



HUMANITIES (Social Studies, History / Geography)

Overview

The Humanities subject is compulsory for Secondary Three / Four students. It is not compulsory to use the grade attained for admission to pre-university courses. However, it may be used in lieu of a Humanities subject to gain admission to the pre-university course.

The Humanities subject has two components:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| a) Paper 1: | Social Studies |
| b) Paper 2 (options): | History /
Geography /
Literature |

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Social Studies seek to inculcate in students a deeper understanding of the values that define Singapore society, nurture dispositions to inspire them to show concern for the society and the world in which they live and demonstrate empathy in their relationships with others.

The curriculum thus envisions Social Studies students as informed, concerned and participative citizens, competent in decision-making with an impassioned spirit to contribute responsibly to the society and world they live in.

The Social Studies syllabus is organized around three issues and is anchored in a set of knowledge, skills and values outcomes. The three issues are exploring citizenship and governance, living in a diverse society and being part of a globalized world.

Issue 1: Exploring Citizenship and Governance
Inquiry focus: Working for the good of society: Whose responsibility is it?

Issue 2: Living in a Diverse Society
Inquiry focus: Living in a diverse society: Is harmony achievable?

Issue 3: Being part of a Globalized World
Inquiry focus: Being part of a Globalized World: Is it necessarily good?

Assessment Format

The assessment format for Social Studies is a 1 hour 45 minutes paper. It has two sections:

- Section A: One Source-Based Case-Study (35%)
- Section B: Two Structured-Response Questions (15%).

Assessment Objectives

Objective 1 – Knowledge with Understanding

Candidates should be able to demonstrate an understanding of societal issues.

Objective 2 – Interpreting and Evaluating Sources / Given information

Candidates should be able to:

- Comprehend and extract relevant information
- Draw inferences from given information
- Analyse and evaluate evidence
- Compare and contrast different views
- Distinguish between fact, opinion and judgement
- Recognize values and detect bias
- Draw conclusions based on reasoned consideration of evidence and arguments

Objective 3 – Constructing Explanations

Candidates should be able to:

- Analyse societal issues through different perspectives
- Construct reasoned arguments and make informed judgements and recommendations

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AIMS

Students would be able to:

- Acquire knowledge and skills to describe, explain and analyse geographical processes and phenomena that occur in Singapore and beyond
- Examine selected geographical phenomena and processes through data analysis
- Be aware of different value orientation(s) towards the environment which can influence people's actions
- Be imbibed with a sense of responsibility towards the environment
- Be provided with opportunities to discuss solutions and take actions to achieve a more sustainable world.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Knowledge with understanding

- Students should be able to construct responses based on an understanding of geographical theories, generalisations, models and concepts.

Skills with analysis

- Students should be able to apply their understanding to break down information into its component parts and/or to carry out a geographical investigation.

Judgement and decision-making

Students should be able to use defined criteria and standards to evaluate methods, outcomes and proposals in Geography.

EXAMINATION FORMAT

1h 45min (50 marks, 50%)

- Candidates answer Q1 and Q2 in Section A and;
- either Q3 or Q4 in Section B.

Section A

- **Q1** – Cluster 1: Geography in Everyday Life (14 marks)
- **Q2** – Cluster 2: Tourism (18 marks)

Section B

- **Q3** – Cluster 3: Climate (18 marks)

OR

- **Q4** – Cluster 4: Tectonics (18 marks)

N.B.

- o Each structured question will consist of no more than 8 sub-parts.
- o Candidates will be required to answer one 9-mark question in either Q2 or Q3/Q4.
- o Selected questions in this exam paper will be marked using generic level descriptors whereas other questions will be point-marked.
- o An approved calculator may be used in this exam paper.