

**UNDERSTANDING SG 2:   
A Larger Perspective**

ICA 2 (60%) Individual Assignment

*(At least 600 words in total)*

DUE: Week 15, **Mon, 22 Jan, 2359hr**

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| School:  *e.g. SBM* | SIT |
| Lecture Group:  *e.g. LEC 01* | LEC 02 |
| Lecture Day / Timing:  *e.g. Monday / 9-10am* | Monday / 2-3pm |

**Instructions – ICA 2 (60%) Individual Assignment**

* Fill in your learner details in the Cover Page
* Submit this completed document to NYP Brightspace

**SCENARIO**

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| Jonas and his classmates are having lunch at Koufu after attending their US2 lesson. As they are eating, they share their views on the various topics covered in class:  **Diya**: “Singapore is known to be a very safe place. There are policemen and cameras everywhere. There is no need to be afraid of terrorists or extremist groups.”  **Erica**: “To survive in international diplomacy, smaller nations like Singapore should align ourselves with bigger nations. They will be able to protect us no matter what.”  **Fauzi**: “All countries should choose protectionism over globalisation. We should focus on improving our own economy and helping our local workforce first.”  **Gary**: “Climate change is something that will happen no matter what we try to do. I don’t know if there is a point in engaging in environmental efforts to save our planet.”  Based on the discussions covered during your US2 lessons, respond to **ANY THREE** of the statements above. Please ensure that each response is **at least 200 words**. |

**RESPONSE #1 (20 MARKS)**

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| **I am responding to Diya.**  Diya's perspective on Singapore's safety is valid to some extent. Singapore has indeed invested significantly in security measures, such as a strong police presence and extensive surveillance systems. These efforts contribute to a generally safe environment, and the low crime rates are a testament to the success of these initiatives. However, it's essential to recognize that the absence of visible threats doesn't eliminate the potential for unforeseen challenges. Global security dynamics are complex, and threats may emerge unexpectedly.  While the current measures provide a sense of security, it's crucial for individuals and the government to remain vigilant and adaptable. Terrorism and extremism are evolving threats that may not be completely eradicated by visible security measures alone. Continued cooperation with international partners in intelligence-sharing and counter-terrorism efforts remains essential to address these challenges comprehensively.  In summary, while Singapore has made commendable efforts to ensure safety, acknowledging the dynamic nature of global security and adopting a proactive approach are vital for sustaining a secure environment. |

**RESPONSE #2 (20 MARKS)**

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| **I am responding to Erica.**  Erica's viewpoint on aligning with bigger nations for protection in international diplomacy holds merit in certain contexts. Smaller nations often face challenges in asserting themselves on the global stage, and forming alliances with more influential countries can provide a degree of security and support. However, the nature of international relations is nuanced, and alignment should not mean compromising sovereignty or values.  While seeking alliances, Singapore must also maintain a balanced and independent foreign policy. Overdependence on any single nation may limit diplomatic flexibility and autonomy. Additionally, geopolitical dynamics can change, and alliances may shift over time. Diversifying partnerships and engaging in multilateral forums can enhance Singapore's diplomatic resilience and influence.  In conclusion, while aligning with bigger nations has its advantages, Singapore should approach diplomatic relationships strategically, preserving its independence and adapting to the dynamic nature of global politics. |

**RESPONSE #3 (20 MARKS)**

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| **I am responding to Fauzi.**  Fauzi's advocacy for protectionism over globalization reflects a perspective rooted in prioritizing national interests. While protectionist policies may offer short-term benefits to domestic industries and the workforce, it's crucial to consider the long-term consequences. Globalization has interconnected economies, and a complete retreat into protectionism may lead to missed opportunities and economic stagnation.  Balancing protectionism with selective global engagement is a more pragmatic approach. Protecting local industries is important, but complete isolation from global markets can hinder economic growth and innovation. Collaborative initiatives and international trade agreements can be designed to protect essential industries while fostering economic diversity and competitiveness.  Ultimately, finding a middle ground that safeguards local interests without closing doors to global opportunities is essential. Fauzi's concerns about the local workforce are valid, but a nuanced and adaptive approach to economic policies can better address these challenges. |