Reflective Issue (negative):

1. ‘The only concerns of young people today are self-centered ones.’ Is this a fair statement?

2. ‘In the modern world, speed is everything.’ Discuss.

3. ‘We are a privileged yet discontented lot.’ How far is this true of your society?

4. Does truth still have any value in today’s world?

5. Is uncertainty to be welcomed or feared?

Reflective Essay

1. ‘Happiness is in your own hands, not in those of others around you.’ Discuss.
2. To what extent should the needs of young people be prioritised in your society?
3. 'Society cannot progress without sacrifice.' Discuss.
4. Examine the view that journalists should only report the facts and not share their opinions.
5. To what extent is reducing reliance on foreigners a realistic goal for your society?

‘Happiness is in your own hands, not in those of others around you.’ Discuss.

**1. Understanding of the question**

In this question, there is a need to rephrase the key phrases of discussion in this question and interpret it to forge the gist of discussion or the notion of discussion.

Notion of the discussion:

Happiness is created by the individuals, and it is not bestowed by others or given by others.

**2. Derivation of scope of discussion**

**2.1 setting perspectives**

Perspective 1 – Happiness is created by individuals not given by others.

Perspective 2 – Happiness is not created by individuals and is given by others.

**2.2 Ideas for discussion**

What are the types of happiness?

Why is it created by the individuals?

Why it cannot be created by individuals?

Why others determine our happiness?

**2.3 Category**

Economics, psychology, social, politics, individual values, social media, education, family

**3. Structure of Discussion**

Understand the type of discussion – do you agree?

**4. Derivation of causation**

**Stand:** Perspective 1 – Happiness is created by individuals not given by others.

1. Opposing View – Happiness is not created by individuals and is given by others.

Happiness is from the personal state of mind of the person and is defined and characterized by the individuals

What is the nature of happiness in this way

Why it can only be created by the individuals

Why it cannot be created by others

Example – Many people are still unhappy in Singapore despite the wealth we have created – we are one of the countries with highest real GDP per capita and yet, we are still an unhappy nation. (mothership.com – survey by Employer Hero, a human resource company)

2. Rebuttal – why this view is wrong

Prove why this view is not because of the individuals’ personal view but created by individuals – individuals are influenced by the society – we are the product of society

3. Opposing view 1 – Perspective 2 – Happiness is not created by individuals and is given by others.

Our happiness is determined by our economic environment as we depend on a comfortable income level to attain a happy materialistic life style.

What is the source of happiness

Why it is created by the society

Why the influence of the society is inevitable?

Why the individual cannot create this source of inflation

Example -

4. Opposing View 2 - Perspective 2 – Happiness is not created by individuals and is given by others.

5. Opposing View 3 - Perspective 2 – Happiness is not created by individuals and is given by others.

**5. Derivation of example**

**How to derive the example –**

1. Focus on the elaboration

2. Derive the development

3. Relate the example to prove the points

We live a conducive and comfortable life in Singapore to shape our happiness as we have public housing provided Housing Development Board and modern infrastructures like Mass Rapid Transit to make life easier and stable which gives us a happy life.

**6. Improvement of expression**

The competitive ethos in society is never beneficial to the people today. Discuss.

Intro: Competition is often inevitable and part and parcel of life. Due to globalisation, countries have become more interconnected, and it has also enhanced the competitive ethos in our society at the same time. Competitive people feel that it is beneficial to us because it forces us to keep improving ourselves, while people who dislike competition think that it causes too much stress. In view of these polarising stands, this essay takes the stand that the competitive ethos in society can be beneficial to the people today.

Opposing view: People who dislike competition often posit the point that the competitive culture is not beneficial to our society because it causes more pressure and stress to everyone, which can result in mental disorders like anxiety and depression.

Rebuttal: However, the above view is narrow in scope, because stress, in moderation, is able to be a source of motivation to improve ourselves.

Supporting view 1: The competitive ethos in society does bring benefits to us, because of more scientific innovation and breakthroughs in society, which improve our standard of living.

Supporting view 2: The competitive ethos in society brings us benefits because it promotes social interaction since people have a common topic to talk about.

Supporting view 3: Lastly, competition improves our self-esteem, because our continuous rate of growth and improvement is something that we can be proud of.

Conclusion: In retrospect, the competitive ethos in our society does bring us a lot of benefits. However, the competitive ethos should be done in moderation, so that people in society do not feel overly anxious or fearful of competition. However, if people in Singapore feel overly stressed, they should seek mental help and treatment so that they do not worry so much, and also have other leisure activities to destress.

'Society cannot progress without sacrifice.' Discuss.

**1. Understanding of the question**

**In this question, the notion of progress is debated over the controversy that we can only achieve progress without sacrifice as we are faced with many constraints from the economic, environmental, social and political constraints. This sacrifice can also be seen from the personal or social point of views where we must give up things, we are comfortable with and desired for. However, there are those who feel that we need not to do so as our technological development can resolve the inherent conflicts and dilemmas that we face as seek for progress.**

**2. Derivation of scope of discussion**

**Set Perspectives**

**Perspective 1 – Society cannot progress with sacrifices**

**Perspective 2 – Society Can progress with sacrifices**

**Scope of discussion –**

**Technological advancement, Political experiments, influences from social media, meritocratic education**

**3. Structure of Discussion**

The structure of discussion is DYA.

**4. Derivation of causation**

**5. Derivation of example**

**6. Improvement of expression**

**Analysis of the question**

**1. Understanding of the question**

**2. Derivation of scope of discussion**

**3. Structure of Discussion**

**4. Derivation of causation**

**5. Derivation of example**

**6. Improvement of expression**

1. Examine the view that journalists should only report the facts and not share their opinions.
2. **1. Understanding of the question**
3. **2. Derivation of scope of discussion**
4. **3. Structure of Discussion**
5. **4. Derivation of causation**
6. **5. Derivation of example**
7. **6. Improvement of expression**