

## Sec 1 G3 History Answering Techniques - Courtesy of OM MAHTO

### SOURCED-BASED QUESTIONS

#### *INFERENCE SKILL*

Use the PEEL paragraph for your answers!

**Point** - State your inference.

**Evidence** - Use quotes from the text-based source or describe what you see in the pictorial source.

**Explanation** - Explain how the evidence links to your inference.

**Link** - Link your explanation back to the point (inference)

#### *COMPARISON SKILL*

Use the PEEL paragraph for your answers.

#### *SIMILARITY FORMAT*

**Point** - Source A and B are similar in saying <criteria>

**Evidence 1** - Source A states ' <evi> '

**Explanation 1** - This shows that <explanation>

**Evidence 2** - **Similarly**, Source B states ' <evi> '

**Explanation 2** - This shows that <explanation>

**Link** - Hence, this is why <point>

#### *DIFFERENCE FORMAT*

**Point** - Source A and B are different in saying whether <criteria>

**Evidence 1** - Source A states ' <evi> '

**Explanation 1** - This shows that <explanation>

**Evidence 2** - **However**, Source B states ' <evi> '

**Explanation 2** - This shows that <explanation>

**Link** - Hence, this is why <point>

If the question starts with "How" -> Give **1** similarity and **1** difference

If the question is "In which way .... <similar/different>" -> **2** <similar/different>

## ESSAY QUESTION BANK

### **Chapter 1:**

#### *STATE*

State 3 maritime kingdoms in Southeast Asia.

- **Srivijaya, Melaka Sultanate, Majapahit**

State 3 kingdoms that invaded Srivijaya from the 11th century onwards.

- **Chola Kingdom, Siamese Kingdom, Majapahit.**

State 3 European powers that came to Asia in the 16th century onwards.

- **Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, British**

#### *DESCRIBE*

Describe how Temasek rose to power and became a trading centre in the 14th Century.

- Southeast Asia was positioned to benefit from the maritime trade taking place between China and the rest of the world, which enabled several trading centres to emerge and develop throughout the region like Srivijaya. However, in the 11th Century onwards, Srivijaya started to decline because of invasions from the Chola, Siamese, and Majapahit. Due to the decline of Srivijaya, trade shifted northwards towards Temasek, and trade also increased between China and Southeast Asia during this period.

Describe the reasons why Singapore declined by the 15th Century.

- The climatic and economic changes could have affected the trade with China, as they had droughts and famines there. Since China's economy collapsed, trade between Southeast Asia and China also suffered.

- The Melaka Sultanate was also founded along the Straits of Melaka, which was North of Singapore. It became a dominant trading centre in the region, and extended control over much of the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra. So, Singapore started to decline because it was overshadowed by Melaka in the north, which was also a convenient location for traders.

Describe the reasons why Singapore declined again in the mid-17th century.

- Singapore declined in importance because of political changes in the region. After 1610, the Dutch turned their attention towards the Sunda Straits and Java, away from Singapore, and established their main base at Batavia in 1619. They became the dominant European power in Southeast Asia after capturing Melaka from the Portuguese in 1641. By the 18th Century, maritime traffic bypassed Singapore. Another reason for Singapore's decline was the political crisis that resulted from the assassination of the childless Sultan Mahmud Shah II in 1699, which ended the dynasty of Sultans claiming to be from the direct bloodline of Sang Nila Utama. The capital of the Johor Sultanate shifted to Riau, and trade moved decisively away from Singapore.

## **Chapter 2:**

### *STATE*

State 3 reasons why the British established a trading port in Singapore.

- **Dutch Control of Spice Trade was dominating; Dutch monopolizing the Spice Trade.**
- **Unsuitability of Existing British Ports like Penang and Bencoolen.**
- **Suitability of Singapore.**

State 3 qualities that made Singapore suitable as a trading post.

- **Singapore had a natural sheltered harbour.**
- **Singapore had a good supply of drinking water.**
- **Singapore had a strategic geographical region being in the midpoint of trade route between India and China.**

State 3 treaties signed in the 1800s that impacted Singapore.

- **1819 Treaty. 1824 Anglo-Dutch Treaty. 1824 Treaty of Friendship and Alliance.**

State 3 British individuals who contributed to Singapore's development between 1819 to 1826.

- **William Farquhar. Stamford Raffles. John Crawfurd.**

### *DESCRIBE*

Describe why the British became more involved in Southeast Asia in the 19th Century.

- Trade between India and China was EIC's major source of income, so to protect the lucrative trade of it, the British needed to control the Straits of Melaka and waters surrounding Singapore. However, the EIC was confined to Bencoolen, so there was a need to find places in Southeast Asia free of Dutch control.
- Spices were also very valuable (as much as gold) in Europe and so the EIC wanted a share of the flourishing spice trade in Southeast Asia, so European powers began competitions and the British began searching for new ways to reach the spice-producing regions.

Describe the contributions of Sir Stamford Raffles towards Singapore's development.

- Raffles designed the Singapore Town Plan, which allowed the areas in Singapore to be divided to respective ethnic groups in an orderly manner. These areas include Chinatown (Chinese community), Kampong Glam (Malays, Bugis and Arabs), Chulia Kampong (Indian trading community) and European Town (European trading community). In addition, there were specific areas designated for trading activities and government use respectively. These areas include Commercial Square and Civic District.
- Raffles also shut down gambling dens, which had been a source of income during Farquhar's term as Resident as he felt that gambling was harmful to the population, banning it when he was in charge of Bencoolen from 1817 to 1822.

Describe the contributions of William Farquhar towards Singapore's development.

- Farquhar set up defense positions at the Singapore River and the Government Hill (Fort Canning) with the help of 100 sepoys, as he was fearful of a Dutch attack to enforce claims over Singapore.
- Farquhar attracted many people from Melaka to Singapore, which helped solve Singapore's food shortage issues, which were brought about by the increasing population. To raise funds to ensure the smooth running of Singapore, Farquhar sold licenses for gambling and sale of opium and liquor, and set up a police force from the funds generated, which helped to ensure and strengthen law and order in Singapore.

Describe the contributions of John Crawfurd towards Singapore's development.

- Crawfurd reintroduced the sale of opium and licenses for public gambling, and used the earnings to ensure the smooth sailing of Singapore. Crawfurd also maintained the policy of free trade in Singapore.
- Crawfurd played an important role in signing the 1824 Treaty of Friendship and Alliance, in which Sultan Hussein and the Temmenggong handed over control of Singapore to the EIC, which made Singapore officially under British control.

### **Chapter 3:**

*STATE*

State 3 areas that the British contributed to make Singapore into a port city.

- **Free Port Status, Law And Order, Education, Healthcare, Administrative Changes, Facilities.**

State 3 external developments and events that affected Singapore's growth as a port city.

- **Suez Canal Opening**
- **The Great Depression**
- **(Expansion of) Tin and Rubber Industries**

State any 3 problems that the British faced in maintaining law and order in Singapore.

- **Labour Abuse of Coolies**
- **Piracy**
- **Secret Society Problems**
- **Prostitution**
- **Crime**

*DESCRIBE*

Describe two problems in law and order faced by the British.

- **Crime:** Singapore's population increased from barely 150 in 1819 to about 6000 in 1821. With the influx of migrants and the growth of trade, there were also more robberies, murders and other crimes, so maintaining law and order was a challenge.
- **Police Force:** in 1820, the police force was a very small one, consisting of the chief police officer, one writer, one jailor in charge of the prison, one European sergeant, and eight Asian policemen. Over the years, the police force remained weak and small, unable to peacekeep the population of the few thousand settlers, with the many crimes on the island that made their lives and property unsafe.

Describe the problems caused by secret societies.

- **Point:** Secret societies were a problem in Singapore in the 1800s.
- **Evidence:** For example, the Hokkien-Teochew Riots in 1854 where more than 500 people lost their lives.
- **Explanation:** The secret societies split along dialect lines and a dispute arose over the price of rice between the Hokkiens and Teochews and the fights escalated as bystanders took sides based on dialect groups.
- **Link:** Thus, secret societies were a problem in Singapore.

Describe the problem of labour abuse in Singapore.

- **Point:** Labour abuse was a problem in Singapore in the 1800s.
- **Evidence:** For example, due to job opportunities in Singapore, many labourers migrated to Singapore in hopes for a better job. Many who were unable to afford the passage money sought a coolie agent to pay for their passage to Singapore.

- **Explanation:** However, they were often tricked by these coolie agents and after arriving in Singapore, they faced a miserable experience as they were locked up in houses that were cramped and unhygienic which were closely guarded by gangsters hired by coolie agents in order to prevent the coolies from escaping. Many were also living in conditions that were unsuitable even for animals.
- **Link:** Therefore, labour abuse was a problem for Singapore in the 1800s as coolies were mostly mistreated.

Describe the problem of prostitution in Singapore.

- **Point:** Prostitution was a problem in Singapore in the 1800s.
- **Evidence:** For example, in the latter part of the 19th century, many young, female migrants from China were tricked into prostitution trade in Singapore. They were sold to keepers of brothels and forced to earn money for them.
- **Explanation:** This is because the majority of migrants who came to Singapore for work were Chinese males. As their working conditions were hard, many turned to visiting brothels to escape the hardship. There was a great demand for prostitutes, which meant that brothel owners and traffickers could make large profits.
- **Link:** Thus, prostitution was a problem in Singapore as it led to many social problems.

Describe the problem of piracy in Singapore.

- **Point:** Piracy was a problem in Singapore in the 1800s.
- **Evidence:** For example, large fleets of pirate boats from North Borneo would travel to the Straits of Melaka every year using the monsoon winds from August to October where they would attack trading ships sailing between Singapore and Penang.
- **Explanation:** Piracy was so severe that pirates would brazenly attack ships just outside Singapore's harbour. Traders also avoided coming to Singapore to trade as they feared the loss of their lives and goods due to the threat piracy posed.
- **Link:** Hence, piracy was a problem in Singapore in the 1800s as it would disrupt Singapore's trade.

Describe the problems with education and how the British resolved them.

- **Problems:** Initially, the British did not focus on education, they had no control over English or vernacular schools, and only focused on subsidizing a few schools. They provided free primary schooling in the Malay language, very few to the Tamil and none to the Chinese schools. Schools were largely left to the missionaries and European traders, so there were few educational opportunities for children as many parents didn't see the value of English language education.
- **Efforts:** The British put in more effort in educational opportunities to meet the needs of their colonial administration. They took steps to promote English as the medium of instruction, providing government grants to schools that impart English to students. The British also didn't help and interfere in education that didn't directly support trade and government administration.

Describe the problems with healthcare and how the British resolved them.

- **Problems:** There was a lack of healthcare service provided by the British government and so Asians couldn't afford proper medical treatment. This made it so they suffered from malnutrition, overcrowding and poor sanitation which led to a high death rate, as overcrowded and unhygienic living conditions of the poor in the town area gave rise to high contagious diseases like tuberculosis and cholera, and there was a poor understanding of certain diseases in the 19th century, and a lack of trust towards western medicine.
- **Efforts:** The British set up the Public Health Department; set up a malaria committee to supervise the draining of swamps, replacing the bucket system with a modern water carriage system, and cleaning dirty streets and drains. The Department also improved housing conditions, reducing overcrowding in the living quarters in Chinatown. A general hospital at Outram Road was set up in 1882 and a quarantine law was set up to prevent infectious diseases such as smallpox and cholera from spreading.

\*\* Describe the problems with expansion of port facilities and how the British resolved them.

- **Problems:** By the 1850s, Old Harbour at the Singapore River had become increasingly overcrowded, and so there was insufficient space along the river banks to build more warehouses for storing goods and coal, or to build dry docks for ship-repairing.
- **Efforts:** In 1852, the New Harbour was built, with the harbour having deep waters and sheltered from strong winds. The government set up the Singapore Harbour Board to make further improvements to the port. New wharves, docks, storehouses and machine shops were built. Modern machinery such as forklifts, cranes and tractors used for loading and unloading. A railway system was set up to link the port to parts of Malaya. In 1924, the Causeway between Singapore and Malaya.

Describe the impact of the external developments and events had on Singapore.

- **Suez Canal Opening:** It shortened the time needed for people, mail and cargo to travel from Europe to Singapore, which meant lower shipping costs because of the savings in distance and time. It also increased the volume of ships passing through the Straits of Melaka, so it overtook the Sunda Straits, securing Singapore's dominance.
- **The Great Depression:** Companies suffered losses and had to cut expenses by retrenching workers. Many businessmen lost their wealth or became bankrupt. Thus, there was widespread unemployment and hardship and it became difficult for people to find jobs.

Chapter 4:

*STATE*

State 3 countries/places/areas where migrants in Singapore came from.

- **Europe; British, Dutch, French, Germans, Portuguese, Swiss**
- **China**
- **Arabia (Yemen)**
- **India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka)**

- **Malay Archipelago; Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java**

State 3 occupations of the different groups of migrants in Singapore.

- **Entrepreneurs and Traders**
- **Coolies and Labourers**
- **Craftsmen**

State 3 names of migrants who contributed to the different communities in Singapore for education and healthcare.

- **Maria Dyer, Tan Kah Kee, Tan Tock Seng, Gan Eng Seng**

State 3 reasons why migrants came to Singapore after 1819.

- **Many Trading and Business Opportunities**
- **Free Immigration Policy**
- **Free Port Status**

*DESCRIBE*

Describe the push factors why migrants came to Singapore after 1819.

- **Point:** Push factors refers to the unfavourable conditions that motivate people to settle elsewhere.
- **Explanation:** Many people left their homeland due to poor living conditions. Some experienced hunger and poverty caused by overpopulation, natural disasters or conflict.
- **Evidence:** For example, many in China, India and Southeast Asia were affected by the unrest and instability caused by wars, lawlessness and rebellions in the 19th and early 20th century.
- **Link:** Thus, they left to seek more prosperous and peaceful lives in Singapore.

Describe the pull factors why migrants came to Singapore after 1819.

- **Point:** Pull factors refer to favourable conditions that attract people to settle elsewhere.
- **Explanation:** [Giving 2 examples is enough] Singapore had many trading and business opportunities that attracted people from Europe, India, China and neighboring countries. With its excellent geographical location, Singapore served as a convenient meeting point for traders, and they could take advantage of its trading networks and can seek and trade diverse goods, so they could get what they needed.
- **Link:** Hence, migrants came to Singapore for the wonderful things that we offer.

(Will be updated later)

Describe the contributions of entrepreneurs to Singapore.



- These Traders engaged in commercial activities along the Singapore River. Some Europeans also set up agency houses here. In return for their services, they received a commission
- As Singapore grew as an Entrepôt, it attracted Indians skilled in trade, accounting, banking and credit

Describe the occupation of coolies and laborers and how they contributed to Singapore

- They provided much needed labour as workers were needed to load and unload goods at the ports and carry goods to and from boats and warehouses situated along the Singapore River

Describe the occupation of the craftsmen and how they contributed to Singapore

- The Bugis were skilled in building ships and boats that Malay traders used to ferry goods to neighboring islands. They thus established a thriving shipbuilding industry and Bugis trading vessels, could be found transporting goods along the Singapore River.

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