GP June Intensive Revision

**Essay Writing Skills – Mid-year Preparation**

1. Is it better for a dysfunctional family to stay together or break up?
2. "Mass media has been made the scapegoat for problems faced by youths today.” To what extent do you agree with the statement?
3. 'Science has been made a scapegoat for the ills of modern society.’ Comment.
4. To what extent does the education system of your country meet the needs of the future generation?
5. The essence of happiness lies in the pursuit rather than in its fulfilment." Discuss.

**Essay Question 1**

**Is it better for a dysfunctional family to stay together or break up?**

**Agreement / expand the scope of discussion – widen to the impact on the society**

**Introduction**

The conventional view about family is that it stays as a family no matter how bad the family has become but in reality, we may need to re-examine the feasibility to retain the status of the family when it becomes dysfunctional as a result of the failures of the parents or the children as contributing members of the family. It is in the interest of all parties in the society and the family members that a family should stay together regardless of the extent of its failure as a family unit but there are certain conditions that would justify the ground that these dysfunctional families should be broken up to prevent any further damages they would bring to the family members and the society. In view of these differing opinions on this issue, this essay is inclined to the view that it is better for the family to break up when the family is dysfunctional.

**Main body**

**Opposing view**

**Linking sentence – For those who hold the view that the breaking up of a family is not viable option for the failure of the family entity, their rationale stems from the fact that ……..**

Our family is the critical source of rootedness that will create a sense of belonging and it is the basic fundamental entity of the society that helps to mould the civil development of the society. (the benefits of complete family)

Chances should be given to family members who have failed their roles to repent and works towards the development of the family/ salvage of the family

**Rebuttal View**

**Rebuttal sentence – However, such arguments cannot hold under other circumstances as**

Complete but dysfunctional families cannot provide the benefits of a family because the members of the family are unable to performs their contributing functions.

It is difficult to amend the misdeeds done by those who have failed their responsibilities and difficult for the members to mend their mistakes – degree of success of the husbands who have dropped their vice

**Supporting View**

**When we examine deeper into the issue, we will discover some critical reasons to prove that dysfunctional families must be broken up. One such reason is that ……..**

The detrimental impact on the members of the family if it is to stay together to will justify the case for the dysfunctional family to break up

(emotional baggage, the traumas, abuse by the husbands)

The failure of the parent to perform their contributing roles in the family will be another justifiable reason. (financial strain by the parents, completely astray children)

The cause of the dysfunctional family is another consideration

(incest, major dispute – betrays of trust , children may have cheated their parents)

The impact of the dysfunctional family on the society – rise of delinquents

**Conclusion**

It is very inhumane and sad to break up family but in reality, such a decision is still needed when we consider the circumstances that the dysfunctional face. The extent of detriments that these families may face and the negative impact imposed on the society will justify the ground for the breaking up of dysfunctional family.

**Essay Question 2**

**"Mass media has been made the scapegoat for problems faced by youths today.” To what extent do you agree with the statement?**

* **What is the problem faced by youths that is created by the mass media**
* **Why mass media is not responsible for the cause of the problem**

**(other reasons are the cause / prove why mass media is not the reason) – why the mass media is wrongly accused for it**

* **Examples**

**EOA – explain why mass media can still be the reason for the problems faced by the youth**

**Type of question –** extent of agreement

**Content requirement –** identify the problems faced by the youth and examine whether the mass media is the cause of their problems. In the course of trying to show the extent, it is critical to show that there is a link to indicate that the media is the cause first and show that its degree of influence may not be that extensive.

**Introduction**

In this contemporary society, the youths will face many challenging problems as they are easily influenced by the environment and are often led to situation which will create problems for them, making their lives more difficult and often, jeopardizing their lives and future. Educational and religious institutions are quick to identify the mass media as the culprit that is responsible for the entrapment the youths are in However, such accusation holds a modicum of truth as the problems faced by the youth is complex and mass media cannot be charged for being the sole cause of the problems faced by the youth.

**Main body**

**1)Youths are faced with the problem that they may be prone to the negative influence of the society which will lead to their moral and behavioural degradation (under the influence of the negative ideas transmitted by the mass media)**

**How the mass media will contribute to this?**

Projected immoral values and promoted undesirable behaviours out of the intended commercial purposes – immature and lack of proper guidance to understand the negative influences – manipulative and the effects are subtle and will induce acceptance

**(materialism, pre-marital sex, smoking and drug abuse)**

The extent of this influence – extensive despite the degree of censorship we have imposed – omnipresence of the mass media – difficult to control the influence of mass media

**2) Social pressure to excel and social acceptance from their peers**

* How the mass media will contribute to this?

Projection of achievement – school ranking – importance of academic excellence – social classification – subcultures – based on education level – lead to the search acceptance

* The extent of this influence

Portrays the values of the society – inculcation of values – become social norms and values – understand this inculcation – the true cause is from the society and not by the mass media

**3) A sense of apathy and lack of self identity – loss of purpose of life - meaningless**

* How the mass media will contribute to this?

Perception that is shaped by the society – materialistic society that based on tangible – conformist society lack of individualism – suppression of creativity

Your concept of life, values are determined by the mass media propagated by the institutions

* The extent of this influence

Values are not just indoctrinated by the media – the family, the education institutions and the religious institutions are equally important

**Conclusion**

* **Extent of agreement – but this must be shown in a qualitative assessment - cannot state that it is a large or small extent**
* **The key influencing factor**
* **Suggestion**

**In retrospect, the accusation placed on social media is justifiable depends on how the society functions to regulate the mass media in their influence and the proper education of the youth**

**. In countries, where there is lack of education or regulation, social media cannot be blamed for the undesirable values and behaviours projected by the youths. In these situations, the social media are scapegoats for the wrongdoings in our society and our society should be held responsible for the problems of the youths and not the mass media.**

**Essay Question 3**

**'Science has been made a scapegoat for the ills of modem society.’ Comment.**

**Requirement of the Question** – set it as an agreement type of question

Need to identify modern ills that will cause by Science and the reasons why these modern ills are not caused by science alone

What are the modern ills?

Income disparity / excessive consumption and wastage / moral and behavioural degradation / environmental degradation /

**Development of two perspectives** –

a) Prove that science has not been made the scapegoat of the modern ills – causation on the view that science causes such modern ills

b) Prove that science has been made the scapegoat of modern ills – causation on the view that the modern ills are caused by other factors and the benefits of science

Note:To identify a wider scope and more applicable causation, need to explain that technological advancement is part of scientific advancement.

**Introduction**

Scientific advancement, in term of pure scientific discovery and technological application, has shaped the development of the modern society which has brought great comfort and convenience to the society. On the other hand, traditionalists are quick to identify the modern ills that science has created. In response to this comment, the modernists and technocrats rebut that the traditionalists for marking science as the scapegoat as they have not understood the complexity of modern ills and are ignorant of the benefits of science. **In view of these diverse opinions, this essay agrees with the modernists and technocrats that the society is indeed making science as the scapegoat of modern ills.**

**Main body**

Opposing view

**Traditionalists stem their rationality from the fact** that science is the cause of our moral degradation as they see science as the means for us to use for all the wrong doings in this modern society.

Rebuttal

As it is just a means that contribute to the rise of modern ills, it **cannot be held responsible for the consequences as the real culprits are the entities that apply the technology as the means for the ill intention**

\Supporting View

What are the other reasons that contribute to the rise of modern ills from the various aspects of modern ills that occur in this modern society?

**Linking sentence: From a wider perspective, the real cause for the rampant of modern ills - can be identified and one factor that can account for this degradation is the ……..**

* Creation of a consumerist culture that promotes material comforts which will lead to excessive consumption and wastages – a narcissistic society that is more self-centred, superficial and less caring society

Blame science as it produce large scale and a great variety of products to promote this development – the real reason behind this development is the greed of mankind, science and technology is the scapegoat –having the means to produce does not justify the need to consume more

* Moral degradation – science provides the technology that encourages the proliferation vices – create more opportunities of temptation to lure the individuals –

The real cause of individuals engage in vices is due to the failure of the education and religious institutions to provide guidance for the individuals

Conclusion

**Essay Question 4**

**To what extent does the education system of your country meet the needs of the future generation?**

Type of question – Extent of Agreement

Requirement of the question

* Identify the needs of the future generation(youth) – why such a need is important

(source of information – functions of education)

* Identify how the education system is preparing the youth for their needs to face the future
* Evaluate the extent of Singapore education system in doing so

Introduction

The continual changes in the modern society on a globalized context will pose new challenges for the youth in Singapore and this will induce the need for Singapore to prepare them for the future. It thus rests on the responsibility of the education system to fulfil the needs to equip our youth with the necessary knowledge and skills to enable them to handle the future. In recent years, the education system has introduced numerous programmes to fulfil this significant task but the extent of its success is subjected to examination

Main body

* To ensure that the youths can be equipped with the rights skills and knowledge to attain employment and develop a career in the knowledge intensive global economies
* Why is there a need? Need of the development of analytical and creative skills, soft skills
* How the education system is fulfilling this task – project-based forms of teaching, CCA, leadership programmes (public-speaking skills), diverse profile of academic subjects
* The extent of effectiveness – quite effective – skill oriented and diverse in education profile – accommodate the adjustment of the economy which will affect the requirements of the jobs – become efficient and productive

Equip with the youth the moral acumen to solve social and moral dilemmas

- nurture a civic society

School moral-based education, nurturing ground to derive moral experiences

Effectiveness – school-based moral education is lip-services, too oriented towards academic concern/school cannot develop moral absolute

Development of social and communication skills and higher degree of exposure to general knowledge

Impact of globalization – greater integration of cultures – higher degree of diversity – complex interaction – the development is imperative

Overseas immersion programmes / cultural exposures / bilingualism / subject on humanity

Effective to a certain extent – education process is theoretical but provide basic knowledge and exposure for this form of interaction

Actual experiences gained through greater exposure to globalization

Conclusion