

## **Gender Equality: Outline Discussion – Handout** **In your society, how far is equality for all a reality?**

### Thinking perspective

#### **1) Question Type**

- Extent of Agreement (EOA)

#### **2) Structure of Discussion**

##### a) Introduction

- Observation: explanation or meaning of the subject
- Perspective setting: Interpret proposition and extent of agreement

##### b) Main Body

- Proposition 1
- Extent of Agreement 1
- Proposition 2
- Extent of Agreement 2
- Proposition 3
- Extent of Agreement 3

##### c) Conclusion

- Reiterate your view about the proposition
- Provide a reflective statement

#### **3) Question Requirements**

- Subject matter: equality for all
- Key terms: ‘a reality’ – whether equality for all is achievable
- Context: Modern society
- Category of Discussion: economic, political, socio-cultural
- Nature of Discussion: Observe how extensive equality is achieved in the modern world

#### **4) Content of argument**

- Must have a good understanding of the term ‘equality for all’
  - Social equality
  - Political empowerment
  - Economic opportunities
- Must know how to show whether ‘equality for all’ can be a ‘reality’
  - Efforts made by individuals, organizations and governments
  - Examine the current situation on whether equality is achieved or achievable
- Must know how to prove the extent of agreement in arguing why ‘equality for all’ may not be a realistic aim in the modern world
  - Consider possible challenges or obstacles – religious dogma, strict legislation
- Relate to your own society
  - Provide examples for argument illustration

## In your society, how far is equality for all a reality?

### Introduction

In Singapore, many types of discrimination exist, some more glaring while others are more subtle. Given the severity of discrimination in our society, pessimists are quick to point out that equality is a idealistic concept as discrimination is almost impossible to fully eradicate. However, optimists hold the view where if proper actions are put in place, achieving equality can be a reality in the future. To examine this extent of agreement, we would need to examine the social, political and economic impacts on the discriminated in Singapore and the way the government or the citizens respond to prejudice and discrimination.

### Main Body

#### **Proposition View 1**

Critics of Singapore are quick to point out that achieving equality for all in Singapore is too idealistic as it is ironic that in a country which prides itself after their multiracial culture, many people have a lack of understanding towards foreign cultures and are xenophobic.

#### **Extent of agreement 1**

However, with proper social policies put in place by the government to minimise the differences between different groups of people and highlight their similarities, inclusivity can be nurtured.

#### **Proposition View 2**

When laws institutionalised by the government are too simplistic to target the root cause of discrimination, problems of inequality are further aggravated as subtle forms of discrimination will continue to persist.

#### **Extent of agreement 2**

However, we should take into consideration that certain aspects of society have had gradual improvements, albeit slow, in levelling social and economic differences.

#### **Proposition View 3**

Singapore is still far from achieving equality as many Singaporeans still hold onto traditional and conservative values that prevents them from accepting people who have alternative views.

#### **Extent of agreement 3**

However, such mindsets may eventually be proven changed due to our accessibility to external media which has influenced many in the way they view various forms of inequality.

### Conclusion

In retrospect, we can understand that discrimination has had extensive and dimensional impact on Singapore which exacerbates the issue of inequality in Singapore. However, the situation can be improved with proper planning and development from the society and preparation by the discrimination to handle such discrimination against them. It is imperative for the government and Singaporeans to recognise how precarious the importance of achieving equality and inclusivity in Singapore. Even though equality is not yet achieved, with the appropriate policies put in place and changes in mindset, equality can be a reality in the near future.