

### **GP Learners' Club - GCE A level 2024 Q3**

**Evaluate the measures** taken in your society to deter crime and punish criminals.

interpretation :

Measures - solutions ( how it works and strengths and weaknesses

First measure - the implementation of legislatures (DEATH SENTENCE / CANNING) - legislation must consider the notion of fairness

Public education - the penalty of laws and legal support support

Technological development - surveillance cameras

Aims of solution - deter crime and punish criminals

In you society - Singapore

Basis of evaluation :

1. Feasibility / effectiveness
2. Notion of fairness (commercial exploitation / degree of involvement)
3. Moral concern
4. Cost effectiveness

lucia

In Singapore, crime prevention and punishment are enforced due to the need of maintaining social order and upholding moral responsibility. The government adopts strict laws and measures to deter crime and punish offenders. These laws and measures can be evaluated across four main categories of feasibility, notion of fairness, moral concern and cost effectiveness. This leads to the debate of whether these measures are effective in Singapore. On one hand, Singapore has low crime rates and is known for being safe on a global scale so the measures taken are efficient. On the other hand, some may argue that Singapore's measures are not effective or sustainable in the long run. In view of these polarising opinions, this essay shall take the stand that Singapore's measures to deter crime and punish criminals are effective.

Rebuttal

One of the ways that the government effectively deter drug trafficking activity is the use of capital punishment which has been very effective over the years to make Singapore a drug free centre. The capital punishment is a strong deterrence to drug traffickers as they are made aware of the consequences which involve the loss of their lives. This type of punishment creates a sense of fear and caution among drug smugglers and they will reconsider before committing acts that go against the laws. According to the Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore drug trafficking may lead to 30 years of imprisonment or life sentence with 15 strokes of canning. Consequently, Singapore is kept drug free from criminals and crime due to the strong measures applied by the government.

However, some may argue that capital punishment is not entirely effective in deterring drug trafficking as it does not take into account the factors that led to their acts of crime. Drug traffickers may have been coerced by syndicates and forced to partake in illegal activity. Their circumstances do not allow them to back out as they may be threatened or pressured to commit the crime. The deterrence due to capital punishment is ineffective against people who have no other means to survive. Additionally, drug trafficking often involves layers of drug networks where lower level traffickers are often replaceable and this makes it difficult for execution to completely eradicate the drug trafficking. According to the Central Narcotics Bureau, it was reported that authorities were arresting hundreds of traffickers each year, indicating how the implementation of the death penalty was not sufficient in deterring drug trafficking. Thus, while capital punishment may instill fear, it does not address the moral concern of the issue which make the measure less effective.

## Categories of discussion

- Political
- Environmental
- Psychological
- Economic
- Social

Cultural ( food and language)

Health

Education

Technology

Social media

Thinking skills

1. Opinions about the issue
2. Develop aspects of discussion
3. Conceptualise - make into a point

How it is done (2)

Why such a measure is effective ( $\frac{3}{4}$ )

Limitations ( 3 / 4)

Example - should we impose canning on criminals who committed online scamming in Singapore

Link - show your main idea again in this last sentence to support the question

### **Thinking aspect**

#### **1. Understanding of the question**

Features of measures taken by Singapore on how to solve crime and punish criminals

Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the approach to solve crime and punishments

Focus on solving crime and punish criminals

(Severity and importance of deter crime and punish criminals)

#### **2. Structure of the essay - EOA**

**Must develop the mechanisms on the two measures (how it works)**

- **Introduction -**
- **General view**
- Perspective of discussion
- Proposition / extent of agreement

## **Sample structure (1dt approach)**

### **Introduction - notion of crime prevention and imposition for justice**

- Briefly state that these two measure - punishment (legislation) / public education (religious / understanding of criminal issue)
- Requirements - evaluation -feasibility, effectiveness, (category of discussion)

### **Main Body**

#### **Technical writing - may have to write in a comparative format**

1. Explanation how the approach works
2. Evaluation - feasibility - problem that may obstruct this implementation (economic view)
3. Evaluation - Feasibility - another category (cultural aspect/ trend)
4. Evaluation - Effectiveness - crime prevention
5. Evaluation - justification for punishment - fairness - rights of people

### **Conclusion**

#### **Points to consider**

#### **Cost of the measures**

#### **Effectiveness in the implication**

#### **Values of society**

#### **Dedicate one paragraph to depict how crime can be prevented through the use of technological advancements**

- Develop topic sentence
- Elaboration ( how it works)
- Example
- EOA ( why it is feasible / why it is not feasible)
- Elaboration - show the limitations of proposition - counter the point in the proposition
- Repeat the above steps for two more points

## **Zhitong Introduction**

Singapore always had a strong stance against crime, with robust crime-fighting technologies such as CCTV cameras and vigilant policemen patrolling our streets. These technologies are instrumental in fighting crime such as theft. In addition, Singapore also has erected strong deterrents against serious crimes like drug dealing or trafficking, with a controversial death penalty

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9970695634?pwd=SDk5Q1J2Rm9Za2hJMnloekJaRmdvUT09on>

krystal

It is a common method for countries to tackle crime with punishment, and a long held belief by Singaporeans to follow the approach of an eye for an eye due to their large inclination towards the maintenance of the death penalty. In our current society which has experienced the rapid advancement of technology, western believes that criminals should be instead reformed to reduce rates of re-offending and that physical punishment is inhumane has been imported from overseas, sparking the debate of the justifiability of the measures used by the Singapore government such as legislation to deter crime and punishment. Likewise with the rise in digital and more intricate criminal methods, it has become increasingly difficult for the Singapore government to monitor the commitment of crimes and arrest, raising questions about the effectiveness of methods used today such as punishment and public education. In view of these opposing views, this essay takes the stand that the measures taken in my society are effective, but not justifiable.

(crime needs to be reported )

## Eugene

Crime is a common problem that societies have to deal with since the dawn of civilization. The various methods that would contain crime have evolved with the evolution of technological advancements in modernised countries such as Singapore as well as harsher punishments overall. Some people may argue that with the evolution of technological surveillance such as CCTVs as well as the recording of human biometrics in high-tech societies around the world to identify individuals, the crime rate would greatly reduce and stabilize as compared to the past due to the increased fear that people would have with the increased rates of being caught. However, there are also others that would argue that with the rise of technological advancements, new forms of crimes have also emerged that would pry away from these identifications, such as online scams. In view of these polarizing opinions, this essay would take the stand that crime could be prevented through the use of technological advancements.

## Jay Men

Ranked as one of the safest countries in the world, it is without a doubt that Singapore takes great seriousness in its ability to ensure safety and security for its citizens. Known to also be a technological hub, Singapore has also adopted the power of technology in securing the digital world for its citizens to prevent them from harms online. Yet, despite all these intricate countermeasures to prevent crimes from occurring, some highly desperate and apathetic individuals still choose to try their luck and challenge the system despite the odds heavily stacked against them. But, it is also because of such persistent individuals that many online related crimes such as scams and phishing of information still occur in Singapore. In light of this, many are skeptical of whether we should impose canning on criminals who committed online scamming in Singapore. While some traditionalists posit that we should impose canning so as to publicly humiliate perpetrators preventing future reoccurrences, on the whole, this essay contends that we should not cane criminals as it is ineffective, spurs controversies, and impractical.

**Ember:** One measure that Singapore uses to deter crime is the use of legislation with harsh punishments. Laws such as the death penalty for drug trafficking and caning for vandalism and robbery shows a clear message to the public about breaking the law. These measures instil fear of punishment in the public, discouraging potential offenders from committing similar crimes as it is severe punishment which acts as a strong deterrence against drug trafficking. For example, Singapore has only four drug trafficking cases as reported by the Strain Times. However, the effectiveness of this measure has limitations. Many people have argued that these punishments are too harsh and violate human rights. The death penalty, in particular, has been criticised for being too cruel and irreversible, especially if mistakes are made in court. Additionally, others feel that such measures make Singapore too harsh and unforgiving. Nevertheless, these measures have made Singapore one of the safest countries globally.

**Josh:** One measure that Singapore can use to deter crime is the use of legislation with harsh punishments. Such punishments may include long jail terms, caning and the harshest being capital punishment, where people can be sentenced to death. These harsh consequences of breaking the law have been frowned upon by society and other countries, labelling them as barbaric or outdated. Despite this, Singapore has turned a blind eye to all these criticisms, choosing to proceed carrying out such punishments.

This is because it serves as an excellent deterrent to possible criminals in the future, as carrying out such harsh punishments on people can serve as a warning to everyone else, displaying what would happen should one want to bend the rules. Seeing others suffer from such harsh consequences would no doubt instill a sense of fear in the public, deterring most people from committing crimes due to their phobia of being sentenced to such punishments. For example, the Central Narcotics Bureau, Singapore has one of the lowest youth drug abuse rates in Asia and justify why harsh punishment is justified.

**Alexis:** A measure taken in Singapore to deter crime and punish criminals is the use of legislation with harsh punishment. This includes strict punishments like death penalty, caning and long term imprisonment. These measures have contributed to the country's low crime rates, maintaining public safety. For example, the death penalty serves as a strong deterrent against serious crimes in Singapore. Many individuals fear the death penalty, causing them to avoid committing serious crimes like murder or drug trafficking. However, the death penalty is criticized by some as it goes against the right to live. Some think that it is cruel and unfair to take the lives of people for committing crimes. Once someone is executed, there is no way to undo it, especially if they are proven innocent in the future. This explains why harsh punishments might not be very effective when dealing with crimes.

#### **Source or Points (based on categorization)**

- Points of discussion:
- The points derived must base on the features of the policies, measures and jurisdiction which can be implemented to solve crimes and punish criminals. :The points will be very specific and it may be wise to include the types of crimes as a consideration on how the measures can be effective against business or financial crimes seen in terms of money laundering and cyber crimes. To solve such crimes, technological solution is needed and integrated with political solutions as such crime is cross border and involved a lot of technological solution like block Chains

**Note : must focus greatly on the features of the measures and evaluate based on the capacity to solve certain types of crime**

#### **The strait times:**

From January to September last year, 321 cases of voyeurism were reported to police in Singapore. This figure comprised cases involving upskirt photos and videos, as well as other methods like peeping and taking nude photos or videos.

### **3. Essay Outline**

#### **Introduction**

Many countries seek to solve crime and punish criminals fairly but severely to ensure that they can have a low crime rate but few countries are able to achieve the success of Singapore as we pride ourselves to be one of the safest countries in the world with a low crime rate. Although some may not agree to this as petty crime is still on the rise which is compromising the stability of society, Singapore has introduced some effective measures which leads to the reduction of certain crimes. Thus, the issue on whether the measures introduced to solve crime and punish criminals are issues worth examining to derive the extent of agreement that we have reached a certain level of success to solve crime and punish criminals to attain a low crime rate.

#### **Main Body**

##### **Proposition 1**

Crime in Singapore is largely solved by technological solutions like surveillance cameras and digital print of mobility of criminals which provide extensive information to solve crime and the necessary evidence to decide the punishment that they deserve.

##### **Extent of Agreement 1**

However, criminals are equally tech-savvy in using digital technology as the means they would use to commit crime and they are usually more sophisticated in using these technologies along with other criminal walls to prevent themselves getting caught.

##### **Proposition 2**

Social media are often used to expose crimes involving outrage of modesty and voyeurism as such crimes are shameful acts of violation of moral values and shaming individuals who commit these crimes seem to be the viable means to achieve deterrence by tracking the criminals and derive evidence to expose the criminals of deleterious acts.

##### **Extent of Agreement 2**



However, such criminal acts cannot just focus on the impact of the criminals but must be on their motives to deter rather than to lower the act and a psychological and moral education is needed to prevent people from committing such act of outrage of modesty.

### Proposition 3

To deal with complex crime like financial and white collar crimes which is quite prevalent in Singapore, a set effective legal structure and police investigation unit is critical as seen from our agency like Corruption Prevention Investigation Bureau or CPIB.

### Extent of Agreement 3

However, such crimes are often complicated and involve political implications which make it difficult for the investigation unit to use the legal measures to arrest these high stake criminals.

### Conclusion

In retrospect, Singapore has been quite successful in solving crime and has introduced various stringent measures and even capital punishment to solve crime and punish the criminals. However, it is still unable to deter crime with sentences like the death penalty for drug-trafficking. This proves that there is no way for a country to completely eliminate crime but it can always seek to reduce crime rate to the lowest to give the people a safe and ethically society to live in

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### Proposition 1

One measure a modern society like Singapore will adopt to deter crime is the introduction of severe legislatures to impose harsh punishments like death sentence or caning as it acts as a strong deterrence. To achieve this, Singapore imposes severe penalties on offenders through laws such as death sentence or caning, and this will ensure that there is a strong effective legislature to deal with these crimes. The measure is effective because it will make the criminals ponder over their intentions for crime because fear of severe consequences discourages them from engaging in serious crimes. This severe legislature will act as a strong deterrence against crime which will undermine the safety of society. Nonetheless, severe legislatures must not make wrong convictions as the imposition of the

punishment may not be reversible and correlative. It is not surprising that the government has brought up a parliamentary debate on whether to impose caning against criminals who are involved in online scamming as these criminals' act are severe and impactful on society. This clearly supports the nation that harsh punishment is vital to curb severe crimes. Therefore, the use of severe Legislatures is one effective measure to deter crime and punish criminals but it has certain limitations we must take note of.

Zhi Thong

However, despite ensuring the appropriate punishment is dealt to the perpetrator to fulfill the rights of the victim, there should still be a due process to ensure the rights of the offenders to prevent disproportionate punishment. This is because criminals also have human rights and it is also equally important to consider their rights so that our society has the principles to respect human rights and maintain the notion of fairness. It is paramount that society treats all its citizens equally and uphold their rights and ensure none gets violated. This is critical for a diverse society where values are treated equally and respected. In Singapore, all crimes require court trial which ensure that criminals have the legal representation to allow a fair process to deliver punishment to all criminals regardless of race and religion. Therefore, the use of legislation is a critical issue to achieve the fairness and justice of society.

There should still be punishment meted out to ensure that the victims of unfair crime receive proper compensation and closure, which they deserve since they are unfair targets of crime. This fulfills the rights of both ends which ensures a fair justice. For instance it is universally accepted that criminals have rights to legal representation to allow them a fair trial and to prove their innocence so as to avoid an unfair trial.

Krystal

Another area that could be used to assess the effectiveness of measures used to deter crime and punish criminals is the feasibility of the methods taken due to cultural differences. The role of public education in instilling moral values into youths would be weakened if the community they surround themselves in hold

disdain towards authority figures such as educators, causing youths to become more rebellious and disregard the moral lessons taught by teachers during their period of public education. Furthermore, moral education through religious leaders would not be applicable to those born without religious connections, causing such lessons to be unable to be conducted from a young age since Census reports show that in 2020, 20% of Singaporeans reported that they are not affiliated with any religion. This causes religious lessons that aim to cultivate moral values in individuals to deter them from committing crimes to be ineffective towards a substantial portion of the community. The legislation aims for a fair and just treatment of individuals, and would thus not be influenced by the cultural differences held by the judge overseeing the trial. The legislation's effectiveness in issuing out punishment to those deemed guilty would not be hindered unlike that of public education in deterring crime due to an issue of feasibility related to cultural differences amongst individuals.

The question of whether punishment towards those that commit crime is necessary has been raised by those who are more inclined towards the rehabilitation of criminals, and in order to ensure a just and fair treatment of all the parties involved in the crime, an appropriate level of punishment needs to be issued out to the offender. As those who have committed crimes still retain their human rights, excessive punishments should not be given and instead should match the severity of their crimes so they are treated fairly. An opportunity for closure would be given to the victims, providing them the much needed relief or satisfaction after they had been unfairly been targets of crime. For instance in Singapore, individuals have a right to a fair trial in which they have a proper opportunity to contest their charges. This concept of fairness would be critical in maintaining a law-abiding society, and so such a concept should be continuously upheld by punishing those who committed unlawful acts. Thus, punishment towards offenders that are in accordance with their rights would be necessary to maintain a fair and just society.

**Rayan: In most societies crime prevention is usually done through rehabilitation centers or by increasing the number of police that are patrolling the city. Crimes however can be prevented by other ways too such as increasing the severity of punishment that people do. This will act a strong deterrence to those who commit these crimes as the punishment is not worth the hassle of taking the risk to do the crime. We could also use public education to help prevent crime as it allows people to learn the severity of the crime their doing and how it affects the people surrounding them making**

them feel guilt if they were ever to commit the crime. therefore, the increasing of public education and severity of crimes will act as a strong deterrence against crime.

Increasing the punishment on the severity of the crimes is more effective than public education as most people are afraid of the punishment they face then the crime they actually face. Also public education does not really target criminals but more of the general public making it hard to make sure criminals who are learning about the consequences. However, increasing the severity of the punishment of the crimes would make people have second thoughts over committing the crime as the crime that they are doing is nowhere close to the punishment that they should receive.

**Jay Men:** As the sophistication of crime evolves with development of the world, novel solutions need to be thought of to combat and prevent crimes. In contemporary times, crime is prevented through public education and increasing the severity of punishments for all levels of crime. Public education serves to proliferate the consequences of crimes, often in exaggerated yet factual ways, to increase the degree of judgement when one is considering committing a crime. Increase in severity of punishments is done through coming up with more legislation or adding more sentences to the crime committed so as to act as a strong deterrence against crime.

**Evaluation 1:** Exertion of more severe punishments is a better deterrence of crimes than public education based on the considerations of the criminals.. Severe punishments serve as a more tangible deterrence as it is more direct and ensures criminals are held accountable in a way unachievable by public education. This would force individuals to think twice before committing a crime as they bear the risk of serving the severe punishments for said crime. To add on, public education is often treated lightly as most people see it as a piece of information and nothing else. Consequently, there is a lack of any impact on individual's as they hold the same level of need to commit crimes as opposed to severe punishments

**To what extent would technological advancement undermine elderly?**

## **General observation**

**Create the issue and link to the question ( employment, familiarity with government administration, technological impact daily lives**

**Perspectives**

**Stand**

## **Proposition 1**

**Argument 1 - why the elderly will be undermined? Unemployment**

**Topic sentence - conceptualized idea less capable to adjust to technological unemployment**

EOA 1

Proposition 2

EOA 2

Proposition 3

EOA 3

Eugene

With the advent of social media usage with high usage amongst the younger generation in modern society, it would make it difficult for the elderly to integrate and relate with those that are tech-savvy, resulting in social elimination. As modern technology such as smartphones continuously implement technological innovations that increase at a faster rate as compared to before, it would result in an increase in new features that the elderly may not be used to as compared to the youth that could pick up these advanced features at a much faster pace. Therefore, with modern social media platforms relying on these features in order to achieve the most out of the users everyday lives, it would result in the reduction of quality of life as well as social exclusion due to the knowledge barrier in terms of technological illiteracy affecting the way that the elderly interacts with these technological devices. One way that this could be shown is with the difficulty that the elderly could understand and strengthen their relationships with the younger generation due to not using social media in its fullest apart from the standard forms of communication with whatsapp and text messages. This would result in the elderly not being overly interactive in these social platforms, resulting in social exclusivity in modern society.

However, based on the issue of technological illiteracy that would affect the elderly's usage of social media, there are methods that are implemented by the government that would negate this issue. One way is to implement SSG programmes in order to reduce the disparity of

technological illiteracy for the elderly. The government would also provide increases in subsidies to the elderly in order to further incentivise them to take up these programmes. With the implementation of the SSG programme, the elderly would further understand the workarounds of these devices and better understand them. This would result in an increase in social inclusivity of the elderly due to the increase in their skills that are gained from these courses enabling them to further integrate themselves in a social media dominated society.

#### Jay Men

Given the proliferation of social media, technological advancement does undermine the elderly as it increases difficulties in social connectivity between the elderly and digitally-savvy natives, resulting in increased societal alienation. Social media allows for mass efficient and remote communication amongst individuals. Yet, this concept is generally foreign to the elderly as they grew up in a generation without the internet and advanced technology. When an increasing number of the population normalise conversing online rather than in the physical world, the elderly will be left behind in society as they have yet to grasp the concept of technology. This results in the elderly lacking connection with the younger generation or even their own family members due to their lack of experience with social media. As a result, they can only accept a life of social isolation and lack of true connections with people, leading to a build up of a sense of being disregarded by society after a long period of time. This overall leads to increasing mental health issues in the elderly. This can be best exemplified by the case of Singapore, whereby a survey done by the Ministry Of Health (MOH) found that there was an increasing rate of depression in the elderly with many stating that lack of social interaction and lack of purpose after retirement being the main factors for these issues. Though this case is specific to Singapore, when generalised to the aging population in the world, it is evident that increase in technological advancements accompanied by lack of guidance for the elderly towards socialising online leads to increased risk of mental health issues as time goes by. This thus suggests how technological advancement in the form of social media has undermined the elderly in terms of their connectivity and existence in society.

However, proliferation of social media does not necessarily suggest that technological advancement fully undermines the elderly in terms of social connectivity since it is not difficult for the elderly to learn how to use social media, leading to in fact an increase in societal involvement of the elderly both online and physically. Social media in itself is not very difficult for the elderly to learn as it does not require immense cognitive requirements. Just turning on the app and reading messages is already nearly half the battle won for learning how to use the basic communicative capabilities of social media. Acknowledging the simplicity of social media, when the elderly are taught how to use it, they are able to connect with family and friends online. This increases their ability to socialise daily which prevents them from feeling a sense of isolation since it is something they are in control of. This thus results in an improvement in their mental wellbeing as they are more socially included and are exposed to different like-minded individuals online and nearby in real life. An apt illustration of this is again in the case of Singapore whereby neighbourhood community centres often advertise on social media like Facebook, community events to bring the community together in a plethora of activities. This can be a simple group yoga session or celebration to commemorate a certain festival. These

activities brought to the notice of the elderly by social media allows the elderly to interact with other people of different age groups, increasing their inclusivity in society. When generalised, social media can be used by the elderly to explore different socialising events best suited for them, allowing them to participate more actively with society. This thus suggests how technological advancement may not necessarily always undermine the elderly's social connectivity as its simplicity allows the elderly to harness its capabilities easily and unlock vast opportunities to network in society.

Lucia

As technology rapidly advances, the elderly struggle to adapt to the new means of communication and this isolates them from the rest of the community. The elderly lack the proper skills to navigate modern digital devices and thus cannot keep up with the changes within society. As society switches to interacting on social media platforms and using other online services, the elderly are still dependent on physical interaction to connect with others. The older generations lack the confidence and ability to effectively learn how to use these advanced digital devices. This limits their ability to keep in contact with others and they start to feel excluded from society over time. When they are incapable of understanding or relating to trends, there are lesser discussions for them to participate in. They feel less willing to make use of the applications and experience social alienation. According to Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), it was reported that only 58% of seniors aged 60 and above actually use the internet on a daily basis. The data indicates how the elderly are left out of online communities and discussions due to their inactivity. Therefore, technological advancements have widened the social distance between the elderly and the rest of the society, causing them to experience social alienation.

With that being said, technological advancement can help the elderly to form stronger connections with the rest of the community. Nowadays, more elderly are becoming more open to learning and adopting the use of digital devices. Through the support of their close ones and the government, the elderly are gradually adapting to the rapid advancement of technology and are more confident in navigating the online world. By implementing certain programmes to improve their digital literacy, the elderly can connect with other communities beyond their usual social circle and participate in a wide range of discussion. This allows them to interact effectively with the rest of the population on a deeper level and feel more connected and included within the society. Singapore has launched the Silver Academy which offers courses in digital literacy and online safety to help the elderly adapt to a technology driven world. These courses help the elderly feel more comfortable with using technology and thus they can stay connected with their loved one and actively participate in online communities. Thus, instead of causing social alienation, technological advancements can empower the elderly by equipping them with the necessary skills to remain active in an increasingly digital society.

Zhitong:

Over the years, technological development has transformed our landscape. From social media to artificial intelligence technologies, it is no doubt that the lives of everyone has become both

more convenient and interconnected, with ever increasing standards of living both consumption wise and our health too, such as vaccines protecting us from the nastiest diseases as well as an endless stream of entertainment options to pamper ourselves with. However, one group of the population, the elderly, has been systematically cast aside in light of the improving technology. Most notably, it remains a question whether the technology such as improving healthcare can benefit the elderly in terms of lifespan and quality of life, or whether technology has harmed the elderly by isolating them or alienating them from the modern way of life as they are less able to adapt to the ever-changing technological landscape. This essay thus posits that technological development has caused a net harm to the elderly and undermined their well being.

Social media is also one of the recent developments that can undermine the elderly due to social alienation. Due to social media having a mostly youthful appeal, newer social media platforms like Instagram may lack elderly-friendly features like a community hub for the elderly to discover shared interests with each other. Due to the elderly being more technology averse and generally less tech savvy, they may be disinclined to actually adopt social media. In an age where the main forms of social communication is mostly disseminated from social media platforms, including news and current affairs that are not covered by traditional newspapers, the elderly may find it difficult to keep up to date with current affairs online. In addition, the elderly may also find it hard to make friends in real life as increasing proportions of friendships are being made online nowadays, and without knowledge of using social media platforms, the elderly are at an inherent disadvantage of connecting with the younger people who do use social media. This disconnect between the youth and the elderly can cause a more fragmented society in which the views and feedback of the elderly may be undermined or ignored altogether. A lack of connection with the youth can also lead to social isolation as the youth, and as a result the elderly may not be able to interact with the youth. A decreasing level of connection to the youth would also mean that the needs and feedback of the elderly would be heard less compared to the youth, further isolating them from society as discussions tend to be youth-oriented. It could also lead to the youth being unable to connect with elders online, further decreasing the social circle of the elderly. A study in SMU found that the elderly are willing to use smartphones but only for entertainment and leisure rather than to make online friends or discuss issues online. Physical spaces like void decks and community centres are also being less used by the youth, decreasing the number of youth that the elderly can effectively connect and bond with. As a result, an increasing number of them experience social isolation due to lack of engagement with the rest of the population, which further reduces the chances of their needs being adequately met by the government and the youth.

With that being said, there are also cases of the elderly being incentivised and learning how to use these platforms effectively, such as the introduction of the 'digital citizen' programme which aims to cultivate media literacy among the elderly and teach them the basics of social media usage here.

Krystal

Due to the significant usage of social media by the youth, the elderly might face social alienation when it comes to interaction with the younger generation due to their lack of ability to



smoothly navigate the seas of social media. There is a lack of accessibility for the elderly when it comes to entering youth dominated platforms because of their lack of familiarity with complex technological devices, causing them to lose out on time spent and potential interactions from the rest of the community. This would result in a lack of close knitted relations for a large number of elderly, causing them to be socially isolated. According to a Straits Times article in 2021, 2 in 5 people aged 62 or older have reported to be lonely in Singapore. As such, this reveals the chronic absence of connections the elderly have because of advancements in technology.

However, the elderly would not face social alienation if they gain the ability to handle this form of online communication with the help of family and friends or even the government. Those who are close with the elderly in real life, especially the younger generation, may possess the necessary digital skills and may pass onto the skills to the elderly, teaching them how to use the new technological devices. With the assistance of someone they know, the journey of acquiring a new skill would become much less treacherous, allowing the elderly to possess greater technological expertise. As the barriers that previously prevented their entry to the online community have now been bypassed, there would be greater interactions between the elderly and the community, increasing societal belonging and preventing social alienation from occurring. Governmental programmes such as the SSG has been implemented in Singapore, successfully equipping those who participated in the programme with higher levels of technological knowledge. Therefore, social alienation of the elderly is prevented if they gain the ability to handle this form of online communication with the help of family and friends or even the government.

Alexis

The increasing use of social media for communication makes it difficult for elderly to keep up with social interaction with society. As connecting with others on social media is very convenient, many have turned to online platforms like Instagram and WhatsApp to interact with others. Communication has become more dependent on technology. As elderly did not grow up with technology, many do not understand how to use digital devices and discourage them from interaction. Consequently, this digital divide leads to social alienation.

**In modern society, are there more harms than benefits to the elderly?**

**DYA structure**

1. Economic -> Unemployment
2. Social -> social alienation
3. Tech -> Convenient way of life
4. Medical

Krystal

General observation about modern society -> Advancements in tech

(How does it impact the elderly -> social, economic, health)

Issue of whether there are more harms than benefits to the elderly

Stand: There are not more harms than benefit to the elderly

BP1: Counter Argument: There are more harms than benefit

BP2: Rebuttal

BP3: Argument 1

BP4: Argument 2

BP5: Argument 3

Conclusion

Intro:

In our modern society, there has been substantial developments when it comes to technology, altering the world the elderly once knew and familiarised themselves with into something foreign. The addition of technology has brought about improvements to the elderly's physical state of health through improved medical equipments and inventions, but simultaneously, it might have caused deteriorations in one's mental state of mind due to potential societal loneliness amidst the unaccessible wide web of online connections from social media. As such, this has raised the issue of whether or not there are more harms than benefit to the elderly in our modern society. Some has argued that the benefits outweigh the costs whereas others retort the opposite. In view of the above diverging opinions, this essay takes the stand that there has not been more harms than benefits to the elderly in our current modern society.

Jay Men

Intro:

In modern society, life has differed from what it was in the past dramatically. Introduction of technology, improvements in scientific endeavours, and even the way people view entertainment are but the tip of the iceberg of the deviations from traditional to modern society. Why might this be important? This is important to note as the elderly, a good chunk of the general population today, did not have access to these so called 'luxuries' in the past and have but little time left to appreciate all these advances in modern society. With a significant proportion of society being foreign to the advances of modern society, it is crucial to understand whether these advances are considered beneficial or harmful to the pioneers of the world we have today. That being said, while some pessimists argue that the advancements of modern society is more harmful than beneficial to the elderly as it undermines the elderly societally, on the whole, this essay contends that the advancements of modern society are more beneficial than harmful to the elderly due to increasing lifespans, improved quality of life, and higher societal involvement.

Zhitong:

Over the years, technological development has transformed our landscape. From social media to artificial intelligence technologies, it is no doubt that the lives of everyone has become both more convenient and interconnected, with ever increasing standards of living both consumption wise and our health too, such as vaccines protecting us from the nastiest diseases as well as an endless stream of entertainment options to pamper ourselves with. However, one group of the

population, the elderly, has been systematically cast aside in light of the improving technology. Most notably, it remains a question whether technology such as improving healthcare can benefit the elderly in terms of lifespan and quality of life, or whether technology cannot keep up with the modern way of life where new technologies like social media have been ingrained so deeply in our culture. This essay thus posits that technological development has caused a net harm to the elderly and undermined their well being.

Lucia

As technology rapidly advances, modern society progresses at an unprecedented pace. The rise of globalisation, digitalisation and changing societal values would inevitably affect the elderly as they are the ones who experience the most change during modernisation. This leads to the question of whether the elderly experience more benefits or encounter more harm in today's modern society. On one hand, advancements in the healthcare and digital accessibility sectors have made modern society more accommodating for the elderly. On the other hand, modern society may undermine them as they struggle to keep up with rapid changes. In view of these polarising opinions, this essay shall take the stand that modern society brings more benefits than harm to the elderly.

Opposing view

Although many see the benefits of modern society for the elderly, some may argue that modern society causes the elderly to feel isolated and excluded from society. The elderly struggle to understand and adapt to digital platforms which have integrated into our daily lives. Services are more accessible through the use of technology but the elderly grew up in an environment where technology was not as advanced as today. They are not taught on how to navigate the online world and this causes them to feel inadequate in terms of digital literacy. According to a 2022 survey by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), it was discovered that only 45% of seniors aged 60 and above felt confident using digital devices while the remaining reported feeling anxious and frustrated when they accessed online services. This highlights how a large proportion of the elderly face challenges in using digital devices that the rest of the population use with ease. This disparity causes them to feel left out and find it difficult to stay connected with society. Therefore, modern society may have brought more harm than benefits to the elderly.

Eugene

Intro:

Modern society encompasses rapid technological advancements over the years as well as increased rates of globalisation that leads to increased economic growth in societies worldwide. With this, it would enable the development of various industries in these societies, such as the healthcare industry and education industry. With the elderly demographic in these societies, there may be the argument that it would cause more harm to the elderly due to increases in unemployment rate as well as social alienation due to modern society having a greater implementation of modern forms of communication such as social media platforms. On the other hand, some people may have the argument that there could be merits of modern society towards the elderly such as having a more convenient way of life as well as a rapid

improvement in medical services and equipment enabling longer lifespans. In view of these polarizing opinions, this essay would skew towards the perspective that there are more benefits than harms to the elderly.

Alexis

Modern society has seen major changes due to technological advancements. These developments cause changes in communication, entertainment and work. These changes may be difficult for elderly to keep up with modern society. This raises the question of whether there are more harms than benefits in modern society. While some may argue that modern society makes life more convenient, others argue that the complexity of these changes make it hard to elderly to adapt. In view of these polarising opinions, I agree that there are more benefits that harm the elderly.

Is it harmful or beneficial to live in a modern society?

Technology

Economics - competitive

Psychology - stressful -> commit suicide

Education

Health

Social

With technological advancements, most countries have transformed in many aspects of life such as economic opportunities, healthcare benefits, psychological adversity and educational development. These changes have both drawbacks and benefits on people's lives. This makes people wonder if living in modern society is more harmful or beneficial. Some argue that the advancements have increased the quality of life while others argue that the pressure of these changes are harmful. In view of these polarising opinions, I think that it is more harmful to live in a modern society

Critics may argue that in modern society, there are more economic opportunities for individuals to find jobs and create a career. Due to higher investments in cities, which creates more demand for labour. Since these are more skillful jobs, the pays are higher. These jobs also provide opportunities for development. For instance, the Singapore government has set up Skillsfuture to allow citizens to upskill and reskill. This makes individuals more qualified and gain new skills required in modern society. This explains why many see modern society to be a choice of their destination for employment.

However, low skilled workers may not be able to benefit from this. Many of these workers struggle to keep up with the fast paced world, especially with the rise of artificial intelligence and automation. The advancement of technology resulted in their jobs being replaced by machines or AI. These low skilled workers would find it difficult to adapt to these changes even if given the opportunity to learn new skills. Furthermore, with the rise in economics, the cost of living has increased significantly. If workers are having their jobs replaced, they would have no source of

income, which makes it even harder for them to afford the cost of living. In Singapore, we can see structural unemployment as the form of unemployment given that there is high. Hence, the rise in economic opportunities may not be able to benefit everyone, and only degree of skill mismatch causes more harm to them.