

PS2249/GEK2003/SSA2209

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

PS2249/GEK2003/SSA2209 Government and Politics of Singapore

Semester 1: AY 2009-2010

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Nov/Dec 2009 - Time Allowed: 2 Hours

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**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.

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**ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS**

**Question 1**

"Singapore's separation from Malaysia in August 1965 was inevitable due to the manner the merger took place in 1963." Do you agree?

**Question 2**

"Despite their perennial weakness since independence in 1965, the opposition political parties in Singapore have played an important role in shaping the character of national politics in the Republic." Is this statement defensible? Illustrate your answer with appropriate examples.

**Question 3**

From the knowledge acquired from the module on Politics and Government in Singapore, to what extent can you argue that Singapore is a functioning democracy?

**Question 4**

A) In view of the relatively short-lived character of most one-party dominant systems, is the continued dominance by the PAP in Singapore's politics going to be an exception to the rule?

OR

B) In view of the PAP's performance in the 2006 general elections, what issues are likely to dominate the coming elections and how is the PAP expected to perform?

**Question 5**

"Our Constitution states expressly that it is a duty of the Government not to treat everybody as equal."

Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, 2009

In view of the above statement, how would you describe the state of nation building in Singapore? Will this Republic ever be a nation, especially in view of the recent policies with regard to migration and ethnic self-help groups?

**Question 6**

How would you characterize the PAP's approach to leadership regeneration within the party? Would you agree with the PAP's stance that it has to get its leadership renewal right as this is a matter of life and death for Singapore?

**Question 7**

In your view, when one discusses the issue of 'Singapore's fundamentals', what is meant by this? Of these fundamentals, which in your view is the most critical one that determines the character of national politics in the Republic?