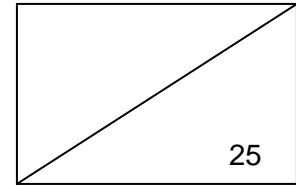




**HWA CHONG INSTITUTION (High School Section)**  
**INTEGRATED HUMANITIES (Merger and Separation)**  
**SEC. 3 IHC (Time Based Writing Exercise 2)**



**Merger and Separation (302/i2/A2/P2)**

Was the British reluctance to grant Singapore independence the reason behind the merger?  
Explain your answer. [12]

“Economically, the merger did not benefit Singapore.” To what extent do you agree that this was the reason for separation? Explain your answer. [13]

**Marker’s report**

Some students were not aware the question requires students to address the reluctance of the British to grant independence to Singapore first, before addressing 2 other factors. U.K was not willing to grant independence to Singapore because, they were of the opinion that Singapore was too small to survive on its own, and it lacked the natural resources (including water) to sustain the needs of the local population.

Economic consideration aside, UK was also not willing to grant independence, as they were fearful that Singapore might become an outpost for communist China, as there were numerous leftist elements that played an influential roles in domestic politics. Radicals PAP members like Fong Swee Suan and Lim Chin Siong espoused militant trade unionism and radical anti-colonialism, which made UK apprehensive about granting independence to Singapore, as this would endanger their investments and Naval presence.

After explaining the given factor (i.e. Britain’s reluctance), students must explain 2 other factors, before evaluating which was the most significant factor. Pertinent issues, like the Common Market and Tunku’s Security Concerns must be explained. Students can make 2 logically sound cases to support their conclusions.

One probable reasoning is the proposal for common market and security coordination under KL appeased the British High Commissioner, who eventually granted independence of Singapore through a merger. The second possible reasoning is the dominant role played by Tunku in the merger. Ultimately, it was Tunku who decided to accept into the Federation and this must be justified by interpreting the Operation Cold Store.

The second part of the essay was very poorly explained as students did not have sufficient time to complete the question. The given factor, i.e. the economic differences, must explained, in addition to the racial tensions. The highest level answer, (unfortunately no answers were able to present this) was recognizing the political rivalry between UMNO and PAP that was the underlying reason that resonated in the economic rivalry and racial tensions. Do note that students only have 50 minutes to address both parts, which requires them to address the question directly.

- a. Was the British reluctance to grant Singapore independence the reason behind the merger? Explain your answer. [12]

Level of response	Level Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	<b>Describes issue but no discussion or identification of reasons</b>	1-2m
L2	<b>Identify factors on given factor and/or alternative factors / poor explanation (3m: one-sided 4m: two sided)</b>	3-4m
L3	<p><b>Yes. Agrees with statement, explained. OR No. Disagrees with statement but provide alternative method[s], explained. / One-sided answer. 5m: Average 6m: Sound.</b></p> <p>Yes, Singapore <b>would never achieve real independence from the British, for it was a tiny island with no natural resources and its survival was in question. Moreover, the</b> PAP was decidedly left-wing and contained radical elements (namely Fong Swee Suan, Lim Chin Siong, Sandra Woodhull and James and Dominic Puthuchear). Within the Cold War scheme, the British would not grant independence to Singapore for the fears of the island succumbing to the communist ideology.(6m) A merger with the Federation of Malaya would rid Singapore from the communist threat, as the Federal government had superior security forces and expertise in suppressing the communist challenge since the Malayan Emergency of 1948.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>No, moderates in the PAP, proposed the establishment of a Common Market following the merger. It was conceived that with a Common Market, new/ emerging industries could be set up to diversify the island's economy away from entrepot trade. Also, these new industries would create more jobs for the population that boomed following the conclusion of the Second World War. (5m).The moderates in the PAP indeed desired a common market through a merger. Singapore's <b>entrepot trade was shrinking and its population rising, its need for foreign investments</b> and understood that the proposal for a common market would satisfy the needs of a growing population. (6m) and win the support of the masses in the</p>	5-6m

	<p>1963 Elections.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Tunku Abdul Rahman feared that the leftist in PAP would use of Singapore to spread communism to Malaya, and a merger was a political tool to halt the spread as Internal Security and Preservation of Public Security Ordinance (PPSO) was to be coordinated by the capital, Kuala Lumpur. He proposed the inclusion of S'pore only in 1961, when he realized that the moderates in PAP were losing power, and feared a communist takeover of S'pore, which would speared to Peninsular Malaysia.</p>																																													
<b>L4</b>	<p><b>Both elements of L3</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="375 724 1183 1108"> <thead> <tr> <th>Given Factor</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Marks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Weak</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>-</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weak</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weak</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>-</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weak</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weak</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strong</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>-</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strong</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strong</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>-</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strong</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strong</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Award 9m to answers, which explain the issue but shows that there are other reasons/factors. Award additional marks for any further details/explanations on either side.</b></p>	Given Factor	Other	Other	Marks	Weak	Weak	-	7	Weak	Weak	Weak	8	Weak	Strong	-	8	Weak	Strong	Weak	8	Weak	Strong	Strong	8	Strong	Weak	-	8	Strong	Weak	Weak	9	Strong	Strong	-	9	Strong	Strong	Weak	10	Strong	Strong	Strong	11	<b>7-11m</b>
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<b>L5</b>	<p><b>Evaluation based on perspective and priorities upon evaluating all the factors.</b></p>	<b>12</b>																																												

- b. “Economically, the merger did not benefit Singapore.” To what extent do you agree that this was the reason for separation? Explain your answer. [13]

Level of response	Level Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	<p><b>Describes issue but no discussion or identification of reasons</b></p> <p><i>E.g. Tunku Abdul Rahman expelled Singapore from the Malaysian Federation in Aug. 1965.</i></p>	1-2m
L2	<p><b>Agrees with the statement and/or identifies other factors/ poor explanation</b></p> <p><i>E.g. Yes, economically the merger did not benefit Singapore as the common market was not set up as Malaysia saw Singapore as a rival. This difference led to the separation.</i></p> <p><i>E.g. No, the primary reason for the separation was the political rivalry between UMNO and PAP.</i></p> <p><i>E.g. No, it was the racial/ communal tensions that led to the separation of Singapore from Malaysia.</i></p>	3-4m
L3	<p><b>Explain 1 factor (One sided answer)</b></p> <p>5m: weak 6m: good (sound)</p> <p>e.g. An early economic difference revolved around the collection of <b>Singapore’s taxes</b>. This disagreement was settled, by Singapore collecting her own revenue and give <b>40 percent towards Federal Reserve’s- but</b> during the 1964 Budget debate, the Malaysian Finance minister (Tan Siew Sin) had called for a revision of Singapore’s contribution to the central government from the agreed 40% to 60% of Singapore’s revenue, which affected the turnover tax and payroll tax of companies in labour intensive industries in Singapore severely. Also, Tan Siew Sin slapped a <b>hefty import tax on light bulbs just as an electric light bulb company</b> is about to start production in Singapore with Singapore bulbs being considered as imports. The common market never took off and Singapore’s industrialization programme failed when Tan told foreign industrialist that they should consult the central government before setting up</p>	5-6m

factories in Singapore, leading to a sharp fall in the number of pioneer certificates awarded to Singapore industries, leading to fears of growing unemployment. Singapore's Finance Minister Goh Keng Swee, debated that the merger did not yield any economic benefit to Singapore, as the central government viewed Singapore as an economic rival, rather than a partner which culminated in the separation.

**OR**

By the 1960s, PAP emerged as a multi-racial political party that believed that political loyalty should be passed on meritocracy and pragmatism, rather than race. This political principle was squarely opposed to the communal (race) based politics that the political parties in the Federation. This led to political rivalry and mistrust. Also, the merger terms were also violated during the 1963 Elections & 1964 Federal Elections. For instance, during the 1964 Federal Elections PAP's entry into the Federal elections was seen as an attempt to challenge the UMNO's political power. Even though PAP candidate (and future President of Singapore) Devan Nair won in Bangsar, the damage between Singapore and Malaysia was tremendous. Beneath a climate of political rivalry and mistrust, the creation of the Malaysian Solidarity Convention (MSC) by the PAP on 9 May 1965 is widely viewed as the immediate cause of the separation. The declaration of a "Malaysian Malaysia"- an ideology that opposed the special rights of the Malays (or Bumiputras), this (MSC) was **taken as an attack on Malay rights, and became a contentious topic that made separation inevitable. (7m)**

**OR**

Racial tensions climaxed in May 1964, when the Singapore government began to push for an ambitious urban redevelopment plan for Crawford. Kampong Glam and Rochor that required the resettlement of 2, 500 families, including 200 Malay ones. The Utusan Melaya newspaper to accuse the PAP of fragmenting the Malay society by writing that, "Malays in Singapore today facing threat, pressure and oppression by the Singapore government" and "Singapore UMNO directed to take steps to save PAP victims". This media campaign created serious tensions between Malays and Chinese in the Federation and in Singapore. Emotions ran high with calls to kill Lee Kuan Yew, before erupting on 21 July 1964.

<b>L4</b>	<b>Explains one factor well and identifies/describe other factor(s)</b>	<b>7</b>																												
<b>L5</b>	<p><b>Both elements of L3</b></p> <p>Award 9m to answers, which explain one factor but shows that there are other factors. Award additional marks for any further details/explanations on either side.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="383 548 1216 793"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Political</b></th> <th><b>Economic</b></th> <th><b>Racial</b></th> <th><b>Marks</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Weak</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>-</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weak</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strong</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strong</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>-</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strong</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>Weak</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strong</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>Strong</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Political</b>	<b>Economic</b>	<b>Racial</b>	<b>Marks</b>	Weak	Weak	-	8	Weak	Weak	Weak	9	Strong	Weak	Weak	10	Strong	Strong	-	10	Strong	Strong	Weak	11	Strong	Strong	Strong	12	<b>8-12</b>
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<b>L6</b>	<p>Award 13 marks to answers that demonstrate not only why 1 cause was more important but also why other causes were less important based on a criterion such as impact. Award additional mark to answers that demonstrate how causes were inter-linked.</p>	<b>13</b>																												