

General Paper

Poverty



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Consider the view that modern technology is the only answer to world hunger.

Argument		Evidence
Increased food crop production due to the harnessing of modern technology would be the crucial and final solution the world would need to alleviate and eradicate world hunger.	It is	Genetically modified (GM) food crops such as, disease and weather resistant food crops allowed poor subsistence farmers in African countries to enjoy relatively stable and abundant harvests when previously, these crops were easily destroyed by plagues, insects and harsh weather conditions.
		Some GM food crops were even enriched with essential vitamins such as Vitamin B3 (key to ensuring healthy cell growth and repair) since most African children lacked proper nutrition and suffered from malnourishment.
		A recently published study from two Iowa State University scientists shows that a gene, named 'Orphan Gene' found in a plant species can increase protein content when introduced into staple crops. The research has implications staples grown in the developing world, where sufficient sources of protein are sometimes limited.
		Various GM crops with health benefits have been developed in which genes, mostly originating from other organisms, have been added. Notable examples include rice enriched with pro-vitamin A (also known as 'Golden Rice') and folate-enriched rice, developed at Ghent University.
		In Bangladesh, where eggplants suffered low harvest from pest-infestation, genetic modification have been successful in making them pest-resistant, improving their yield.
		Novel drainage and sprinkling systems to mechanise the way farmers manage their crops allows farmers in developed countries such as the United States to expand their crop yields since they are relieved of the need to micro-manage their crop yields through the process of seeding to watering.

		<p>The Flavr Savr Tomato, for instance, were genetically-modified to suppress the build-up of rotting enzyme, giving the tomatoes a longer shelf-life.</p>
Use of technologies have also aided in alleviating world hunger.	It is	<p>Faster land and sea transport has made food available to remote areas. Development of chillers in long-distance trucks and ships has helped preserve food for longer periods, preventing them from going bad.</p>
		<p>In the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, a method has been developed to turn charcoal dust into clean-burning briquettes for household stoves. Bee-keeping and mini-hydroelectric plants on small rivers; processing locally grown foodstuffs for sale in cities; making jams and turning mud into bricks; better cooking stoves and making soap from local materials; solar water-heating and turning weed into paper – all are simple, affordable technologies that are creating jobs and promoting better lives for millions across the poor world.</p>
		<p>The Bills and Melinda Gates Foundation invests heavily in developing technology to create vaccines that help to prevent infectious diseases – including HIV, polio and malaria – and support the development of integrated health solutions for family planning, nutrition, and maternal and child health. Bill Gates believes that health aid will help bring down population growth since women will naturally have fewer children if they know their offspring have a greater chance of survival. By bringing down the population growth, more resources can be directed to each individual, hence improving poverty.</p>
		<p>The implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policies in developing countries has reached directly the heartland of the business life of the people and has opened many doors for socio-economic and political development. This has helped alleviate poverty. The case of Nigeria shows how this is possible.</p>
Private enterprises involved in introducing and spreading the use of farming technologies had their own profit maximising motives that corrupted the whole process.	It is not	<p>Monsanto, one of the world's most valuable agricultural and biotechnology firms, owned patents for their GM seeds and engineered crops to be infertile such that it became necessary for farmers to continually purchase batches of seeds and pay royalties for each harvest.</p>

		<p>Sterile seed technology – dubbed “terminator technology” in the popular press – is a type of Gene Use Restriction Technology, GURT, in which seeds produced by a crop will not grow. Crops will not produce viable offspring seeds or will produce viable seeds with specific genes switched off, forcing farmers to purchase new seeds from the companies that developed these seeds.</p>
		<p>95 per cent of India’s cotton seed is now controlled by Monsanto. The company has also been blamed for a spike in farmer suicides in India in 2011, mostly associated with using of GM cotton called Bt Cotton.</p>
Politicians and officials often succumb to corruption.	It is not	<p>It is estimated that on average, 40% of food aid to impoverished regions where hunger is most prevalent is siphoned off in some way by various officials who manage various overly bureaucratic process overseeing aid distribution. This percentage climbs as high as 70% in certain African regions.</p>
		<p>Somalia – having been plagued by years of famine – receives much food aid from World Food Programme. However, much of the aid ends up in the hands of corrupt officials.</p>
		<p>North Korea, a reclusive military country that houses a significant portion of the world’s malnourished population, continues to face the pressing issue of hunger and poverty due to its resistance to foreign aid on top of various trade embargoes imposed on it due to political fallout with other countries.</p>
		<p>Some of the countries which deep-seated corruption impede proper administration of loans from the IMF and the World Bank include Ghana, Zaire, other African countries, Indonesia, the Philippines and Latin America countries. Large projects or massive grand strategies often fail to help the vulnerable as money can often be embezzled away.</p>
Flaws in the fundamental aid and technology distribution system has to be corrected first.	It is not	<p>The USA provides US\$16 billion in aid to Africa yearly. However, when Africa tried to export agricultural products to the USA to increase the income of farmers, the USA raised protectionist barriers to protect their own farmers; this cost Africa an estimated US\$50 billion and Half of the extreme poor in the world population live in Sub-Saharan Africa.</p>

The answer to world hunger does not lie solely with employing modern technology to boost food production, but with effective management of population policies.	It is not	In several African communities, such as Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana, people believed that children were blessings from God and the use of contraceptives to determine the number of babies each household wanted was akin to murder. This resulted in high birth rates of up to 7 children per woman in these communities and subsequently high infant mortality partly due to lack of nutrition. Already stretched for resources, many families in these African communities find themselves trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty.
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P1 Lazy Sheet

In your society, how far is increased prosperity for all a reality?

Argument		Evidence
Optimists see that Singapore's citizens will prosper more thanks to Singapore's transition towards a knowledge-based economy.	Yes	<p>Singapore places great emphasis on a highly skilled workforce as a key driver of its economy.</p> <p>This is evident from the Ministry of Education's projection that, by 2020, 50% of every year's student cohort will be university graduates. It is commonly known that high-end knowledge-intensive jobs provide higher incomes, evident from the establishment of concentrated business centres in areas such as Buona Vista, Tampines, Jurong, as well as the city centre, and consequently the demand for highly skilled expertise should increase significantly.</p>
Various sectors within Singapore employ either lower skilled foreign labour or higher skilled foreign talent to fill in employment gaps for the latter and encourage international perspectives within their companies for the former thus limiting jobs for Singapore citizens	No	<p>The job market in Singapore has been a constant issue of concern for Singapore residents. With growing numbers of Singaporean students graduating from universities and lack of compatible jobs, there is very tough competition posed for higher skilled job opportunities as many MNCs choose to employ foreign talent as opposed to locals.</p> <p>For example, to develop our ICT and software industries, which require highly specialised skills and knowledge, global companies like Google, Grab, and Facebook need workers with the relevant skills and experience to fill all the jobs they create. There may not be enough Singapore citizens with these skills and experience to anchor these global companies' investment.</p>

To maintain the employability of locals in job markets, the government reviews it's regulations from time to time to ensure that there is fair competition for all	Yes	To ensure that Singapore citizens do not have their salaries undercut by foreigners, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) requires Employment Pass applicants to meet salary thresholds, which are regularly updated taking reference from the salaries of locals with similar experience and seniority. For example, the Employment Pass minimum qualifying salary will be raised from \$3,600 to \$3,900 with effect from 1 May 2020.
However, pessimists of the current situation posit that with income inequality being a prevalent problem in Singapore, the rich may prosper at the expense of the poor.	No	International studies place Singapore's Gini coefficient as the one of the highest among developed nations. This is a shocking statistic and is corroborated by studies done by the National University of Singapore which reveal that income level for the high-income group is increasing at a rate outpacing that of the lower income group.
Fortunately, Singapore's government is reluctant to leave the poor behind.	Yes	<p>They are increasingly committed to ensuring that the poor are not stuck with their low-income jobs for the rest of their lives, and instead are able to climb up the employment ladders and seek better paying jobs. The government does this by subsidising skills training for low-skilled workers: by allowing them to upgrade their skills, improve their expertise, and build up their knowledge, they can qualify for higher-paying jobs.</p> <p>There are also schemes such as Workfare that are targeted towards older lower income wage earners in Singapore. Workfare is made up of the Workfare income Supplement (WIS) Scheme and the Workfare Skills Support (WSS) Scheme. This allows employers to receive support to train their older workers instead of laying them off.</p>
The government has developed comprehensive strategies to cover all crucial areas of development and need that has direct implications on both short term and long term well being for all age groups.	Yes	In January 2014, the Singapore government introduced a new amendment to the law in Parliament which will increase all 55,000 local cleaners' wage from \$850 to \$1000 each month. In this wage system, companies are required to pay de cent minimum and allow the worker to have progressively increasing payments.

		<p>The 2015 Singapore Budget focused on supporting Singaporeans 65 and above by handing out cash supplement of \$300 to \$750 to the bottom 20% to 30% every three months.</p> <p>The Singapore government provides ample support for lower-income families in the areas of Healthcare, Education, Housing and Income support thus alleviating some of the financial burdens</p> <p>For example, the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) Blue under Healthcare support for lower income families which covers subsidies for common illnesses, chronic illnesses, dental and even health screening</p> <p>Ministry of Education Financial Assistance Scheme (2018) And Bursaries in schools and Institutions of Higher Learning under education</p> <p>The Public Rental Housing Scheme for housing for lower income families earning less than gross income \$1,500</p> <p>Other support includes Workfare Transport Concession Scheme (WTCS), ComCare Assistance, GST U Save Vouchers for Utilities, and GST cash vouchers depending on income level and housing type.</p>
Despite this, the rising costs of living in Singapore may be a reason impeding the goal of increased prosperity for all.	No	<p>Observers note that with ballooning costs of living, which outpaces the rise in individual incomes, it is increasingly difficult for people to become wealthier, particularly for the lower-income group whose incomes tend to rise more slowly than that of other groups within society.</p> <p>Cross-national studies by economists have ranked Singapore as the most expensive city in the world to live in, citing factors such as rapid increases in the prices of basic necessities such as food, transport and housing.</p> <p>As a result of higher costs of living, there has been recent trends that observe Singaporeans living in Johor, Malaysia. Car ownership including petrol costs, housing as well as day to day expenses are much cheaper in Malaysia as opposed to Singapore thus making it more attractive for some Singaporeans to stay there and reduce their overall monthly expenditures.</p>

		<p>Many of them also shuttle from JB to Singapore for work and school on a daily basis.</p>
		<p>Singapore also has one of the highest inflation rates amongst all developed nations.</p> <p>In March 2014, an Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report declared Singapore had finally overtaken Tokyo and Osaka, to become the number one most expensive city in the world, thanks to a stronger Singapore dollar. Just a decade ago, Singapore was ranked eighteen on the list.</p> <p>Given that our Gini coefficient now ranks above Hong Kong, making us the country with the highest income inequality in the world, it's hard not to feel pessimistic about our personal financial future.</p>
<p>Singapore also acknowledges the need to support all groups of residents from all income groups in order to create equal and steady growth and sustainability for all and creating an inclusive environment</p>	Yes	<p>The government remains dedicated to promoting inclusive economic growth — economic prosperity shared by everyone — and doing so by progressively working on upgrading the skills and expertise of its population to ensure that all have incomes that are sufficient to mitigate rapid rises in living costs</p> <p>For example, the SkillsFuture is a nation-wide programme which was introduced for all Singaporeans from all income groups to be able to develop new skills or upgrade their skills through a wide selection of courses and programmes for all age group and also open to employers</p>
<p>Firstly, there is a need to acknowledge that there will be limits to how far some individuals can be helped.</p>	No	<p>There will always be an exceptional minority so trapped by self-destructive narratives, unhealthy beliefs and impoverishing habits that they become entrenched in what could possibly already be a multi-generational cycle of poverty.</p> <p>It is unrealistic to assume that every single person will be equally open to change. Even within the strata of the poor, there is differentiation between those who are "temporary poor" who can get out of their bad financial patch within a one-to two-year window given financial assistance and those being the "chronic poor" who may require at least a good five to ten years of a multi-dimensional range of assistance — ranging from housing to education</p>

		to drug rehabilitation to psychological counselling — before they are untangled from the serpentine chains of their poverty.
But beyond the formidable challenge of uplifting the chronic poor, Singapore does stand a good chance of making sure everybody else is neither left stagnant nor in danger of slipping into poverty. Our wealth is a great asset for helping us alleviate the situation of growing income inequality.	Yes	<p>In addition to large shores of national reserves squirrelled away for an emergency rescue, Singapore have solid financial foundations that will allow us to realistically execute and sustain plans to prosper our people through seasons of global financial storm: a strong national culture of saving, no mountainous trillion-dollar national debt, a longstanding reputation as one of world's most business-friendly cities and a financial system renowned for its integrities and reliability.</p> <p>This was seen during the COVID-19 pandemic where Singapore had released 4 budgets totalling \$93 billion out of which \$52 billion is from the country's reserves. Each of the budgets was targeted towards ensuring that all individuals including the self-employed, businesses of all sizes and also families had adequate support to tide through the very tough months following the pandemic. This included cash support for individuals, wage support for businesses, and rental costs for businesses and even costs in helping business digitalize to meet the demands and new requirements of telecommuting. Without the accumulation of wealth and savings, we would not have been able to cushion the impacts of the immense amount of economic loss and damage. Even with the injection of this huge amount of funds, the country had slipped into the worst recession since independence with the economy shrinking 7% to 4%.</p>
		Primary and secondary school education for Singapore Citizens are heavily subsidized under MOE registered schools as compared to permanent residents or international students. This allows fair playing field when it comes to providing equal education opportunities for all local students coupled with other financial assistance schemes once students go higher up to other educational facilities. The ultimate aim is for students to fulfil their potential to learn and excel without having to worry about finances as a barrier to fulfilling their educational goals.

		<p>With establishments such as Startup SG which supports various initiatives and programmes for startup companies through funding & loans, mentorship, investment opportunities, and even support for infrastructure. These allow smaller companies and entrepreneurs have a stable footing and propel their innovation and ideas in both in the local and international market much faster and reach out to a bigger audience.</p>
<p>Furthermore, the fact that we are a secular, ideologically-agnostic meritocracy means that we are an 'equal responsibility, equal opportunity' society that crafts policies to assist all without discriminating along lines of race, religion or political belief.</p>	Yes	<p>This can be seen from Singapore's refusal to draw a hard and fast singular poverty line to define who deserves and who should be denied state assistance.</p> <p>Instead, Singapore has created multiple lines of assistance across the economic spectrum, where our help schemes layer and overlap one another to benefit Singaporeans from different income groups.</p> <p>For instance, in Singapore, 100th percentile of us qualify for education subsidies, 80th percentile for housing and 67th for some schemes like childcare subsidies and so on. By not setting an official poverty line, we are more varied, targeted and fair in the provision of assistance.</p>
<p>The last trait that bodes well for us is that we are a tightly regulated small city-state, able to stave off corruption and maintain high levels of trust in the government thus far, thanks to the state's track record of maintaining integrity and generating growth.</p>	Yes	<p>High levels of public trust mean that Singapore economic policies have a better chance of gaining public buy-in, meeting minimal resistance and taking off.</p> <p>According to the 2013 Legatum Prosperity Index findings, 84.8% of Singaporeans are still satisfied with the state's efforts to address poverty (global average 38.2%), 85.3% still have confidence in the government as a whole (global average 51.5%), 82.6% still have confidence in the honesty of elections (51.4% global average) and 90.8% still have confidence in the judicial state (52.1 % global average).</p> <p>Individuals who apply for financial assistance from service centres often go through a formal process of declaring their sources of income over the past months with providing necessary documentation as well as declaring their financial liabilities before receiving financial support. Also, there will be counselling and referral to job placement centres such as NTUC's E2I centres and Career Connect centres to reduce prolonged reliance on the government for financial support.</p>

		Often financial support is reviewed over a 3 monthly or 6 monthly period where each case is reviewed regularly for the financial support and to further evaluate if there has been sufficient help for the individual to be self-sustaining.
Our population-scarce society is one that has no qualms about being meritocratic. Precious resources must be given to groom those among us who merit them by their achievement, ability, or performance. Yet meritocratic systems have a fatal flaw: they can exacerbate inequality.	No	Donald Low of the Institute of Policy Studies describes how qualities like family income, parental backgrounds, and connections are crucial to lending some individuals a competitive edge over others. In the context of the local primary education system, there is preferential entry to top schools for the children of alumni. These schools are also concentrated in affluent neighbourhoods. With wealth comes access to tuition and other educational supplements, and even cultural goods such as language fluency being transferred from parent to child. Yet tests of merit like exam scores (e.g. the PSLE) are blind to these discrepancies. They do not acknowledge the privileges that one child receives over another.
	Yes	However, there has been ample effort to close this privilege gap by also introducing affordable after school group tuition programmes by government backed foundations such as CDAC, SINDA and MENDAKI to help the primary and secondary school students from the respective racial groups. There is also concession for very lower-income students to receive free tuition on a case by case basis.
Free markets may create wealth, but they do so in a way where one person's gain means another's loss. The very nature of global capitalism concentrates prosperity.	Yes	Capital moves effortlessly across territories, seeking out the lowest labour and infrastructure costs and establishing international supply chains. Large amounts of wealth are generated as a result, but with a distribution that is highly uneven — a 2014 study by UK charity Oxfam shows that the richest 1% of the world control half of its wealth. 'We are the 99%', chant those in the Occupy movement. Singapore has been a favourable spot for foreign direct investments due to lending, a simple regulatory system, tax incentives, a high-quality industrial real estate park, political stability and the absence of corruption. The inflow of capital creates economic stimulation, increases employment and also allows for greater access to skills, technology and expertise for the host country.

Is a world without poverty an impossible dream?

Argument		Evidence
Corrupt political leaders in impoverished states continue to hinder poverty alleviation in their own countries either by siphoning or withholding state resources, impeding development.	Impossible	<p>The late Nigerian Head of State, General Sani Abacha pilfered over \$3 billion dollars and stashed them in a Swiss bank, while Zimbabwe leader Robert Mugabe was known to withhold food aid from parts of the country that had not voted for him.</p> <p>Countries like Tunisia and Venezuela have corrupted governments that deprive the masses of much needed socio-economic reforms, causing the states to be in a perpetual state of destitution.</p>
Efforts from developed countries to help impoverished nations are at best ineffectual and at worst counterproductive. The offer of financial and structural aid often comes with strings attached, also known as "tied aid".	Impossible	The USA provides US\$16 billion in aid to Africa yearly. However, when Africa tried to export agricultural products to the USA to increase the income of farmers, the USA raised protectionist barriers to protect their own farmers; this cost Africa an estimated US\$50 billion.
Other forms of aid aimed at tackling poverty fall short due to their unsustainability and/or the socioeconomic circumstances in the recipient countries.	Impossible	In Indonesia, some families are not inclined to allow their children to attend school despite a "zero tuition" offer by the government. This reflects the economic priorities of many parents who need the extra pair of hands to contribute to the family income.
Global efforts are also lacking in the area of climate change, where the effects are forecasted to affect regions such as Africa more than proportionately as compared to the developed world.	Impossible	A large swath of impoverished countries in the Middle East and Africa are located near the equatorial belt and/or already lie on desert land — the further decrease in rainfall and arable land, and the accelerating desertification projected in the future will only cause more people living in the region to be unable to acquire basic necessities such as food and water, further worsening the poverty situation in these countries. Clearly, a reversal of the effects of climate change is essential in combating global poverty.

The current global situation is not conducive for a committed effort to eradicate poverty, making it an increasingly fanciful dream.	Impossible	The only international legally-binding climate treaty is that of the Kyoto Protocol in 1999, where they only agreed to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by an insignificant 5% between 2008 and 2012 (unmet). Developed countries were reluctant to make provisions for Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) for needier regions in Africa or be held accountable for their unwillingness to cut down on carbon emissions. To implement politically-unpopular measures that, while reducing carbon emissions, affect the immediate interests of individuals and corporations alike.
Global efforts to combat poverty are routinely hampered by financial crisis and military conflicts around the world.	Impossible	With the Eurozone Crisis, key donor countries are not in prime position to provide aid efforts to impoverished nations due to their domestic economic problems, and some are even reducing aid commitments to concentrate on domestic issues.
		Debt-stricken countries like Spain and Greece have reduced their aid budgets to channel more money into their own floundering economies, with the former cutting its aid budget (formerly the 6th in the world) by a third. These reductions ultimately hit the hardest on the beneficiaries of life-saving aid programs in poor African states like Malawi and Tanzania.
Furthermore, military conflicts around the world have reduced many to destitute refugees.	Impossible	Sudanese individuals who fled to Libya after being displaced by the Arab Spring protests hold little hope of a better life after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi. This is because the chaotic situation in Libya is hardly ideal for the rebuilding of their lives, with refugees now having to deal with xenophobic attacks as well. Without social integration, it becomes an increasingly uphill task to unlock the shackles of poverty.
Foreign aid solutions have recently adapted to certain challenges and are now being increasingly targeted and efficient at uplifting the population of impoverished countries.	Possible	China's 'Look West' attempts to revamp the image of the poor, struggling western regions in China, diverting FDI and developing niche industries, made significant achievements as poverty rates declined by 10.5% in the past decade.

		Low educational levels that have impeded development have also been addressed in Bolivia, where the Bono Juancito Pinto introduced in 2006 gives school children grants as an incentive to continue their education, increasing their future social mobility and helping them get out of the poverty cycle.
		The application of social capital by the Grameen bank in Bangladesh provided individuals with the monetary means and a support system to lift themselves out of poverty.
		The provision of locally sourced and manufactured bicycles by World Bicycle Relief in Africa improved locals' access to basic amenities that otherwise could only be accessed by foot. Not only are individuals provided the means to lift themselves out of poverty, they are also given a critical boost in confidence in their ability to climb out of poverty.
		The implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policies in developing countries has reached directly the heartland of the business life of the people and has opened many doors for socio-economic and political development. This has helped alleviate poverty. The case of Nigeria shows how this is possible.
		Tackling poverty elimination has been designated as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals, evident of the rising global awareness and commitment to this aim.
Global attention is increasingly focused on addressing the poverty issue, thus presenting the goal of poverty elimination as an increasingly probable one.	Possible	The first Millennium Development Goal – to halve the proportion of the world population living in dire poverty by 2015 – was met five years early, as the rate fell to an estimated 21% in 2010, from 43% in 1990.
		The arrival of new donors such as BRIC and South Africa are instrumental in sustaining the growth of foreign aid, and hence the goal of poverty elimination remains within reach.

However, financial aid being offered by the international community has not been materialised.	Impossible	<p>For instance, the World Bank is only willing to provide conditional loans and not grants to impoverished nations.</p> <p>Traditionally, significant western donor nations have also reduced their aid commitments. An explanation for this is that the Eurozone crisis and US credit crunch limited the ability of these countries to make significant efforts and contributions.</p>
It is not impossible as there have been successful cases.	Possible	Cases in point are the relative successes of previously impoverished countries like Chile and Costa Rica, proving that poverty elimination in the world is not totally unattainable and hence, is a realistic dream that we should continue to aspire towards.
Higher literacy levels and new networks of accountability are also become potent forces against incorrigible political regimes, removing one of the largest obstacles of poverty.	Possible	<p>New networks like local civil society organisations, international organisations, donor governments and the African Union can put pressure on governments to be more transparent by making them fulfil certain conditions and holding them accountable.</p> <p>Rising literacy levels will increase public awareness and hence strengthen the pressure for good governance.</p> <p>According to the UN, if all students in low-income countries left school with basic literacy and numeracy skills, it is estimated that 15% of world poverty could be eradicated.</p>
It often takes a long time before result of efforts to alleviate poverty can be seen.	Impossible	Higher literacy levels in countries such as Libya and Egypt in the Middle East have failed to bring about more transparent governments, suggesting that literacy rates do not immediately translate into good governance. Although authoritarian governments' hold on the educated masses will grow weaker, their unwillingness to cede power may result in a gradual and conflict-ridden process when transitioning into a system with good governance.

‘Out of sight, out of mind.’ Is this an accurate description of your society’s attitude towards the less fortunate?

Argument		Evidence
In an affluent city, Singaporeans are more focused on issues that require their immediate attention and are less likely to take notice of or to even reach out to the underprivileged in the society.	Accurate	<p>The rich do not need to rely on government for education, medical care or personal security—they can pay for all these things for themselves. In the process, they become more distant from ordinary people, losing whatever empathy they may once have had.</p> <p>Only 12 per cent of the 2,843 young people in Singapore aged 15 to 34 polled by the National Youth Council (NYC) in the 2013 National Youth Survey marked volunteering as "very important" to them.</p>
The government has helped work with the community in helping the vulnerable by providing resource and coordination needed to scale up the good ideas or feasible innovations.	Inaccurate	<p>In 2009, Lien Foundation, KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital and the PAP Community Foundation piloted a three-year programme in 25 PCF kindergartens in Pasir Ris – Punggol GRC.</p> <p>The programme was so successful that the Government adopted aspects of it and scaled it up nationally in 2012. The project later became known as the development support programme and about 200 in mainstream preschools enrolled in it, at a cost of \$4million a year.</p>
Singaporeans generally feel that the less fortunate can take care of themselves and should seek their-own means towards, a better life rather than rely on the charity of the public.	Accurate	Our stubborn mantra of "meritocracy" has not helped change the way that people perceive or even take notice of the less fortunate. It is why we would blame homeless families for being homeless, rather than see poverty as an issue that needs to be addressed at a structural level.
Singaporeans generally have the mindset that the government, non-governmental organisations or social enterprises will look after the less fortunate.	Accurate	The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) began operating in June 2007 to provide temporary housing to the homeless families who have resorted to staying on the streets, parks, car-parks, void-decks or beaches.

		There are also more than 140 local and International NonProfit Organisations (INPOs) comprising inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). These organisations work for women's rights and equality, child welfare, empowerment of disabled persons, and even provide help to foreign workers in Singapore.
Many would assume that Singapore does not have many needy people due to the supposedly stable economy and abundance of rich people in Singapore.	Accurate	<p>Not known to many Singaporeans, there are many needy families and even homeless people who often fall through the cracks and go unnoticed, instead of begging on the streets (which is illegal in Singapore), many of the elderly in need end up "scavenging for cans and boxes to be sold".</p> <p>Underneath the general ignorance of the public lie assumptions about poverty, class and even race that demonstrate a worrying lack of empathy, compassion or even sympathy for others in situations different from one's own.</p>
Corporations, institutions and volunteers give back to society through charitable acts due to a sense of to help the less fortunate	Inaccurate	Happy People Helping People — the main aim of this organisation is to generate awareness among the public about the needy all around the world. They also aim to be able to help those less fortunate and at the same time provide volunteers a chance to participate and be of service to the disadvantaged as well.
More teenagers locally have increased-awareness of the less fortunate in their society, and are not as what, most would think, self-entitled and self-obsessed	Inaccurate	A group of ex-Temasek Polytechnic (TP) students did a film about the less known, less talked about, and sometimes seen, homeless people in Singapore. The documentary titled "Out In The Cold", aims to bring to light circumstances that the less fortunate face.
The less fortunate are more often than not, made more visible by the ensuring that the less fortunate are not out of sight and out of mind	Inaccurate	For example, the Ministry of Social and Family Development has started a two-year pilot on Home-Based Care Services for persons with disabilities. Such services would enable persons with disabilities to live in their own home, with family, friends and neighbours in the community. Even in schools, students are given ample opportunities to interact with the less fortunate people living in homes.

	Inaccurate	Numerous overseas community projects are made available to students in Singapore, providing them with opportunities to interact with the poor in third world countries. In so doing, the less fortunate are made more visible to the local community. providing them with a bigger platform to give to the poor.
The government did not ignore the plight of its people, even for the unemployed, which contributes to only a small percentage of Singapore's society.		In January 2014, the Singapore government introduced a new amendment to the law in Parliament which will increase all 55,000 local cleaners' wage from \$850 to \$1000 each month. In this wage system, companies are required to pay de cent minimum and allow the worker to have progressively increasing payments.
		The 2015 Singapore Budget focused on supporting Singaporeans 65 and above by handing out cash supplement of \$300 to \$750 to the bottom 20% to 30% every three months.

P1 Lazy Sheet

Should developed countries do more to help developing countries alleviate poverty?

Argument	Evidence
A significant proportion of developing countries round the world are ruled by corrupt governments, and monetary aid given to them by developed nations is often squandered or kept by political leaders.	The reason why monetary aid is inefficient dates back to the Cold War. At that time, the developed Western nations generously provided aid to developing countries to secure their alliance in the ideological war against the Soviet Union.
	In Indonesia, large sums of money were provided to them for the building of roads and infrastructure, but the corrupt Suharto government stored a large proportion of this money in Swiss banks. This also observed in Africa, the world's most under-developed continent, where aid given to Namibia during the Cold War was siphoned away by the corrupt government.

	No	
<p>Within developing countries, there is unequal development and differentiated levels of poverty in different regions.</p> <p>Instead of seeking external help from developed countries, developing countries should direct returns from growth in wealthier regions to the underdeveloped regions of the country in order to balance out the income gap and alleviate poverty levels</p>	No	<p>Countries like Brazil has one of the highest Gini coefficient index in the world which is essentially a measure of income disparity within the country itself. The country's high-income concentration is held by the richest 1% of the population which makes up less than 2 million of the population. The combined household income of the richest 1% is equal to the poorest 50% of the country.</p> <p>With income inequality being this extreme, there are surely ways that the government is able to channel wealth to the poor regions of Brazil. This can be in the form of higher taxation for the wealthy, better access to education and facilities in rural areas by development and additional support for family farms and businesses as opposed to large scale producers.</p>
<p>Financial Aid from developed countries may end up bringing about more harm than good to developing countries.</p> <p>Financial aid that is used for specific purposeful projects may be more efficient in helping less developed countries then just disbursing the funds directly</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Monetary aid received during conflict and war only reached the victims of war by paying off warlords and sometimes extending the war itself. Aid that has been received in countries like Afghanistan has been primarily used for military camps and weapon purchases.</p> <p>Aid from developing countries in the form of health supplies, help from registered doctors and nurses, vaccinations and clean water projects have proven to reap better benefits than monetary aid as the resources are able to reach the target recipients</p> <p>Government backed charitable organisations in countries as such as the UK's award winning "Globalteer" organise community projects such as the Cambodia Clean Water Project, Food and Farming and Women's Empowerment Project.</p>
<p>Aid that comes in from developed countries may come with "strings attached" and conditions that can potentially solve different issues at one time.</p>	Yes	<p>Pakistan has been the top recipient of the UK's Official Development Assistance in 2016 and 2017. The money funds important projects in education and development. However, the Pakistani government continues to neglect the violence and discrimination perpetrated against religious minorities, including Ahmadis,</p>

		<p>Christians, Hindi and others. The Pakistani government continues to uphold many laws that discriminate against those religious minorities. The UK government could use its position to ensure that the Pakistani government delivers on its duty to protect vulnerable communities.</p> <p>In 2019, the Philippines rejected aid from several countries due to human rights criticisms over the Duterte's anti-drug campaign. The Philippines has rejected financial aid and assistance on the basis that these deals come with conditions that interfere with the domestic affairs of the country and their ultimate goal for the nation as a whole. However, there is reason to believe that foreign aid with conditionalities can be used to bring about certain much needed socio-economics changes within the country that can enhance national security and empower the citizens as well.</p>
Some of the developing countries around the world are poor because of their geographical location and climate.	No	<p>Many of these developing countries are landlocked and lack access to major sea and trade routes. Statistics have shown that it cost seven times more to transport cargo by land than by sea. In the case of Africa, 15 landlocked nations have no access to sea trade routes for hundreds of miles except for River Nile.</p> <p>Landlocked countries such as Central African Republic, Burundi and Afghanistan often incur high transport costs, making it difficult for them to export and import goods. 16 of the world's 31 landlocked developing countries are among the poorest in the world.</p> <p>According to the organisation, Aid for Life, one of the main cause of rural poverty in Bangladesh is the country's geographical and demographic characteristics. Many of them live in areas that are low lying and therefore prone to extreme annual flooding which causes huge damage to their crops, homes and livelihoods. In order to rebuild their homes, they often have to resort to moneylenders, and this causes them to fall deeper into poverty.</p> <p>In February 2016, the Chinese government issued a policy proposing to promote poverty alleviation by relocation (PAR). A relocation case study was</p>
Even with geographical disadvantages, there are opportunities for countries to effect real change with relocation projects for communities in the rural areas		

		<p>done in Tongyu County in Jilin Province, China. The soil in Tongyu County, suffering from serious salinization and poor permeability is of low quality and climate is not sustainable for crops.</p> <p>The study found that the “whole village relocation” model practiced in Tongyu County was relatively successful in terms of improving the living environment, income, and public services of local villagers thus reducing poverty levels in the county. In 2017, among the 24 villages that were extracted out of poverty, 20 (83.34%) implemented PAR projects.</p>
Developed countries can help since they have the knowledge and the technological capabilities to help alleviate the problem and thus save income loss.	Yes	<p>The introduction of fertilizer micro dosing in Mozambique has helped to increase fertilizer efficiency during droughts. Currently some 25,000 smallholder farmers in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have experienced increases in sorghum and millet yields of 44 to 120%, along with an increase in their family incomes of 50 to 130%.</p> <p>The Maize for Africa project launched by non-governmental organisations in developed countries has also enabled farmers to generate more revenue through the growing of drought resistant maize.</p>
Developed countries can provide more aid by contributing more to Non-government bodies/Organizations who in turn will direct the funds to countries in most need	Yes	<p>Non-governmental organizations such as the World Bank and World Health Organization have dedicated their efforts and resources towards helping and reducing poverty levels in developing countries. They provide financial aid in many key areas of development and projects and are also reliable in ensuring that the funds are directed to the intended recipients.</p> <p>With the support of the World Bank, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty, supported by sustained economic growth. Poverty in Bangladesh reduced from 44.2 percent in 1991 to 13.8 percent in 2016/17. The World Bank has been supporting the government’s efforts in economic development and growth, power, infrastructure, disaster management, climate change, human and social development and poverty reduction. This comprehensive framework has achieved results from all the</p>

		different sectors and has successfully reduced poverty levels.
Apart from financial aid, there are other significant ways that developed countries can create a more inclusive economic environment for developing countries to participate and benefit from the international economy	Yes	With the facilitation by G20 countries and organizations, reduced tariffs and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) for exports from less developed countries will enable them to participate and have a comparative advantage in global trade. This allows them to gain access to bigger markets and increase their export volumes and growth. Reducing trade costs for less developed countries will be an important step towards stimulating growth, creating jobs and ultimately reducing poverty levels

P1 Lazy Sheet

Should poorer countries develop their tourist industry when the basic needs of their own people are not being met?

Argument		Evidence
International tourism can potentially bring about substantial economic benefits including employment opportunities, development for smaller businesses and increased spending of foreign currency within the local economy. This in turn enables locals to provide for themselves with basic needs such as food, housing and healthcare thus reducing poverty levels	Should	In ancient times the <u>Maldives'</u> economy depended mainly on fishing which was seasonal and vulnerable to the weather. Nowadays, the <u>mixed economy</u> of the Maldives is mainly based on the principal activity of <u>tourism</u> . Tourism is now the largest industry in the Maldives, accounting for 28% of GDP. It powered the <u>current GDP per capita</u> to expand 265% in the 1980s and a further 115% in the 1990s. Over 90% of government tax revenue flows in from import duties and tourism-related taxes.
One of the most common objections to tourism development in poorer countries is that the profits generated either do not stay	Should not	In Ghana, for example, the fees collected by castles and other local attractions mostly accrue to the central government instead of the locals in the area. Kenya, one of the African countries which has been successful in

in these countries, or end up benefiting only the corporations that run the tourism industry.		developing its tourism industry, faces the same problem. Despite tourism being its largest source of foreign exchange revenue, most of the profits generated by its wildlife reserves goes to the luxury lodges, foreign tour operators and transport costs.
The tourism industry is particularly dependent on market forces and external demand.	Should not	Another problem is in the event of crisis situations such as severe economic downturns, or global health scares like and the Ebola outbreak in 2014 and more recently the COVID-19 strain of virus where almost the whole world was on lock down for an extended period of time. Countries that are over reliant on tourism may find themselves in trouble with significant losses in revenue from tourism related activities and also causing ripple effects in other complementary sectors of the economy.
Governments must spend adequate time planning for alternative ways to cushion the impacts on the tourism industry from negative externalities	Should & Should not	Inbound tourism is another way that the government can ensure that tourism related businesses and enterprises are kept running even during a financial downturn or outbreak.
Poorer countries should focus on developing other more sustainable sectors of the economy as compared to tourism as the tourism industry may be more vulnerable to sudden downturns	Should not	Economically sustainable industries are labour intensive and often involve the manufacturing sector. These often require foreign direct investments and has huge economic benefits to the host country including creation of jobs, knowledge transfer and training for the locals and in the long run even diversification of manufacturing functions where there is opportunity for growth and expansion.
Countries that lack natural resources and geographical advantages may consider boosting themselves as a tourist destination for cultural tourism and ecotourism	Should	Furthermore, places like Kerala in India and Turfan in Xinjiang face little other alternative. Agriculture and primary industries can only take a country so far. And if they are not resource-rich or agriculturally fertile, the best way of ensuring development lies in promoting their heritage and cultural uniqueness to curious and adventure seeking tourists. Kenya is another example of a country rich with wildlife diversity and well known for the safari visits in their national parks. Kenya's ecotourism has been able to deliver benefits to the local community by involving them in managing and conserving the wildlife areas in their respective communities through programs such as Parks beyond Parks. This has

		ultimately helped to provide employment and alleviate poverty.
There is evidence that, with the right conditions in place, tourism can provide a strong, sustainable base for economic development that will benefit local populations.	Should	Morocco, for instance, has had a long and successful history in this area. In addition to promoting the usual tourist hotspots like its beach resorts and ancient imperial cities, the Moroccan government is now focusing on rural tourism in the hope of benefiting more locals in these rural areas. Enterprising Moroccans who capitalise on the opportunities presented by the tourism industry have a fighting chance at success - the profusion of craft shops, cafés, and other small businesses in the major tourist destinations and their surrounding areas is testimony to this.
Tourism is a highly accessible market for the poor in developing countries as it requires relatively few skills and little investment. It also enables greater inclusivity of both children and women to undertake jobs in this sector as the work is flexible	Should	<p>In countries like Indonesia and South Africa, women use traditional female activities such as weaving to sell clothing and other keep sakes that many tourists purchase during their trips.</p> <p>In Nepal, women are the primary caretakers of trekking tourism businesses such as lodges and teahouses where their traditional roles and domestic skills are used when they host hikers and backpackers from around the world. This allows them to gain financially from their services and meet their own basic needs at the same time.</p>
<p>Developing the tourism industry also encourages the development of multiple-use infrastructure that benefits the host community at large</p> <p>Governments of poorer countries need to ensure that they make gainful investments in the tourism for the long run and not be blind sighted by short term tourism benefits for the country/Region</p>	<p>Should</p> <p>Should not</p>	<p>The over reliance on Bali, Indonesia as the main tourist designation has encouraged the government to undertake a few projects towards infrastructure development to divert tourists away from Bali. The Silangit Airport in North Sumatra was upgraded and expanded in 2017 and additional planned works should see a second runway extension and terminal expansion project. As a result, visitors from China are beginning to travel to North Sumatra after marketing roadshows began in 2016. With these changes also come need for better roads and facilities such as reliable/stable electricity and internet connections. As much as tourists benefiting from these upgrades, the local communities are also able to benefit from all the improvements.</p> <p>After the 2016 Olympic games in Rio De Janerio, the organising committee still owes \$40 million to creditors. Promises that the Olympics would modernize Rio and make its</p>

		<p>streets safer and favelas cleaner have also failed and left local communities worse off than before.</p> <p>On top of this, many sports venues were left abandoned and debris from demolition was not cleaned up leaving rusty metal in the streets and even stagnant water in the stadium premises that created a breeding ground for mosquitoes.</p>
Tourism may often result in heightened levels of reported crime to take place within certain poverty-stricken locations	Should not	<p>The “Hot Spot Theory” is one of the commonly used theories in studying the relationship between crime and tourism. The main places where there are a conglomeration of tourism related activities such as restaurants, bars, attractions and transportation is where most tourist victimisation happens and there is generally more exposure to risk and insecurity to both locals and foreigners.</p> <p>An example of this would be Bangkok, Thailand where petty theft and pickpocketing are common in especially areas with larger numbers of tourist traffic</p>

P1 Lazy Sheet

The problem of global food shortage can never be resolved. Do you agree?

Argument		Evidence
Pessimists cite the Malthusian argument that increases in agricultural productivity will never outstrip population growth, which will lead to massive food shortages.	Agree	<p>Thomas Malthus believed that agricultural output grew arithmetically. His supporters point to the massive population growth taking place in the last decades, with the world recently exceeding 7 billion in population and still growing rapidly, and which technological advances may not be able to keep up with.</p> <p>They also point to the alarming statistic that if everyone in the developed world consumed as many resources as an America, which is becoming increasingly plausible with economic development, humanity would require the resources of 2 Earths for sustenance, placing tremendous pressure on the food supply.</p>

		Mass unemployment and deepening poverty across Europe have increased the needs of people seeking help from the Red Cross across the continent, as they have increasingly come to rely on charity. "The number of people depending on Red Cross food distributions in 22 of the surveyed countries has increased by 75% between 2009 and 2012," the report says.
Such a viewpoint however, underestimates the power of human ingenuity in overcoming resource constraints.	Disagree	Over the past 60 years which saw the greatest episode of population growth in history, global per capita food production increased. Advances such as the mechanisation of production in the developed world and the "Green revolution" in Asia, in which high-yield varieties of rice were developed and cultivated, have contributed to the impressive expansion of food output. While some may think that the days of technological progress are over and we are now facing a plateau, there are many promising developments in progress today.
		Urban communities worldwide are taking to rooftop farming as a viable recreation option and food production from Brooklyn in New York to Chongqing in China.
		Dutch researchers have created a meat part from stem cells cultured in a laboratory, which they believe can reduce the amount of resources necessary to grow meat from animals. Up to 13 pounds of grain for instance, have to be fed to cows to produce a pound of beef.
Despite the fact that global food production exceed demand, one must concede the vast inefficiencies exist in the supply chain, preventing consumers from getting access to food.	Agree	Goods that reach the Somalian market must be subjected to "taxes" and payments to militants and pirates on the journey there.
		India – with a functional government which has set up the Public Distribution System to distribute food to the poor at affordable prices, only 41% of food actually reaches the intended beneficiaries. The remainder is left to rot in warehouses while bureaucrats are mired in paperwork, as corrupt officials take the opportunity to siphon off some.
There are reasons to believe that such obstacles need not be insurmountable.	Disagree	In India, it was discovered that many vegetables would decompose and spoil on the route from inland producers to markets in the coastal cities. To control this problem, an express train service was set up to connect

		rural areas in Maharashtra to Mumbai, so vegetables could arrive fresh with minimum spoilage.
The rise of democracy as a form of government also brings hope regarding the alleviation of food shortages.	Disagree	In Indonesia, necessities such as petrol and rice are granted government subsidies to ensure that the poor can afford them and measures and stockpiles are in place to cope with any shortage. Onions have emerged as a key election issue in state elections in India. The rising prices of one of India's favourite condiments have prompted opposition parties to sell onions at low prices to gain popular support.
Increasing political stability and the fall of Communism have also alleviated a casual factor for food shortages in many regions, increasing the global food supply.	Disagree	<p>In the 1950s, Mao Zedong's "Great Leap Forward" policy for China reallocated precious labour to industrial jobs, leading to a reduction of agricultural labourers while farmers were required to hand over food produced to the state, leaving little incentive for them to produce efficiently.</p> <p>In addition to that, widespread corruption hindered the distribution of food, leading to massive famines and millions of deaths. Today, China has introduced market principles in a series of economic reforms, with nearly all produce sold at free-market prices so producers have an incentive to produce and sell, while food can still reach consumers. Except for North Korea, the threat of Communist ideology to the global food supply has been largely diminished.</p>
Nonetheless, we must temper this sense of optimism with the awareness that longstanding policies that have come in the way of resolving the problem of global food shortage cannot be easily changed.	Agree	The European Union's Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), with its huge subsidies of about \$2 per cow incentivises farmers to produce more with the resulting effect of vast supplies building up in stores. The EU often disposes of excess food in developing countries, such as African ones as food aid. Local cease to purchase from local producers, decimating the local agriculture industry.

To what extent should richer nations help poorer ones?

Argument		Evidence
Rich nations should help their poorer counterparts because it is humane to do so.	Should	<p>The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights declare that all humans have the rights to basic level of comfort.</p> <p>Common humanity highlights the basis of morality, where people who have the capability or are doing well should help those that are incapable of meeting their basic needs.</p> <p>Relocating 1% of global wealth would eradicate extreme income poverty. This suggests that if rich nations contribute just a small proportion of their nation's wealth, the impact will already be significant enough for the poorer nations.</p> <p>To concede this point, it is the simple moral duty of the world's mainstream religions to help the poor. Rich nations like Israel, Saudi Arabia,</p>

		<p>United Kingdom and America who claim these religions as part and parcel of their culture and heritage must not make hypocrites of themselves.</p> <p>The monotheist religions – Islam, Christianity and Judaism – are rooted in the belief that ‘God is Good’ and the Quran as well as the Old and New Testaments are full of admonitions to feed the beggar, clothe the naked and serve the windows and orphans of the world.</p>
Assistance from rich nations can help poor countries survive until they reach a level of self-sufficiency.	Should	<p>Poor countries such as Zimbabwe and Rwanda are overburdened with decades of conflicts and famine. Their efforts in repairing the economy is already penalised.</p> <p>Nicaragua and Iran experienced a dramatic decline in income after nearly a decade of war.</p> <p>In Yemen, the US Government contributed \$276 million to the 2017 Humanitarian Assistance Funding to aid the food security situation. Despite their large-scale efforts, the ongoing conflict still leaves 17 million people at risk of starvation.</p>
Poor nations are helpless without the assistance from richer nations	should	<p>Some poor nations owe richer nations too much money. No resources are left to improve the wellbeing of their citizens through infrastructure, education and agriculture. Nation-building efforts go into debt repayment instead.</p>
		<p>With the Covid-19 pandemic, poorer nations are facing detrimental effects and drowning in debt due to their lack of healthcare facilities and personnel. Whereas, rich nations are building new hospitals and carrying on with their lives as per normal with their excess reserves.</p> <p>In Zambia, there is only 1 doctor per 10 000 people. In Mali, for every million people, there are 3 ventilators.</p> <p>The G20 has pledged to provide international support to countries in need. The members are in full support of IMF’s crisis response package, ready to activate its \$1 trillion USD lending capacity for poorer nations.</p>

		<p>The USA provides US\$16 billion in aid to Africa yearly. However, when Africa tried to export agricultural products to the USA to increase the income of farmers, the USA raised protectionist barriers to protect their own farmers; this costs Africa an estimated US\$50 billion</p>
In our increasingly globalised world, helping poorer countries will benefit richer nations too.	Should	<p>The Marshall Plan saw generous financial aid by America to embattled European countries after World War Two. The aid was successful in preventing economic meltdown and further wars.</p> <p>The reverse example is illustrated by the Asia economic crisis, where with the fall of the Thai baht subsequently created a domino effect on other Southeast Asian economies. Japan, USA and rich European economies then banded together to provide economic assistance in fear that their economies would feel the effect next.</p>
		<p>Foreign aid from richer nations can offer agricultural improvements in poorer nations, encouraging growth in the agricultural sector.</p> <p>China, India and USA are the world's top 3 food producers. If these leading agricultural countries provide poorer nations with the facilities/ knowledge on how to maximise their resources, it would create major developments in agriculture. Also, these agricultural improvements will possibly reduce hunger significantly and build the potential of becoming a future agricultural trading partner.</p>
		<p>"The flow of money from rich countries to poor countries pales in comparison to the flow that runs in the other direction"</p> <p>Interest payments, a direct cash transfer to big banks in NY and London, made by poorer nations significantly dominates the scale of aid that they received during that time.</p> <p>Unrecorded outflows are the largest proportion illicit financial flows. International trade systems tend to report false prices on their trade invoices to get money out of these poorer nations to evade tax or even launder money. This is also known as practicing trade misinvoicing.</p>

There are limits to the kind of help rich nations can offer and where help must be given cautiously or not at all.	Should not	Large quantities of foreign aid have been wasted through Suharto's regime in Indonesia and Marcos' regime in the Philippines.
		In HIV-wrecked nations such as Nigeria and South Africa, rich nations have donated drugs to deal with the crisis. However, the donated drugs were stolen by corrupt government officials who later sold them off on the black market.
		The USA provides US\$16 billion in aid to Africa yearly. However, when Africa tried to export agricultural products to the USA to increase the income of farmers, the USA had to raise protectionist barriers to protect their own farmers.
When assistance to poorer countries serve as a political tool for rich nations, poorer countries are better off without such aid.	Should not	When Western nations provided aid to Mobutu's Congo, it was in exchange for their vote in international meetings.
		Canada has been supporting Sierra Leone through bilateral aid and speaking up against the "blood diamond" trade. Canada also cooperated with the UN to stop illegal arms trade that strengthens the Revolutionary United Front responsible for the civil war.

Questions in Poverty

Poverty questions can be loosely classified into two areas, though they overlap to some extent:

CAUSES OF POVERTY

Are the poor an inevitable feature of any society? 2004

Is the elimination of global poverty a realistic aim? 2009

Technological advancement has worsened the problem of poverty.'
Do you agree?

The fact that poverty still exists today is an embarrassment to mankind.' Discuss.

'Make poverty history.' Is this a realistic goal?

"People who are in poverty have only themselves to blame."
Comment.

Do you agree that less developed countries could easily eliminate poverty if they refused to tolerate laziness and stamped out corruption?

Is it always the responsibility of the state to help the poor?

SOLUTIONS TO POVERTY

We can do little to help the poor in our world today. Do you agree?

How effective are international efforts to ease the problem of global hunger? 2010

Many developed countries are paying increasing attention to the needs of the disadvantaged. How far is this true in Singapore? 2008

To what extent should richer nations help poorer ones? 2000

In times of economic hardship, should a country still be expected to provide financial or material aid to others? 2014

Should developed countries do more to help developing countries alleviate poverty?

To what extent is education an effective way to combat poverty?

Should poorer countries develop their tourist industry when the basic needs of their own people are not being met? 2007

Glossary

Adverse incorporation

Where people are included in social, political and economic institutions and processes, but on extremely unfavourable terms.

Bonded labour

People become bonded labourers by taking or being tricked into taking a loan for as little as the cost of medicine for a sick child. To repay the debt, they are forced to work long hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They receive basic food and shelter as 'payment' for their work, but may never pay off the loan, which can be passed down through several generations (Anti-Slavery International).

Chronic poverty

Poverty experienced by individuals and households for extended periods of time or throughout their entire lives. Also called 'persistent poverty'. Chronic poverty must be distinguished from transitory poverty or being non-poor.

Covariate shock

An unexpected event that affects all the members of a group. An example is a drought, which typically reduces the agricultural output of all the households in a village.

Decentralisation

The process of transferring control over, and administration of, services from national to local level.

Dimensions of poverty

The individual and social characteristics of poverty such as lack of access to health and education, powerlessness or lack of dignity. Such aspects of deprivation experienced by the individual or group are not captured by measures of income or expenditure.

Dollar-a-day (\$US1/day)

An absolute poverty line introduced by the World Bank in 1990 to estimate global poverty. The dollar amount is revised over time to keep pace with inflation and now stands at \$1.90 in 2016 prices. This is converted into local currencies using purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates.

Extreme Poverty/Absolute Poverty

Persons who fall below the poverty line, living in severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. For example, in 2016 the World Bank defined an upper poverty line of US\$ 1.90 income per day and extreme poverty as persons living on less than US\$ 1.90 a day.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The total value of all goods and services produced domestically by a nation during a year. It is similar to Gross National Product (GNP), which is the value of output produced by a country's labour and capital regardless of whether it is in the country or not.

Household life-cycle

The sequence of events (birth, death, marriage, moving together or away from other household members) which characterise the formation, growth and disappearance of a household. The

household's likelihood of being in poverty is related to its position in the household life cycle.

Horizontal inequalities

When people of similar origin, intelligence etc. still do not have equal success and have different status, income and wealth.

Idiosyncratic shock

An unexpected event that affects one household or individual. An example of an idiosyncratic shock would be the death of the breadwinner.

Internally displaced people

IDPs are people who are displaced but remain within the border of their country of origin. Usually applied to people fleeing their homes because of an armed conflict, civil disturbance or natural disaster (CRED).

Low-income country

A country having a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita equivalent to \$1025 or less in 2015. There are currently about 31 low-income countries where the standard of living is lower, there are few goods and services; and many people cannot meet their basic needs (World Bank).

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

An intergovernmental economic organisation with 35 member countries, founded in 1960 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

Poverty line

Represents the level of income or consumption necessary to meet a set of minimum requirements to feed oneself and one's family adequately and/or to meet other basic requirements such as clothing, housing and healthcare. Poverty lines are typically anchored to minimum nutritional requirements plus a modest allowance for non-food needs.

Tied Aid

A developed country will provide a bilateral loan or grant to a developing country, but mandate that the money be spent on goods or services produced in the selected country.

Kleptocracy

A government or state in which those in power exploit national resources and steal; rule by a thief or thieves.

First World: NATO countries

Second World: Warsaw Pact countries

Third World: Neither

Third world countries eventually became synonymous with poor, destitute, or preindustrial because generally if a country was perceived to have much power, be it political, monetary, resource, or military, it was generally swept up in one faction or another. Being a world player was a practical impossibility without belonging to either group. A third world country was, in effect, too unimportant to matter on the world stage. What causes that often goes hand-in-hand with instability, a poor economy, etc.

Quotes

“Social equity can’t be left to market forces.” – Professor Kenneth Keniston, Director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

“Poverty is the worst form of violence.” – Mahatma Gandhi

“As the wealthiest nation on Earth, I believe the United States has a moral obligation to lead the fight against hunger and malnutrition, and to partner with others.” – President Barack Obama

“Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.” – Nelson Mandela

“Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice.” – Nelson Mandela

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty.” – Mother Teresa

“When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.” – Dom Helder Camara, Brazillion Archbishop

“Give a man a fish, you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish, and you have fed him for a lifetime.” – Chinese proverb

“Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime.” – Aristotle

“The real tragedy of the poor is the poverty of their aspirations.” – Adam Smith

“You cannot tell a hungry child that you gave him food yesterday.”
– Zimbabwean Proverb

People You Should Know

“Poverty is the worst form of violence.”



Mahatma Gandhi

“As the wealthiest nation on Earth, I believe the United States has a moral obligation to lead the fight against hunger and malnutrition, and to partner with others.”



President Barack Obama

“Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.”

“Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice.”



Nelson Mandela

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty.”



Mother Teresa

Final Note

You keep forgetting what you've read. Your essays are always out of point. There's so much to study for GP that you can't fit it all in your head. You don't even know how to start revising. Honestly, I get your frustrations.

We have spent years trying to make GP a painless subject for everyone. It hasn't been an easy journey. We spent weeks refining notes and resources, and we still do it over and over again, to get to knowledge out. I didn't care that much about the financial reward. At one point I was even broke as shit. Success sure didn't come overnight. We failed many times. "Cher, there's damn a lot to remember for GP man," one of our past students was reeling from the untouched resources sitting in front of him, right before his mid-year.

But we persevered. We stick to our goals: to inspire curiosity in the younger generation, to illuminate as many minds as possible, to make knowledge fun, to help students save time so they have time for other subjects. We stay up till 3am, reading, distilling and

redesigning useful resources for everyone out there. So that now you can enjoy the fruits of our labour.

Beyond useful info, this booklet also contains the hard work of many many people. So use it well. If you'd like to share it, be my guest. Pay it forward!

“Cher” the same student texted me one afternoon. “I got B! First time.”

We live for moments like this.

KP

First Class

PS don't stop here. This booklet is a great introduction, but you will need more to do well for GP and in life :) To find out more useful content and tips about how to write stunning essays, follow us

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