



O'level
Foundation
Week 19

The Write Tribe

COMPO PLANNING

Composition Topic

Traditions can be a help or hindrance. What are your views?

Yes

No



**NO! They are
not a hindrance**

Racial Harmony Day is a day in [Singapore](#) to celebrate its success as a racially harmonious nation. It is observed on the 21st of July every year, with most activities organised by schools and grassroots organisations, including religious groups.

On this day, students in schools across the nation are encouraged to be dressed in other cultures' traditional costumes such as the [Cheongsam](#), the [Baju Kurung](#) and [Saree](#). Traditional delicacies are a feature of the celebrations. Traditional games such as five stones, zero points, and hopscotch are played, where inter-class competitions are sometimes organised. Some activities introduced by schools include designing [Kolams](#) and Maruthani and [Henna](#) hand painting.

By celebrating this event year after year, Singaporeans, despite the different ethnicities come together as one. It promotes tolerance and understanding of each others' cultures.



1. Traditions bring people together



First launched in 1997 by the [Ministry of Education](#) in schools, the event commemorates the [1964 race riots](#) which took place on 21 July 1964 when Singapore was still part of Malaysia (1963–1965), in which 22 people lost their lives and hundreds were severely injured. There were numerous other communal riots and incidents throughout the 50s and 60s leading to and after Singapore's independence in August 1965

**NO! They are
not a hindrance**

Each year Total Defence (TD) Day is commemorated on the 15th February. It marks Singapore's fall to the Japanese in 1942. The commemoration of Total Defence Day seeks to remind people of the sufferings endured by our fore fathers during the Japanese Occupation. It is also an occasion to refamiliarise our people with the modern defence strategy of "Total Defence

In Total Defence, our people are organised to defend the country against all forms of attack, both military and non-military. Total Defence comprises the 6 pillars viz. Military, Civil, Economic, Social, Digital and Psychological Defence.

In short Total Defence is about everyone playing a part in the defence of Singapore.



**2. It helps us learn
from painful lessons
from the past**

THE FALL OF SINGAPORE. A PAINFUL LESSON!

The British High Command left Singapore vulnerable, with a lack of equipment including tanks and aircraft, without proper kit to be worn by troops in a jungle environment.

Singapore is a small country. It has a small population base and no natural resources. It is a multi-racial and multi-religious society. All these make Singapore vulnerable not only to military attacks, but also to exploitation of our economic, social, political or psychological weaknesses by those who may wish to do us harm. To ensure that we can deal adequately with these challenges, it is important that Singapore has a Total Defence capability that involves the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), as well as the entire civilian population.

**NO! They are
not a hindrance**

The Kranji War Memorial in Singapore honours the men and women from the Commonwealth who died in the line of duty during World War II. Every year, on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day on 11 November, a memorial service is held to pay tribute to those who gave their lives.

Remembering the founding fathers of Singapore.

It makes the youngsters appreciate how far we have come as a nation. They also serve as role models to the younger generation.

3. Celebrating our past creates a sense of appreciation among young people

This is why celebrating important events like National Day, makes us collectively remember our struggles and unite us as one!

What is collective memory and why is it important for a nation?

Collective memory refers to the shared pool of memories, knowledge and information of a social group that is significantly associated with the group's identity.

Collective memories are important for societies; they influence attitudes, decisions, and approaches to problems.

Nostalgia is an emotional experience that unifies. One example of this is it helps to unite our sense of who we are, our self, our identity over time. Important events from the past help us create an identity together. It helps create a powerful bond.

Stress may lead to cooperative behavior is our profound need for social connection. Human beings are fundamentally social animals and it is the protective nature of our social relationships that has allowed our species to thrive. Decades of research shows that social connection is a fundamental human need linked to both psychological and and physical health including a stronger immune system, faster recovery from disease and even longevity.



**NO! They are
not a hindrance**

QUIZ TIME!

1. Racial harmony day is celebrated to commemorate _____?

- a. racist ideals
- b. a racially harmonious nation

2. Racial harmony day is celebrated on _____?

- a. 21st of July
- b. 21st of March

3. Racial Harmony Day commemorates _____?

- a. the independence from Malaysia
- b. the [1964 race riots](#)

4. What are some traditional games remembered during Racial Harmony day?

- a. five stones, zero points, and hopscotch
- b. Roblox, Minecraft and Brawl Stars.

5. _____ Day is commemorated on the 15th February.

- a. Racial Harmony Day
- b. Total defence day



6. The commemoration of Total Defence Day seeks to ____?

- a. create a racially harmonious society
- b. remind people of the sufferings endured by our fore fathers during the Japanese Occupation.

7. What are the 6 pillars of Total Defence?

- a. Military, Civil, Economic, Social, Digital and Psychological Defence.
- b. Physical, Mental, Utility, Self and Psychological

8. What are collective memories?

- a. refers to the shared pool of memories, knowledge and information of a social group that is significantly associated with the group's identity.
- b. Individual but vivid memories of a given event?

9. Which one is an example of collective memories?

- a. The day Leroy Koh was born
- b. 911 incident in United States.



**YES! They are
a hindrance**



FOOT BINDING

1. Traditions can be unreasonable

Traditions can be unreasonable at times. For example, the Foot-binding tradition that happened in China in the 10th century. It was a practice first carried out on young girls in Tang Dynasty China to restrict their normal growth and make their feet as small as possible. Considered an attractive quality, the effects of the process were painful and permanent. Those procedures that were carried out on the girls were so unbearable and horrible. Once a foot had been crushed and bound, the shape could never be reversed without a woman undergoing the same pain all over again.

Therefore, this shows that traditions can be a hindrance to our lives. Due to this foot-binding traditions, many China women with bound feet suffered a lot at the later part of their lives, where they were unable to walk properly, more likely to fall, less able to squat, and less able to stand up from a chair without assistance than women with normal feet. These all could have been avoided, if the people were willing to protect the girls and ban this brutal tradition

A small foot in China, no different from a tiny waist in Victorian England, represented the height of female refinement. For families with marriageable daughters, foot size translated into its own form of currency and a means of achieving upward mobility. The most desirable bride possessed a three-inch foot, known as a “golden lotus.” It was respectable to have four-inch feet—a silver lotus—but feet five inches or longer were dismissed as iron lotuses. The marriage prospects for such a girl were dim indeed.

**YES! They are
a hindrance**

1. Traditions can be unreasonable action

LIFE THREATENING TRADITIONS

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is practiced in 1 in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and within communities from countries in which FGM is common. It comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is mostly carried out by traditional circumcisers, who often play other central roles in communities, such as attending childbirths. These women can suffer from severe pain, excessive bleeding (haemorrhage), genital tissue swelling, fever, infections e.g., tetanus, urinary problems or even death.



According to news report, on 11 september 2018, two sisters, Aasiyo Abdi Warsame and Khadijo, bled to death in Somalia after they were forced to undergo female genital mutilation. This is tradition born from misogyny to keep women pure and away from desires that are natural to the body. It has caused countless women suffering but also cause death in some cases.

Therefore, traditions like these should be banned forever. only when traditions like these are banned, will the women be treated fairly and be allowed to freely express themselves

