



GAN ENG SENG SCHOOL

Humanities Department – Social Studies

"To nurture knowledgeable and committed citizens with a global outlook and skills for the future"

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Social Studies

Issue 1

Summary Notes

Note: These summary notes contain samples of how you can provide Examples and Explanations for Structured Response Question 7.

These notes are meant to supplement studying of the Social Studies Coursebook.

Issue 1: Exploring Citizenship and Governance

Guiding Questions

- 1. What does citizenship mean to me?**
- 2. What are the functions and roles of Government in working for the good of society?**
- 3. How do we decide what is good for society?**
- 4. How can we work together for the good of society?**

Core Content

- Attributes shaping understanding of citizenship
 - Legal status
 - A sense of identity
 - Shared values
 - Civic participation
- Functions of government
 - Legislature, Executive, Judiciary
- Roles of government
 - Maintain law and order
 - Ensure economic and social well-being of citizens
 - Promote and protect country's national interests
- Challenges in deciding what is good for society
 - Differing needs and interests
 - Differing priorities
 - Unequal sharing of costs
- Managing trade-offs
- Principles shaping governance
 - Having good leadership
 - Anticipating change and staying relevant
 - A stake for everyone, opportunities for all
 - Practising meritocracy
- Addressing the needs of society
- Influencing decision-making in public affairs
- Strengthening citizens' sense of belonging

Summary Notes for Chapter 1: What are the Attributes Shaping Citizenship?

POINT	Citizenship by <u>Legal Status</u>	Citizenship by <u>Sense of National Identity</u>	Citizenship by <u>Shared Values</u>	Citizenship by <u>Civic Participation</u>
EXAMPLE	- Citizenship can be shaped by legal status. This includes the rights and obligations of citizenship. <u>Rights of citizens:</u> - For example, citizens enjoy the rights to freedom of speech and religion. This means we are protected by law to say what we want and practise the religion we choose. <u>Obligations of citizens:</u> - For example, we have the duty to practise responsible free speech and maintain social harmony between different races or religions. National Service (NS) is mandatory for men when they reach the age of 18.	- Citizenship can be shaped by having a sense of national identity. - This is a shared belief of connectedness that we belong to the same country, created through common experiences, practices and spaces. <u>Examples of common experiences, practices and spaces:</u> - For example, Singaporeans have common experiences like serving NS or celebrating National Day together. - We speak a common language like English in work and education, and Singlish in everyday life. - We eat together at hawker centres and are proud of our hawker culture.	- Citizenship is shaped by shared values. - This means common principles and beliefs embraced by all of us. <u>Multiculturalism:</u> - For example, Singaporeans embrace the shared value of multiculturalism. - We value the importance of living in harmony in a multiracial and multireligious society. - We make conscious effort to understand and develop good relationships with people from different races and religions.	- Citizenship can be shaped by civic participation. - This refers to citizens actively contributing time, effort and money in matters of general interest and concern. <u>As individuals:</u> - For example, Andy Teo initiated 'Temporary Academic Assistance' to connect students to volunteer tutors when schools moved to Home-Based Learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. - In just a week, 250 volunteered to teach for free. <u>As informal groups:</u> - For example, a group of friends started 'GoodHood.SG', a mobile app to promote neighbourliness. - Through the app, neighbours can connect meaningfully and offer help. <u>As formal groups:</u> - For example, Zero Waste Singapore is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) leading sustained efforts towards zero waste, like through education on the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this shapes citizenship:</u> - Citizen rights ensure our well-being and allow us to establish ourselves as members of the community. - Obligations ensure we contribute to a safer and better society. - Legal status thus helps citizens to see ourselves as one nation and be willing to work together.	<u>How this shapes citizenship:</u> - These common experiences, practices and spaces develops a sense of familiarity and common identity. - We feel closer to one another and the country as we belong to the same community. - This results in a willingness to care for one another and to work together to improve the nation.	<u>How this shapes citizenship:</u> - Shared values may influence collective decision-making and exercise of judgement. - As a society, we will embrace behaviours leading to harmony and not tolerate racist behaviour that can cause conflicts. - This results in stronger relationships and willingness to work together as one nation.	<u>How this shapes citizenship:</u> - Civic participation helps address specific needs in society. - Those helping and those being helped develop stronger relationships and a stake in the country. - We thus see ourselves as one nation.

Summary Notes for Chapter 2: How do the Functions of Government Lead to the Good of Society?

POINT	Legislature	Executive	Judiciary
EXAMPLE	<u>Legislature</u> • The Legislature consists of the President & the Parliament. • They are responsible for making and passing laws. • For example, when the Covid-19 pandemic first started, the government passed the Covid-19 (Temporary Measures) Act that made the wearing of masks compulsory by law.	<u>Executive</u> • The Executive consists of the President and Cabinet, supported by ministries and government agencies. • They are responsible for enforcing and implementing laws and policies. • For example, officers from National Environment Agency (NEA) were authorised to issue fines to offenders who didn't wear masks during the pandemic. • Safe Distancing Ambassadors were employed to remind the public to abide by the law to wear masks.	<u>Judiciary</u> • The Judiciary consists of the Supreme Court, State Courts and Family Justice Courts. • They are responsible for interpreting and applying laws. • Individuals who were caught repeatedly defying the law to wear masks were summoned to the courts for sentencing. • For instance, a person was sentenced to two weeks' jail and fined \$2000 for failing to wear a mask and being a public nuisance.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to the good of society:</u> • The Legislature ensures that important national issues are constantly being examined and discussed. • A consensus needs to be reached so that any new law passed is valid and fair. • The laws help us to decide how to allocate resources to best meet the different needs of society.	<u>How this leads to the good of society:</u> • The Executive ensures that the laws and policies of the government can be implemented effectively. • They also provide constant feedback to policy makers so that policies can be fine-tuned to meet changing needs.	<u>How this leads to the good of society:</u> • The Judiciary ensures that Singaporeans respect and follow the laws, or they may be convicted and punished. • Individuals who are charged are allowed to give their side of the story to ensure fairness. • With respect for the law, this ensures a safe and stable society.

Summary Notes for Chapter 2: What are the Roles of Government in Working for the Good of Society?

POINT	Maintain Law & Order		Ensure Economic & Social Well-Being of Citizens	Promote & Protect Country's National Interests	
	Preserve Safety & Security	Ensure Justice		Diplomacy	Deterrence
EXAMPLE	<u>Singapore Police Force</u> - The Singapore Police Force (SPF) prevents, deters, and detects crime. - For example, during the Little India Riots, they were activated to arrest rioters and maintain crowd control.	<u>Equality before the law</u> - There are clear and fair laws spelling out what citizens can or cannot do. - For example, a former civil servant from the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) was jailed for 10 years after being convicted for misusing money entrusted to his care.	<u>Subsidised healthcare</u> - For example, there are polyclinics all over Singapore providing subsidised healthcare. - There are also government policies like the 3Ms. (Medisave and Medishield ensures savings and medical insurance while Medifund provides coverage for the needy.) <u>Other examples:</u> - Providing affordable transport & housing and providing CPF & SkillsFuture	Diplomacy is the practice of obtaining agreement between countries to promote common interests and resolve conflicts. <u>Bilateral ties with Malaysia</u> - Singapore actively maintains strong bilateral ties with Malaysia. We work together with a water agreement where we import raw water and provide treated water in return. <u>Multilateral ties</u> - Singapore actively maintains multilateral relationships with multiple countries. We sign trade agreements like the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).	<u>Singapore Armed Forces (SAF):</u> - The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) invests in the latest military technologies, like unmanned aerial vehicles. - At the annual National Day Parade, we display various military technologies that we possess to Singapore citizens and foreign countries.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this works for the good of society:</u> - The work of the SPF ensures that people obey laws and behave in an organised and peaceful way. - Offenders are swiftly caught, ensuring that citizens' lives and properties are protected from harmful acts.	<u>How this works for the good of society:</u> - Ensuring justice means everyone, including the government itself, is equal before the law. - There is confidence of fair treatment, so laws will be respected and taken seriously.	<u>How this works for the good of society:</u> By providing affordable, high-quality goods and services for citizens, the government help meet the basic needs for everyone, and give citizens the opportunity to pursue goals and enjoy good quality of life.	<u>How this works for the good of society:</u> - Strong ties with Malaysia allow us to protect our water security and ensure we have affordable clean water for citizens. - The RCEP promotes trade and strengthen economic cooperation with multiple countries, growing our economy.	<u>How this works for the good of society:</u> - A strong military will deter potential aggressors by making it difficult and costly to attack us. - Citizens and foreign investors can thus feel safe to engage in economic activity in Singapore.

Summary Notes for Chapter 3: Why are there Challenges in Deciding What is Good for Society?

POINT	Differing Needs & Interests	Differing Priorities	Unequal Sharing of Costs	Managing Trade-offs
EXAMPLE	<u>Home-Based Learning:</u> • In society, there may be different citizen groups with differing needs and interests. • For example, some families may support home-based learning (HBL) as it allows students to learn independently, even during periods of disruption like the Covid-19 pandemic. • However, some families lack supportive home environments for HBL, like lacking space or devices. The students need to learn in a school environment for proper learning.	<u>Clearing Land for Housing:</u> • Even when society agrees on certain needs and interests, they may have differing priorities. • For example, land is needed in Singapore for various purposes, like housing, recreation or preserving nature. • There was disagreement on whether the Dover Forest should be cleared to build more public housing. Some wanted to prioritise preserving nature for future generations, while others felt we urgently need more housing now.	<u>Building of Foreign Workers' Dormitories:</u> • A decision can have varying impact on different people, leading to unequal sharing of costs. • For example, in 2020, the government announced they would build more foreign workers' dormitories to improve their living standards and so we can have more workers. • Given our land constraints, some of the dormitories would be located near residential areas. • Some Singaporeans were worried about potential congestion or safety issues with foreign workers staying near them.	<u>Cross Island Line:</u> • Due to challenges in deciding what is good for society, the government has to manage trade-offs in making decisions. • For example, the government is building the Cross Island Line (CRL) and proposed a direct route that cut below the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (CCNR). • The Nature Society proposed a longer skirting route that goes around the CCNR. • The direct route may negatively impact the nature and wildlife at CCNR, but the skirting route will make travel longer and be more costly to build.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to challenges in deciding what is good for society:</u> • In a diverse society, HBL can thus influence the mental well-being and economic survival of different groups of students differently. • Since the government has limited resources, there has to be trade-offs in deciding how to allocate resources to meet these differing needs and interests.	<u>How this leads to challenges in deciding what is good for society:</u> • Given our limited land area, it is crucial we optimise our land use to meet the current and future needs of the people. • Since the government has limited resources, there has to be trade-offs in deciding how to allocate resources to meet these differing priorities.	<u>How this leads to challenges in deciding what is good for society:</u> • Singaporeans display the Not-In-My-Backyard (NIMBY) syndrome as they recognise the importance of having foreign workers' dormitories but sees it unfair that they are the ones bearing the negative impact. They want the facilities to be built elsewhere. • The different views thus lead to tensions in decision-making.	<u>How this leads to challenges in deciding what is good for society:</u> • Since only one route can be chosen, the government and society has to come to a consensus, which can be challenging.

Summary Notes for Chapter 3: How do the Principles of Governance Lead to the Good of Society?

POINT	Having Good Leadership	Anticipating Change & Staying Relevant	Providing a Stake for Everyone	Practising Meritocracy
EXAMPLE	• Good leadership is having the moral courage and integrity to do what is right, even if it is unpopular. <u>NEWater</u> • The government built NEWater plants to recycle used water into drinkable water. • Some Singaporeans were concerned about the hygiene of recycling used water for drinking.	• Anticipating change and staying relevant is having the foresight to make decisions based on long term considerations. <u>Rising Sea Levels</u> • During the 2019 National Day Rally, PM Lee spoke about how climate change will lead to rising sea levels, affecting Singapore as we are a low-lying country. • Although this will only happen in 50-100 years, the government is starting to invest billions of dollars to take early action for our coastal and flood protection.	• Providing a stake for everyone is about involving citizens in the future of Singapore. <u>Emerging Stronger Conversation</u> • The Emerging Stronger Conversation was a series of national-level dialogues involving Singaporeans from different backgrounds and experiences. • It allowed them to voice out their hopes for the future of Singapore and partner the government and one another to influence areas they care about.	• Meritocracy is about rewarding people based on their effort and abilities. <u>Edusave Scholarships</u> • For example, the government gives Edusave Scholarships to the top 10% of the cohort based on their good academic performance and conduct.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to the good of society:</u> • The government went ahead even though the decision was unpopular with some Singaporeans and may cost them votes in elections. • This ensure that decisions made are for the good of the country rather than for personal interests. • This allows a sustainable water supply for us, without needing to depend on Malaysia.	<u>How this leads to the good of society:</u> • Our leaders are forward-looking and prepare early for anticipated problems. • They strike a balance between managing short-term concerns and ensuring that long-term issues are resolved. • By starting early and spending money progressively, they can address rising sea levels even though it would cost a lot of money over the whole period.	<u>How this leads to the good of society:</u> • The government encourages Singaporeans to share their views about policies so that they have a say in these decisions. • Singaporeans will feel that their opinions matter and this helps to develop a greater sense of belonging in Singaporeans. • They will thus be more willing to contribute or help out in times of need.	<u>How this leads to the good of society:</u> • People are rewarded according to their efforts & achievements, rather than their race, religion, or socio-economic background. • With the scholarships, good students can continue to study and get good jobs and contribute to Singapore. • Singaporeans will feel the system is fair and will be motivated to work hard and contribute

Summary Notes for Chapter 4: How can Citizens and the Government Work Together for the Good of Society?

POINT	Addressing the Needs of Society	Influencing Decision-Making in Public Affairs	Strengthening Citizens' Sense of Belonging
EXAMPLE	<u>Addressing needs of the elderly</u> <u>Citizens as Individuals</u> • Mdm Malligesvari, an elderly individual herself, volunteers as an instructor for the Age Well Everyday (AWE) programme. • She teaches senior citizens how to stay healthy, exercise and keep active through brain-stimulating activities. <u>Citizens as Community Groups</u> • RSVP Singapore is a formal community group that engages seniors to take up volunteering. • In their Cyberguide programme, the seniors volunteering at RSVP teach other senior citizens IT skills and knowledge. <u>Government</u> • Government agencies like the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) develops resources to enhance the capabilities of social service groups. • Working with community groups like RSVP Singapore, they developed the Volunteer Management Toolkit 2.0 to provide frameworks and guidelines in managing volunteers.	<u>Public solutions against diabetes</u> <u>Citizens</u> • Some Singaporean individuals participated in the Citizens' Jury to discuss the challenges faced with diabetes and provide recommendations. • The participants had diverse backgrounds, including people living with and without diabetes, caregivers and healthcare providers. <u>Government</u> • Policy makers from government bodies like Ministry of Health (MOH) listened to the presentations from participants of the Citizens' Jury. • They supported 14 out of 28 recommendations, including introducing a diabetes awareness campaign and lessons on diabetes for children.	<u>Dakota Crescent</u> <u>Citizens as Individuals</u> • Individual volunteers interviewed residents of Dakota Crescent to document their stories before they move out. • They also organised weekly house visits and potluck parties for the residents. <u>Citizens as Community Groups</u> • Between Two Homes, an informal community group, was formed to preserve memories of Dakota Crescent before its redevelopment. • They formed a multimedia website to document the rich heritage and community of the place. <u>Government</u> • Our Singapore Fund, launched by the government, supports ground-up projects that build national identity or meet social needs, funding up to 80% of costs or \$20,000 per project. • This helped to fund the Between Two Homes initiative, which documented the rich heritage of Dakota Crescent before its redevelopment.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How They Contribute and Work Together to Address Needs / Influence Decisions / Strengthen SOB</u>		
	<u>Citizens as Individuals / Community Groups</u> • Offering their knowledge, skills and experience, citizens can use the resources, programmes and structures provided by the government to help address needs of the elderly. <u>Government</u> • The government can set up structures and programs, and provide resources in a targeted manner, to help the community care for others.	<u>Citizens</u> • Citizens can thus influence decision-making in public affairs by sharing their opinions and working with the government to form solutions. • The crowd wisdom and insights from the ground will help the government make better decisions. <u>Government</u> • The government can thus provide citizens with equal and fair opportunities to participate in decision-making in public affairs. • Citizens will be more willing to share their insights and wisdom, and also to support the initiatives that they came up with together with the government.	<u>Citizens as Individuals / Community Groups</u> • In this way, citizens ensure other citizens feel supported and cared for, and become more united with a common sense of identity as Singaporeans. • The meaningful initiatives helped citizens preserve memories and form attachments to the history, people and places in the country. <u>Government</u> • In this way, the government ensures there are enough financial resources for meaningful initiatives that help citizens preserve memories and form attachments to the history, people and places in the country.