Mid-Year Examination – IH 2013

Section C – Constructing Explanations
Answer any 2 questions

Answering Format:
- Use the PEEL format
- Any 3 factors/reasons/problems

P = Point
E = Explain/Elaborate
E = Evidence/Example
L = LINK

Any 3 reasons/factors/problems for each Question!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Marks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>Describes the topic without addressing the question</td>
<td>1-2m</td>
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<tr>
<td>L2</td>
<td>Explains ONE problem/reason/factor</td>
<td>3-5m</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3m: 1 weak explanation / 4m: 1 strong explanation / 5m: 1m for additional details</td>
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<tr>
<td>L3</td>
<td>Explains other 2 problems/reasons/factors.</td>
<td>5-10m</td>
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<td>5m 1S+1W / 2W</td>
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<td>6m 1S+2W / 3W / 2S</td>
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<td>7m 2S+1W</td>
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<td>8m 3S</td>
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<td>9-10m +1 for additional details max 10m</td>
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The following are NOT model answers – merely some improved paragraphs of students’ answers.
Why was there merger between Singapore and Malaya in 1963? (10M)** Any 3 Points (Economic + Political)

Singapore pressed for merger because it saw the need to create a common market. Singapore was at a disadvantage because the Malayan government had introduced trade tariffs on goods between the two countries. The trade tariffs caused difficulties for local industries and decreased their profits. Lee Kuan Yew felt that the creation of a Common Market would be beneficial for Singapore. Products manufactured in Singapore then could be sold in Malayan markets as there are no more tariffs. Singapore also had a high rate of unemployment at that period of time. With the creation of a Common Market, more new industries could be started to generate more trade and also help solve the problem of unemployment. Therefore, Singapore wanted merger in order to create a Common Market. 

OR

Singapore wanted merger because it saw the need to create a Common Market. Singapore lacked natural resources and Singapore recognized the need to create a common market out of the hinterland that would sustain and nurture Singapore's attempts at industrialization. Singapore once depended on entrepot trade for income, but it was declining and was not enough to support the growing population in Singapore. Also, Malaya had introduced trade tariffs on goods between the two countries, greatly decreasing Singapore's profit. With the growing population, unemployment rates were also increasing. Singapore believed that with merger, a Common Market could be established, which would help Singapore's economic crisis by eliminating the trade tariffs and increasing Singapore's profits. It would also generate more jobs for the people. Therefore, Singapore merged with Malaya.

OR

Singapore wanted merger with Malaya because it wanted to ensure the political survival of the People's Action Party (PAP). Lee Kuan Yew knew that to retain the support of the Singaporians, he had to fulfil his 1959 electoral promise of winning independence for Singapore. Since Lee Kuan Yew believed that Singapore would not be able to survive on its own, he looked towards merging with Malaya to fulfil his electoral promise. In addition, there was a split in the PAP and Lee Kuan Yew feared that the radicals might gain an upper hand within the party and the nation. In April 1961, Ong Eng Guan, who was the then Minister for National Development, had resigned from the party (PAP) and defeated the PAP candidate. Therefore, Lee Kuan Yew needed independence to prove to the people that he had an effective party and to win votes over from the radicals.

There was merger between Singapore and Malaya because Singapore believed that independence from the British could only be gained through merger. The British were afraid of the Communist threat because they believed in the domino theory, that the communists would take over Southeast Asia after they conquer Singapore. Since Malaya is strongly anti-communist, the British were more assured that Malaya could help subdue the Communists in Singapore. Therefore, Singapore knew that it had a higher chance of asking for independence from the British through a merger with Malaya.

OR

There was merger between Singapore and Malaya because Singapore felt that British will only grant Singapore independence through merger as the British feared that Singapore will fall to communism. The British believed that Singapore was too small to stand up as a country and if Singapore was granted independence, communism will gain dominance over Singapore. Malaya was strongly anti-communist thus Lee Kuan Yew believed that the merger will help to get rid of communism, which will gain the confidence of the British government to grant Singapore independence. Therefore, Lee Kuan Yew felt that merger with Malaya will increase the chances of getting independence.
Singapore and Malaya merged because Tunku Abdul Rahman of Malaya wanted to reduce/eradicate the threat of communism. The radicals were gaining power and Tunku Abdul Rahman was worried that communism would spread into Malaya. The PAP candidates lost to the opposition candidates who were radicals in two by-elections. Tunku Abdul Rahman did not want Singapore to be a base for communism to spread and he certainly did not want to have a troublesome neighbour which would affect the people of Malaya. Lee Kuan Yew felt that Tunku Abdul Rahman was harsh towards communism and could possibly get rid of it. Even though communism in Malaya was already eradicated, Tunku Abdul Rahman was fearful that Singapore would become a communist country and spread communism into Malaya through the Chinese majority who were particularly affected by communism. Therefore, he had to prevent Singapore from becoming a communist country and saw the need to merge with Singapore so that he could have the power to solve the communism problem. Hence, there was merger between Singapore and Malaya.
What led to separation in 1965? (10M)
** Include Point 1 (Economic differences) + any other 2 Points

Economic differences contributed to the separation of Singapore from Malaysia (P). Singapore joined Malaysia hoping to enjoy the economic benefits after the Common Market was set up. However, tariffs were still imposed on Singapore-produced goods exported to the other states in Malaysia. The delay in setting up a common market was partly due to the fact that Singapore was seen as an economic rival even though it was now part of Malaysia. In addition, Singapore was unhappy with the Central government’s decisions to introduce new taxes in Singapore and increase Singapore’s contribution of its revenue to the Central government from 40% to 60%. This decision was seen as unfair by Singapore as it would lose revenue and it was already suffering due to the trade embargo by Indonesia over merger. These differences over economic issues led to a strain in relationship between Singapore and Malaya, and eventually resulted in separation (L).

OR

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Political differences between PAP and UMNO led to the separation in 1965 (P). The Central Government in Kuala Lumpur expected Singapore to adjust to the Malayan system where many of the political parties were formed along the racial lines which consisted of United Malays National Organisation, Malayan Chinese Association and Malayan Indian Congress. However, the PAP was a multiracial party and Lee Kuan Yew refused to adjust to communal politics nor follow the instructions of the Central Government, causing friction between Tunku Abdul Rahman and himself. Another difference between Singapore and Malaya was the treatment of races. PAP government felt that the people’s standard of living would improve through education and industrialisation and believed that everyone should be given equal opportunity to succeed. However, in Malaya, certain special rights were given to the Malays to help them improve their standard of living. Over a period of time, these problems strained their relationships as they had different views and could not reach a unanimous decision. Thus, this led to the separation as they could not get along well with each other (L).

OR

The reason of the separation of Singapore and Malaysia was due to the political differences between PAP and UMNO(P). The Central Government in Kuala Lumpur, led by UMNO, believed that Singapore should obey their instructions but Singapore wanted to continue to exercise autonomy and formulate policies. This caused UMNO to become extremely displeased with PAP for not listening to them. These strained their relationships because Tunku Abdul Rahman felt that PAP should respect him and give him the authority because UMNO is the Central Government. PAP also believed in multiracialism while UMNO believed in special right for the Malays. Tunku Abdul Rahman saw this as a challenge to his authority. As a result, the PAP and UMNO could not get along well and often disagreed with each other. This led to separation as PAP could not get along well with the Central Government in Kuala Lumpur (L).
The political rivalry between the Alliance Party and the PAP eventually led to the separation of Singapore from Malaysia (L). During the 1963 State elections of Singapore, the PAP won 37 seats out of 51 seats, beating the Singapore Alliance Party which was supported by UMNO. This upset UMNO as it expected to win seats in three regions in Singapore which had Malay majority. The PAP then decided to participate in the 1964 Federal Elections and this posed a political threat to UMNO. Although PAP only won one seat, the multiracial party was perceived as a challenge to the Chinese-led Malayan Chinese Association, which was a partner of the UMNO-led Alliance, and UMNO itself. This strained the relationship as political rivalry arose between the two parties. Relationships were worsened when PAP, together with four other rival parties, formed the Malaysian Solidarity Convention and the Alliance feared that they were planning to take over the majority in the Central Government. Therefore, Singapore was separated from Malaysia to remove the political threat that the PAP posed.

OR

Separation occurred because of the political threat posed by the PAP (L). The PAP had an overwhelming victory in the 1963 Singapore elections. The PAP’s victory included 3 mostly Malay constituencies that were contested by the Singapore branch of UMNO. UMNO saw this as a threat because it expected to win all 3 seats in the Malay-dominated areas and were also afraid that PAP would soon gain the locals’ trust and overturn UMNO in the future years. Much worse, PAP contested in the 1964 Federal elections. UMNO saw this as a political threat to them. The PAP also formed the Malaysian Solidarity Convention, which functioned to campaign with 4 other political parties to form a “Malaysian Malaysia”. UMNO was afraid that the Malaysian Solidarity Convention would gain support from the people and replace the Alliance in the Central Government. Therefore, separation was necessary to remove the threat posed by the PAP.

Tunku Abdul Rahman believed that separation was necessary to restore law and order after the racial tensions and riots. The racial politicking by the UMNO officials resulted in 2 riots. One of which occurred at Muslim Prophet Mohammad’s birthday in July. The other occurred in September. 23 people were killed and 454 injured during the riot in July. In the riot in September, 13 were killed and 106 injured. With the formation of the Malaysian Solidarity Convention, Tunku Abdul Rahman had no choice but to force Singapore to leave Malaysia. Separation was required as he was afraid that racial clashes were likely to happen again if the differences between the Alliance and the PAP were not resolved.

OR

Tunku Abdul Rahman believed that separation was necessary to restore law and order after the racial tensions and riots. The racial politicking of the UMNO officials resulted in communal riots. One of them was during the eve of the planned massive celebrations of Prophet Muhammad’s birthday on the 21st July 1964. This started when a Chinese threw a bottle at the Muslims. Malays escalated from a verbal war of taunts and insults with Chinese bystanders to violence. This happened for five days, that left 23 people dead and 454 injured. Curfew hours were imposed to restore law and order. UMNO was concerned that these riots could potentially happen in Malaysia if the racial politicking continued. After the riots, both parties agreed not to raise any racial matters for the next 2 years. However in October 1964, the Singapore Alliance announced that it would undergo reorganisation for the State election in 1967. In retaliation, PAP brought 4 other opposition parties to form the Malaysian Solidarity Convention (MSC). They campaigned for a “Malaysian Malaysia” which upset Tunku Abdul Rahman because it seemed to question the special rights enjoyed by the Malays. He was afraid that rioting would spread to mainland Malaysia itself since it looked like Singapore and the Central Government would be unable to resolve their issues. Therefore, for law and order in Malaysia, Singapore was forced to separate from Malaysia.