Definitions

Free Trade - International trade that takes place without any trade barriers

Absolute Advantage - If a country can produce more of a good with the same amount of resources as another, or if it can produce one unit of it with less resources compared to another country

Comparative Advantage - If a country can produce a good at a lower opportunity cost compared to another country

WTO - Aims to promote free trade by abolishing tariffs, other trade barriers and by settling trade disputes

- 1. Reduce trade barriers
- 2. Provide a platform to settle trade disputes between governments and organise trade negotiations with the WTO as the final judge
- 3. Administer, monitor application of WTO trade rules
- 4. Monitor, review trade policies of members, ensure trade agreements are clear

Protectionism - Partial or complete protection from foreign competition in domestic markets, achieved by setting up trade barriers

Tariffs - A tax imposed on goods when they cross national boundaries

Quotas - Restrictions on the maximum quantity of imports

Subsidy - A grant provided by governments to firms aimed at reducing the cost of production and increasing output (Export subsidies are where the subsidy is paid for every unit of good exported)

Exchange Rates - Price of a currency in terms of the value of another currency, shows the rate at which two currencies are exchanged

Free-floating Exchange Rate - Value of currency solely determined by increases and decreases in the demand and supply of the currency in the foreign exchange market

- Appreciation Rise in a free-floating exchange rate
- Depreciation Fall in a free-floating exchange rate

Fixed Exchange Rate - Value of currency pegged to value of another, the average of a few currencies, or value of a commodity

- Revaluation Rise in a fixed exchange rate
- Devaluation Fall in a fixed exchange rate

Balance of Payments - Summary statement of the monetary value of all economic transactions that have taken place over a period of time, usually a year, between the residents of a country and the residents of all other countries

Current Account - Sum of balance of trade in goods, balance of trade in services, net income flows and net current transfers

Capital Account - Inflows minus outflows of funds for capital transfers, transactions in non-produced, non-financial assets

Financial Account - Inflows minus outflows of funds for direct investment, portfolio investment, and government intervention via the reserve assets

Terms of Trade - Index that shows the value of a country's average export prices relative to its average import prices

Economic Integration - Economic cooperation between countries and the coordination of economic policies, leading to increased economic links between them

Preferential Trade Agreements - An agreement that gives preferential access to certain products from certain countries by reducing or eliminating tariffs, or by other agreements relating to trade

Free Trade Area (FTA) - A group of countries that agree to gradually eliminate trade barriers within themselves

Customs Union - A group of countries that remove barriers to trade between them and adopt common external policies towards non-member countries

Common Market - As customs union, but countries now allow free movement of factors of production, primarily labour and capital, between them

Monetary Union - As common market, but with a common currency and common central bank

Trade Creation - Where a trading bloc fosters greater specialisation according to comparative advantage, thereby causing a shift in production from higher cost domestic producers to lower cost sources within the trading bloc (removal of tariffs)

Trade Diversion - When the entry of a country into a customs union leads to the production of a good or service transferring from a low cost producer to a higher cost producer within the union

Economic Development - A sustainable improvement in living standards that implies increased per capita income, reduced income inequalities, better health, employment and education opportunities as well as increased environmental protection

MDGs

- 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2. Achieve universal primary education
- 3. Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4. Reduce child mortality
- 5. Improve maternal health
- 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, other diseases
- 7. Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8. Establish a global partnership for development

HDI

- 1. Life expectancy at birth
- 2. Mean and expected years of schooling
- 3. Per capita GNI at purchasing power parity

Capital Stock - Total amount of physical capital in the economy

Capital Deepening - A situation where the amount of capital per worker increases

Depreciation - Share of capital goods that become obsolete and need replacement

Infrastructure - Large-scale public systems that are necessary for economic activity

Investment - Purchase of goods that are not consumed in the present but are used in the future to create wealth

Savings Gap - Where the current level of savings is insufficient in achieving an economic objective. For developing countries, this is when the stock of loanable funds built up by people saving in banks is insufficient in allowing for investment in capital goods and the like

Microcredit Schemes - The use of very small loans to those in poverty in order to spur entrepreneurship

Sustainability - Where the needs of the current generation are met without hindering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, or the balance between economic growth and environmental preservation

Tariff Escalation - Where the import duties on components or raw materials are lowest, and move progressively higher on semi-finished goods upwards to the finished goods

Import Substitution - Deliberate effort by the government to replace major imports by promoting domestic industries through protectionism

Export Promotion - An outward-oriented growth strategy that relies on increasing exports through increasing international trade

Diversification - Increasing the variety of goods and services produced to avoid the risk of over-specialisation, or moving from over-reliance on primary products into other sectors such as manufacturing or service sectors

Trade Liberalisation - Removal or reduction of trade barriers that block the free trade of goods and services between countries

Foreign DIrect Investment - Long term fixed capital investment by multinational corporations or locally-based enterprises overseas

Multinational Corporation (MNC) - A firm that undertakes foreign direct investment (FDI) and operates in more than one country

Foreign Aid - The help a country receives from the government of a donor country, which is called official development assistance, or by non-governmental organisations

Humanitarian Aid - A temporary, short-term form of foreign aid to alleviate poverty or sufferings caused by humanitarian crises

Development Aid - Given to support economic development, more focused on long-term assistance to alleviate poverty and improve the welfare of people

Non-Governmental Organisations - Social, cultural and environmental advocacy groups whose goals are primarily noncommercial, that are not part of governments and were not founded by states

International Monetary Fund - An organisation that seeks to prevent crises by encouraging countries to adopt sound economic policies, and a fund (to which members contribute) that can be tapped on by members needing temporary financing to address BOP problems

World Bank - Collection of 5 individual organisations with the overarching aim of promoting economic development. Main aims are to provide aid and advice to developing countries, decreasing poverty, and encouraging and safeguarding international investment

Foreign Debt - Level of external debt, meaning the total amount of debt, public and private, incurred by borrowing from foreign creditors/lenders

Debt Crisis - When the level of debt (in developing countries) exceeds the country's ability to pay

Odious Debts - Debts borrowed by dictators, corrupt regimes on behalf of the government for personal interests

Market-oriented Policies - Policies that are designed to minimise the role of government intervention and to maximise the free operations of demand and supply in the market. They utilise market forces as a means to motivate behaviour based on enterprise, initiative and reward

Interventionist Policies - Policies that involve an active role by the government and manipulation of the workings of the markets in the economy, minimising the role of market forces and having a greater reliance on government intervention to drive desired behaviour

Economics RWEs

Unit	Unit 1: Microeconomics			
1.3	Governmen t Interventio n	 Indirect Tax Mexico imposed a sugar tax on non-alcoholic drinks with added sugar (1 peso per litre) and on calorie-dense snacks in 2014 Indonesia plans to raise its cigarette excise (inland) tax by 10.5% next year, following an increase of 11.3% this year Singapore has a 71% tax on cigarettes Subsidies Thailand bought up rice from farmers at up to 50% above the market rate in 2011, created massive losses 		
		Price Ceiling • Vietnam has a price ceiling on milk products, imposed in 2014 and extended through 2016		
		 Price Floor The EU has just ruled against Germany's price floor on retail prescription drugs Scotland has just won a court battle to impose a price floor on alcohol of 50p per unit (70cl of whisky priced at minimum £14) Singapore does not have a minimum wage, but all its cleaners and security guards receive at least \$1000 Chicago will raise its minimum wage to \$13 hourly by 2019 		
1.4	Market Failure	Negative Externalities of Consumption Cigarettes, Alcohol Policies Taxes Singapore has a 71% tax on cigarettes Public Education, Negative Advertising Pictures of the effects of smoking on cigarette packets in Singapore Choose One Not Both', 'Bloody Mary' posters on drink driving, under the Singapore Traffic Police's campaign against drink driving Legislation Ban on alcohol sales and public drinking after 10:30pm in Singapore Iraq's parliament has passed a law forbidding the sale, import or production of alcohol in October 2016		
		 Negative Externalities of Production The Bukit Panjang MRT Station's construction, ending 2015, has caused noise pollution and traffic diversions Beijing's red smog alert forced its factories to close down Policies Carbon Tax 		

- Justin Trudeau, Canadian PM has announced a minimum price on carbon/carbon tax throughout Canada by 2018
- O Cap and Trade System
 - EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Positive Externalities of Consumption

- Vaccines, Education, Healthcare
- Policies
 - Medisave was extended to cover the cost of all vaccinations in the National Childhood Immunisation Schedule (NCIS), up to \$400 per account per year from June 2013
 - O The Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) enables Singapore Citizens from lower- and middle-income households to receive subsidies for medical and dental care at participating General Practitioners (GPs) and dental clinics near their home
 - Singapore Citizens don't pay a cent in school fees for Primary School education, and only \$60 a year for Secondary School education
 - o Direct Provision
 - SG has public and private hospitals, with government public hospitals making up the shortfall that would occur if healthcare in Singapore would have been purely privatised

Positive Externalities of Production

- Training, R&D
- Policies
 - O SkillsFuture, \$500 in credit for every person of working age to go for training programmes
 - O Singapore has unveiled a S\$19 billion plan to support Singapore's R&D efforts over the next five years (Research Innovation Enterprise 2020 Plan)

Common Access Resources

- Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
 - O No nets, only fish greater than 73 inches can be caught

Imperfect Information

- Mr Kenn Chng decided to forgo his honours year to go to work early
- Smoking, marginal perceived benefit is greater than actual benefit

Asymmetric Information

- Consumer>Producer
 - o Insurance
- Producer>Consumer
 - o Used car market
- Policies to solve Adverse Selection
 - Singapore Lemon Laws

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		 2-stage recourse framework, valid up to 6 months
		from time of delivery
		Repair/replace defective product
		 Otherwise, consumer can keep good and
		request a reduction in price, or a refund
		entirely (if repair/replacement not
		offered/possible)
		Managah Pawar
		Monopoly Power
		• Policies
		o Competitive Commission of Singapore
		o Competition Act, 2004, Singapore
		O AC Pricing
		 Hong Kong, electricity firms allowed a fixed profit
		rate on the value of capital they own, and electricity
		prices are regulated via the government's periodic
		pricing reviews
1.5	Theory of	Perfect Competition
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	The Firm	Closest one can get to this is probably agriculture
		 If you need farm names, Fallingdown Farm in Michigan is
		one of a small farm, and El Tejar in Argentina is a big one
		Monopolistic Competition
		Hairdressing industry in Singapore
		o QB House, Toni and Guy, EC House
		l ·
		Hawker Centres in Singapore
		Oliganalias
		Oligopolies
		Collusive
		O OPEC
		o Truck cartel of DAF, Daimler, Scania, Volvo/Renault, etc.
		fined in the EU, four of the companies set aside 2.6b euros
		Non-collusive
		O Singapore telecommunications industry
		o Bubble tea in Singapore
		o Smartphone Industry
		Monopoly
		Natural
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
		o Singapore Power
		Non-natural
		o Singtel prior to 1997
		nearly 80% of the corn grown in America is trademarked by
		Monsanto
		Alternate Goals of Firm
		Profit Maximisation
		o Apple
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	 2011, sales revenue of 108,249 million USD, profit of
	34,205 million USD, profit margin of 31.60%
	Revenue Maximisation
	o Samsung
	 2011, sales revenue of 143,069 million USD, profit of
	14,878 million USD, profit margin of 10.40%
	Growth Maximisation
	o Uber
	 Uber strived to expand into other countries, and
	raised \$44.5 million for international expansion in
	2011
	Corporate Social Responsibility
	O Ben and Jerry's uses Fair Trade ingredients, donates a
	portion of its pre-tax profits to corporate philanthropy
	provide the provid

Unit 2	: Macroecond	omics
2.2	Keynesian Multiplier	Singapore • Low multiplier due to high MPM (small country with low natural resources), MPS (CPF compulsory savings)
2.3.	Unemploy - ment	Unemployment Rate

2.3.	Inflation	Demand-Pull Inflation
2	iiiiatioii	 Singapore 2010, Singapore's Inflation Holds at 14-Month High as Growth Rebounds – Bloomberg
		 Cost-Push Inflation Brexit, weak pound leads to increased price of imports, cost-push inflation hit a higher-than-expected 1.0% in September U.S. consumer prices recorded their biggest gain in five months in September 2016 as the cost of gasoline and rents surged, CPI increasing by 0.3% the previous month
		Stagflation • 1970s, US
		Deflation ■ Japan deflation since early 1990s due to ageing population, poor business confidence, prices dropped for the fifth month in a row in July 2016 (-0.5% in July)
2.3.	Equity	Gini Coefficient Singapore, 0.463 in 2015 before taxes and transfers, 0.410 after Bottom 30%, top 10% of Singapore households saw fastest real income growth Gini coefficient in Denmark rose from 0.20 in 1990 to 0.27 in 2014
		 Direct Progressive Taxes Singapore rose tax rates for the highest bracket from 20% to 22% O Lowest bracket in Singapore has a MTR of 2% Denmark's top marginal effective income tax rate is 60.4 percent. Sweden's is 56.4 percent. Norway's top marginal tax rate is 39 percent
		Proportional Taxes Trinidad and Tobago 25% Russia 13%
		Indirect Taxes • Singapore GST 7% • Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak announced a GST tax of 6% starting on 1 April 2015
		Transfer Payments • Singapore Workfare Income Supplement for people >35 with an average gross monthly income of not more than \$1,900
2.4, 2.5	Policies	Fiscal • Expansionary O Japan, various stimulus packages • October 2016, 3.3 trillion yen on cash handouts for low-income families, efforts to cushion the economic impact of Britain's departure from the

- European Union, and partial costs for the construction of a magnetic-levitation train line
- November 2015, support for agriculture, disaster restoration, cash payouts to low income groups to spur private consumption
- o Singapore Budget 2009, \$20.5 billion Resilience Package

Contractionary

O Colombia cut government spending (and raised interest rates) in February 2016 as its currency fell 27 percent in the past 12 months, helping pushing inflation to more than double the target to 7.45 percent in January from a year earlier

Monetary

Expansionary

- O The Federal Reserve cut its target interest rate in 2008 to historic lows between zero and a quarter percentage point, has remained like that until recently
- O Brazil's central bank has cut interest rates for the first time in four years in October 2016 as the country struggles to emerge from its deepest recession on record, lowering the benchmark Selic rate by 0.25 points, to 14 percent
- O Japan cut a benchmark interest rate below zero on January 2016 to stimulate the economy as volatile markets and slowing global growth threatened its efforts to overcome deflation

Contractionary

- O Colombia raised interest rates (and cut government spending) in February 2016 as its currency fell 27 percent in the past 12 months, helping pushing inflation to more than double the target to 7.45 percent in January from a year earlier
- O The Nigerian central bank raised its main interest rate to 14% from 12% in July 2016, as the country grapples with a shrinking economy, high inflation and a collapsing currency
- o India raised interest rates in 2014 to fight inflation

Interventionist

Training

- O SkillsFuture, \$500 in credit for every person of working age to go for training programmes
- CET (Continuing Education and Training) centres in Singapore, a gateway for workers to find career opportunities, get relevant training in Singapore

• R&D

- O Singapore has unveiled a S\$19 billion plan to support Singapore's R&D efforts over the next five years (Research Innovation Enterprise 2020 Plan)
- O A Star in Singapore, Biopolis, etc.

Infrastructure

- O Philippines, infrastructure spending expanded by about a third in August 2016 as the government spent 34 billion pesos, driven by the repair, maintenance and construction of several roads, educational, health and agricultural facilities
- O Gauteng, South Africa, increased infrastructure spending by 97% at end of 2015/2016 financial year particularly in the areas of construction of new health facilities, refurbishment of schools and building of new roads and other public infrastructure
- O Japan, in one of its numerous stimulus packages, this time in August 2016, will spend 6.2 trillion yen (\$61 billion) on infrastructure to help double the number of tourists visiting the country, speed up construction of a magnetic levitation line and aid building projects overseas

Market-Oriented

- Incentive-related
 - O UK says in October 2016 that it will stick to its plan to lower the UK corporate tax rate from 20 percent to 17 percent by 2020
 - O Indonesia's President Joko Widodo is considering cutting the corporate tax rate from 25 per cent to 17 per cent to match Singapore's tax rate, he was quoted as saying on the cabinet secretary's website on August 2016
 - Singapore reduced corporate tax rates from 26% in 2000 to 17% currently in 2016, FDI has increased steadily and significantly over the years
- Labour-related
 - Spain decreased trade union power in 2012, decreased unemployment as it was easier for firms to fire and fire workers
 - o Kentucky reduced the minimum wage from \$10.10 to \$7.25
 - o France relaxed the country's labour laws, mainly by giving individual companies greater leeway to make more decisions about hiring, firing, pay and working hours according to economic conditions, rather than being constrained by collective-bargaining procedures in 2016, but have caused strikes in May
- Competition-related
 - o Anti-monopoly
 - Competitive Commission of Singapore
 - Competition Act, 2004, Singapore
 - o Deregulation
 - Indonesia deregulation announced in 2015, ranking on the ease-of-doing-business index in the World Bank's flagship annual report has since jumped 15 places to 91st position
 - o Privatisation

	 Telstra in Australia was privatised through three stages in 1997, 1999, 2006, ended in 2011