

**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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| **Lecture Group:** | LEC 03 |
| **Lecture Day / Timing:** | Tuesday / 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**

| 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**. |
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**RESPONSE #1 (20 MARKS)**

| **I am responding to Diya.**  While Singapore is known to be a very safe place – it does not mean that we should drop our guard just like that. Terrorism, broadly defined, is the use of purposeful violence and fear to achieve political or ideological goals. In this usage, the phrase refers mostly to purposeful violence against noncombatants during peacetime or during wartime.  This means that no matter how safe Singapore is at any point in time – terrorism is still a very real threat to us, or any country in fact. Since terrorism is violence during peacetime – Singapore is still at risk of terrorist attacks. Since 2015, 54 individuals have been dealt with under the Internal Security Act for terrorism related conduct. Of this 54, 44 were self-radicalised an 2 attack plots against specific communities at their places of worship in Singapore were foiled in 2020 and 2021.  Radicalization is the process by which an individual or organization begins to hold progressively radical views that contradict the political, social, or religious status quo. Society's ideals impact the effects of radicalization. Radicalization can lead to both violent and peaceful action; in this case, we focus on radicalization into violent extremism or radicalisation leading to acts of terrorism.  The Internet has played a pivotal role in self-radicalisation with online propaganda means that these radical groups can reach even more people with the ease of internet access. This means that anyone is able to come into extremist content from anywhere – as proven by the 44 individuals that were self-radicalised.  In this case, it proves that we, as citizens, should remain on guard instead of not being afraid of these groups, as it is a very real problem that can sprout from even within our own communities. |
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**RESPONSE #2 (20 MARKS)**

| **I am responding to Gary.**  While Climate change is something that will continue happening, however, the more people that put an effort into slowing it down, the more that the change will be significant. If everyone discontinued their environmental efforts, then climate change will occur at an even faster rate than it currently is going.  As it is, as of 2022 the doomsday clock is 100 seconds from midnight. The doomsday clock is a design that alerts the public about how close we are to destroying our earth with harmful technology that we have created. It's a metaphor, a reminder of the dangers we must face if we are to survive in this world. In 2007, Climate change was officially recognised as something that could contribute to catastrophic disruptions.  When the doomsday clock hits midnight, it means that the planet has become damaged beyond repair and reaches a point of total annihilation.  In recent times, the doomsday clock has hit the closest it has ever been to midnight.  The Paris Agreement – a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted byu 196 parties in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris on 12 December 2015. Its main goal is to keep "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and to work "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."  Since its adoption, the global momentum to tackle climate change has been building – progress has been made on almost every front, from corporate emissions-reduction targets and investors shifting away from coal to a surge of support for net-zero targets and a rising movement of youth activists. The Coronavirus Pandemic led to a historic drop in global emissions but progress has not been anywhere near fast enough.  However, this is only proof that everyone needs to make an effort in tackling the climate crisis before it is too late. Just because it is inevitable that climate change will continue to progress does not mean we should let it progress and sit idly by. Instead, we should all try our best while it is still possible to turn the tables and slow it down. |
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**RESPONSE #3 (20 MARKS)**

| **I am responding to Erica.**  Singapore’s major agreements are for Trade – along with maintaining diplomatic relations with 189 United Nations member states, barring Central African Republic, Monaco and South Sudan. While we do have diplomatic relations with other countries, this does not equate to aligning with said countries and using them for protection when needed.  The assumption that smaller countries, such as Singapore, should align with larger ones purely for security oversimplifies the complex processes of international diplomacy. While some may claim that aligning with stronger countries provides a sense of security, Singapore's approach to foreign policy demonstrates the effectiveness of maintaining autonomy.  Singapore's strength is not only in its economic success but in its ability to form partnerships and agreements on its own terms. In this regard, Singapore’s many trade agreements and diplomatic ties with a number of UN members symbolize a multi-dimensional approach to international relations. This allows the country to create bonds based on mutual respect as opposed to dependence.  Singapore’s pro-neutral stance is another asset that has no equals in international law. By advertising itself as a perpetually neutral entity, Singapore manages to escape from wars between larger countries. It also advertises itself as an actor that goes by principles in the world arena. Thus, Singapore’s commitment to neutrality has certain protections under the rules of armed conflict that are likely to deter future acts of hostility.  Singapore's pro-neutral position is jeopardised if it partners with larger governments, weakening its diplomatic approach. This indicates that smaller nations dealing with global crises and shifting alliances must be more adaptable in order to successfully navigate the international scene. Instead of relying on superpowers for its defense, the method pursued by Singapore is one which combines building up its diplomatic resilience, strong economy and well-trained troops capable of defending itself from various global uncertainties. |
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