**English – Paper 4**

**Oral Communication**

**(Themes)**

**– Examples –**

| **Public transport/road** | **Performing arts** | **Heritage** |
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| * Some people think that only public transport should be allowed in cities in the future. What is your view? * Do you think public transport should be free for everyone? * Do you agree that pedestrians are more important than vehicles? | * Public performances, whether in the street or in a theatre, bring no benefit to society. What is your view? * Some people think that it is better to listen to music from other countries than to listen to music from their own country. What do you think? * Some people believe that studying art at school is a waste of time. What do you think? * Some people say that no one should have to pay to go to art galleries and museums. What do you think? * Some people say it is better for children to study hard than to spend a lot of time learning to play a musical instrument. What is your opinion? * How far do you agree that the people who work behind the scenes for any performance – stage, film, or TV – deserve as much credit as the performers? * Do you think that people can be taught to be creative? * How far do you agree that live performance is more satisfying for an audience than recorded entertainment? | * Do you think it is important to preserve traditions and customs? * Do you agree that we no longer need museums because we can find out everything we need to know from the Internet? |
| * Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system * Bus service * Ez-link card * Singapore Tourist Pass   + unlimited travel for one day * Car-free town * [Land Transport Master Plan 2040](https://www.lta.gov.sg/content/dam/ltagov/who_we_are/our_work/land_transport_master_plan_2040/pdf/LTA%20LTMP%202040%20eReport.pdf) by LTA   + 20-Minute Towns and a 45-Minute City     - Enhanced Walk-Cycle-Ride Options     - Making Walk-Cycle-Ride Transport Modes the Preferred Way to Travel     - More Connected Singapore for Every Commuter   + Transport for All     - Enhancing Capacity to Meet the Needs of All     - Building an Inclusive Transport System Together   + Healthy Lives, Safer Journeys     - Active Mobility and Community Uses     - Environmentally-Friendly Vehicles and Infrastructure     - Towards a Future with Fewer Land Transport-related Fatalities | * 24 Hours in Singapore   + 5 large stainless steel balls   + reflect daily life in SG * Rising Moon sculpture @ Esplanade Park   + made from large grey granite blocks   + artistic interpretation of SG’s national symbol * Affordable Art Fair (exhibition)   + Feature Wall - showcase selected artworks from 50 artists   + seek advice abt how to start own art collection   + search for an ‘affordable’ painting   + Young Talent Programme - provide opportunity for talented young artists to show their work * [Our SG Arts Plan (2018 – 2022)](https://www.mccy.gov.sg/-/media/Mccy-Ca/Feature/Research/Research-Reports/NAC_OUR-SG-ARTS-PLAN_Online.pdf) by NAC   + Achieve Arts Excellence   + Strong State Support and Public Institutions e.g. National Gallery Singapore & Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay   + Diversify Support for the Arts   + Enlarge Social Commons in Diversity - deepen understanding and bridge differences across communities by enjoying the arts together   + Strengthen National Identity and Shared Heritage   + Harness Technology   + Provide Access and Opportunity - increase access to experience and participate in the arts | * Heritage: legacy of physical artefacts + and intangible attributes of a group / community / society that are inherited from past generations + maintained in present + bestowed for benefit of future generations  1. tangible heritage: buildings, historic sites, monuments and landscapes - physical reminders of history & culture 2. intangible heritage: practices, events, expressions, knowledge, skills, trades of a community  * Peranakan museum   + traditional Peranakan costumes, items   + dance group to enliven atm in museum * Civic district in SG   + Victoria Theatre, Conert Hall - home to Singapore Symphony Orchestra   + National Gallery   + Asian Civilisation Museum * Kampung Glam, Chinatown, Little India * night market @ Chinatown   + 200 stalls   + wide selection of old & modern items - ornate candles, decorated opera masks, traditional clothing * Lee Kuan Yew – “Heritage is not something static, lying hidden to be discovered, admired and conserved. It is a part of the lives of a people, it shapes the ways a people meet new challenges and helps them adapt and to survive.” * [Our SG Heritage Plan](https://www.oursgheritage.gov.sg/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Our-SG-Heritage-Plan-Publication_2.pdf)   + Incorporate heritage considerations into urban planning     - Tangible Heritage Survey (2015-2017) to identify + document historic buildings, structures and sites of architectural, historical and cultural interests     - upcoming Bidadari housing estate - pedestrianisation of Old Upper Aljunied Road into Heritage Walk   + Promote greater awareness of national monuments     - Milestones Through Monuments programme - showcase National Monuments + highlight their impt roles in SG history     - National Momument Restoration Project for Cathedral of the Good Shepherd - restoration works reinstated many of original architectural elements |
| **Shopping** | **Family** | **Technology** |
| * Some people think that we have too many shopping mall, What is your view? * How far would you agree that people’s lives would be easier if they had less choice when shopping? * In the future, we will not need shops or markets because most shopping will be done online. What are your views? * How far do you agree that much of the shopping we do is unnecessary? | * Do you agree that old and young people can never really understand each other because their lives are so different? * How far would you agree that we do not spend enough time doing things with our families these days? * Some people say that because life is so hectic, it is important for all families to spend some quality time together. How far do you agree? | * What are the adv and disadv of using Internet for doing homework and studying? * In the future, we will not need schools because all learning will take place online. Do you agree? * Do you think it is better for people to read from books than to read online? * Some people say that young people should be encouraged to do activities outside rather than stay indoors playing computer games or watching television? What is your opinion? * Some people say that the use of mobile phones has had a negative effect on our relationships with other people. What do you think? * Do you think our lives would be better without mobile phones? * Would you agree with the view that in the future, many of us will work from home? |
| * Bedok Point: closed down (2022) * Al-Futtaim Group: closed two John Little stores @ Marina Square, Tiong Bahru + a Marks & Spencer outlet @ Centrepoint (2015) * Adv:   + convenient and accessible * Disadv:   + Over-retail: too many similar stores, too many malls + not enough shoppers (small market) → need differentiation among stores   + Manpower crunch in retail sector   + Rising business costs   + Regional competitors e.g. Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta | * Ministry of Social and Family Development   + Families for Life - rally individuals, families and organisations to strengthen family bonds through large-scale events, online digital campaigns   + Parenting - Parenting Support Providers (PSPs) to provide parenting support services + Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P) to provide parenting support for parents | * [Smart Nation](https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/) - 3 pillars:   + digital society   + digital economy   + digital government * Strategic national projects:      * ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN): platform for cities to exchange ideas and solutions to catalyse smart city projects * Personal Data Protection Act |
| **Community/neighbourliness** | **School/youths/children** | **Environment** |
| * Some people say that it is as important to get to know your neighbours as it is to spend time with family and friends. What do you think? * How far would you agree with the view that an ageing population is one of the major problems facing modern society? * How far do you agree that giving to local charities should always come first before giving to overseas charities? | * Do you agree that all children should be made to take part in competitions? * How far do you agree that children today do not get to play enough? * Do you agree with the view that people only achieve great things if they compete with each other? * Some people think that it is more important that you focus on your studies and not worry about what job to do in the future. What do you think? * Some people think that it is better for children to do organised leisure activities rather than play in park? What do you think? * Some people think that children should not compete in sports, but just do them for fun. What do you think? * Do you agree that it is important for students to have the experience of volunteering and taking part in projects? * Some people think that students do not need a long vacation from school and should have shorter breaks. What is your view? * How far do you agree that science is the most important subject for students to study? * Do you agree that it is good for students to compete against one another? * How far do you agree that students should focus on their main school subjects and should not take courses outside school? | * One country on its own cannot be effective in protecting the environment; countries need to work together. What is your opinion? * Some people say that cars should not be allowed in city centres because they are bad for the environment. What do you think? * Some people think that natural disasters are becoming more frequent. How far do you agree that human activity is causing this? * How far do you agree that having green spaces in built-up areas is vital to the well-being of a community? * How far would you agree with some people’s view that recycling is a waste of time? |
| * Block party   + performances, loud music, food vendors, game stalls, batik painting sessions, first aid demonstrations * President’s Star Charity concert   + raise funds for different groups of people * Flag day - designated on Saturday   + students carry tin cans along streets & ask passers-by for donations * Science for Children volunteer project * Siblings (16 y/o Beatrice Wong & brother) sew and donate 300 masks to the needy   + thought about those who would have difficulty affording the face coverings, such as low-income families   + sew fabric masks from scratch | * National School Games * Self-reliance Week * Young People’s Forum - theme is recycling   + officer from NEA explain importance of recycling waste materials   + talk from manager of recycling plant - understand what happens to old plastic bottles * [Student mental well-being](https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1269600.pdf)   + Fomo: scrolling through social media often breeds fear of missing out - get anxious seeing others having fun while cooped up in rooms studying - miss out on a lot of fun things   + parental expectations of academic achievement - should reflect on how success is defined (not only grades)   + within in the quest for excellence - own expectations as high as parents   + PSLE: T-score → achievement bands * Education and Career Guidance programs   + discover interests   + make informed choices for future education or work * Values in Action (VIA) Programme   + socially responsible + contributing members of society   + mindful about community needs and what they could do to contribute to sth bigger than themselves * *Kiasu* parents   + fewer exams → look to private tuition to fill the void → better gauge of academic performance | * Community exhibition   + educate public on amt of plastic waste generated every day * Earth Hour   + save electricity just by making simple decisions at home * National Parks Board * [SG Green Plan 2030](https://www.greenplan.gov.sg/files/resources/media-release-annex.pdf)   + City in Nature – more greenery   + Energy Reset – green energy, more green infrastructure & buildings, clean energy vehicles (EVs)   + Sustainable Living – consume & waste less, green commutes (MRT, cycling paths, car-free town)   + Green Economy – carbon-intensive investments, review carbon tax, Jurong Island to be a sustainable energy and chemicals park   + Resilient Future – sea level rise, flood, urban heat island effect, farming tech |
| **Racial/religious harmony** | **Cashless society** | **Health/sports** |
|  | * Some people say that using cash all the time is safer than using internet banking. What do you think? | * Some people say that team sports such as basketball are the best way to get exercise. What is your opinion? * Some people say that going to a gym is an expensive waste of time. What do you think? * Playing team sports is a better way to get exercise than doing individual sports like running. Do you agree? * Do you agree that more could be done to promote exercise in your country? * Do you agree that your parents’ generation was much fitter than your own? * How far do you think that it is the responsibility of each citizen to keep themselves fit as they can? |
| * Racial Harmony Day celebrated at school   + people from all cultures live & work with one another + accept differences * Administration of Muslim Law Act (AMLA)   + further strengthen key institutions to better serve Muslim community * Ethnic Integration Policy   + HDB quota * Tripartite Alliance for Fair and Progressive Employment Practices (TAFEP)   + fair employment practices   + employees are respected, valued and able to achieve full potential * Rental discrimination - survey   + 25% SGreans experienced   + 49% local Indians | * Stats: 6 in 10 transactions - cash / cheques * Online paying services   + Paynow, Paylah * Banks - 2-step verification processes to access accounts via phone apps   + digital token   + fingerprint recognition * E-wallets e.g. Grabpay * ‘Stored-value’ cards - commuting * ‘In-Vehicle Units’ - fitted in cars * Smart Nation initiative * Payments Council - established by Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)   + banks, businesses, trade associations collaborate → simplified e-payment services * Unified Point-of-Sale terminal - allow a merchant to accept all major card brands | * Zumba - fitness program that involves cardio and Latin-inspired dance * Yoga * [Singapore Physical Activity Guidelines (SPAG)](https://www.healthhub.sg/sites/assets/Assets/Programs/pa-lit/pdfs/Singapore_Physical_Activity_Guidelines.pdf)   + aim for 150 minutes of physical activity per week * [Healthy Living Master Plan](https://www.moh.gov.sg/docs/librariesprovider5/resources-statistics/reports/moh_healthy-living-master-plan_inside-page_8d.pdf)      * My Healthy Plate   + simple and educational visual tool   + ½ fruit & vege   + ¼ whole-grains   + ¼ meat & others |
| **Tourism** | **Leisure** | **Animals** |
| * How far do you agree with the view that tourism is always a good thing? * Some people believe that you cannot really get to know a city unless you live there. What do you think? * Do you think you need to live in a country to understand the people who live there? * Do you agree that visiting other countries helps us understand the people who live there? | * You do not have to spend money to have a good time. What is your opinion? * Some people say that playing any game is a waste of time. What do you think? * How far would you agree that nowadays people do not spend enough time doing outdoor activities? * Some people say we work too hard and do not take enough holidays. What is your opinion? | * Some people say that no animal can ever be really happy in a zoo. What is your opinion? * How far do you agree that we all have a responsibility for the animals of the world, especially those that are endangered? |
| * Prague - Chrismas markets   + local delicacies and handicrafts, sing carols, snowing, breathtaking scenery, Riensenrad Ferris wheel * Cambodia   + see firsthand how less fortunate children lived   + buildings have colonial influences from Chinese, Khmer, French occupation   + Angkor Wat * Marina Bay Sands - rooftop viewing deck   + dramatic sunset view * Marina Bay   + colourful lights shine across water * Esplanade Theatre   + watch performance   + unusual & distinctive shape - huge golden dome * Merlion   + SG’s most iconic sculpture   + half-lion, half-fish creature * Singapore Tourism Board | * East Coast beach * Sungei Buloh Nature Reserve * Coney Island Park   + natural green spaces   + rich biodiversity e.g. endangered dungun tree   + Casuarina Explotary - wooden bridges to walk across, made from casuarina trees - natural playground * Orchard Road - eating outlets, shops * South Hills Adventure Centre   + climbing wall   + assault course - designed by military   + abseil down cliffs   + cross canyons on a wire | * Singapore Zoo   + 2.8k animals from 300 species   + natural habitat concept - no cages, fences hidden by greenery   + white tigers, crocodiles, orangutans   + zoo tram   + night safari - zoo is set up to see nocturnal animals * Orchard Animal Centre - veterinary practice   + tend to continuous stream of pets & small animals   + minor injuries - patch up wounds   + major injuries - put to sleep   + vaccinate animals   + saw a baby giraffe born |

**Tips:**

Spoken interaction

* Articulate ideas/thoughts clearly using standard English + signalling devices where appropriate (firstly, most notably, conversely etc.)
* Avoid hesitations and awkward pauses in the middle of a sentence, speak confidently
* Imagine that you are personally involved in the questions asked, Do not shy away from controversial viewpoints as long as they are not offensive and can be backed by logic
* Provide interesting examples giving specific details
* Conclude: reiterate main point + recommendations + future implications

Reading aloud

* Articulate words very clearly (open mouth wider)
* Read in meaningful chunks, not word for word (e.g. 'hung in the air' is read together)
* Stress certain words to create impact
* Avoid hesitations & self-corrections (esp for *long* words), **be confident!**
* Vowel sounds pronounced correctly for "the" (e.g. "the elephant")
* Use hand gestures when speaking
* Note:

| * + th-   + wh-   + pr-   + thr-   + sp-   + r-   + -r-   + -th- | * + -k   + -t   + -d   + -s   + -r   + -g   + -p   + -x   + -th   + …’ll   + …’s   + …’ve   + …’t   + …n’t   + …’d | * + … ?   + … ! |
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* Commonly mispronounced words
  + Cupboard – cuh-bud
  + Epitome – eh-PIT-oh-mee
  + Salmon/almond – SAM-un/ARM-und
  + Definitely – DEF-in-ut-lee
  + Wednesday – WENZ-day
  + Stomach – STU-muk
  + Clothes – clohthz
  + Especially/escape/espresso – es-PESH-ul-lee/es-CAYP/es-PRES-so (no ‘x’ sound)
  + Yolk – yohk (silent ‘l’)
  + Aisle/isle/island – ile/ile/I-land (silent ‘s’)
  + Singapore – SING-uh-pore (not ‘Sing-GAH-pore’)
  + Opportunity – opp-uh-TOO-ni-tee (not ‘ORH-POR-too-ni-tee’)
  + Tuition – too-EE-shen (not ‘TEW-shen’)
  + Gauge – geyj (not ‘gouge’ or ‘gorge’)
  + Children – CHIL-dren (not ‘CHEW-ren’)
  + Client – CLY-uhnt (not ‘klein’)
  + Photography – fher-TORH-gra-phy (not ‘FO-TOH-graph-y)
  + Subtle – SUH-tuhl (silent ‘b’)
  + Lavender – LEH-vuhn-der (not ‘luh-VAN-der’)
  + Memorable – MEH-muh-ruh-buhl (not ‘meh-MOR-uh-buhl’)
  + Sword – sord (silent ‘w’)
  + Pariah – puh-RAI-uh (3 syllabus, not ‘PAH-ryah’)
  + Yacht – yot
  + Colonel – KER-nul
  + Awry – uh-RYE
  + Mischievous – MISS-chuh-vuss
  + Albeit – awl-bee-it (originated from ‘all be it’)
  + Debris – deb-ree
  + Debut – dey-byoo (silent ‘t’)
  + Genre – zhahn-ruh
  + Often/soften – O-fn/SO-fn (silent ‘t’)