

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

PS2249/GEK2003/SSA2209
Government and Politics of Singapore

Semester 2: AY2009-2010

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Apr/May 2010 - 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**

"The PAP government, following merger in September 1963, worked to ensure the collapse of the Malaysian Federation that ended with Singapore's independence in August 1965." Do you agree with the statement? Support your answer with appropriate examples.

Question 2

What accounts for the PAP's ability to remain as the hegemonic political party in Singapore politics? What are the likely challenges that could undermine its political preeminence in the coming years?

Question 3

In May 2009, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong introduced wide-ranging changes, among others, to the electoral rules affecting the existing Non-Constituency Member of Parliament and Group Representative Constituencies. Why were the changes introduced and what is the likely impact of these electoral reforms?

Question 4

a) Can the control of mass media be justified in Singapore today?

OR

b) Can the PAP-NTUC symbiosis be justified?

Question 5

a) "For the PAP, grassroots organizations are a matter of life and death".
Mr. Lee Kuan Yew

Is this statement still relevant in the current state of national politics?

OR

b) What are the main benefits and costs of the PAP's control of the civil service in Singapore?

Question 6

Why is Singapore still not regarded as a nation? Illustrate your answer with appropriate examples.

Question 7

"I have a good team of leaders in place now. But my most critical job is to find and nurture such men and women to be the next generation of leaders."

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

In the light of the above statement, analyse the key achievements and challenges facing the PAP in renewing its leadership.

END OF PAPER