



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

**Chapter 2: Governance in Singapore**

By the end of the chapter, you will understand:

- How governance is practised in Singapore.
- What the guiding principles of governance are.

Concepts:

1. Parliamentary Democracy
2. Governance
3. Executive
4. Legislature
5. Judiciary
6. Principles of governance

**Introduction:**

The Rendell Commission and the subsequent Rendell Constitution put in place a Westminster styled Parliamentary System of Government for Singapore, with the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary. Under the parliamentary system, the government is headed by the Prime Minister assisted by the Cabinet Ministers. The ceremonial head of state is the President. Can you name the following:

**President of Singapore:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prime Minister of Singapore:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Finance Minister of Singapore:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Defence Minister of Singapore:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Education Minister of Singapore:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Law Minister of Singapore:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minister for Home Affairs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minister for Health:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Transport Minister of Singapore:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Singapore Parliamentary System is somewhat similar with the British system where the Gordon Brown is the current Prime Minister of Britain, with the Queen Elizabeth II the Ceremonial Head of State. In the Singapore however, the constitutional changes in 1991 provides the President with more powers with the handling of the accumulated reserves. Having said that, Singapore is not a Liberal Democracy like UK. This is due to 2 major considerations:

- a. The International Security Act (ISA): This Act allows for detention of any persons posing as a threat to the Internal Security of Singapore. From independence to the 1980s, the ISA was used to detain Communist and Religious extremist who were deemed National Security Threats. Today, the Act is still relevant for containing the Terrorist Threat, a new form of internal threat to the state of Singapore.
- b. Restrictions of the Free Press: Racial and religious and other politically seditious materials are vetted by the government before they are published.

**The rationale for the continued existence of these 2 laws are essentially rooted in Singapore's unique history. Can you identify them?**

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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_.