

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

PS2249/GEK2003/SSA2209
Government and Politics of Singapore

Semester 1: AY2011-2012

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Nov/Dec 2011 - Time Allowed: 2 Hours

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. 20% for the compulsory question and 30% for the other question.
4. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** examination.

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

"The recent Elections in Singapore this year – the General Election and the Presidential Election – shows very clearly that politics in Singapore will no longer be the same as before".

Do you agree? Why or why not?

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

Last year, Lee Kuan Yew remarked that despite asking Deputy Prime Minister Dr Goh Keng Swee to negotiate a looser rearrangement so that Singapore would still be in the Malaysian federation, Dr Goh instead decided that the best alternative was a clean break. Lee Kuan Yew also said that it was Malaysia (Tunku Abdul Rahman) that forced the final separation.

From your readings of the literature about the Separation episode, which of the above three political personalities played the biggest role in the separation? Defend your choice rigorously.

Question 3

The Peoples' Action Party (PAP) has been continuously governing Singapore for half a century, a feat quite unrivalled by other states in recent history. Write a critique of the factors accounting for this uninterrupted political longevity.

Question 4

Singapore has embraced fully the globalization phenomenon, manifest in its numerous policies and projects. Explain the factors that have influenced the government's decision to pursue this global policy and discuss some of the challenges confronting this Republic in consequence.

END OF PAPER