

## NUS Geography Challenge Geo-Trail and Grand Finals 2018

Congratulations! Your school is among the top 53 in the NUS Geography Challenge (NUS GC) 2018 and has thus qualified for the Semi-Finals Round: Geo-Trail 2018, which will be held on **24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (Saturday)**. The **top 5** Semi-Finalist schools with the best combined score from Creative Component (CC) (40%) and Geo-Trail (60%) will be revealed during Grand Finals and will compete to be the Champion of NUS GC 2018 on the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

### 1. NUS Geography Challenge 2018: Geo-Trail

For Geo-Trail, schools are required to report at the **Level 5 Lobby** of the **Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Centre** to register for the event. The URA Centre is located at **45 Maxwell Road** near **Tanjong Pagar MRT (EW15)** at **Exit A** (Annex A). Registration will commence at **0730 hrs** and a briefing will be given at **0815 hrs** at this starting point. All schools are expected to complete the Geo-Trail within **5 hours 30 minutes**. We seek your understanding and cooperation in ensuring that your school reports **punctually**. Extra time will **not** be granted to schools that register late on the day of the event.

Participants are to report in the **NUS GC 2018 Red T-shirts** (given out during the Preliminary Round) and their school's PE shorts/pants for easy identification throughout the trail. Students are required to wear comfortable sports shoes and socks, as the event will require them to cover considerable distances by foot.

Students are required to bring the following **mandatory** items for the purpose of Geo-Trail:

1. **Identity/Student Card** for registration
2. A **signed copy of the Rules and Regulations of Geo-Trail 2018** (Annex C). Only one copy of this document needs to be submitted by each school, which is to be signed by the Teacher I/C and all four school team participants.
3. Health Declaration Form (Annex B). Student participants who are unable to submit the Health Declaration Forms at the registration counters will not be allowed to participate in the event (see Annex C: Rules and Regulations for more information).
4. **Water bottle** (at least 500ml recommended). Participants are responsible for their personal hydration.
5. **Writing materials** (including colour pencils, markers, highlighters, calculators). These materials are highly recommended for illustrating answers to relevant questions.
6. **Umbrella or raincoat / poncho**. This is for use during inclement weather conditions.
7. A **full set of school uniform** to change into for the Grand Finals and Prize Presentation Ceremony.
8. A **small amount of money for lunch**
9. **EZ link cards with a value of at least \$15**. All participants are strongly encouraged to top-up their EZ link cards before coming.

Students are **strongly encouraged** to bring along the following **optional** items for the Geo-Trail:

- Clip-board or a hardcover file.
- Street Directory, Bus Guides or a map of Singapore to navigate around the island. Teams who do not bring either of these materials may NOT claim special consideration arising from time lost due to difficulties in locating and determining suitable transport to the stations. Do note that students will **not** be allowed to use their phones and IT devices during the Geo-Trail.
- Snacks (There is an allocated time of 45 minutes for lunch from 1200 hrs - 1245 hrs. Students are strongly encouraged to buy and eat lunch during this time. Lunch will not be provided by the Organising Committee). During the lunch break, stations will be closed, and no worksheets will be given out or collected. Students are also reminded to have breakfast before coming for registration on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- Hat/cap, sunblock and mosquito repellent.
- Watches (Students are to keep track of the important timings without usage of their mobile phones or IT gadgets. No special consideration will be given if students lose track of time.)

To ensure fairness throughout the entire Geo-Trail, bag checks will be conducted prior to flag-off. Please refer to **Annex C** for rules and regulations, including a list of items **not** to bring for Geo-Trail.

The major aspects of Geo-Trail 2018 are as follows:

1. Speed is **NOT** the most important factor.
2. Completion of **on-site tasks/questions** within the stipulated time is more essential. Prizes will be awarded to teams that achieve the highest score at each station. There will be 10 stations in the Geo-Trail and 10 “Best in Station” prizes to be won in total.
3. **All members** of the team must be **present** before they are allowed to receive/submit the question paper from/to the station masters.
4. For Geo-Trail 2018, teams are advised to complete the on-site tasks / questions **within 20-30 minutes**. Any extra time taken will be at the expense of the team’s ability to complete the trail.
5. The time limit for the entire Geo-Trail is approximately five and a half hours. This includes a mandatory 45-minute lunch break from 1200 hrs to 1245 hrs for participants to have their own lunch.
6. On-site tasks and questions will have a **strong emphasis** on assessing participants’ critical application of skills and geographical concepts. It will also test the participants’ general knowledge, geographical skills, powers of observation and memory, and fieldwork methods in relation to this year’s theme of Security.
7. Teamwork is a crucial part in determining the absolute success of schools. **Teams may choose to delegate tasks** within each station to ensure that they finish in time.

8. There will be no prescribed order that teams are to follow to get to each station. In other words, **teams are responsible for planning their own routes** and deciding which of the 10 stations they would like to complete during the stipulated time. However, do note that each station will only be accepting the **first 25 schools** that come along. After the vacancies for the first 25 teams have been filled up, the station will be closed.
9. All stations will close at **1430 hrs**. You are allowed to submit partially completed worksheets. **All stations will not accept any submissions after 1430hrs.**
10. All students are required to report back to UTown Auditorium 2 at UTown by **1530 hrs**. **Schools that report late will be penalised by 1 point per minute.** In lieu of this, we advise schools to properly plan their route to ensure that they have sufficient time to get to NUS UTown.
11. Wet Weather and Haze Contingency Plans will be in place for Geo-Trail 2018 (Annex D).

Through the participation of students in Geo-Trail, we hope to encourage students to think beyond the classroom and appreciate Geography as an applicable subject to everyday life. Furthermore, it is our wish to facilitate students in their application of geographical perspectives when looking at issues relating to security in Singapore, and in recognising the value of Geography in assessing, as well as mitigating, these issues.

## **2. NUS Geography Challenge: Grand Finals 2018**

Registration for the NUS Geography Challenge 2018 Grand Finals will be at **NUS University Town (UTown) Auditorium 2**. Schools that have returned from the Geo-Trail should proceed straight to this location to register. Any team that reports late, after 1530 hours, will be penalised accordingly as aforementioned. After reporting to UTown Auditorium 2, teams are expected to wash up and change into a **full set of school uniform** for the Grand Finals. Teachers are highly encouraged to join their students for the Grand Finals. If schools would like to invite some supporters or parents to observe the Grand Finals, do let us know beforehand through the e-mail provided below. However, do note that their attendance is not guaranteed, and is subject to seating availability in the Auditorium.

The programme for the Grand Finals will begin at **1600 hrs** at the **NUS UTown Auditorium 2**. The programme is expected to end at **1945 hrs**, after which a buffet dinner reception will be served. During Grand Finals, the top 5 schools will be competing for the Challenge Trophy of the NUS Geography Challenge 2018. During the event, there will also be a prize-presentation ceremony when the Organizing Committee will award prizes to schools who have performed outstandingly during the Preliminary Round, Creative Component, Geo-Trail, and Grand Finals.

Scores from Creative Component (40%) and Geo-Trail (60%) will determine the top 5 schools that compete in Grand Finals. In determining the Champion of NUS GC 2018 out of the top 5 schools, scores from Creative Component and Geo-Trail will not be taken into consideration. All 5 schools will begin on a clean slate for Grand Finals. It is only in the event of a tie at the end of Grand Finals will Geo-Trail scores then be taken into consideration. We will not be taking Creative Component scores into account in the event of a tie. Kindly note that all decisions made by the Organizing Committee are final and will not be subject to any disputes.

The Organising Committee would like to remind all students that the **top 5 schools** which qualify for the Grand Finals will be required to present the photo essay that they submitted for the Creative Component. Teams will be invited to pitch their photo essays to the judges and link their findings from the photo essay to relevant geographical concepts.

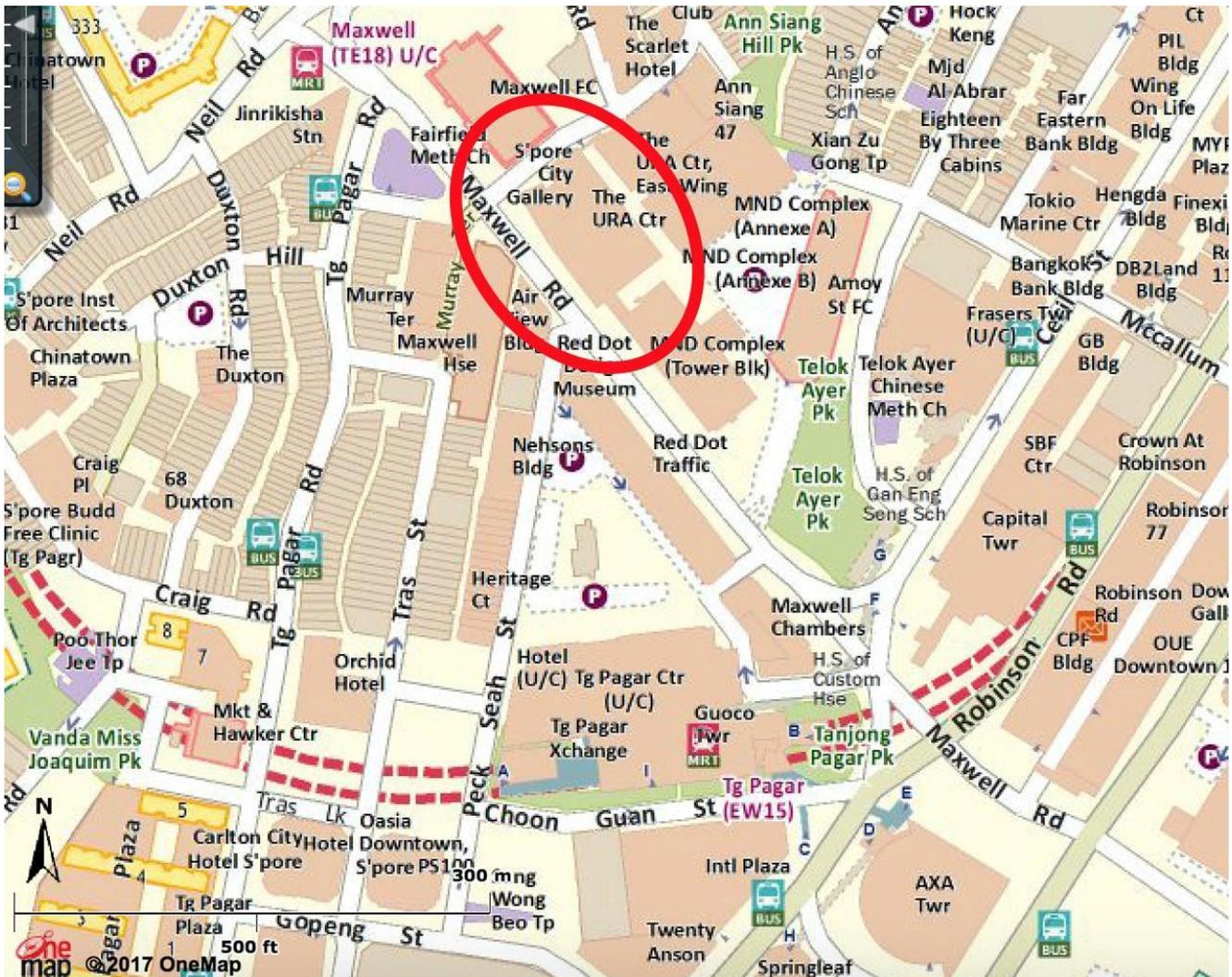
Meanwhile, should you have any further enquiries, please direct them to [nusgeographychallenge@gmail.com](mailto:nusgeographychallenge@gmail.com). Thank you for your time and we look forward to having you with us on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Chan Jia Yi (Ms.)**  
**Ng Yan Shen (Mr.)**  
Heads, Geo-Trail 2018  
NUS Geography Challenge 2018

**Ong Wei Shuen (Ms.)**  
**Lim Hui Yi (Ms.)**  
**Lim Xin Yi Sarah (Ms.)**  
Heads, Grand Finals 2018  
NUS Geography Challenge 2018

**Eugene Kuan (Mr.)**  
Project Director  
NUS Geography Challenge 2018

**Annex A: Location Map of URA Centre Singapore City Gallery**



**Location Map of URA Centre Singapore City Gallery**

*Source: OneMap Singapore*

**Annex B: Health Declaration**

**Health Declaration to be completed by all students (regardless of age):**

Blood Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently on any medication? If yes, please state: \_\_\_\_\_

Please state any pre-existing medical conditions / allergies (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_

*\*All student participants are reminded to bring their medication/medical devices (i.e. inhaler) for pre-existing medical conditions*

**To be completed by all students (regardless of age):**

Student's Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

**Annex C: Rules and Regulations**

These are the rules and regulations for Geo-Trail 2018. Teachers-in-charge of the Geo-Trail teams from the respective schools have the sole responsibility in transmitting and explaining information from this Rules and Regulations to their students. Every participant must be aware of all the rules, regulations and requirements of Geo-Trail, in particular the actions liable for disqualification.

**The Teacher I/C and all four students of each team are required to sign a copy of the Rules and Regulations and submit it upon registration.**

**I acknowledge and accept the Rules and Regulations of Geo-Trail 2018.**

Name of school	
Name of Teacher I/C	
Signature and date	
Full name of student	
Signature and date	
Full name of student	
Signature and date	
Full name of student	
Signature and date	
Full name of student	
Signature and date	

The rules and regulations are as follows:

1. The Geo-Trail team from each school **must** comprise the same students who sat for Preliminary Round. Should any member of the team be unable to compete in Geo-Trail for medical reasons, kindly inform the Organising Team **as soon as possible**.
  2. Registration for the event will commence at 0730 hrs at the Level 5 Lobby at URA Centre. Participants need to be in their **NUS GC 2018 Red T-shirts** in order to take part in Geo-Trail.
  3. A briefing will commence at **0815 sharp**. Teams that arrive later than the timing will be given a separate briefing. Teams who arrive later than 0845 will be disqualified.
  4. Team members who are unable to submit **Annexes B and C** will **not be** allowed to participate in the event, and this will result in the disqualification of the **entire** team.
  5. Non-digital aid materials for navigation (i.e. Street Directory, Bus Guide, and Map of Singapore) are allowed and strongly encouraged.
  6. Hand phones will be collected and kept in a sealed envelope, which will be handed over to the students. Students are not allowed to call anyone or make use of their phone functions e.g. 3/4G network to ask for help during the entire course of the trail. However, should an emergency arise, the seal can be broken, and students can use their hand phones to dial for the emergency numbers and the call centre for help. A list of emergency contacts will be provided to all students.
  7. Sealed envelopes will be checked at each station before the question papers are given out.
  8. As the seal of the envelope should only be broken for **emergencies**, once the seal is broken, schools will risk being forfeited from Geo-Trail. The Geography Challenge Project Director will make the final decision with regards to such situations.
  9. The following items are strictly **not allowed**:
    - Electronic Devices (e.g. handphones – will be kept in a sealed envelope during registration, devices with GPS functions or internet functions) are not allowed to be brought on the trail.
    - Phone cards.
    - Laptops, tablets.
    - Brochures, notes or reference books (e.g. academic books, textbooks, encyclopedias, etc.) that may aid in the trail.
    - Other communication devices (e.g. Pager, Walkie Talkies).
- Schools are urged to declare any non-authorized items they have upon registration and surrender them to their accompanying teacher in-charge. A mandatory bag check will be conducted prior to flag-off and schools in possession of the items as listed above will risk **disqualification**.
10. Safety is of the top-priority at all times and team members are expected to stay together when travelling between stations.
  11. All stations will have a limit of **25 teams**. This means that any school after the 25<sup>th</sup> school would **not** be able to attempt the station. Schools are thus urged to strategise and plan ahead of time in lieu of this arrangement.
  12. All stations will close at **1430**. Students will leave for NUS UTown once all stations are closed. Teams that have not registered by **1530** at NUS UTown will be **penalised by 1 point per minute**. Teams are strongly encouraged to plan their route such that they are able to return to NUS UTown punctually. The penalty for late teams will begin at **1530**.
  13. **1 mark** will be deducted for every **1 minute** past the stipulated time.

14. Teams will be given a timesheet, which they have to bring along with them throughout the trail and submit it when they check in at NUS UTown at the end of the Geo-Trail. It is the onus of schools to submit this timesheet for the station masters' records once they arrive at a station and collect it before they leave for the next station.
15. Teams will only get their questions/tasks from the respective station masters, who will be dressed in **Geography Challenge 2018 Maroon T-shirts**. Teams must follow all instructions given by the station masters.
16. All four members of the team must arrive at each station and present their timesheet to the station masters before they can get the set of task(s) and/or questions for that station. Likewise, for the submission of answers.
17. Teams must ensure that station masters **have indicated their completion of task(s)** and/or questions on the timesheet, including the time of arrival and departure at the station and the signature of the station master before teams move on to their next station. If a station is not filled in properly on the timesheet, marks for the station will not be counted.
18. Teams which are found to have altered the station masters' indications and/or remarks on the timesheet will be **disqualified**.
19. The timesheet is very important. Teams need to hand in their timesheet when they return to NUS UTown. Teams that lose their timesheet will be subject to **disqualification**.
20. Teams are encouraged to complete the on-site tasks/questions at each station **within 20-30 minutes**. Any extra time required will be at the team's expense of the completion of the trail.
21. Students are **not allowed** to harass members of the public for assistance in the questions. This is to prevent unnecessary complaints of harassment as 212 participants run around the island during Geo-Trail.
22. Students are **not allowed** to seek help from their teachers or their student mentors (where applicable) during Geo-Trail 2018. Teams will be disqualified if any violation is reported and verified.
23. Students are only allowed to travel by selected modes of **public transport** (Buses, MRT and LRT) throughout the Geo-Trail. Taxis and private transport are strictly not allowed. Teams will be disqualified if any violation is reported and verified.
24. There is no cost (e.g. entrance fees) involved in any of the stations, and teams who do make such expenses will not be able to claim for a refund.
25. Teams are responsible for their personal belongings during the Geo-Trail, including a set of school uniform for each participant for the Grand Finals at NUS UTown, and are advised to have their valuables with them at all times. **The committee will not be liable for any loss of personal belongings during Geo-Trail.**
26. Due to the length of the competition, there will be a mandatory **45-minute** lunch break from **1200 hrs to 1245 hrs**. Hence, participants are **strongly encouraged** to use this time to settle for a quick lunch. **During this time, all stations will be closed.** All station masters will not give out question papers, nor collect completed answer sheets during the lunch break.

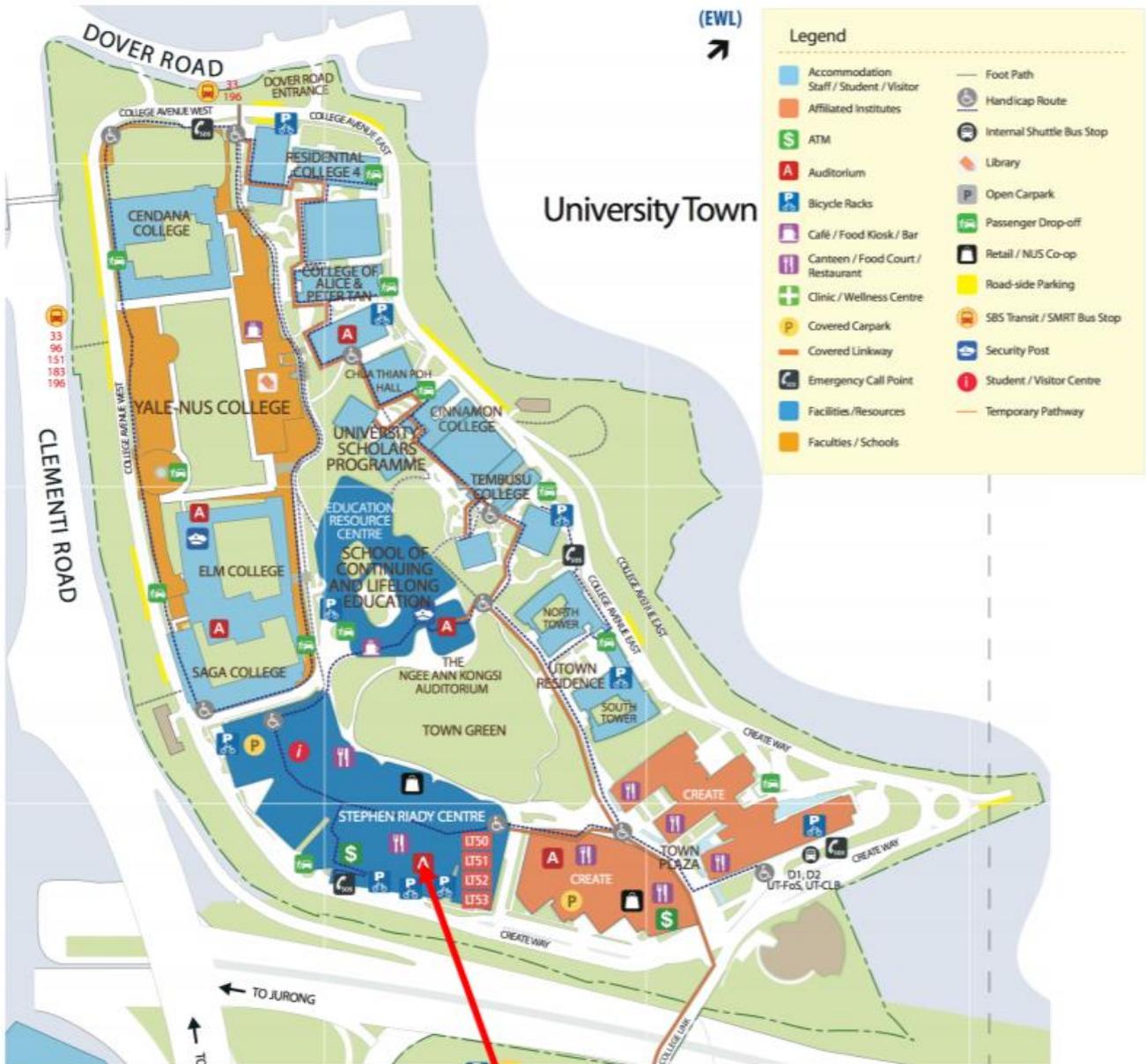
27. If teams need to seek medical assistance, they should inform the station masters, who will inform the duty medic, or dial for an ambulance if deemed necessary.
28. Teams who do not have all registered members attempting and finishing Geo-Trail will be deemed to have not completed Geo-Trail and will be disqualified.
29. Information pertaining to wet weather plans is available in Annex D.
30. The Organising Committee will have the final say in the event of any disputes with regards to timing records as well as ambiguities arising from the interpretation of clues, tasks and this set of rules and regulations disseminated.

#### Annex D: Wet Weather and Haze Contingency Plans

1. This annex states brief response plans to deal with conditions of inclement weather that may occur during the Geo-Trail.
2. The definition of “inclement” weather includes, but is not necessarily limited to, heavy rainfall conditions coupled with lightning and thunder risks. Other risks such as flash floods, landslides and cave-ins, etc. are considered “inclement” weather conditions.
3. When heavy rainfall conditions occur, station masters will dial the NEA Weather Hotline at **6542 7788** to verify conditions of inclement weather as explained in clause 2. Should inclement weather conditions occur, station masters will contact the Geo-Trail Head immediately.
4. The following plans will be executed should inclement weather conditions be detected at certain times prior and during the Geo-Trail.
  - a) Inclement weather before 0730: Geo-Trail will be allowed to take place under normal conditions so long as no lightning / thunder conditions occur after 0730.
  - b) Inclement weather from 0800-0900: The Geography Challenge Project Director, acting upon the advice of the Geo-Trail ICs, has the discretion to postpone the execution of Geo-Trail by a maximum of one hour, i.e. till 1000, or till no conditions of inclement weather exists, whichever is earlier; so long as no inclement weather conditions continue after 0900hrs.
  - c) Inclement weather from 0900-1000: The Geography Challenge Project Director, acting upon the advice of the Geo-Trail ICs, has the discretion to cancel Geo-Trail completely and replace it with other tasks.
  - d) Inclement weather from 1000-1530: All outdoor-based tasks at the affected station will be suspended for 30 minutes, with moderation taking place to make up for the necessary marks and time lost. Station masters, at the instructions of the Geo-Trail ICs, will be directed to advise teams on further actions to be taken. Geo-Trail will proceed normally as far as possible depending on station specific weather conditions. The Geography Challenge Project Director also has the discretion to terminate the execution of Geo-Trail should inclement weather conditions persist for more than an hour.
5. The Geo-Trail committee has designed all questions/tasks that can be performed in both normal and inclement weather conditions, limiting the need to perform tasks outdoors unless absolutely necessary. All stations will henceforth be located at sheltered areas, carrying out the respective wet-weather plans.
6. The seal should not be broken and teams who suspect inclement weather should still make it to a station master for further information on actions to be taken. The breaking of the seal will only be permitted in the event of a natural disaster, such as flash floods which prevent mobility of the participants. The breaking of the seal however must be declared to the station master when they reach the station or the end point.
7. **Similar to the Wet weather contingency plan**, the Geo-Trail ICs as well as the Safety Officer would constantly be checking the 24-hour Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) forecast as provided by the National Environmental Agency (NEA). Should the PSI level be found to **exceed 100**, the Geography Challenge Project Director, acting upon the advice of the Geo-Trail I/Cs, **has the discretion to suspend all activities**. Station masters will receive instructions from the Geo-Trail I/Cs on further action to be taken. In an extreme event of haze during the Geo-Trail, N95 masks will be given out to students. The following plans will also be executed should hazy conditions be detected prior and during Geo-Trail:

- a) PSI level below 100: Geo-Trail will take place as per normal.
- b) PSI level between 100 – 150 (moderately healthy): The Geography Challenge Project Director, acting upon the advice of the Geo-Trail I/Cs, reserves the right to suspend all activities momentarily. Should conditions be found to be of reasonable standards, stations will move **to the nearest indoor area** to allow for the programme to proceed. Students who do not feel well are to inform the nearest station master.
- c) PSI level between 150 – 200 (unhealthy): If conditions are found to be of unsatisfactory conditions (e.g. persistent PSI levels that do not show signs of decreasing and/or increasing PSI levels), the Geography Challenge Project Director – acting upon the advice of the Geo-Trail I/Cs – has the discretion to suspend all activities and activate the haze contingency plan. Teams would then be required to make their way to NUS UTown within **2 hours** upon the activation of the contingency plan. Changes will be made to the component weightage under the discretion of the Geography Challenge Project Director.
- d) PSI level above 200: The Geography Challenge Project Director, acting upon the advice of the Geo-Trail I/Cs, reserves the right to suspend all activities and a haze contingency plan will be activated in its place. Teams would then be required to make their way to NUS UTown. Changes will be made to the component weightage under the discretion of the Geography Challenge Project Director.

**Annex E: Directions to NUS University Town (UTown)**



**UTown Auditorium 2**

### MRT & Bus

From *Buona Vista* MRT Station – Bus 196

- Walk to the bus stop opposite Buona Vista MRT Station located near Exit D, Bus Stop No. 11369.
- Board **Bus 196** (towards Clementi Interchange).
- Alight 6 stops later at Bus Stop No. 19059.
- Walk approximately 5 to 8 minutes to UTown.

From *Clementi* MRT Station – Bus 183

- Walk to Clementi Bus Stop, Bus Stop No. 17179, from Clementi MRT Station (Exit B). Board **Bus 183** (towards Jurong East Temp Interchange).
- Alight 3 stops later at Bus Stop No. 17099.
- Walk approximately 8 to 10 minutes to UTown.

From *Clementi* Bus Interchange – Bus 96

- Board **Bus 96** (towards Clementi Interchange).
- Alight 3 stops later at Bus Stop No. 17099.
- Walk approximately 8 to 10 minutes to UTown.

From *Kent Ridge* MRT Station - NUS Internal Bus Shuttle

- Walk to Kent Ridge Bus Stop, Bus Stop No. 18331, from Kent Ridge MRT Station (Exit A).
- Board **NUS Internal Bus Shuttle D2**.
- Alight 5 stops later at UTown.