

**UNDERSTANDING SG 1:   
A Closer Look**

ICA 1 (40%) Individual Assignment

*(At least 500 words in total)*

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| School:  *e.g. SBM* | SIT |
| Lecture Group:  *e.g. LEC 01* | Lec 03 |
| Lecture Day / Timing:  *e.g. Monday / 9-10am* | Monday 5pm |
| Total Word Count: | 700words |

**Instructions - ICA 1 (40%) Individual Assignment**

* Fill in your learner details in the Cover Page
* Read the article <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/religious-melting-pot-in-waterloo-st>
* Answer all questions in the box below (at least 500 words in total)
* Submit this completed document to NYP Brightspace

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| **Total 40 Marks:**  **Answers**  :30 marks  **Overall Language** :10 marks  Question:  **1 Are you surprised to see these 2 temples belonging to 2 different religions located just beside each other? Why or why not?** [10 marks]  I am surprised because usually the temples belonging to two different religions are located further apart. For example, the Bright Hill temple is located at 88 Bright Hill Road, Singapore 574117 and the nearest religious place to it is the Leang San King temple. These two temples are 0.2km apart. Many people visit religious places so these places are prone to large crowds. Having two religious places located nearby can result in way larger crowds hence, I find it surprising. Some areas are also known for having a religious place for a specific religion. However, Waterloo Street is known for having two religious places for two different religions. Since this is out of the norm, I find it surprising.  **2 Why do you think such peaceful co-existence between different religions can happen in Singapore?** [10 marks]  The Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act (MRHA), implemented in 1992 has been a critical complement to Singapore's work on strengthening religious harmony. It protects people's religious freedom, by making clear the boundaries of the mutual engagements. The inter-religious organisation (IRO) is a nongovernment organisation formed in 1949 by religious leaders from different faiths, with a timeless purpose to achieve harmony of faiths in Singapore. They have programmes like lectures, seminars and talks where people from all faiths can attend and have lively discussions about the different religions. Such organisations allow people to learn and understand about the different religions, thus uniting people from different religions. Furthermore, the HDB ethnic integration policy (EIP), introduced in 1989 promote racial harmony in multicultural Singapore by ensuring there was a proportionate number across different races and religion in HDB neighbourhoods. This policy ensures people of different race and religion have the chance to interact with one another. The more people interact with different races and religions, the smaller the divide is between them. Hence, leading with racial and religious harmony  **3 What do you think can happen if there is no such peaceful co-existence between different religions in Singapore?** [10 marks]  If there is no peaceful co-existence between the different religions in Singapore, I think there would be a lot of riots or protests. I think people of different religions will believe their religion is better than the other religions and would voice out their opinion. I think people would also encourage others to join their religion through disruptive ways like protests. If people do not welcome the different religions, I think they would openly talk down on the different religions which can cause the different religions to get worked up as they may feel the need to stand up and defend their religion. I think people in Singapore will be very divided. I think there may be areas of Singapore that is only for a certain religion and when people of other religions enter the area, it would be considered trespassing. I think people would also not enter religious places that are not for their religion, Unlike now, when there are people like Chua Hak Heng who visits both the buddhist temple  and hindu temple. Since people are unaccepting of the different religions, tourists of different religions are less likely to visit Singapore as Singapore is seen as an unsafe place for them to visit or a place where they are prone to discrimination. With lesser tourists visiting Singapore, Singapore's economy will drop and Singaporeans will suffer. |

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| **Reference List**  *Please provide the website URLs or book titles which you have referenced.*  **HDB ethnic quota in Singapore: 4 mixed-race couples ... - propertyguru. (n.d.). from https://www.propertyguru.com.sg/property-guides/HDB-Ethnic-Quota-eip-52805**  **Introduction. Inter-Religious Organisation, Singapore. (n.d.). from https://iro.sg/about-iro/**  **Strengthening religious harmony to build a cohesive society in Singapore. mccy. (2020, March 25). from https://www.mccy.gov.sg/about-us/news-and-resources/parliamentarymatters/2019/oct/strengthening-religious-harmony-cohesive-singapore** |