

Chapter 1: How Connected Was Early Singapore to the Region and the World?

Topic 1: Factors for the Rise of Temasek (13th–15th Century AD)	Topic 2: Factors for the Decline of Temasek/Singapura (15th–18th Century AD)
<u>Strategic Location:</u> Positioned at the southern tip of the Straits of Melaka along the maritime Silk Road between India and China. Served as a meeting point for the northeast and southwest monsoon winds. <u>Stability:</u> Founded by Srivijayan prince Sang Nila Utama in 1299, it offered a safe, predictable environment for merchants. <u>Entrepôt Trade Hub:</u> Functioned as an intermediary hub importing, storing, and re-exporting goods (e.g., Chinese porcelain, iron pots, satin). Had active trade connections with Ming China and regional ports.	<u>15th Century Decline:</u> 1. Chinese Economic Decline: Severe droughts and famines in China reduced trade with Southeast Asia. 2. External Threats: Repeated military attacks from the Majapahit Empire and Ayutthaya Kingdom (Siam). 3. Rise of Melaka: Parameswara fled Singapura in 1402 and founded the Melaka Sultanate, which overshadowed Singapore as the regional trading center. <u>16th–18th Century Decline:</u> 1. Johor Sultanate Era: Singapore served as a naval base and first line of defense for the Johor Lama, managed by a Shahbandar (port master). 2. Portuguese Attack (1613): The Portuguese burned down the outpost, disrupting trade. 3. Rise of Dutch Power: The Dutch set up headquarters in Batavia (1610) and captured Melaka (1641), shifting trade routes away to the Sunda Straits.

Chapter 2: How Did Singapore Become a British Trading Post? (SBQ Topic)

Topic 1: Reasons the British Set Up a Trading Post in Singapore	Topic 2: Challenges Faced by the British and How They Were Overcome	Topic 3: Key Individuals & Contributions (1819–1826)
---	---	--

<u>Protect India-China Trade:</u> The British East India Company (EIC) needed a strategic port free from Dutch control along the Straits of Melaka to safeguard trade in Indian opium/cotton and Chinese tea/silk. <u>Share in the Spice Trade:</u> Break the lucrative Dutch monopoly on Southeast Asian spices. <u>Unsuitability of Existing Ports:</u> Penang was located too far north, while Bencoolen was positioned on the western coast of Sumatra away from main trade routes.	<u>Lack of Permission:</u> The EIC (East India Company) authority to establish a post. Raffles exploited a succession dispute in the Johor-Riau Sultanate, recognizing Tengku Hussein as Sultan and signing the 1819 Preliminary Treaty. <u>Dutch Opposition:</u> The Dutch claimed Singapore fell under their sphere of influence. Resolved via the 1824 Anglo-Dutch Treaty (partitioning spheres of influence) and the 1824 Treaty of Friendship and Alliance (signed by John Crawfurd, officially ceding Singapore to the EIC).	<u>Sir Stamford Raffles:</u> Selected Singapore for its deep sheltered harbor; declared free port status; established the Singapore Town Plan. <u>William Farquhar (First Resident):</u> Practiced on-the-ground administration; invited settlers and merchants; cleared land and established early police defenses. <u>Dr. John Crawfurd (Second Resident):</u> Negotiated the 1824 treaty transferring full sovereignty to Britain; introduced street lighting and Singapore's first newspaper
---	--	--

Chapter 3: British Rule and External Developments (1819–1942)

Topic 1: Challenges Faced and British Administrative Solutions	Topic 2: Impact of External Developments on Growth
--	--

<u>Port Congestion:</u> Singapore River became choked with traffic → Constructed Keppel Harbour (1852) in deep waters to dock large steamships <u>Lawlessness & Crime:</u> Small, ineffective police force → Thomas Dunman (1857 Commissioner) raised police salaries and working conditions to attract disciplined officers <u>Labor Exploitation, Gangs, Prostitution:</u> Abuses against coolies and young women → Established the Chinese Protectorate (1877) under William Pickering (inspected coolie ships/lodgings) and Po Leung Kok (1878) (shelter for women) <u>Piracy:</u> Attacks on merchant vessels → Deployed British Navy gunboats and increased sea patrols in the 1870s. <u>Lack of Public Welfare:</u> High death rates and disease outbreaks → Set up a Public Health Department, built Outram General Hospital (1882), drained malaria swamps, and funded English-medium schools after becoming a Crown Colony in 1867. .★❁° Look at Google Keep for more info!	<u>Opening of the Suez Canal (1869):</u> Reduced London-Singapore travel time from 120 days to 50 days, massively boosting shipping traffic and turning Singapore into a global coaling station. <u>Tin & Rubber Boom (Late 19th-Early 20th C):</u> Western demand for food cans and car tires surged; Malaya produced raw resources while Singapore served as the primary export and smelting port. <u>The Great Depression (1929):</u> The US stock market crash triggered a global economic collapse; demand for tin/rubber crashed, causing mass unemployment, business failures, and poverty in Singapore.
--	---

Chapter 4: What Role Did the People Play in Singapore's Development? (SBQ Topic) *QUITE IMPT LOOK AT EVERYTH*

Topic 1: Reasons Why Migrants Came (Push & Pull Factors)	Topic 2: Challenges Faced by Migrants in Singapore	Topic 3: Contributions of Migrants
--	--	------------------------------------

<u>Push Factors:</u> Severe poverty, starvation, double taxes, civil wars, and breakdown of law/order under the Qing (Manchu) Dynasty in China; wars and poverty in India/regional homelands. <u>Pull Factors:</u> Job prospects, free port status (absence of tariffs), peace, and security under British rule. <u>.Look at Q2a 2025 EOY Question for push factor!</u>	<u>Labor Exploitation:</u> "Credit coolies" trapped in debt-bondage to coolie agents, locked up in cramped, unhygienic lodging houses. <u>Vice & Secret Societies:</u> Gangs ran protection rackets, gambling, and opium dens. <u>Systemic Discrimination:</u> European officials received far higher salaries than experienced Asian staff; Asians were barred from certain spaces and first-class train carriages.	<u>Laborers (Infrastructure & Port Operations):</u> Chinese coolies (unloaded cargo), Samsui women (construction/building roads), Indian convicts (cleared jungles, constructed civic buildings like Parliament House). <u>Entrepreneurs (Economy & Trade):</u> European agency houses (Guthrie, Boustead), Arab/Bugis traders (spices, regional goods), Straits Chinese (bilingual middlemen), Indian Chettiers (moneylending/capital). <u>Philanthropists (Social Welfare):</u> Tan Tock Seng (funded hospital for the poor), Tan Kim Seng (donated for public waterworks/reservoir), Tan Kah Kee (funded schools like Tao Nan, Ai Tong, and Chinese High).
---	---	--

Chapter 5: Japanese Invasion of Singapore (1941–1942) (SBQ Topic)

Topic 1: Reasons for WWII in Southeast Asia	Topic 2: The "Singapore Strategy" and Its Failure	Topic 3: Reasons for the Fall of Singapore to the Japanese
---	---	--

<u>Rise of Nazi Germany:</u> War breaking out in Europe (1939) forced Britain to concentrate military resources on defending its homeland, leaving Asian colonies vulnerable. <u>Japanese Ambitions & Resource Expansion:</u> Industrializing Japan lacked natural resources; targeted Malayan tin/rubber and Singapore's strategic port. The Pearl Harbor bombing (1941) expanded war to the Asia-Pacific.	<u>The Concept:</u> A naval base was built at Sembawang (1941); local defenses were to hold out until a British fleet arrived. <u>Why It Failed:</u> Britain prioritized fighting Germany; the sinking of Force Z (<i>HMS Prince of Wales</i> and <i>HMS Repulse</i>) on 10 December 1941 by Japanese aircraft destroyed British naval power in Asia.	<u>British Weaknesses:</u> Misjudged attack direction (assumed northern Malayan jungles were impassable, pointing coastal guns south/east); deployed zero tanks; inexperienced leadership under General Percival; multi-ethnic troops facing communication barriers and low morale. <u>Japanese Strengths:</u> General Yamashita's aggressive tactics and bluffs; extensive pre-war espionage and jungle research; rapid mobility using light tanks and bicycles down Malayan roads; complete air superiority with Zero fighters. <u>Surrender:</u> General Percival surrendered on 15 February 1942.
---	---	--