GP June Intensive Revision

**Paragraphing Development (Introduction)**

### Importance of Introduction

Writing a good introduction serves to provide readers a good impression of your essay. The writer needs to provide a comprehensive understanding of the title of the essay and clearly shows his main perspectives of discussion. Through this depiction, the writer guides the reader on how he is presenting his discussion on the stated title.

Process

1. Understanding of the structure of discussion

1.1 DYA structure – observation – perspective – stand – DYA structure

(Do you agree?)

* Must write an overview about the subject
* Set the two perspectives for argument
* Take a stand

**Example – The purpose of education is to find employment. Do you agree?**

Education has become an important part of life as the world is now more modernized and technologically developed. We would need to be knowledgeable to help us to conduct our ways of live to enable us to live comfortably. To do so, we need to be well educated and make the focus of our education oriented towards the aim to find employment. However, such a direction in our education creates a controversial debate. Pragmatists believe that we need to focus on the aim of employment when we educate ourselves to reap the economic benefits, but most educators believe that we must aim to do more than this fundamental purpose of education. In view of these two polarizing opinions, this essay takes the stand of the latter that the purpose of education is not just to find employment.

2. Understand the nature of discussion for the question

Focus on the requirements of the question to derive how you can set the observation such as the cause-effect-solution.

3. Provide a comprehensive overview of the title (observation)

In the overview, the writer needs to provide an understanding of the subjects in the title in term of their main characteristics.

**3.1 If the title is too abstract or based a quotation, there is a need to provide a meaningful rephrase, which will give the reader a comprehensive understanding of the subjects**. A parameter of the subjects is developed and the link between the various subjects is also established.

**Qn. The route to a happy life is moderation in everything. Discuss**

3.2 Establish an overview based on the conventional thinking, your observation, or the concept of the subject.

**Class Practice – How to write a DYA introduction?**

**Practice 1**

**Question – The purpose of life is to find happiness. DO you agree?**

**Practice 2 –**

**Question - ‘Simple life, happy life’. Do you agree?**

### Types of introduction

Social Observation approach

Loyalty is a virtue highly regarded in many diverse societies. Members of these societies pay great honour to those who have shown loyalty to their follow beings in their communities and condemn those who have betrayed others. However, some may find loyalty less relevant and regarded by people in our contemporary society as we experience changing social, economic and political development. To assess whether loyalty is still relevant in our society, the essay will base its assessment on how this virtue is viewed by the various entities of our society.

Concept Explanation

The computer’s holding power is a phenomenon frequently referred to in terms associated with drug addiction. It is striking that the word “user” is associated mainly with computers and drugs. The trouble with that analogy, however, is that it puts the focus on then external factor, the drug. I prefer the metaphor of seduction because it emphasizes the relationship, that between person and machine, not the machine alone. If we explore these feelings, we can understand what we are drawn to, what we are missing and what we need. The analysis of computational seductions offer similar promise if we drop the cliché of addiction and turn to the forces, or more precisely, the diversity of forces that keep us engrossed in computational media.

Trend Analysis

The 1990s ushered in a telecommunications revolution that has now gathered unstoppable momentum. Borne on the wing of the World Wide Web, it was enabled by startling advances in the silicon chip’s processing power, and storage – from kilobyte to megabyte to gigabyte to terabyte. Some believe that ‘this technology will alter human life fundamentally, as the invention of the plough enabled the age agriculture, or the steam engine the industrial revolution. But will it mean for many of those things we care about most – our families, our neighbourhoods, the town and cities we live in?

Cause-Effects analysis

As the debate over violence on television plods forward, TV’s critics seem to have achieved a decided advantage – they have virtually no opposition. Everybody decries TV violence. Nobody even play devil’s advocate. Some people have tangentially answered the critics by bringing up censorship. But that’s as far as it’s gone. No one defends violence on television, and when Americans all line up on one side of an issue, you know something is terribly, terribly wrong.

Other examples:

Introduction for types of question

**A) Agreement or Disagreement type of question**

**Main points to take note:**

* General view about the issue
* Perspectives of discussion
* Stand – agreement or disagreement to proposition
* Avoid listing the reasons for the perspectives
* Avoid complicated phrasing of the stand – repeat according to the view of discussion

It is a convenient and logical derivation to identify racial distinction as the cause of discrimination we have observed to occur in many societies. Our race will provide the yardstick to distinguish one group of people from another as the ethnic and cultural heritage shapes the values, behaviours and norms that make one particular groups develop their own uniqueness as superior and despise another based on their dislikes. However, such proposition is naïve and incorrect as discrimination will still prevail even when we were of one race as it stretches beyond our racial distinction. **Thus, this stand of this essay is to disagree with the view that there would be no discrimination if all races were of one race.**

**Q1. “If all races were of one race, there would be no discrimination.” How far would you agree?**

It is a convenient and logical derivation to identify racial distinction as the cause of discrimination we have observed to occur in many societies. Our race will provide the yardstick to distinguish one group of people from another as the ethnic and cultural heritage shapes the values, behaviours and norms that make one group develop their own uniqueness as superior and despise another based on their dislikes. Thus, it is natural for many to see that the discrimination that prevails in society can be eliminated hypothetically if all races were of one race. **To me, such proposition is naïve and falls short of a more observant and in-depth understanding of discrimination where we will discover that discrimination stretches beyond our racial distinction.** We will discover when we examine closer that discrimination is the result of social, economic and political development and the above hypothetical proposition will not eliminate discrimination.

**Q2. Young people today are so fortunate. Is this true of young people in your country?**

As our society makes tremendous economic and social progress, a social observation about our youngsters is derived; our youngsters are fortunate. As we stroll down the sophisticated shopping malls in Orchard Road, we can observe how well-dressed our youngsters are in their branded shirts and blouse and shoes as they enjoyed the coffees or food in café. The affluent lifestyle they are enjoying supports the observation that they are the fortunate generation. However, such a view is too conclusive as we have not understood the real life our youngsters are living. If we examine further, our observation is wrong as our youngsters are not that fortunate as we think they are. **Thus, this essay disagrees with the view that young people today are so fortunate.**

**B) Extent of Agreement type of question**

**Main points to take note:**

* General view about the issue – may need to rephrase if the quote is complicated or figurative
* Perspectives of discussion
* Methods of discussion on how the extent of agreement is to be forged
* Avoid listing the reasons for the perspectives
* Avoid stating a stand on the extent of agreement as you cannot depict it without examining the discussion on the imperative of various points. The extent of agreement is be stated and reflected in the conclusion. Your extent of agreement must be derived through a qualitative assessment, avoiding a quantitative assessment as often stated based on a large or small extent of agreement. The extent of agreement is based on the imperative or significance of agreement

**Q. ‘Values are no longer prescriptive but a matter of choice.’ To what extent is this true? (RI Prelim)**

Introduction

* Definition of values – set of beliefs that form the basis of our behaviours and attitudes, that we use as a moral compass allowing us to make moral judgments
* Notion of the quote – it suggests that our values are no longer inherited, inculcated, indoctrinated but developed according to the prerogative of the individuals
* To examine the extent of the agreement, we need to assess whether our values are still inherited, inculcated or indoctrinated by our family, society and political institutions and whether the individuals possess the capacity to develop their values independently.

The values that imbued in us is more of great significance as there are set of beliefs that guide our behaviours and set the norms we will use as the moral compass that shape us our ethical and moral life. However, the debatable issue, as seen from the proposition, is on how we conceive our values though there is the conventional consensus of its importance. It is proposed as above these values are no longer inherited, inculcated and indoctrinated as in the past but developed according to the will and prerogative of the individuals for the contemporary society. **To examine the extent of the agreement, we need to assess whether our values are still inherited, inculcated or indoctrinated by our family, society and political institutions and whether the individuals possess the capacity to develop their values independently**

3) Reflective type of question

**Main points to take note:**

* General view about the issue – may need to rephrase if the quote is complicated or figurative (an essential part of discussion)
* Perspectives of discussion
* Methods of discussion on how the extent of agreement is to be forged or statement of stand for agreement or disagreement type of question (for this part, student mus decide on how they are going to structure the question)
* Avoid listing the reasons for the perspectives
* For extent of agreement type of question

Avoid stating a stand on the extent of agreement as you cannot depict it without examining the discussion on the imperative of various points. The extent of agreement is be stated and reflected in the conclusion. Your extent of agreement must be derived through a qualitative assessment, avoiding a quantitative assessment as often stated based on a large or small extent of agreement. The extent of agreement is based on the imperative or significance of agreement

**Q. Consider the value of patriotism in today’s borderless world.**

The value of patriotism is highly regarded by any sovereign state whereby individuals pledge loyalty to the sovereign government who ruled in accordance to Westphalia principle of exclusive sovereign rule over a bounded territory. Members of the defined territory would align their loyalty to defend the interests of the communities in these defined territories. However, the rise of globalization has torned down the defined territories, shaping the world to become a borderless society whereby greater interaction in all aspects among people from different countries who are now shaping the mindsets and behaviours of these members of the global world. It has become more difficult and complex for the members of the various countries to hold onto the value of patriotism in a more multifaceted world, demanding the government to reconsider how the value of patriotism would play in today’s borderless world.

Q: The main purpose of education is to enrich and enlighten the individuals and, not for the purpose of employment. Do you agree?

subject – main purpose of education

issues – enrich and enlighten / attainment of employment

individual – enrichment and enlightenment of the individual’s life to allow one to live a more meaningful and purposeful life

cultural development – develop cultural heritage – cultural identity

political development – understands the rights of the individuals and the responsibilities one needs to fulfill as a citizen

economic aims – the attainment of employment

ethical and moral development – a sense of morality – civic individuals for the society

Educators from diverse school of thoughts share the consensus that the proliferation of education will benefit the individuals and the society. However, when the issue of discussion is on the main purpose of education, there will be a great controversial debate. One group of educators believes that the main purpose of education should be on the attainment of employment while the other group of educators believes that the focus should be on the enrichment and enlightenment of the individuals in diverse areas of development. **In view of these diverse opinions, this essay is more inclined to the view that the main purpose of education is to enrich the individuals and, not for the purpose of employment.**

**(General observation / Perspectives / DYA – stand)**

**Main Body**

**Opposing view – why the main purpose of education should be on employment?**

**Educators who believe that the main purpose of education is for employment stems their rationale from the fact that attaining employment is a priority for life and a great benefit for the country.**

**why it is a priority for life for the individual?**

**why it enhances the interests of the state?**

**Example – how Singaporeans benefit from the focus on this aim**

**concluding sentence**

**Rebuttal – prove why the opposing view is wrong?**

* **limitation of the argument in the opposing view**
* **the opposing view only works under certain circumstances**
* **the weakness of the argument**
* **paradoxical truth – both points are correct- debate on abortion based rights**

**However, such a view fails to consider the issue from a wider perspective.**

**Rebuttal – we need to be enriched and enlightened to live a meaningful life, a life of material comfort attained from a comfortable employment is not enough to make life purposeful.**

**being enriched and enlightened is more important than to be employed.**

**one must know how to use their income for a meaningful and purposeful life.**

**Supporting View**

**Enriching and enlightening the individual is more important than the attainment of employment to ensure that individuals are imbued with the moral acumen to make decision on moral dilemma so that we can develop a civic and moral society.**

**How education system will make us more moral and civic**

**Why it is important for the society to ensure that individuals are civic and moral**

**why this aim is more important than the attainment of employment**

**Example – rising number of white-collar crimes**

**the need to enrich and enlighten the individual for cultural heritage – create a sense of rootedness – link social cohesiveness**

* **sense of belonging – unity – willingness to overcome our social and political instability – creating a social contract**
* **undermine social and political stability – create difficulties for society to flourish economically – affect business confidence**

**the political enlightenment and enrichment of the individuals in terms of their rights and the contributions to the state as a citizen**

**the enrichment and enlightenment of the mentality of the individuals to make their lives more meaningful and purposeful**

**Conclusion**

**retrospective discussion – a summary of your discussion**

**analysis of your discussion – key factor in this discussion – how it affects the individual and the society – education must be holistic**