



JURONG JUNIOR COLLEGE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2014

HISTORY 9731/2

Paper 2: History of Southeast Asia c1900-1997

Wednesday

17 September 2014

3 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

1. Answer **four** questions.
2. You must answer Question 1 (Section A), and any three questions from Section B.
3. Enter the questions attempted in the table below.
4. Begin each question on a new sheet of paper.
5. **At the end of the examination attach the cover page to the front of your answer scripts**
6. Fasten all your work securely together.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

NAME:	CLASS:
--------------	---------------

[BLANK PAGE]

Section A

You **must** answer Question 1.

ASEAN and REGIONAL DIPLOMACY

- 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

By not forcing its incredibly diverse and mutually suspicious members into legally binding standards, ASEAN has done the remarkable job of moving its members from animosity to the close cooperative relationship that they enjoy today, a relationship in which violent conflict is all but unthinkable. Even today, thirty-four years after its founding, ASEAN adheres to the evolutionary approach, relying largely on patient consensus-building to arrive at informal understandings or loose agreements. Southeast Asians' way of dealing with one another has been through manifestations of goodwill and the slow winning and giving of trust. And the way to arrive at agreements has been through consultation and consensus rather than across-the-table negotiations involving bargaining and give-and-take that result in deals enforceable in a court of law. Historical circumstances and culture can provide at least a partial explanation for ASEAN's avoidance, particularly in its early days, of legally binding agreements.

Rodolfo Severino, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, speaking at the International Law Conference, September 2001.

Source B

Like many multilateral organisations, ASEAN resembles a convoy that moves at the speed of its slowest ship. Its diversity is a brake on planned action, including preventive diplomacy. Within its ranks there are vibrant democracies, controlled democracies, communist one-party states, military regimes, and feudal kingdoms. ASEAN's consensus-based decision making gives each member an effective veto over decisions regarding the organisation's agenda, interventions, reforms and decision-making powers. Quite deliberately, authority to make collective policy still rests within the governments or foreign ministries of each member state. Members have no desire to cultivate an independent and activist ASEAN secretariat. Its primary task remains to organise the grouping's more than 600 annual meetings involving working level officials on highly technical cooperation and to plan for summits with heads of state. The ASEAN Secretary-General has a very limited role, and, to an even greater extent than his UN counterpart, he has been regarded as more "secretary" than "general".

From an academic article published in 2011.

Source C

Currently ASEAN summits and forums allow only for member states to air their concerns, which are often as varied as the reasons for why they are ultimately not jointly addressed. Because member states are not bound to honour any proposed or passed resolution, these assemblies lack the power to force action. Established in 1967 as a five-nation bulwark against the spread of communism, ASEAN continues to operate on the principles of respect for each member's national sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Over the years, this arrangement has helped to avoid the creation of internal power blocs, where the biggest and most powerful states could have tried to dictate the affairs of smaller members. The absence of any binding force, however, has rendered ASEAN essentially ineffective in leading the region or resolving crises. The future of ASEAN depends on how much its members are willing to give in order to take. If ASEAN is to become an effective force for change in Southeast Asia, it must have the ability to bind its members to resolutions.

From an on-line newspaper published in 2012.

Source D

People who dismiss ASEAN as an ineffectual "talking shop" make a big mistake. But so do those who assume ASEAN will forever provide the answer to every strategic or diplomatic question in South-east Asia. Like any institution, ASEAN's success has been a product of its circumstances and, as circumstances change, its future is not assured. ASEAN's most important achievement can be easy to overlook because it has been so successful. It has created and upheld the principle that its members do not use or threaten force against one another. The few occasions on which this principle has been violated only help to show how widely it has been respected.

From an article published in The Straits Times in 2014.

Source E

Allow me to elaborate on the question of the "ASEAN way". ASEAN has always adopted the step-by-step approach, which is moving at a pace comfortable to all. The ASEAN comfort level has been established as a result of the common observance of certain fundamental values and principles. These include mutual respect for national sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity as well as non-interference, peaceful settlement of disputes, rejection of the threat or use of force, effective regional cooperation and decision making by consensus. It may appear difficult to comprehend the usefulness of the values and principles I have just outlined. But, I wish to state that it is because of these shared values and principles that ASEAN has remained intact, united, relevant to the region and still going strong since its establishment in 1967.

From a speech by Prime Minister of Malaysia, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at Asia Society Programme, New York, September 2005.

Now answer the following question.

How far do Sources A-E support the view that ASEAN Way was significant in achieving regional diplomacy?

Section B

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

2. How far has secularisation contributed to the development of the nationalist movements in Southeast Asia before World War Two?
3. How effective was collaboration in helping the cause of the nationalists in Southeast Asia after World War Two?
4. Why were communist influences more significant in the politics of some independent Southeast Asian countries than others?
5. Assess the progress of religion in the forging of national unity in independent Southeast Asian states.
6. To what extent have economic interests led to regional integration between Southeast Asian countries?

END