**TAJUK: FORMATION OF MALAYSIA 1969**

**SUBTOPICS/OBJECTIVES:**

i. STEPS TOWARD THE FORMATION OF MALAYSIA  
ii. ISSUE OF BRUNEI AND SINGAPORE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUBTOPIC</th>
<th>MAJOR POINT</th>
<th>MINOR POINT</th>
<th>SUPPORTING POINT</th>
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| STEPS TOWARD THE FORMATION OF MALAYSIA | -Malaysia solidarity consultative committee | 1- To explain the concept to the people of the respective states.  
2- To gather information about public reactions.  
3- Submit suggestions for the Federation of Malaysia.  
4- As a guide for drafting the constitution of Malaysia | 1) 1/3 from both states supported the formation of Malaysia without any terms.  
2) 1/3 also supported but with terms and warranty.  
3) 1/3 want independence first before joining the federation  
4) 20% rejected the federation because they wanted to stay under the British administration.  
Function:  
- Drafted a constitution which included Sabah & Sarawak based on the |
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<th>Inter-government committee</th>
<th>memorandum from several Sabah &amp; Sarawak politics parties</th>
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**Primary terms:**

- Islam is the official religion of federation
- Malay is official language
- The immigration power in Sabah & Sarawak was handed to the states' government
- Education system is sustained
- Sabah has 24 Parliament Representatives
- Sarawak has 16 Parliament Representatives
- Singapore has 15 seats

Singapore citizens have to choose within 3 choices:

1. They have to agree joining the federation based on terms that held by Singapore & the Federation of Tanah Melayu through a white paper on November 1961
2. Singapore citizen agreed to join without any terms and their position will be same as the Malay states in the
<table>
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<th>ISSUE OF BRUNEI AND SINGAPORE</th>
<th>Brunei</th>
<th>Federation of Malaysia</th>
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<td>Singapore referendum</td>
<td>-3-Singapore citizen agree to join on terms and same condition with the Borneo states</td>
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<td>Early Stage:</td>
<td>-Sultan Omar Ali himself was very interested and considered Malaysia as a good idea</td>
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<td>Brunei Citizen Party Issue</td>
<td>-A.M. Azahari sent memorandum to disagree about Malaysia.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>-British postponed the discussion, this make the BCP angry.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>-This caused a rebellion towards Brunei government itself on 1962.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>-Indonesia also supported the rebelled by Indonesia Communism Party.</td>
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-This rebellion was successfully ended by Brunei with help of British and Malaya Federation.

-Hence, Tunku thought Brunei experienced many political crisis, so the participation of Brunei in Malaysia was terminated.

-Singapore agreed to join Malaysia because Lee Kuan Yew was worried with the increasing problem posed by communist. Besides that, he felt that by joining with Malaysia, Singapore enable to gain independence immediately.

-2 years after Malaysia was formed, Malays and Chinese experienced dangerous racial polarization. Especially people’s action part (PAP) and the alliance in Malaya.

-Lee Kuan Yew said that MCA leader lack caliber and was over friendly with UMNO.

-This is the tactic of Lee Kuan Yew to take over the role of MCA.

-PAP force UMNO to alter their social and economic treatment of the city dwellers.
UMNO leaders regard the act as a direct attack on the Malay people and the special rights of the Malays.

-Subsequently, Lee Kuan Yew started his ‘Malaysia for Malaysian’ campaign.

-The situation grew increasingly critical. Nonetheless efforts were made time and again from June to August to find a solution. All attempts failed because Singapore continued to make the situation worse.

-Finally, on 9.8. 1965, Singapore officially left Malaysia.

**Ghani’s Format in Essay Writing**

**Formation of Malaysia 1969**

**The Idea to Form of Malaysia**

The Idea to form Malaysia had been voiced by David Marshall (1955), Tan Cheng Lock (1955), and Lee Kuan Yew (1959). They wanted to merge Malaysia and Singapore. However, this idea was rejected by Tunku Abdul Rahman. At that time, 75 percent of population in Singapore were non-Malays. Tunku was worried that the non-Malay population will dominate the Malays. Ghazali Shafie also sounded the idea of coalition in 1954. Tunku Abdul Rahman revealed his aspiration to form Malaysia at a dinner gathering for South East Asian Journalists in Hotel Adelphi, Singapore on 27th May 1961

**Factors in the Formation of Malaysia**

Independence through unification. Among the five potential member countries, only Malaysia had independence on 31st August 1957. During this time, Brunei, Sabah, Sarawak & Singapore were still under British rule. Entering Malaysia enables them to become independent of the British government.
Ethnic balance and unity. A Union encompassing the states of Brunei, Sabah, Sarawak & Singapore will ensure the preservation of ethnic balance. Maintaining a balance between bumiputras & non-bumiputras (inhabitants of Malay descent and native tribal groups) would ensure peace & stability in the region.

Collective fight against communist. Malaya was constantly exposed to communist threat even though the communist terrorist was over. Brunei & Singapore was also facing the spread of communism. The British too, were concerned over the problem for the sake of their investment in South East Asia. The task of fighting communism would be greater for a country to handle it alone.

Economic cooperation. Member states of Malaysia will be able to cooperate in economic terms for the benefit of each other. Each country had certain resources that could be developed: Singapore’s international trade, industry and tourism, Brunei’s oil products, the forestry products of Sabah and Sarawak, and Malaya’s mineral and agricultural products.

United in international relations. Kuala Lumpur wanted to reinforce the pact among regional countries to make them strong internally and also in the international arena. Ties between a country and other foreign nations were still not well-regulated. Thus, if the countries within the plan were to unite under one government and political system, their position as one new nation would be stronger in international arena.

Reactions towards the idea

SINGAPORE

Lee Kuan Yew was interested with formation of Malaysia. However, there were certain other parties in Singapore who were doubtful of Malaysia’s stability. Initially, people of Singapore and People’s Action Party (PAP) gave their full support. But political changes appeared in early 1961. PAP under leadership of Lee Kuan Yew received opposition from the United People’s Party (UPP) which had broken away from PAP and become socialist party. UPP’s political aim was to bring independence to Singapore through some other way and using a different ideology. During that time, PAP lost during the Hong Lim and Anson constituency bye-elections. The defeat occurred because a left wing PAP group switched side and gave its support to a Labour Party candidate.

BRUNEI

People in Brunei did not agree to join Malaysia. Many of them preferred to be independent on their own first. Initially, Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin, sultan of Brunei, himself was very interested and considered Malaysia a good idea. However, His Highness faced strong opposition from Ahmad M. Azahari, leader of Brunei People’s Party. Azahari wanted to bring Brunei into another organization by uniting with British...
North Borneo and Sarawak under the name of North Kalimantan. Opposition from Azahari culminated into a form of armed rebellion that was ultimately quelled by sultan with the help of the British.

SABAH AND SARAWAK

Reaction of the people in Sabah and Sarawak were most encouraging. They were aware that the country’s participation in Malaysia would mean they would be free from British imperialism. They believed that the communist threat that was becoming more worrying would be more easily overcome under one new government. They were also aware that the population structure will be different in the new country. However, there were also anxiety about losing their position by ‘Malayan domination’. The non-Malays especially were afraid of being discriminated. They fear that the status of their religion and language would be threatened. Chinese were afraid that they would be flooded with economic competition from Chinese Singaporean counterparts.

MALAYA

The Malaysia concept was generally accepted but there were also people who thought differently. Before 1951, UMNO leaders often weighed the advantages and disadvantages to Malaya and Malays, if united with Singapore through Malaysia. However, when entry of Sabah and Sarawak were taken into account, the worry over Malay interest especially in terms of population numbers diminished. Another group in Malaya was strongly against the formation of Malaysia was the, Malayan Islamic Party (PAS) that was against the idea of Malaysia. PAS leaders claim the Malays would lose out if Malaysia was established. Instead they preferred the MAPHILINDO concept, which combined Malaya, Philippines and Indonesia.