

## 'Self-censorship is needed in the digital age.' Discuss.

Examine the justification of censorship in our modern society

Type: Paragraph Development

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Album: Social Media

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### Student Answer

#### 1) Topic Sentence

General Focus: Explain how self-censorship is important in maintaining social stability.

1. Derive the category
2. Set the perspective
3. Provide a conceptualized idea that depicts the point
4. Include the intensification of the effects due to the conceptualized idea

#### Answer

The reality is that self-censorship is essential in maintaining social stability in a world that is largely technological-driven where social media is on the rise.

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#### 2) Elaboration

Explain how the main idea stated in the topic sentence can affect social stability.

- Focus on how the supporting elaboration sentences show how the point creates the effect

#### Answer

Created as a means of web-based communication, social media is where people share information, news and opinions. Without any sort of self-censorship, no fact-checking is being done; users of the web may share incorrect information to family and friends and this disastrous cycle continues. With the power to influence thoughts and actions, whatever is shared on social media should not be taken lightly. For any sort of information-sharing or the exchange of ideas that is based on said information, it must be built on what is true and factual. As Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Kat says "The new law to combat fake news is not an attempt to suppress different opinions... but such differences must be grounded in fact in order for 'good disclosure' to take place".

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#### 3) Example

Support your argument by providing a news report that relates to the consequence of absent

self-censorship in causing greater social instability.

- An example to prove why the evidence to supports the point of discussion

**Answer**

This is where students can apply the skill of cross-referencing of sources, derived from the A-Level subject "Project Work", into the real world. It is a skill of which many don't realise its importance.

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4) Concluding Sentence

Link back to the main idea in your topic sentence to show that self-censorship in the digital age is necessary.

- To conclude the paragraph and summarise the points that makes the argument

**Answer**

Certainly, self-censorship can be seen as a useful tool to combat the negative implications of social media in today's world.

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**Tutor Answer**

1) Topic Sentence

General Focus: Explain how self-censorship is important in maintaining social stability.

1. Derive the category
2. Set the perspective
3. Provide a conceptualized idea that depicts the point
4. Include the intensification of the effects due to the conceptualized idea

**Answer**

From the social perspective, self-censorship is needed in the digital age to prevent the spread of offensive remarks that threaten social stability.

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2) Elaboration

Explain how the main idea stated in the topic sentence can affect social stability.

- Focus on how the supporting elaboration sentences show how the point creates the effect

**Answer**

The lack of self-censorship is problematic as people who post racially offensive or culturally insensitive views on social media may spark social outrage. As a result, victims of hate speech may retaliate aggressively, thus giving rise to social division. This sparks controversy in our diverse society when not managed can turn into violent conflicts that disrupt social stability.

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### 3) Example

Support your argument by providing a news report that relates to the consequence of absent self-censorship in causing greater social instability.

- An example to prove why the evidence to supports the point of discussion

#### **Answer**

In September 2012, the French satirical weekly magazine, Charlie Hebdo, published controversial cartoon depictions of the Prophet Muhammad. It sparked a major outrage, as seen by the Charlie Hebdo shooting in January 2015, in which two gunmen killed twelve people.

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### 4) Concluding Sentence

Link back to the main idea in your topic sentence to show that self-censorship in the digital age is necessary.

- To conclude the paragraph and summarise the points that makes the argument

#### **Answer**

Hence, the outbreak of social tensions and violence highlight the importance of self-censorship in the digital age as people should refrain from passing off offensive and insensitive remarks.

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