

## Suggested Answers



Ever wondered what values the five stars on the Singapore national flag represent?

The exhibition *5 Stars: Art Reflects on Peace, Justice, Equality, Democracy and Progress* is Singapore Art Museum's (SAM) endeavor to interpret the five values through contemporary art. Contemplate commissioned works by five notable representatives of art in Singapore and reconsider what these values mean to you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Singapore's national flag was created to give its people a sense of identity while expressing the hopes and ideals of its people. The five stars represent the values of Peace, Justice, Equality, Democracy and Progress. What do the other parts mean?

Find out and write the answer below!

Crescent

A rising young nation

Red background

Universal brotherhood and equality

White background

Pervading and everlasting purity and virtue



**Head to Gallery 1.10**

Here, you have Singaporean artist **Ho Tzu Nyen** interpreting the value of **Justice**.

2. Before you enter the gallery, find out the title of the artwork:

*No Man*

3. The title is part of a famous phrase found in the text *Meditation XVII* by English poet John Donne. What is it?

**NO MAN IS AN ISLAND**

4. What do you think the above phrase means?

Free response. E.g. The phrase reflects how all of humanity is interconnected; how the taking of a life may seem insignificant but will gradually diminish humankind.

5. Listen carefully to the music in the gallery. Can you hear which word the artist has changed?

The artist changed the word "Europe" to "Malaya".

*Psst:* one of the walls around the gallery may just be of some help!

6. Why do you think he changed it?

Free response. E.g. The artist is trying to place the artwork in the context of Malaya, a federation of 11 states in the Malay Peninsula, a British protectorate from 1948 to 57.

7. How did you feel when you were inside the gallery?

Free response.

8. What do you think evoked this feeling?

Free response. E.g. The combination of a hall of smudged mirrors, timed projections of ghostly figures, recurrent chanting and bursts of smoke possibly evoked different feelings when one views the artwork.

Hint: What can you see, feel, and hear?

9. What does Justice mean to you? Draw/write in the space below:

Free response. E.g. fairness, etc.

10. List 5 words associated with Justice; draw/write down the situation you may find them in:

Word Law	Word Mercy	Word Integrity	Word Equality	Word Fairness
Free response	Free response	Free response	Free response	Free response
Situation	Situation	Situation	Situation	Situation

Psst: If you're at a loss, check out the **Crescent Room** for some clues.

11. Besides a judge in the courtroom, who else metes out "justice" on a daily basis?

Free response. E.g. Teachers, policemen, parents, public, media, jury, supervisors, etc.

 **Head to Gallery 3.10**

12. Have you noticed the seemingly random black alphabets painted on the vertical white pipes? What purpose do you think they serve? Walk through the forest of pipes and head towards the end of the gallery to find out.

Here, you will find various statements on the idea of *Democracy*. Pick the statement that resonates the most with you and write it down below:

Free response.

If you feel strongly for this statement, you can vote for this quote in the **Crescent Room!**

Psst: You can vote for any other quote you encounter throughout the exhibition as well!

13. The statements from different people are responses to two questions about *Democracy* posed by the artist:

- What do you think are the two most important elements that make a Democracy?
- How do you think the above is or could be realised fully in Singapore?

How would you respond to /answer the same two questions?

Free response.



### Discussion Time

14. Walk back into the installation and look for the statement which you relate best to. Can you find the exact location where the statement may be seen in its entirety?

The optical effect of anamorphosis is used to create this artwork. After experiencing this artwork, what do you think the Singaporean artist is trying to depict about *Democracy*?

Free response. E.g. The use of anamorphosis challenges the viewer to find the exact location where responses to questions about Democracy can be read. This experience suggests to the viewer that different viewpoints exist and taking these viewpoints into consideration is crucial to the democratic process.

15. The artwork *Every Point of View* uses the optical effect of anamorphosis. Create your own anamorphic drawing in the grid below.

Free response.

 **Head to Gallery 2.10**

Walk down from the gallery of **Democracy** towards **Progress**.

16. Stand in the middle of the gallery; listen and observe Singaporean artist **Zulkifle Mahmud's** *Raising Spirits and Restoring Souls*. How many types of sounds are there? Where do you think the sounds are coming from? Draw/describe the objects that are producing the sounds in the space below:

There are three types of sound produced by solenoid valves, e-bows, and pre-recorded singing.

Free response.

17. Listen to the rhythmic beats and the singing of a phrase. Do you recognise the melody?

The melody is from Singapore's national anthem, *Majulah Singapura* (Onward Singapore).

\*Hint: It is sung daily by every school child in Singapore.

18. The melody comes from Singapore's national anthem, *Majulah Singapura*. What are the lyrics of the phrase that is sung in the original language of the anthem?

Sama-sama menuju bahagia.

19. The Malay lyrics of the phrase translate to "*Let us progress towards happiness together*". What does happiness mean to you? Draw/write it down below:

Free response.

20. How will you progress towards your idea of happiness?

Free response.

21. In Zulkifle's installation, the phrase that translates to "*Let us progress towards happiness together*" is sung by children from disadvantaged backgrounds, whose parents are unable to care for them. What do you think the Singaporean artist is trying to achieve by involving this community?

Free response. E.g. Zulkifle is exploring the idea of progress; what it means to Singaporeans from different social and economic background, in particular children who begin their life with seemingly less advantages than others. He questions if these children believe in the notion of progressing towards happiness together, and what this means to them.



## Discussion Time

22. If everyone's idea of happiness is different, is it possible for everyone to progress towards happiness together? How can that be achieved?

Free response.

23. Proceed deeper into the gallery and stop at an installation with books suspended from the wall. You have arrived in the gallery of **Equality**, represented by the installation *Of Equal Measure*, dedicated to **T.K. Sabapathy**.

24. Walk along the gallery and follow the books that contain Sabapathy's writings over four decades. Find the title that you find most intriguing and write down what you think the book may be about.

Free response.

25. Sabapathy has researched and published many books on art, artists and art history. How do these books contribute to his cause?

Free response. E.g. Books on art and art history by Sabapathy serve to establish art history as an academic discipline in Singapore, as well as highlight the importance of artists and their works. The compilation and production of knowledge in these critical writings influenced the trajectory of art and art history as a subject.

Food for thought: Take a look at the art history books in the reading room next to the gallery before answering!

26. What do you think is the concept/idea behind this installation?

Free response. E.g. The installation is a tribute to T.K. Sabapathy, who represents the value of equality. Sabapathy has championed that art is as important as other subjects in school.



**Let's try this**

27. Within this gallery, three artists pay tribute to Sabapathy through three very different portraits. How would you pay homage to someone whom you admire?

- a) Make a list of your ideas.
- b) Choose one that you find most relevant to your cause.
- c) Present it in the most suitable way below.

You can draw, write, or create a collage!

Free response.

28. Walk into the last space where thousands of prismatic lenses are joined together. This space contains the installation *Bloodline of Peace* by Singaporean artist **Suzann Victor**. Be careful not to touch these lenses.

29. The lenses are joined together to form one large object. What does it remind you of?

Free response. E.g. Giant quilt, blanket, snake, dragon, water, waves, etc.

30. Look at the lenses carefully. What does each of them contain?

Each of these lenses contain a drop of human blood.

31. Blood has often been associated with life, pain and death in idioms. Can you think of 5 such idioms and their related meaning? Write them down below. The first one has been done for you!

Young blood	Younger member of a group, who is full of energy
Blood brother	Someone who treat another person as their own sibling
Blood is thicker than water	People who are related have stronger obligations
Make someone's blood run cold	To shock, horrify or frighten someone
Bad blood	Unpleasant feelings, hated or hostility between people

32. Why do you think the artist used blood as a significant part of her work to represent Peace?

Free response. E.g. Blood brings to mind life, and at the same time, violence, pain and death. When donated voluntarily, it can save a life. This gift of blood by individuals from Singapore's key communities such as the armed forces, medicine, civil defence, the arts and the pioneer generation can be viewed as a representation of peace.

33. This artwork by Suzann Victor is titled *Bloodline of Peace*. What do you think the title means?

Free response. E.g. A bloodline suggests a line of descent of an important person. In this artwork where blood is donated by individuals from Singapore's key communities, the continuous line of blood drop in Fresnel lenses suggests that peace is upheld by different civilians forming an everlasting bloodline of peace.

Psst: bloodline refers a set of ancestors of line of descent of an important person.

34. “When the power of love overcomes the love of power  
the world will know peace.” ~ Jimi Hendrix

Besides the power of love, what other powers can contribute to peace?

Free response. E.g. Power of empathy, unity, harmony, etc.

*Psst:* Check out the Crescent Room for some clues!

 **Let's try this**

35. Singapore's national flag is the country's most visible national symbol, and reflects the nation's ideals, beliefs, and values of **Justice, Democracy, Progress, Equality** and **Peace**. The flag was first created to represent Singapore shortly after it became a self-governing state under British rule in 1959, and adopted as the national flag when Singapore became an independent nation in 1965.

Do you think the same ideals, beliefs and values are still relevant today? What other values would you add to our five values and why?

S/N	VALUES	REASONS
1.	Free response	Free response
2.	Free response	Free response
3.	Free response	Free response
4.	Free response	Free response
5.	Free response	Free response