

In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

What can you infer from Source A about piracy in 19th century Singapore? Explain your answer. [4]

(b) Study Sources B and C.

How similar are both sources? Explain your answer. [6]

Maintaining law and order in 19th Century Singapore
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

When Singapore came under the British rule in the 19th century, one of the main functions of the British was to maintain law and order. The British authorities had to contend with issues such as piracy, secret societies, and other crimes, while also balancing the interests of different ethnic and cultural groups in the colony.

How did the British maintain law and order in Singapore in the 19th Century?

Source A: *Adapted from a historian account on piracy around Singapore in the early 19th century.*

The main victims were the Chinese junks and the Malay trading boats. As late as 1835, Asian trading vessels were occasionally attacked within sight of Singapore harbour, and it was generally thought impossible to suppress piracy totally. What changed the situation was the arrival of steam-driven gunboats and the firm decision to root out piracy. Warships that depended on the winds could not pursue pirate vessels that could escape by rowing. In 1836, the British authorities, after years of neglect, decided to provide money and ships available for the suppression of piracy.

Source B: *Adapted from a historian writing in 1989, about law and order in 19th century Singapore.*

The British Government neglected the wellbeing of the Chinese immigrants. Secret societies filled this vacuum, assuming many of the state's responsibilities, including their members' welfare, the settlement of disputes, by secret tribunal, of their own laws.

The subsequent ban on secret societies brought more law and order into Singapore society. This was helped too by police reforms carried out, following a commission of enquiry into the alleged inefficiency of the police force.

Source C: *Adapted from a historian writing in 1998, about the secret societies in 19th century Singapore.*

The Chinese migrants joined secret societies in a foreign country because the places they went to were ruled by Europeans who had little or no knowledge of Chinese custom or language. Such societies provide a social structure, livelihood, protection and possibly some measure of spiritual fulfilment through its activities.

When Pickering became the first Protector of Chinese, he worked closely with the Chinese and judged over their petty quarrels. He sought to educate his fellow British officers in the Chinese language to bridge the gap between the two communities. Chinese classes were conducted at Raffles Institution by Pickering for the officers.

Section B (Essay Question)

2 This question is about how Singapore became a trading post.

Explain why the British wanted to establish a third trading post in Singapore.

[8]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source A *Adapted from A history of Singapore by Ernest CT Chew & Edwin Lee, 1996*
 Source B *Adapted from A History of Singapore 1819-1988 by Turnbull, Mary C. 1989*
 Source C *Adapted from Secret Societies in Singapore by Irene Lim, 1998.*

End of Paper

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HISTORY WEIGHTED ASSESSMENT II 2024

Suggested Answer Scheme
Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

- 1a) What can you infer from Source A about piracy in 19th century Singapore? [4]
 Explain your answer

Level	Response	Mark
L1	Content only/ Answers based on the description of the source/ Misinterpret source e.g. The main victims were the Chinese junks and the trading boats.	[1]
L2	Identifies sub-messages i.e. makes valid comments interpreting the source but misses the main message of the source e.g. It was difficult to maintain order because the British government did not have proper boats to outrun the pirates. / OR The trade of Singapore affected by Piracy	[2]
L3	Identifies the main message of the source with reference to why law and order was difficult to maintain. Award up to 4 marks well developed answers. e.g. I can infer from source A that privacy in 19th Century Singapore was difficult to manage as it was not the priority of the British colonial government to maintain order in the new settlement (Singapore). This can be inferred from 'after years of neglect', the British governor in India finally decided to 'make money and ships available for the suppression of piracy'. This seem to imply that the focus of the British colonial government was to exploit Singapore for economic gains, than to look into addressing the complex challenges of law and order effectively. OR I can infer from source A that there was a lack of policing in tackling privacy as there were 'years of neglect'. Hence this was a challenging problem to resolve. OR there seems to be a lack of genuine commitment to maintain order effectively. Hence this contributed to the difficulty in suppressing piracy in 19th century Singapore. OR lack of technology made it difficult for the British to catch the pirates. Hence the problem of privacy only improved when "steamships" and "gunboats" were used.	[3-4]

- 1b)** Study Sources and C.
How similar are both sources? Explain your answer.

[6]

Level	Response	Mark
L1	Misinterpret or use of content but no valid matching, provenance / source type/ topic <i>e.g. Similar: they are both from historians who wrote about the Chinese Community in 19th century Singapore.</i>	[1]
L2	False matching of sources <i>e.g. Source B says that 'The British Government neglected the wellbeing of the Chinese immigrants' but C says that 'Europeans held the officers' posts while Indians made up the rank and file. Ignorant of the language and ways of the Chinese secret societies.</i>	[2]
L3	Similar or different based on content Award 3 marks for similarity in content and give another mark for a well-developed answer. <i>e.g. The sources are similar in showing that the secret societies provided various forms of protection, and mutual aid to their members. Both sources were show that Secret societies often functioned as social support networks for the Chinese immigrant communities, helping members in need.</i> <i>This is shown in Source B, where secret societies assumed 'many of the state's responsibilities, including their members' welfare, the settlement of disputes, by secret tribunal, of their own laws'. Similarly in Source C, 'Such societies provide a social structure, livelihood, protection and possibly some measure of spiritual fulfilment through its activities'.</i> OR <i>The sources are differ in terms of the measures used by the British colonial government to reduce the threats of the Secret Societies. Source B implies that the colonial government was reduced the threat of the secret societies by passing laws and carrying out reforms to train up the police force. (efforts in strengthening the police force)</i> <i>However, in source C, it mentioned that British officers were trained to speak the Chinese language. William Pickering encouraged British officers to learn Chinese, so as to train up more European civil servants to be well versed in the working knowledge of the Chinese. This will help them to infiltrate into the community and network more effectively. (efforts in establishing the Chinese protectorate)</i>	[3-4]
L4	Similar and different based on content Award 6 marks for well-explained answers (Both sides of L3)	[5-6]

**Suggested Answer Scheme
Section B (Essay)**

2 Explain why the British wanted to establish a third trading post in Singapore. [8]

Level	Response	Mark
L1	Writing about the topic without addressing the question.	[1-2]
L2	Describes the factor(s) <i>Award 3 marks for identification without description.</i> <i>Award 4 marks for detailed description.</i> - Problems of British earlier two ports - Need to break the Dutch monopoly over the Spice trade - Suitability of Singapore	[3-4]
L3	Explains the factor(s) <i>Award 5 marks for explaining one factor and give another mark for a better-developed answer.</i> <i>Award 7 marks for explaining two factors and give full marks for a well-developed essay</i> The British established a third trading post in Singapore because of Singapore's strategic geographical location. Singapore was located at the end of the Malaccan Straits and also situated at the centre of the east-west trade route. In the early part of the 19th century, Britain's trade with China had become very lucrative. The British had two trading settlements at Penang and Bencoolen for their ships stopover to replenish their supplies on their journey between India and China. However, these two settlements were unsuitable for the British. <u>Singapore's strategic location thus made it an ideal port of call for trading ships to stop for replenishment and trade as an alternative to the Dutch ports in the East Indies as well as Penang and Bencoolen. Furthermore, its location at the foot of the Malaccan Straits allowed the British to protect their ships sailing through the Straits to trade in the East Indies.</u> Therefore, Singapore's strategic geographical location made it an ideal to establish a third port in south East Asia. Singapore characteristics as a port led to the British establishing a third port in Singapore. Singapore had a deep, natural harbour with abundant fresh water and timber. It was also sheltered from storms by the surrounding islands such as Pulau Belakang Mati (Sentosa). These characteristics made it ideal as a stop for a large number of ships at any one time to replenish supplies and water, and for repairs. The British	[5-8]

	therefore could set up a port-of-call in Singapore to attract trading ships in large numbers. <u>This made Singapore an ideal alternative port as compared to the other Dutch ports as traders would find Singapore more convenient and suitable in meeting their needs.</u> Therefore, Singapore's strategic characteristics as a port made it an ideal British to set up a third port in Southeast Asia.	
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