GP 1 - Essays

Topics discussed in SH1 include **gender**, **race**, **social class**, **population and demographics** and **education**.

GP Essay Writing Skills
Lecture | Date: 24/08/2018

- 12 questions to choose from
- Approach > Show understanding of demand of questions / nature of questions
- Common features of essay questions (Some questions may have multiple features)

Absolute questions – 'always', 'ever', 'only'	Force you to question the particular contexts for which the statement is true
Significance questions – 'to what extent', 'how important', 'simply', 'value', 'mere', 'just', 'rarely', 'not actually'	Evaluate / Measure the significance / insignificance based on a standard / criteria set for measuring significance
Comparison questions – '...er than', '...est', 'the main', 'instead of', 'rather than', 'at the expense of'	Compare the factors consistently and come to your own conclusion about the factors (why one is better than the other / why one is the best compared to the rest, etc.)
Context of time questions – 'still', 'no longer', 'anymore'	Consider and compare past and present (or future) context, and discuss the relevance of the issue / subject matter to the context
Excess questions – 'too much', 'too little', 'not enough', 'lack'	Evaluate the issue based on your knowledge of the common standard / norm / expectation and justify if the line has indeed been crossed (eg. 'We are too pragmatic.' How true is this to your society? > We are pragmatic, but we have not cross the line.)
Explicit assumption questions – consist of two or more parts	Ascertain the explicit assumption, characterise the assumption, and focus your argument on the implicit assumption made (eg. 'Advertisements **are often entertaining**, but they **rarely affect consumers' choice**. Do you agree?' > Should not ignore either part & Focus on the 2nd part)

Figure 1.1: Respective essay writing skills to different types of questions

GP 2 - AQ

AQ - Structure	
Requirements	a. Main sentence / idea (identified from the passage). b. Your view.
Explanation	a. Reasons to support your view. b. Evidence.
Balance	a. Opposing view. b. Reasons and evidence for opposing view.
Evaluation	a. Evaluate why you stick to your original view rather than the opposing view.

Figure 2.1: Structure of one body paragraph

Part 1 Topic sentence (for relevance)	In Passage A/B , lines (x to xx), (writer's name) raises the point that / states that / asserts that .. (write the writer's point you have chosen to discuss in your own words; you can quote " "). Or According to (writer's name) / Passage A/B, …
Part 2 Your view (to meet the requirements)	In my opinion/ My view on this is that / I am inclined to think that … (State whether you agree or disagree with the writer and: how far you agree/disagree with the view in sentence 1). Note: A view can be (in)valid, (un)true, (in)applicable, (ir)relevant, (in)correct, (in)appropriate depending on v/hen and where it is said / applied and who said/applied it …
Part 3 Reasons (explanation)	• This is because... • One reason for this is • My justification for this is that... • One evident reason/explanation is...

Part 4
Evidence
(explanation)
	• For example,...
	• This can be seen in Singapore when...
	• From my observation of Singapore society,...
	• From my own experience, I…
	• One evidence of this is...
	• One evidence I can cite is...
	
	You may cite current evidence or / past evidence as long as it meets the
	question requirements.
	If the question requires you to discuss the FUTURE, state the current
	situation and predict from this current situation - what will happen in the
	future. Use the following:
	• Considering the current situation, a future scenario that can be
	  projected is ...
	• In light of the present situation, a likely consequence / effect /
	  scenario / situation is …
	• We can hypothesise that in the future,

Part 5 Evaluation (Opposing View)	Do not disagree/agree totally: i.e. Do not take an extreme stand. Agree to some extent with the opposite view. State when the opposing view may be right wrong. • On the other hand, ... • However, some people may agree/disagree with the writer the view mentioned, in that they think ... • Otherwise, a contrasting opinion is that • In contrast, it can be said that • An alternative opinion is

Part 6
Consolidate
(Reasons for
maintaining
your original
stand.
Use expressions
like: 'you adhere
to your own view')
	Explain why despite the alternative or opposing view, you still stick by
	your original stand. Use expressions like:
	• However, I still hold that (repeat original stand) because it holds
	  greater truth/ we see more evidence of it today/ it is a more likely
	  scenario considering the current situation/ …
	• Despite this, I still think that (repeat original stand) because
	• I maintain my opinion that (repeat original stand) as
	• In my view...

Figure 2.2: Detailed language structure