



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 2

Chapters 5 - 7

Summary Notes

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

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

Issue 2: Living in a Diverse Society

Guiding Questions

5. What are the factors that shape identity and contribute to a diverse society?
6. What are the experiences and effects of living in a diverse society?
7. How can we respond to diversity in society?

Core Content

- Factors that shape identity and contribute to a diverse society
 - Race and ethnicity
 - Religion
 - Socio-economic status
 - Nationality
- Interactions in a diverse community and common space
- Experiences and effects of living in a diverse society
 - Cultural exchange and appreciation
 - Exchange of knowledge and skills
 - Stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination
 - Competition for resources
- Responding to socio-cultural diversity
 - Responses of citizens**
 - Responses of individuals
 - Responses of community groups
 - Responses of governments**
 - Assimilationist policies in France
 - Tensions arising from assimilationist policies in France
 - Integration policies in Singapore
 - Tensions arising from integration policies in Singapore
- Responding to socio-economic diversity
 - Responses of citizens**
 - Responses of individuals
 - Responses of community groups
 - Responses of governments**
 - Government-financed approach in Sweden
 - Challenges faced by Sweden
 - Shared-responsibility approach in Singapore
 - Challenges faced by Singapore

Summary Notes for Chapter 5: What are the Factors that Shape Identity and Contribute to Diversity?

POINT	Race & Ethnicity	Religion	Socio-economic Status (SES)	Nationality
EXAMPLE	<u>CMIO (Chinese, Malay, Indian, Others)</u> - The different races in Singapore have their own cultural practices. - For example, we have different festivals like Chinese New Year, Hari Raya and Deepavali. - The Chinese may give out red packets during Chinese New Year, while Malays may give out green packets during Hari Raya.	<u>Religion</u> Religions influence our way of life. Although they share common beliefs of love and respect, there are differences between the religions. - For example, they have different dietary restrictions like Muslims do not eat pork while Buddhists and Hindus do not eat beef.	<u>Socio-economic Status (SES)</u> - Singaporeans have different levels of income, wealth and housing. - For example, Singaporeans with higher SES may live in condominiums or landed properties. They may eat more at expensive restaurants and have hobbies like golf. - In contrast, most Singaporeans live in HDB flats. Activities like basketball are enjoyed by all SES groups as facilities are easily accessible.	<u>Singaporean Identity</u> - People of the same nationality share a common history, language and set of practices. - For example, besides using English as a common language in schools, Singaporeans all use Singlish in our everyday lives. We also have a common love for local cuisine like laksa or chicken rice. - Immigrants of other nationalities like Malaysians or Koreans also bring their unique cultures here.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this shapes identity and contributes to diversity:</u> - People with the same race & ethnicity feel more comfortable with one another as they share many commonalities. - They interact together more and see themselves as one group. - Different races in Singapore have different sets of culture, and this creates diversity in Singapore.	<u>How this shapes identity and contributes to diversity:</u> - People with the same religions feel more comfortable with one another as they share many commonalities. - They interact together more and see themselves as one group. - Different religions have different sets of culture, and this creates diversity in Singapore.	<u>How this shapes identity and contributes to diversity:</u> - People with similar SES feel more comfortable with one another as they share many commonalities. - They interact together more and see themselves as one group. - People of different SES have different lifestyles, and this creates diversity in Singapore.	<u>How this shapes identity and contributes to diversity:</u> - People with the same nationality feel more comfortable with one another as they share many commonalities. - They interact together more and see themselves as one group. - Different nationalities in Singapore bring their different sets of culture, and this creates diversity.
IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE	Race vs Ethnicity: Race refers more to biological traits while Ethnicity refers to cultural heritage Double-barrelled: A double-barrelled race option is available for Singaporean children with parents of different races (e.g. Indian-Malay)		Poverty Line: The minimum income needed to have a sustainable livelihood PMETs: Professionals, Managers, Executives & Technicians (a term for 'white-collar' jobs held by the middle SES)	

Summary Notes for Chapter 5: How can Factors of Diversity Lead to Disharmony?

POINT	Race & Ethnicity	Religion	Socio-economic Status (SES)	Nationality
EXAMPLE	<u>'Nets advertisement' incident</u> • Nets had an advertisement to show that their payment card can be used by all races. • They featured the same Chinese actor portraying different races, with his skin darkened to portray a Malay and an Indian.	<u>'Pastor' incident</u> • A Christian pastor released online videos that ridiculed the beliefs of Buddhists and Taoists.	<u>'Public transport' incident</u> • A Permanent Resident having a high-paying job in Singapore travelled on MRT when he had to send his luxury car to the workshop. • He then posted on social media to insult public transport users as being poor and having a stench.	<u>'Curry' incident</u> • A migrant family from China complained about the smell of curry from their Singaporean Indian neighbour's home.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this may lead to disharmony:</u> • Some people of minority races felt offended at the insensitivity of choosing to darken the skin instead of hiring actors of the different races. • Some responded with negative remarks towards the Chinese community. • The Chinese may feel unfair that they were targeted because of one incident. • Misunderstandings can lead to unhappiness and tension between the races.	<u>How this may lead to disharmony:</u> • Some Buddhists and Taoists felt offended and angry that they were insulted. • Some responded with negative remarks towards the Christian community. • Christians felt unfair that they were targeted because of the actions of one person. • Misunderstandings led to unhappiness and tension between the religions.	<u>How this may lead to disharmony:</u> • Some Singaporeans of various SES felt offended and angry at his insults. • Some responded with negative remarks towards the rich. • The rich felt unfair that they were targeted because of the actions of one person. • Misunderstandings led to unhappiness and tension between Singaporeans of different SES.	<u>How this may lead to disharmony:</u> • Some Singaporeans felt offended that foreign migrants are not embracing local culture. • Some responded with negative remarks towards the migrant community. • Foreign migrants felt unfair that they were discriminated because of the actions of one family. • Misunderstandings led to unhappiness and tension between the nationalities.

Summary Notes for Chapter 5: How can Factors of Diversity Lead to Harmony?

POINT	Race & Ethnicity	Religion	Socio-economic Status (SES)	Nationality
EXAMPLE	<u>Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP)</u> - The Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP) limits the proportion of different races in every HDB neighbourhood and block. - This helps to prevent the formation of ethnic enclaves.	<u>Loyang Tua Pek Kong Temple</u> - In Singapore, different places of worship can be found close together. - For example, the Loyang Tua Pek Kong Temple is a mixed-religion temple with Buddhist, Taoist and Hindu deities and a Muslim shrine.	<u>Fairprice Share-A-Textbook</u> Fairprice Share-A-Textbook is a community project where Singaporeans are encouraged to donate used textbooks to the needy.	<u>Singapore Citizenship Journey (SCJ)</u> - The Singapore Citizenship Journey (SCJ) is a mandatory program for all new citizens. - They have to take an online course to learn about Singapore, take a half-day tour to experience our history and culture and attend community sharing sessions to interact with locals.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this may lead to harmony:</u> - In this way, the EIP ensures that HDB residents get to interact with neighbours of different ethnicities. - This allows them to understand and appreciate different ethnic practices and culture. - Living together also helps them make friends and form closer bonds with other ethnicities. - Misunderstandings and conflicts are thus less likely.	<u>How this may lead to harmony:</u> - As different religions co-exist together, it ensures Singaporeans get to interact with followers of different religions. - This allows them to understand and appreciate different religious practices and culture. - They will realise the religions actually have more commonalities than differences. - Misunderstandings and conflicts are thus less likely.	<u>How this may lead to harmony:</u> - The project develops empathy and compassion in Singaporeans as they understand the financial situation faced by the needy. - The project also helps to relieve the financial burden of needy families, allowing them to improve their economic situation and improve their social mobility. - Relationships between the rich and poor will improve if the poor feel that they are not neglected by society.	<u>How this may lead to harmony:</u> - Despite coming from different nationalities, the SCJ allows new citizens to learn about Singapore. - This allows them to understand and appreciate local practices and culture. - Community sharing sessions also helps them make friends and form closer bonds with the locals.
IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE	Ethnic enclave: An area with an unusually high concentration of a particular ethnicity		Social mobility: The ability of an individual to move from a lower SES to a higher SES, or vice versa Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS): A government scheme to help needy students by providing subsidies and allowances	

Summary Notes for Chapter 6: How can We Encourage Positive Interactions in a Diverse Society?

POINT	Common Spaces	Attitude of Openness
EXAMPLE	<u>Common Spaces – Void Decks</u> • Common space refers to physical locations or social spaces where different groups have opportunities to interact. • For example, at the HDB void decks, Singaporeans from different backgrounds can gather to engage in activities like playing chess, chit-chatting, or picking up their kids from the preschools located at void decks.	<u>Attitude of Openness – Just an Extra Chair</u> • Even when there are common spaces for interaction, we still need an open-minded attitude to want to interact with different cultures. • For example, Just an Extra Chair is a kindness initiative where Singaporeans host foreigners living in Singapore during festive celebrations like Chinese New Year. • These foreigners may have otherwise spent the festivals alone.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this encourages positive interactions:</u> • Having many chances to interact allows people from diverse backgrounds to spend more time together, forming bonds and friendships. • As we develop better understanding of different cultures, it also reduces chance of misunderstandings. • It thus builds harmony in society.	<u>How this encourages positive interactions:</u> • An attitude of openness makes people more willing to find and use opportunities to interact with people of other cultures. • We will more actively listen, engage and appreciate the differences between one another. • As we develop better understanding of different cultures, it also reduces chance of misunderstandings. • It thus builds harmony in society.

Summary Notes for Chapter 6: How can Diversity Lead to Positive Outcomes?

POINT	Positive Socio-cultural Outcome Exchange & Appreciation of Culture	Positive Socio-economic Outcome Exchange of Skills & Knowledge
EXAMPLE	<u>Nasi Lemak Burger</u> • In a society with diverse cultures, we can appreciate one other's unique cultures or even form new fusion cultures. • For example, Nasi Lemak Burger is a kind of fusion food that fuses Malay culture with Western fast-food culture. • By combining diverse cultures, we can get the taste of Nasi Lemak in the convenient form of a burger.	<u>A*STAR</u> • The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) is a Singaporean government agency that focuses on research and innovation. • At A*STAR, foreign scientists from many different countries collaborate with local researchers. There is an exchange of skills and knowledge. • For example, their diverse backgrounds helped them in making significant discoveries, like the H1N1 flu vaccine.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to positive outcomes:</u> • The appreciation of diverse cultures has created a new, exciting product that meets the different needs of various groups in our society. • The burger promotes better appreciation and understanding of the different cultures. • It thus builds harmony in society.	<u>How this leads to positive outcomes:</u> • The exchange of skills and knowledge from diverse backgrounds allow us to come up with new technologies and discoveries to benefit mankind. • Locals get to learn from the experiences and knowledge of the foreign scientists, and vice versa. • This makes our economy stronger.
IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE	• Note however, that tensions can also arise from cultural exchanges. • For example, there are concerns that fusion food like Nasi Lemak Burger can lead to dilution of local culture, as well as loss of traditions and a sense of identity. • Cultural appropriation can also occur, in which local culture is made use of in an insensitive manner. For example, an Italian fashion company plagiarised designs from the Oma tribe in Laos without crediting or compensating them.	

Summary Notes for Chapter 6: How does Diversity Lead to Negative Outcomes?

POINT	Negative Socio- <u>cultural</u> Outcome Stereotypes, Prejudice & Discrimination	Negative Socio- <u>economic</u> Outcome Competition for Resources
EXAMPLE	<u>'Interracial couple' incident</u> • Stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination are negative beliefs, feelings and actions towards particular groups of people. • For example, a Chinese man acted in a racist manner when he encountered an interracial couple strolling along Orchard Road. • He accused the boyfriend of 'preying on a Chinese girl' and ordered him to date 'people of his own race'.	<u>Competition for jobs and infrastructure</u> • Foreign talents who come to Singapore can compete with locals for jobs. They may demand lower pay than us or they may have more qualifications for the job. • In terms of infrastructure, there is also competition over limited public transport and healthcare resources. This can lead to congestion in public transport, longer waits for healthcare, or higher prices overall.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to negative outcomes:</u> • Some people of minority races felt offended and may mistakenly think more Chinese think in a similar racist manner. • Some may make negative remarks towards the Chinese community. • The Chinese may feel unfair that they were targeted because of the actions of one person. • This can lead to unhappiness and tension between the different races.	<u>How this leads to negative outcomes:</u> • Job competition can depress the wages of locals or even cause some locals to lose their jobs. This can lead to lower social mobility. • Competition over infrastructure also increases the cost of living and can lead to a drop in our standard of living. • The impact, whether real or perceived, can lead to negative feelings and tension towards foreigners.
IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE	Stereotypes: Generalised beliefs about people from another group (can be positive or negative) Prejudice: Negative feelings about people from another group Discrimination: Actions to hurt or exclude people from another group Racism: Negative feelings towards people of a different race Xenophobia: Negative feelings towards people of a different nationality	• Note that the government has worked to address concerns about the number of foreigners in Singapore. • For example, there is the Fair Consideration Framework, which requires employers to openly advertise job postings and consider locals fairly. • Also, the Land Transport Master Plan 2040 aims to improve transport connectivity and capacity to support a bigger population.

Summary Notes for Chapter 7: How Can We Respond to Socio-Cultural Diversity in Society?

POINT	Responses of <u>Citizens</u>	
	Responses of <u>Individuals</u>	Responses of <u>Community Groups</u>
EXAMPLE	<u>Example of an Influencer in 2019</u> - In a concert at the 2019 Singapore Grand Prix, an influencer uploaded a picture of two Sikh men in white turbans in front of her with the caption, “Two huge obstructions decided to pop out of nowhere,” - Some criticised her comments for being “racist and culturally insensitive” even after her apology. - In response to the incident, the Young Sikh Association (YSA) invited her to a <i>gurdwara</i> (Sikh temple) for an informal tour to introduce her to the Sikh religion and culture. - The actions of the YSA and of the influencer demonstrate humility, kindness, and openness to diversity.	<u>Welcome In My Backyard (WIMBY)</u> - A ground-up campaign founded in April 2020 to raise awareness about the lives of migrant workers, and to promote interactions between migrant workers and the local community. - During the relocation of migrant workers to housing estates, WIMBY volunteers engaged Singaporeans to write notes to welcome migrant workers into their neighbourhoods. - WIMBY also partners with local schools in their Values-in-Action (VIA) programmes to address issues facing migrant workers.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to positive interactions:</u> - The YSA’s response to the influencer was constructive, helping her to understand the impact of her actions. This helps to raise awareness and address areas of ignorance. - This promotes understanding of cultural differences and paves the way for deeper engagements to strengthen cohesion in a socio-culturally diverse society. - Similarly, maintaining an attitude of humility and openness to learning about new traditions and cultures is crucial to maintaining harmony in a diverse society.	<u>How this leads to positive interactions:</u> - The initiatives of community groups such as WIMBY help shape the attitudes and actions of the general public in relation to different socio-cultural groups, such as migrant workers. - These community organisations also help develop a deeper understanding between different socio-cultural groups and a spirit of mutual accommodation and trust. - In this way, there is a collective effort to maintain harmonious interactions in a diverse society.
IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE	Social Cohesion: The close relationships between individuals and groups of people, and the feelings of solidarity they have as one unit.	

Summary Notes for Chapter 7: How Can We Respond to Socio-Cultural Diversity in Society?

POINT	Responses of <u>Governments</u>			
	ASSIMILATION in France	INTEGRATION in Singapore		
EXAMPLE		Naturalisation Initiatives	Common Experiences	Community Support
	- In a policy of assimilation, immigrants are expected to adopt the beliefs and practices of the majority group in the host country. <u>Secularism</u> - For example, in France, all French citizens believe in secularism, which is a clear separation of religion and governance. Immigrants are not allowed to open display their religion in public spaces. <u>Naturalisation Processes</u> - All immigrants need to go for French language classes and programs to learn French culture and way of life. They will then need to pass language and cultural tests to be eligible for French nationality. <u>Education</u> - In schools, students cannot wear religious symbols like the cross or headscarf, and do not usually discuss religion. Instead, immigrants learn French language and mix with local students. <u>Employment</u> - The government introduced the Diversity Charter in 2004 to raise employers' awareness of recruiting employees from diverse backgrounds to support the assimilation of immigrants into French society. - The charter encourages companies to be inclusive and carry out tangible actions to promote diversity at the workplace.	- In a policy of integration, immigrants retain their unique identities while forging common ground with the majority group in the host country. <u>Singapore Citizenship Journey (SCJ)</u> - The Singapore Citizenship Journey (SCJ) is a naturalisation initiative. Mandatory program for all new citizens. - They have to take an online course to learn about Singapore, take a half-day tour to experience our history and culture and attend community sharing sessions to interact with locals.	- Singapore creates common experiences by having NS and SPR quota for HDBs. <u>National Service (NS)</u> - All male adult Singaporeans of diverse backgrounds have to serve National Service (NS) together. - They go through common experiences of tough training and learning to put the country before themselves. <u>Singapore Armed Forces Volunteer Corps (SAFVC)</u> - The SAFVC provides an opportunity for individuals who are not required to serve NS to contribute to Singapore's national defence - These groups include women, first-generation Singapore PRs, and new citizens aged 18 to 45. <u>Singapore Permanent Resident (SPR) Quota</u> - The SPR quota limits the proportion of non-Malaysian PR in HDB blocks and estates. - Together with the racial EIP quotas, they prevent the formation of enclaves.	<u>Community Integration Fund (CIF)</u> - The Community Integration Fund (CIF) is a way to build community support. - It is a government fund to support ground-up integration initiatives. - For example, they may support community activities like festive celebrations or volunteering projects. - They also started a mobile app "SG Sauce" that provides users with information about the Singaporean way of life. <u>The People's Association (PA)</u> - The People's Association (PA) organises activities at the grassroots level. - These include house visits, block parties and festive celebrations so that new citizens and Permanent Residents (PRs) can get to know their new neighbourhood and community.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to national identity:</u> - Assimilation requires immigrants to put aside their affiliations to race and religion and only display their national identity publicly. - French citizens will thus all look and behave in similar ways, facilitating the building of a national identity. - In addition, immigrants have to learn local language and culture so that they can understand and appreciate the local way of life.	<u>Leads to national identity:</u> - The SCJ allows new citizens to learn about Singapore, as well as understand and appreciate local practices and culture. - Community sharing sessions also helps them make friends	<u>Leads to national identity:</u> NS allows Singaporean males the chance to interact and build bonds across diverse backgrounds. - The common life-shaping experiences create a common sense of identity that lasts beyond the end of NS.	<u>Leads to national identity:</u> - Communities activities supported by the CIF and the PA create a platform for immigrants to meet and interact with locals. - They also learn local culture through their interactions and the "SG Sauce" app, so they

	As they interact with locals in education or work, they will build social capital and form bonds with other members of society. This helps them to build a common identity.	and form closer bonds with the locals. This helps to build a common Singaporean national identity.	- The SPR quota ensures immigrants live among locals and interact with them. - They are better able to learn local culture and build a common national identity.	can better understand and appreciate the local way of life. - These initiatives contribute to integration by facilitating meaningful interactions between Singaporeans, immigrants, and foreigners. - This helps to build a common Singaporean national identity.
IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE	Laïcité: French belief of secularism, which separates religion from governance Social capital: Social networks gained as a person works and connects with others	Bilingual policy: All students learn English and Mother Tongue to ensure a common language for communication Presidential Council of Minority Rights (PCMR): The PCMR ensures that new laws passed do not discriminate against any racial or religious minority Group Representation Constituency (GRC): During elections, one of the candidates of the team contesting a GRC must be a minority, to ensure there is minority representation in Parliament		

Summary Notes for Chapter 7: How Can We Respond to Socio-Cultural Diversity in Society?

POINT	Tensions Caused by Assimilation in France	Tensions Caused by Integration in Singapore
EXAMPLE	- The assimilation policy in France has led to tensions between emphasising the French national identity against allowing immigrants the freedom to display their own racial or religious identity. - In 2004, France introduced a law banning the wearing of clearly visible religious attire and symbols in public schools in order to maintain religious neutrality. <u>Burkini Ban</u> - For example, some French cities have banned burkinis from being worn at their beaches. Burkinis are a type of modest swimwear sometimes worn by Muslim women. - This is because the wearing of burkinis is seen as an open display of religion that goes against the French principle of secularism.	- The integration policy in Singapore has led to tensions as some locals feel that immigrants have not integrated sufficiently and this has led to a dilution of the national identity. <u>Curry Incident</u> - For example, a Chinese immigrant family complained against their Indian neighbours for the strong smell from their cooking of curry. - Their conflict had to be solved through mediation and it was agreed that the Indian family would only cook curry when the Chinese immigrant family was not at home.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to tensions and negative interactions:</u> - The incidents happen as immigrants feel that their religion is not respected and they are being discriminated against for their religion. - However, locals feel that immigrants are not assimilating into society and are causing social unrest instead. - The mutual distrust and tension can escalate into conflict and violence.	<u>How this leads to tensions and negative interactions:</u> - Singaporeans are uncomfortable with the large number of immigrants. Some immigrants are weak in English and may have different behaviours that clash with local cultural norms. - Some Singaporeans also blame immigrants for competition over jobs and public infrastructure and rising costs of living. - However, immigrants feel that Singaporeans are increasingly xenophobic and do not respect their contributions. - The mutual distrust and tension can lead to conflict.
IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE	Charlie Hebdo Shootings: Charlie Hebdo is a French satirical magazine that makes fun of politics, religion or various groups. They published cartoons featuring Muhammad, which is forbidden in certain interpretations of Islam. This caused two terrorists to start a mass shooting at their office, killing 12 people.	Apartheid: Controversial segregation policy in South Africa where local Africans were not allowed to mix with white European people Xenophobic: Disliking foreigners of different cultures

Summary Notes for Chapter 7: How Can We Respond to Socio-Economic Diversity in Society?

POINT	Responses of <u>Citizens</u>	
	Responses of <u>Individuals</u>	Responses of <u>Community Groups</u>
EXAMPLE	<u>Starting Ground-Up Initiatives to Address Community Needs</u> - In 2014, Mr Nizar Mohamed Shariff started a charity called Free Food For All (FFFA) to provide nutritious halal food to the less fortunate, regardless of their race or religion. - In 2021 alone, FFFA served more than 160,000 meals. <u>Volunteering With Existing Organisations</u> - Ms Fiona Ke grew up in an environment where her family found it difficult to meet their basic needs, and benefitted from help given by various charities. - She now believes in giving back to society and helps out at a mobile clinic for the elderly. - She also volunteers with Happy People Helping People, a non-profit organisation which provides food for elderly cardboard collectors.	- Formal and informal community groups can step in and provide support to those in need in the form of financial aid, guidance and resources. <u>Daughters of Tomorrow (DOT)</u> - A formal community group that conducts programmes to help women aged 20 to 60 upgrade their skills and find jobs. - Most of these women come from low-income families or live in subsidised rental flats. - For example, DOT's financial literacy programme is a series of four weekly workshops followed by seven months with a support group to teach the women good money-management skills.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to positive interactions:</u> - Individuals play their part in responding to socio-economic diversity by contributing their time, effort, and money to meet areas of need in society. - In Ms Ke's case, she had also responded by adopting an attitude of grit and perseverance which strengthened her resilience to overcome the economic challenges of her situation.	<u>How this leads to positive interactions:</u> - Community groups like DOT may step in to provide support to disadvantaged groups in order to bridge gaps between socio-economic groups. - This helps those of lower socio-economic statuses cope with socio-economic differences in society.

Summary Notes for Chapter 7: How Can We Respond to Socio-Economic Diversity in Society?

POINT	Shared Responsibility Approach (Singapore)	Government-financed Approach (Sweden)
EXAMPLE	- In Singapore, there is a balance between personal responsibility and the government's role to provide basic social services. - The government provides targeted assistance to individuals and families who are unable to provide for themselves and where support from community groups is inadequate. Healthcare - For example, while Singaporeans save for their own healthcare needs through the CPF MediSave Account, the government provides subsidies to reduce medical costs for Singaporeans. Education - From January 2020, lower-income families earning \$3000 or less per month pay only \$3 per month for preschool centres under the Anchor Operator Scheme funded by the government. Housing - The government also provides public housing subsidies to ensure affordable housing opportunities for Singaporeans. - There are housing grants and housing schemes available for Singaporeans to ensure that housing opportunities are kept affordable for Singaporeans. Skills Training - The programs and initiatives under SkillsFuture Singapore give students and working adults access to training and courses to continually upskill and equip themselves with industry-relevant skills. - The Workfare Skills Support scheme provides training allowance and cash awards to encourage low-wage Singaporeans to upgrade their skills.	- In Sweden, the government practices a government-financed approach to provide social services to citizens. For example, the Swedish government provides substantial subsidies, allowances and opportunities to equip individuals with skills for employment. Healthcare - Healthcare services such as hospital care, medicine, dental care, disability support and rehabilitation services are publicly funded. - For example, all Swedish families are covered by a medical protection scheme. Public healthcare is government-owned and people only pay a nominal sum. Private insurance is supplementary and optional due to the good coverage of public healthcare. Education - Education is funded by the government and provided to all Swedes - All children also receive free school lunches, and have access to school doctors and psychologists at no cost. Housing - Allowance is provided to lower-income individuals or families who need help to pay for housing or housing fees. Skills Training - The Swedish Public Employment Service provides training to equip individuals with skills to increase their chances of employment.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	- When Singaporeans are provided opportunities for education and training, they are able to ensure their own economic well-being through employment. - The Singapore government provides additional targeted support to protect the needs of low-income groups, the vulnerable, and those with specific needs, to enable them to experience social mobility. - Government efforts complement individual, family, and community efforts to help meet societal needs.	- The provision of substantial assistance and financial support ensures that citizens and individuals of different socio-economic backgrounds have access to healthcare, education, housing, and employment. - The government-financed approach also ensures that the needs of all are provided, including disadvantaged groups such as the elderly or citizens with illnesses or disabilities.
IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE	Means testing: Checking the income level of a person to determine the amount of subsidy given General Practitioner (GP) clinics: Private neighbourhood clinics Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS): Lower income groups and the Pioneer Generation can use their CHAS card to enjoy subsidised rates at GP or dental clinics near their home	

Summary Notes for Chapter 7: How Can We Respond to Socio-Economic Diversity in Society?

POINT	Challenges faced by Singapore	Challenges faced by Sweden
EXAMPLE	<u>Ageing Population</u> - By 2030, the percentage of seniors will more than double, while citizens aged 20 to 64 will decrease. - This will increase demands on government funding for healthcare and other social services to meet the needs of a larger ageing population - Between 2010 and 2019, the government tripled its healthcare expenditure to \$11.3 billion to meet the growing needs of seniors and ensure that every Singaporean has access to affordable and quality healthcare. <u>Increase in Taxation</u> - The Singapore government plans to increase the GST from 7 to 9 percent gradually from 2023 to 2024 to meet the needs of the population. - In Singapore, higher-income earners pay a proportionally higher tax, with the highest personal income tax rate at 22 percent as at 2021. <u>Limitations in Upskilling and Training</u> - By 2030, there will be more mature workers in the Singapore workforce as the retirement age is set at 65 and re-employment age at 70. - Mature workers will require more employment support to ensure that employers retain and hire them, and that they may continue to advance in their jobs.	<u>High Taxation</u> High taxation (income tax and VAT) on working individuals is needed to sustain the government-financed system. - For example, in 2019, the highest income earners in Sweden pay income taxes of 57.2 per cent, which is one of the highest in the world. <u>Ageing Population</u> - The amount of Swedish elder care, funded by taxes and government grants, is set to increase as the country's population continues to age. Government spending for healthcare and long-term care will also increase. - However, an ageing population means the tax burden will fall on a smaller group of working citizens. <u>High Immigrant Unemployment Rates</u> - Sweden is facing an increasing inflow of immigrants and citizens from other EU countries. - They are allowed to consume healthcare services without paying taxes. - There are also challenges in integrating immigrants into the workforce, which widens the income gap between them and other citizens - For example, immigrants might not have received educational opportunities in their home countries, leaving them unable to take up unfilled jobs in Sweden.
EXPLAIN (SAMPLE)	<u>How this leads to challenges:</u> - An ageing population means Singaporeans are more likely to get chronic illnesses. This will increase healthcare costs. - There is thus a tension for the government to pay for increasing healthcare costs while Singaporeans maintain personal responsibility to keep healthy and choose cost-effective treatments. - Moreover, increasing tax rates in Singapore will make Singapore a less attractive location for high earners and entrepreneurs who want to live and do business in Singapore.	<u>How this leads to challenges:</u> - More people needing healthcare means greater healthcare expenditure from the government. - This needs to be financed through very high taxes, which can be a burden on the working population. - There is thus a tension for the government to provide extensive subsidies while keeping taxes at a reasonably low level.
IMPORT ANT KNOWLEDGE	Sedentary lifestyle: An inactive lifestyle with little physical exercise Chronic illness: Long-term illness	Value Added Tax (VAT): A tax on consumption, similar to the GST European Union (EU): A political union of most European countries

