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Class: _____



JURONG PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 Preliminary Examination 2025

HISTORY
Higher 2

9174/02

18 September 2025

Paper 2 Developments in Southeast Asia

3 hours

(Independence – 2000)

Additional materials: Answer Booklet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet will be provided with this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **5** printed pages and **3** blank pages.

Section A

You **must** answer Question 1.

ASEAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1 Read the sources and answer the questions which follow.

Source A

The idea of a free trade zone within ASEAN is at the moment “taboo”, and something the regional five do not discuss, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew said yesterday at a press conference in the Istana. The Prime Minister said the term ‘free trade zone’ aroused immediate “tremendous emotional upset”. He added: “The idea of having to compete on par within ASEAN and having to lower one’s barriers of taxes and having factories wither away because they are inefficient, immediately makes it a taboo word”. He stressed that the first priority was to get on with what the Association has agreed on – and that was the preferential trading agreement. “Let us concentrate on what we have achieved – the PTA; let us get on with the five projects and let the experience of this implementation be a process of education which must take place”.

From a Straits Times article, April 1977.

Source B

As the ASEAN summit in early 1992 approaches, there appears to be renewed support for the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). The idea was revived by Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun earlier this year, and was supported by Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong. Thailand endorsed the idea of achieving the AFTA by the turn of the century whereas Singapore has been more cautious in suggesting that it be reached in 20 years.

At the recent ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also indicated support for the AFTA idea. Indonesia, which has traditionally been more reluctant to reduce its trade barriers, is now in a more amenable position to accept the AFTA since it has already undertaken substantial unilateral liberalisation on its own.

The rising economic performance and confidence of Indonesia will be an important contributory factor to the long-term success of the AFTA. Singapore and Malaysia wholly supported the AFTA proposal. Indonesia and Philippines had some reservations on how fast they should go and pointed to the existing differences within ASEAN. Yet, unlike past ASEAN meetings with ritualistic pronouncements on economic cooperation, there is now the concrete and feasible idea like the AFTA on the table.

From an article published by a think-tank, 1992.

Source C

In his address, H.E. Datuk Hussein Onn, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, expressed the view that any form of multilateral economic cooperation would benefit the region as a whole. This was because the region was the world's largest exporter of primary commodities and had vast natural and human resources. He hoped that there would be fair sharing of the benefits of economic cooperation. The outstanding issues which still remain in the formulation of the international agreement on natural rubber price stabilisation were successfully resolved by the Ministers. The decision of the ASEAN Economic Ministers is a direct result of the ASEAN Concord, in which provision is made for greater ASEAN cooperation in the economic field. This achievement represents the kind of mutually beneficial projects which will result from such cooperation.

From the Minutes of an ASEAN Economic Ministers' Conference, February 1976.

Source D

Effectively, economic cooperation among members produced some results, though not particularly impressive. Negotiations were conducted on trade, tariffs, quotas and also economic and technical cooperation with the European Community, the United States, Japan, Australia, and other countries, obtaining here and there some limited satisfaction but nothing earth-shaking.

However, within the organisation, intra-regional trade and economic as well as industrial joint projects made little headway, because of exacerbated nationalism shown by technocrats laying the groundwork for their political superiors. Moreover, certain members on several occasions have displayed a bazaar rather than co-operative spirit by insisting on taking more than giving, as evidenced in the case of industrial joint ventures and a few others. Also, there is no common market in the making.

From an article by Thanat Koman, the former Thai Foreign Minister, 1988.

Source E

The financial crisis that started in ASEAN caught almost everyone by surprise, including most of the world's most brilliant economists. And it quickly spread. Because of inadequate consultations among ASEAN members, no ASEAN country was sufficiently aware of the problems building up in others or of the imminent impact of those problems on themselves. There was no institutionalised mechanism for ASEAN members to compare notes on developments in their economies, particularly in their financial sectors, but in the real economy as well. There was no formal forum for the finance ministers to consult on what to do about impending or fundamental problems that they may see.

*From a speech by ASEAN Secretary-General Rudolfo Severino
at a press conference, 1999.*

Source F

The evolution of economic cooperation initiatives and agreements in ASEAN in the 1970s and 1980s was one of gradual, flexible but persistent movement forward with virtually no backtracking, and willingness to modify and innovate in terms of approaches. The results on the ground were at best modest if not disappointing, and there were misgivings on the design and implementation of the initiatives as well as inadequacy of political will and trust among the ASEAN member states. Nonetheless, they provided good foundation to even deeper, wider-ranging, and more ambitious ASEAN initiatives and agreements from the early 1990s under ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and then in the ASEAN Economic Community in response to the challenges and opportunities of changing geopolitics in the region and world at the time.

From an ASEAN publication to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN, 2017.

Now answer the following questions:

- (a) Compare and contrast the evidence in Sources A and B regarding intra-ASEAN economic relations. [10]
- (b) How far do Sources A–F support the view that ASEAN was committed to regional economic integration? [30]

Section B

You must answer **two** questions from this section.

You must support each answer with examples drawn from **at least three** countries.

EITHER

- 2** 'Cold War developments facilitated the rise of authoritarian governments in independent Southeast Asian states.' How far do you agree with this view? [30]

OR

- 3** How important was multiculturalism in the forging of national unity in independent Southeast Asia? [30]

AND EITHER

- 4** How far do you agree that Southeast Asia's post-independence economic change was driven by private businesses? [30]

OR

- 5** To what extent was economic nationalism the defining feature of post-independence economic change in Southeast Asia? [30]

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