



THE RAFFLES ENGLISH STUDIO • FREE RESOURCE

10 Pressing Social Issues in Singapore Today

Confident English. Powerful Results.

Ten issues that recur across A-Level GP essay and Application Question topics. Starting points for argument, not facts to recite.

The Ten Issues

Each is a live debate in Singapore — know the tension, not just the topic.

- 1 High Cost of Living & Housing Affordability**
Rising daily expenses, stagnant incomes and climbing open-market housing prices continue to strain households — the middle class and retirees in particular.
- 2 Income Inequality & Social Mobility**
Widening income disparities threaten meritocratic ideals and risk limiting opportunities for lower-income families.
- 3 Ageing Population & Elder Care**
An ageing demographic poses challenges in mental health, caregiving support and strain on the social safety net.
- 4 The Digital Divide, Especially Among Seniors**
Many older adults are unable to navigate digital services, excluding them from evolving social and health systems.
- 5 Cybercrime & Scams**
Scam cases surged nearly eight-fold from 2016 to 2023, costing over S\$650 million in 2023 alone.
- 6 Migrant Worker Rights & Human Trafficking**
Labour and sex trafficking — including deceptive recruitment and debt bondage — affect vulnerable migrant communities.
- 7 Gender-Based Discrimination & Workplace Harassment**
Women face sexual harassment, pregnancy-based bias and, in some areas, insufficient legal protection.
- 8 Multiculturalism vs Social Cohesion**
Efforts to maintain racial harmony, such as legislation regulating foreign influence, reflect the tension in managing multicultural inclusivity.
- 9 Free Speech & Political Expression**
Laws such as POFMA, self-censorship among academics and journalists, and control over online speech raise questions about civic space.
- 10 Climate & Environmental Stress**
Despite its urban greenery, Singapore faces high per-capita emissions, land scarcity, pollution and climate vulnerability.

HOW TO USE THIS SHEET

One issue, argued well, beats ten issues merely named.