The purpose of a compare and contrast essay is to examine two things of interest and tell the reader about the **similarities and differences** between them.

There are **many different formats** for writing a compare and contrast essay. For the purpose of this assignment, we will focus on the most common format called the **Feature by Feature Format**, where we compare and contrast (similarities and differences) between two subjects (i.e. Trump versus M.Obama, etc.) on three different features about the subjects (i.e. education, policy, and future goals, etc.)

**Basic Structure:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraph</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Paragraph – Introduction</td>
<td>General Topic Sentence(s) – catch the reader’s attention  &lt;br&gt; Brief background information about the two subjects  &lt;br&gt; Brief overview of the three features you are comparing and contrasting  &lt;br&gt; <strong>THESIS STATEMENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Paragraph – Similarities &amp; Differences of 1st Feature</td>
<td>Transition word/phrase  &lt;br&gt; General sentence about personality inventory  &lt;br&gt; Details of inventory/how it relates to your choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Paragraph – Similarities &amp; Differences of 2nd Feature</td>
<td>Transition word/phrase  &lt;br&gt; General Topic Sentence – State 2nd feature you are comparing &amp; contrasting  &lt;br&gt; State similarities between the two subjects about 2nd feature  &lt;br&gt; State differences between the two subjects about 2nd feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Paragraph – Similarities &amp; Differences of 3rd Feature</td>
<td>Transition word/phrase  &lt;br&gt; General Topic Sentence – State 3rd feature you are comparing &amp; contrasting  &lt;br&gt; State similarities between the two subjects about 3rd feature  &lt;br&gt; State differences between the two subjects about 3rd feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Paragraph – Conclusion</td>
<td>Transition word/phrase  &lt;br&gt; Re-state <strong>THESIS STATEMENT</strong>  &lt;br&gt; Briefly summarise the three features that you are comparing and contrasting  &lt;br&gt; Closing Statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thesis Statement Examples 1**
The differences [similarities] between ___________ and ___________ are __________, and they __________. 

pronounced                deserve
striking                    merit

__________ __________. 

thorough     investigation
rigorous      scrutiny

examination

**Examples**

**The differences between** college and high school are pronounced, and they deserve thorough investigation.

**The similarities between** R-rated movies and PG-rated movies are pronounced, and they merit rigorous scrutiny.

**Thesis Statement Example 2**

__________ some __________ similarities,

Although they bear superficial similarities, the differences between ___________ and ___________ are _____________.

clear
remarkable
striking
pronounced

**Examples**

Although they bear some superficial similarities, the differences between Athens and Sparta are clear.

Despite bearing some minor similarities, the differences between Pele and Ronaldinho are pronounced.
THESIS:
Both Singapore and Trinidad are tropical island paradises with dynamic and vibrant cultures, however there are many differences between the two which makes each one unique.

POINT #1: GEOGRAPHY

**Similarities between Singapore and Trinidad**
- both Singapore and Trinidad are island nations located in tropics close to the equator
- both are warm all year round where it never snows
- both are relatively small countries compared to Canada, China, and the United States

**Differences between Singapore and Trinidad**
- Singapore is located in Southeast Asia (close to Malaysia and Indonesia)
- Trinidad is located in the Caribbean off the coast of South America close to Venezuela
- Trinidad is larger than Singapore (4,768 km² versus 710.2 km²)
- Trinidad is also more mountainous while Singapore is relatively flat
- Singapore is more urban, with a much larger proportion of its land area built up as a city

POINT #2: PEOPLE

**Similarities between Singapore and Trinidad**
- Both Singapore and Trinidad are multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-religious countries
- Historically, tensions existed between the various ethnic groups in both countries
- However, presently relations are much better between the various ethnic groups in both countries
- As a result of their ethnic diversity, both Singapore and Trinidad have statutory holidays which honour the cultures of its various ethnic groups

**Differences between Singapore and Trinidad**
- Singapore’s population is almost exclusively Asian, with Chinese, Indians, and Malay Muslims forming almost the entire population
- Trinidad’s population is equally split between Africans and Asians (mostly Indians and Chinese)
- Trinidad also has a very large mixed-race (i.e. African-European, African-Indian, African-Chinese, etc.) population compared to Singapore
- While Singapore honours its diversity with having four official languages (Chinese, Tamil, Malay, and English), Trinidad only has English as its official language, though Hindi, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic are also spoken on the island

POINT #3: FOOD

**Similarities between Singapore and Trinidad**
- Spicy food is very common in Singaporean and Trinidadian cuisine
- Both countries’ cuisines are strongly influenced by Indian and Chinese cuisine due to the local Indian and Chinese populations – curry is very popular in both countries
- Due to Singapore’s and Trinidad’s British colonial past, British customs and foods are also very common

**Differences between Singapore and Trinidad**
- Singapore’s cuisine has a stronger Chinese and Indian influence, whereas Trinidad has a stronger African and European influence, even though the Chinese and Indian influence in Trinidadian food is quite strong
- Singapore’s cuisine is also highly influenced by that of its neighbouring countries of Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia
- Due to Singapore’s large Muslim population and its proximity to predominately Muslim countries, the availability of Halal food is much more widespread than Trinidad, even though Trinidad does have a significant Muslim population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject #1</th>
<th>Subject #2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Trinidad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the middle of the cold Canadian winters, have you ever thought about escaping to somewhere warm to get away from all the cold and snow? Singapore, nicknamed “Lion City”, and Trinidad, also known as the land of soca, calypso, and the steel pan, come to many people’s minds when thinking of a warm place to escape to.

While both Singapore and Trinidad are tropical island paradises with dynamic and vibrant cultures, there are many differences between the two which make each one unique. The geography, people, and food of both Singapore and Trinidad show many similarities, yet many differences as well.

First, both Singapore and Trinidad are island nations located in tropics close to the equator. The climate in both countries is warm all year round and it never snows. Furthermore, they are relatively small compared to countries like Canada, China, and the United States. However, Singapore is located in Southeast Asia, close to Malaysia and Indonesia, while Trinidad is located in the Caribbean off the coast of South America near Venezuela. Although both island nations, Trinidad’s land area is about seven times as large as Singapore’s. Trinidad is also more mountainous while Singapore is relatively flat. Furthermore, Singapore is mostly urban and built-up, while Trinidad is not.

In addition to geography, the people of Singapore and Trinidad share many things in common, but each still retain their unique differences as well. Singapore and Trinidad are both multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-religious countries. Historically, tensions existed between the various ethnic groups in both countries. However, presently relations are much better between the various ethnic groups. As a result of their ethnic diversity, both Singapore and Trinidad have statutory holidays which honour the cultures and religions of its various ethnic groups. Despite the similarities, they are some key differences. Singapore’s population is almost exclusively Asian, with Chinese, Indians, and Malay Muslims forming almost the entire population. Trinidad’s population is equally split between Africans and Asians, which mostly consists of Indians and Chinese. Trinidad also has a very large mixed-race population as well. While Singapore honours its diversity with having four official languages (Chinese, Tamil, Malay, and English), Trinidad only has English as its official language, although Hindi, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic are also spoken on the island.

Finally, the food of Singapore and Trinidad are quite similar in many ways, yet they each remain distinct from each other. Spicy food is very common in Singaporean and Trinidadian cuisine. Both countries’ cuisines are strongly influenced by Indian and Chinese cuisine due to the large local Indian and Chinese populations. Curry is very popular in both countries. Due to Singapore’s and Trinidad’s British colonial past, British customs and foods are also very common. Nevertheless, Singapore’s cuisine has a stronger Chinese and Indian influence compared to Trinidad’s cuisine, which has a stronger African and European influence. Singapore’s cuisine is also highly influenced by that of its neighbouring countries of Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia. Due to Singapore’s large Muslim population and its proximity to other predominately Muslim countries, the availability of Halal food is much more widespread than Trinidad, even though Trinidad does have a significant Muslim population.

As illustrated, despite the many similarities between Singapore and Trinidad, each of those tropical paradises contain many unique aspects as well. While the geography, people, and food share many similarities, the differences between make each of these tropical islands unique from each other. If you are still thinking about escaping the cold Canadian winters to a tropical island paradise, you have to make sure you visit because Singapore and Trinidad both have a distinct and vibrant culture that you must experience.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and Understanding</th>
<th>LEVEL 1</th>
<th>LEVEL 2</th>
<th>LEVEL 3</th>
<th>LEVEL 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Follow basic structure of a compare and contrast essay (introduction, thesis statement, three supporting paragraphs, similarities and differences between two subjects, transition words/phrases conclusion)</td>
<td>Your essay contains few of the elements of a compare and contrast essay</td>
<td>Your essay contains some of the elements of a compare and contrast essay</td>
<td>Your essay contains most of the elements of a compare and contrast essay</td>
<td>Your essay contains all of the elements of a compare and contrast essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking</td>
<td>Generating ideas (similarities and differences in three distinct features between two subjects)</td>
<td>Your ideas and supporting examples and evidence are incomplete and illogical</td>
<td>Your ideas and supporting examples and evidence are somewhat complete and/or somewhat logical</td>
<td>Your ideas and supporting examples and evidence are mostly complete and logical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Use of conventions, such as spelling, sentence structure, and subject-verb agreement</td>
<td>Your essay contains many spelling mistakes, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and subject-verb agreement errors</td>
<td>Your essay contains some spelling mistakes, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and subject-verb agreement errors</td>
<td>Your essay contains very few spelling mistakes, run-on sentences, sentence fragments, and subject-verb agreement errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>Comparing and contrasting between two different subjects</td>
<td>Your comparison and contrast between two different subjects are not well-developed and illogical</td>
<td>Your comparison and contrast between two different subjects are somewhat developed and logical</td>
<td>Your comparison and contrast between two different subjects are completely developed and logical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/Sources</td>
<td>Source of information and reliability of sources used</td>
<td>Only one reliable source used</td>
<td>Only two different and reliable sources used</td>
<td>Three or more different and reliable sources used</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL MARK: [ ]

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: