

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

PS2249/GEK2003/SSA2209  
Government and Politics of Singapore

Semester 2: AY2010-2011

POLITICAL SCIENCE

April/May 2011 - Time Allowed: 2 Hours

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**Instructions to Candidates**

1. This examination paper contains **FOUR questions** and comprises **TWO** printed pages.
2. Answer **TWO** questions including **Question 1** in **SECTION A** which is compulsory and **ONE** question from **SECTION B**.
3. The weightage of the final examination is 50%, i.e. 30% for the compulsory question and 20% for the other question.
4. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** examination.

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**SECTION A: ANSWER QUESTION 1 WHICH IS COMPULSORY****Question 1 (Compulsory Question)**

According to Mr. Ong Ye Kung (a new PAP candidate in GE 2011), Singapore "passes the democracy test" because voters are free to choose the government they want, while to Dr. Chee Soon Juan (Secretary-General, SDP), "Elections do not make democracy". (*Singapore Forum on Politics*, NUS, 23 March 2011).

Reflecting on your knowledge about general elections and the practice of democracy in Singapore, evaluate the relative merit of these contesting views.

**SECTION B: ANSWER ANY ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION****Question 2**

"The merger process was clouded by many ambiguities, rendering Singapore's eventual separation from the Malaysian federation inevitable". Do you agree? Why?

**Question 3**

PM Lee in his address at NUS on 5 April 2011 emphasized the importance of leadership to ensure Singapore's continuing prosperity. Why is this particular issue so critical for Singapore? Do you think the PAP's leadership renewal policies and practices – both as government and as a political party – have thus far worked for Singapore?

**Question 4**

A qualified medical doctor from India is contemplating employment in Singapore and seeks your views about the political system in this Republic. Explain and illustrate to him, objectively, the salient characteristics of Singapore's political system.

**END OF PAPER**