



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE  
in collaboration with  
CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
General Certificate of Education Normal (Academic) Level

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# HUMANITIES

Paper 1 Social Studies

SPECIMEN PAPER

**2127/01**

**For examination from 2024**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

No Additional Materials are required.

## READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

### Section A

Answer **all** questions.

### Section B

Answer **both** questions.

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

This document consists of 7 printed pages and 1 blank page.



Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board



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

**1 Study Source A.**

What is the message of this cartoon? Explain your answer, using details of the cartoon. [5]

**2 Study Source B.**

Why do you think Prime Minister Cameron made this speech at this time? Explain your answer. [6]

**3 Study Sources C and D.**

How different are these sources as evidence about the London riots? Explain your answer. [7]

**4 Study Source E.**

How surprised are you by this source? Explain your answer. [7]

**5 How far do the sources in the case study show that social media were used in a harmful way in the London riots? Explain your answer. [10]**

## How harmful was the use of social media in the London riots in 2011?

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Between 6 August and 11 August 2011, thousands of people rioted in London and several major cities across England. Five people were killed, at least sixteen were injured and £200 million worth of property was damaged. The riots started on 6 August after a protest march in north London, following the shooting of a man by police two days earlier. At first, the protest was peaceful but clashes with police followed and violence spread, creating a serious threat to social harmony.

The riots have been called the 'BlackBerry Riots' (named after the brand of smartphones, 'BlackBerry') because of the use of social media and networks by rioters to organise violence and theft from shops which had been broken into. Study the following sources to find out whether social media were used to create social disharmony in London in 2011.

**Source A:** A cartoon by an American artist, published on 12 August 2011.



- \* Looted means stolen.
- \* 4G phones are supposed to be faster than 3G phones.
- \* Flash mob is a group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place.

**Source B:** *British Prime Minister David Cameron addressing Parliament, 11 August 2011. Parliament was in an emergency session because of the riots.*

Everyone watching these horrific actions will be struck by how they were organised via social media.

Free flow of information can be used for good. But it can also be used for ill. And when people are using social media for violence we need to stop them.

So we are working with the police, the intelligence services and the communications industry to consider stopping people communicating via these websites and services when we know they are plotting violence, disorder and criminal acts.

**Source C:** *An extract from the official government report on the August 2011 riots. The report was published in December 2011.*

The single most important reason why the disorder spread was the perception, relayed by television as well as social media, that in some areas the police had lost control of the streets.

Some of those who took part in the disturbances did use social media to communicate with each other, but television also played a part in spreading the disorder.

We have commended police forces that made positive use of social media to reassure the public during the disorder. It would be unhelpful to switch off social media during times of widespread and serious disorder.

**Source D:** *From a report about the riots, published in December 2011, by a non-government research charity promoting social welfare. This report was based on interviews with those who were involved in the rioting.*

Several politicians suggested social media should be shut down during the riots in the interests of public safety, a view which was briefly supported by David Cameron. But these early reactions were based more on opinion than on evidence. Researchers have found that responses to the riots on social media included several users forwarding details about the riots to the police, or sending abusive messages to those supporting the unrest.

Closing down social media might have had the opposite effect from that intended by the politicians. Social media were used extensively to organise community clean-up operations. More than 12 000 individuals mobilised support for the riot clean-up and there were more of their messages than those inciting violence.

**Source E:** A photograph published on the BBC news website on 9 August 2011. It shows people who responded to an appeal called #riotcleanup which was organised through social media sites. The BBC is the British Broadcasting Corporation, the main broadcasting organisation in the UK.



**SECTION B (Structured-Response Questions)**

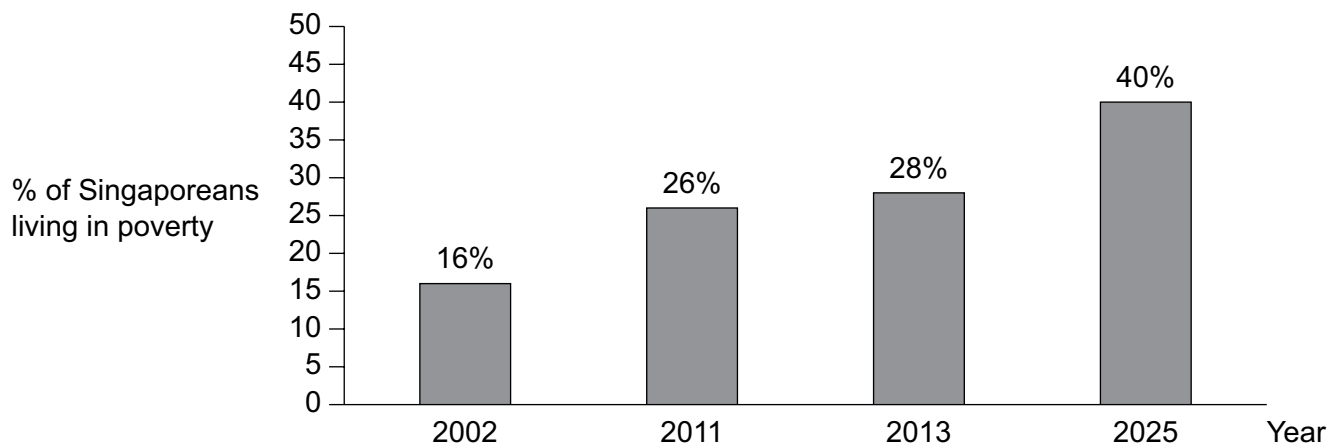
Answer **both** questions.

**Living in a Diverse Society**

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

**Extract 1**

Singapore may be one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in the world, but poverty remains a worrying problem. The graph below shows that the proportion of Singaporeans living in poverty has increased from 2002 to 2013, and is predicted to increase further by 2025.

**Extract 2**

Common spaces such as void decks in Singapore can build harmony in a diverse society. Governmental and non-governmental organisations also organise various social and cultural activities that allow people to interact with one another.

**Extract 3**

Cultural exchanges such as the sharing of ideas, customs, and traditions among people of different backgrounds can also build harmony. The ASEAN Youth Fellowship (AYF) programme is one example. Fusion of cultures in fashion and home furnishing is another example.

- 6 Extract 1 shows the proportion of Singaporeans living in poverty is increasing.

In your opinion, why is the proportion of Singaporeans living in poverty increasing? Explain your answer using **one** reason. [7]

- 7 Extract 2 and Extract 3 are about the part played by common spaces and cultural exchanges in building harmony in a diverse society.

Explain how common spaces and cultural exchanges build harmony in a diverse society. [8]

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- Section A, Source C      © *Policing large scale disorder – lessons from the disturbances of August 2011*; <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news/plsd-report-publication/> 19 December 2011.
- Section A, Source D      © Julia Unwin; *Reading the riots – challenging the received wisdom*; <http://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/2011/12/riots-challenging-received-wisdom> 5 December 2011.
- Section A, Source E      © from BBC News at [bbc.co.uk/news](http://bbc.co.uk/news)

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