**Singapore – The Modern Society**

With the aid of **technological advancement** and other facets of modernization, Singapore has transformed from a third world country to a first world cosmopolitan society in the past 52 years. We have worked to develop our society in many aspects, **transforming our cultural heritage, education process, political empowerment, socialization and religious and ideological beliefs**.

As a result of these changes, the average Singaporean and his family are greatly affected by modernization and are often entrapped in dilemmas and conflicts. Our way of life is now more comfortable and convenient as we enjoy a higher level of standard of living brought upon by modernization.

However, the drastic and fast-paced changes in the modern society is equally challenging and disturbing as the detriments disrupt our way of life, values, beliefs and behaviours, destabilizing our multicultural fabrics.

**1. Technology and its impact on Singapore [Science & Technology]**

**(a) What are the technological development we have embraced**

* Emergence of a gig/sharing economy
	+ Ride-sharing services (Grab/Uber)
	+ Online food delivery (Deliveroo/UberEats/FoodPanda)
* Increased usage of online services
	+ E-Learning (AsknLearn)
	+ Online Shopping (Zalora)
* Newer and faster modes of communication
	+ Instant Communication (WhatsApp/Telegram)
	+ Social Media Platforms (Facebook)

**(b) How it has enriched our society [Positive Impacts]**

* Provides convenience and comfort to individuals → faster and easier communication and transportation means
	+ Changi Airport Group (CAG) partners Singapore Airlines and its regional wing, SilkAir on their Fast and Seamless Travel (FAST) check-in trial.
	+ The Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail (HSR) project is expected to reduce travelling time between Singapore’s Jurong East and Kuala Lumpur’s Bandar Malaysia to 90 minutes.
		- Also, the HSR is expected to contribute S$6.7 billion in Gross Domestic Product to both countries and create 111,000 jobs by 2060.
* Promotes efficiency and productivity → promote economic growth
	+ In 2015, the government launched S$2.2 billion worth of ICT tenders in digital, data and web services, and IT infrastructure. The government is also investing and promoting cloud computing in order to make work in Singapore more efficient.
* Resource utility maximisation → Better resource management in areas such as capital and labour
	+ Singapore invested $19 billion in the Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2020 Plan to develop sufficient and sustainable sources of energy, create more space for future development, and ensure an active and healthy elderly population
	+ Desalination plants and NEWater created to overcome water constraints

**(c) How it has undermined our society [Negative Impacts]**

* Cultivates a culture of convenience → affects social behaviours
	+ The increased usage of vending machines for various purposes, like the purchase of food and merchandise, has influenced people to become accustomed to the convenience. For example, VendCafes are set up in housing estates and MRT stations.
* Disruption of current industries → unemployment
	+ Land Transport Authority data revealed that in the first 11 months of 2016, the average rate of taxis that were unhired was 5.9 per cent, up from 4.2 per cent in 2015.
* Technological divide between the tech-savvy and tech-deprived groups
	+ The Silver IT Fest IT Classes train seniors to pick up new skills to lead a digital lifestyle.

**2. The modern socialization and communication process [Social]**

**(a) The modern way of socialization and communication**

* Business people connect through Linkedin
* Friends connect through Facebook
* Politicians connect to voters through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

**(b) We are more connected and linked**

* Greater and freer flow of information
	+ The Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech) has set up an API (Application Programming Interface) exchange called APEX. APEX serves as a centralised data sharing platform for government agencies to exchange data conveniently and securely.
* Further reaching to the public
	+ GovTech has set up ‘eCitizen Ideas!’ a crowdsourcing platform for the public to participate and share ideas with government agencies.
	+ The April 27 Bukit Batok by-election had PAP’s Murali Pillai and SDP’s Dr Chee Soon Juan competing on social media, particularly on Facebook where both candidates have been posting a steady barrage of photos, videos and even “live” commentary.

**(c) Are we more connected and linked?**

* Minimised face to face interaction
	+ According to study findings released by the HDB and the National University of Singapore Centre of Sustainable Asian Cities and Sociology department, residents' interactions also tend to be "incidental and minimal". Respondents were asked to score their frequency of interactions with neighbours, from a score of one (never) to five (daily). Overall, they ranked "exchange of greetings/ small talk" as the most frequent activity, with a mean score of 3.47
* Loss of personal touch
	+ According to a 2016 study by think-tank DQ Institute and Nanyang Technological University (NTU), twelve-year-olds spend 6.5 hours daily on electronic devices. Also, the study concluded that the prolonged use of mobile devices can impede children’s ability to connect socially with people offline.

**3. The impact of modernization on our cultures [Culture]**

**(a) How modernization shapes our Singapore culture**

* The reinforcement of values and ideologies → meritocracy, pragmatism, democracy, equality, social justice
* Exchange of cultural ideas, practices and traditions → alternation of cultural and national identities

**(b) Modernization enriches our Singapore culture**

* Facilitates cultural preservation
	+ The National Heritage Board (NHB) seeks to preserve and celebrate the shared cultural heritage of the diverse Singapore communities. It conducts heritage programmes and exhibitions to raise public awareness on the importance of cultural preservation. For example, Geylang Serai was marked as a historic site.
* Influx of foreign cultures → evolution of cultures
	+ Singapore’s ‘Open Door policy’ has enabled the inflow of individuals that bring along their cultural practices and traditions. The Singapore Department of Statistics have reported that one in five marriages were inter-ethnic, including those with foreign nationalities.

**(c) Modernization is the cause of degradation of Singapore culture**

* Demise of local cuisines → internationalisation of cultures
	+ Shutdown of hawker centres as locals appeal to foreign cuisines such as Italian, French and Vietnamese etc
	+ Rising rental costs in a land-scarce Singapore has led to the decline of hawker food heritage. Furthermore, existing hawker owners are unable to find anyone to replace them, thus causing these businesses to wind up.
* Declining of art culture
	+ Nearly a third of the 17 Gillman Barracks galleries have decided not to renew their leases, citing low human traffic, poor sales and a "slow start" as reasons for their exit.
* Commercialization of cultures
	+ Although conservation efforts were made to preserve Kampong Glam’s unique heritage, commercial development in the neighbourhood, seen in terms of the setting up of restaurants and cafes, has stripped away its cultural identity.

**4. First World Nation, First Class Education [Education]**

**(a) Features of a world-class education**

* Inculcation of IT knowledge and skills → Empowering the youth with programming skills to prepare for the technological workforce
* Inclusion of e-learning alternatives → Offering an online education that students can depend on at home, thereby promoting independent learning
* Integrated and interdisciplinary education

**(b) Our education will prepare the youths for the future**

* Early coding education
	+ In April 2014, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore launched Code@SG to spark youth interest in coding. It offers enrichment classes teaching the basics of programming to young people, along with up to 63 courses offered to members of infocomm clubs, a co-curricular activity for those interested in honing their coding skills.
* Interdisciplinary education
	+ In secondary schools and junior colleges, it is mandatory for students to take up contrasting subjects along with their main subject combination to diversify their learning and increase knowledge exposure.

**(c) There are still faults in our education system**

* Excess focus in academics
	+ The survey of 500 parents, conducted by The Straits Times and research company Nexus Link, found that seven in 10 enrolled their children in extra classes.
	+ Nearly 40 per cent of parents with children in pre-schools have tuition for them. When asked why, the top two reasons given were to improve their children's grades and to help them keep up with others.
* Rising stress levels amongst youths
	+ According to Straits Times, latest figures show that 2015, there were 27 suicides among 10- to 19-year-olds - a 15-year high. This was double the 2014 figure, despite a drop in the overall number of suicides.
* Social divide
	+ According the Singapore children’s society, data showed that nearly 41 per cent of IP/GEP secondary school students came from families with a monthly household income that exceeded $10,000, compared to 7 per cent in government schools. About 54 per cent of IP/GEP students had at least one parent with university education, compared to 17 per cent in government schools.
	+ Higher Socio-Economic Status children are more likely to be in IP/GEP schools, and being in these schools makes them more likely to have high confidence in attaining at least a university degree, thereby promoting a social divide between the rich and the poor
* Stifled creativity
	+ “The Effects of Cosmopolitan Culture, Competitiveness and Need for Cognitive Closure on Creativity” - a research by SMU Assistant Professor Cheng Chi-Ying has shown that kiasu singaporeans who had a strong sense of conformity exhibited the least creativity among all while the highest creativity scores came from those who were primed to think of their culture and did not mention kiasuism.

**5. Modernization changes our beliefs [Religion]**

**(a) Modernization affects our religious beliefs**

* Modernisation has offered alternative beliefs, like materialism and humanism, in a fast-paced life
	+ [Materialism] In a poll done by local business consultancy aAdvantage and Britain-based Barrett Values Centre, the society is largely seen as being competitive, materialistic and kiasu by the 2,000 residents surveyed.
	+ [Humanism] A 2015 Department of Statistics’ General Household Survey shown that 18.5% of resident population has no religion. In view of this growing trend, the Humanist Society was set up in 2010 to represent Singapore’s non-religious population. The Humanist Society advocates human-centric beliefs via the use of an ethnic and rational approach.
* Facts-centered and scientific beliefs
	+ Singapore Buddhist Federation president Seck Kwang Phing believes the youthful face of the non-religious group ties in with a change in attitudes among the young, who have become more independent in their thinking.  They become exposed to a range of ideologies, which results in a spectrum of views within the non-religious category.

**(b) Why we still need religion?**

* Need for a moral compass to guide individuals in a modern society
	+ Reverend Dominic Yeo, the general superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Singapore, said that religion teaches its followers to be moral and adds that “We need to guard our nation, our children and the next generation against moral decadence."
* Foster positive social behaviour
	+ NUS sociologist Paulin Straughan posits that disparities in religious ideology could result in intergenerational fault lines and a widening gap "because religion, when it is functional, pulls families together".

**6. Who we are in this modern society [National Identity]**

**(a) How Singaporeans have changed in the modern society**

* How behaviour, attitudes and values are changed
	+ The young have "less hunger" compared to employees 20 or more years ago, according to feedback from employers, which the Deputy Prime Minister Tharman said was "common and widespread".

**(b) As we modernize, we improve**

* Cultivation of a gracious society
	+ According to a 2015 Singapore Kindness Movement survey, respondents indicated that the Singapore society is perceived as becoming more gracious and courteous to one another.
* Educated
	+ According to Department of Statistics Singapore, Diploma and Professional Qualifications rose from 202,300 in 2000 to 411,500 in 2016 while University Qualifications rose from 249,900 in 2000 to 814,200 in 2016.
* Empathy
	+ The office of the Commissioner of Charities (COC) revealed this in its annual report in 2015 that there is a 12 percent rise in tax-deductible donations to charity from the year before, hitting $1.1 billion worth of donations.
* Efficiency-based mindset
	+ The Productivity and Innovation Credit (“PIC”) Scheme was introduced in Budget 2010 for 5 years from YA 2011 to YA 2015 to encourage businesses to invest in productivity and innovation. This included training of employees and Acquisition and leasing of PIC IT and Automation Equipment, thereby raising business efficiency and productivity.
* Success-oriented / Career Driven
	+ Out of 95 employees polled in an online global survey by international business company Regus, 19 per cent of them said they have worked eleven or more hours a day. This is 9 percentage points higher than the global average and 5 percentage points more than Japan, which took the second spot.

**(c) Degradation of the modern Singaporeans**

* Self-centered, Kiasu mentality (afraid to lose)
	+ According to a joint survey by aAdvantage Consulting Group & Barrett Values Centre, 57.7% out of 2000 Singaporean respondents  have chosen’ Kiasu’ within their top 10 perceptions of Singapore society. 41.15% included the characteristic 'competitive,' while 32.65% included 'self-centred.'
* ‘Complaint and blame’ culture
	+ Unwillingness to bear responsibility + tendency to push the blame to government agencies on various problems → politicization of problems
* ‘Chope’ culture
	+ It is a common practice for Singaporeans to reserve seats in food centres by placing items, like tissue packets and umbrellas. However, this practice has led to quarrels and patrons deprived of seats.
* Social vigilantism → via the use of social media and online forums
	+ Publish shaming and harassment of wrongdoers, like Anton Casey and Amy Cheong, have caused Singaporeans to be perceived as harsh and unforgiving.
		- Anton Casey’s insensitive remarks on the workshop services to wash ‘stench of public transport’ off his Porsche sparked anger online from Singaporeans → netizens revealed Mr Casey’s personal information and encouraged people to harass him → eventually, Mr Casey apologised and fled Singapore
* Narcissism
	+ According to Ms Belinda Ang, founder and director of thinkBIG Communications, Singaporean youths seek validation through attention-seeking behaviour, such as the Ice Bucket Challenge.

**7. Are we more knitted in the modern society?**

(a) Features of a modern Singapore family

(b) Closer and Closer

(c) Disunited and Isolated

**8. Modernization shapes our economy**

(a) Positive Impacts

(b) Negative Impacts

* Traditional stores face stiffer competition against fast food alternatives
	+ In October 2017, McDonald’s Singapore and UberEATS announced their joint partnership to allow customers to order their fast food meals via the UberEATS app.
	+ The growing popularity of vending machine meals, such as Chef-in-Box, has undermined the businesses of traditional hawker stalls. There are over 100 Chef-in-Box machines islandwide, at housing estates and MRT stations.

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Social Development in Singapore

* Singaporeans are getting married later, SingStat’s figures showed, with the median age at the first marriage rising from 29.8 years to 30.4 years for men, and from 27.5 years to 28.8 years for women between 2009 and 2019.
* A total of 25.434 marriages were registered in 2019, 5.8 per cent lower than the 27,007 marriages registered in 2018.

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/fewer-marriages-more-divorces-2019-singapore-singstat-12968970

* There were 397 reported suicides in 2018, compared with 361 the year before.

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/suicides-number-2018-teenagers-boys-highest-11761480

* “Brownface” controversy: A government initiative to promote electronic payments sparked a “brownface” controversy in Singapore. An ethnically Chinese actor, Dennis Chew, allegedly darkened his skin to portray characters of different races. The advertisement faced a huge backlash and was eventually taken down. Critics online questioned why Malay actors were not hired to portray themselves in the ad.

https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/30/asia/singapore-brownface-ad-sparks-controversy-intl-hnk-trnd/index.html

* Quarter life crisis: 4 in 5 young adults in Singapore experience quarter-life crisis. Singapore ranked fourth out of 16 territories in terms of the prevalence of experiences of quarter-life crisis in the study by professional social network LinkedIn. The top ranked is India, followed by the Philippines and Hong Kong. Psychologists define a quarter-life crisis as a period of life in the 20s to 30s when a young adult feels anxiety and distress in making the transition to adulthood.

https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/manpower/4-in-5-young-adults-experience-quarter-life-crisis-says-study

* Quarter life crisis: finding a job one is passionate about is the top reason contributing to young professionals’ feelings of anxiety, and possibly resulting in feelings of a quarter-life crisis. LinkedIn’s study also indicates that young professionals in Singapore face pressures to succeed.

https://www.hcamag.com/asia/news/general/singapores-quarter-life-crisis-epidemic/152237

* Family: As of June 2019, the results of a survey on Singaporeans' acceptance of close family members identifying as LGBTQ showed that 39 percent of respondents admitted that they would react somewhat negatively to a close family member coming out as LGBTQ, while 14 percent stated that they would react strongly negative to such news.

https://www.statista.com/statistics/1030647/singapore-acceptance-of-lgbtq-close-family-members/

* results of a survey conducted in Singapore on attitudes towards same-sex couples adopting children as of January 2019, with a breakdown by religion. During the survey period, Muslims and Christians in Singapore tended to hold a negative attitude towards adoption by gay couples. 62.5 percent of respondents who were Christians and 60.1 percent of respondents who were Muslim stated that they thought such adoptions as always wrong. In comparison, respondents who did not belong to any religion tended to view such adoptions less negatively, with 21.7 percent stating that such adoptions were always wrong.
* https://www.statista.com/statistics/1002973/attitude-towards-gay-couples-adoption-by-religion-singapore/
* Singaporeans are also more welcoming of gay marriage now, with 16.4 per cent saying in the study that it was not wrong at all, compared with just 8.4 per cent in 2013.

https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/marriage-between-man-and-woman-remains-norm-despite-more-liberal-attitudes-homosexuality

Youth in Singapore

* Suicide continues to be the leading cause of death for youths, with a total of 71 people aged 20 to 29 taking their own lives in 2019. Despite growing awareness in Singapore, some people still delay seeking menta health treatment.

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/in-focus-young-people-mental-health-singapore-treatment-13002934

* Cyberbully: “A new study of 30 countries has warned of a ‘cyber pandemic’ among children aged eight to 12 years, with four in 10 Singaporean children in this age bracket at risk of cyber bully. The main culprit is smartphone ownership, and high use of social media and high gaming activity.

Social Media in Singapore

* Cancel culture: a movement that seeks to call out offensive behaviour such as controversial tweets and video clips online. It also involves a concerted effort to withdraw support for the figure or business that has said or done something objectionable until they either apologise or disappear from view.

COVID19 in Singapore

* Breaking COVID19 rules: From April to August 2020, there have been around 80 cases of disputes involving commuters who did not mask up on public transport and from these numbers 40 people have been fined. There are also several other instances where people broke the rules such as not following the 5 person rule and not facing social distancing rules.

https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/about-80-disputes-over-mask-wearing-on-public-transport-since-april-40-people-fined

* Increase in family violence: Since circuit breaker measures, family violence has been on the rise. In fact it was a 22 per cent increase compared with the monthly average of 389 for such cases before the circuit breaker period.

https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/coronavirus-more-cases-of-family-violence-during-circuit-breaker-police-to

* As part of heightened safe distancing measures during the COVID19 circuit breaker, all primary, secondary and pre-university students shifted to full home-based learning from 8 April to 2 June 2020.

https://www.gov.sg/article/covid-19-circuit-breaker-what-you-need-to-know-about-home-based-learning

* Fake news: In a local study, six in 10 of the participants have received fake news about COVID19 on social media. Social media was cited as the preferred source of information on the outbreak for the public, and the most prevalent channels used to share COVID19 information are messaging platforms which include Whatsapp, Telegram and Facebook Messenger.
* Strict contact tracing efforts: The government implements strict contact tracing efforts by scanning the SafeEntry signs and recently implementing the compulsory use of check-ins via a TraceTogether token.
* Acts of kindness during the pandemic: Acts of kindness such as residents placing hand sanitisers in lifts to share with neighbours, individuals donating their $600 Solidarity Payments to those who need it more, and groups coming together to appreciate front-line workers and helping the vulnerable in society. There are also many ground-up movements (GUMs) actively promoting kindness in the grassroots such as Contribute.sg , Kampung Kakis and EverydayheroesSG.

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/commentary/covid-19-singapore-gracious-society-kindess-ground-up-12808722

* Economic impact: Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the government has cut their growth projections for 2020.
* Unemployment: unemployment rate rises to 3.4% in august, the highest in more than a decade (since 2004).

https://www2.staffingindustry.com/row/Editorial/Daily-News/Singapore-Unemployment-rate-rises-to-3.4-in-August-the-highest-in-more-than-a-decade-55395

Politics in Singapore [General Elections]

* Minimum wage debate: Workers Party suggestion in parliament to implement a universal minimum wage of $1,300 a month faced huge backlash from the PAP. Worry that there might be the politicisation of minimum wage policies.

https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/parliament-stirred-over-minimum-wage-debate-again-wp-defends-its-proposal

* Ms Raeesah Khan, who is now an MP for Sengkang GRC, was given a stern warning for her comments on social media that promoted enmity among different groups and committed contempt by scandalising the court.

https://www.straitstimes.com/politics/workers-party-mp-given-stern-warning-over-posts

New laws affecting Singapore society

* POFMA (Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act): POFMA, Singapore’s fake news laws, were passed in Parliament on 8May 2019 and came into effect on 2 October 2019. POFMA seeks to prevent the electronic communication of falsehoods, as well as to safeguard against the use of online platforms for the communication such falsehoods.
* Minimum legal age for smoking raised to 20 from 1 JAN 2020 onwards. This is the second step of the government’s three year plan to progressively raise the minimum legal age to 21 years old.

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/jan-1-2020-new-laws-smoking-cigarette-butts-pmd-ban-fires-12220278

Harsher punishments for flouting e-scooter footpath ban: “zero-tolerance” approach

* Sexual offences brought about by advances in technology such as voyeurism and ‘cyber flashing’ was criminalized from Jan 2020 onwards.

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/voyeurism-cyber-flashing-doxxing-crime-penal-code-reform-12215288?cid=h3\_referral\_inarticlelinks\_24082018\_cna

* Doxxing: There is an increasing trend in an individual’s personal information being consolidated and published online, with a view to harassing the person. The act of doxing is criminalised under proposed changes to the Protection from Harassment Act (POHA).

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/doxxing-to-be-criminalised-under-amendments-to-protection-from-11400756

Sports in Singapore

* The Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) has granted Olympic gold medallist Joseph Schooling and Quah Zheng Wen an extension of their full-time National Service (NS) deferment. This is to allow them to train for, compete in, the Tokyo Olympic Games, which have been postponed to 2021 due to the COVID19 pandemic.

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/sport/joseph-schooling-quah-zheng-wen-ns-deferment-swimming-olympics-13009742

Education in Singapore

* CCA: https://www.income.com.sg/blog/investing-in-child-cca
* Benefits of CCA for students:

🡪 Better time management and other essential life skills

🡪 Improves self-esteem

🡪 Teaches the importance of commitment

🡪 Broadens their experiences & views

🡪 Provides opportunities for social networking

🡪 Develops children into being more well-rounded individuals

🡪 Gives students a fun way to beat stress

* Changes to the Singapore education system

https://www.asiaone.com/lifestyle/8-changes-singapore-education-system-you-should-know-about-year

🡪 No more exams in P1 and P2, and assessments conducted will not be counted to form any overall mark or grade.

🡪 Direct School Admission (DSA) scheme extended to all secondary schools

🡪Healthy lifestyle is advocated in all primary and secondary schools

🡪 More secondary school places in affiliated schools open to non-affiliated students

🡪 Technical diploma for ITE graduates [apprenticeship-based, with every course delivered in partnership with employers.]

* Academic stress: Children are reporting symptoms of anxiety and stress related to school as early as primary school, experts warned.

https://www.asiaone.com/singapore/too-much-too-young-singapore-schoolchildrens-struggles-stress

* Job opportunities: Youth feel school doesn't equip them for work. 7 in 10 surveyed say tertiary education inadequate; poll is part of dialogue series leading to SG Youth Action Plan

https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/youth-feel-school-doesnt-equip-them-for-work

Elderly in Singapore

* Singapore’s population size is expected to reach 6.34 million in 2030, based on projections from the United Nations (UN) released in 2017.

https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/elderly-make-almost-half-spore-population-2050-united-nations

* The government will increase the retirement age to 65 by 2030, while the re-employment age will go up from the current age of 67 to 70.
* It was announced in 2019 that the government will also raise their Central Provident Fund (CPF) contribution rates starting from 2021, over the next ten years or so ‘depending on economic conditions’. This spike is primarily due to a “significant increase” in scam cases.

https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/govt-raise-retirement-age-65-and-re-employment-age-70-2030-cpf-contribution-rates-older

* National Silver Academy: Idea of lifelong learning. Comprising a network of course providers, the NSA offers a wealth of learning opportunities to take courses without taking exams by universities like NUS, NTU, SMU and SUSS, the polytechnics and ITE.

https://www.nsa.org.sg/about.php

* Smart Nation: In 2014, Singapore announced its Smart Nation initiative which encourages the use of digital innovation and technology to drive sustainability and liveability. There are three key pillars which support the goals of the initiative: Digital economy, digital government and digital society - where not only the government, but the people and the agencies have an important role to play.

https://www.telecomreviewasia.com/index.php/news/featured-articles/1963-what-we-can-learn-from-singapore-s-smart-nation-initiative

Crime

* The total number of reported crimes in 2019 increased by 6.3 per cent to 35,209 cases, compared to 33,126 cases the way before. This is the highest since 2010. https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/singapore-overall-crime-rate-2019-scam-cases-12395896
* Singapore was recently ranked second on the Economist Intelligence Unit’s Safe Cities Index for 2017, coming in just behind Tokyo.

https://www.cnbc.com/2018/01/16/singapores-crime-rate-is-so-low-that-many-shops-dont-even-lock-up.html

Environment

* A new coastal and flood protection fund, with an initial injection of $5 billion, will be set up to protect Singapore against rising sea levels.

https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/singapore-budget-2020-new-coastal-and-flood-protection-fund-to-protect-singapore-against

Technology

* Singaporeans are adopting online payments with such gusto that the government hopes that the country will be cheque-free by 2025. In 2018, Ong Ye Kung noted that more than eight in 10 Singapore consumers have adopted e-payments, while nearly three in five merchants accept e-payments.
* 7 technological advancements that make Singapore a Smart City

🡪 self-driving cars

🡪 hiring robotic police: patrolling and remote surveillance

🡪 smart living: eg. Smart home technologies and utilities management system

🡪 smart streets: sensors and analytics into street infrastructure like lamps

🡪 robots: robots in the workforce

https://www.iotforall.com/singapore-smart-city

Economy

* Singapore COVID relief budget measures

🡪 Resilience Budget 26 March 2020: $48.4billion to support households, help workers stay employed and provide support for businesses to emerge stronger when the economy recovers.

🡪 Solidarity Budget 6 April 2020

🡪 Fortitude Budget 26 May 2020

https://www.singaporebudget.gov.sg/budget\_2020/budget-measures

* Skills, training and development

🡪 SkillsFuture: National movement to provide Singaporeans with the opportunities to develop their fullest potential throughout life, regardless of their starting points. Through this movement, the skills, passion and contributions of every individual will drive Singapore’s next phase of development towards an advanced economy and inclusive society.

🡪 Refreshed Continuing Education and Training (CET) Masterplan: enables working adults, regardless of their starting qualifications, to continue to build and deepen their skills and competencies, throughout their careers.

https://www.mom.gov.sg/employment-practices/skills-training-and-development