

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2004/2005

March 2005

SEA302 – Economic Transformation in Southeast Asia

Duration: 3 hours

Please make sure that this examination paper comprises THREE printed pages before you begin this examination.

Instruction

Answer **Question 1** from Section I and **TWO (2)** questions from Section II

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Section I

Answer question 1.

1. Many are of the opinion that a highly densely populated nation is not good for growth and development. But in the case of Malaysia and Singapore, both countries had actually reversed it earlier population policy in favor of a higher population. For example, Malaysia with its population of 25 million still depends on foreign workers to meet growing demand for labor in all sectors of the economy, particularly the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Discuss critically the above statement and make comparisons with your country's population policy. Besides the labor issues, what are some of the reasons for a policy that supports a higher population?

Section II

Choose and answer **TWO (2)** of the following questions.

2.
 - (a) How is Malaysia's Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA) program for the landless and Indonesia's Transmigration policy similar and different?
 - (b) What are the rationales for the establishment of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) or public enterprises in Southeast Asian countries? Why are some of these enterprises later privatized?
3.
 - (a) Why is the agricultural sector of a nation important? How do you then rationalize a nation's structural transformation from an agricultural dependent economy to an industrial economy?
 - (b) In what ways are the roles of women in Southeast Asia, particularly in their contribution to economic development, very important?

4. Explain the meaning of the following concepts and discuss why each of these concepts is a relevant and an important issue in Southeast Asia:
- (a) Lorenz curve and Gini coefficient.
 - (b) Poverty Line Income (PLI).
 - (c) Rent seeking activities
 - (d) Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).
 - (e) Sustainable development
5. (a) All Southeast Asian nations, except Thailand, were once colonized by the West. Choose one nation and discuss how colonization has influenced its growth and development today.
- (b) In what ways is education important to the growth and development of Southeast Asia? Why is education particularly important to women in Southeast Asia?