

**School of Interdisciplinary Studies**  
**World Issues Singapore Perspective (WISP) AY 2022 /2023**

**WISP ASSESSMENT 1: Individual Oral Presentation (20%)**

**Introduction**

A foreign policy guided by firm and sound principles is fundamental to small states like Singapore. Read “Five Core Principles of Singapore’s Foreign Policy”, a speech by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs to understand why Singapore adopts these core principles. Apply your understanding on a case study from another country, and analyze what Singapore can learn from this example.

**Five Core Principles of Singapore’s Foreign Policy**

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>We need to be a successful and vibrant economy</b>               | <b>We must not become a vassal state</b>                                | <b>We aim to be a friend to all, but an enemy of none</b> | <b>We must promote a global world order governed by the rule of law</b>   | <b>We must be a credible and consistent partner</b>                 |
| We must do well enough so that we are relevant and useful to others | We must not be bought or bullied<br>We must be able to defend ourselves | We must avoid taking sides                                | We do not want to promote a world order where “might is right”<br>We want a world where we can succeed regardless of our size | We want to be trusted<br>We deal fairly and openly with all parties |

**Speech by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan (MUST READ)**

Source: Full speech: Five core principles of Singapore’s foreign policy. (2017, July 17). *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/five-core-principles-of-singapores-foreign-policy>

## Instructions

1. Read Dr Vivian Balakrishnan's speech.
2. Each student will choose **one** case study from the given list of five case studies from p.3 onwards.
3. **Conduct research** on your chosen case study and **choose one principle** from the list of five core principles of Singapore's foreign policy (as mentioned in Dr. Balakrishnan's speech) that you think best relates to the case study. A few links to articles are provided as resources, but you are encouraged to go beyond the list provided.
4. For each case study, a few potential principles have been suggested to you. You are strongly encouraged to make your choice from the given list of potential principles.
5. Prepare a 3-minute oral presentation and a one-page **detailed** outline on the following:
  - a. Briefly introduce your chosen principle
  - b. Explain your chosen case study, and analyze how this example illustrates your chosen principle
  - c. Evaluate the lessons that Singapore can take away from this case study

## Deliverables

1. Oral Presentation
  - Prepare a **one-page detailed outline** for your 3-minute oral presentation. **This presentation will be conducted in Lesson 4 (on 9-13 May 2022, week 4).**
  - The presentation should be kept strictly within 3 minutes.
2. Submission of **one-page detailed outline**
  - You are required to upload a softcopy one-page detailed outline of the presentation, furnished with in-text citations and reference list **to MeL Brightspace before your presentation**. Submissions after your presentation will be considered late and marks will be deducted.
  - The outline may be done in point-form but it should be detailed. It should be strictly one-page, type-written, and minimally in font size 11 of Arial. The reference list is not counted as part of the one-page limit. Please submit your outline on MeL Brightspace.

## References & Citations

Cite all sources using a recognized referencing style, like the APA or MLA. **In-text citations** and a **reference list** are both required. Submissions without references & citations will be awarded a FAIL grade. All forms of plagiarism will be dealt with seriously in accordance with NP's Anti-Plagiarism Policy. Please see this link: <http://www.np.edu.sg/antiplagiarism/>

## Late Submission

**A penalty of 10% of the total mark** allocated for the assessment will be deducted **per day** for the first 7 days (including weekends & public holidays). Assessments that are submitted later than 7 days after the deadline without a valid reason or prior approval will receive a mark of **ZERO**.

## Case Studies

\*\*\*Note: For Straits Times articles in all case studies, if you cannot read the whole article because of subscription issues please use your NP student account to sign in to The Straits Times (Refer to MeL Brightspace for info)

### CASE STUDY 1:

#### Palau challenges China

Palau is an island country located in the western Pacific. With a land area that is 1.5 times smaller than Singapore and a population of only about 18 000, more than 50% of its GDP comes from tourism. In addition, Palau is one of the very few countries that continue to recognize Taiwan as a sovereign state due to their strong economic and political relations with Taiwan. Surangel Whipps, Palau's President, maintains his stance that Palau should not be told whom to be friends with. China has demonstrated its disapproval by banning package tours to Palau in an effort to strike against its economy.

#### Resources:

Cameron, S. (2021, 22 November). Palau faces the dragon. *The Interpreter*, Lowy Institute.  
<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/palau-faces-dragon>

AFP. (2021, 7 April). 'It's the tone': Palau president explains his China mistrust. *The Straits Times*.  
<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/australianz/its-the-tone-palau-president-explains-his-china-mistrust>

McCartney, M. (2021, 30 March) China's aggression will get it no love: Palauan president. *Taiwan News*.  
<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4163901>

#### Potential Principles

1. We must be a credible and consistent partner
2. We need to be a successful and vibrant economy
3. We aim to be a friend to all, but an enemy of none.
4. We must not become a vassal state

## CASE STUDY 2:

### Turkey's & Greece's dispute in the Aegean region

In August 2020, the Aegean sea in the Mediterranean witnessed a collision between a Greek frigate and a Turkish warship during a standoff. Greek defence officials described this as a maritime accident, but Turkish sources alleged that it was an act of provocation.

Bilateral relations between Greece and Turkey have historically been strained and fraught with tension, due to unresolved sovereignty disputes over the legitimacy of their territorial airspace and maritime boundaries. There are numerous Greek islands in the Aegean Sea that are very close to the Turkish coasts. Since the 1960s, Greek military forces have been stationed in these islands, further heightening tension between Greece and Turkey. In 1996, both countries were on the brink of war over disputed ownership of a pair of uninhabited islets, known as Imia, located in the Aegean Sea. Till today, the overlapping geographical claims over their continental shelf boundaries, exclusive economic zones and disputed regions for oil and gas exploration remain unresolved.

#### Resources:

Fraser, Susan (2021, 9 September). Turkey slams Greek dreams to extend territorial waters. *The Associated Press*.

<https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-business-greece-turkey-europe-54edc734a9e891856ef9abc6ba31785c>

International Crisis Group (2021, 31 May). Turkey-Greece: From maritime Brinkmanship to Dialogue

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/europe-central-asia/western-europemediterranean/263-turkey-greece-maritime-brinkmanship-dialogue>

Neo (2020, 27 October). *Turkey-Greece Standoff in the Mediterranean Explained*. [Video]. Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbXzUTUtG3k> (View until 4:05minute)

Psaropoulos, John. (2022, 8 February) Turkey opens new dispute over sovereignty of east Aegean islands.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/8/turkey-opens-new-dispute-over-sovereignty-of-east-aegean-islands>

#### Potential Principles

1. We must promote a global world order governed by the rule of law
2. We aim to be a friend to all, but an enemy of none
3. We must be a credible and consistent partner

### CASE STUDY 3:

#### Myanmar Crisis

It has been more than a year since the Myanmar coup, where the military junta suddenly seized power from a democratically elected government, took place. After the leaders of the National League for Democracy (NLD) were arrested, civilians protested against the military's illegal action and this led to unrest in the country. Despite economic sanctions by Western powers and calls by ASEAN leaders for the reinstatement of the elected leaders and a peaceful resolution to the crisis, the military junta continues to hold power. Many protestors have been arrested or killed.

In an unprecedented move, ASEAN banned Myanmar's junta leader Min Aung Hlaing from attending the ASEAN summit in October 2021. Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan described the ban as a "difficult but necessary decision to uphold ASEAN's credibility" while the junta saw this as a foreign intervention into Myanmar's domestic matters.

#### Resources:

BBC News. (2021, October 16). Myanmar army general Min Aung Hlaing excluded from leaders' summit. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58938489>

CNA. (2021, October 26). Myanmar a no-show at summit after ASEAN sidelines junta boss. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/asean-summit-myanmar-leader-exclude-2268486>

CNA (2021). ASEAN Summit: Leaders criticise Myanmar's military government. [Video] Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DDJIK6St1s>

Reuters. (2021, October 21). ASEAN should rethink non-interference policy amid Myanmar crisis: Malaysia Foreign Minister. *The Straits Times*. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/asean-should-rethink-non-interference-policy-amid-myanmar-crisis-malaysia-foreign>

#### Potential Principles

1. We must be a credible and consistent partner
2. We must promote a global world order governed by the rule of law

## CASE STUDY 4:

### Britain clings on to the Chagos Islands

The Chagos Islands (or Chagos Archipelago) is a group of 7 atolls comprising more than 60 islands with Diego Garcia being the largest island. In the past, the Chagos Islands were administered by Mauritius, which was a French colony. The signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1814 saw Mauritius and its dependencies being ceded by the French to the British.

In 1965, Britain purchased the Chagos Islands from Mauritius to form the British India Ocean Territory (BIOT) for defence purposes. As part of a UK-US mutual defence strategy, the UK allowed the US to establish a naval base at one of the islands in the archipelago – Diego Garcia. However, the Mauritians felt that they were ‘forced’ to give the islands up in exchange for their own independence, which it obtained in 1968. Since its independence, Mauritius sought to claim the Chagos Islands as a Mauritian territory, to the objection of the UK.

In 2019, the United Nations International Court of Justice ruled that the UK’s claim to the archipelago was unlawful. In 2021, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) also confirmed Mauritius’ sovereignty over the Chagos Islands and criticised Britain for ignoring the 2019 ruling. Britain has claimed that it needs to continue to administer the archipelago for its defence and its close ally, America, is not about to give up the strategic foothold in Diego Garcia as well.

### Resources:

Aljazeera. (2019, 22 May). Britain loses UN vote over Chagos islands.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/5/22/britain-loses-un-vote-over-chagos-islands>

BBC. (2020, 19 October). Chagos Islands dispute: Mauritius calls US and UK hypocrites.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-54598084>

BBC News. (2022, 9 February). Mauritius sends boat to contested Chagos Islands. [Video]. Youtube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cGUdP2qVLw>

Herzinger, B. (2021, 15 February). The power of example: America’s presence in Diego Garcia. *The Lowy Institute*. <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/power-example-american-presence-diego-garcia>

### Potential Principles

1. We must promote a world order governed by the rule of law.
2. We must be a credible and consistent partner.
3. We must not become a vassal state.

## CASE STUDY 5:

### Vietnam's & China's tussle in the South China Sea

The South China Sea (SCS) holds an estimated 7 billion barrels of oil reserves and about 900 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The SCS hosts some of the world's busiest shipping routes with three times more tanker traffic than Suez Canal & five times that of Panama Canal.

For the Vietnamese, the SCS signifies strategic economic, security and maritime interests which must be protected. Vietnam's vast 3,260 km coastline borders the SCS, where her territorial sovereignty extends to the Spratly islands and Paracel archipelagos in the SCS. Millions of their fishermen's livelihoods depend on the SCS.

Till today, Vietnam and China are still engaged in a long-drawn tussle over conflicting sovereignty claims in the SCS. Satellite imagery shows China's land reclamation and construction of ports, military installations and airstrips near the disputed Paracel & Spratly Islands. China has claimed it has rights to the water within the nine-dash line in the SCS.

### Resources:

Channel News Asia (2020, 21 July). South China Sea tensions: Foreign Ministers of Vietnam and China hold virtual meeting. [Video] Youtube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL3b\\_N1d54c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL3b_N1d54c)

Channel News Asia (2021, 5 August). Goliath vs David: China & Fisherfolks of The Philippines and Vietnam. [Video] Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJzDeHylyBU> (Start from 1:54<sup>th</sup> minute)

Council On Foreign Relations (2022, 11 March) Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/territorial-disputes-south-china-sea>

Huong, Le Thu (2020, 30 September) Rough Waters Ahead for Vietnam-China Relations, by Carnegie Endowment For International Peace. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/09/30/rough-waters-ahead-for-vietnam-china-relations-pub-82826>

### Potential Principles

1. We must promote a global world order governed by the rule of law
2. We aim to be a friend to all, but an enemy of none
3. We must not become a vassal state.

| MARKING CRITERIA               |   |   |  |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| Grade band                     | 10 - 8 (A)  | 7.5 - 7 (B)   | 6.5 - 6 (C)  | 5.5 - 5 (D)   | 4.5 - 0 (F)   |
| <b>ANALYSIS<br/>(10 marks)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made strong links between case study and chosen principle</li> <li>Gave a strong and compelling analysis of issues</li> <li>Gave very insightful &amp; logical evaluation of lessons for Singapore</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made clear links between case study and chosen principle</li> <li>Gave a clear analysis of issues but there were some gaps</li> <li>Gave fairly insightful evaluation of lessons for Singapore and points were fairly logical</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made some useful links between case study and chosen principle</li> <li>Gave an analysis of issues but there were many gaps</li> <li>Attempted an evaluation of lessons for Singapore, but some points lacked insight &amp; logic</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very weak links between case study and chosen principle</li> <li>Very weak analysis of issues</li> <li>Attempted evaluation of lessons for Singapore but many points lack insight &amp; logic</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made no links between case study and chosen principle</li> <li>Very weak analysis of issues</li> <li>Did not give an evaluation of lessons for Singapore</li> </ul>  |
| GRADE BAND                     | 4-5 (A)   | 3.5 (B)   | 3 (C)  | 2.5 (D)   | 2- 0 (F)  |
| <b>CONTENT<br/>(5 marks)</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gave a clear and concise description of the chosen principle and the case study</li> <li>Points were well supported with evidence/ examples</li> <li>Proper references done in a recognized format (including in-text citation)</li> <li>Kept to page limit (for the outline)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gave a fairly clear and concise description of the chosen principle and the case study</li> <li>Points were mostly well-supported with evidence / examples but there were some gaps</li> <li>Proper references done in a recognized format (including in-text citation)</li> <li>Kept to page limit (for the outline)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attempted a description of the chosen principle and the case study but it lacked detail and clarity</li> <li>Points were sometimes supported with evidence / examples but there were many gaps</li> <li>References done but not in a recognized format</li> <li>Did not keep to page limit (for the outline)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attempted a poor description of the chosen principle and the case study</li> <li>Points were barely supported with evidence/ examples</li> <li>References sometimes done but not in a recognized format</li> <li>Did not keep to page limit (for the outline)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irrelevant description of the chosen principle and the case study</li> <li>Points were not supported with evidence/ examples</li> <li>References not done</li> <li>Did not keep to page limit (for the outline)</li> </ul> |
| <b>DELIVERY<br/>(5 marks)</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation was well organised, very persuasive and cohesive</li> <li>Confident and very familiar with the content</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation was organised, somewhat persuasive and well delivered for the most part</li> <li>Good familiarity with the content</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation was adequate but not always persuasive</li> <li>Showed only some familiarity with the content</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation was weak, disorganised and not persuasive</li> <li>Showed little familiarity with the content</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor presentation showing signs of not being prepared and unfamiliarity with content presented</li> </ul>  |

A=16-20, B+=15-15.5, B=14-14.5, C+=13-13.5, C=12-12.5, D+=11-11.5, D=10-10.5, F<=9