



**HWA CHONG INSTITUTION (High School Section)**  
**INTEGRATED HUMANITIES CORE**  
**SECONDARY THREE**

Governance refers to the way a government manages its resources to carry out its legislative, executive and judicial functions. The legislature (Singapore Parliament) makes the laws. The executive (cabinet headed by the Prime Minister) executes the laws and administer government policies through the civil service. The judiciary (courts) ensures that the laws made by the parliament do not violate the constitution and the laws are carried out justly.

**Leadership is Key**

The pivotal/ central/ cardinal role of **leadership** in the good governance of Singapore has been endorsed by MM Lee Kuan Yew himself in many forums both domestic and foreign. His statements only serve to amplify the role of leadership in the good governance of Singapore. According to him, government leaders are human resource talents and the only resource Singapore has and its necessary that capable and talented leaders are staffed in government institutions. And because, talented leaders with integrity, moral courage and incorruptibility (e.g. Mr. Ong Teng Cheong, Mr. Goh Keng Swee) are difficult to come by, the Singapore government places a premium on selecting, grooming and staffing potential leaders for appropriate governmental roles. It is because of this principle that the leaders of the Singapore government are one of the most highly paid politicians in the world. In principle, these leaders are required to initiate/ propose/ debate/ implement even unpopular laws (e.g. ERP) that necessary for the society and the state. The necessity of good leaders are not confined to the government and administration as community leaders and trade unionist are also well regarded in Singapore. Although leadership plays an undeniable role in four principles of governance in Singapore, it not the only factor and the other 3 principles cannot be neglected.

**Reward for work and work for reward (Other factor)**

When applied to good governance, meritocracy is viewed as a system that rewards hard work. In the field of education for example, the principle of meritocracy is practiced in the disbursement of scholarships, where applicants are solely based on their abilities and qualifications. The same principle is applied in the civil service, where applicants are given access to appointments by virtue of their educational background and achievements. Bonuses are also awarded as recognition of their performance on the job. The rationale for meritocracy in a poly-ethnic Singapore is to ensure justice and fairness in the governance, without being overtly biased to any segment of the community.

**Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant (Other factor)**

The future challenges are particularly acute for a small city state with minimal natural resources to speak of. Therefore, good governance in decision making is premised on forward thinking. On this score, the New Water Project and the Integrated Resorts are cited examples how Singapore anticipates and solves future problems and remain sustainable and competitive.

**A stake for everyone and opportunities for all (Other factor)**

Finally, in the field of legislation, the Singapore government takes a consultative approach in seeking the view-points of the general population before making a decision. A consultative approach to good governance is employed to ensure that “there is a stake for everyone” and the voices of the citizens are considered before a policy/ law is made. This is particularly so if the policy/ legislation is a controversial one, e.g. Integrated Resort.

### **Conclusion**

There are four principles of good governance adopted by the Singapore government, at its heart is Leadership. The other complementing principles include meritocracy, dynamism and citizen consultation. The government makes decisions based on the principles of governance. Without good leadership, no right policies can be made. Without good leaders to decide on the IR for Singapore, competitors will catch up and our economy will suffer even though we have anticipated the future challenges to our tourism. Despite the good system of meritocracy and the desire to include everyone in the decision-making, we also need the good leaders to make right decisions and hence then can they anticipate and stay relevant. Thus in this regard, leadership is the most important factor.



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Recapitulation and Revision  
What Are The Guiding Principles of Governance?

**WHAT ARE THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE?**

**4.1 'Leadership is Key'**

- Singapore needs:
  - honest and capable leaders to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - leaders with moral courage and integrity to do \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_.
- As good leadership and good governance do not occur by chance, potential leaders must be specially \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Leaders are also selected based on their \_\_\_\_\_, besides talent and ability.
- Our leaders must be incorruptible so as \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- Good leadership is required not only in the government but also in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## **‘Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant’**

- Decisions made by the government need to be forward-looking. This means the government makes decisions

\_\_\_\_\_.

## **NEWater**

- NEWater is an example of how

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

- The Singapore government has realised that it cannot continue to depend on Malaysia for its water supply, especially since the two water agreements with Malaysia will end in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, the government set out to find alternative water supplies in order to be self-sufficient by producing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ water.
- The government communicated with the people to assure them that NEWater is safe for drinking through various channels such as

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Integrated Resorts**

- In recent year, Singapore’s tourism sector faced competition with more countries in Asia developing major tourist attractions.
- To capture the growing market, the Singapore government realised that it is necessary to improve \_\_\_\_\_.
- Therefore, the government decided in April 2005 to build

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

## **Taking Risks**

- To ‘Anticipate Change and Stay Relevant’, Singapore has to be

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

- Students can contribute by

\_\_\_\_\_.

- Every Singaporean also needs to

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

#### 4.2 'Reward for Work and Work for Reward'

- Meritocracy means

\_\_\_\_\_.

- When people are rewarded based on their \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_, they are encouraged to do well.

- Meritocracy helps to give everybody in society

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and be rewarded for their performance

regardless of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

- Examples of how the government rewards deserving Singaporeans:

- The Edusave Scholarship and Merit Bursary schemes reward

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

- Surplus from Singapore's growth has been shared among all Singaporeans as a form of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ was one such example.

#### 4.4 A Stake for Everyone, Opportunities for All'

- It is important to involve all Singaporeans in decision-making as having a say in decision-making develops in people

\_\_\_\_\_.

- Policy decisions are made to serve \_\_\_\_\_.  
Although these decisions may change to suit the needs of the people and the nation over time, they still need to be made based on

\_\_\_\_\_.



**HWA CHONG INSTITUTION (High School Section)**  
**INTEGRATED HUMANITIES CORE (Healthcare Policies)**  
**SECONDARY THREE**

Singapore's healthcare system is kept **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ due to **government subsidies**. Direct **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ are given to government hospitals, polyclinic and some nursing homes for the elderly to ensure that basic healthcare services are available for all Singaporeans. In 2000, subsidies made up one quarter of government spending on healthcare. In addition, to ensure that healthcare remains affordable for most Singaporeans, especially the **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ group, the government gives different rates of subsidies to the different classes of **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ in hospitals. For example, Class **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ wards receive the **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ in subsidies.

Singapore's healthcare system is kept affordable due to **the belief in personal responsibility or (7)** \_\_\_\_\_. The government wants to avoid the ills of a welfare state system. Hence individuals have to foot part of the medical expenses incurred. Schemes like Medisave and MediShield are put in place to enable the individual to play their part in paying for their **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ healthcare costs. For example, the Medisave Scheme is a **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ savings scheme designed to help Singaporeans pay for their family members' and their **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ fees, especially after retirement. This comes from a worker's Central Provident Fund contributions (6-7% goes to the Medisave account). By encouraging Singaporeans to have money in their **(11)** \_\_\_\_\_ accounts, they are better able to pay for healthcare. In this way, the people **(12)** \_\_\_\_\_ the costs of healthcare with the government, inevitably making healthcare affordable. The **(13)** \_\_\_\_\_ Scheme is a voluntary scheme designed to help pay medical fees incurred by serious or **(14)** \_\_\_\_\_ illnesses such as cancer and kidney failure. This is an **(15)** \_\_\_\_\_ scheme where members pay a small sum of money through their Medisave. Thus the implementation of these two schemes by the government shows that personal or shared responsibility is an important consideration in government healthcare policies as it makes healthcare affordable for Singaporeans.

Singapore's healthcare system is also kept affordable due to the Medifund scheme. Some **(16)** \_\_\_\_\_ Singaporeans who despite Medisave, MediShield and government subsidies may still be unable to afford to pay for their medical expenses. For example, low-income workers and their families may not have enough funds in their Medisave. Some **(17)** \_\_\_\_\_ people do not make any CPF contributions and therefore, do not have Medisave. They may not have enough cash to pay their medical bills. **(18)** \_\_\_\_\_ was thus set up to help these people. The government started with a fund of \$200 million and the interest earned from this fund is given to public hospitals to provide help for the needy patients. Patients who need help **(19)** \_\_\_\_\_ for the fund at the hospital where they are being treated. Hence this scheme further makes the healthcare system affordable for the poor and needy patients.

It cannot be denied that **the (20) \_\_\_\_\_ is the most important factor in determining healthcare policies in Singapore. Although the belief in personal responsibility is important, without the government's efforts to implement the Medisave, Medishield and Medifund, no amount of belief in personal responsibility can ensure that health policies are effectively implemented. Thus government subsidies keep the healthcare costs for most Singaporeans affordable to a large extent.**