of a professional career path that's not data-driven or on its way to becoming data driven." 40

(Adapted from: <https://www.wired.com/2014/09/digital-literacy-key-future-still-dont-know-means/>)

Read the passages above and then answer the question which follows.

One author argues that our best bet in preparing for the future is to develop generic skills that make us more human, whereas the other author suggests that it is necessary to focus on developing digital literacy skills.

[10]

How far do you agree with the opinions expressed in these two passages? Support your answer with examples drawn from your own experience and that of our society.

Question Requirements:

- Address the key parts of each argument (Passage 1 & Passage 2):
 - (a) From Passage 1: we should focus on developing holistic and transferable skills instead of planning for a specific career path; we should pay particular attention to more 'human' qualities that cannot be replaced by technology like communication, empathy and creativity
 - (b) From Passage 2: we should focus on developing digital literacy, which goes beyond just learning to code but developing the skills and tools that form the basis of coding
 - Agree or disagree with support from SG context.
- Balance will be present where students are able to see some validity in the opposing view of whatever stand they are taking for each of the claims they choose

Sample responses:

Passage 1

Reference	Relevant SG examples/ evaluation
<p>The future of work on Earth is looking increasingly different to how our parents and our parents' friends seemed insistent on having us believe it was going to be when we were growing up. What research is now showing, it would seem, is that practical disciplines and career trajectories are, in the future, going to be less stable and certain, whereas creative and adaptable ones may thrive better. (lines 8-12)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Singapore, earlier generations did focus on more practical disciplines and career trajectories, for example having a university degree was deemed prestigious, and careers in the sciences and engineering were generally deemed more lucrative than in the arts. This was in tandem with the industries that drove Singapore's economy at the time, which was largely reliant on petrochemicals and electronics in the seventies, and then subsequently shifted to high-end manufacturing and biotechnology in the nineties • Recent advancements in technology seem likely to cause previously "safe" or practical career options to be less secure. Under Singapore's Smart Nation plan, assistive robots have already started to be implemented in the healthcare industry for instance, which can not only provide physical and therapeutic support to patients, but also provide and analyse data to monitor patients' progress • On the other hand, it is not necessarily clear that "creative and adaptable" jobs may thrive better. Through machine learning, there have been Artificial Intelligence programmes that have successfully composed music, created movie trailers, or written articles in specific writing styles

	<p>by analysing multiple data sources and imitating these data sources.</p>
<p>Heather McGowan...says that we should be figuring out what we're interested in in a much more generalised way than we're used to. This includes focusing more on all-rounded skills like communication and critical thinking instead of practical, specialised skills. "We're stuck in this paradigm of asking people what they want to be when they grow up. Asking young people to think about the future in such specific terms when 55% of future jobs are yet to be created and half of existing work will be replaced by automation is ridiculous." (lines 19-27)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Career Guidance (ECG) in schools do require youths to think about what they want to do in the future and teachers or ECG counsellors would advise on specific pathways for pursuing a particular discipline or a particular career option. • Youths in Singapore have to choose particular subjects/ disciplines at specific junctures, for instance upon graduating from Secondary School, that would lead them towards a particular career path, and this demands that they consider specific career options from a young age. They would also be encouraged to intern at specific industries or companies while studying, which may enable them to get a headstart in the career of their choice. • However, there has also been an increasing focus in schools to cultivate 21st Century Competencies which include skills like collaboration and critical thinking. Such skills are infused across all subjects and disciplines, hence it is acknowledged that the development of such skills are essential no matter what pathway is chosen.
<p>Similarly, Ushma Dhanak, a leading expert in the field of HR, highlights that research has shown that emotional intelligence will likely be in the top desired job skills by 2020, Dhanak says "empathy is a key competence in the workplace and one which is not taught or discussed as often as it should be.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Singapore, there has been increasing focus placed on developing socio-economic competencies in youths, including developing positive relationships with others. This has been infused into the school curriculum, hence it is actually actively taught here. • That said, in schools, there is still a greater emphasis placed on results and academic achievement rather than intangible values such as empathy, which are difficult to measure and quantify. Similarly, in the workplace, employees are often still ranked based on their job performance and results. Therefore there is room for improvement in terms of prioritising emotional intelligence and empathy more highly at schools and in the workplace.

Passage 2

Reference	Relevant SG examples/ evaluation
<p>It has become commonplace to argue that everyone is better off learning at least basic programming skills---that coding itself is the new, necessary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singapore has similarly jumped on the coding bandwagon, with many schools starting to offer courses in coding as well as the proliferation of many enrichment programmes in coding and coding bootcamps.

<p>literacy. We've seen online courses, games, new programming languages, and even children's books pushing kids and their parents in this direction. But "learning to code" is an exceedingly broad concept, and one which without more specifics risks oversimplifying conversations about what digital literacy really means. (lines 17-22)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is however true that the push towards digital literacy appears to focus on the use of technology and the building of technological skills without probing the more fundamental questions of what digital literacy really means. For instance, under the Digital Literacy Programme, all students will eventually be given their own personal learning device, and under MOE's ICT roadmap, teachers are required to make use of technological platforms like the Student Learning Space (SLS) to carry out lessons. The focus has been on providing access to digital tools and platforms and the use of those tools and platforms, rather than more fundamental questions of what sort of skills and competencies should be developed through the use of these digital tools and platforms.
<p>Only recently, he said, has this focus been overcome to the extent that computer scientists can start looking outward toward figuring out how to apply computational thinking to problems beyond computing. "Our tools have become good enough that we can become outward-facing," he said, adding, "It's difficult for me to think of a professional career path that's not data-driven or on its way to becoming data driven." (lines 37-42)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Singapore, we are indeed starting to see trends of computational thinking applied not just to computing but to all sectors of our lives, for instance the increasingly widespread use of data analysis to identify how to improve policy-making or services, or the proliferation of mobile apps to improve efficiency or make lives easier such as the myResponder App which allows for quicker crowdsourcing of First Aid-trained responders in times of need, or the app GoodHood, which helps to connect neighbours and promote kampung spirit. • It is therefore likely that all professions may involve working in data in some way. • On the other hand, professions that focus more on human connection, such as counselling, may still require the human touch and customised responses to individual behaviour, instead of being fully data-driven.

Model Essay

A government that lacks the trust of its citizens is destined to collapse. Do you agree?

"Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government." - Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, believed that a well-informed citizenry was essential for a functioning democracy. He suggested that when citizens have access to truthful information and can critically evaluate their leaders, they are more capable of holding the government accountable. Conversely, when misinformation spreads or the government suppresses information, trust erodes, leading to instability. A government that lacks the trust of its citizens is often viewed as being on the path to collapse. However, recent political trends suggest that while a loss of trust can weaken a government, it does not always result in its downfall. Given the increasing power of media control, political polarization, and strategic maneuvering, a government that loses public trust may suffer electorally but is not necessarily doomed to fail.

The most direct consequence of losing public trust is a decline in electoral performance. Ideally, when citizens perceive a government as dishonest or incompetent, they seek change through elections. However, recent political events challenge this assumption. Trump's 2024 victory came despite ongoing controversies, with many Americans deeply divided over his policies and leadership style. His ability to maintain strong support among his base suggests that partisan loyalty often overrides concerns about credibility. A historical parallel can be drawn with the 2008 Presidential Election in Taiwan. Then-President Chen Shui-Bian's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) faced severe corruption allegations, leading to a landslide electoral defeat. However, despite this loss of public confidence, Chen's administration had notable achievements, such as advancing Taiwan's semiconductor industry, which remains globally competitive today. This demonstrates that while a government may face electoral consequences for losing trust, it can still leave a lasting impact through its policies and continue to function effectively until removed through formal political processes.

Another way a government can remain in power despite losing public trust is by suppressing dissent and controlling the narrative. Authoritarian regimes continue to thrive by restricting press freedom and public discourse. Russia, for example, has seen widespread protests against Vladimir Putin, especially following the death of opposition leader Alexei Navalny in 2024. Yet, Putin remains in power, largely due to state-controlled media and suppression of opposition voices. Similarly, in the U.S., Trump's return to office has been marked by aggressive measures to control the flow of information, including tighter restrictions on certain press outlets and a crackdown on whistleblowers. However, remaining in power does not necessarily equate to governing successfully. While authoritarian governments may stifle opposition, they often struggle with legitimacy. If people fundamentally reject their leadership, the government's ability to govern effectively becomes compromised in the long run, increasing the risk of instability and eventual collapse.

Additionally, increasing political polarization has diminished the role of trust in determining electoral outcomes. Many voters now prioritize ideological alignment over personal integrity when casting their ballots. This trend was evident in the 2024 U.S. election, where Trump's supporters largely ignored concerns about his legal battles and credibility, focusing instead on his policies regarding immigration, economic protectionism, and national security. A similar example can be found in the 2019 UK General Election, where Boris Johnson triumphed over Jeremy Corbyn despite Corbyn being perceived as the more trustworthy candidate. Brexit was the defining issue, and voters prioritized their

stance on EU membership over trustworthiness. This demonstrates that as political polarization deepens, traditional measures of a government's credibility—such as honesty and transparency—become secondary to partisan loyalty, allowing untrusted governments to remain in power despite widespread public skepticism.

Despite these factors, it is undeniable that losing public trust weakens a government's effectiveness. Electoral setbacks remain a significant consequence, as seen with Trump's 2020 loss before his comeback in 2024. Even in cases where a government remains in power, a loss of trust can lead to mass protests, legislative gridlock, and instability. Governments that fail to address this erosion of credibility may ultimately face collapse due to mounting internal and external pressures. Therefore, while a government can govern despite losing trust, sustained public distrust, particularly in democratic systems, increases the likelihood of political instability and eventual failure. Ultimately, the collapse of a government without public trust is not inevitable, but it remains a significant risk.



Model Essay

Is it always ethical for medical science to prioritize extending human life?

In recent years, the field of medical science has made significant strides in extending the human lifespan. Companies like Altos Labs, backed by billionaires such as Jeff Bezos, are investing heavily in cellular rejuvenation and anti-aging research, hoping to reverse the aging process at a biological level. Similarly, advancements in gene editing through CRISPR technology have raised the possibility of altering DNA to extend lifespan and prevent age-related diseases. While the average global life expectancy has surpassed 70 years due to medical breakthroughs, the ethical and practical implications of prolonging life remain contentious. Medical science should not always seek to prolong life due to the compromises made on quality of life, the greater emphasis needed on improving other aspects of society, and the ethical concerns surrounding artificial life extension.

Medical science should not always seek to prolong life as it often compromises one's quality of life. Increased longevity does not necessarily equate to a healthier or more fulfilling existence. Many people live longer with disabilities or chronic illnesses. For example, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 37 million Americans suffer from chronic kidney disease, with many requiring dialysis. Dialysis patients often endure significant physical and emotional distress, reducing their overall well-being. Similarly, Alzheimer's disease affects nearly 7 million Americans, a number projected to rise as lifespans increase. This degenerative disorder severely impairs memory and cognitive function, diminishing the quality of life for both patients and caregivers. While medical advancements may prolong life, they often fail to address the suffering that accompanies these conditions. Moreover, many treatments for chronic illnesses cause severe side effects. Chemotherapy, a common treatment for cancer, frequently leads to organ failure, a weakened immune system, and other debilitating consequences. The use of life-support machines such as ventilators or pacemakers can prolong biological function but often leave patients in a persistent vegetative state or in constant pain. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many patients placed on ventilators suffered long-term health complications, even if they survived the virus. Prolonging life at the expense of suffering reduces life to mere existence rather than meaningful living. Hence, medical science should not always seek to extend life if it comes at the cost of prolonged suffering.

Medical science should prioritize other pressing global issues over life extension to better serve humanity. Research into longevity and anti-aging technologies is often driven by wealthy individuals and corporations, making it an exclusive benefit for the privileged. For instance, tech mogul Bryan Johnson has invested millions into reversing his biological age through cutting-edge medical treatments. However, such pursuits divert attention and resources away from more pressing global concerns such as poverty, disease prevention, and healthcare accessibility. Instead of focusing on prolonging life, medical science should prioritize addressing critical healthcare disparities, such as those seen in developing nations where basic healthcare is still a challenge. In parts of sub-Saharan Africa, the average life expectancy remains significantly lower than in wealthier nations, largely due to preventable diseases, poor sanitation, and malnutrition. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 800 million people globally suffer from hunger, a factor that significantly reduces lifespan. If medical resources were redirected towards providing clean water, vaccines, and basic healthcare, millions of lives could be saved rather than artificially extended for a select few. Prolonging life without

considering these broader implications risks creating a world where the rich can afford immortality while the poor struggle for basic survival.

Furthermore, prolonging life raises significant ethical concerns, particularly regarding the natural limits of human existence. Advances in biotechnology, such as lab-grown organs, CRISPR gene editing, and AI-assisted drug development, have given humanity unprecedented control over aging and mortality. However, this level of scientific intervention risks blurring the lines between natural life and artificial extension. For example, Neuralink, a company co-founded by Elon Musk, is working on brain-computer interfaces that could enhance cognitive function and potentially extend life by preserving human consciousness digitally. While such technology presents exciting possibilities, it also raises moral questions about the definition of life and death. Should humans have the right to manipulate life indefinitely? The concept of “playing God” becomes increasingly relevant as science pushes the boundaries of what is considered natural.

However, some argue that medical science's fundamental purpose is to extend life and improve human health. Medical professionals take the Hippocratic Oath, vowing to prioritize the well-being of their patients. Innovations in age-related medicine, such as senolytic drugs that target aging cells, have shown promise in not only extending lifespan but also improving healthspan. For example, recent clinical trials on rapamycin, a drug initially developed for organ transplant patients, have suggested potential anti-aging benefits that could help people remain healthier for longer. If medical science focuses on both extending lifespan and enhancing quality of life, it could allow individuals to live more fulfilling and disease-free lives well into old age. Medical advancements must be balanced with ethical responsibility. Instead of blindly pursuing longevity, the focus should be on ensuring that medical science serves the greater good, providing meaningful life improvements rather than simply delaying death.

Ultimately, while medical science has the potential to extend human lifespan, it should not always seek to do so without considering the consequences. The compromise in quality of life, the need to address more pressing global issues, and the ethical concerns surrounding artificial life extension all suggest that medical science should exercise caution in its pursuit of longevity. After all, a meaningful life is not defined by its length but by its quality and impact.

Model Essay

'Freedom of expression is a luxury we cannot afford.' How far is this true in your society?

Freedom of expression is often hailed as a cornerstone of democracy, allowing individuals to voice their opinions, challenge authority, and contribute to the marketplace of ideas. Freedom of expression is often viewed as absolutely essential for societal progress. However, in societies that prioritize social harmony, economic progress, and national security, the unrestricted exercise of free speech may be viewed as a potential threat. Singapore, a country known for its stringent laws on speech and public expression, provides an apt case study on this debate. Singapore's limitations on freedom of expression maintain stability and order, making it indeed an unaffordable luxury.

Proponents of free expression argue that it is vital for holding the government accountable and fostering an informed citizenry. A controlled media landscape, where criticism of the government is heavily scrutinized, could hinder transparency and limit the flow of diverse perspectives. When the media and public discourse are restricted, citizens may only receive a narrow, government-approved view of events, preventing a full understanding of complex issues. While Singapore ranks high in governance and efficiency, its press freedom ranking remains low, with Reporters Without Borders placing it 129th out of 180 countries in 2023. The government's strong emphasis on maintaining social stability and harmony has led to strict media controls, but critics argue that this approach stifles the democratic process by limiting open dialogue. For instance, the government's regulation of movies, books, online content and the criminalization of certain types of speech have sparked debates about whether such measures are necessary or overly restrictive. In 2014, a documentary film which showcased interviews with nine Singaporean political dissidents, former activists, and student leaders who fled Singapore during the 1960s to the 1980s and who are now living in exile was banned. In Singapore it reignited debates on whether such limitations hinder creative expression and the documentation of alternative viewpoints. *"To Singapore, With Love"* was banned as it was deemed to be politically sensitive and to contain content that could undermine the authority of the state. The government's decision to ban the documentary was based on concerns that it could foster negative perceptions and stir political unrest, especially in the context of Singapore's highly controlled media environment. Critics argue that greater freedom of expression could encourage more civic engagement, allowing citizens to voice their concerns and contribute to shaping policies based on public needs. This, in turn, could lead to more robust and inclusive decision-making processes, where policies are driven by constructive discourse rather than top-down mandates. The lack of freedom of expression that Singapore lives with is possibly affecting both people's voices and the quality of governance, perhaps not quite ensuring that all leaders will remain responsive to the evolving needs of the people.

Conversely, freedom of expression can lead to social discord and threaten national unity. Singapore is a multi-racial, multi-religious society where tensions could easily escalate if inflammatory speech were permitted without restriction. The Sedition Act and Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act serve as safeguards against hate speech, ensuring that expressions that could incite racial or religious conflict are curtailed. For instance, in 2025, a Singaporean rapper, Subhas Nair was sentenced to 6 weeks in jail for attempting to promote ill will among racial and religious groups through online posts and for performing a song with the lyrics "Chinese people always out here f***ing it up". In 2020, legal action was taken against a man who made insulting posts about Indians and Covid-19 on Twitter under the handle @sharonliew86. Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam said the "nasty posts" were done "deliberately to stoke anger, unhappiness (and) racial tensions". These racially charged posts often start a flurry of comments online from netizens quick to either call out or cancel someone who is

stoking hate, even while some others continue to add fuel to the fire by adding on racist comments of their own. Citing the horrors of the Maria Hertogh riots of 1950, when Muslim protesters turned aggressive, resulting in looting, arson, robberies and murder, Singapore authorities act fast to shut these conversations down in case they incite tensions and strife that may once again result in public outcry and violence. These incidents further highlight the government's stance that social harmony takes precedence over absolute free speech cementing the notion that unrestricted speech is a risk that Singapore cannot take.

Another argument against unrestrained freedom of expression is its potential to spread misinformation and destabilize governance. The Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA) was introduced in 2019 to counter the rise of fake news, which could mislead the public and incite unnecessary panic or unrest. During the COVID-19 pandemic, POFMA was invoked multiple times to correct misinformation about the virus and government measures. In 2021, The Ministry of Health (MOH) invoked POFMA against the Truth Warriors website for spreading false claims about Covid-19 vaccines and ivermectin. MOH announced that Health Minister Ong Ye Kung directed the POFMA Office to issue a correction order. The website must now display correction notices on pages containing the falsehoods, including claims that highly vaccinated countries have the most Covid-19 cases and deaths, while less vaccinated nations have fewer. It also falsely stated that vaccines do not prevent the virus's spread. In 2024, The Online Citizen (TOC) was issued a correction order for falsely claiming that the government uses the fake news law to suppress dissent on the death penalty. In a Nov 22 article titled "*Singapore's death penalty: A deterrent, a statement or simply blind faith?*", TOC editor Terry Xu alleged that advocacy groups like the Transformative Justice Collective (TJC) are legally required under POFMA to label their statements as falsehoods, reinforcing the state's position. The MHA refuted this claim, stating that TOC's assertions were misleading. MHA said the authorities had assessed that it was in the public interest to do so, "as these false statements could erode public trust in the Singapore Government and our criminal justice system, if not clarified". Without such legal mechanisms, the spread of falsehoods could undermine public trust in institutions and create unnecessary fear, proving that some restrictions on speech are necessary for societal stability.

In conclusion, while unrestricted freedom of expression may pose challenges to social harmony and governance, it is also an essential pillar for accountability, creativity, and civic engagement. In Singapore, the balance between regulation and freedom remains a delicate one. While some restrictions are necessary, there should also be room for constructive dissent and open dialogue. Thus, freedom of expression should not be seen as a luxury, but rather as a necessity that must be carefully managed to serve the broader interests of society.

Model Essay

To what extent has tourism contributed to environmental damage?

Phuket, located in Thailand, was once famous for its crystal-clear waters and unspoiled beaches. However, a surge in tourism led to severe pollution and deteriorating water quality. Authorities are now grappling with a growing garbage crisis, with plastic waste polluting the sea and with over 1,000 tonnes of waste collected daily as of January 2025. Similar problems are emerging in many tourist destinations worldwide. With affordable air travel and a growing middle class, tourism has become widely accessible. The number of international travelers has surged from 500 million to over a billion in the last decade, with projections reaching 2 billion by 2025. Tourism's negative effects include climate change as well as a depletion of natural resources and the destruction of ecosystems. Government regulations and the rise of eco-tourism are attempting to alleviate these issues. Overall however, tourism's mark on the environment is extensive and in many cases, indelible.

Despite many challenges, efforts to regulate tourism and promote environmental conservation are increasing. Many destinations are restricting visitor numbers to reduce overcrowding and environmental damage. Santorini now caps daily cruise ship visitors at 8,000, down from over 10,000 at peak times. Italy has limited tourist numbers to 1.5 million per year in its Cinque Terre region to protect its delicate landscape. Governments are addressing these problems by implementing regulations. Spain, for instance, plans to introduce an environmental tax on flights departing from its airports, with the revenue directed toward sustainable travel initiatives. Some airlines are also experimenting with biofuels as an alternative energy source. To combat deforestation, stricter policies have been enforced. In 2017, the rate of illegal logging in the Amazon rainforest dropped to its lowest level in over a decade. Several tourist sites have also temporarily closed for restoration. Indonesia's Raja Ampat Marine Park was shut down to allow coral reef recovery, while Bali's Nusa Penida is undergoing conservation efforts. Thailand's Maya Bay, which was heavily damaged by tourism, was closed for two years to allow coral regeneration, with over 23,000 new corals planted since its closure. Authorities have implemented a strict visitor limit of 4,125 people per day, divided into one-hour slots with a maximum of 375 visitors per slot. These various measures aim to alleviate the damage done to the environment and to allow for recuperation and regeneration, wherever possible.

More individuals are also embracing eco-tourism, a sustainable form of travel that minimizes environmental impact. Eco-tourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the industry, expanding at 10-15% annually. Actor Matt Damon, a well-known environmental advocate, is involved in an eco-resort project on a Costa Rican island affected by deforestation and overfishing. This initiative aims to restore the ecosystem while promoting sustainable tourism. Eco-friendly activities, such as zip-line canopy tours in Panama and Costa Rica, allow travelers to explore rainforests with minimal environmental impact. Many resorts are also adopting green practices to cater to eco-conscious travelers. Sierra Nevada Resorts, for example, now rely on wind power to operate lifts, hotels, and restaurants. Other resorts, such as Glacier Peak Lodge in Canada, implement conservation measures, including habitat protection, recycling, and water conservation. Hotels all over the world ask guests to only change sheets and towels when really necessary, and provide eco-friendly amenities in order to aid in the reduction of their carbon footprint. These measures aim to both inspire and educate tourists to be more conscious of their environmental footprint, reducing their impact wherever possible.

On the other hand, tourism strains infrastructure. More visitors necessitate new accommodations, water supplies, restaurants, and entertainment facilities, leading to environmental damage.

Construction activities, such as sand mining and deforestation, degrade landscapes. In Yellowstone National Park, additional roads and facilities have been built to accommodate rising visitor numbers, causing habitat loss and air pollution from vehicle emissions. Similarly, the popularity of Machu Picchu has led to unsustainable development in surrounding areas. Overuse of water for tourists has caused groundwater depletion, endangering ancient ruins. Myanmar, since its tourism boom in 2010, has experienced an explosion of hotels, leading to severe environmental degradation and even water shortages. Golf courses and ski resorts exacerbate these issues. A single golf course in a tropical region can require 150kg of chemicals and as much water as 6,000 rural villagers use. Ski resorts also damage ecosystems by clearing forests, altering landscapes, and diverting water for artificial snow production. At Maple Ridge Ski Resort in Canada, snowmaking requires up to 4,200 gallons of water per minute. The environment takes the hit for these developments, sometimes ending up with permanent damage to ecosystems.

Tourism significantly contributes to climate change due to high carbon emissions from air travel. Aviation is one of the fastest-growing sources of greenhouse gases, worsening as air travel demand increases. A study estimated that a single long-haul flight generates nearly half the CO₂ emissions an average person produces annually through daily activities. Additionally, tour buses contribute to pollution, especially when left idling for extended periods to maintain air conditioning. Greenhouse gases trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, accelerating global warming. Urban expansion driven by globalization has also resulted in deforestation. In Greece, tourism-driven deforestation has intensified, while Brazil lost over 1.6 million hectares of forest between 2001 and 2014. With fewer trees to absorb carbon dioxide, greenhouse gas levels rise, leading to sea-level rise, extreme weather, and habitat destruction. As our world gets warmer, people and animals around the world are experiencing the effects of global warming, attributable in many ways to the consequences of tourism.

Tourist activities also directly harm the environment through waste disposal and sewage mismanagement. For instance, the artificial island of Thilfushi in the Maldives receives a massive amount of waste, primarily from luxury hotels, often overflowing into the ocean and impacting local communities on nearby beaches. In the Caribbean, cruise ships generate an estimated 70,000 tons of waste annually. Sewage pollution has disrupted marine ecosystems in locations such as Halong Bay in Vietnam and Santorini in Greece, damaging coral reefs. Coral ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to pollution and human activities. Souvenir collection, anchoring, snorkeling, and sport fishing have all contributed to the degradation of reefs. Similarly, in the Galápagos Islands, trash and activities from over-tourism have put immense pressure on marine biodiversity. Without a way to curb burgeoning tourism and the resulting tonnes of trash, the environment bears the brunt of human activity.

In conclusion, tourism has negatively impacted the environment through carbon emissions, infrastructure strain, and human activities. However, increased awareness and sustainable practices are helping to mitigate these effects. Governments are implementing stricter regulations, while travelers are embracing eco-friendly alternatives. Tourism has caused irrevocable damage in some areas, and has to a great extent, been the bane of the environment. Tourism should be a means to explore and appreciate the world without compromising the very environments we seek to experience. It is to be hoped that going forward, humans will continue to travel to seek a better understanding of the world, and in doing so, safeguard the planet.

Model Essay

To what extent is social media activism effective?

In 2023, Dylan Mulvaney, a transgender activist and content creator, shared her journey of transitioning in a series titled "Days of Girlhood." The videos sparked a wave of online activism focused on transgender rights, particularly transgender healthcare access and the fight for equality. The viral nature of her content helped rally both allies and detractors, making it a pivotal moment in the intersection of social media and activism. Social media, capable of delivering information to vast audiences, has increasingly been used as a tool for activism, sparking actions that contribute to social change. While some critics argue that social media activism is ineffective due to the absence of physical involvement, it is undeniable that its reach allows for massive exposure to social issues, motivating a significant portion of the audience to take tangible actions. For this reason, I believe social media activism is an effective force for change.

Supporters of social media activism point to its capacity to connect people across the globe as a major strength. Social media platforms enable individuals to become aware of pressing social issues no matter where they occur, often from the comfort of their own homes. This global accessibility means information can spread across borders instantly, often before it even reaches traditional media outlets like newspapers or television. This immediacy, paired with first-hand accounts that bypass editorial filters, creates a sense of authenticity, fostering a deeper emotional connection to the cause. In 2020, peaceful protests against police brutality erupted in Nigeria after a video showing a SARS operative allegedly killing a man went viral. The #EndSARS hashtag quickly gained traction, amplified by Nigerian celebrities and influencers. It spread internationally, with Nigerian Twitter users offering to cover phone bills to keep the movement active. This level of support was made possible because of social media's ability to quickly mobilize a wide audience, illustrating the platform's potential to drive real-world impact.

On the flip side, critics of social media activism often cite the rise of "slacktivism"—a term that blends "slacker" and "activism" to describe low-effort actions that provide individuals with the illusion of making a meaningful contribution. Social media's ease of use enables people to share information about a cause or post viral content with little effort. While this may seem harmless, it can lead to the misconception that merely sharing a post is enough to make a difference. The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge from 2014 is often cited as an example of "slacktivism" because it encouraged widespread participation on social media through a seemingly simple action (dumping a bucket of ice water on one's head) which, while raising awareness for ALS, could be seen as a superficial way to engage with a cause without substantial long-term commitment or deep understanding of the issue, even if many participants did donate to the ALS Association as part of the challenge. While many individuals shared posts, few took further action, such as donating to relevant organizations. Slacktivism reduces the effectiveness of using social media in order to make an impact when it comes to important, life altering issues. In some cases, users believed that sharing content equated to supporting the cause, overlooking the need for more practical contributions. This phenomenon highlights how social media activism can sometimes dilute the impact of a cause by reducing participation to passive actions that require minimal effort.

Nevertheless, not all social media users fall into this passive category. Many are motivated by the awareness raised online to take concrete steps towards change. Social media often serves as a

stepping stone, offering a platform for individuals to engage with causes and eventually act on them. A prominent example of a social media trend that sparked significant change and action is the "Black Lives Matter" movement, which utilized hashtags like #BlackLivesMatter on platforms like Twitter and Facebook to raise awareness about police brutality and racial injustice, leading to widespread protests and policy discussions globally. The #MeToo Movement on social media encouraged victims of sexual assault to share their stories, leading to increased conversations about sexual harassment and abuse, and prompting legal and societal changes. Young activists like Greta Thunberg used social media - in "Fridays For Future" - to organize large-scale climate strikes, putting significant pressure on governments to address climate change. Activism on these platforms tends to go a long way as social media continues to be prevalent in and largely relevant to peoples' lives all over the world.

In conclusion, the collective power of many small actions—such as clicks, shares, and posts—can indeed spark meaningful social change. While some users may only engage with causes passively, there is no denying that social media can effectively mobilize large numbers of people and direct them toward more active involvement. When used purposefully, social media can truly serve as a catalyst for social change, even if its scope is initially limited.



Readings

Guiding Questions (where applicable):	
<p>(a) What is the overarching stand/ opinion presented in the article, if any?</p> <p>(b) What are the key points of argument OR the key perspectives represented in the article?</p> <p>(c) What are some key pieces of evidence/ examples that support the arguments presented in the article? (Just take note of 2-3 that you find striking)</p>	
Topics	Readings
Society & Culture	<p>7 Cultural Trends That Will Shape 2023 And Beyond</p> <p>It's Time We See Singapore's Pragmatism For What It Is: Plain, Ol' Elitism</p> <p>Good Leaders Get Emotional</p>
Economics	<p>Global Economic Outlook, January 2025</p> <p>Chief economists look ahead to 'particularly complex' year of tariffs and tensions</p> <p>How might a wider Middle East conflict affect the global economy?</p>
Politics	<p>2024 wrapped: The biggest political stories of the year, and what's next</p> <p>Why Running the Government Like a Business Would Be a Disaster</p> <p>Governments Should Be Effective, Not Efficient</p>
The Arts and Humanities	<p>Budget 2025: Hawkers, arts to get more support in 2025; S\$100 credits for ActiveSG members</p> <p>Former NMP Calvin Cheng: Government should stop funding the arts</p> <p>Why We Need Museums Now More Than Ever — The Importance of Museums</p>
Science and Technology	<p>Technology might be making education worse</p> <p>AI Won't Replace Humans – Here's The Surprising Reason Why</p> <p>Humanity needs an ethical upgrade to keep up with new technologies</p>
The Environment	<p>The planet is 'on the brink of an irreversible climate disaster,' scientists warn</p> <p>Don't overshoot: why carbon dioxide removal will achieve too little, too late</p> <p>What Is Green Tech? How It Works, Types, Adoption, and Examples</p>