HISTORY **9697/23**

Paper 2 Southeast Asia: From Colonies to Nations, 1870–1980 **October/November 2010**

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, index number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A
Answer **Question 1**.
Section B
Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

[Turn over

Section A: The Political Development of Singapore, 1945–65

You **must** answer Question 1.

THE CREATION OF THE CROWN COLONY, 1945–1946

1 Read the Sources and then answer the question.

When answering **Question 1** candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the Sources both individually and as a group.

Source A

His Majesty's Government has given careful consideration to the future of Malaya and the need to promote a sense of unity and common citizenship which will develop the country's strength and capacity to self-government within the British Commonwealth. Our policy will call for a constitutional union of Malaya and the institution of Malayan citizenship which will give equal citizenship rights to those who claim Malaya as their homeland.

The Malayan Union will consist of the nine states of the Malayan peninsula and the two British settlements of Penang and Malacca. The settlement of Singapore at this stage requires separate constitutional treatment and in view of its special economic and other interests provision will be made for it to be considered a separate colony. His Majesty's Government is well aware of the many ties between Singapore and the mainland, and realises that these ties may well point towards ultimate union. This will be a matter for the Malayan Union and Singapore to consider in due course.

From the Report of the Colonial Office Mission to Malaya, October 1945.

Source B

The recommendations of the Government White Paper which chiefly affect Singapore are as follows:-

   (i)   The settlement of Singapore is to be separated from the settlements of Penang and Malacca, and to become a separate colony.

  (ii)   An Advisory Council is to be created for an interim period during which questions of the composition of the Executive Council and appointment and election of the Legislative Council are to be considered so as to ensure full and effective representation of the various sections of the community.

 (iii)   During the same period consideration is to be given to broadening the sphere of authority of the Municipal Council and its basis of representation.

  (iv)   While recognizing the fact that Singapore requires separate treatment it is 'no part of the policy of His Majesty's Government to preclude or prejudice in any way the fusion of Singapore and the Malayan Union in a wider union at a later date should it be considered that such a course is desirable'.

From the British Government White Paper on Malaya, January 1946.

Source C

The Singapore Colony government was initiated by Order in Council on 27 March 1946. This order implemented the policy previously presented in the White Paper to Parliament. No part of the White Paper has aroused greater interest in Singapore than the statement of policy regarding the possibility of a more intimate relationship between the Malayan Union and Singapore.

Generally speaking, it may be said that opinion in Singapore is strongly in favour of a closer association than now exists and the basic reason for this is not far to seek. Singapore is a commercial city. Originally the trade was mainly with foreign countries, but during more recent years, before the war, it had become increasingly the port of export and import to the Malay peninsula.

From the Singapore Annual Report, 1946.

Source D

The separation of Singapore from the Malayan Union not only conditioned the political development of the island but brought to the fore the question of a merger between the two territories. In the Malayan Union the Malays constituted the largest single ethnic group of 49% as against the Chinese 38%. This point was of great significance because the Chinese and non-Malays would have competed with the Malays for political power. The wish to allay Malay fears on this appears to have been mainly responsible for the British decision to exclude Singapore from the Malayan Union. In fact, the exclusion of Singapore from the mainland was urged by the Society of Malay Students in 1944 and UMNO in 1946. Malcolm MacDonald, the Governor-General of Southeast Asia claimed that the British were prepared to reverse the decision but had been blocked by Malay leaders during the Anglo-Malay constitutional discussions in mid-1946.

From Political Development in Singapore 1945–1955, by Yeo Kim Wah, 1973.

Source E

The separation of Singapore from the Malay peninsula was made for two main reasons. Firstly, Singapore was still important to Britain as a military base and, secondly, Singapore's overwhelmingly Chinese population would have upset the racial balance in the Malay peninsula.

Constitutional progress in Singapore proceeded at a slower pace than in Malaya. This was not entirely because of the Emergency as there had been little terrorist activity on the island. Although communists were active in infiltrating trades unions and extending their influence among the pupils of Chinese middle schools, police action had driven the leaders underground. Nonetheless, this obvious communist influence, together with the importance of the military bases, resulted in British reluctance to consider self-government.

From A History of Malaysia and Singapore, by N J Ryan, 1976.

Now answer the following question.

How far do Sources A–E support the view that Britain was more concerned with Malaya's interests than with Singapore's when it created a Crown Colony in 1946?

Section B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

2   Why was Siam able to avoid colonisation while other areas of Southeast Asia were parts of European empires in the years to 1914?

3   How far did colonial governments allow indigenous participation in administration in the period to 1941?

4   How far did the Great Depression of the 1930s affect Southeast Asian economies and societies in the years to 1941?

5   Assess the impact of Japanese Occupation on nationalist movements in Southeast Asia.

6   How far did the Cold War affect the process of decolonisation?

7   Assess the view that the emphasis on national unity led to political and economic tensions within newly-independent states.

8   To what extent were economic factors the cause of rivalry between newly-independent states?

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