Social Studies Chapter 1

Name:
Class:
Date:

CHAPTER 1:
What does citizenship mean to me?

Different attributes shaping citizenship

LEGAL STATUS

Countries generally grant citizenship through:

- Descent (where at least one parent is a citizen of that country)
- Country of birth (where a person is born in the country, not applicable to SG)
- Marriage (where a person marries a citizen of the country)
- Naturalisation (where a person has immigrated to a country, resided there for some time and registered themselves as a citizen)

OUTCOME

According to the constitution, as a citizen, there are certain rights that one is entitled to, as well as certain obligations that one must fulfil, which shapes our sense of citizenship.

Rights

- Protected by the Constitution
  - Eg. Rights in respect of education
  - Eg. Freedom of religion
- Regardless, citizens should not abuse their rights and should practice respect and consideration for others

Obligations

- Obey the Constitution
  - Eg. Males to serve NS
- Not discriminate against people of different ethnic groups

NATIONAL IDENTITY

People from the same country have a sense of national identity. This comes from a shared belief of connectedness to one another and belonging to the country. This sense of national identity can be expressed in different ways.

OUTCOME

As a result, when citizens share common spaces, practices and experiences, they develop a sense of emotional attachment to the country, shaping a strong sense of citizenship.

SHARED VALUES

Shared values refer to principles and beliefs that are embraced and seen as important by a group of people. It is shaped by a country's history, heritage and experiences and may change over time as citizens respond to challenges faced by the country.

OUTCOME

As a result, when citizens share similar values, it can influence collective decision-making and exercise of judgement. This can lead to a stronger sense of national identity and citizenship.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Civic participation in public affairs can be in the form of contributing towards matters of general interest or concern to most people in society. It is where citizens spend time, money and effort to address societal issues or to help certain groups in the country.

INDIVIDUALS

For example, in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr Andy Teo saw a need to connect students with volunteer tutors when schools moved to full home-based learning. He initiated a project called Temporary Academic Assistance where he enlisted the help of tutors through social media to teach for free.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

INFORMAL GROUPS

Informal groups exist for a period of time needed to address a specific area of need. For example, Mr Nigel Teo started GoodHood.SG to promote neighbourliness in Singapore. Through the app, individuals in Singapore are able to connect meaningfully with their neighbours by asking for or offering help such as going for grocery runs.

FORMAL GROUPS

Formal groups have clear objectives and are officially registered with the government. For example, SG Enable is dedicated to enabling persons with disabilities and promoting an inclusive society. Through workshops organised by SG Enable, participants learn how to interact with consumers with disabilities and improve accessibility of products and services for them.

OUTCOME

As a result, areas of need in society will be met as citizens feel an obligation and the motivation to actively take part in public affairs. Their contributions also strengthen their sense of citizenship.

Social Studies Chapter 2

Name:
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CHAPTER 2:
What are the functions and roles of government in working for the good of society?

Role of GOVERNMENT in society

Maintain law and order

Preserve safety and security

Ensures that citizens' lives and properties are protected from harmful acts.

The Singapore Police Force aims to prevent, deter and detect crime. For example, the police force collaborates with schools to encourage students to fight against scams through engagement talks and activities. Such consistent and rigorous police enforcement builds awareness that there is no tolerance against disobeying the law, therefore deterring potential crimes.

OUTCOME

As a result, when safety and security is preserved, citizens can lead their lives without worries of crime or disorder, increasing the standards of living which contributes to the good of society.

Ensure justice

People are governed by clear and fair rules, supported by the Courts and law enforcement agencies that investigate crimes.

For example, in 2020, a foreign domestic worker was accused of theft by her employers, the family of a wealthy and prominent business figure. After further investigations following her appeal, she was found not guilty and was freed from all criminal charges.

OUTCOME

As a result, when the government ensures justice, citizens are confident in receiving equal treatment and fair outcomes. This further strengthens trust in the government to work for the good of society.

Ensure economic and social well-being of citizens

Economic and social well-being refers to the situation whereby an individual has their basic needs met, as well as opportunities to pursue their goals and enjoy a satisfactory quality of life.

For example, polyclinics located throughout Singapore are one-stop healthcare centres that provide subsidised primary care. Services include outpatient medical treatment and diagnostic tests to ensure affordability and efficiency of patients' healthcare experience.

OUTCOME

As a result, because of the good planning of the government in making healthcare facilities easily accessible for all, citizens are better able to seek medical attention to ensure their healthcare needs are met. This leads to better health outcomes for citizens, ensuring social well-being and contributing to the good of society.

For example, SkillsFuture is a national movement to provide skills mastery and lifelong learning for Singaporeans. Some key features include skills-focused courses relevant to industry needs for career development, as well as work-study programmes for students to get a head start in the workforce.

OUTCOME

As a result, many Singaporeans are able to attain relevant skills and stay competitive in the labour market with the help of the SkillsFuture Programme. This means that they are well-equipped to stay employable even during uncertain times, which boosts their economic and social well-being, therefore contributing to the good of society.

Promote and protect country's national interests

Through diplomacy

Singapore actively forges strong bilateral relationships by having our political leaders regularly meeting up with global leaders to exchange views and find ways to promote mutual interests in areas such as trade and security.

For example, maintains strong bilateral relations with Malaysia through water security. Under the 1962 Water Agreement, Singapore draws 250 million gallons of water per day from the Johor River and return, Singapore provides Malaysia with a daily supply of treated water up to 2% of the volume supplied to Singapore.

OUTCOME

As a result, this agreement has led to mutually beneficial resource allocation for both countries. With strong and friendly ties with other countries, Singapore is able to promote and protect its national interests. This ensures economic and political stability, contributing to the good of society.

Through deterrence

Singapore practices deterrence to protect its security and ensure that it is safe from attacks by another country.

For example, the SAF's command and control information system uses artificial intelligence and data analytics to quickly recognise how an enemy looks, calculate the time needed for enemies to reach a strike location and recommend which weapons to use against threats. This allows commanders to coordinate attacks with greater speed, ease and precision.

OUTCOME

As a result, with such strong military capabilities and defences in the air, on land and at sea, Singapore has been able to successfully deter potential aggressors. The country and its people are kept safe and secure, therefore contributing to the good of society.

Social Studies Chapter 3

Name:
Class:
Date:

CHAPTER 3: How do we decide what is good for society?

CHALLENGES in deciding what is good for society

Differing needs and interests

For example, an efficient public transportation will be an important need and priority for those without their own mode of transport. However, those with their own mode of transport may be more concerned about and prioritise an efficient road network to ensure that they are able to reach their destination quickly and efficiently.

Differing priorities

When a decision is made, some individuals or groups will bear greater costs than others. For example, in building the Cross Island Line through the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, commuters will benefit as they save time on travel and can get to their destination more efficiently. However, environmentalists will be concerned about the harm and extensive damage it will cause to the surrounding flora and fauna.

Unequal sharing of costs

For example, building expressways would improve traffic flow for commuters. However, this may come at a cost for those living near the expressways who may be affected by the noise generated by the traffic.

OUTCOME

As a result, people with different needs and priorities, as well as unequal sharing of costs might disagree on many decisions. If there is a lack of understanding and selfishness, it might result in the Not In My Backyard (NIMBY) Syndrome. This refers to the unwillingness and displeasure associated with a new development that might not be in one's interests, and when people are unable to see how a new development is for the greater good for society.

How the government MANAGES conflicting demands

Having good leadership

Government representatives and leaders must be honest and capable. For example, Dr Lim Kim San was the first Chairman of the Housing and Development Board (HDB) and became Minister for National Development in 1963. He successfully tackled the issue of housing shortage from 1960 to 1963, helping to improve the building and financial processes so that low-cost public housing could be built quickly and cheaply, and according to strict regulations.

OUTCOME

As a result, because of good leadership, the needs, interests and priorities of the population were be met, which ensured the well-being of citizens. The best decisions will also be made after careful consideration, for the stability and progress of Singapore as a nation.

Anticipating change and staying relevant

By being forward-looking and taking sound actions early, the government can minimise threats and maximise opportunities for society. For example, during the 2019 National Day Rally, PM Lee Hsien Loong addressed the impact of climate change on Singapore, stating that the government has been taking early action to prepare the country for rising sea levels. In 2020, a budget of $5 billion was set aside for the Coastal and Flood Protection Fund to help Singapore meet the risks of rising sea levels.

OUTCOME

As a result, we can better respond to potential problems and our progress will not be hindered. Without doing so, we will always be affected by new global events and issues as they occur. The rest of the world will continue having confidence in Singapore and for them to trust and invest in us, allowing our economy to flourish.

Providing a stake for everyone

Providing a stake for everyone in the country is important so that every citizen feels included in the country's progress as they have a say in the decision-making process. For example, in 2019, the Singapore Together movement was launched. Singaporeans were encouraged to partner the government and one another to shape and act on their shared future in areas they care about, through partnership opportunities or government support for citizen-led initiatives.

OUTCOME

As a result, the push to involve more Singaporeans heightens their sense of belonging because they feel that their voices count towards the betterment of their lives. This gives them a sense of ownership and collective responsibility to work for the success and development of the nation, resulting in benefits for society.

Practicing meritocracy

Meritocracy is a system that rewards people for their abilities and hard work. It rewards people based on their performance and effort. For example, the Edusave Good Progress Award is given to students who are within the top 10 percent of their school's level and course in terms of improvement in academic performance and have demonstrated good conduct.

OUTCOME

As a result, everyone is given equal opportunities to be successful. Singapore will continue to progress as citizens feel that their hard work is being recognised and they are fairly acknowledged for it As a result, this encourages everyone to achieve their best.

Social Studies Chapter 4

Name:
Class:
Date:

CHAPTER 4:
How can we work together for the good of society?

Role of CITIZENS in society

Addressing the needs of society

Efforts by Individuals

Individuals can volunteer their knowledge, skills and experience towards meaningful social causes that they are concerned about and care for.

For example, as an elderly herself, Mdm Malligesvari volunteers as an instructor for the Age Well Everyday (AWE) programme, promoting active ageing and healthy lifestyles for seniors to reduce the risk of dementia. She teaches senior citizens how to stay healthy, exercise and keep active through brain-simulating activities.

OUTCOME

As a result, many elderly are more cognitively engaged and physically active, contributing to society's ageing population leading healthier and more fulfilling lifestyle as they age.

Efforts by community groups

RSVP Singapore, a formal community group, is a social service agency organised by citizens to actively engage senior citizens in volunteerism.

For example, volunteers in MyBuddy Programme of RSVP Singapore play an important role in helping recently discharged elderly patients cope well at home. These patients receive better care as volunteers offer physical and moral support during regular house visits.

OUTCOME

As a result, seniors are provided with meaningful opportunities to contribute to the community. They also play a vital role in serving others who require assistance in society, and therefore meeting the needs of these people.

Efforts by government

Government agencies work with community groups to encourage seniors to stay healthy, active and engaged.

For example, government agencies such as the National Council of Social Services (NCSS) developed the Volunteer Management Toolkit 2.0 to provide Social Service Agencies (SSAs) with a framework and guidelines on how to manage volunteers effectively. It worked with various partners to contribute to the development of the toolkit by sharing their best practices in Volunteer Management, so that the learning can be shared with the rest of SSAs.

OUTCOME

As a result, these resources value add to enhance the capabilities of SSAs, including those who are committed to meet the needs of the elderly, working towards the good of society.

Influencing decision-making in public affairs

Collective efforts by Individuals and government

Citizens and government can work together to make decisions for the good of society through engagement platforms.

For example, Reaching Everyone for Active Citizenry @ Home (REACH) is the national feedback and engagement unit under the Ministry of Communications and Information, seeking to engage citizens' views and concerns before consolidating them and sharing them with the relevant government agencies. REACH also oragnsises both face-to-face and online engagement sessions such as public forums and dialogue sessions to encourage Singaporeans to be involved in shaping Singapore's public policies.

For example, the Citizens' Jury for the War on Diabetes was also organised to develop community-based and community-driven recommendations to combat the problem of diabetes. In April 2018, MOH announced that it would support half recommendations made by the jury, including a campaign to drink more water. The government thus installed more water coolers in public areas.

OUTCOME

As a result, these engagement platforms allow citizens fair and equal opportunities to be more involved in public policy decision-making. Singaporeans can collaborate with the government in creating solutions to societal issues, thus working towards the good of society.

Strengthening citizens' sense of belonging

The redevelopment of Dakota Crescent, one of Singapore's oldest housing estates, meant that residents would relocate to Cassia Crescent. This prompted Mr Cai Yinzhou from Dakota Adventures (a social initiative promoting the neighbourhood) and Mr Jeremy Ho came together to form an informal community group, Between Two Homes.

Efforts by Individuals

For example, various citizen volunteers joined the Between Two Homes initiative by conducting interviews with the residents from Dakota Crescent and documented their stories. Being more aware of their needs, some volunteers formed the Cassia Resettlement Team (CRT) to help residents overcome challenges before, during and after the relocation. This included weekly house visits and potluck parties for the residents.

Efforts by community groups

For example, both Mr Cai Yinzhou and Mr Jeremy Ho produced a multimedia website to document the rich heritage and community of Dakota Crescent, showing the impact of the relocation on residents. Educational workshops were also conducted in schools to discuss how plans for redevelopment and relocation can be improved.

Efforts by government

For example, Our Singapore Fund was launched by the government in 2016 to support ground-up projects that build the national identity or meet social and community needs. Successful applicants may receive funding of up to 80 per cent of costs. Between Two Homes was one of the projects that received funding from Our Singapore Fund.

OUTCOME

As a result, the preservation of these memories of Dakota Crescent by citizens and the government helps to build a sense of belonging as the citizens develop an attachment to the history, people and places in Singapore. This will encourage citizens to be more concerned about shaping Singapore's future and working towards the good of society.

Social Studies Chapter 5

Name:
Class:
Date:

CHAPTER 5:
What are the Factors that Shape the Identities of People and Contribute to a Diverse Society??

Our IDENTITY is shaped by

Nationality

People of the same nationality usually share a set of common history, set of traditions, practices and language. They usually live together in a particular area which helps build a sense of belonging and a shared national identity.

For example, on 9 August every year, Singaporeans celebrates National Day to mark its independence and progress as a nation. Besides participating in celebrations of the nation's birthday, Singaporeans also share a deep respect for multiracial and multireligious practices and a common love for food across cultures.

OUTCOME

As a result, aspects of the shared national identity would shape the individual's identity and actions such as in terms of interaction with other citizens. We can then relate to different aspects of what makes us Singaporean in different ways. These beliefs and experiences influence a large part of our national identity and contribute to greater diversity.

Race and Ethnicity

Race refers to the classification of people according to physical characteristics that are biological in nature, such as skin colour and bone structure. Ethnicity refers to one's ancestry, cultural practices, language, customs, food ad dressing that are associated with an ethnic group. Ethnicity can differ within the same race.

For example, within the Malay race, there are also different ethnic groups such as the Bataks, Bugis and Dayaks. In Singapore, diversity in terms of race and ethnicity means that any customs are celebrated and observed by the different races and ethnic groups in Singapore.

OUTCOME

As a result, race and ethnicity shape our identity as we belong to particular racial and/or ethnic communities. The practices and beliefs of these communities shape our way of life, thus influencing our identity and contributing to greater diversity.

Religion

A religion is an organised collection of attitudes, beliefs, practices, world views and often, worship of a single or multiple gods. The religion that individuals believe in may be determined by birth or by choice.

For example, in Islam, Muslims believe that there is only one and supreme God- Allah. They believe that Allah is the creator and ruler of the universe, and the only one deserving of worship. Beyond worshipping God, however, Islam also places much emphasis for Muslims to uphold the spirit of justice, brotherhood, love and purity of character. It is also expected of Muslims to be kind and compassionate to all of God's creations.

OUTCOME

As a result, these beliefs and practices would then shape the way we interact with others, the choices we make, and our thinking. Religions thus play an important role in shaping our identity and contributing to greater diversity.

Socio-economic status

Socio-economic status refers to an economic situation shared by a group of people in society, and it is measured by some indicators such as occupation, income, education and ownership of wealth.

For example, individuals can have a higher socio-economic status in different ways. They could be born into wealthy families or accumulated their wealth through work or investments. These individuals are more likely to participate in activities that cost more, such as playing golf, fine dining and travelling to distant destinations for vacations.

OUTCOME

The socio-economic status of an individual may shape one's life experience as it affects the choice of housing, food, entertainment and activities. This in turn can influence the circle of friends that one interacts with, shaping one's identity and contributing towards greater diversity.

* Note that though SES may influence a person's life experiences, it is not the only aspect of a person's identity and does not define him/her.

Social Studies Chapter 6
(Benefits of living in a diverse society)

Name:
Class:
Date:

CHAPTER 6:
What are the experiences and effects of living in a diverse society?

BENEFITS of living in a diverse society

Cultural Exchange and Appreciation

Cultural exchanges can create unique experiences because of the diversity in nationality, race and ethnicity and socio-economic status. Our diverse society provides many opportunities for people to interact and learn from one another, resulting in fusion between local cultures and foreign ideas.

FUSION

POTTERY

For example, Mr Jalil Iskandar's scholarship to Japan in the 1970s allowed him to develop a passion for pottery, where he now integrates Japanese and Islamic styles into his pottery. His art is influenced by wabi-sabi, a Japanese approach to life that sees beauty in imperfections. Mr Iskandar's pottery reflects that through natural weathering and imperfections.

HOME FURNISHING

For example, Mr Mike Tay is a Singaporean designer and the founder of design studio Onlewa. His home furnishing products includes an ottoman covered with fabric print inspired by the snacks and desserts found in Singapore. Mr Tan's creations are usually fusion pieces inspired by the heritage, places and cultures of the various communities in Singapore in Asia.

FASHION

For example, Ms Oniatta Effendi is a Singaporean fashion entrepreneur who owns a batik clothing line, Baju by Oniatta. Batik is a traditional Indonesian art form that uses wax and coloured dyes to create patterns on fabric. In her designs, there are classically Javanese motifs, together with more modern patterns such as the Japanese-influenced sashiko motif, which creates fusion clothing from different cultures.

OUTCOME

Through living in a diverse society and being open to share and receive ideas from other cultures, we are able to come up with creative and innovative outcomes. Hence, through embracing the diversity in our society, we are able to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the customs and traditions of Singapore's diverse ethnic groups. This leads to a stronger national identity and social harmony.

Exchange of Knowledge and Skills

Living in a diverse society allows for exchanges in knowledge and skills, in the areas of research and development with overseas experts. Foreign scientists can share their knowledge and expertise to help strengthen research competencies and collaborations with Singaporeans.

MENTORSHIP

For example, Thermo Fisher Scientific is one of the world's largest medical device makers with its Research and Development (R&D) Centre in Singapore. Singaporeans in the company are trained in leadership skills and encouraged to work with employees from different cultures and with different expertise. This allows younger technicians to be mentored effectively to produce high-quality equipment.

ThermoFisher SCIENTIFIC

COLLABORATION

For example, Thermo Fisher Scientific collaborates with Singapore—based research institution A*STAR, to support their Research and Development (R&D). Thermo Fisher played a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic, where it collaborated with organisations such as the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Temasek Holdings in the production of personal protective equipment (PPE) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test kits.

Agency for Science, Technology and Research SINGAPORE

OUTCOME

As a result of our collaborations with scientists from diverse backgrounds, it allows Singapore be able to capitalise on foreign expertise and advance in the area of biomedical research and development. This will lead to greater advancements in the healthcare and medical field, benefitting the people and our nation's reputation in the scientific world.

Social Studies Chapter 6
(Challenges of living in a diverse society)

Name:
Class:
Date:

CHAPTER 6:
What are the experiences and effects of living in a diverse society?

Challenges in a Diverse Society

Prejudice and Misconceptions

In a diverse society, opportunities for people from different backgrounds to interact can lead to misunderstandings, especially when people jump to conclusions and make incorrect judgements about others, causing negative sentiments to arise.

RACE

For example, in 2021, an interracial couple comprising a man of Indian and Filipino-Spanish descent and his girlfriend of Thai-Chinese descent were strolling along Orchard Road. A local Chinese confronted the couple making remarks that the man was 'preying on a Chinese girl and he should "date people of his own race". The couple felt humiliated and embarrassed by the racist treatment.

NATIONALITY

For example, in 2012, a university student from China referred to Singaporeans as "dogs", leading to much debate on social media about prejudices of various nationalities. This illustrates the potential for prejudices and misconceptions to grow via cyberspace.

孙旭
I am very sorry for the statement that I had made on my blog on 18 February 2012, which I now realize was insensitive and inappropriate. Please accept my sincere apologies. 我对我在2012年2月18日人人网上发表的言论表示非常抱歉，我已经意识到言辞的不恰当。请接受我最诚挚的道歉。

RELIGION

For example, in 2015, a 17-year-old blogger was arrested for making insensitive remarks about Christianity in a video posted online, with police reports lodged against him. In 2016, the teenager was fined and jailed again for repeatedly and intentionally using offensive words and gestures to hurt the feelings of Christians and Muslims.

OUTCOME

This poses as a challenge to a diverse society like Singapore as repeated forms of such prejudice and misunderstandings can lead to discrimination, which will upset relationships in our multi-racial and multi-religious society. With prejudice spreading among some Singaporeans towards other nationalities/races/religions, it may lead to distrust, suspicions and tensions among people, and hence disharmony in society. If left unchecked, civil order in Singapore may be affected should conflicts occur.

Competition for Resources

With the influx of foreigners, there has been an increase in the competition for resources in the form of opportunities and availability of infrastructure. Singaporeans are therefore finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the increased competition for opportunities and living space.

CONCERNS OVER STANDARD OF LIVING

For example, Mass Rapid Transit (MRTs) are increasingly crowded, especially during peak hours. This has resulted in commuters unable to get onto carriages and being late in reaching their destinations, as well as unpleasant train rides where carriages are packed to the brim, and MRT breakdowns. This has caused many locals to complain and express their unhappiness in the overcrowding of infrastructure, and thus lower standards of living due to the influx of foreigners.

CONCERNS OVER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

For example, many locals, especially older white-collar workers and those in the PMET sector, are finding it difficult to land jobs or have a higher salary. This is due to the influx of foreign talents possessing foreign expertise in certain areas, as well as the lower labour costs of foreign workers.

OUTCOME

With such competition of resources due to the influx of foreign workers, Singaporeans are feeling threatened in terms of their jobs and other areas of everyday life. This may even lead tensions, unhappiness and even feelings of xenophobia in the long run, weakening the social fabric in Singapore.

Social Studies Chapter 7

Name:
Class:
Date:

CHAPTER 7: How can we respond to diversity in society?

Responding to socio-cultural diversity

ASSIMILATIONIST Policies in France

The assimilation policy in France expects new immigrants to adopt the beliefs and practices of the majority group such that over time, the identity of immigrants would be indistinguishable from them.

EDUCATION

The education system in France is secular and strengthens the French national identity through schooling. For example, in the French classroom, there is no discussion about religion except in History and Philosophy classes. Adaptation classes are also conducted for the children of immigrants to help them improve their French and eventually join regular French schools. This serves to ensure the assimilation of minority groups into secular French society.

EMPLOYMENT

In the workplace, immigrants need to pick up the French language to communicate with their French colleagues. The government also introduced the Diversity Charter, which allowed companies to show their support for a discrimination-free workplace. By doing so, greater diversity can flourish in the workplace, supporting the assimilation of immigrants into the French society.

NATURALISATION PROCESSES

Naturalisation programmes help to assimilate immigrants by helping them develop basic knowledge about life in France, and what being a French national means. For example, it is necessary for immigrants to demonstrate knowledge of the history and culture of France, French language proficiency and pass a French cultural test to be offered a French citizenship. This ensures interaction with locals and for immigrants to adopt French attitudes and beliefs to strengthen their French identity.

OUTCOME

The assimilation policy emphasises a secular French national identity without displaying of individuals' religious beliefs and ethnic customs. The government also emphasises that the people continue to embrace the French identity first before their own ethnic identity. This helps France to manage its cultural diversity strictly based on what the country's ideals are about rather than individual beliefs of customs. By treating every individual equally, the French national identity can be strengthened.

INTEGRATION Policies in Singapore

The integration policy is where immigrants retain their unique identities while forging common ground with the group already living in the host country.

INTEGRATION POLICIES

The Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP) was introduced to achieve a balanced ethnic mix in HDB estates and to prevent the formation of ethnic enclaves. By providing HDB residents of different races to interact as neighbours, the EIP helps foster racial harmony among the various ethnic groups, strengthening social cohesion in Singapore.

NATURALISATION INITIATIVES

New Singapore citizens will have to undergo a mandatory programme called the Singapore Citizenship journey. One part of the journey is the community sharing session, an event where new citizens reflect on their journey towards citizenship, meet other new citizens, and learn how they can actively participate in the community. Champions from PA will also share their experiences living in a multiracial and multireligious society to help new citizens better settle into their community.

COMMON EXPERIENCES

Opportunities to interact with locals will help immigrants adapt to being part of Singapore society. A common experience that fosters strong Singapore national identity is National Service (NS) where all male Singaporean citizens and Permanent Residents are required to serve for two years to ensure Singapore's security. NS brings people from all backgrounds together, and they train, live and serve together. During NS, they develop a sense of collective interest above the self, a greater cohesiveness among our people is formed.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The National Integration Council (NIC) launched the Community Integration Fund (CIF) to support organisations interested in implementing ground-up integration initiatives. For example, a mobile application "SG sauce" provides users with information about the Singaporean way of life. This allows immigrants to understand and learn more about local history, culture and social norms. They will then find it easier to relate to locals and integrate into society.

OUTCOME

By doing so, integration is achieved when diverse socio-cultural identities complement the national identity of being a Singaporean with their unique identities. Singapore's integration policy focuses on the shared values of upholding law and order, respecting racial and religious harmony and a commitment to working together. The integration policy has enabled Singapore to build social cohesion and managed its social diversity effectively without cutting off ties that immigrants brought with them to Singapore.

Social Studies Chapter 7

Name:
Class:
Date:

CHAPTER 7: How can we respond in a diverse society?

Responding to socio-economic diversity

Government-financed Approach in Sweden

In the government-financed approach, the government provides social services for their citizens, regardless of their background or socio-economic status.

Healthcare

Many healthcare services are publicly funded. For example, all families are covered by a medical protection scheme and dental care costs are free for locals up to the age of 23, while dental care form the age of 24 is subsidised.

Education

Education is funded by the government and provided to all Swedes. For example, education is compulsory for 6 to 16 year olds. Sweden provides a free school lunch, as well as access to a school doctor, school nurse, psychologist and school welfare officer to every child.

Housing

Allowance is provided to those who have lower income, who need help to finance their housing. For example, for the elderly with low or no income, they are entitled to a housing supplement, which serves as a form of financial support.

Skills Training

The Swedish Public Employment Service provides training to equip individuals with skills to stay employable. For example, free vocational courses are provided to train individuals from diverse backgrounds for industries that lack skilled workers.

Challenges

High taxation rate
- The social benefits provided by the government heavily depend on the high taxation rate in Sweden, which is one of the highest in the world, inflating the cost of living for Swedes.

Ageing population
- With an ageing population, Sweden has to invest heavily towards Swedish eldercare. With the country's high life expectancy, the working population has to bear this financial burden.

High immigrant unemployment rates
- Mismatch between skills and jobs, as well as difficulty in assessing skills has widened the income gap between locals and immigrants

OUTCOME

The strong financial intervention by the government in the area of healthcare/ education/ housing/ skills training ensures access to its services for all socio-economic status groups, especially the lower income groups. This ensures that healthcare/ education/ housing/ skills training is kept affordable for all, regardless of background.

Shared-responsibility Approach in Singapore

In the shared-responsibility approach, individuals and families, community groups and the government work together to address issues related to socio-economic diversity and meet the needs of society.

Subsidies for essential services

For example, Singapore's healthcare financing system emphasises individual responsibility and affordable healthcare. While Singaporeans save for their own healthcare needs through the CPF Medisave account, the government also provides subsidies to reduce medical costs.

Social and community assistance for lower income families

For example, long term assistance is provided for those who are permanently unable to work due to old age, illness or disability, and have little to no income, savings and family support. Shorter term support is provided to others so they can tide over difficult times and regain stability.

Vouchers to support lower to middle income families

For example, an area of support provided by the permanent GST Voucher scheme is cash payouts in August every year to support lower-income Singaporeans with their immediate needs.

Opportunities for upskilling and training

For example, the programmes 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. This allows them to stay employable.

Challenges

Ageing population
- With fewer working adults supporting more elderly, the financial burden borne by each working adult is higher, lower productivity and hence slow down Singapore's economic growth.

Increase in taxation
- Higher GST has increased the cost of living for Singaporeans. Also, increased tax rates may deter high earners and entrepreneurs from doing business in Singapore, slowing down Singapore's economy.

Limitations in upskilling and training
- A mindset shift is required for older workers to be valued, accepted and accommodated to in the workplace. Without this critical support, it will be difficult to hire and retain older employees.

OUTCOME

The Singapore government's provision of multiple tiers of assistance ensures that the needs of Singaporeans from diverse socio-economic backgrounds are supported, especially those from low income groups. In particular, the vulnerable and those with specific needs have additional targeted support to enable them to experience social mobility. As a result, this complements individual, family and community efforts to help meet the needs of society.

Social Studies Chapter 8

Name:
Class:
Date:

CHAPTER 8:
What are the Factors that Contribute to Globalisation?

Technological Advancements

Developments in Transportation

Over the years, technological advancements have led to developments in land, sea and air transportation, improving the speed and capacity of transportation.

Different modes of transportation such as trains, ships and aircraft have improved in terms of speed. They can travel much faster and cover longer distances. For example, The Shinkansen bullet trains in Japan are among the world's fastest trains. As at 2023, the rail network covers a distance of around 3,478km and its trains can travel up to 320km/h.

<u>OUTCOME</u>

As a result, developments in transportation contributes to globalisation as it promotes economic interconnectedness and interdependent relationships that facilitates globalisation where goods and people can be moved more quickly and efficiently throughout the world.

Developments in Technology

Digital technology refers to the electronic tools, systems, devices and resources that generate, store or process date to facilitate communication between people, businesses and countries.

Since the 2000s, functions of telephones and mobile phones have increased rapidly due to the development of wireless networks, mobile processors and camera technology. This enables people to communicate with others across different time zones and over various distances via instant video calls using their smartphones.

<u>OUTCOME</u>

As a result, this makes it convenient for people to communicate any time, anywhere. People around the globe are able to connect and communicate through messaging and video calls, and gain a vast amount of information on the Internet, contributing to globalisation through the building of interdependent relationships.

Growth of Multinational Corporations

MNCs are large corporations that operate in various countries. They usually set up subsidiaries or acquire other companies. As MNCs grow in terms of their number and size, they increasingly control international trade and investment.

For example, in the Starbucks supply chain, coffee beans are sources from 27 countries, including those in Africa. These beans are then transported to roasting facilities in different cities in the USA before being packed and delivered to stores in more than 65 countries across the world.

<u>OUTCOME</u>

As a result, the global span of these operations drives globalisation as it increases the economic interconnections between people and goods throughout the world. These interconnections can also lead to interdependent relationships between the parties involved in the operations of the MNCs, thus driving globalisation.

Social Studies Chapter 9

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CHAPTER 9: How can we respond to the ECONOMIC impacts of globalisation?

Economic growth and economic vulnerability experienced by countries

Economic growth

Singapore's participation in the global economy through trade and foreign investment

For example, Singapore attracts foreign direct investments with major sources from China, Japan and the United States, serving as a gateway to the fast-growing Southeast Asian region. By 2018, 59 per cent of the total number of technology-based MNCs in Asia had established regional headquarters in Singapore. Singapore also has significant investments in countries with large populations and greater potential economic growth, such as China and India, which in turn will bring economic growth to Singapore.

OUTCOME

As a result, when Singapore encourages foreign investments and invests in other countries, it can remain competitive in the global economy. The trading of goods and services, and foreign investments have sustained, and will continue to sustain Singapore's economic growth.

Economic vulnerability

Global economic disruption due to Russia-Ukraine conflict

For example, the Russian-Ukraine war has severely disrupted shipping and air freight, as Russian forces are cutting off shipping routes, logistics firms are suspending services, and air freight rates and tanker rates are increasing sharply. Supply chains are affected as there is a pause in the movement of goods as Ukrainian ports are closed, damaged, or under stack.

OUTCOME

As a result, numerous international flights and freight routes connected to Russia are suspended, leading to a sharp decrease in the capacity of airlines responsible for flying 20 per cent of goods. As airlines avoid Russian airspace, they will take alternative, longer routes, driving up fuel costs, making travel more expensive globally.

Employment opportunities and challenges experienced by individuals

Employment opportunities

Amazon's mass hiring in the global market during COVID-19 pandemic

For example, in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Amazon, an international e-commerce company hired almost half a million employees globally, including India and Italy. Apart from warehouse workers, Amazon has also hired software engineers and technical specialists. These numbers do not even include temporary workers and delivery drivers who are not direct Amazon employees, but have benefitted from the ripple effect of Amazon's mass hire as well.

OUTCOME

As a result, when a country such as the United States is open to the global economy, businesses such as Amazon can reach a larger market, creating more jobs and providing a livelihood for individuals in the country in beyond. This increased wages will enable individuals to enjoy a higher standard of living.

Employment challenges

Unemployment due to lower labour costs in global market

Jobs can also be lost as global companies relocate their operations to countries with lower labour costs. For example, the Japanese fashion chain Uniqlo shifted product operations from China to Vietnam in 2013. This was due to the rising manufacturing and labour costs in China, making it not profitable for Uniqlo to base its operations there

OUTCOME

As a result, globalisation can lead to increased competition for jobs among individuals. Those who are not highly skilled will find it difficult to look for alternative employment while those who are highly skilled may be replaced by other individuals from abroad with the same skillset but command lower wages..

Responses to the economic impacts of globalisation

Government support

Economic cooperation with other countries

Signing of free trade agreements (FTAs), which agree to reduce or remove tariffs between countries to allow foreign imports and exports to be traded more freely and at lower costs. For example, under the Singapore-Australia FTA, tariffs on all imported goods are removed. This allows Singapore businesses to develop new business partnerships with Australia, boosting the economies of both countries.

Attracting and making foreign investments

EnterpriseSG works with Singapore businesses to innovate ad go global. For example, it has helped Singapore company Secretlab gain valuable insights to business environments and regulations of and growth into new markets such as the Philippines and Japan. This boosted its profile as the global ergonomic chair specialist in over 50 countries, enabling it to be a partner in major e-sports tournaments around the world.

Providing financial support, developing local expertise

The government responded to the COVID-19 crisis by providing a $4 billion statbalisation and support package. This provided affected workers and businesses with cash flow support, property tax rebate for tourism sector as well as rental waivers for government-managed hawker centres and properties. With these cost savings, a huge financial burden was lifted, and allowed businesses to tide through this period of economic disruption.

Acquisition of knowledge and skills by individuals

Individuals can adopt a growth mindset and be willing to acquire new knowledge and skills throughout their lives and remain relevant in the job market. This is especially important in a world of rapid technological advancements, where current jobs are evolving and new jobs are being created. Individuals can seek to upgrade their skillsets through MySkillsFuture, or look for a career coach for advice on career opportunities and professional growth and development.

Social Studies Chapter 10

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CHAPTER 10: How can we respond to the CULTURAL impacts of globalisation?

Cultural impacts of globalisation

⊕ Spread of culture

American influences of fast-food and media

The fast-food and media industries in many parts of the world today are dominated by the USA. For example, in 2022, American fast-food chains such as McDonald's, Subway and Starbucks had over 30,000 outlets each all over the world. In Singapore, the closure of the McDonald's outlet at King Albert Park was visited by more than 300 people who had fond memories of their time spent there.

The Korean Wave/ Hallyu

Since the mid-2000s, Korean influences have spread through beauty products, K-dramas, K-pop and food. For example, the rise of K-pop with groups such as BTS, Black Pink and Twice, have led to exceptional spread and dominance all over the world, with fan bases in almost every country.

OUTCOME

As a result, the spread of popular and consumer culture can enrich people's lives by exposing them to new products and novel ideas, thereby offering them more lifestyle choices. As people in different parts of the world eat the same food or listen to the same music, they may be able to better relate to one another through their shared experiences and identities. Therefore, globalisation leads to the spread of culture, connecting people from all over the world together.

⊖ Dilution of culture

Singapore's local music scene

With globalisation, digital platforms like YouTube and Spotify have become a common way for Singaporeans to access, discover and transmit international music, leading to a decline in interest in local music such as xin yao. For example, American pop artists such as Taylor Swift have quickly become a great hit among Singaporeans.

OUTCOME

As a result, global influences have weakened and even replaced the music scene in Singapore. This dilution of local cultures may eventually lead to them being forgotten over time. Singaporeans may then lose the rich meanings and ways of life connected with these cultures.

Responses to cultural impacts of globalisation

Responses of countries

⊖ Control of film distribution by Chinese Government

Chinese authorities control film distribution in the country through censorship so that majority of movies screened in China are locally produced, with foreign movies only contributing to about 15 percent of the total box office revenue in China. Foreign films can only be distributed in China through Chinese state-owned cinema businesses.

OUTCOME

As a result, profits earned from foreign films are shared with the Chinese cinema business. This also ensures that locals have more exposure to local films and less to foreign ones. This protects and potentially strengthens local Chinese culture, values and beliefs.

⊕ South Korean government embracing Indian culture

In February 2023, a dance cover of an Indian song by South Korean diplomats to celebrate diplomatic ties between Korea and India went viral on social media. Its ambassador expressed its love and appreciation for the Indian culture and hopes for the ties between the two countries to strengthen.

OUTCOME

As a result, because of globalisation, country leaders are able to welcome foreign cultures. Through embracing a different culture, they are able to forge and strengthen bilateral ties, leading to greater socio-economic partnerships.

Responses of individuals

⊖ Backlash over The Korean Wave/ Hallyu

As Korean pop culture continues to gain massive popularity in Japan, it also raises concerns from locals over the dilution of Korean culture. This has caused some Japanese boycotting Korean products and films to disassociate themselves from Korean influence.

OUTCOME

As a result, because of globalisation, when foreign culture spreads at a rate too fast for comfort, it can be deemed to threaten local culture. This will cause resistance and rejection of cultural globalisation, causing a backlash against the spread of foreign culture through globalisation.

⊕ Increase in tourists to Scotland

The award-winning film Braveheart, set in Scotland, led to a 300 per cent increase in tourist visits to The National Wallace Monument in Stirling, the year after it was released.

OUTCOME

As a result, because of globalisation, when foreign films are screened around the world, the scenes can garner interests in the country it was filmed in, leading to a boost in tourism and economic growth for the country.

Social Studies Chapter 11

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CHAPTER 11: How can we respond to the SECURITY impacts of globalisation?

Transnational Terrorism

Individual

Individuals can exercise vigilance by watching out for tell-tale signs of self-radicalisation. When there are sufficient grounds for suspicion, individuals can also take action to inform the relevant authorities or report suspicious items or characters.

OUTCOME

As a result, individuals play an important role in managing transnational terrorism as if everyone plays their role to be vigilant and report whenever necessary, this will make the potential terrorists to think twice before they attack as they know the people are ready to resist terrorism.

Country

Countries can tighten their border control by using digital technology such as biometric data to ascertain the identity of individuals at land, sea or air checkpoints. Examples include facial features, fingerprints and iris patterns

OUTCOME

As a result, governments do bring an important role to manage terrorism as they have the authority to deploy resources such as investing on the latest digital technology to tighten their security checks. This will then deter the terrorists from attacking the country.

Cooperation among countries

Countries can cooperate to manage transnational terrorism by sharing information on threats or participating in international counter-terrorism cooperation. An example is the International Criminal Police Cooperation (INTERPOL) that works with 195 countries to improve world safety by working together and sharing of intelligence concerning terrorist activities.

OUTCOME

Hence, cooperation among countries are important to manage transnational terrorism as the countries will share intelligence news on the activities of the terrorists and also share expertise on how the countries manage to catch them. This knowledge will help one another to strengthen their resilience efforts towards terrorism.

Cyber threats

Indvidual

Individuals can protect themselves online by ensuring they maintain social media hygiene. This includes hide location of posts, ensure they have a strong password and install the latest firewall in their mobile devices and laptops.

OUTCOME

As a result , individuals play an important role to manage cyber threats as when people are more educated and vigilant in using cyber space such as not downloading any suspicious apps when they are not secured, it will reduce the opportunities for cyber criminals to hack into their computer system. This will then reduce the number of cyber attacks.

Country

Countries can set up dedicated agencies with the expertise and resources to investigate cyber threats. An example is the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore which oversee and coordinate all aspects of cybersecurity for the nation. This includes. This includes ensuring a safe cyberspace by raising the general level of cybersecurity for business and individuals through securing our digital infrastructure and outreach programme.

OUTCOME

As a result, governments play an important role in managing cyber threats as they are often with the power and authority to implement new policies and/set up an agency to deter the cyber threats. By doing so, this will reduce the chances of businesses and individuals getting scammed.

Cooperation among Countries

Countries can cooperate with one another to counter cyber threats, as many cybercrimes today can originate beyond a country's borders. An example is the Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) that promotes regional cooperation on information security.

OUTCOME

Cooperation among countries are important as cyber threats could happen anywhere and are not confined to one country. Countries sharing intelligence information and sharing resources and expertise in how they manage cyber threats will help strengthen one another's capabilities in cyber threats and hence reduce the possibilities of cyber attacks as they know the countries are working closely.