

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Raffles Institution**Year 3 Social Studies****Unit 2: Government and Governance****Part 1: Why Governments Exist**

A **GOVERNMENT** consists of the institutions responsible for making *collective and binding decisions* for society. It has *coercive* and *authoritative* powers: i.e. it has the power to enforce its decisions and is recognised as having the right to do so.

Read *Issues in Comparative Politics* (pg. 9-14).

1. Summarise the reasons for and against government presented in the reading.

How governments can bring benefit	How governments can cause harm

Read pg. 69-80 of your SS Textbook.

2. The Singapore government meets the needs of its citizens by addressing specific areas of concern. Which of the concerns highlighted in this section is the **most important to you**? Explain your answer.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read Heed History's Ghosts of City States.

3. What is a **social contract**? Explain the concept using what you have learnt in Philosophy earlier this semester.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. How has the social contract between the Singapore government and its citizens **changed**? What are the **reasons** for this change?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5. What do you think are the **implications** of a changing social contract in Singapore?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read *I went through a luxury-hotel quarantine in Singapore to beat the coronavirus — and it works. But Americans just wouldn't find it acceptable.*

6. How is Singapore's social contract different from countries in the West like the USA?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

7. Under Singapore's social contract, what are some actions by the government considered acceptable to its people but unacceptable to the people in the West?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read pg. 29-34 and 39-43 of your SS Textbook.

8. What are **trade-offs**? Why are they unavoidable in government policymaking?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read *The Big Read: E-scooter footpath ban – lessons from the PMD saga and where to go from here.*

9. Summarise the perspectives of the various parties involved in the recent issue having e-scooters on footpaths.

Relevant Parties	For/against ban	Reasons for stance
E-scooter riders		

Pedestrians (walking on footpaths)		
---	--	--

Describe the final decision made by the government, explain why it made that decision, and identify the trade-offs involved (i.e. what each party had to give up).

Govt.'s decision	Rationale for decision	Trade-offs involved

Read [*In pushing for climate policy, Louis Ng recognises need for trade-offs and to cushion impact on businesses*](#) and [*The Big Read: As clamour grows for preservation in land-scarce Singapore, something's got to give.*](#)

10. What are likely trade-offs that have to be made in Singapore's move to become greener?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

11. How can compromises be reached such that the above trade-offs do not severely affect any particular group's interests?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Part 2: How Governments Work

Read pg. 44-56 of your SS Textbook.

12. In the space below, use a concept map to describe the **functions** of and illustrate the **relationship** between the three branches of the Singapore government (**organs of state**).

13. Explain how the three branches of the Singapore government are involved in making any political decision for the country. You may use the previous case study of the PMD footpath ban as an example.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read What is Good Governance? And pg. 57-65 of your SS Textbook.

14. What is **governance**, and why is **good governance** important?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

15. What are the **ideas shaping governance** in Singapore? Using examples, explain how the Singapore government has applied such ideas or principles.

Ideas shaping governance	How the principle is applied through specific policies

Part 3: Democratic Government

DEMOCRACY comes from the Greek words “*demos*” (people) and “*krates*” (rule).

Read Democracy.

16. In your own words, explain what makes a country a **democracy**.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read Politics and Government (pg. 6-9) and Governments, Systems and Regimes (pg. 32-34).

17. Complete the following table by explaining why each feature is important for a democracy and giving specific examples to illustrate them.

Feature	Importance	Examples
Free and fair elections		
Political opposition		
Limits on government power		

Protected civil and political rights		
Independent media		
Civil society		

18. Which of the features listed above do you think is the **most essential** for a democracy to exist? Explain your answer.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

19. How can democracy help ensure that a country is **governed well**?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read pg. 82-97 of your SS Textbook.

20. How can **citizens** contribute to the political decision-making process and meeting the needs of society?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Read The Lee Kuan Yew Conundrum and China doesn't respect America anymore – for good reason.

21. What are some **problems** that democracy can lead to?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

22. In your opinion, how can the problems of democracy be **mitigated or avoided**?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

23. On a separate sheet of paper, use a graphic organiser to consolidate what you have learnt in this unit.