



Practice Essay Question

Explain **two** reasons why people migrate to Singapore.
[10m]

Expected Answers

- Define key terms
 - **Migrant:** a person who moves to another country to find work or for better living conditions
 - Need to distinguish between
 - Temporary (migrant) vs. permanent (immigrant)
 - Migrant workers seeking employment and business owners/investors seeking business/investment opportunities
 - Economic migrants (reasons related to work) vs. other groups e.g. International students

Expected Answers

- Economic opportunities
 - **Employment** opportunities provided by companies (especially MNCs and those in rapidly-growing industries) needing foreign talent with skills local workforce lacks; also lower-skilled foreign workers needed in certain sectors (e.g. construction, domestic work) to do work shunned by locals
 - **Business** opportunities created by SG's business-friendly environment (low taxes, administrative efficiency, political stability etc.), presence of MNCs/hub status in various sectors (finance, technology, aviation), and continued economic growth

Expected Answers

- Immigration policy
 - SG has **need to attract migrants** to address **short-term gaps in the labour market** (emerging/rapidly growing industries that cannot find sufficiently-skilled locals) and **longer-term problem of ageing population** given low citizen birth rates and continued **brain-drain** of skilled locals
 - Relatively **open and lenient immigration policy** that makes it easy for **skilled** immigrants to seek permanent residency (and eventual citizenship) with various passes and schemes

Expected Answers

- Sociocultural environment
 - SG is known as a **safe country with low crime rates** and no ongoing conflicts/political instability
 - SG also has a **recognised public education system** that ranks highly internationally (e.g. PISA) and many **international and private schools** that cater to expat communities and foreign students seeking higher education
 - SG is also known for its diversity (ethnic, religious etc.) with numerous established migrant **community support groups**, consular support for many nationalities, and other facilities that cater to specific groups

Common Mistakes

- Raising points that are **not substantiated/conflating** multiple points that are actually distinct
- **Copying/lifting** entire sentences/paragraphs from sources (e.g. readings) verbatim instead of using only relevant sections as evidence
- **Being vague with evidence/explanations** – not elaborating with sufficient detail
- Presenting evidence that is **hypothetical, fictitious, or anecdotal** – these are not valid

Common Mistakes

- **Not answering/no clear link to the question** by explaining how the point makes migrants want to come to Singapore i.e. their motivations/concerns
 - E.g. A safe and low-crime environment coupled with good schools and supportive expat communities makes Singapore very attractive to immigrants with families who see SG as an ideal place to raise their children

Level of Response Marking Scheme (LORMS)

| Level | Descriptor | Marks |
|-------|---|-------|
| L1 | Listing: 1m per point without any elaboration (evidence and explanation is absent) | 1-2 |
| L2 | Description: 3-4m for one point with weak evidence and explanation; 5-6m for two points | 3-6 |
| L3 | Explanation: 7-8m for one point with strong evidence and explanation; 9-10m for two points | 7-10 |

Level of Response Marking Scheme (LORMS)

For 10m explanatory essays:

| Mark | Grade | GPA |
|----------|-------|------|
| ≥ 8 | A+ | 4.00 |
| 7 | A | 3.60 |
| 6 | B | 2.80 |
| 5 | C | 2.00 |
| ≤ 4 | D | 1.60 |

General Advice & Tips

- **Plan your essay** – sketch out main points and think about how you would substantiate and weigh them
- Remember to **define key terms** and frame your response according to them
- Be concise and to the point: make **one point per paragraph**, with one solid example as evidence, and one clear explanation that links to the question

General Advice & Tips

- Use “**according to...**” to cite your sources
- You get no marks for persuasive writing/rhetoric, and have a word limit, so **do not waste words** on a hook, rhetorical questions, or other literary devices – be **concise**, and **write to the point**
- Write your name, class, index no., and assignment title **in the header** so they don't count against the word limit and every page you submit is labelled
- **If you need help: ask** – we will help where we can

Summative Explanatory Essay

- Assignment details are on Ivy
 - Note instructions on formatting and submission
- Consultations available
 - Email bryan.tan@ri.edu.sg to arrange a F2F meeting or if you have specific questions we can resolve via Teams call