

Unit 1 What does it mean for me to be a citizen of my country

1. Citizenship Shaped by legal status

- a. Ways to become a citizen
 - i. By Country of Birth
 - ii. By descent
 - iii. By marriage
 - iv. By naturalisation
- b. Citizenship in a democracy (page 10)
- c. Rights of citizens
 - i. The rights of the citizens are stated in the Constitution of Singapore which helps the citizens to be protected by the law (eg. Freedom of Speech in Article 14)
 - ii. The government discourages discrimination in basic rights (eg. education)
 - iii. Citizens must consider the sensitivities and safety for others when exercising their rights
- d. Responsibilities of citizens
 - i. Citizens have the responsibility to obey the laws and not to discriminate against other people
 - ii. Citizens have the responsibility to participate in meaningful causes which contribute towards the good of the country to bring about prosperity and progress and build a harmonious Singapore so as to advance the well-being of other Singaporeans

2. Citizenship shaped by identity

- a. A sense of national identity comes from a shared belief that they belong to the same country. They **share common way of life** and feel strongly about similar things with other Singaporeans
- b. They have the **willingness to care for others** and **improve the society** as a **sense of belonging and identity** creates the desire to be involved in affairs of the country and make it a better place to live in
- c. For example, many Singaporeans feel that they can identify with each other through a **common language, SINGLISH**. By using Singlish, it helps to **foster national identity in Singapore** as it is a **unique** thing that Singaporeans have in common and they use it to **identify themselves as a Singaporean citizen** -
 - i. It helps in shaping citizenship in Singapore because by having a common language they can be easily understood mainly by Singaporeans only so it is very unique. It is the uniqueness that binds the Singaporeans together, leading them to **feel a part of the Singaporean** culture and society and thus Singaporean citizen

3. Citizenship shaped by Participation

- a. Citizens can contribute or participate towards the good of the society either as individuals or groups.
- b. Participation allows citizens to work together and this integration will lead to better understanding and greater harmony in Singapore
- c. It also allows Singaporean to feel that they have the **responsibility to contribute towards the progress and development of Singapore.**
 - i. For example, an **informal group “SG Haze Rescue”** by Jeremy Chua who asked people to donate their excess masks to be given out to other Singaporeans who are in need. **Participation comes in** because by distributing the masks to other Singaporeans in need, Singaporeans will feel a greater **understanding** towards other Singaporeans - They would **feel a greater sense of belonging** as they feel that they have a **stake** in the **progress and development** of the society thus shaping their citizenship

4. Citizenship by Participation or Identity

National Identity	Participation
It is more important as it influences the willingness to participate. Having a sense of national identity strengthens their sense of belonging thus motivating them to contribute through participation in meaningful causes to work for the good of the society	Without having a common sense of identity, there will be no pride as a citizen thus they would not want to participate actively in Singapore

Unit 2 How do we decide what is Good for the Society?

1. The challenges in deciding what is good for the society

a. Differing needs and priorities

- i. The government has to hear from all sections of society about their needs and interests before deciding on a common good. They must be prepared to answer and convince the citizens whose needs had to be rejected for the common good. Society can reach agreement when it comes to basic necessities but differences arise when needs are different (For example, car owners would want the government to focus on improving road networks while MRT commuters would want the government to focus on ensuring less crowded trains and thus having more trains during peak periods.

- ii. Given the limited resources the government has, they have to decide on how best to utilise and use these resources for the good of the society even if there will be some people who'll be upset with the government's decision

Differing Needs and Interest	Differing Priorities
<p>Not all needs and interests can be fulfilled and achieved - The government will have a difficult time to explain to those whose needs and interest cannot be met</p>	<p>The government provides what the people want but different in the amount of resources allocated for the different priorities - these people are at least receiving sth unlike those whose needs and interests were not served at all so it is easier to placate these people</p>

b. Differing priorities

- i. Citizens may also have disagreements on priorities. For example, parents with school-going children would want the government to invest on education while senior citizens would want the government to invest on healthcare. The differences could be due to what they perceive as important for them to lead happy and fulfilling lives in Singapore which may vary from different people and thus it is a challenge to decide what is good for the society

c. Unequal Sharing of Costs

- i. Another challenge is to decide who would bear greater costs as some people might be affected more than others. One example is the NIMBY syndrome where some people believe that there is a need for development while some people believe that they do not want the inconveniences associated with the improvements which is quite challenging especially for land-scarce Singapore where such facilities would invariably be built near where people live

2. How the government manage conflicting demands (to be ditched - read page 40)

- a. The government considers the citizens' feedbacks in its decision making which has to be based on the best interest of the society
- b. Prioritisation is needed
- c. The government may not be able to meet all demands of the society due to limited amount of resources Singapore has

i. Understanding Trade-offs

- 1. Due to the limited resources, there is a need to make the best use of these resources to ensure that more people are able to gain the most benefits from these decisions

2. A trade-off involves an exchange in which an individual has to decide between two or more things that cannot be obtained at the same time.
3. In 2014, the government had to make a decision to acquire land previously used for other purposes to build the Thomson East Coast Line. The new MRT line is expected to serve about one million commuters daily in the long run. The trade-off was that this piece of land could no longer be used for recreation and industry in the future. The government needs to balance the cost of trade-offs

ii. Decision-making in a Representative Democracy

1. In a representative democracy, representatives in governments are elected by citizens and have the political legitimacy to make decisions on behalf of citizens when there are conflicting demands and interests
2. Governments make decisions on what is needed for the country and society by making laws (rule-making), implementing (rule execution), and interpreting and applying them (rule adjudication)
3. Legislature (President and the Parliament)
 - a. Its main responsibility is to pass laws for Singapore
 - b. Parliament is made up of elected, non-constituency and nominated Members of Parliament
 - c. The President's agreement is required for all Bills passed by Parliament and may withhold agreement to certain bills
 - d. The Legislature meets during Parliament sessions to discuss important national issues and make laws.
 - e. Besides representing citizens in Parliament MPs also contribute towards holding the government accountable for the use of the country's financial resources
 - f. Who makes up the Parliament in Singapore (page 46-47)
 - g. How does a bill become a law/ (page 48-49)
 - h. Committee of Supply
 - i. Role of Parliament is to serve as the community of Supply
- discuss the estimates of expenditure for the coming financial year
4. Executives (Cabinet led by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and ministers of ministries)
 - a. Responsible for all government policies and day-to-day administration of the affairs of the state
 - b. The ministries are responsible for formulating and implementing government policies

- i. Eg. Ministry of Health - aims to promote good health and reduce illness, ensure access to good health and affordable healthcare and pursue medical excellence

5. Judiciary (Supreme Court, State Courts, Family Justice Courts)

- a. Laws made by the Legislature are interpreted and applied by the Judiciary
- b. For example, the Singapore Parliament passed the Compulsory Education Bill in 2000 to make it a requirement for every Singaporean child to attend a national primary school unless he or she has been exempted

iii. Ideas Shaping Governance

1. Having Good Leadership

- a. Government leaders should be honest and capable with moral courage and integrity to do what is right. They can win the confidence and respect of the people which **will bring stability in the country that will serve as a platform for further development and continued growth**. Incorruptible leaders are needed for the well-being of everyone in Singapore and to **ensure that Singapore continues to develop**.
- b. For example, during Singapore's political unrest between 1950s to 1960s, he made many unpopular policy decisions like public housing racial quotas and he also facilitated racial integration so the people can work together effectively instead of misunderstandings.
 - i. Leaders must have the moral courage to do what is right for the society and what is the best decision for the good of the society
- c. **This is crucial because corrupt leaders will act only to serve their own interests instead of the interests of the society thus undermining the society and hinder the country from running smoothly**

2. Anticipating change and staying relevant

- a. It refers to leaders foreseeing potential challenges from internal and external problems and thereby reacting before it becomes a problem
- b. The government must be forward-looking and make decisions that will benefit Singaporeans in the future
- c. For example, the government tried to anticipate changes and stay relevant regarding the IRs especially as a potential economic

benefits and higher tourists spending. The government was aware about the social consequences and so the National Council of Problem Gambling was set up to conduct public education and outreach on problem gambling prevention through counsel and decided to go ahead with the plan

- i. This shows that the government has anticipated the problem and still pushed for the building of IRs while also managing the tension by addressing the people's concern

3. Providing a stake for everyone

- a. Refers to involving the people in the decision-making process so as to **create a greater sense of belonging to the country - They will feel that they have a stake in Singapore's future** and thus more willing to be involved in working for the good of the society
- b. For example, the SG conversation where Singaporeans share their views, hopes, and dreams about Singapore - more opportunities have been created to encourage Singaporeans to share their views about policies and decision-making.
- c. The citizens' views will likely to play a part in shaping the future of Singapore thus having stronger bonds **as the citizens will feel that their views are being valued - make Singaporeans feel part of Singapore as it gives them a sense of ownership - feel more rooted to the nation**

4. Practising Meritocracy

- a. Meritocracy refers to a system that distributes opportunities to enable future successes. People are rewarded according to their effort and they are encouraged to work hard rather than factors like race, religion and socioeconomic status.
- b. For example, students who perform well in their studies and CCA are rewarded in ways to help them excel further in their education. The Edusave Scholarship and Merit Bursary Schemes reward the top 10 and 25 percent of school students
- c. They will be motivated to do their best since they will be able to reap the benefits according to the efforts they put in - **there will be sense of belonging** since everyone is given **equal opportunities** to excel. This results in stability so Singapore can grow economically and develop further

Unit 3 How can we work for the Good of the Society?

1. Role of the Government

- **Maintaining Internal Order and External Security**

- Agencies such as police, prisons, and civil defence forces protect citizens, property e society believes should be **protected**
- Social services such as schools and hospital can **exist** and **operate effectively** with the **peace** and **safety** that the government provides
- External security - Singapore's defence is strengthened and potential enemies are deterred from attacking Singapore (**Eg**, (MINDEF) whose main task is to deter aggression and defend Singapore and its interest. If deterrence fails, to ensure swift and decisive victory to protect the country's independence)
- Internal Security - (**eg**. Singapore Police Force (SPF) to protect the people who live in Singapore from crime and criminal harm which includes terrorism and public disorder)
 - During the Little India Riot, riots broke out after a private bus accidentally ran over an Indian National. The police and forces were informed. When the Special Operations CommAnd (SOC) arrived, the suspected rioters were arrested and crowd dispersed thus **protecting citizens so people live in peace and safety**
- Maintaining internal and external order is important as **peace** and **security** in Singapore are **critical** to its **progress** and **development**. Singaporeans can **focus** on the social and economic growth if they are **assured** that there is an **effective regulatory** and **defence force** to **protect Singapore** internally and externally
- Society can carry on with their activities **without constant worry** about their **safety** and **well-being** as they feel secured and safe

- **Ensuring Justice**

- Through Judiciary, the government ensures that the laws are applied correctly to ensure that the people have confidence that the laws will be applied fairly to all
- Eg. Family Justice Courts - protect Singaporeans against family violence- where people will be granted PPO (Personal Protection Order) if the court concludes that the individual is facing harm. With PPO, the individual will be protected by the justice system by preventing person from entering the applicant's house or partially

- It is important as a **fair judiciary system** will help to **regulate law and order** in Singapore - Singaporean will feel **assured**, knowing that the government **treats** everyone **fairly** and **looks into the rights** and **welfare** of the individual - so Singaporeans will be **more motivated to work together to maintain social harmony** and discourage any acts of social disagreement conflict
- **Raise the trust** of Singaporean toward the government as people view their government as fair to all - **assure the society** that they have a stake in the country and will be more willing to work with other Singaporeans
- **Providing Goods and Services for the Public**
 - Government devote significant resources to improve the well-being of the citizens
 - In their daily lives, the citizens can enjoy benefits from the provision of goods and services for the public. Some are **subsidised** by government so that all citizens can have access to it especially for those who cannot afford essential goods and services. It is important for a **functioning society** and a **greater sense of belonging** so that they can also be **motivated to work better** for the country in return
 - One example is the government ensures a stable supply of clean piped water for all Singaporeans through 4 National Taps comprising local catchment water, NEWater, imported water and desalination. $\frac{2}{3}$ Singapore's land surface is used as water catchment area and SG has been importing from Johor, Malaysia. **This is to assure the public of cleanliness of water to ease people's lives as things become convenient as they do not need to overly concerned about such things**
 - One example is the public transportation where the government ensures that the transportation network continues to **improve to meet the needs** of the people through better connection and services so that they can commute effectively. Also ensuring that the **services are readily available and have high standards**
- **Safeguarding the interest of citizens**
 - Governments implement legislation that safeguards the interests of citizens to ensure that citizens will have a sense of security about living in the country such as a sense of security in old age
 - Central Provident Fund (CPF) - Helping Singaporeans to finance their housing and healthcare needs and have a source of lifelong income in

retirement. This is to give them greater peace of mind in retirement. The level of payout is based on the amount of CPF savings they have accumulated from moment they start working and employers also contribute to their retirement savings. CPF helps stretch their retirement savings for as long as they live

2. Role of Citizens in the Society

Individuals	Groups
Strengths – their actions can benefit many people directly with immediate improvements	Strengths - Mostly, their close cooperation with the government allows the benefits they bring will be long term and sustainable

- **Contributing to the need of the society**

- **Individuals**

- Contribute through volunteering their time, effort and money towards **meaningful social causes** they are concerned about to **promote the well-being** of the society
- They strongly believe in the cause they are supporting
- This can lead to **immediate results** as it benefits many people **directly** and also **motivate others** to make similar improvements
- **Example.** Ms Elisa Ng went for “A Litter at a Time” programme to encourage people to pick up just a piece of litter a day - this helps **inspire others** to make similar improvements and **contribute** to a **better living environment** in Singapore and **the condition of the place they live in** to improve the lives of them and others

- **Organised Groups**

- Significant effect on the area of need they are addressing as they can **direct collective efforts, ideas, resources towards their causes** to be used for the good of the society
- **Formal Groups** - registered groups with specific and clear objectives so they devote continued efforts to support a specific cause which then allows the benefit to the society to be sustainable. **For example**, since 1962, MINDS is an organisation with the aim of advancing the development, well-being and persons with intellectual disability and their integration into the society thus catering and addressing the challenges and needs of

the intellectually disabled people so that they can also participate in the society fully.

- **Informal Groups** - groups with a specific, short term objectives related to issues that arise suddenly (temporarily formed and not registered formally) When specific needs arise, these groups may be formed and organised to attend to these specific needs. **For example**, SG Haze Rescue to ask people to help and donate their masks. They contribute by helping the needs of the society to manage the ill-effects of the haze and ensure that they remain healthy during the haze period. They share resources to help the society to manage the haze period
- **Influencing government decisions**
 - **Individuals**
 - **Feedbacks** from individuals can matter to the government's decision-making process through the influence it brings. For example, **Our SG Conversation** where citizens can come together and share their views and ideas about what matters to Singapore which enabled conversation between citizens and government. Their feedbacks and views reflects some of the hopes Singaporeans have to improve the society better as it enables the government to understand better what Singaporeans wanted and their aspiration - the feedbacks were incorporated in the government's future plans for singapore like "a Singapore for Singaporeans" to benefit majority of society
 - A government that is open to feedbacks provides stake for everyone. Society can become better due to the concerted effort between the government and the citizen
 - **Organisation**
 - Organised groups can help refine government policies and point to areas which require more attention. For example, MINDS (Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore) focuses on catering the needs of people who are intellectually disabled. Working with the government, MINDS has worked hard To ensure equal opportunities for children with intellectual disabilities to receive education and eventually contribute as a responsible citizen. Thus, these organised groups play a complementary role to the government and help the government in overcoming the problems of specific groups

<p>A country should not just rely on the government's effort but also the citizen - there is a limit to the government's effort towards their impact to the society</p>	<p>There are times where citizens could foresee an issue that the government may have a blind spot on</p>
<p>Citizens' contribution can reach deeper parts of the society which the government cannot</p>	<p>They could make a difference in improving the government's decision</p>
<p>(Limitation) Contributing to the needs is of a smaller scale and may take a longer time to inspire those around them</p>	<p>The collective aspirations and desire of the citizen can provide valuable insights to the government to make informed policies that incorporates the citizens' feedback that would affect the country in the long run - greater impact and effectiveness improving the society as there will be greater support since it comes directly from the citizen</p>

- **Strengthening Citizens' sense of belonging**

- By being involved in the sharing and discussion of views related to the future of Singapore, citizens can develop a stronger sense of attachment towards Singapore.

They can engage with the government to clarify and provide feedbacks to the national issues and policies.

- For example, the SG conversation can help the government better understand Singaporeans' aspirations for the future of Singapore. This is because involving Singaporeans in determining and playing a part in their future will result in citizens **developing a stronger sense of belonging**. A citizen's sense of belonging to Singapore can be affected if they feel that the government is not listening to them. Society can benefit from the collective views and efforts of the citizens.

Unit 4 Different factors that shape identity and contribute to diverse society

- Identity is how you define yourself and how others define you
- What shapes identity?
 - Nationalities
 - Having **a sense of belonging to the nation**
 - **Sharing common experience** with others of the same nationality

- Common history, common sets of tradition, etc
- This builds a sense of belonging thus shaping one's identity (a sense of shared identity - national identity)
 - Example, every primary 5 students participated in National Education (NE) show where they have shared experience and shared memories thus strong sense of national identity instilled among the students and younger Singaporeans since young so they grow with a strong national identity and be constantly reminded to be united as a country
 - NE shows aims to inculcate a better understanding of the challenges and vulnerabilities that are unique to Singapore thus make Singaporeans feel more strongly about themselves as singaporean and about Singapore as a country
 - Example, Singaporean men would mostly gone for National Service where they build character and prepare them for life as A Singaporean with a common Singaporean identity. It fosters cohesion and they serve together to the end for the nation. They have shared experience and memories thus build national identity
 - It brings together young Singaporean from all walks of lives and with different backgrounds to enhance and strengthen national identity
- Race and ethnicity
 - Race : classification of people according to their physical characteristics
 - Ethnicity : one's ethnicity or family descent, cultural practices, language customs - a set of practices and customs unique to that particular country or region
 - One's ethnicity is shaped by and will result in a whole range of experiences, value systems and practices (festivals, food choices)
 - It is an important influence on their identity as it leads to difference in lifestyles
 - It influences our identity as our **way of life** is aligned to the experience of belonging to an ethnic group in varying degrees
 - Eg, if Malay, then they behave like Malay like doing salam to respect the older ones, different diets
- Religion
 - It **embodies a shared core beliefs and practices**

- Different lessons/teaching, practices and how they interact with others
- **Believers keep to these beliefs and practices** which may be seen from believers across nationalities, race and ethnicity which means they keep to their beliefs regardless of their nationalities, race or ethnicity
- **This shapes the way the believers interact, their thinking and decision-making** thus playing an important role **in shaping identity**
- **Provides a sense of divine control that one believes god exercises command in authority and direction of his life**
- Eg. Porks in Islam are forbidden foods as they contradict to the laws and principles of Islam because of the negative effects and potential harms of consuming them are greater than the benefits. These foods are considered 'non-halal' so normally Muslims would avoid these foods while Christians are allowed to eat pigs and thus affects their decision-making and how they interact with others thus shape identity
- Eg. Inter religious organisation (IRO) organises activities and participates in forums to learn more about what can be done in the region to promote religious harmony
- Socio-Economic status
 - Refers to an economic situation shared by a group of people
 - Determinants : occupation, income, education and ownership of wealth
 - In Singapore, an individual or household's income level - indicator
 - Shapes one's life experience - affects the choice of housing, food, entertainment and activities thus **influence the circle of friends that one interacts with**
 - Eg. Activities such as polo and Golf are normally activities that are carried out by people with higher socio-economic status. Meanwhile, activities such as Soccer are activities carried out by individuals across all social-economic groups as they are easily accessible
 - Different socio economic groups (just to know)
 - Higher socio-economic groups
 - Born into wealthy families
 - Accumulated their wealth through work or investments
 - Middle socioeconomic groups
 - White collar workers
 - Lower socio economic groups

- Require manual labour or jobs which do not require much skills
 - Blue collar workers
- **Through hardwork, an individual can move Low to high socio-Economic status (social mobility)**
- Social mobility
 - Income GAP is concerning problem and is a factor that shapes socio-economic diversity
 - There are measures put in place to support the needs of the lower socio-economic status groups (eg, areas of healthcare and education financing)
 - Enable individuals in lower socio-economic groups to meet their basic needs and work towards improving their well-being and social mobility
 - Eg. There are **Singapore government's programmes to support the needs of lower socio-economic status groups. MOE financial Assistance Scheme where children from lower socio-Economic groups can still have the chance to move to higher socio-economic groups thus making education affordable for all because every child has access to quality education and a good start in life regardless of their family income. Better quality education - better job prospects - better employment opportunities thus higher income and higher standard of living**

	Advantage	Disadvantage
Nationalities	influences the attitudes and beliefs shared by citizens of the same country through common experience fastened by interactions thus lead to individuals adopting the same way of thinking	although they feel belonged to a country, they may not feel obliged to follow what other citizens do
ethnicity and race	people are often made conscious of <u>the ethnicity from childhood</u> by their parents and environment thus constant reminder that they are different from other people from other ethnic groups	ethnicity is based on one's ethnicity, language and cultural practices which <u>do not necessarily make one more / less important than another person from different ethnicity</u>

religion	they feel that God commands an authority to direct their lives thus shaping their lives in a certain way thus shape identity	religion in Singapore more or less teach the same value and lessons such as respect, love one another which are common to these religions
socio economic groups	higher socio economic groups usually have more power and influence than lower thus tend to mingle with their own Friend zones thus different identity	social mobility can change so does not really affect diversity where Low to high and vice versa is possible

3). SG future dialogues → Singaporeans discuss their hopes for the country and how they can bring them to fruition.

- ↳ aim to encourage Singaporeans to play a part in charting the country's future.
- ↳ strengthening their national identity
- ↳ forge their sense of belonging.
- ↳ deepen engagement with Singaporeans

4). Preservation of facets of Singapore's heritage and investing in the arts and sports → citizens / Singaporeans take greater pride in the achievements of local artist and athletes.

- ↳ by educating Singaporeans more about their history, culture and heritage → deepen their understanding of who they are Singaporeans.
- ↳ greater pride in the achievements from Singapore)

③ and ④ allow Singaporeans to reflect and cultivate a sense of belonging.

Example of Building national identity.

1). common language (Singlish)

↳ help to foster national identity in Singapore as it is a unique thing that Singaporeans have in common

↳ it does not restrict to any age groups

↳ it does not restrict to any race

↳ every race in Singapore can speak different and various languages

↳ By using Singlish, Singaporeans can feel the connection between other fellow Singaporeans

↳ as part of their identity

↳ Singlish: a mix of influence from other language

↳ eg. Malay and Chinese

↳ being integrated into daily life conversation with others

↳ builds a sense of common identity and belonging

↳ sounds more friendly with other fellow Singaporeans

→ common language → to foster a sense of national identity → something very close to Singaporeans

Example 2# : Urban planning and public housing policies

↳ enables ethnic and social integration

↳ eg. design shared spaces within the neighbourhoods such as playgrounds and parks, shopping malls, hawker centres

↳ in order to maximise social interactions of people from different backgrounds.

↳ A good mix of flat types in HDB

↳ organizing activities in the neighbourhoods.

↳ bring people together from all walks of life.

4). Preservation Singapore's heritage and investing on sports and arts

↳ widening arts and culture audience groups

↳ putting up better displays / supporting artists and athletes

↳ bringing athletes like Joseph Schooling / Artists from Singapore to act as a role model and so that people can be more proud about Singapore as a Singaporean thus helping to shape their national identity.

eg. encourage students to have study trips to various activities arts and culture groups like the National Gallery.

Unit 5 Why is there Greater Diversity in Singapore

1. Immigration Policy

- During the 1980s, Singapore faced a crisis of declining population and brain drain so the government started to encourage immigration to Singapore
- Example, people who moved to Singapore due to its immigration policies were expatriates who came to work in Singapore's petrochemical industry under the S-Pass scheme and decided to remain as PRs or citizens
- thus there is an introduction of new and foreign cultures into Singapore thus increased diversity

2. Economic Opportunities

- **Attractive** economic opportunities in Singapore - contribute to **diversity** - foreign organisations and workers would bring along with them **different** cultures, traditions, customs, and language to Singapore - and also they bring with them **skills and business networks** that might not be found in Singapore - with such varied skills and traditions - greater diversity
2. In Singapore, employment opportunities are readily available due to the **more established** and **large** number of businesses operating.
 3. Singapore's reputation as a **politically stable nation, ease of doing business, growth potential** and its **world-renowned efficiency** has attracted about 7,000 multinational corporation (MNCs) to set up operation.
 4. Often **attract** migrants and immigrants looking for employment that may not exist in their home country