

Different government systems

No Leader	One Leader		Few Leaders		Many Leaders	
Anarchy	Autocracy		Oligarchy		Democracy	
- No govt - Chaos - Order	Dictatorship	Monarchy	Aristocracy	Communism	Republic	Direct Democracy
	requires use of military to enforce dictator's will	passing down the family, usually with ceremonies	governed by privileged, wealthy	small group's policies in 'the interest of everyone's benefits'	citizens have limited input. Representatives make decisions for them	every citizen can vote in all decisions

Need For State

Autocracy + Oligarchy = Theocracy

- Government and religion closely tied together
- Citizens of different religions are 'second-class citizens'
- Little tolerance for other religious ideas

Autocracy + Oligarchy + Democracy = Bureaucracy

- Government tasks broken down into different departments and ministries
- Organisation makes government efficient

Singapore's Constitution

- A constitution is a collection of rules that determine creation and operation of government and institutions
- It is both the source of the Government's power and the limit to its power.
- Other uses
 - Protect minority rights
 - Guards fundamental liberties of individuals
 - Liberty of person (Article 9 and 10)
 - Freedom of speech (Article 14) – only for Singaporeans
 - Freedom of religion (Article 15) – SG has no state religion, free to practice

Separation of Powers

- Each department has a will of its own
- In SG, it's Judiciary, Legislative, Executive.
- Each watch over the other.
 - Judiciary can examine administrative decisions and laws made by Executive
 - Legislature checks Executive by asking questions in Parliament.

· EXECUTIVE

- President

- Cabinet
- LEGISLATIVE
 - President
 - Parliament
- JUDICIAL
 - Supreme Court

Executive: President

- Has to exercise his powers in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a minister acting under the Cabinet's general authority
- Acts as a custodian over Singapore's financial reserves built up by Govt. Can also block attempts by Govt to draw down on past reserves he deems to be against SG's interests
- Can cancel or change the order if Cabinet does not agree with recommendations made by the Presidential Council for Religious Harmony
- Can allow Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau to investigate something even if PM or Cabinet disagrees
- Has a secret group of buddies called Council of Presidential Advisors
 - Made up of 6 members and 2 alternate members
 - Required to consult the CPA when exercising his powers
 - So decisions made are neutral and not favouring one branch
- Presidential Council for Minority Rights
 - Scrutinise most of the bills passed by Parliament to ensure they do not discriminate against any racial or religious community
- Decision-making can be divided into 3 categories
 - 1: in accordance with the advice of the Cabinet or a minister acting under the Cabinet's general authority
 - 2: must consult the CPA before exercising
 - 3: do not fall in the above cases and Mr President must use his own personal discretion

ANY CHANGES MUST HAVE $\frac{2}{3}$ THE VOTE OF THE PARLIAMENT

Executive: Cabinet

- Made up of Prime Minister and other Ministers
- All decisions are the responsibility of the ENTIRE cabinet

Attorney-General

- Govt's legal officer
 - Provides Govt with legal advice, drafting and vetting its contracts and represents Govt in civil lawsuits
- Public prosecutor with relation to criminal offences
 - Decides who to charge and what specific offences to charge them with
 - His power is called 'prosecutorial discretion'
 - No one can interfere with his decision-making, unless it clearly breaches constitutional rights

Legislative: Parliament

- Law-making body of SG
- Members of Parliament are split into Elected and Appointed
- Elected people are elected through the general election
- There are 2 types of appointed members, non-constituency members of parliament (NCMP) and nominated members of parliament (NMP)
 - NCMPs are people from the opposition party with the highest percentage of votes.
 - NMPs are not part of any political party, usually distinguished people in other fields (arts, sciences, business, social or community service, labour movement etc)
- Government Parliamentary Committees (GPCs) examine the policies and proposed legislation of a particular ministry.

Bill: A draft of a law. Goes through 3 reading and President's approval before becoming a law

Stages:

1. **First Reading:** Bill is introduced and there is no debate
2. **Second Reading:** Debate on general principles of the bill and decide if bill should proceed. Most bills require 50% + 1MP's agreement to proceed
3. **Committee stage:** Details of bill are examined. Specific changes can be proposed. Depending on content of bill, certain committees or all of them can be involved
4. **Third Reading:** Principles behind bill cannot be questioned, only minor changes can be made. Voting through the majority-wins-and-only-those-present-are-counted depends on whether law is passed
5. **Scrutiny by Presidential Council for Minority Rights:** Council reports to Speaker of Parliament if anything in bill discriminates against racial or religious communities
6. **President's approval:** Bill become part of Singapore's Law

Judiciary:

Main function:

- Counter-majoritarian check. It is not elected (unlike the Government)
- Decide on outcomes of disputes between individuals, and individuals and government

Judiciary's check on Executive and Legislature

Judiciary and Executive: Makes sure that it acts within the power conferred to it by the law or Parliament.

Judiciary and Legislature: Ensures laws passed down are consistent

Legal safeguards so that judiciary is independent

1. Security against tenure: Existing High Court Judge cannot be removed by members of Executive or Legislature unless she has met specific criteria eg. mental/physical disabilities/
2. Remuneration: Judge's pay cannot be adjusted
3. Immunity from Civil Suits: Allows Judge to decide on case without being sued

Meritocracy is part of multiculturalism

Multiculturalism

- Policy approach for managing cultural diversity in a multi-ethnic society, officially stressing mutual respect and tolerance for cultural differences within a country.
- As a policy, it emphasizes the unique characteristics of different cultures, especially as they relate to one another in receiving countries.

Some concepts in managing of plural societies

- Monoculturalism
- Multiculturalism
 - Salad Bowl
 - Melting Pot

Singapore's policies

- The Pledge
- National Day
- CMIO - NRIC
- 4 official languages
- Meritocracy
- Group Representation Constituency
- Presidential Council for Minority Rights
- Ethnic Integration Programme
- Inter-racial Confidence Circles
- People's Association and Community Centres/Clubs
- Resident's Committees and Citizens' Consultative Committees
- Community Engagement Programmes

Is it better to have homogenisation or to strive to allow for a diversity of cultures?

Meritocracy