

PS2249/GEK2003/SSA2209

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

PS2249/GEK2003/SSA2209
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF SINGAPORE

(Semester 1: AY 2008-2009)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Nov/Dec 2008 - Time Allowed: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This examination paper contains **SEVEN** questions and comprises **THREE** printed pages.
2. Answer any **THREE** questions.
3. The weightage of the final examination is 60%, i.e. 20% for each question.
4. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** examination.

ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS

Question 1

Did the PAP government, following merger in 1963, work to ensure the collapse of the Malaysian Federation, culminating in Singapore's expulsion from the union in August 1965?

Question 2

"Despite its marginal presence, the Opposition in Singapore continues to play not an unimportant role in national politics". Do you agree?

Question 3

"The Westminster form of government is well established in Singapore, but to suit local needs it may have to go through changes". In view of the various reforms to the Westminster model of politics since 1965, can the Singapore political system still be described as a democracy?

Question 4 (Answer either 4a or 4b)

- 4a. Can media control in Singapore be understood as a tradeoff between economic considerations, political stability and democracy?

OR

- 4b. In what ways might trade union politics in Singapore illustrate 'consensus building'?

Question 5

"Singapore is one of the most successful examples of nation-building in the post-colonial era. It is difficult to imagine a multiracial model startlingly superior to what was achieved in less than 30 years. But yet, Singapore leaders, including Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, are on record that Singapore is not yet a nation. A Singaporean state exists, a Singaporean identity is forming but Singapore is not there yet."

With reference to the above quotation and in the light of various challenges facing the political entity, at what stage of nation building is Singapore in today?

Question 6

Analyse the key achievements and challenges facing the PAP in renewing its leadership.

Question 7

"Singapore politics is increasingly being shaped by developments that are hardly domestic in nature". Do you agree?

END OF PAPER