

Social Studies “O” Level Notes – Secondary 3 and 4 (Syllabus 2261)

Key understandings:

Issue 1: Exploring Citizenship and Governance

- Citizenship is varied and complex.
- Government is a political institution with important functions and roles to govern.
- Different groups of people in society have differing needs, interests and priorities, and experience unequal sharing of costs. Managing these differences often requires trade-offs to be made.
- Both citizens and government can play complementary roles in working for the good of society.

Issue 2: Living in a diverse society

- Identities are diverse and complex.
- Living harmoniously in a diverse society means respecting our differences and appreciating what we share in common.
- People respond to diversity in a variety of ways to achieve harmony.

Issue 3: Being Part of a Globalised World

- Globalisation shapes the interconnections and interdependence among countries and people.
- Globalisation creates impacts in the economy, culture and security.
- The impacts of globalisation result in differing responses from countries and people.

Answering Strategy for Question 6

Para 1: PEEL on 1 reason / strategy • Point – Topic sentence (ATQ) (1 sentence) • Elaborate – Provide details on the reason / strategy (3-5 details) • Explain – Explain how the reason/strategy answers the question/issue. Use the signpost!! (3-5 sentences) • Link – Concluding sentence (1 sentence)	Para 2: PEEL on 2nd reason / strategy • Point – Topic sentence (ATQ) (1 sentence) • Elaborate – Provide details on the reason / strategy (3-5 details) • Explain – Explain how the reason/strategy answers the question/issue. Use the signpost!! (3-5 sentences) Link – Concluding sentence (1 sentence)
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Note 1: DO NOT use the examples or details from the extract. The extracts is just to give you some ideas about what the issue is about.

Answering Strategy for Question 7:

Para 1: PEEL on 1st factor • Point – Topic sentence (ATQ) (1 sentence) • Elaborate – Provide details on the 1st factor (3-5 details) • Explain – Explain how the 1st factor answers the question/issue. Use the signpost!! (3-5 sentences) • Link – Concluding sentence (1 sentence)	Para 2: PEEL on 2nd factor • Point – Topic sentence (ATQ) (1 sentence) • Elaborate – Provide details on the 2nd factor (3-5 details) • Explain – Explain how the 2nd factor answers the question/issue. Use the signpost!! (3-5 sentences) • Link – Concluding sentence (1 sentence)	Para 3: Conclusion • ATQ – After considering both factors, I feel that xxx is more effective. • Explain why by doing a comparative analysis
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Note 1: DO NOT use the examples or details from the extract. The extracts is just to give you some ideas about what the issue is about.

Tips

- **Understand** every chapter of the textbook → key ideas and the different points
- When **short of time for revision** → memorise the *definition* and *one example for each point*
- Complete the **SRQ (essays) if you have studied** for them, get 15 marks in your pocket
- Last resort: use examples that are NOT in textbook (**ONLY IF YOU BLANK OUT**)

Most important chapters*

Secondary 3: Chapter 3 / Chapter 7 (Chapter 7 is a favourite for sec 3 EOY)

Secondary 4: Chapter 8 / Chapter 10 / Chapter 11

Level of Importance (written on the left column in orange)

Blank	Least important
Unlikely Potential Question	↓
Potential Question	
Very Potential Question	
	Most important

Final Notes

- Notes DO NOT replace your textbooks; these are adapted for textbook for revision purposes
- When in doubt, clarify with your Social Studies teachers. Tips provided in these notes should NOT overwrite what your teachers teach you
- Spread the word and share the notes 😊 (Sharing is caring guys!)
- Further questions – ask me! (I'll try to reply as soon as possible)
<https://t.me/your101nolifer>
- ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR STUDIES!

section A

inference → IEE / PEEL

purpose → VAMI + contextual knowledge (optional)

message →

comparison →

reliability →

assertion →

*Despite the 5 chapters explicitly listed, you should strive to familiarise yourself with ALL 11 chapters found across the textbooks in Secondary 3 and Secondary 4

Chapter 1: What does citizenship mean to me?

→ Attributes can shape one's understanding of citizenship

Citizenship by legal status	Legal status = recognized by the law to be a member of that country Granted by... 1) Descent - A child can obtain citizenship if he or she has at least one parent who is a citizen of that country - Singapore: ALLOW (if he/she is born outside of Singapore but has at least one parent who is a Singaporean Citizen at time of birth) 2) Country of Birth - Citizenship granted to those who are born in the country - Singapore: ALLOW (if he/she is born in Singapore and has at least a parent who is a Singapore citizen at time of birth) 3) Marriage - Citizenship can be obtained by marrying a citizen of that country - Singapore: ALLOW (if he/she does not have at least a parent who is Singapore citizen at time of birth, need to first gain Singapore Permanent Resident status) 4) Naturalisation - Citizenship for those who have moved to that country, resided for a certain number of years and applied to become citizens. → some countries require them to pass a test / give up their original citizenship - Singapore: ALLOW (if he/she does not have at least a parent who is Singapore citizen at time of birth, need to first gain Singapore Permanent Resident status)
	<i>Rights of citizens</i> - Rights = freedom and privileges that citizens in that country have - Right of citizens (usually laid out by constitution), are protected by law and should be respected by everyone in the country - E.g. 1) Equal protection 2) Freedom of movement, speech, religion 3) Right to vote
	<i>Obligations of citizens</i> - Obligations = duties required to fulfil as members of the country - E.g. Obligation of male citizens in Singapore to serve National Service (NS). Under the Enlistment Act introduced in 1967, 18-year-old male citizens and Singapore PRs are required to serve NS. Following the completion of full-time NS, they will be required to serve up to 40 days of Operational Ready National Service, until the age of 40 of 50

A sense of identity	- National Identity = A sense of national identity comes from a shared belief of belonging to the same country as other people. - Common practices such as singing the National Anthem and taking the National Pledge, as well as celebrating National Day can create a sense of national identity - E.g. Singaporean consider hawker centres as important common spaces that represent Singapore's multicultural heritage. In 2019, many Singaporeans, including those who live abroad, pledged their support for the country's nomination of its hawker centre to UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, recognized in December 2020.
Shared Values	- Shared Values = values that are embraced and seen as important by a group of people. - Shared values are shaped by factors such as the country's history, heritage and experiences. SA country's shared values may also change over time as citizens respond to challenges faced by the country - When citizens have shared values, these values can influence their thinking, attitudes and behaviours. This thus influences their collective decision-making and exercise of judgement - E.g. embracing the value of "multiculturalism", Singaporeans generally believe in living in harmony in a multiracial and multireligious society. They thus make a conscious effort to understand and develop good relationships with people from different races and religions

Civic participation (UNLIKELY Potential Question: Which is more important, individual participation VS community groups participation)	- Civic participation refers to citizens actively taking part in public affairs - Public affairs are matters of general interest or concern to most people in society. - This includes making effort to follow parliamentary debates, raising awareness and advocating for environmental protection and addressing the needs of groups of people who face certain challenges in their lives. - Motivation of this is to address societal issues or help certain groups in the country. Some are planned while others are spontaneous. <i>Participation in public affairs as individuals</i> E.g. 1) Project Temporary Academic Assistance. In 2020, Mr Andy Teo initiated this project to connect students with volunteer tutors. This was because of the transition of schools to full home-based learning during the COVID-19 pandemic enlisted the help of tutors through social media to teach for free. In just a week, 250 volunteered their service. 2) In 2021, a Singaporean family set up a “free minimart” offering some grocery products top those in need. This initiative received support from many individuals who came forward to donate cash and groceries. <i>Participation in public affairs as community groups</i> 1) Informal groups → volunteer work ^{WN} - Students engaging with the elderly in activities that they planned and designed - Mr Nigel Teo and his friends started a mobile application called GoodHood.SG to promote neighbourliness in Singapore. Through the app, individuals in Singapore can connect meaning fully with their neighbours by asking for or offering help. 2) Formal groups → official company/organizations - (Non-governmental organisation) Zero Waste Singapore is an NGL leading the drive towards zero waste in Singapore through education and advocacy. It engages the public, companies, school and government agencies to discuss the 3Rs in relation to food waste, plastic disposables, household recycling and organisational waste. - (Social service agencies) SG enable is dedicated to enabling persons with disabilities and promoting an inclusive society.

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

→ Government in a representative democracy

Functions of the government	<i>Makes and passes laws (Legislature)</i> The Legislature performs the government function of making and passing laws. It consists of the President and Parliament. Before a law is passes, the draft (aka a bill) is debated in Parliament, all bills must receive the President's agreement to become part of the law in Singapore. The President may not agree to certain bills at their discretion.
	<i>Implements and enforces laws (Executive)</i> The Executive performs the government function of enforcing and implementing laws. It consists of the President and the cabinet. The work of the Executive is supported by various ministries and statutory boards.
	<i>Interprets and applies laws (Judiciary)</i> The Judiciary fulfils the government function of interpreting and applying laws through the Courts. The Judiciary consists of the Supreme Court, the State Courts and the Family Justice Courts. The head of the Judiciary is the Chief Justice.



Roles of the government (Potential Question: Which role of the government is more important?)	<i>Maintains law and order</i> - To ensure law and order, governments preserve safety and security, and ensure justice in society - The Singapore government preserves safety and security by ensuring that citizens' lives and properties are protected from harmful acts. E.g. - For instance, the Singapore Police Force is one such agency that maintains internal order. SPF's core function is to protect the people who live in Singapore from crime and all manner of criminal harm, such as terrorism and public disorder. - One example of this would be the riot that broke out in Little India on 8 December 2013. Riots broke out after private bus accidentally ran over an Indian national, within minutes, the SPF was informed of the road accident and the Civil Defence Force was activated. Hence, the swift actions show that the government places importance in maintaining the internal order of Singapore. <i>Ensured the economic and social well-being of citizens</i> - Economic and social well-being refers to the situation whereby an individual not only had his or her basic needs for food, water and shelter met, but also has the opportunity to pursue his or her goals and enjoy a satisfactory quality of life - Some indicators would include income, occupation, housing, skills, safety, health and social relationships E.g. - Polyclinics located throughout Singapore are one-stop healthcare centres that provide subsidised primary care. Services include outpatient medical treatment and diagnostic test - One of the many different designs of public housing in Singapore is built by Housing and Development Board (HDB). More than one million HDB flats which are homes to 80% of the country's population - The Central Provident Fund (CPF) is a comprehensive saving plan that provides a foundation for the retirement of most Singaporeans. It can also be used to buy a home, pay for healthcare expenses and take care of loved ones.

	<i>Promotes and protects a country's national interest</i> - The government plays a vital role in promoting and protecting the country's national interests. A country's national interests refer to what is necessary to ensure its security and well-being. - These national influences influence the objectives of the country's foreign policy. 1) Diplomacy - Through diplomacy, which is the practice of obtaining agreement between countries to cooperate to produce results that align with their interests. - Singapore actively forges strong bilateral relationships. Political leaders thus meet with the leaders of other countries to exchange views and find ways to promote mutual interests in areas like trade and security. E.g. - Singapore maintains strong bilateral relations with Malaysia. This is through water security, which serves Singapore's national interests. Under the 1962 water agreement, Singapore draws 250 million gallons of raw water per day and provides 2% of treated water back to Malaysia. - Singapore establishes multilateral relationships with other countries through memberships in regional and international organisations. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) helped to establish partnerships with countries within and beyond ASEAN. This includes the trade agreement between Singapore and 14 other Asia Pacific countries. 2) Deterrence - Deterrence refers to measures a country takes to discourage potential aggressors by making it costly for them to attack. - For example, the Ministry of Defence develops the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) to respond to military threats. The SAF's command and control information system uses AI and data analytics. Systems learn to recognize quickly how an enemy looks, calculate the time needed for enemies to reach a strike location, and recommend a strike location and which weapons to use against threats. This allows commanders to coordinate attacks with greater speed, ease and precision.

→ Deciding what is good for society

Challenges in deciding what is good for society

(Potential Question: Which is a more difficult challenge to handle?)

Differing needs and interests

- Different people have different needs and interests and this leads to people disagreeing on what is more important to them and the extent of what they will be willing to give up for the benefit of society
- A society can probably agree on basic needs but a diverse society may not be able to agree on common interests and what is important for a happy or fulfilling life.

E.g.

For example, when the divisive decision was made to drill through the Central Catchment Reserve while constructing the Cross-Island Line, there was much debate between the camps for and against it.

Nature groups opposed it, stating that the construction would negatively impact the environment.

However, working class people, especially those who had to commute from other parts of Singapore to the Central Business District supported the move as it would benefit them.

- As society only has limited resources, it would be impossible to meet everyone's needs and interests fully.

Differing priorities

- Citizens of a country may agree that it is important for the country to provide affordable healthcare, a good education and a clean environment.
- However, citizens may disagree on what area the government should prioritise.

E.g.

For instance, a survey ran from 1 Dec 2012 to 31 Jan 2013 interviewing at least 4,000 Singaporeans.

Although most of them agreed on what areas the government should focus on, their responses as to how the governments should prioritise them differed by income groups.

Those whose monthly salaries exceeded \$5,000 placed public healthcare as most important.

Those whose monthly salaries were below \$5,000 placed public housing as the most important.

- As such, due to society's diversity, people may rank different areas that they feel the government should focus on differently.

	leading to a difference in priority. <i>Unequal sharing of costs</i> - The unequal sharing of costs refers to the varying impact that a decision has on different groups of people. While a decision may benefit the society in general, there may be a negative impact on certain groups. - This cost can come in the form of noise pollution from construction sites or having to give up personal property. E.g. For instance, the construction of the Thomson Line for Singapore's Mass Rapid Transit system, while beneficial for most Singaporeans, forces some to have to bear greater burdens than others. In areas where land is privately owned but there exists a need to construct stations, some people, like the residents of Marine Parade must give up their land for compensation either willingly or forcibly. - Therefore, even though everyone benefits in the end, some people have had to give up their land while others just have to endure construction noises.
Managing trade-offs	- Due to limited number of resources available, there is a need to make choices about how to best make use of resources. This ensures benefits are maximised from decisions. - A trade-off involves making a decision between two or more things that cannot be obtained at the same time. E.g. One concrete example is the building of the Thomson-East Coast Line. When fully operational, it will help alleviate the transport burdens of the current MRT station. However, because the land was used for the MRT stations, it cannot be used for recreation or industry in the future.

Principles shaping governance (VERY Potential Question: Which is a more impactful towards the development of Singapore?)	<i>Having good leadership</i> - Having good leadership ensures the country's stability and progress. They are honest and capable and must be courageous enough to make the right decisions for the countries, even if they are difficult ones. E.g. Mr. Lim Kim San was the first chairman of the Housing & Development Board (HDB) and became minister for National Development in 1963. From 1960-1963, he helped to tackle the problem of housing shortage and led construction of low-cost public housing. In three years, HDB managed to complete 26000 flats. Mr. Lim chaired HDB voluntarily without any salary until he became a minster in 1963. He helped to improve the building and financial processes so that housing can be built cheap and fast. - Singapore has an especially pronounced need for capable leaders as its small size and unique position as a city-state without any natural resources means that it has to constantly innovate to stay relevant - As such, having capable leaders who are able to draft effective policies and strategies is essential. <i>Anticipating change and staying relevant</i> - The government needs to be forward-looking and take sound actions early to minimize threats and maximise opportunities for the people of Singapore. E.g. → challenge of rising sea levels In 2019, PM Lee Hsien Loong spoke about the impact of climate change and he informed Singaporeans about the government taking early and vital action to prepare the country for rising sea levels. In 2020, a budget of \$5 billion was set aside of the Coastal and Flood Protection Fund to help the country tackle problems of rising sea levels - This shows the importance of anticipating change and staying relevant as it ensures that Singapore will continue to progress and not stagnate.

	<i>A stake for everyone, opportunities for all</i> - Providing a stake for everyone and opportunities for all allows citizens to have a say in decisions made. They will feel a greater sense of belonging and be more willing to work towards the good of society. E.g. The Singapore Together movement was launched in 2019 to encourage citizens to partner the government and shape the shared future in areas that they care about. This can be done through partnership and government support for citizen led initiatives. It was used during the COVID-19 where 16900 Singaporeans from diverse backgrounds came together to express their hope for a stronger Singapore after the pandemic. - By actively involving citizens in Singapore's development, we can cultivate a greater sense of attachment to the country itself which will motivate them to work for the greater good of Singaporean society.
	<i>Practicing Meritocracy</i> - Meritocracy is the system where opportunities and rewards are distributed by merits - People are rewarded according to the effort they put in thus they are encouraged to work harder. E.g. The Edusave Scholarship and Merit Bursary Scheme, which respectively reward the top 10% and 25% of school students with a sum of money for their good performance in school. By awarding those who have done well in school with this sum of money, the government is encouraging these students to pursue education with greater motivation, so that in the years to come, these individuals will be able to contribute back to Singapore and thus drive Singapore's progress. - As such, we can see that when people are motivated like this, it encourages them to work hard as they know that they all have an equal chance at achieving success and are only limited by the amount of effort they put in. - This contributes back to the development of Singapore and furthers Singapore's progress.

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

→ Citizens and government working together for the good of society

Citizens and government working together for the good of society

(Potential Question: Which way is more effective?)

Addressing the needs of the society

- This effort focuses on improving the well-being of different groups of people by responding to the issues and challenges they face

Individuals

- Individuals can volunteer and give back to the community through needs that one is passionate and concerned about. Their knowledge, skills and experience can help them to better serve the community.

- This can be done when volunteering as an instructor to benefits others in the same community.

Community Groups

- RSVP Singapore is a formal community group organized by citizens. It is formed in 1988 and has been actively engaging senior citizens in volunteerism.

- They serve many beneficiaries that include the socially isolated seniors, elderly patients discharged from hospital care the mentally disadvantages and at-risk children from low-income families.

Government

- Government agencies like National Council of Social Services (NCSS) which developed the Volunteer Management Toolkit 2.0 to provide people with a framework and guidelines on how to manage volunteers effectively. It works with various parties to contribute to the development of Toolkit so that it can be shared by more.

- By allowing citizens to contribute to needs of society, a greater sense of ownership and commitment to causes is cultivated.

- This results in the long-term involvement of citizens, which brings various sustainable benefits to society.

↑sense of belonging, ↑SOL, ↑ROL

	<i>Influencing decision-making in public affairs</i> - Citizens, be it in the form of individual or in a group, have a role to play by providing feedback regarding policy decisions. - Citizens and the government can work together to make decisions for the good of society through engagement platforms like REACH and the Citizens' Jury E.g. REACH is the national feedback and engagement unit under the Ministry of Communications and Information. It seeks to engage citizens' views on public policies and listen to their concerns and issues. REACH consolidates feedback received and links it to relevant government agencies. REACH uses social media like Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp and Facebook to encourage Singaporeans to highlight key issues of concern to the government. They also organize face-to-face and online engagement sessions like public forums dialogue sessions. - By being actively involved in the decision-making process of the government, citizens can help suggest for any necessary changes and improvements to be made, allowing for a more effective policy. <i>Strengthening citizens' sense of belonging</i> - When there is unity among citizens, they show care and take action to help one another. They feel that they have an important place in society and become more concerned about shaping the country's future. E.g. → Dakota Crescent <u>Community groups</u> People came together to form an informal community group for a project called Between Two Homes. This project began in 2016, as the residents of Dakota Crescent started to relocate. The group produced multimedia website to show the rich heritage and community of Dakota Crescent. <u>Government</u> In 2020, the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth has given out 4.3 million to support ground up projects. This includes Between Two Homes that received funding <u>Individuals</u> Volunteers became more aware of the needs of the Dakota residents. They formed teams to help residents overcome the challenges of relocating and organize weekly house visits and potluck parties for them. - When citizens are both actively involved on a societal level and in the decision-making process, this cultivates a sense of attachment
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	to Singapore.
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Chapter 5: What are the factors that shape the identities of people and contribute to a diverse society?

→ Factors that shape the identities of people and contribute to a diverse society

Factors that shape the identity of people and contribute to a diverse society (unlikely Potential Question: Which factor makes Singapore more diverse/has a greater impact?)	<u>Race and ethnicity</u> - Race refers to the biological classification of people, which includes their physical characteristics - Ethnicity is based on the culture of a group of people that share the same customs and traditions E.g. → group representation constituency The GRC system consists of a group of MPs that represents the interests of residents in the constituency. At least one of the MPs in the group representing a GRC must belong to the Malay or Indian community, or another minority racial community. E.g. The Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP) ensures that there is a mix of various ethnic groups in each HDB block, based on the ethnic make-up of Singapore. This allows for people of different ethnicity to live and interact. - Hence, as one's race and ethnicity would cause them to follow beliefs and a way of life which is different and unique from other races and ethnicities. - This thus contributes to a unique identity and a greater diversity. <u>Religion</u> - Religion refers to an organized collection of attitudes, beliefs, values, practices and world views. E.g. Buddhists following the teaching of Buddha which promote peace and harmony amongst different races and religion. Buddhists are also prohibited from eating beef and some are expected to be vegetarian, so as these beliefs will affect their cuisine. - Hence, as one's religion would cause them to follow beliefs and a way of life which is different and unique from other races religion. - This thus contributes to a unique identity and a greater diversity.
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	<u>Socio-economic status</u> - Socio-economic status refers to an economic situation shared by a group of people in society. It can be measured by a few social and economic factors. - In Singapore, socio-economic status can help the government to identify groups of people who may require additional assistance, so support can be more targeted. E.g. Families with lower income may face challenges in providing the resources to support their children's development. To ensure children have a good start in life, the Singapore government introduced the KidSTART programme as added support to children six and below. - Thus, as their socioeconomic status affects the opportunities and activities that one will likely take part in and thus, it affects their identity.
	<u>Nationality</u> - Nationality refers to being a citizen or of belonging to a particular country E.g. Haka is a dance and chant that is practiced by people from New Zealand. Before a match, members of New Zealand's rugby team are known to perform the haka as a fierce display of team pride and strength. E.g. Singlish is an informal way of speaking and is used by most Singaporeans. It mixes English with words and phrases from the languages spoken by the various communities in Singapore. It has become a part of the Singaporean identity and culture. - People will feel more connected to other members of the same nationality as they identify with and share a common history, language and culture. This provides one with a shared sense of national identity and belonging to their country.

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

→ Interactions in a diverse society and common space & experiences and effects of living in a diverse society

Interactions in a diverse society and common space	- Common space refers to a physical location or social space where different groups of people interact, cooperate or collaborate on projects or activities E.g. - The void deck in public housing estates are open and sheltered areas on the ground floor of most HDBs which provide a chance for residents to meet, interact and bond. - The MOE-OBS challenge for Secondary 3 students allows students from different backgrounds to have a common space to interact with one another through a camp where they get to engage in various team bonding activities together.
Experiences and effects of living in a diverse society (Potential Question: Which is more positive / Which is more negative?)	<i>Cultural exchange and appreciation (positive)</i> - Cultural exchange takes place with the sharing of ideas, customs and traditions among people from different backgrounds. - Cultural exchange also deepens understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness, commonalities and differences among people. This can help to build meaningful relationships with those of diverse backgrounds. <i>↑ SOL and ↑ QOL</i> E.g. - Cultural exchanges can take place through programmes such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Youth Fellowship (AYF). Through AYF, youths commit themselves to forging closer partnerships and strengthening connections with young ASEAN leaders from across the region. They are committed to making a positive change in countries in ASEAN. - This manifests itself in different ways such as through the fusing of cultural cuisine to form fusion dishes like otah burger, which combines the traditional American burger with Malay otah. - Through appreciation and being open and receptive to the cultures around us, we can enrich our experiences of living in a diverse society.

	<i>Exchange of knowledge and skills (positive)</i> - A diverse society like Singapore brings together people of different backgrounds, qualifications and experiences to share their knowledge and skills. This creates new ideas, methods and products. E.g. Thermo Fisher Scientific is one of the largest medical device makers. Singapore is the central hub for its Asia-Pacific operations. It is a multinational company with over 2000 employees in Singapore. Singaporeans are trained in leadership skills and encouraged to collaborate with employees from different cultures and with different experiences and expertise. During COVID-19, Thermo fisher collaborated with Ministry of Health (MOH), Temasek Holdings and Economic Development Board (EDB) in the production of personal protective equipment (PPE) and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test kits. - This diversity in knowledge and skills has led to various breakthrough in Singapore, and encourages more investment commitments in Singapore.
	<i>Stereotypes, prejudice and discriminations (negative)</i> - In diverse societies like Singapore, there are many opportunities for people from different backgrounds to interact and communicate. - However, these opportunities to interact also bring possibilities for misunderstandings and misconceptions to arise. - This is especially so where differences in cultural background can lead to differing and sometimes conflicting views on values, beliefs and customs. - Negative sentiments can arise when people jump to conclusions about others and make incorrect judgements due to insufficient understanding and erroneous assumptions. ↳ incorrect E.g. - In June 2021, an interracial couple were strolling along Orchard road. A local Chinese man confronted the couple and accused the man of "preying on a Chinese girl". The couple then shared that they felt humiliated and hurt. - For instance, Arabs and Muslim-Americans became victims of hate crimes in America after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Many Arabs and Muslim-Americans were stopped for questioning by public officers because of their appearance or Muslim names. - These instances of discrimination have caused unnecessary hurt, much inconvenience and deepened prejudice against people of a different race or religion.

	<i>Competition for resources (negative)</i> - Singaporeans are concerned about the heightened competition with foreigners over limited resources. These resources include job opportunities and infrastructure such as public housing and transportation. - The competition has led to tensions, unhappiness and negative experiences among groups of people in the country. - Many Singaporeans feel as though Singapore's policy of hiring foreign talent workers to work in its shores have posed a job threat to Singaporeans. E.g. - In 2020, a survey was conducted by REACH that found that Singaporeans generally agree that it was important for Singapore to be a regional hub as it provides good opportunities for Singaporeans. - For instance, a face-to-face poll, carried in 2006 by Singapore Press Holdings' research revealed that nearly nine in 10 (86 per cent) Singaporeans said their main objection to foreign talent stems from a fear of losing jobs to foreigners - Thus this shows how Singaporeans feel as though foreign talent poses a threat to their jobs and hence there is concern over their standard of living. ↓ SOL, ↓ QOL
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Chapter 7: How can we respond to diversity in society?

→ Responding to Socio-cultural Diversity & Responding to Socio-economic Diversity

Responding to Socio-cultural Diversity (Potential Question (gov): Assimilation V.S. integration)	<i>Responses of citizens</i> - Our response can help to deepen meaningful understanding and cultivates mutually respectful relationship with those around us and allow us to harness our diversity and live harmoniously. E.g. - Welcome In My Backyard (WIMBY) is a youth-led group founded in April 2020 to raise awareness about the lives of migrant workers. It aims to promote interactions between migrant workers and the local community, - During the relocation of migrant worker dormitories to housing estates, volunteers engaged Singaporeans to write notes to welcome migrant workers into their neighbourhoods. There is also an initiative to encourage interactions between Singaporeans and migrant workers. - These initiatives help shape the attitudes and actions of the public. They also help to develop a deeper understanding between different socio-cultural groups and a spirit of mutual accommodation.
	<i>Responses of government – Assimilation</i> - Assimilation is a policy in which immigrants are expected to adopt the beliefs and practices of the majority group in the host country, which over time makes the identity of the immigrants indistinguishable from the majority group. E.g. → France - France acknowledges the existence of diverse cultural identities, it believes that the French national identity should be prioritized over other identities. - (Education) Adaptation classes are introduced to children of immigrants to help them improve their French. No discussion about religion except in History, Literature, Philosophy and Art classes. - (Employment) The diversity charter in 2004 helps to raise employers' awareness of recruiting employees from diverse backgrounds. The first charter supports the assimilation of immigrants into French society. - (Naturalisation) There is a four-day civic training course about French principles and values, as well as the practical aspects. There is 600 hours of free language courses which help master French in everyday life. - There is a desire to uphold the French national identity. However, there is also a need to recognize the role of culture and religion in the identities of immigrants, and to respect their right to practice religion.

	<i>Responses of government – Integration</i> - Integration is where minority groups and immigrants retain their unique identities while forging common ground with the majority group in the host country. E.g. → Singapore - The Singapore identity is anchored in the shared values of upholding law and order, respecting racial and religious harmony and a commitment to working together - Differences in practices, customs and traditions of the different groups are recognized and respected. - (Community support) In 2009, the National Integration Council launched the Community Integration Fund to support organisations in implementing projects to encourage interactions between Singaporeans, immigrants and foreigners. - (Naturalisation initiatives) A compulsory programme called the Singapore Citizenship Journey helps one to better adapt to the Singapore lifestyle - (Common experience) NS brings people from diverse backgrounds to train and live together. They strengthen the relationships between them and create a strong Singapore national identity. ? - This involves both Singaporean and immigrants playing their part as mutual respect and accommodation is required.
Responding to Socio-economic Diversity (Potential Question (gov): government's responsibility VS shared responsibility)	<i>Responses of citizens</i> <u>Individuals</u> - They can start ground-up initiatives and mobilise resources to distribute food to those in need. - In 2014, Mr. Nizar started a charity called Free Food For All (FFFA) to provide nutritious halal food to the less fortunate, regardless of race or religion. In 2021, FFFA served more than 160000 meals, which include RTE meals to more than 1000 families each month. <u>Community Groups</u> - Daughters of tomorrow (DOT) is 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. DOT learn good money-management skills and progress towards their financial goals.

	<i>Responses of government – government-financed</i> - Sweden practices a government-financed approach to provide social services to their citizens. - (Healthcare) Healthcare services such as hospital care, medicine, dental care, disability support and rehabilitation services are publicly funded. - (Education) Education is funded by the government and provided to all Swedes. Sweden provides compulsory education from 6 to 16 with free school lunch to every child. - (Housing) Allowance is provided to lower-income individuals or families who need help to pay for housing or housing fees for their own home - (Skills training) The Swedish public Employment Service provides training to equip individuals with skills to increase their chances of employment - The social benefits provided by the Swedish government are only made possible by the high taxation rate in Sweden. In 2019, the highest income earners in Sweden pay income taxes of 57.2%. - Swedish elder care is largely funded by taxes and government grants. This is set to increase as the country's population continue to age. There will then be a smaller working population to bear this increased cost. - High immigrant unemployment rates widen the income gap between them and citizens
	<i>Responses of government – shared responsibility</i> - Individuals and families, community groups and the government work together to address issues related to socio-economic diversity and meet the needs of society E.g. → Singapore - Individuals play an important role to make effort to support themselves and their family members. The government will provide target assistances to individuals and families (like those of low income) who are unable to provide for themselves and where support is not enough - (Essential services) Singaporeans save for their own or their dependents, but the government does provide subsidies to reduce medical costs through CPF MediSave Account - (Vouchers) There are some cash payouts in August every year to support lower-income Singaporeans with their immediate needs to tackle problems of GST. - (Upskills) My SkillsFuture Singapore gives students and working adults access to training and courses to continually upskill and equip themselves with industry-relevant skills. - By 2030, seniors will be more than double and the increasingly heavy cost of supporting an ageing population would affect the working

	population. Fewer working adults would also affect the economy of Singapore due to lowered productivity. - The Singapore government increased the GST to 9% in 2024, and this higher government revenue will help to meet the needs of the population. Singapore's competitive tax rates are attractive to high earners and entrepreneurs who want to live and do business in Singapore. But due to increase this may reduce number of foreigners and tourists. - There needs to be a mindset shift in employers so that older workers are also values, accepted and accommodated. By 2030, retirement age set at 65 and re-employment age at 70. Without employment support for mature workers, it would be hard for employers to retain and hire them. They may also be earning wages that are not enough to support their needs.
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Chapter 8: What are the factors that contribute to globalisation?

→ Driving forces of globalisation

Driving forces of globalisation (Very Potential Question: which factor led to globalisation more?)	- Globalisation refers to the process through which ideas and activities of people living in different parts of the world become interconnected - These interconnections are links created or established among people, businesses and countries through the movement of goods, services, people, knowledge and resources - Such interconnections can lead to interdependence where developments in the world and developments locally affect one another. <i>Technological advancements - Developments in transportation</i> - Technological advancements have led to improvements in land, sea and air transportation. - Advancements in transport also includes the development of supporting infrastructure such as highways, railways, seaports and airports. Transport services have become more readily available and affordable over time. E.g. - SPEED → In 1830, the steam-powered rail travel covered approximately 50km and its trains travelled at about 48km/h. Later in 1964, the Shinkansen bullet trains in Japan covers 3478km with trains that travel up to 320 km/h - CAPACITY → In 1800s, Steam-powered ships first sailed across the Atlantic Ocean between America and Europe, before heading to Asia. It has limited carry capacity due to large engine and fuel. Later in 1956, container ships are built with a carrying capacity ranging from 25000 to 600000 tonnes. - COSTS → In 1950s, flying was considered a luxury experience. Very few people can afford it. Later in the 1990s, flight costs have decreased significantly due to low-cost airlines and now more are able to travel by air. - These developments have allowed for people, goods and services to move around the world more quickly, in larger volumes and at lower costs. Business activities and ideas have thus become more interconnected and interdependent.
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	<i>Technological advancements - Developments in digital technology</i> - Digital technology refers to the electronic tools, systems, devices and resources that generate, store or process data. It also helps to facilitate communication between people, businesses and countries. E.g. - Smoke signals and carrier pigeons help to relay messages and act as a medium of communication - Postal letters were then used as they were carried between continents by merchant vessels. However, these letters often took months to arrive and might be lost due to disasters at sea. - Telegraphs and telephones were then developed in the 1830s to transmit electrical signals over a wire installed between telegraph stations. - Since the 2000s, telephones and mobile phones have developed rapidly, enabling people to engage in a range of functions beyond making calls. With key developments in wireless networks, people can now communicate with others across different time zones and over various distances via instant video calls using smartphones. - This thus links developments in multiple countries together, forming an interconnected relationship due to the presence of international collaboration made possible by technology.
	<i>Growth of multinational corporation</i> - Multinational corporations are large corporations that operate in various countries. They usually set up subsidiaries or acquire other companies. E.g. → Starbucks - Coffee beans are sourced from more than 30 countries across Latin America, Africa and Asia - Beans are then transported to roasting facilities in different cities in the US and India - Warehouses pack and store roasted coffee for distribution to retailers - In 2022, Starbucks distributed roasted coffee to more than 35000 stores across the world. Consumers can also buy Starbucks products, such as coffee sachets and ground coffee powder at supermarkets as well. - Ultimately, this establishes supply chains and create local markets and hence this leads to interdependent relationships between the various parties involved in running the MNCs, thus leading to globalisation.

Chapter 9: How can we respond to the economic impact of globalisation?

→ Economic impacts of globalisation and responses of countries and individuals

Economic impacts of globalisation (Potential Question: impact on countries VS individuals?)	<i>Economic growth and economic vulnerability experienced by countries</i> <u>Economic growth</u> - Economic growth is the increase in a country's production of goods and services. This can be measured by gross domestic products (GDP) over a period of time. E.g. - Singapore reviewed its economic strategy to ensure for sustained growth. The government focused on pursuing more trade, overseas investments and developing its modern service sectors. The Singapore's Central Business District is home to many corporations in the banking and finance sectors. - As land, sea and air transportation networks expand and transport costs decrease, raw materials and goods can be transported across the globe at lower costs. - The rapid growth of e-commerce also helps businesses widen global access to markets and consumers. - Developments in digital technology and transport connectivity allow information, knowledge and technology to be transmitted more efficiently and at lower costs. - Developments in digital technology and the business activities of MNCs also facilitate the flow of capital across the world, which is important to investment activities. <u>Economic vulnerability</u> - Interconnections and interdependent relationships in a global economy can bring economic opportunities and growth to countries. However, they can also make countries economically vulnerable. E.g. Russia and Ukraine are major exporters of some of the world's food products like wheat. Ukraine is also one of the world's biggest exporters of neon and noble gases. During the Russia-Ukraine war, the flow of goods across the world was disrupted. Many countries most sanctions of Russia to restrict trade, capital flow and travel with the country. Food production in Ukraine was also disrupted as Ukrainian fled the country and farmlands were destroyed.
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	<i>Employment opportunities and challenges experienced by individuals</i> - Globalisation creates employment opportunities and new ways of working for individuals. - When a country is open to the global economy, businesses can reach a larger market, resulting in higher demand for goods and services from the country. This creates more jobs. - MNCs and increased investments like FDIs also encourage the use of more advanced technologies, which lead to creation of jobs involving higher skills and wages - Advancement in digital technology and transportation have also enabled individuals to enjoy increasing mobility beyond their country's borders. This means that individuals may find jobs overseas that better match their skills and job aspirations.
Responses to economic impacts of globalisation (Potential Question: comparing responses/solutions)	<i>Government support</i> <u>Economic cooperation</u> - Countries can cooperate with one another by pursuing policies that promote free trade. - Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) make trade and investments between them easier. They typically agree to reduce or remove tariffs to allow imports and exports to be traded more freely and at lower costs. - E.g. → Bilateral FTAs The Singapore-Australia (SAFTA) came into play in 2003 and was revised in 2006 and 2020. Under the agreement, tariffs on all imported goods are removed, the number of Australian universities whose law degrees are recognized in Singapore increased from four to eight and the period of stay granted to business visitors between Singapore and Australia increased from one to three months. <u>Attracting and making foreign investments</u> - The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) ensures low and stable inflation in Singapore, which helps to attract foreign investors. It also manages and invests the country's foreign reserves, namely foreign currencies accumulated from international trade and investment. <u>Financial support and development</u> - Financial support from the government cushions the negative economic impacts on various sectors in the short term. - COVID-19 highlighted the economic vulnerability of countries as they closed their borders. This affected sectors like transport and tourism. Thus, the 2020 Singapore Budget has \$4B stabilisation and support package and \$1.6b care and support package. - Government agencies can be set up to provide resources and advice to help businesses develop and expand. This helps businesses to adapt or transform their operations to become more resilient to disruptions and economic vulnerability. - 2017, Go Digital programme launched to help small and medium enterprise (SMEs) adopt advanced digital solutions and technologies.

	<i>Acquisition of knowledge and skills by individuals</i> - Individuals who are digitally savvy and/or possess sought-after skills may be able to get more job opportunities locally and overseas, and perhaps get higher-paying jobs. - However, individuals may find themselves competing with foreign labour. They may also risk losing their jobs when MNCs relocate their operations to other countries, or when individuals do not possess the relevant skills required in the increasingly digitalized economy. - Individuals can be willing to acquire new knowledge and skills throughout their life and remain relevant in the job market. This is important in the current society where technology rapidly advances, and current jobs are evolving. - Individuals need to have a flexible and open mindset about exploring and trying out different or new areas of work - Individuals need to ensure they save and invest appropriately, so that they have the resources to provide for themselves and their families during period of unemployment or loss of income.
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Chapter 10: How can we respond to the cultural impacts of globalisation?

→ Cultural impacts of globalisation and responses of countries and individuals

Cultural impacts of globalisation (Potential Question: comparing impacts)	<i>Spread of culture (positive)</i> - Globalisation has led to the spread of popular and consumer culture and the consumer lifestyle associated with it. E.g. → American culture - Around the world, many people continue to embrace American culture. This could be because people find aspects of American culture, like fast-food and media, familiar and relatable. - As people continue to enjoy and consume American media, some may also adopt the values and beliefs represented in American shows and movies - With American influences becoming increasingly prevalent, they have become a part of people's daily routines, shaping their preferences and lifestyles.
	<i>Dilution of culture (negative)</i> - As people become more immersed in global cultural products and lifestyles, the practice of local cultures or ethnic traditions may become less widespread. The adoption of popular and consumer culture could gradually lead to their replacement. - The dilution of local culture may eventually lead to some of these cultures being forgotten over time. People may lose the rich meanings and ways of life connected with these cultures. - As younger generations grow up under the cultural influences of globalisation, they may face difficulties relating to older generations who may be more deeply rooted in local and ethnic cultures. Older generations may also not appreciate the popular and consumer culture that appeals to younger generations. E.g. Due in part to the success of Hollywood films, the younger generation of Singaporeans have flocked towards Western media in favour of more traditional film and cultural performances like puppet shows or Chinese opera. Most American fast-food chains which have set up shop in Singapore have also started to influence the diets of Singaporeans, particularly younger Singaporeans. - Hence, as this aspect of appreciation for local-arts is lost due to the displacement of local culture by foreign influences, it is thus an example of cultural homogenisation.

Responses to cultural impacts of globalisation (Potential Question: comparing responses)	<i>Varying degrees of acceptance and rejection – Responses of countries</i> <u>Reject</u> - Countries may choose to reject cultural globalisation. Government may ban foreign cultural performances to protect their local culture, values and beliefs. - E.g. → China Chinese authorities control foreign film distribution in the country through censorship, policies limiting the import for foreign movies and control of release dates. Foreign films can only be distributed in China through Chinese state-owned cinema businesses. This resulted in 83% of movies screened in China locally produced. <u>Limit</u> - Countries may also choose to limit the influence of cultural globalisation. Governments may impose legal quotas on foreign entertainment to protect their domestic cultural industry and economy. - E.g. → Singapore In 2019, the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) cancelled a scheduled live concert by an overseas band following an online petition. IMDA initially allowed the concert to be performed but imposed strict requirements that needed to be fulfilled. However, due to public outcry against the concert, the Ministry of Home Affairs reviewed the matter and assessed that the concert should not proceed. This was due to the band's past performances that promoted violence, hateful sentiments and religiously offensive content. <u>Embrace</u> - Countries may also choose to embrace cultural globalisation - E.g. → South Korea In Feb 2023, a dance cover of “Naatu Naatu” by South Korean diplomats in India went viral on social media. This was the first time the South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had published such a viral video, which has gained warm response in India. This was also published to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic ties between South Korea and India.
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	<i>Varying degrees of acceptance and rejection – Responses of individuals</i> <u>Embrace</u> - As consumers, individuals may embrace the spread of foreign cultural products to enjoy various products and lifestyle choices. They may also agree with the ideas, values and beliefs that are promoted in cultural products. - E.g. → Scotland The award-winning film Braveheart led to a 300% increase in tourist visits to The National Wallace Monument in Scotland the year after it was released. <u>Resist</u> - Individuals and communities may also choose to resist the influences of cultural globalisation due to various social, political or economic reasons. To protect their local industries, or culture and way of life from being diluted, they may reject foreign cultural products. - E.g. → Korea, K-pop The Korean Wave has enjoyed great popularity in Japan. K-pop often tops music charts, and K-dramas are frequently broadcast on local television at primetime with high ratings. Korean pop culture has also received backlash from locals over concerns about how Korean influences threaten or dilute Japanese culture and cultural businesses. - Concerns raised by individuals and communities may prompt the government to respond to impacts of cultural globalisation - Government's response can also shape the values and behaviours of individuals and communities and in turn how they respond to cultural globalisation
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Chapter 11: How can we respond to the security impacts of globalisation?

→ Security impacts of globalisation and responses of countries and individuals

Security impacts of globalisation (Potential Question: comparing impacts)	<i>Transnational terrorism</i> <u>Terrorism</u> - Terrorism is the intentional use of violence by individuals or groups to cause fear and intimidate others to achieve certain political or social objectives. - On 11 September 2001, 19 terrorists from Al-Qaeda hijacked four American aeroplanes and crashed them at various places in the US. This killed 3000 people, injured 25000 and caused property damage of 10 billion dollars. This was to take revenge for America's military involvement in the Middle East. - Terrorist attacks can lead to immediate physical impacts like injuries, death and damage to properties. Economic costs are also affected as businesses are stopped and destroyed buildings need to be rebuilt. - Feelings of distrust and fear may develop among people. These feelings can lead to disunity and tensions among different communities. This disrupts harmony and destabilise the country. <u>Transnational Terrorism</u> - Transnational terrorism arises when terrorists take advantage of these conditions of globalisation and attach beyond their country's borders to achieve their objective and operations. - Some terrorist organisations, such as Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have transnational objectives that are global in nature. Al-Qaeda used the idea of a global "holy war" to encourage extremist Islamic groups in different countries to engage in terrorism. ISIS seeks to establish an Islamic state with authority over Muslims throughout the world. - With advanced communication and digital technologies, terrorist groups from different places can also communicate with one another easily and plan transnational operations, involving obtaining resources like funding and weapons to support their attacks.
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	<i>Cyber threats</i> - Cyber threats refer to unauthorized access to online information systems and data. - In 2021 World Economic Forum Global Risks Report, threats to cybersecurity, also known as cyber threats, have been identified as the fourth greatest danger to our global economy. - For instance, one such example of cyber criminals hacking networks can be found in 2013, when hackers hacked into the PMO and Istana websites and defaced it to further their own agenda. - Opportunities → People can take advantage of digital technology to enjoy greater convenience in economic activities such as online shopping and bill payments → Advanced countries and larger organization may have more resources and expertise to develop responses to cyber threats. - Challenges → Certain population groups, such as the elderly, may be targets of cybercrimes. They are likely to have money and are perceived as easier prey as they may not be aware of ways to keep themselves safe online. → Government, organization and individuals in advanced countries face a higher risk of cyber threats as greater proportions of their activities are conducted online.
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Responses to security impacts of globalisation (Potential Question: comparing responses)	<i>Vigilance by individuals</i> - Individuals can play a part in responding to the threat of terrorism by staying vigilant. Individuals can exercise vigilance by watching out for tell-tale signs of self-radicalisation in others. When there are sufficient grounds for suspicion, individuals can also take action to inform the relevant authorities or report suspicious items or characters. - As more people engage in activities online, crimes and threats have also gone virtual. Cybersecurity is increasingly critical as the world becomes more digital. Awareness campaign posters from businesses and organisations in Australia, India, and the US help to educate individuals and workers on ways to protect themselves online.
	<i>Security measures by governments within their countries</i> - Government have taken border-management measures to proactively prevent potential terrorist attacks from occurring within their country. - With advancements in digital technology, countries are able to mitigate the risk of identity fraud by using biometric data to ascertain the identity of individuals at land, sea and air checkpoints. Biometric data could include facial features, fingerprints, and iris patterns. - Governments may also respond by implementing laws - The Internal Security Department (ISD) is a law that enables the Singapore government to act decisively and swiftly against dangers to the security of Singapore and its people. The ISD investigates security threats like terrorism and acts of violence or hatred using race and religion. Authorities also impose preventive detention against individuals who pose a security threat in Singapore.
	<i>Cooperation among countries</i> - Countries can cooperate to manage transnational terrorism by sharing information or participating in international counter-terrorism cooperation. -The INTERPOL is an inter-governmental organisation that works with 195 countries to improve world safety. In 2019, an officer from SPF was appointed to lead INTERPOL's Regional Counter-Terrorism Node which enables police units in the Asia-Pacific to work together and encourage the transfer of intelligence concerning terrorist activities. - Countries can cooperate with one another to counter cyber threats, as many cybercrimes today can originate beyond a country's borders. - In 2018, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) took part in a join operation to crack down on a criminal organization involved in almost 20 million worth of Internet love scams.