



Chapter 9: How did Singapore safeguard its independence after 1965?

SBC Practice 1: Inference, Why Purpose and Comparison

1 (a) Study Source A.

What does the source tell you about the impact of British withdrawal from Singapore? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

What can you infer from Source B about National Service? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Source C.

Why did the Minister of Defence make the speech? Explain your answer [5]

(d) Study Sources D and E.

How different are these sources? Explain your answer. [6]



National Service In Singapore In the 1960s-1970s

Source A: *Adapted from a statement made by then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in a television interview with the British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC) in January 1968.*

With the withdrawal of the British military, the security of the whole region will be seriously threatened unless some rearrangements are made to ensure continuing security. Without this there is no confidence, and without confidence we will not have industrial expansion. If we cannot assure the *investors of continuing security, all the significant economic aid in the world will be of no use. What we want is security and confidence, and we can do the economic side mainly by ourselves.

**Investor - a person or company who puts in money into a business with the intention of making a profit.*

Source B: *A photograph showing the first batch of national servicemen taking the Oath of Allegiance*, in August 1967.*



**Oath of Allegiance is a promise and personal commitment that a person will perform some action or duty to serve the country*



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Source C: *An extract from a speech from the Minister of Interior Defence for Singapore, Dr Goh Keng Swee's to the Members of Parliament in December 1965*

British military protection today has made quite a number of our citizens complacent about the need have our own defence. Singaporeans assume that this protection will be permanent. I regard it as a serious mistake to plan our future survival.

But we were lucky that there were those back then who took the challenge and registered for the National Service Ordinance back in 1954. Why? Because they felt the need to defend this motherland and learned not to rely on others. But now, we need more than ever for a reliable military defence.

Source D: *Adapted from an oral interview with Mr Zulkefle Rahman who enlisted in the National Service in 1967.*

What is going to happen to me and my family? What will the future be? Some of my friends were laughing at me. On the day of enlistment, each and everyone of us looked at each other, clueless. Where are we going to go? What sort of training are we going to have? We have no choice. Either we break the law, or we go in and serve. I had no choice.

Source E: *Adapted from an oral interview with Mr Elbel Singh who enlisted in the National Service in 1967.*

I want to join the full-time army. I think every young individual, every citizen of Singapore should volunteer for National Service. To me, this is my home, only I can protect it. I must be involved in the defence and protection of it. Generally, I could sense fear when we all reported to camp. People were not comfortable with one another. After the oath taking, I suddenly realised that I am going into something which I am not sure I can handle or not.