

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

EXAMINATION FOR ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES 2

SEMESTER I: 2010-2011

SC2205 - SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILY

SOCIOLOGY

November 2010 - Time Allowed 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This examination paper contains **TWO** sections: Section A and Section B, and comprises **TWO** pages.
2. **Question 1 in Section A is a compulsory question.**
3. Answer any **TWO** questions from **Section B**.
4. You must answer a total of **THREE** questions. All questions have equal weight (33.3%).
5. This is a **CLOSED BOOK** examination.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY QUESTION

1. Singapore has sustained very low fertility rates. Please discuss critically the social factors that may have contributed to the very low fertility rates.

SECTION B: CHOOSE TWO QUESTIONS

2. Discuss why divorce rates are rising in Singapore as well as in other countries such as Japan, Korea, and the United States. Please support your answer with sociological perspectives on marriage and divorce. Also, based on P. Straughan's book "Marriage Dissolution in Singapore", discuss ways to reduce divorce rates.
3. Describe the "normal family ideology" of the Singapore government. Critically discuss what challenges Singaporean families are currently facing in *living by* this ideology. Based on studies on American families by Pyke (2000) and Daly (2001), discuss what might be the possible emotional impact on families of having two different modes of family, the *family-we-live-by* (the *Normal Family Ideology*) and the *family-we-live-with*.
4. Lesthaeghe (2009) has argued that European societies are experiencing the Second Demographic Transition (SDT) since 1960s. Describe this transition in detail in comparison with the First Demographic Transition happened from the 19th century to 1960s. Do you think the Asian countries such as Japan and Singapore are also experiencing SDT? Explain why you think Asian countries are experiencing or not experiencing SDT.

***** END OF PAPER *****