

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pretest/Posttest Passage**Singapore**

Singapore is a place with less than 3 million people. It is one of the safest places on Earth. It has less bad crime than the U.S. People are safe on the streets day and night. They enjoy many freedoms and choices that few Americans can know.

Singapore is safe. It is also a well-run place. This is not seen by Singapore's more than 6 million yearly visitors. 300,000 of these visitors are Americans. There is a strict system of controls. The laws on almost every part of life are backed by strict physical punishment such as caning.

Many visitors think some of the controls seem silly and unfair. Chewing gum is not sold because the government decided it was too messy for city streets. People are fined for not flushing a public toilet, spitting, or picking public flowers. The government also has complete control over teachers, students, and state workers. The government has a system of threats and rewards that work to stop political battles.

The government's strict control on information is more serious. Printing presses must be licensed. Publications that are considered "prejudicial to the national interest" are not allowed. Anyone joining in activities considered unacceptable can find his or her career or education plans ruined.

The government directs 60 percent of the economy. It has a lot of power over the other 40 percent, too. "Singapore isn't all that it appears to be on the surface," said a long-time government worker. "It's not a society most Americans would want to live in."

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Adapted from: Hereford, J. (1998). *Passing the North Carolina Seventh Grade EOG in Reading: The Competitive Edge* (pg. 31). Raleigh: Contemporary Publishing Company. Used by permission.

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Pretest/Posttest Comprehension Questions

Singapore

- 1) How is Singapore a safe place?**

- 2) What are two things that the government controls in Singapore?**

- 3) Why can you not buy chewing gum in Singapore?**

- 4) What can happen if you say or print something that goes against-public interest?**

- 5) What percentage of the economy does the government directly control?**