

Ordinary morality is only for ordinary people.

Aleister Crowley

The most important human endeavour is the striving for morality in our actions. Our inner balance and even our very existence depend on it. Only morality in our actions can give beauty and dignity to life.

Albert Einstein

Morality consists in suspecting other people of not being legally married.

George Bernard Shaw

We have, in fact, two kinds of morality side by side: one which we preach but do not practice, and another which we practice but seldom preach.

Bertrand Russell

Fear is the mother of morality.

Friedrich Nietzsche

MedSchool
Pathways

Socialism

Socialism is often seen as the solution to combatting traditionalist policies. However, socialism is not without its flaws and should not be seen as the end goal. Whilst aspects of the socialism are favourable, including its focus on equality, this form of economic structure greatly limits the level of achievement of the individual and also restricts the innovation of corporations. Even though everyone should strive for the betterment of society, we cannot achieve this by eradicating individual success.

Overall, this is an effective introduction because it is clear and concise. A good opening statement on socialism followed by logical overview of the ideas you are going to talk about. At this point this introduction can go either way (Task A style or Task B style). (I am aware of the things you said in the email)

Commented [WC1]: A general statement on socialism
good

Commented [WC2]: This sentence presents a number of ideas that (hopefully) you are going to discuss in body paragraph, including:

1. some aspects of socialism are favourable (eg. focus on equality)
2. the flaws of socialism: limit individual achievement and restricts innovation of corporations

no problem

Commented [WC3]: This is your bulls eye sentence (aka. the overall contention). It ties well with the ideas outlined in the preceding sentence.

no problem

The harmful effects of treating all individuals in a uniform way can be seen even in young children. With socialism seeking to grant everybody the same opportunities, individuals with greater aptitude are often held back to allow others to progress to the same level, regardless of how hard one works. This was certainly mirrored in the case of my Year Three teacher, whose approach to education was to wait for the weakest student to catch up to everybody else. This left students unmotivated and unstimulated, evidencing the first great downfall of socialism: if humans are not challenged with the competition of others, there is no reason to strive to be better. In an economic context, this would be analogous to every individual earning the same wage, irrespective of how hard they worked. Ultimately, this only breeds a society where aspires to achieve their greatest potential, serving as a large contradiction to socialism's quest to make society the best it can be.

Commented [WC4]: Topic sentence

Commented [WC5]: elaboration/build up on your topic sentence

no problem

Commented [WC6]: This is where you introduce a personal example, making it obvious that this writing is a Task B style writing

Commented [WC7]: this part needs more of a personal touch (given this is reflective writing), instead of "students", use "me and other classmates" or something like that

Commented [WC8]: here you highlight the first flaw of socialism

Commented [WC9]: this is your explanation at a personal level

Commented [WC10]: here you start your explanation at a societal level

Commented [WC11]: I am not totally sure what you are trying to say here, please check the wording here

The topic sentence here is not really effective because the paragraph mainly talks about the harm of socialism rather than how socialism negatively impacts on child's development. It would be more appropriate if this sentence ("The harmful effects of treating all individuals in a uniform way can be seen even in young children.") is used placed somewhere else to lead into the example of Year Three teacher. Instead, the topic sentence should highlight how equal treatment is harmful at both an individual and societal level.

One big highlight of this paragraph is the last part. I really like the insightful discussion highlighted in green. This is what a reflective piece is all about, this part is good in two ways:

- 1. insightful reflection on the drawbacks of socialism – the tone and language are appropriate for Task B*
- 2. you talk about two levels here (first individual then you elevate it to societal level), showing the depth and breadth of your thoughts. In doing so, the discussion is sophisticated and in-depth.*

Reaching outside the schoolyard, socialism has also limited the pursuits of corporations. With the basis of socialism being that the government retains control over individual companies in favour of increased production of goods and services, the freedom to explore is decreased. Imagine a technology company that is expected to create a particular volume of phones each week. If the company were to design a breakthrough product that could greatly influence the phone market, should the government be allowed to force them to retain their set production volume, even though they would benefit from having extra help in their research department? Evidently, this would serve only as a hindrance to the betterment of society, as existing goods are favoured over advancement. Consequently, whilst the government should always have control over corporations in the form of preventing unethical or illegal operations, they should not play a role in how a company prioritises their output.

Commented [WC12]: topic sentence with good connection to previous paragraph

Commented [WC13]: necessary elaboration and explanation of what socialism means in the context of corporations and creativity
good

Commented [WC14]: An imaginary/hypothetical example here is ok (again, given this is Task B writing and you have given real-life example previously)

You always want a good mix of different examples for task B. This can be:

- hypothetical/imaginary vs. real-life
 - individual vs. societal vs humanity
 - scientific vs. celebrity vs. art vs. politics etc.
- The list goes on, but I think you get my point here.

Commented [WC15]: Again, good insight here

I have no issues with this paragraph. Very good reflection and discussion here. Well done.

However, we must not forget that socialism places a large emphasis on equality. With a great portion of history favouring certain groups whilst discriminating against others, we cannot deny that equality is something we all desire. So then, how do we instil socialist qualities without conceding to socialism and its limits on individual achievement? The answer is to realise that equality does not mean that everybody should be held to the same blanket rules. Instead, we should build our society on the foundations of equal *opportunities*, but after we offer the same chances to every individual, we must allow each person to flourish without restriction. We do not strive to be our best because we are all inherently competitive. Instead, it is because we acknowledge that we have the greatest impact on society when we are free from its limitations and are rewarded for doing so.

Commented [WC16]: this is your antithesis (not in the strict sense but still something similar)

I have no issues with the idea you outlined in this sentence.

Commented [WC17]: Short and concise description of the opposing view with emphasis on the equality associated with socialism

Commented [WC18]: Your resolution to the dilemma

Good

This is your combined antithesis + synthesis + resolution paragraph, again I have no issues with the structure since it is supposed to be a Task B style piece. Language it also appropriate for Task B writing. The ideas are original and fresh. Good job.

Grade 70

Well done, this is a very well written Task B response. I want to give a breakdown of the strengths of this essay so you know why this is a well-written piece and can use it as a benchmark for your subsequent practice. It is important to know what you did well so you can consistently produce essays of this calibre.

Structure

The 4-paragraph reflective style is standard and effective. Introduction is effective and each subsequent paragraph represents one big idea with different layers of implication. There are thesis, antithesis and resolution. Even though those components do not have to be explicitly presented in a Task B response, they are appropriate as long as they do not disrupt the flow of your discussion.

I would like to point out that the theme is socialism which is generally done using Task A (argumentative style of writing). I am aware that you said you felt more comfortable using reflective tone (and you successfully pulled it off in this case) but just keep in mind the difference between argumentative and reflective styles of writing.

Language

You showcase a very strong control of language in pretty much all your responses. The tone and wording felt natural but not too casual.

Originality of Ideas

I really liked the ideas presented in this essay.

- *socialism limits individual development and achievement*
- *socialism restrains creativity of corporations*
- *socialism focuses on equality, but we equality means equal opportunity rather than limiting personal achievement*

These are all quality ideas with a lot of potential.

One potential area of improvement is further exploration of impact of socialism on humanity. We have in-depth discussion on its effect on individuals and economy but not so much on humanity. You can reflect on different nations or communities that are underpinned by socialism and compare various aspects to those with other forms of economic model. The impact of socialism is not limited to individual achievement and innovation but also culture, morality, ideology and almost every aspect of society. This is something you can explore.

Another thing is this essay lacks specific examples (apart from Year Three teacher), towards the very end I realised this was the only specific example in your essay. Again, it is good to have a mix of examples, however in this essay there is a scarcity of specific examples, meaning hypothetical ones take up too big a proportion of your examples. Try adding in some specific ones, they do not have to be long or too detailed just tag a couple here and there amidst your discussion.

If you have any question regarding your feedback, please contact me (William) at medschoolpathway@gmail.com