Ultimate Social Studies Essay Notes
TZN

Chapter 2

What are the challenges in deciding what is good for the society?

Differing needs and interests

Within a society, there is a **challenge in deciding on what is good for the society.** 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 the society.**

Besides necessities such as food, water, clothing, shelter, personal security, a diverse population **may not be able to agree on common interests** for what is most important for a happy life.

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. As such, decisions on how the resources should be used would need to be made.

Differing priorities

Citizens may have disagreements on 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**.

Example: A survey conducted between **2012-2013** of **4000** Singaporeans to find out what they hope to see in 2030 revealed that some priorities varied by income group. For example, low income groups (income under $1000) prioritised **public housing** as 1st in the list of what they cared for the most, while the high SES group (earning more than $10 000) prioritised **public healthcare.**

As such, it is a **challenge for the government when trying to decide which policy should take precedence** because while certain groups would benefit from a policy, other groups may experience certain trade-offs. The difficulty lies when **trying to convince and explain the decision** that is made to the public and trying to get people's **support for the government's policies.**

Unequal sharing of costs

While an infrastructural development may be beneficial for all members of society, **some parties may have to give up more in return than others.** This cost can come in the form of noise pollution from construction sites, having to give up personal property etc. Citizens are **concerned about who would bear the costs in society and how much they would need to bear.**

Example: In 2012, HDB had plans to build studio apartments for the elderly in Toh Yi Estate in Bukit Timah. These studio apartments were to be built on a piece of land that has been used for a basketball court, jogging track and a small garden. Some residents were not pleased since they **felt that they would lose their recreational spaces**, while others felt that the location of The studio apartments would not be elderly friendly due to the uneven terrain. Even though HDB mentioned that there would be recreational spaces built in the studio apartments that would be open to the residents in the estate, some residents continue to disagree with the proposal as they were **uncomfortable with having apartments meant for the elderly near them.**

Given that SIngapore has **limited land and facilities**, the situation is made much worse since it is inevitable that some groups of people will have to bear **greater costs** than others. The difficulty lies with trying to **convince those groups of the value of suffering trade-offs.**

How can the government manage these challenges?

Understanding trade-offs

Due to the **limited amount of resources available**, there is **a need to make choices about how to make the best use of these resources**. This will ensure that more people are able to gain the most benefits from these decisions. The government has to consider our limited resources when **making decisions on developing Singapore.**

Example: In 2014, the Singapore government had to make a decision to acquire land previously used for residential and commercial purposes to build the Thomson-East Coast Line. When fully operational in 2024, it is expected to serve about 500 000

commuters daily, rising to one million commuters daily in the long term. However, the **tradeoff was that the piece of land can no longer be used for recreation or industry in the future.**

Thus, the government needs to balance the costs of trade-offs with what it chooses to spend its resources on, in order to manage conflicting demands.

Decision-making in a representative democracy

When there are multiple choices and conflicting demands, a democratic country like Singapore will **vote on the best decision to make.**This is because our government is **elected by citizens** in a representative democracy, so the government can make decisions on behalf of citizens when there are **conflicting interests and demands.**

Example: Here, these decisions are made by the organs of the state, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary branch. The Legislature **discusses national issues and drafts the laws related to them.** The PCMR also checks if any clauses affect any racial or religious minority, before submitting it to the President for his assent. The Judiciary **interprets and applies the laws** made by the Legislature. The Executive branch, which is the Cabinet, then **executes these policies and runs the day-to-day administration of the state.**

Legitimate decision-making process ensures that **decisions made are not partial,** while the PCMR **ensures that the bill will not discriminate against any racial or religious minority.** Hence, issues that generate conflicting demands can be managed using **legitimate rule of law** for the best interests of the people.

What are the ideas shaping good governance?

Good leadership

This means that the **leaders must be capable**, so that they can **come up with the best policies** to ensure that Singapore continues to progress.

Example: Mr Liu Thai Ker, the former chairman of the National Arts Council. Under his leadership, **local talents had more opportunities** to participate in international collaborations and co-productions. Mr Liu's capability in setting up ventures such as the Singapore Writers' Festival helped **contribute to a more vibrant arts scene**, embodying the importance of having the **capability to lead** to improve Singapore.

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 must constantly innovate to stay relevant.** As such, having capable leaders who can draft effective policies and strategies is essential.

Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant

When **citizens' needs and interests are adversely affected in the short term** due to decisions based on more long-term considerations, tensions may arise. A **government needs to manage these tensions well** but at the same time **remain forward-looking** by making decisions that will benefit people of Singapore in the future, even if they are unpopular.

Example: The building of the Integrated Resorts (IRs). When this idea was first suggested, there was **strong opposition from the people** as they were concerned that it would result in an **increase in gambling addiction**. However, the government decided to go ahead with the plan as Singapore was **stagnating in the tourism industry** while other countries in the region were beginning to catch up and this proved to be the right choice as it has **brought economic benefits such as more jobs and increased tourist spending.** The government also took steps to rectify the social illnesses such as problem gambling that would result by charging citizens an extra fee to enter the casino, discouraging the act of gambling.

From this, we can see that the government had **anticipated the problem of an ailing tourism industry and pushed for the building of the IRs** whilst at the same time managing tensions by addressing the people's concerns. This shows the importance of anticipating change and staying relevant as it **ensures that Singapore will continue to progress and not stagnate.**

Practising Meritocracy

People are **rewarded according to the effort they put in rather than other factors such as race, religion, or socio-economic background.** When people are rewarded based on their abilities, they are encouraged to work hard.

Example: 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 work harder**, 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.**

Providing a stake for everyone

Letting citizens have a say in the decision making process develops in them a sense of belonging and ownership which is a practice of good governance.

Example: Our Singapore Conversation, where Singaporeans **share their views, hopes and dreams about Singapore.** In 2012, PM Lee Hsien Loong announced a national level conversation where citizens come together to share their views and ideas about what matters to Singapore, thus **enabling conversation amongst citizens and between citizens and government.** The OSC took place over a year and involved more than **47000 Singaporeans from all walks of life.** It was conducted through social media channels and the government learned about the aspirations of Singaporeans, which will **help in the future plans for Singapore.** Some aspirations include, good jobs in a resilient economy, respect for all and care for the disadvantaged.

Through these opportunities, **citizens will feel that they have a stake in Singapore** and be **more willing to be involved** in working towards the good of society.

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Chapter 3

What is the role of the government in working good for the society?

Maintaining internal order and external security

By **protecting citizens, property** and whatever society believes should be protected, it **allows social services to exist with peace and safety.**

Example: To maintain internal order, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) aims to **protect the people who live in Singapore from crime and all manner of criminal harm.** The crime in SPF's context includes 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 a 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. A **thorough investigation was conducted to understand the circumstances** and management of the riots. This helps the police to understand the root cause of the riot, and this **helps them to prevent people from using violence in such situations through effective communication** with the foreign workers.

Example: Additionally, the government also maintains external security by **strengthening Singapore's defence and deterring potential enemies from attacking.** To do so, the Republic of Singapore Air Force **deters aggression and defends Singapore and its interests, deters aggression through control of the air and decisively influencing ground and maritime battles.**

It also responds to a full spectrum of missions from peace to war, effectively protecting Singapore and its citizens from foreign threats. In March 2019, for example, the Air Force escorted a flight from Mumbai to Changi Airport when the pilot **raised a bomb threat.**

Ultimately, both seek to **ensure that Singapore's day-to-day activities are not disrupted** and help ensure Singapore's stability, effectively allowing society to function normally.

Ensuring justice

It is the **Judiciary's responsibility to independently interpret** and apply the law that was passed by legislature, allowing Singaporeans to be confident that the courts are fair.

Example: For example, the Family Justice Courts can **provide a Personal Protection Order** to prevent or restrict a person from entering an applicant's house. This can protect Singaporeans in the event of family violence. Hence, as **this gives the people affected an avenue with which to seek justice**, it can be said to be a way of ensuring justice for victims.

This helps to safeguard the interests of the country, by ensuring that citizens have a sense of security, ensuring peace and stability in the society.

Providing goods and services

In Singapore, Goods and Services are **subsidised by the government so everyone can access it.** This will **improve the wellbeing of citizens.**

Example: An example of a service provided for the public is transportation. To enhance commuter experience, the government **provides premium bus services, an app called MyTransport SG, upgraded bus stops and bus poles and travel information system.** Public transportation in Singapore is **people-centred,** improves connections and provides better services through 105 MRT stations, 164 km of expressways and 4638 Bus stops, as of 2014.

By addressing the needs of the people, the **government ensures that citizens will enjoy more conveniences**, **directly increasing the quality of life** and hence working for the good of society.

Safeguarding the interests of citizens

The government implements legislation to **safeguard the interests of the citizens**. This ensures that citizens have a sense of security in the country.

Example: the Work Right Initiative in Singapore **helps both employees and employers understand their rights and responsibilities**. It **creates awareness of employment rights** amongst low-wage workers, **allowing them to understand when their rights as workers are being abused**. It also helps **provide them an avenue to seek help** if employment rights are being violated. This initiative ensures that employers **fulfil their obligations** under Singapore employment laws. The areas of focus include

timely salary payment, contributions to CPF, no excessive work hours and statutory leave entitlement. It has over **42000 Singaporean beneficiaries**

This ensures that there is no abuse by employers, allowing employees a sense of security.

What is the role of citizens in working for the good of the society?

Individuals contributing to the needs of the society

Individuals **volunteer their time, effort, and money towards meaningful social causes that benefit many people directly.** This will **inspire others to do the same, improving society.** By working for a cause which they feel is important, their actions may also **inspire others to make similar improvements.**

Example: "A Litter at a Time" initiative started by Ms Elisa Ng has encouraged citizens to pick up a piece of litter a day. Since 2013, Ms Ng and her boys have been going on regular clean-up exercises. She even has a Facebook page where people can **pledge to pick up just a piece of litter a day.**

Every Singaporean **has a role to play in improving the lives of others.** With conviction and passion, we can each **contribute to a better living environment** in Singapore and the world we live in. This helps to **improve the general well-being** of the society, by ensuring sustainable benefits to the society.

Formal groups contributing to the needs of the society.

These groups are **formally registered with the government** and **help to address a wide range of interests** such as persons with special needs and protecting the environment. Formal groups **devote continued efforts to support a specific cause,** thus **allowing the benefit to the society to be sustainable.**

Example: the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS), which **aims to advance the development, well-being, and aspirations of persons with intellectual disability and their integration into society.**

These direct collective efforts and ideas have a significant effect on the specific areas in need, thus bringing in sustainable benefits to the society.

Informal groups contributing to the needs of the society

These are **organisations with a specific short-term objective** related to issues that arise suddenly and these groups are temporarily formed to attend to specific needs when a gap is noticed.

Example: during the June 2013 Haze Crisis, Mr Jeremy Chua started a "SG Haze Rescue" page which **asked for people to help and donate their excess masks.** Within a day of making his call, Mr Chua received a donation of 200 masks. Together with volunteers, he spent 2 hours distributing the masks in 5 HDB Blocks in Toa Payoh. Mr Chua **contributed by identifying the country's efforts to manage the haze situation and created this group to manage the ill-effects of the haze** and thus **ensuring Singaporeans remain healthy** during the haze period.

Hence, these informal groups help to complement the support structures provided by the government.

Individuals influencing government decisions

 Feedback and suggestions from Singaporeans influence the decisions and plans by the government, which help to enable necessary changes and improvements to be made.

Example: Our Singapore Conversation, where Singaporeans **share their views, hopes and dreams about Singapore.** In 2012, PM Lee Hsien Loong announced a national level conversation where citizens come together to share their views and ideas about what matters to Singapore, thus **enabling conversation amongst citizens and between citizens and government.** The OSC took place over a year and involved more than **47000 Singaporeans from all walks of life.** It was conducted through social media channels and the government learned about the aspirations of Singaporeans, which will **help in the future plans for Singapore.** Some aspirations include good jobs in a resilient economy, respect for all and care for the disadvantaged. This **helps the government to chart plans for Singapore.**

By **being actively involved in the decision-making process of the government**, citizens can help **suggest any necessary changes and improvements to be made**, allowing for a more effective policy.

Organised groups influencing government decisions

Groups like NGOs/VWOs **provide detailed and highly informative feedback** which can **help refine government policies and point to areas which need more attention.**

Example: the Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) **put forth their recommendations on improving the working conditions of foreign domestic workers in**

Singapore. They **recommended that these workers be given a day off a week in recognition of the work they do**

By **being actively involved in the decision-making process of the government**, citizens can **help suggest any necessary changes and improvements to be made**, allowing for a more effective policy.

Strengthen citizen's sense of belonging

The **involvement in sharing and discussion of views helps to cultivate a sense of attachment to Singapore in the citizens.**

Example: SCAPE was created by the government to **create a space for youths to create, explore and showcase their creative talents**. During the planning stage, over 2000 pieces of feedback on the development of SCAPE were given by youths in a consultation exercise. This **allows youths to be involved in the planning of the space and thus show the active role these youths collectively play in effecting change to the landscape in Orchard Road.**

By encouraging public participation, it **helps to engage the citizens** and help to strengthen their sense of belonging.

Chapter 4

What are some factors that shape our identity and contribute to the diversity in the society?

Nationality

People of the same nationality usually **share a common history, a common set of traditions, common practices, a common language, and live together in a particular geographical area**. This **strengthens their sense of belonging**, thus shaping one's identity.

People from the same country may **feel more comfortable with other members of the same nationality,** as they can **identify with the common experiences, attitudes and beliefs shared by citizens of their country.**

Example: in Singapore, Singaporeans celebrate National Day together on the 9th of August to mark our independence and progress as a nation. Besides **participating in celebrations of the nation's birthday**, Singaporeans, **being part of a multicultural society**, also share a **deep respect for multiracial and multi religious practices and a common love for food across cultures**. There would also **be a commitment to bilingualism and the use of a common language, English.**

In this way, aspects of the shared national identity would **shape our identity in terms of interactions with other citizens**, since we are able to relate to different aspects of what makes us Singaporean in different ways.

Race and Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity refer to both the physical characteristics of a person and one's ancestral background, cultural practices, and customs, respectively. It is **a part of our identity** as one's race and ethnicity will **likely determine the language**, cultural practices, and customs that he grows up with.

Example: In Singapore, these terms are sometimes used interchangeably, and most Singaporeans would have their race indicated in their identity cards. The four main

races (Chinese Malay Indian and others) **reflect racial markers that have been used to shape policies in the areas of education, housing, and welfare.** Diversity also means that **many customs are celebrated and observed by the different races and ethnic groups** in Singapore.

To **reflect the increasing diversity in the society**, Singapore implemented the registration of **double-barrelled race option** for Singaporean children born to parents of different races on 1 January 2011. An example of a double-barrelled race option is 'Inddian-Malay" for a child born to Malay and Indian parents, where the races of both parents will be reflected in the child's race. The total number of inter-ethnic marriages in Singapore was 26 254 (2013), and this **accounted for 20% of the total marriages recorded in Singapore.**

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**, it contributes to a unique identity, thus allowing greater diversity in the society.

Religion

Religion typically **refers to the worship of gods and this embodies a set of shared core beliefs and practices that shape the way we interact, choices, thinking,** thus shaping our identity and influence our way of life.

The main religions in Singapore **promote the attitudes of compassion, sensitivity in believers' interaction with others**, and in helping others. Values such as respect for one another, love and care towards all beings and integrity in one's conduct are common to these religions. Singapore citizens are free to profess and practise their own religion as well as to propagate it.

Example: believers of Buddhism in Singapore follow the teachings of Buddha, which promotes Peace and harmony amongst races and religions, non-violence, and the appreciation of all living beings in an interdependent world. Hence, Buddhists also believe that they **must care for the welfare of all living things** as they too equally desire peace and happiness. Buddhists are also prohibited from eating beef and these beliefs will affect their cuisine.

Hence, as one's religion would **cause them to follow beliefs and a way of life unique from other races and religions**, this contributes to a unique identity and a greater diversity.

Socio-Economic Status

This refers to an economic situation shared by a group of people and some determinants are occupation, income, education, and ownership of wealth. Through social mobility, an individual can also move from lower to higher levels of income and vice versa. The SES of an individual **affects his choice of housing, food, entertainment, activities which influence his circle of friends and shapes his identity.**

Example:Activities such as polo and golf, fine dining and travelling to distant destinations for vacations are usually activities carried out by people with higher SES. Activities such as swimming, soccer and basketball are enjoyed by individuals across all SES groups as street soccer and basketball courts are easily accessible to the public. Moreover, people of lower SES often identify with hard work and perseverance and tend to mix with others of similar class, where they interact with others who have the same motivation to climb up the SES ladder. However, people of higher SES tend to identify with values such as enjoyment, luxury, and privilege, and they tend to mix with people of their social class. These **vastly different groups of people may not interact much with one another, and this may also affect the opportunities and activities that one will likely take part in.** Hence, the social-economic status of a person will affect their identity.

> (The following example can be used to answer questions such as Does Nationality/Religion or SES play a more important role in shaping our identity, where you can use it to suggest that SES does not necessarily play an important role in shaping our identity since it is possible for an individual to move from lower to higher levels of income through hard work, and it is also possible for people with High SES to experience a drop in income) *For example, former Five Star Tours Ken Lim is now a coffee shop assistant. He was once boss and MD of the once-successful Five Stars Tours which used to have as many as eight branches in Singapore. It was doing so well that the company even sponsored S League Club, Geylang United. However, now he is bankrupt and earning just enough to get by.*

Chapter 5

Why is there greater diversity in Singapore? (Reasons)

Pro-Immigration Policy

Singapore has always been an immigrant society. Even **before the founding of modern Singapore in 1819 when the British claimed it as a colony,** people from all over the world had stopped or settled on this soil to trade or seek a better life. After independence in 1965, there was **massive unemployment and lack of foreign direct investment hence there was a high demand for more workers**. In the 1980s, Singapore faced a declining population and had a **brain drain**, where Singapore professionals like doctors were sought after in places like Australia as they could speak English.

Hence, when Singapore's economy had to evolve from manufacturing to high-tech and value-added activities in the late 80s, the government started **pursuing a clear and distinct immigration policy**. This helps to encourage immigration, to boost the economy with much needed talent, especially in new high-tech industries that the government is trying to build, such as petrochemicals, life sciences and information technology. Through **offering increased flexibility in Employment Pass applications**, the government has also made it easier for qualifying companies in sectors such as digital and medical technology to hire talents from overseas.

As these migrants come to Singapore, they **bring a diversity of cultures, practices, and customs from their countries of origin**. Many of these immigrants also come with **skills and valuable experiences and business networks** to contribute ideas and expertise to Singapore's economy. Thus, the inflow of migrants and immigrants has led to greater diversity in Singapore today.

Economic Opportunities

Many immigrants are **appreciative of the high level of fairness and transparency present at their workplaces and in their social circles**. Singapore **offers a stable and friendly environment** for both foreign entrepreneurs and employees. In fact, Singapore has been ranked #2 by the World Bank as the World's Easiest Place to Do Business in its 2018 report. The stable economy and high regulatory standards have encouraged much inflow of capital and investments. The **ease of doing business, growth potential, stable political environment and well-established judiciary system attract global investors** such as multinational corporations (MNCs).

Singapore has a **reputation as a business hub and its world-renowned efficiency has attracted about 7000 MNCs to set up operations here**. For example, L'Oréal group is an MNC that has many brands offering a variety of positions such as counter managers, beauty advisors, managerial positions etc.

Ample job opportunities and constant investment into Singapore also **attract immigrants to pursue both white-collar and blue-collar jobs in Singapore**. This results in greater socioeconomic and cultural diversity as **people of varying income levels and from all corners of the globe come to Singapore to work** and even settle down, bringing their respective cultures here.

Socio-cultural environment

a)   Community support

Singapore is **home to a wide range of ethnic communities and cultures** from all over the world. The **existence of these communities may help foreigners to feel more at home in Singapore.** Many of these ethnic communities gather in certain districts, helping them to strengthen ties.

Example: Myanmar Club, founded in 2002 at Resorts World Sentosa, **promotes the welfare, education and advancement of all Myanmar nationals and former nationals or residents who are now residents or visitors of Singapore.**

Immigrant communities **bring with them distinct national identities that can include ethnic practices unique to their countries of origin**, thus adding to the diversity of Singapore by enriching the lives of other Singaporeans with their culture.

b)   Safe Environment

Migrants and immigrants **often consider safety and security when deciding on the country to work or live in.** Both foreigners and supporting communities thrive where there is a safe environment. Singapore's **strict and firm law enforcement** ensures a

low crime rate, creating a safe environment. Severe penalties are often handed out for crimes that may seem petty to people from other parts of the world.

Example: In 2014, Singapore was ranked the **second safest country in the world based on social order and security**. It is also ranked tenth overall based on categories like criminal justice and absence of corruption. **Violent crimes against tourists almost do not exist, thanks to our Home Team's effort to keep Singapore safe and secure**, by constantly **innovating to prepare ourselves against homeland security threats**. For example, the police are developing and refining video analytics capabilities that will automate the analysis of footage from Police cameras and flag out incidents of interest.

This attracts many foreigners to immigrate to Singapore as **their security and safety is ensured**. As these immigrants bring with them their distinct national identities, they add to the diversity of Singapore.

c) Singapore's education system

Many migrants **come to Singapore for quality education either for themselves or for their children.** Singapore's public schools are becoming increasingly popular with foreigners because it is **well-recognised and admired for its effectiveness and high standards.** These international students add to the diversity in schools as they can **share their experiences and learning with their fellow students.**

Example: In 2015, OECD **rated Singapore as having the best education system in the world**. Students here are especially proficient in maths and sciences. In English, the average Singaporean 15-year-old is 10 months ahead of students in western countries and is 20 months ahead in maths. Singaporean students also **score among the best in the world for international exams.** Moreover, tertiary institutions in Singapore **offer high standards of certification and a wide range of courses** from the Science, Engineering, Humanities and Arts, and the wide range of courses here have made Singapore a well-known hub for quality education, attracting about 80000 international students in 2014. SMU, for example, boasts one of the most diverse student populations amongst universities.

This attracts many foreigners to immigrate to Singapore. As these immigrants bring with them their distinct national identities, they add to the diversity of Singapore.

Chapter 6

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

Interactions in a diverse society

In a diverse society like Singapore, it is **essential to ensure harmonious interactions. For this to occur**, there must be **a willingness to live togethe**r and build harmony as a society.

Common spaces help to promote social interaction, as they **provide opportunities for people of different nationalities, races and ethnicities, religions, and socio-economic status to come together to work, play, live together** and have common experiences.

Example: OnePeople.sg, which has been **spearheading programmes and initiatives to foster interactions and friendship**s among different ethnic communities. One example would be CampTeen, a youth racial harmony ambassadors programme, which **builds meaningful interactions where youth volunteers dedicated their efforts to the cause of promoting harmony** by bringing youths from all races together to participate in bonding activities.

In the process of interaction, **communications between different groups of people are increased.** Thus, **understanding amongst people is fostered.** The bonding between people is strengthened Therefore, common spaces promote a strong national identity and social cohesion

Exchange and appreciation of culture

Cultural exchanges can **create distinct experiences because of diversity** in nationality, race and ethnicity, religion and socio-economic status. Our diverse society provides people with many opportunities to interact and learn from those who hail from different countries and cultures. This can **result in fusion between local cultures and foreign ideas**, resulting in interesting outcomes, as seen in areas such as food, music and fashion.

Example: Chef WIllin Low, who has won multiple cooking awards from NYT and Financial Times, has c**reated fusion between Singaporeans and modern European dining**, which can be seen in dishes such as soft shell chilli crab with squid ink mantou and char siew pork burger.

These **experiences allow Singaporeans to take new perspectives**, so that they can learn and appreciate different cultures better.

Exchange of Skills and Knowledge

In areas like research and development, foreign scientists and experts can **share their knowledge and expertise to help strengthen research competencies and collaborations** in Singapore.

Example: the Bio-Medical Research Council (BMRC) of the A*STAR that funds and **supports public research initiatives in Singapore.** Under BMRC, internationally renowned scientists with the expertise and knowledge to jump-start the country's biomedical studies move to Singapore. For example, the late Dr Sydney Brenner, a distinguished South African biologist who was also a 2002 Nobel Prize Winner, helped to start the Molecular Engineering Lab in Singapore back in 2009. The **openness to learn and collaborate with overseas scientists has also led to robust research**, which in turn has led to significant discoveries made in Singapore. For example, the collaboration between Singapore's A*STAR and Switzerland's Cytos Biotechnology led to the discovery of the H1N1 flu vaccine in 2010.

These rich cultural exchanges have led to meaningful interactions, which allows the exchange of knowledge and information that will benefit Singaporeans.

What are some challenges in a diverse society?

Prejudice and Misconceptions

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 judgments** due to insufficient understanding and erroneous assumptions.

Example: Arabs and Muslim-Americans were subject to hate crimes after 9/11. There were cases of questioning by officers based on Muslim names, suggesting the prejudice that all Muslims are terrorists.

Example: One local example would be in 2010, where a pastor of a large Christian church was questioned by the Internal Security Department for contentious remarks about Buddhism, which spread quickly and created a huge uproar on the Internet, thus shaking inter-religious harmony in multicultural Singapore.

These instances of discrimination have **caused unnecessary hurt**, much inconvenience and **deepened prejudice against people of a different race or religion**. It is therefore important for Singapore to **remain vigilant against such forms**

of prejudice that would harm relationships in our multi-ethnic and multi-religious society.

Concerns over Standards of Living (Competition for resources)

As the number of foreigners in our workforce increases, Singaporeans **fear jobs are being taken away from them, and the inflow of foreigners will cause prices of goods and services as well as demand on public transport to increase.** Singaporeans feel that Singapore's policy of hiring foreign workers to work has posed a job threat to them, as the employers would most likely hire foreign workers, rather than paying more for local workers.

Example: Some Singaporeans **continue to express their frustration and resentment over immigration and its impact on jobs**, which has led to unhappiness. For example, there was **abuse directed against the Filipino community in 2014**, after they revealed plans for celebrating the Philippines Independence Day in Orchard Road.

Example: To **prevent tensions** between foreigners who add value to Singapore's growth, the government has **tightened the immigration framework,** and has put in place more stringent foreign workforce controls to reduce the inflow of foreign manpower into Singapore, by increasing the monthly levy for Work Permit holders since 2011. Moreover, the government has expanded the rail network by about 100 km to a total of 280 km by 2021 and has built more public housing and healthcare facilities.

High-skilled foreign manpower and foreign entrepreneurs are **vital to Singapore as they bring in skills, knowledge, and expertise.** It is therefore **important to ensure harmony between Singaporeans and foreigners.**

Concerns over Social Mobility

The income gap between lower and higher income groups have increased over the years in Singapore and this has **led to many Singaporeans feeling that social mobility is limited.**

Lower income groups **working in the manufacturing sector are often affected by the shifting of jobs to regions which offer lower labour costs**. This loss of jobs affects their ability to progress up the socio-economic ladder.

Example: As a result, the government addresses this concern by upholding the principle of meritocracy where one is **rewarded based on merit, regardless of their race, religion or social economic status,** this ensures that every Singaporean has the opportunity to progress. One example of meritocracy in action would be a programme called "KidSTART", rolled out by the Singapore Early Childhood Development Agency

(SECDA), to **help children from lower socio-economic backgrounds**. Parents of such children will **receive support to upgrade their skills and practical knowledge across areas of child growth, health and nutrition.**

This ensures that poorer children are not denied opportunities to get a good start in life.

Chapter 7

Management of socio-cultural diversity

If the question is "Do you think integration is a more efficient way than assimilation in managing social-cultural diversity", just say yes.

Assimilation

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.

In France, secularism is present in all areas of the state and no one religion is to be favoured over the other and so immigrants are expected to follow this belief. In this context, France **acknowledges the existence of diversity, but diversity does not overshadow the national identity that binds all French citizens.**

For instance, there are various examples of policies which promote assimilation in France.

Education in France is secular and **attempts to strengthen the French national identity.** There is no discussion of religion except in History and Philosophy classes. Adaptation classes are conducted for children of immigrants to help improve their French and eventually join regular French schools which will help serve their assimilation into French society. It is believed that **treating every individual equally will strengthen the French national identity.**

Employment in France is another extension of this policy. Employment **commits the immigrant to stay in the country,** hastening his acquisition of social capital and French language for the purpose of communication. Hiring practices used to be discriminatory but with the Diversity Charter, a greater diversity in the workplace was encouraged which supports assimilation of immigrants.

Naturalisation processes seek to assimilate immigrants into France by helping them develop basic knowledge about life in France and what being a French national means. Since 1998, **all French immigrants are required to undergo French language courses and attend a day of civic education about French life** before they are granted permanent residency. They are also **expected to show knowledge of both French heritage and culture, French language proficiency to be eligible for French nationality.**

Benefits of assimilation

Benefits of this method is that it **ensures a homogenous population** and thus leads to **greater social cohesion** as all French nationals will have a common culture and language.

Assimilation of minority groups into French society also **helps to strengthen French national identity** rather than dilute it.

Disadvantages of assimilation

Tensions may arise because of the practice of assimilation policies. They usually arise from the dilemma of maintaining the influence of national identity and at the same time recognizing the impact of religion and identity and respecting the rights of individuals to practise their religion.

An example of tensions arising from the French policy of secularism is the French face veil ban instituted in 2011 which prevented French Muslim women from wearing their religious face veils. Many demonstrations broke out in French cities, particularly Paris as a result.

Sikh men marched in Paris in a demonstration against a planned law to restrict wearing of religious symbols in public schools, 31 December 2003.

Muslims took to the street in France to demonstrate against the 2004 ban on the wearing of religious symbols.

Integration

Integration as a policy refers to an approach where **immigrants retain their unique identities while forging common ground with the groups already living in the host**

country. There is a growing diversity in Singapore and there is a need to promote equality without granting any special rights to any racial, ethnic or religious groups.

For instance, there are various examples of policies which promote integration in Singapore, and help new immigrants adapt to the norms, culture and values in Singapore.

<u>Integration policies</u>

PCMR

The PCMR, originally known as the Presidential Council, was founded in 1970 and it acts as a safeguard to ensure that laws passed by Singapore's parliament are not discriminatory against any racial or religious community. Apart from scrutinising legislation, the Council also reports matters affecting such communities that are referred to it by the Parliament. This provides minority groups with a sense of protection and belonging as their rights are being safeguarded by the government, as well as to raise their sense of belonging to Singapore as they are fairly treated and not discriminated against in any way. This ensures that every Singaporean is equal regardless of their racial / religious background, thereby allowing for further integration.

Ethnic integration policy

The Ethnic Integration Policy (EIC) is a government established ethnic quota for HDB neighbourhoods and blocks. The permissible proportions of Chinese, Malays, and Indians are 84%, 22%, and 10% respectively. Ths sale and resale of flats is based on a first-come-first-serve basis so long as the limits are maintained. The aim of the EIC is to achieve a balanced ethnic mix in HDB estates. This prevents the formation of ethnic enclaves and provides HDB residents of different races with opportunities to interact as neighbours. It also helps to foster racial harmony and strengthens social cohesion and integration. By promoting a sense of community and bonding between families of different races, it breeds familiarity and prevents segregation among races, while also exposing Singaporeans to interactions with people of other races, leading to more understanding and appreciation for each other's practices and customs, hence helping to prevent racial disputes, hence promoting greater integration.

Naturalisation initiatives like the Singapore Citizenship e-Journey. This is an online journey that allows new citizens to learn more about Singapore at their own pace and convenience, including information on our history and development of our society. **This helps them better understand how to fit into Singapore.**

Common experiences with locals can help immigrants adapt to being part of Singaporean society like National Service. Second-generation PRs are expected to dedicate 2 years of their lives to serving the nation despite not being native to Singapore. These **experiences bring people from diverse backgrounds to train and live and serve together in the Armed Forces.** This thus **encourages them to mix with people from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds and to put collective interest over oneself,** fostering greater cohesiveness and creating a sense of national identity.

There is also community support for foreigners, where there will be grassroots-organised events that enhance interaction between immigrants and Singaporeans, and also encourage emotional attachment to and involvement in Singapore. For example, One Community Fiesta is one of the integration programmes organised by People's Association which **provides opportunities for immigrants to better appreciate SG's rich and diverse culture while building friendships.**

Benefits of Integration

It **promotes cross-culturalism** and allows immigrants to retain their unique identity while complementing Singapore's national identity, this reduces tensions in the short-term and better enables first-generation immigrants to fit in.

It also **stimulates a vibrant economy** because it encourages the mixing of ideas, refining Singapore's edge as a knowledge-based economy. This attracts MNCs operated by foreigners such as Johnson and Johnson and this **creates numerous jobs for the local economy.**

Disadvantages of Integration

Tensions that may arise is that due to the policy of integration may not be fully effective at integrating some groups of people.

Some of these people may not be as conducive of integration into local society and may instead form small cliques where they congregate. This may thus lead to cultural clashes between them and locals.

This increased diversity may also lead to cultural clashes such as in the case of the Curry Incident in 2011 where one Chinese immigrant family launched a complaint against their Indian neighbours cooking curry, sparking mass online debate. This was seen as a result of new immigrants **not accustomed to living in a multicultural environment.**

Some Singaporeans have also felt that their job security has been compromised as they now have to compete with immigrants. These **immigrants have also been blamed for increases in prices, constant traffic congestion and greater incidences of breakdown in public infrastructure such as the MRT.**

Some immigrant's inability to communicate effectively in English and their different social norms and behaviours have become obstacles to successful integration.

Management of Socio-Economic Diversity

Question Type: Is **Market-Based Approach** more effective than **Shared Responsibility Approach** in managing socio-economic diversity?

Market-based approach

Healthcare is largely privatised, and citizens are **given the freedom to decide how much health care they need** and how much they want to spend on it.

The US government **adopts a laissez-faire attitude** towards healthcare service providers and as such a lot of healthcare providers are privately owned hospitals. As healthcare provisions are based on the market-based approach, prices may vary significantly due to the freedom of the healthcare provider to set the prices they want. For example, a mammogram in New York may be less than US$100 or more than US$1700.

Health insurance is usually provided by for-profit companies like Prudential and State Farm. Citizens need to buy their own insurance or secure jobs with good insurance plans to have decent health-care coverage. Price of insurance and even health care can vary across state and regional lines due to the privatisation of this industry.

Is the system affordable?

Only **10 percent** of Americans can afford private medical coverage beyond what their employers provide. Market-based approach means that insurance companies will also charge higher to earn a profit.

However, Americans who are unable to even afford healthcare like those of lower-income qualify for government aid through Medicaid and Medicare or the Affordable Care Act.

Benefits of this system (Just write the US system is trash, because that's what the textbook said)

Government services can easily be overwhelmed logistically, especially in a large country like the US. Hence, by delegating some of these roles to private companies one can reduce the strain on the government.

Less of the government budget needs to be spent on providing healthcare, freeing up funds to develop other parts of the country like education or its infrastructure.

Disadvantages of the system

The high cost of medical insurance means that **many low-income Americans choose not to buy healthcare insurance.** This ultimately leads to poorer health as they are not able to seek medical treatment even when they need it. There are still **16 percent or close to 41 million Americans who are uninsured as of 2014.**

Insurance companies operate like profit-making companies, so they are more motivated to insure the healthy and employed. This leads to higher premiums for people who may need to call upon insurance more often or even outright refusal to insure them. **Hence, health care is denied to people that need it most.**

Shared Responsibility Healthcare Approach

The government **intervenes through the provision of basic healthcare services and shares the cost of some aspects of healthcare.** There is a balance between personal responsibility and the government's role in providing health care.

Additional taxes are levied on people in higher income brackets to **subsidise healthcare for people of lower-income.** The government is able to manage socio-economic diversity by ensuring that lower income groups have subsidies and safety nets.

In Singapore, primary care services are provided by government-subsidised polyclinics, but private care is provided by general practitioners.

Examples of shared-responsibility can be seen in the different ward types in the public hospital system. There are varying classes of wards in local hospitals which offer varying amounts of luxuries and conveniences. People can choose between which class of ward they want, although higher class wards usually means that they are eligible for less government aid.

A suitable example you can use: *In 2015, Medishield was replaced by Medishield Life to cover every single Singaporean from cradle to grave. It allows all Singaporeans to effectively share the responsibility of paying for large bills by risk pooling the financial risks of major illnesses. A deductible is applicable to help focus insurance coverage on large bills. Individual responsibility for one's healthcare needs is kept by requiring co-payment.*

What is the citizen's role?

 -**Embrace cost-effective and appropriate healthcare treatment** like generic drugs. An example would be metformin that is used for diabetes, and a Brand name for it is Glucophage.)

-**Maintaining a healthy lifestyle** and diet (ActiveSG, which motivates Singaporeans to stay healthy by participating in sporting activities.)

-Having a regular family doctor (visiting family doctors which are distributed across the island in both private and public sectors)

-Cooperating with the government's initiatives (Going for government subsidised checkups and appointments in order to ensure their individual health.)

Is this system affordable?

Shared-responsibility healthcare system leads to more affordable health-care, especially for the lower-income groups. This is because the government can step in to subsidise treatment, through schemes like the Medifund which is a safety net for needy Singaporeans.

People who earn more are subsidised less but are still subsidised through schemes like Medishield and Medisave to ensure that everyone can afford health care treatment.

Benefits of this system

Citizens will be **able to obtain health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them.**

The system provides a good balance between private sectors and the public sector, ensuring that both sectors must remain competitive, benefitting the citizens who require health care coverage.

Citizens are **encouraged to play their part and maintain a healthy lifestyle and diet.**

Challenges of this system

Managing the growing demand for healthcare

- Singapore's population is growing, and the ageing population is growing. Singapore's population grew 25 percent over the past decade and will continue to grow over the next decade. By 2030, one in five Singaporean residents will be aged 65 and above. This is a threefold increase to 960000 from about 350000 in 2012. **Healthcare services and capacity of infrastructure will need to grow in tandem, since the ageing population will be a strong driver for healthcare demand**. Studies have shown that the elderly are about four times more likely to be hospitalised than younger Singaporeans.

- Also, with increasing life expectancy and more sedentary lifestyles, there will be a greater need for treatment for chronic diseases. **With rising chronic diseases, better coordination and continuity of care is important to ensure best health outcomes for the population.** This is done by shifting the focus of care away from hospitals and specialists towards primary care through family doctors in the community to ensure a sustainable healthcare system.

- For example, in 2014, there was a network of over 1500 clinics islandwide, and this catered to 80% of the demand for primary care services of that year. These clinics have regular family doctors who are able to understand the health needs of their patients and are able to provide good medical care and advice.

Rising healthcare costs.

- Singaporeans are not spared from the effects of global healthcare inflation.

- A concerted effort from everyone is needed to manage this high costs

- The government **must continually review the system to ensure that healthcare needs continue to be sufficiently met** in the context of rising costs and expectations of citizens.

- In Singapore, the **government has made improvements to the various financing policie**s, including more subsidies to the low and middle socio-economic groups as well

as the elderly, to help them manage out-of-pocket payments and ensure that citizens will be able to afford healthcare when they need it

- For example, the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) was introduced in January 2012, to provide accessible, affordable care at participating private GP and dental clinics. It covers acute, chronic and dental conditions. It was subsequently enhanced in 2014 to provide government subsidies for lower to middle income households. As of 30 June 2015, there are 1.3 million eligible Singaporeans for the scheme.

Government-Financed Approach (Sweden)

The government **provides substantial subsidies and services for most of the healthcare needs of its citizens**, sometimes the healthcare could even be free. Public healthcare is largely owned and financed by the government, allowing Sweden to provide universal healthcare.

However, there are higher tax-rates in place to pay for this increased spending in healthcare.

Private insurance is still possible, but it **only provides faster access** to medical services at GPS and Hospitals.

An example of Swedish healthcare is the fact there exists a medical ceiling for out-of-pocket payments for health care visits that is capped at 122 Euros. Thus, if their bill goes any higher the government will foot the rest of the bill for the remainder of a 12-month period such that the citizen does not have to pay any more money.

<u>Is this system affordable?</u>

Through heavy taxes on the populace, **healthcare is highly affordable and even free for the population.** For example, patients above the age of 20 are charged about 9 Euros per day for hospitalisation.

Drugs and other medicines are subsidised by the government so a person can still seek treatment even if he or she suffers from a rare and potentially costly-to-treat disease.

The patient has to pay the full cost of prescribed drugs up to 122 Euros, after which the **subsidy becomes 100%.**

Benefits of this system

The health of the entire population increases as every member of society has access to healthcare, this results in increased productivity as fewer man-hours are wasted due to sickness.

Lower income families and those with chronic diseases **would not be subjected to ever increasing amounts of money to be paid for a long term illness.**

Middle to higher income groups **would have the flexibility to choose more specific plans for their medical needs.**

Disadvantages of this system

High taxation for low healthcare costs

The level of personal taxation is extremely high in Sweden. Income earned up till $62140 will be taxed 31% and income earned more than that will be taxed an additional 20%(below $88181) or 25%(above that)

- Despite the willingness of most Swedes to pay high taxes to sustain the government-financed system, **the ageing population means that the tax burden will increasingly fall on a smaller group of working citizens**

Growing number of people needing healthcare

- Their once homogenous society is becoming more diverse due to immigrants.

- Besides immigrants, EU citizens have access to Swedish healthcare, which means they **consume healthcare without paying taxes**. Competition for medical resources would also increase.

- Free health care may lead to bloating of the healthcare system as people are more **likely to pursue treatment for minor illnesses**. This results in longer waiting times and people may not receive the type of care that they require in time. It forces the government to allocate a larger budget to health care spending, preventing it from using more money in other areas like education or infrastructural improvement.

Chapter 8

Globalisation – The process through which ideas and activities of people in different parts of the world become interconnected

What are the driving forces of globalisation?

Development in Transportation

The improvements in the size and speed of the different modes of transportation, and the development of efficient and integrated transportation infrastructure such as airports, seaports, railways, and expressways create a seemingly "shrunk" world which leads to globalisation. This is because **when goods and people can be moved around the world more quickly** and at a lower cost, it **facilitates the process through which people's activities and ideas become interconnected.**

For example, Singapore's transportation system is an example of an **efficient** and **integrated** transportation infrastructure which **facilitates the movement of people and goods, and in turn the exchange of ideas between countries.** Singapore's connectivity to the world is also achieved through its airports and seaports. Through the provision of efficient, reliable and quality service, Singapore has been recognized as one of the world's leading transportation hubs.

Example: As of 1 December 2018, **more than 100 airlines** operate at Singapore Changi Airport, connecting Singapore to some 400 cities in about 100 countries and territories worldwide. With **more than 7200 scheduled flights**, an aircraft takes off or lands at Changi roughly once every 80 seconds.

Since the **efforts to improve transportation infrastructure translates to more efficient and faster movement of goods and people around the world**, we are more **increasingly linked to the global world**, allowing for greater **interdependence** globally.

Growth of Multinational Corporations

The growth of MNCs refers to the trend of companies to **develop beyond local markets** and pursue international interests. As these MNCs continue to grow, they **control more aspects of international trade**. The global span of their operations drives globalisation as **they increase the economic transactions between people and goods throughout the world.**

An example would be HSBC (Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation) , **the world's largest bank has offices in 88 different countries**. Today, HSBC has its headquarters in London, England. Moreover, some MNCs with bases in Singapore include Google, Microsoft, Apple and Panasonic.

These MNCs **provide employment, higher wages and bring in new technology to sustain Singapore's competitiveness**, while **facilitating the exchange of ideas between countries**. At the same time, they **benefit from Singapore's strengths as a global business city** with a pro-business environment governed by the rule of law.

The growth of MNCs thus **helps to grow local markets** and this leads to interdependent relationships between the various parties involved in running the MNCs, thus leading to globalisation.

Advancements In Technology

Technological advancements have led to **greater access to the internet** and the increasing use of mobile communications. This **facilitates the communication and exchange of information across the world.**

Applications like Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and Skype can be easily installed to electronic devices and this allows for people to **connect and communicate** through messaging, video calls and social media platforms, allowing for the **spread of ideas** between different areas of the world.

An example would be the **evolution of mobile phones**, which has contributed to greater globalisation. In the 1970s, the first public wireless telephone was made by Martin Cooper of Motorola, which paved the way for mobile communication today. Thirty years later, in 2007, the newly released iPhone was Wi-Fi enabled and offered a full-featured browser, which allowed users to be easily connected to the Internet. Nowadays, smartphones offer special features such as faster processing speed and compatibility with more advanced mobile networks, offering **faster information transfer speed**, allowing users to make video calls, stream videos and mobile television programmes with greater ease.

Hence, the advancements in technology has lead to greater globalisation

Chapter 9

What are some economic impacts of globalisation?

Entity	Benefits	Trade-offs

Countries	Economic growth	Economic Downturn
	- Globalisation has increased **trading and the expansion of business in different parts of the world.** - Most countries have benefited from increased tax revenue and employment opportunities - Trade has become increasingly common and this leads to more **wealth** being generated. With this money, countries can improve their infrastructure. - As Singapore is a **small country with a small domestic market and limited natural resources,** the global economy is vital to Singapore's survival. To **encourage foreign investments** and investments in other countries to sustain its economic growth, Singapore signs **free-trade agreements** with other counties to increase trade and boost economic growth. - One example would be the **US- Singapore Free Trade Agreement signed in 2004,** allowing the free trade of electronics and information technology and petrochemicals.	- In a global economy, when one country faces a downturn, it **may affect other countries**. A country may **withdraw its investments or reduce its demand for goods and services from other countries**, resulting in less income and employment for the countries affected. - One example of this **domino-effect** would be during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis which was triggered in the US and affected many countries in the world due to the US's **large role in international economies.** - The fall in stock markets and decrease in industrial production resulted in unemployment. Many banks, both internationally and domestically, were forced to close because they **could not fund their investments.** One example would be Lehman Brothers which filed for bankruptcy in September 2008 and caused its 25000 employees to be unemployed. - Due to Singapore's **small and open economy**, it was

	- This increases trade in these industries. **By 2012, US investments in SG became the most in Asia Pacific**, surpassing Japan and Australia. - Hence, globalisation has benefited countries through economic growth.	the first East Asian country to succumb to the recession. -

Companies	Larger market shares can be attained by companies	Lower profits and market share
	- This is especially true for MNCs that set up operations in different locations to maximise market outreach. - These companies ride on the advantages of globalisation and **gain higher profits by going global as they expand their operations overseas and offering a wide range of products** to attract more customers to **earn greater profit.** - Singapore companies like CapitaLand have done so. For example, CapitaLand is present in over 20 countries. - Singaporean companies announced around US$91 billion of **overseas deals** through September 2018, more than **double** the US$41.9 billion of transactions for the same period in 2017. **Higher profit margins can be attained** - MNCs have access to new markets abroad, which may **have lower labour costs** and cheaper resources such as land and raw materials. Since these companies pay less for	- The access to new markets **increases competition from other companies in the global economy,** making it harder to compete for a share of profits in the global economy. To remain successful, it is **vital for companies to constantly innovate and reinvent itself** or risk losing its market share. - Xiaomi entered the market with its first smartphone in 2011. Within four years, its market share increased to 4.4% and this was mainly due to its ability to innovate and meet the needs of customers. - Businesses must always **anticipate a market change** and ensure that their products stay **relevant**. Otherwise, they might face lowered profits and bankruptcy - Carrefour closed its only branch in Singapore in 2012 after 15 years due to competition from other companies offering similar products in SG

	production, they can earn greater profits.	
	- Some MNCs may also choose to obtain their components from one location but assemble them in other parts, such as China and Vietnam, where production costs would be cheaper, resulting in higher profits.	
	- For example, every DELL computer comprises components which are made all over the world. The computer was first designed in Texas and Taiwan,and has parts from all around the world. (Hard Disk Drive from Singapore, Graphics card from China, Power cord made in India), before being assembled in Malaysia.	

Individuals	Increased ability for people to move around the globe in search for better job prospects and higher income	Loss in job opportunities may result due to increased competition for jobs all over the world.
	- Individuals may **benefit when overseas companies want to employ them due to their skills**.	- The **ease of movement** can result in **greater competition** as individuals compete with one another in the same countries. Some workers may be **adversely affected by increased competition**, and must contend with lower income or risk losing their jobs
	- Travelling between countries has become **convenient** and executives working abroad tend to enjoy higher pay and may even **enjoy perks** like extra allowance and free accommodations.	- Jobs may also be lost when global companies **close their operations to shift to other locations with lower costs**. For example, UNIQLO started product operations in Shenzhen China due to lower costs. However, as China's manufacturing and labour costs rose, it was no longer profitable for the company to base its product operations in China. In 2013, it moved out of China into Vietnam where labour costs were half that of China.
	- For example, NTU engineers like Jumadi Husani have been headhunted to work in Dubai and have earned triple their Singapore pay with a less demanding lifestyle, allowing them to spend more time with their families and enjoy recreational activities.	
	- Globalisation allows people to **pursue better opportunities and job prospects,** benefitting them with higher income.	- This **displaced many factory workers and left them without a job.** Hence people may lose their jobs due to increased competition.

Chapter 10

Does globalisation lead to cultural homogenisation or hybridisation?

Cultural Homogenization

The process where local cultures are **changed by foreign cultures to become more and more similar with aspects of foreign cultures**. It may cause some foreign cultural influences to become **dominant** and reduce the influence of local cultures, impacting cultural diversity.

General Examples

-    Starbucks Coffee Company whereby **hundreds and thousands** of customers are served nearly **identical** coffee in over 21000 identical stores in over 65 countries, which indicates that many people have embraced this aspect of American culture

-    English which is the **main language** of communication worldwide in business, science and higher education and accounts for 80% of the world's electronically stored information

-

Possible Advantages

- Predictability: Easy for foreigners to assimilate due to familiar products across countries
- Efficiency: Familiarity due to a common culture amongst stores facilitates the purchasing
- and sale of goods (Particularly effective in Singapore which consists of many races and
- thus cultures)
- Variety in choices of products
- Experience of other cultures

Possible Disadvantages

- Loss of unique identity: Countries become increasingly similar to each other
- Lack of diversity causes countries to appear less attractive to tourists
- Loss of heritage: Ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular society

- Loss of common ground between citizens, hence encouraging disunity

Examples of homogenization (Entertainment)

Korean Wave

- Since the mid-2000s, the South Korean entertainment industry has **spread through television dramas, pop music, food, fashion, language, computer games and tourism**. It is popularly known as the Hallyu 韩流 한류

- **The rise of K-pop music** is evident as popular groups (e.g. Big Bang, Super Junior, **Girls' Generation, SHINee**, EXO, BTS, Twice, Blackpink etc) are gaining fanbases from Asia to Europe and America.

- Korean films and dramas have become part of the programming of **many free-to-air and satellite television stations in countries beyond Asia**, including those in the Middle East. This provides consumers with a wide range of entertainment to choose from.

- Popularity of many products associated with Korea, from cosmetics to food. Retail experts point to a familiarity of SK products, due to the influx of SK programmes on television, as a cause of the boom

Resistance

- Perception of 'invasion' of Korean culture due to political tensions with Korea

In August 2011, thousands of Japanese protestors rallied in front of the headquarters at Fuji Television, and expressed unhappiness with the **increasing presence of Korean programmes in the network's daily broadcast. These** incidents of resistance against Korea and Hallyu also stemmed from deteriorating public perceptions of Korea.

Despite this, Korean cultural products and Korean entertainment (boy group TVXQ!) remain relatively popular in Japan.

Examples of homogenization (Food)

Popularity of McDonald's and KFC in Singapore. In Singapore alone, there are over 100 McDonald's outlets and over 80 KFC outlets.

-This offers a **greater variety of food options** beyond local and traditional food.

-Provides locals with **easier access to foreign flavours** without having to travel out of the country.

Resistance

- **Perceived to threaten local culture**

- The spread of fast-food outlets has been criticised for promoting the homogenization of food landscapes in the world

- For example, in 2018, a Facebook poll asked its readers if they would welcome Starbucks into Italy and a whopping 87% answered no. Many commenters claimed that the chain's arrival would **erode Italian culture**. Some even argued that Starbucks selling coffee to Italians would be like taking tulips to Amsterdam.

What is hybridization?

-**Blending local and foreign cultures**, resulting in unique combinations containing elements from both cultures, possibly allowing locals to be more receptive to hybridised products

-Salsa, a Latin American music genre that originated in New York, is a mixture of foreign Afro-Caribbean musical influences and North American jazz and rock.

-Rendang Burger from Burger King that blends in both US (American Burger) and Singaporean (Local Beef Curry) culture.

-Chilli Crab Pizza that blends in both the Italian (Pizza) and Singaporean (Local Chilli Crab) culture.

Advantages

- **Incorporates both foreign and local influences** to allow us to embrace the different aspects of foreign and local cultures

-Demonstrates the **dynamic relationship** between foreign and local cultures as both can influence each other and does not necessarily lead to a **dominance of one culture over another**.

Disadvantages

-   Inevitably, some elements of either the foreign or local culture may be lost or changed

-   Inaccurate interpretation of local cultures by foreigners may result in accusations of racism and hence protest (Calls by the Chinese to boycott Kung Fu Panda in 2008)

Chapter 11

Globalisation creates tensions due to uneven impacts, and the impacts have resulted in differing responses from countries and people.

Each country sees the importance of safeguarding its national security in the face of internal and external challenges. In a globalised world, these challenges become more complex due to the transnational nature of these challenges in how they extend beyond a country's boundaries.

Managing Cybersecurity Challenges

Govt POV, Countries POV and Individuals POV

Top 5 Scam Tactics in SG

1. E-Commerce
2. SMS Phishing (OCBC lost 13.7m in phishing scams in 2022, increase from 8.5m from 2021)
3. Phone texts

Eg. SingHealth leak of patience's health incl PM Lee

1. *Causing harm to Others*

Hackers and cybercriminals use malware to access personal info through our digital media. once enough info is collected, they can launch a cyberattack on individuals.

2. *Gaining access to classified info concerning a country*

*Aimed at countries' **CRITICAL** infrastructure to create a widespread crisis and make countries vulnerable.*

Cyber Security Challenges

Cause:

Advancements in technology have benefited us by allowing us to **store huge amounts of confidential data in online computer networks.** However, this has also led to computers, networks, programs and information becoming **more vulnerable to cyber-attacks**. The challenge is global in nature as attacks can be from any part of the world.

Cybercriminals use malware to infect computer networks and steal information. If targeted at critical infrastructure, it can **threaten a country's security.**

Impacts of Cyber Security Challenges:

Governments	Commercial Businesses	Individuals
- Cybercriminals often **attack government networks to gain access to secret information** concerning the country, or dealings between countries - Example: In 2013, the USA accused China's military of mounting cyber-attacks in its government computer networks. These attacks were **focused on collecting information on the USA's political, economic and defence sectors.** In response, China made an allegation that the USA has also been engaging in cyber-attacks to steal secret information from the Chinese government. - If cyberattacks are **targeted at critical infrastructure**, it could **create a widespread crisis**	- Cybercriminals often **hack into commercial businesses' networks to steal trade secrets or money.** - Example: Such attacks on commercial businesses on the rise in Singapore. According to the Cyber Security Agency, 378 business email impersonation scams were recorded in 2018, an increase from 332 in 2017. This **led to businesses in Singapore suffering close to $58 million in losses**, an increase of about 31% from the previous year. - If a company steals information on new technology that a rival is developing, it can use this information to stay competitive. - Moreover, financial institutions such as	- Cybercriminals **create malware to steal our information online.** - Example: In April 2021, personal data of about 30,000 people who have used e2i's services have been exposed after a malware attack on the mailbox of an employee. E2i is a job and training arm of National Trade Union Congress. - Such criminals make use of such methods to **collect personal information** through our computers, smartphones or social media. - Once there is sufficient information, they can **launch a cyber-attack against us by using our online identities.**

and make the country **vulnerable to further attacks.**	banks are often targets because hackers can steal vast amounts of money if successful.	

Managing Cyber Security Challenges

Cybercriminals are able to **exploit the speed, convenience and anonymity of the internet to access ICT systems**, and can operate from any part of the world. As a result, cyber security threats are a **growing concern** internationally.

The **strengthening of cyber defences** is a natural counter to cyber attacks that focus on the exploitation of vulnerabilities in a system.

Role of Government

Within the country	Collaborating between countries
- Many countries such as Singapore have **sensed the growing need to manage these cyber security risks and strengthen our cyber defence.** - Example: One way our government has done is forming its Cyber Security Agency in 2015, which helps to provide dedicated and centralised overview of Singapore's national cyber security functions. - The CSA **ensures the safety of Singapore's critical infrastructure**, such as those in	- Collaborating allows **the sharing of information and skills to combat security challenges.** - Example: One such collaboration is the **Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT)** which was **established to encourage cooperation between member countries to maintain a network of computer security experts in the region**, thus improving the region's **competency in responding to cyber security challenges.**

the energy and banking sectors. - It reports to the PM's office and is **managed by the Ministry of Communications and Informations. (MCI)** - Such measures help to **track malicious activities** and thus help to enhance the security of **cyber infrastructure.** - *Example 2: National Cyber Security Masterplan (NCSM)* - *Singapore created the NCSM 2018 to further secure its cyber environment. NCSM focuses on* - **(1) Enhancing the cyber infrastructure's security** - **(2) Growing Singapore's number of cybersecurity experts** - **(3) Increasing efforts to promote the adoption of cybersecurity measure among businesses and individuals**	- Through this cooperation, the *ASEAN CERT Incident Drill (ACID)* is planned and executed annually to **strengthen cooperation among members.** - Such collaborations will help to boost the region's cyber security capabilities. - By working tgt and sharing info on cyber security threats and work on updates to strengthen cybersecurity in future attacks occurring.

Role of Individuals

Cyber criminals will continue to launch attacks on us if individuals do not do our part. All users must **continue to be responsible and vigilant by ensuring our own cyber security and reduce our vulnerability towards cyber-attacks.**

Examples: There are four ways individuals can ensure our own cyber security

1. Ensure our computer is **defended against technological threats, by always updating our firewalls which protect us against malware.**
2. **Create and constantly change strong passwords** which should be at least 8 characters long and include numbers, symbols, uppercase and lowercase letters.
3. Be **cautious when dealing with messages that may contain malware**
4. Always t**urn on your browser's privacy tools to prevent websites from collecting information about the sites you visited** esp something sensitive

Transnational Terrorism

When the operations and impacts of terrorism involve many countries, it is considered transnational terrorism.

Impacts of Transnational Terrorism

Transactional Terrorism is a **complex security challenge** as it can come from within and beyond a country's borders, and often i**nvolves the use of violence to harm or generate fear among victims**, who are often civilians or non-combatants.

Example: One example of a transnational terrorist group is Al-Qaeda which has **made use of the Internet to spread their violent beliefs and allowed terrorism to be a global movement.** It has launched many terrorist attacks in different parts of the world and **resulted in the loss of lives and property**, including the 9/11 attacks which has involved four American planes that crashed into various locations in the USA such as the World Trade Centre. In 80 minutes, 19 terrorists had killed themselves and nearly 3000 other people.

Moreover, self radicalisation has become a growing threat due to the **pervasiveness of social media** and if such individuals are not prevented from becoming further radicalised, they could move down the path of terrorism.

Managing Transnational Terrorism

- **Preventive Measures**

To manage transnational terrorism, preventive measures have been put in place to **deter terrorists and help prevent loss of lives, destruction of property and disruption to society.** Such measures help to reduce a country's vulnerability to transnational terrorism.

Effective border controls	Collaboration with other countries
- Border controls are **vital in preventing movement of foreign terrorists** as well as materials that can be used to produce explosives into a country through land, sea and air checkpoints. - Example: In Singapore, the	- Transnational terroirism is a threat faced by **many countries** and is best countered by working together. - Example: One initiative to facilitate collaboration between countries is the Interpol's Fusion Task Force

Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) is **responsible for fortifying our borders**. For instance, the **use of biometric technology in the immigration and clearing process** and radiographic image analysis of cargo vehicles crossing Singapore helps the ICA in **regulating the flow of people to and from Singapore, making it harder for terrorists to bypass border security.** - Such capabilities help improve the efficiency and **effectiveness of border control** in monitoring and regulating the movement of people and goods across borders.	(FTF) which was created in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Its efforts include **sharing of information and increasingly the capacity of member countries** to address the threat of terrorism. It works closely with international organisations such as the UN Al-Qaeda and Taliban monitoring teams in order to **maintain accurate data bases on terrorist groups.** - Such collaborations **help to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation in a region.**

- **Protective Measures**

Protective measures work hand in hand with preventive measures to **enhance security of the country**. They **help to counter transnational terrorism** and **increase vigilance to ensure the safety of the citizens.**

Surveillance	Measures to detain suspected terrorists without trial
- One method often employed by countries is surveillance to enhance the security for the society. - Surveillance is often **enhanced for key installations and infrastructure** like power stations and public places with large numbers of people where they are perceived to be more vulnerable to transnational terrorist attacks. Singapore Police Force personnel regularly patrol and stand guard at	- Some countries will **attempt to counter terrorism and protect its security** by introducing measures that allow them to detain suspected terrorists indefinitely without trials. - Example: Singapore has an Internal Security Act (ISA) to deal with threats that include terrorism, racial and religious extremism and espionage. The Act allows the government powers to detain individuals without trial, and

MRT stations to ensure that there is no suspicious activity going on. - Example: The Singapore Armed Forces plays a vital role in protecting our borders through working closely with homeland agencies to protect key installations. For example, many troops are stationed at Jurong Island to guard the sea and land access to Jurong Island. - Such measures help to **safeguard our country and ensure the safety of our citizens.**	became critical after 9/11 to protect Singapore from potential terrorist attacks. For example, the Ministry of Home Affairs reported in 2019, that a 40 year old unemployed Singaporean man who wanted to travel to Syria to fight alongside any group trying to establish a caliphate was detained in January under the ISA. Possible Arguments For/Against Such Measures (+) Such powers **help to protect the rights of individuals to security.** Continued interrogations **help to discover terrorist networks, leading to further arrests and ultimately saving lives.** (-) Limits the rights of those who are detained. Those not in favour of such powers claim that many innocent people are held without hope of release.

- **Responsive measures**

Point: Even with protective and preventive measures in place, a country **must also be prepared to deal with damage or harm brought about by such acts if they occur.**

(Use one of the following)

Template 1: One of the measures Singapore has in place are **frequent exercises** held by the Singapore Police Force and the SCDF to test their contingency plans for acts of terrorism. **Emergency preparedness exercises** such as Exercise Heartbeat are held annually, where Home Team agencies work with the community and private corporations. Such exercises help us to be **better prepared to deal with a range of security threats** and help to **enhance our resilience** to stand united and recover quickly.

Such exercises help to **raise public awareness on the threat of terrorism** and ensure that our citizens are **well prepared even in times of crisis.**

Template 2: One of the measures that Singapore has in place is collaboration with other countries to **improve its capabilities in responding to transnational terrorist threats.** For example, Singapore's DSO National Laboratories work closely with its counterparts in countries like the USA on chemical, biological, radiological and explosive (CBRE) - related research and development efforts. This helps to **equip Singapore in handling the dangers posed by such attacks.**

Such collaboration allows the **exchange of skills and knowledge** between different countries and allows Singapore to develop its own security to defend itself from **a wide variety of attacks.**

Template 3: One of the measures that Singapore has in place is participation in various missions with other countries. As part of its **commitment to the fight against transnational terrorism**, Singapore participates in various missions across the world.

For example, the SAF has deployed close to 500 personnel to Afghanistan from 2007 to 2013, as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). This mission has been one of the SAF's longest overseas deployments, and has **contributed to expertise in various areas** such as construction, engineering and humanitarian aid.

Given the **common threat posed by transnational security challenges**, Singapore's participation in overseas operations to **ensure international security** also helps to enhance our own security.