

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
PS2249/GEK2003/SSA2209
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF SINGAPORE

(Semester 2: AY 2008-2009)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

April/May 2009 - Time Allowed: 2 Hours

Instructions to Candidates

1. This examination paper contains **SEVEN** questions and comprises **THREE** printed pages.
2. Answer **THREE** questions including **Question 1** in **SECTION A** which is compulsory and **ONE** question **EACH** from **SECTION B** and **SECTION C**.
3. The weightage of the final examination is 50%, i.e. 20% for the compulsory question and 15% each for the other two questions.
4. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** examination.

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

An overseas' acquaintance of yours who is studying Political Science in a Western university would like to more know about Politics in this island Republic.

What distinguishing features of Singapore Politics would you highlight - and why?

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

What do you understand about the peculiarities and significance of the 'dominant one-party system' and 'first-past-the-post electoral system' in Singapore?

Support your explanation by examples and illustrations.

Question 3

"The Group Representation Constituency (GRC) system makes it almost impossible for the Opposition to win a few GRCs, let alone the General Election". Do you agree? Why or why not?

Question 4

How are Trade Unions in Singapore different from those in Western countries? What are some of the rationale posited by the Singapore Government to justify its regulation of the labour movement and industrial relations in this Republic?

SECTION C: ANSWER ANY ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION

Question 5

“It takes two to tango...the failure of the Malaysian federation experiment is a failure that both parties – Singapore and Malaysia – must take responsibility for”.

Reflecting on the reasons that led to the separation, do you think this assertion is sufficiently valid?

Question 6

PM Lee, in announcing the political renewal process in March 2009, declared that “the core of the next-generation leadership is still not in place”.

Why do you think it is difficult for the PAP Government to recruit and renew political leadership? What else must be done to encourage capable and talented Singaporeans to join politics?

Question 7

Summarize the main issues and concerns for Singapore with regard to the challenge posed by Democratization, Globalization, and the National Identity quest.

Of these three key challenges, which one do you consider to be most urgent to be addressed? Why?

END OF PAPER