

Lecture: FY 2025 National Institute for Educational Policy Research,  
Seminar on Educational Facilities Research  
The Role of School Facility responding to Educational Reform  
--From the Cases of Singapore and Japan--

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 13:35~13:45

Venue: 3F Auditorium, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

# Singapore's Social and Linguistic Environment and Educational Practices

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# SINGAPORE'S SOCIAL AND LINGUISTIC ENVIRONMENT



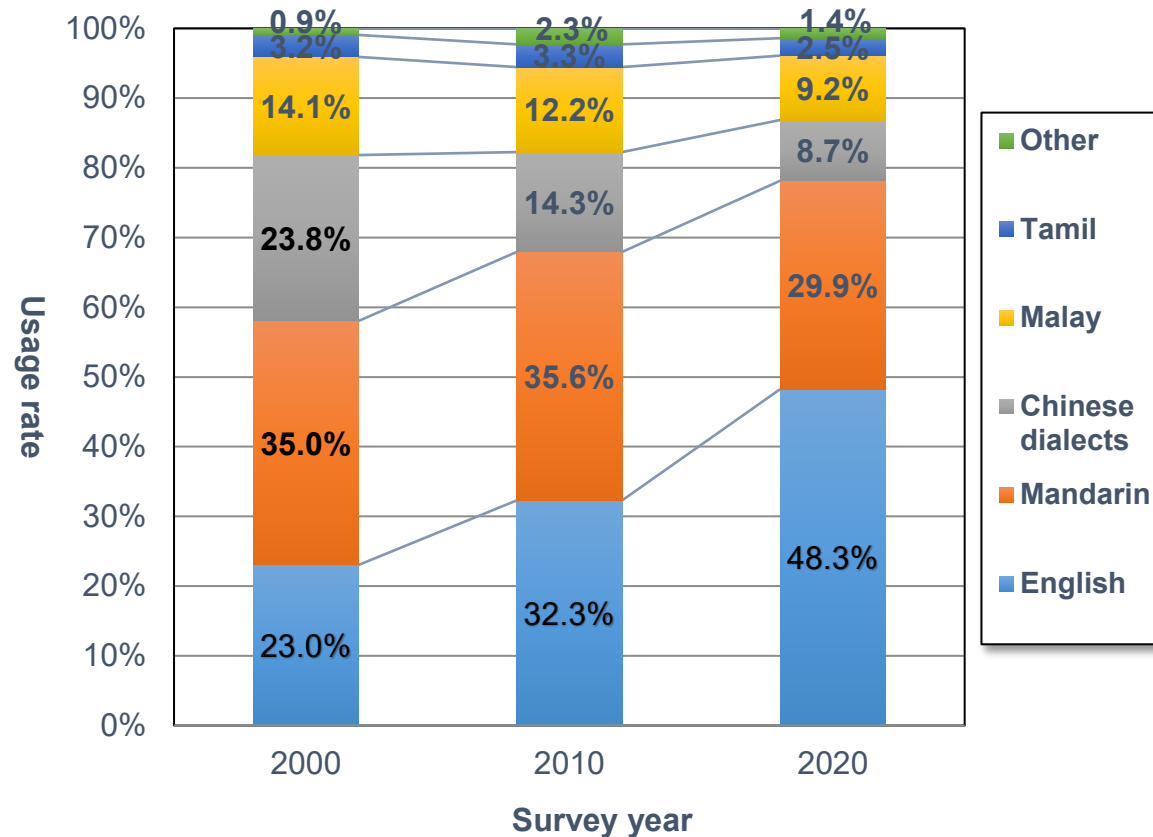
- **Multi-racial society**...Singapore is a multi-ethnic society consisting of Chinese (75.5%), Malays (15.1%), Indians (7.6%), and other (1.8%) (as of June 2025).

- **Ethnic Integration Policy (EIP)**...Nearly 90% of the population resides in public housing (Housing & Development Board, HDB). Caps are set on the proportion of Chinese, Malay, Indian, and other ethnic groups in HDB blocks and neighborhood levels to limit the concentration of specific ethnic groups, increase daily inter-ethnic interaction, and cultivate a shared national identity.



# SINGAPORE'S SOCIAL AND LINGUISTIC ENVIRONMENT

Changes in Languages Most Commonly Spoken at Home in Singapore



Source: Singapore Department of Statistics(2021), *Census of Population 2020 Statistical Release 1: Demographic Characteristics, Education, Language and Religion*, and 2010(2011); 2000(2001), Ministry of Trade & Industry, Republic of Singapore.

## ● Linguistic diversity...


- **National language:** Malay. Respect for the language and culture of the Malays as Singapore's indigenous population as stipulated by the constitution, with consideration given to neighboring countries based on geographical and political factors.
- **Official language:** Malay, Mandarin, Tamil, English
- **Lingua franca:** English
- **Unofficial languages :** Many elderly members of the Chinese community in Singapore speak Chinese dialects such as Hokkein, Teochew, and Cantonese. The Indian community includes diverse regional language groups, such as Malayalam, Punjabi, and Hindi.

# SINGAPORE'S BILINGUAL EDUCATION POLICY

PSLE STANDARD MATHEMATICS  
PAPER 2  
(55 marks)

Questions 1 to 5 carry 2 marks each. Show your working clearly in the space below each question and write your answers in the spaces provided. For questions which require units, give your answers in the units stated. You may use an approved calculator. (10 marks)

1. The diagram below shows some shapes.



What is the ratio of the total number of shapes to the number of squares? Express your answer in the simplest form.

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $15\frac{4}{5}$  kg of flour was packed into bags of  $\frac{5}{8}$  kg each.

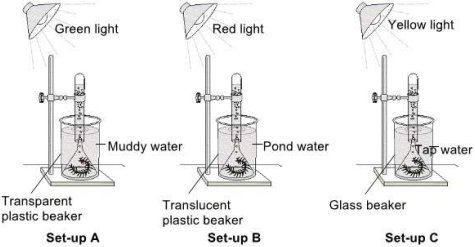
a) What was the maximum number of bags of flour?

Ans: a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) How much flour was left unpacked?

Ans: b) \_\_\_\_\_

32. Ahmad carried out the experiment as shown in the diagram below. He wanted to find out if the colour of light would affect the rate of photosynthesis in plants.



(a) Ahmad's teacher said that his experiment was not fair. Suggest two changes he must make so that his experiment would be fair. [2]

Change 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Change 2: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Ahmad observed that the plant in Set-up A died after two days even though he used a transparent plastic beaker. Give a reason for his observation. [1]

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 1966: Start of Singapore's Bilingual Educational Policy**... Both English as the lingua franca and the Mother Tongue Language (MTL) of each ethnic community are compulsory subjects. In primary schools, all subjects and activities are taught in English except for MTL and Character and Citizenship Education (CCE). From secondary education onwards, English is the sole medium of instruction for all subjects and activities.
- 1980: Introduction of course placement based on ability (streaming)**... Ability-based course placement based on a 1979 Ministry of Education report by Goh Keng Swee was introduced in Primary 4 to 6 and secondary education to address education wastage, such as declining academic standards and rising dropout rates.
- 2024: Introduction of Full Subject-Based Banding (FSBB) system**... Core subjects, including English, MTL, Mathematics, and Science are taught at levels tailored to individual learning levels in Primary 5 and 6 grades and secondary education.

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CURRICULUM

(Weekly Timetable for MOE Kindergarten K2 (Morning Session))

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
7:50 – 8:00	Arrival and Morning Circle (Circle Time)				
8:00 – 8:30	Outdoor play			Storytime (08:00-08:10)	
8:30 – 9:30	MTL			PE (08:10-08:40)	
9:30 – 9:50	Snack time			MTL (08:40-:9:40)	
9:50 – 10:00	Storytime			Snack time (09:40-10:00)	
10:00 – 10:40	Hi-Light programme				
10:40 – 11:00	Independent reading time				
11:00 – 11:50	Starlight Literacy programme				
11:50 – 12:00	Clean-up and dismissal				

\* **Green** time slots are conducted in MTL (Chinese, Malay, Tamil).

- Hi-Light Programme**

Activities aimed at integrated development of the five learning areas, including "aesthetics and creative expression" and "numeracy"



- Starlight Literacy Programme**

Active learning of English and Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) through the use of board books, nursery rhymes, and games



# PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

(Weekly timetable for second-year primary school students)

Period	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Time	7:45 –8:15	8:15 –8:45	8:45 –9:15	9:15 –9:45	9:45 –10:15	10:15 –10:45	10:45 –11:15	11:15 –11:45	11:45 –12:15	12:15 –12:45	12:45 –13:15	13:15 –13:45
Mon	Music	Music	Grade assembly	Math	Math	Break	English	English	English	CCE	MTL	MTL
Tue	MTL	MTL	MTL	Math	Math	Break	English	English	PAL	PAL	PAL	PAL
Wed	Art	Art	PE	Math	Math	Break	MTL	MTL	MTL	English	English	English
Thu	PE	PE	English	English	Science	Break	MTL	MTL	MTL	Math	Math	English
Fri	PE	English	English	MTL	MTL	Break	English	English	Math	Classroom activity	School assembly	

- Orange: English lessons / Yellow: Lessons and activities conducted in English / Green: Lessons and activities conducted in MTL

## Character and Citizenship Education (CCE)



## Programme for Active Learning (PAL)



## (References & Materials)

- Department of Statistics.(2021), *Census of Population 2020 Statistical Release 1: Demographic Characteristics, Education, Language and Religion*, Ministry of Trade & Industry Singapore.
- Department of Statistics.(2011), *Census of Population 2010 Statistical Release 1: Demographic Characteristics, Education, Language and Religion*, Ministry of Trade & Industry Singapore.
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- Goh Keng Swee and the Education Study Team.(1979), *Report on the Ministry of Education 1978*, Ministry of Education Singapore.
- Mitsuhiro IKEDA.(2022), Citizenship Education in Singapore: Implementation of Character and Citizenship Education and Revised National Education, Toshifumi HIRATA (eds.), *Citizenship education in the ASEAN community*, Springer Nature, pp.203-214.
- Full Subject-Based Banding (Full SBB), URL: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/psle-fsbb/full-subject-based-banding/main.html> (Last accessed 10 December 2025)
- Mitsuhiro IKEDA.(2021), Singapore: Shifting Educational Reform from Assessing Academic Achievement to Character Evaluation, Yutaka OTSUKA (supervising editor) and Maki TAKAYOSHI (ed.), *Asia Education Information Series, Vol. 2: Southeast Asia*, Ichigeisha, pp.61-76.

Thank you for your kind attention.