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Class	Index Number	Name
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新加坡海星中學

MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION ONE SECONDARY FOUR

COMBINED HUMANITIES

2204/01

Paper 1 Social Studies

8 May 2014

Additional Materials:

Writing paper (4 sheets)

1 hour 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your class, index number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer all questions in Section A.

Answer 1 question from Section B

At the end of the examination, submit the following separately:

- Question Paper
- Section A Answer Script
- Section B Answer Script

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

The total number of marks for this paper is 50.

For Examiner's Use

Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

Study the Background information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the question, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

- a. Study Source A. Why did the Farmer's Association publish the cartoon? [5m]
Explain your answer.
- b. Study Source B and Source C. How similar are they? Explain your answer. [7m]
- c. Study Source D. Would you agree with Monsanto? Explain your answer. [7m]
- d. Study Source E and Source F. How far does Source E prove Source F wrong? Explain your answer. [8m]
- e. Study Source F. To what extent is Source F useful as evidence in showing the impact of Bt cotton? Explain your answer. [8m]

Have the activities of transnational companies been beneficial to citizens in less developed nations?

Background information:

Monsanto is a transnational company that specializes in agricultural and biotechnology products. In 1995, Monsanto introduced its Bollgard® cotton technology (Bt) cotton in India. The genetically modified (GM) cotton plant provided built-in protection against bollworm pests, and could lead to reduced pesticide sprays, reduced costs and increased yields. Today, 6 million Indian farmers use Monsanto products and 87% of cotton farms are using Bt cotton.

However, there has been controversy surrounding Monsanto's Bt cotton in India. There have been reports of crop failures due to pest attacks after the initial years, when the bollworm developed immunity. Moreover, Monsanto's products are sterile, and will not reproduce. Moreover, seeds bought must be planted within a specific time frame. Unused seeds cannot legally be planted in the next season, so farmers must continuously buy "fresh" seeds. These additional costs have allegedly driven desperate farmers to suicide in India. Some non-governmental organizations have been gathering support to adopt laws against Monsanto in India during the peak of the controversy in 2001-2005.

Have the activities of transnational companies been beneficial to citizens in less developed nations? Study the sources to find out.

Source A: A cartoon on an Indian farmers association's website in 2002.



Source B: A report by an organization that represents Indian farmers in 2003.

A report by the Agricultural Ministry of India had this to say to the cotton-growing states in India — "Cotton farmers are in a deep crisis since shifting to Bt cotton. The spate of farmer suicides has been particularly severe among Bt cotton farmers."

The greatest producer of Bt cotton is Maharashtra district and this is also where the highest farmer suicides are. Suicides increased after Bt cotton was introduced — Monsanto's policy of charging for each new batch of seeds, and the high costs of seed and chemicals have created a debt trap. 75 per cent of rural debt is due to these purchases. As Monsanto's profits grow, farmers' debt grows. It is in this sense that Monsanto's seeds are seeds of suicide.

Source C: An extract from an international magazine in 2004.

True, Monsanto's seeds in India did not produce what the farmers hoped. The expensive seeds piled up debts. To cite an example of how expensive the GM seeds are, 100 grams of GM cost \$15 to the farmers compared with \$15 for 1000 grams of traditional seeds. But then the farmers were not aware that the GM seeds required more water than the traditional seeds. And lack of rain in many parts of India exacerbated the crop failure. With no harvest, the farmers could not pay back the lenders. Burdened with debts and humiliation, the farmers simply took their own lives. To date, an estimated 200,000 farmers have committed suicide all over India.

Source D: Statement by Monsanto on the impact of Bt cotton, as printed on their website in 2005.

In 2001, India was a large importer of cotton. But within seven years of Bollgard's introduction, India became the world's second-largest producer and exporter of cotton. Today, India's share of world cotton production is up 68%, and exports are at an all-time high. By embracing Bt cotton technologies, cotton farmers have reduced insecticide use by 20,000 metric tons annually, reducing agriculture's impact on the environment and saving billions of liters of water.

Source E: An article on the impact of using Monsanto products, published on a Monsanto website in 2009.

Since 2002, farmer Pradeep, from Maharashtra, has cultivated Bollgard cotton on his farm. Each year, his yield has increased. He has also had pesticide savings of 3,000 rupees per acre (\$58 USD), resulting in a higher income of 10,000 rupees per acre (\$194 USD). With the income he earned from planting Bollgard between 2002-2005, Pradeep invested in a water pipeline and motor pump. He also built a home for his family and provided better education for his children.

Source F: A report from a non-governmental organization that is opposing Monsanto's sale of genetically modified cotton in 2009.

Experts have identified several reasons for the failure of Monsanto's cotton. First, the insects targeted by the Bt genes have already developed resistance in some parts of India. There are similar problems in other genetically modified crops from other companies and so the adaptability of cotton pests should not be a surprise. Second, when Monsanto's Bt cotton were effective, other pests that were not targeted by Monsanto simply moved in to take over. Thirdly, while Bt cotton bore very high first year yields, the crop soon takes up all available nutrients from the soil. To produce the same quantity, farmers need a massive input of fresh fertilizer. When this was not done, the crops failed.

Section B (Structured Essay Question)
Answer one question.

2 This question is about the causes of the Gulf War in the 1990s.

- a. Explain how national pride led to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [5m]
- b. Explain two other reasons that led to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
Which of them do you think is more important? Explain your answer. [10m]

3 This question is about Singapore's strategies for sustainable development.

- a. Explain how developing local talent can help sustain Singapore's development. [5m]
- b. Explain two other strategies that can help sustain Singapore's development. [10m]
Which of them do you think is more important? Explain your answer.

END OF PAPER

Study Source A. Why did the Farmer's Association publish the cartoon? Explain your answer. 5m

Marker's comments:

Students would often miss out on either the message or the outcome. They tend to describe the source, with the outcome being "to kick the TNCs out". This is a description of the source, hence cannot be an inferred outcome.

L1:	Source Description	1m
L2:	Answers on inference on content (message) OR purpose without message	2-3m
L3:	Answers on Purpose + message	4m
L4:	Answers on Purpose + Context + message	5m

The Farmer's Association published this cartoon to rally local support against the TNC (Keyword), so as to pressure the government to stop Monsanto operations (Outcome). The source shows that the TNC's are not welcomed in India (message), as the farmers are depicted as kicking the TNCs out. Moreover, the context of the source is at a time where "Some non-governmental organizations have been gathering support to adopt laws against Monsanto in India" from the background information. Amidst such controversy, it will be a good time to mobilize public support against the TNCs.

b. Study B and C. How similar are they? Explain your answer. [7m]

Marker's comments:

Students must explicitly MATCH their comparison. This must be done in a CLEAR & DIRECT manner. Students often infer sub-messages instead of the big idea. If the phrase appears in the source, it is LIFTING, and not an inferred idea.

Students are encouraged to state the ISSUE in the first sentence of their answer. This will make it extremely clear to the marker the exact similarity or difference.

L1:	Answers without explicit comparison	1m
L2:	Answers on comparison unsupported OR Superficial comparison	2m
L3:	Answers on comparison supported (sim OR diff in Content)	3m
L4:	Answers on comparison supported (sim AND diff in Content)	4-5m
L5:	Answers on comparison of tone	6m
L6:	Answers on comparison in terms of perspective	7m

Source B and C are similar in that since adopting Bt crops, there has been negative impact on Indian farmers. B claims that "cotton farmers are in deep crisis since shifting to Bt" while C says that "200,000 farmers have committed suicide all over India" due to the failure of Bt crops. Both are thus similar in showing that the Bt cotton has not benefitted the Indians at all.

B and C are different however in how they assign blame. B blames Monsanto fully, saying that "Monsanto's royalty extraction, and the high costs of seed and chemicals have created a debt trap" that has driven farmers to desperation. It even calls Monsanto's seeds the "seeds of suicide". C however does not blame Monsanto fully. It argues that the farmers were not aware that the GM seeds required more water than traditional seeds and that the lack of rain had made the situation worse. So it is not attributing all of the blame on Monsanto.

B and C are different in their tones, B with an indignant/harsh tone while C provides a balanced tone. B has an indignant tone, as it criticizes TNCs for creating a debt trap and calling their products seeds of suicide. It clearly uses such loaded language and would carry a hostile and aggressive tone. C on the other hand provides a more balanced tone. It avoids using loaded language and provides a balanced perspective, saying that while the GM seeds were expensive, it was also the fault of the farmers as they did not know how to maximize the crop through greater use of water. It provides clear examples and data that is non judgemental. As such, it will have a neutral tone.

B and C are different in their perspectives (B being anti Monsanto, C being neutral). B, as an organization that represents Indian farmers, clearly aggressively pushes the message that the TNC & Bt Cotton has clearly hurt farmers. This is seen in how it argues that farmers were in crisis since using Monsanto's products and blames the company for the farmers' problems. C on the other hand constructs a more neutral perspective. On one hand, it explains that part of the problem is Monsanto. On the other, it claims that the weather was also critical in leading to the farmers' plight. It is more balanced and offers a fair approach on the issue. As such, they are quite different in how they view Monsanto's role in the controversy.

c. Study Source D. Would you agree with Monsanto? Explain your answer.

Marker's comments:

Generally simple question. Students often infer a sub message. However, they were able to get purpose right. They need to state the logic statement (why when supported they will agree-RELIABILITY).

Weaker students have problems MATCHING their points, with some saying that D saves water supported by E farmer's yield has increased. This is created because they could not infer the idea from the source.

Students often matched D to E (BT Cotton is beneficial), not realizing that both are from Monsanto.

One cannot agree with Monsanto because it is supported by Monsanto.

L1	Answers based on provenance/ description of source	1m
L2	Answers based on source content , with a CLEAR issue	2-3m
L3	Answers based on incorrect x ref (D to E)	4m
L4	Answers based on cross reference	5-6m
L5	Answers based on purpose of the source	7m

Note: Cannot x ref D to E, as both are from the same company.

I will not agree with Monsanto. Monsanto claims that there has been a lot of positive benefits, but this is contradicted by B or C, which shows negative effects. Both shows that the seeds were expensive, and were a cause for the suicides of desperate farmers. Very clearly, there were no positive benefits. As such, D is not reliable in projecting the benefits of Bt cotton, so I will not believe it. Hence, I will not agree.

I will not agree with Monsanto's claims of benefits. As the company that will benefit the most from the continued sale of Bt cotton, naturally it will provide information that is favourable to themselves. It will produce positive information, to get the public to support its products. Moreover, in recent years, there have been increased demands for stronger laws against Monsanto. As such, it will be biased, which will not be reliable, so I will not agree with Monsanto.

d. Study Source E and Source F. How far does Source E prove Source F wrong? Explain your answer. [8m]

Marker's comments:

Students generally understood the X3 X ref technique well. However, they often focused on the sub message. Some students tried to beat the system by jumping straight to the purpose. However, they need to establish E XREF F correctly first.

L1	Answers provenance / content	1m
L2	Answers on comparison of E to F, with no LOGIC statement	2-3m
L3	Answers on X ref E to F , with LOGIC statement	4-5m
L4	L3 + Answers on X ref (E to other sources) with LOGIC	6-7m
L5	L3 + Answers based on purpose of E	8m

Source E does prove Source F wrong. F claims that Monsanto technology has negative impact. Insects had grown immunity quickly despite Bt cotton supposedly being able to deter pests. This has led to increased costs, as the expensive cotton effectively failed. This is **contradicted by Source E, which clearly points out the positive impact-** there were improvements in lives of farmers using Monsanto's products, all due to reduced costs as the technology worked. As E contradicts F, E does prove that F wrong.

However. E cannot prove F to be wrong because E is not reliable. E itself is contradicted by Source B, which shows that there has been direct negative impact on farmers using Bt cotton, to the point that B calls Bt cotton "seeds of suicide". As such, E is not reliable and cannot prove F to be true.

But E itself cannot prove F to be wrong due to its biased nature. E is printed by Monsanto, which would be obviously pro Monsanto. The content they produce could be biased, and chosen to reflect a positive image of the TNC. Indeed, the message in E appears to be that Monsanto's products worked really well, and would encourage farmers to purchase her seeds. As such, it would not be reliable and cannot be used to prove F to be true.

e. Study Source F. To what extent is Source F useful as evidence in showing the impact of Bt cotton? Explain your answer. (8m)

Marker's comments: Students do not answer on impact, and infers points that are not relevant to the question. Very few students could see the higher level of enhanced reliability.		
L1	Answers provenance / content (source description)	1-2m
L2	Answers on content (issue supported)	3-4m
L3	Answers on X ref (to show usefulness /not usefulness of F)	5-6m
L4	Answers on X ref (to show usefulness & not usefulness of F) or based on TONE	7m
L5	Answers on nature of source F (enhanced reliability)	8m
Source F is useful as evidence in showing that the impact is negative-Monsanto was responsible for the deaths of Indian workers. F shows that Monsanto's Bt cotton failed to repel the pests, thus leading the farmers to desperation. The Bollworm pests grew immunity to the Bt genes and attacked the crops, leading to crop failure. This is supported by the background info, where there have been reports of crop failures due to Bollworm pest attacks. This failure of Bt cotton would have driven the farmers to desperation. As such, F is reliable and so useful. Source F is not useful as evidence in showing that the impact was negative. F argues that it was Monsanto's products lead to deaths, yet this is contradicted by E, which showed that it created a positive impact. D points out that the Bt Cotton lead to improved yields and prosperity for Indian farmers, such as Pradeep. As such, F is not reliable and so not useful. Source F is very useful as it has a very objective tone. It uses very neutral and balanced references such as "expert" and "identified several reasons". The source even acknowledges the successes of Monsanto (it even claims that Bt Cotton was effective, leading to high yields in the first year), thus providing a very balanced and neutral perspective. As such, its tone provides a fair perspective, making it even more reliable in showing that Monsanto was responsible. Source F is very useful as evidence to show that Monsanto is actually not responsible. As an organization that is opposing of Monsanto, it presents a picture that does not directly attribute the deaths of the workers to Monsanto. Instead of placing all the blame on Monsanto (which it should do), it attributes some of the problems to nature (eg other pests moving in when Monsanto's Bt cotton crops were too effective). As such, it is actually very reliable (enhanced reliability) and so is useful in showing that Monsanto is not responsible.		

STRUCTURED ESSAY ANSWER SCHEME

LEVEL	DESCRIPTOR	MARK
L1	Writes about the topic, without focus	1
L2	Describe the factor	2-3
L3	Explain the factor	4-5

LEVEL	DESCRIPTOR	MARK
L1	Identify other factor(s)	1-2
L2	Describe factor(s)	3-4
L3	Explain ONE factor	5-6
L4	L3 + Explain ANOTHER factor	7-8
L5	L4 + Explain relative importance	9-10

2 This question is about the causes of the Gulf War in the 1990s.

Marker's comment: Many students lapsed into economic argument, highlighting how Iraqi pride was insulted when it was economically crippled. This is not accurate as there were other trigger factors that were closer linked to national pride. Some students successfully made the link between Saddam's pride at being the "leader of the arab world" to Iraqi national pride.

- a. Explain how national pride led to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [5m]

National pride led to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Iraqi government had a border dispute with Kuwait over the Rumailah territories as well as over the islands of Warbah and Bubiyan. They had accused Kuwait of stealing oil from their side of Rumailah (using illegal slant drilling methods) as well as offered to pay for the lease of the two islands which were strategic to Iraq's waterways. However, in both instances, the Kuwaitis dismissed the Iraqi requests. This deeply insulted Iraq, which saw her leadership as protector of the Arab world undermined. This was especially after she had fought a ten year long war against Iran to defend Arab states. This was critical in how Iraq's decision to punish Kuwait, and teach her a lesson. This directly led to the invasion of Kuwait.

Marker's comment: Generally, the links were weak. Students did not explicitly state how and why a factor led to the invasion.

Students also need to exercise discretion in using examples to answer the question. The use of "Iraqi official reason" as a factor was a poor choice. It SHOULD NOT be used because it's a "non-reason"; everyone knows

- b. Explain two other reasons that led to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Which of them do you think is the most important? Explain your answer. [10m]

The impact of the Iran Iraq War led to the Iraqi invasion. Iraq had just wrapped up a long and bloody war with Iran. Her economy was in shambles, and she needed close to \$230b for post war reconstruction, and another debt of \$80b to repay her creditors. This was a very large sum that Iraq found difficulty paying. Kuwait, with her immense oil resources, was a very attractive prize that could solve all her financial problems. As such, economic reason was a reason for the invasion.

Kuwaiti manipulation of oil prices was another reason that led to the invasion. Iraq was dependent on oil exports to support her economy- 90% of her wealth was generated through the sale of oil. However, Kuwait flooded the market with cheap oil, driving down oil prices from \$18 to \$7 per barrel. This had a tremendous impact on Iraq's economy. As such, she had no choice but to attack Kuwait to ensure that her oil exports were protected.

In conclusion, I feel that the impact of the Iran Iraq war was the main reason for the invasion. This is because while Kuwait's manipulation of the oil price was severe, it happened at a time in which Iraq desperately needed the money. Had the fluctuating prices happened before the Iran Iraq War, Iraq would not have been so desperate. However, the timing was such that at a time in which Iraq needed all the resources to proceed with post war recovery and repay her debts, Kuwaiti actions drove the price of oil so much that Iraq simply would not be able to extract sufficient profits to pay off her loans. Thus, the Iran Iraq war was the root reason that led to the invasion.

3 This question is about Singapore's strategies for sustainable development.

- a. Explain how developing local talent can help sustain Singapore's development. [5m]

Developing local talent can help sustain Singapore's development. Singapore faces a small population. In order to compete against other nations, Singapore has to maximize this limited talent pool. She achieves this by promoting technopreneurship and entrepreneurship. This is done through grants for start ups and changing the bankruptcy laws, so that these talented individuals can have multiple opportunities to try and succeed. With such policies, the government encourages Singaporeans to develop their talents, thus creating a continuous pool of highly skilled and able talent pool despite our small population.

- b. Explain two other strategies that can help sustain Singapore's development. Which of them do you think is the most important? Explain your answer. [10m]

Another strategy that can help sustain Singapore's development is Singapore's environmental management. Singapore has a very detailed and strict land planning policy, in which land is clearly marked for different use. For example, some areas are marked for industrial development, other clearly designated for housing and even some spaces for parks and forest reserves. What this does is to create a very clear plan that makes use of our limited space. No land is wasted- every space is maximized. This allows room for development, be it for housing or for commercial/ industrial, even though we are a very small country. We will always be able to attract investors, as with proper environmental management, we will always have sufficient space.

Another strategy is our policy of venturing abroad. Singapore has worked with many nations to develop industrial centres in their countries. For example, the Singapore government collaborated with China to develop the Suzhou Industrial Park. This allows Singapore companies to easily relocate their factories into China. This is important, as it enables Singapore companies to make use of the strengths of other nations (large and cheap labour pool, plentiful and inexpensive land and resources), while bypassing our weakness (limited land, limited population). As such, Singapore companies can then compete against any competitor, as their goods will be able to be produced at a lower cost, thus allowing us to sustain development.

In conclusion, I feel that the most important strategy to sustain Singapore's development is our policy of venturing abroad. This is because even with the most effective and efficient environmental management, Singapore has an extremely limited environmental resource. We simply do not have enough land to sustain unlimited development. However, through venturing abroad, we can effectively escape from this limit and experience unlimited growth- there will be sufficient space for whatever industrial development we embark on. As such, I feel that venturing abroad is far more important than environmental management.

4 This question is about the fall of Venice.

- a. Explain how complacency led to the fall of Venice.

[5m]

Complacency led to the fall of Venice. After the 14th century, Venetians experience extreme levels of wealth and affluence. The Venetian economy was riding high on the taxes from the trade monopoly over the Mediterranean waters. Venice was Europe's banking centre, lending out money to Kings and Queens at very profitable rates. The young nobles and citizens of Venice became complacent, indulging in month long carnivals and losing the spirit of adventure. Venetians were no longer explorers, taking risks and enduring trials in order to look for new trade routes and markets. As such, they lost the edge over their competitors and this complacency led to their fall when they could not longer compete against new trade rivals like England and Holland.

[10m]

- b. Explain two other factors that led to the fall of Venice. Which of them do you think is the most important? Explain your answer.

The constant involvement in the mainland led to the fall of Venice. Being a small city state, Venice required control of a larger hinterland to provide itself with the food and resources in order to survive. However, being small, she lacked the strength in numbers to effectively seize and claim large tracts of territory on the European mainland. Venice was forced to manipulate alliances, teaming up with some nation in order to fend off others. This constant changing of alliances meant that she had to fight wars constantly, and had to field a large mercenary force. This became a constant drain on her economy, as it was very expensive. Once she was no longer able to afford the mercenaries, Venice started losing wars and territory, eventually leading to her fall.

The loss of the trade monopoly also led to the fall of Venice. In 1497, Francesco Da Gama sailed around the Cape of Good Hope, finding an alternative way to India and the East. The Venetian's lucrative monopoly over the Mediterranean sea was broken, as ships started using the Portuguese route. This meant that she collected less taxes over time, leading to a declining economy. Venice could no longer support her territories, as trade declined. This greatly contributed to her fall.

In conclusion, I think that the most important factor was actually the loss of her monopoly. Venice has always been manipulating alliances and was heavily involved in the mainland. However, this was never an issue for her, as she had vast wealth extracted from the highly lucrative monopoly. However, once the monopoly was lost, Venice had difficulties supporting the high expenditure. She simply no longer had the wealth and resources to support her own hinterland. This was the main reason why she fell.