



Summary & AQ

- Recommended time distribution for the whole compre (90 minutes): 15 for passage, 20 for SAQ, 25 for summary, 30 for AQ!

Summary: First, know what points you need as stated in the question. Are you looking for Reasons? Impacts? Arguments for? Arguments against? Keep that in your mind and constantly recall that when you are searching for points.

Second, after you have found at least 15 points, you need to paraphrase and fit the word count limit. The tip to do this is to build up your vocabulary so that you can tap on synonyms. But of course, not everything can be paraphrased by merely replacing with a synonym. Some more advanced paraphrasing requires you to phrase it in another way; it is also a more efficient use of word count. For this, you would have to utilise your understanding of the passage — ask yourself, what is the author's main idea? What would be considered a key point that he wishes to express? What is just an example to illustrate his point? Which points can I combine together since they are related?

Another thing to note is having coherent flow. Remember you are not just taking 15 points from the passage and listing them. You have to ensure each point flows to the next (this affects your language marks). Always remember word count!

AQ: Structure → Introduction has Stand and Reason. Balanced answer that addresses both sides of questions (take note of what author's stand is especially if there are two separate passages and different viewpoints) Every main paragraph needs to have 2 main components:

1) **Evaluation** → This is extremely important but always missed out by students. In AQ, unlike an essay where you express your thoughts, you are also RESPONDING to the author. So, you need to give your opinion in response to the points in the passage, i.e. provide an evaluation. Refer to the author's central arguments (either by quoting or paraphrasing) and then give an evaluative comment. Note the difference between descriptive and argumentative! Use the 10 strategies to evaluate: (**Evidence, Assumptions, General vs Specific, Foreign vs Local, Past vs Present, Short-term vs Long-term, Practical vs Ideal, Core vs Periphery, Perspectives, Common Fallacies**)

2) **Application** → You need to apply the points to the Singapore context. Think about the unique features that define Singapore and ask yourself how the argument points relate to Singapore. For e.g. if we talk about city spaces — Singapore has an iconic upward architecture design where there are plenty of roof gardens, together with the concept of multi-purpose spaces (e.g. Our Tampines Hub, Kallang Mall). Your job is to draw a link between a Singapore example and the author's points and argue whether the author's argument is relevant to Singapore, i.e. does it make sense in Singapore? Do you see the same thing? Or do you see a different way it plays out in the local context?