

The Humanities lend themselves to inculcating in pupils a sense of belonging to the community and country and cultivating the right instincts for reinforcing social cohesion. It aims to enable the pupils to have a better understanding of their physical and social world in the 21st century. It provides accurate, orderly and rational description and interpretation of the variable character of the Earth's surface. It enables the pupils to understand, appreciate and learn from the richness of the human experience both locally and globally.

Learning Outcomes:

- Pupils are able to acquire knowledge of history, geography and economic activities of our nation and the wider world.
- Pupils are able to understand and learn lessons from social issues, challenges and constraints facing Singapore and other countries.
- Pupils are able to understand historical, geographical and economic concepts and generalisations about the society.
- Pupils have knowledge of our neighbouring countries and Singapore's links with other countries in the world.
- Pupils are able to appreciate attitudes, values and beliefs of people in different human environments.
- Pupils are able to understand the need for co-operation and interdependence among people and among countries
- Pupils are able to develop an attitude of objectivity, adaptability and open-mindedness.
- Pupils are able to make informed judgements which reflect sensitivity to and a concern for the environment.

Geography

The Geography Syllabus aims to develop knowledge and skills and inculcate attitudes and values in pupils. The general aims of this syllabus are to stimulate pupils' interest in Geography, to provide a holistic understanding of physical-human relationships and processes affecting physical and human environments at local, regional and global levels. At the local level, it helps pupils acquire an understanding of Singapore's strategic vulnerabilities and constraints, and the strategies used to overcome them. At the regional and global levels, it enables students to develop an understanding of different communities and cultures throughout the world and an awareness of contrasting opportunities and constraints which people face in different environments. Equally important, the

syllabus aims to inculcate an informed concern about the quality of the environment and the future of the human habitat, and thereby enhance pupils' sense of responsibility for the care of the Earth and its people.

Learning Outcomes:

- Pupils are able to appreciate the wide range of processes contributing to the development of the physical and human (economic, social, political) environments and the spatial patterns of physical and human phenomena.
- Pupils are able to understand and explain that environments are often the result of the inter-relationship of physical and human factors.
- Pupils are able to comprehend the importance of scale and time as factors in the development of physical and human environments.
- Pupils are able to select, organise and interpret geographical data by applying a range of appropriate geographical skills and techniques including those of map work, fieldwork and Information Technology.
- Pupils are able to use and apply geographical knowledge and understanding in verbal, numerical, diagrammatic, pictorial and graphical form.
- Pupils are able to recognise patterns in geographical data and deduce relationships.
- Pupils are able to make informed judgements which demonstrate a sensitivity to, and a concern for, the environment, and an appreciation of the attitudes, values and beliefs of people in different human environments.

History

The History Syllabus aims to develop knowledge and skills and inculcate attitudes and values in pupils. In developing the history syllabus, certain considerations have been taken cognizance of. As a young nation, it is vital that our pupils have a sound knowledge of and learn lessons from our nation's history. This will develop in them a strong sense of national identity and pride in our country. At the same time, it is important that pupils understand Singapore's unique challenges, constraints and vulnerabilities which will make them aware that Singapore is different from other countries. There is also a need for a focused and sustained effort to develop in our young, national instincts for survival and to provide the cultural ballast that is necessary for our nation's development. At regional and international levels, it is important for our pupils to have knowledge of important international affairs so that they will gain a broader perspective of the world and understand the interdependence between

Singapore and other nations. Also, in order to function optimally in an information-rich society, it is necessary for pupils to be proficient in process skills so that they will be able to work independently, to manage and use information more creatively and effectively.

Learning Outcomes:

- Pupils are able to recognize the purpose and relevance of studying History
- Pupils are able to grasp the broad, fundamental concepts common to all historical explanations and also a range of more specific ones.
- Pupils are able to demonstrate a better understanding of the history of Malaya and Singapore from 1819 to 1971.
- Pupils are able to draw lessons from our Malay, Indian, Chinese and Southeast Asian heritage with regards to how they overcame problems, flourished and responded to internal and external threats.
- Pupils are able to understand international affairs and the forces that shaped twentieth-century world history, eg. War, revolution and change.
- Pupils are able to understand History in its setting: a clear understanding of continuity and change over different time periods by drawing out similarities and differences; identify relationships between events; demonstrate that actions have causes and consequences by reference to people and events in History; attribute the occurrence of certain historical events to human motivation and individual will; show an ability to look at events and issues from the perspectives of people in the past; appreciate the complexity of historical causation, respect particularity, and avoid excessively abstract generalizations; appreciate the often tentative nature of judgements about the past, and thereby avoid the temptation to seize upon particular 'lessons' of history as cures for present ills; recognize the importance of individuals who have made a difference in history, and the significance of personal character for both good and ill.
- Pupils are able to understand points of view in history by recognizing that there may be bias in history writing, and distinguishing between fact and opinion in history writing.
- Pupils are able to process historical information: understand the nature of evidence, acquire information derived from different types of historical evidence, organise and present information from historical sources, evaluate and use information effectively from a variety of sources, and draw conclusions from the study of evidence and appreciate that historical conclusions are liable to reassessment in the light of new or reinterpreted

evidence.

- Pupils are able to develop critical and creative thinking.
- Pupils are able to develop an interest in and significance of the past, develop an empathy for and sensitivity towards different political experiences, appreciate that different societies hold different beliefs, values and attitudes at different times, instill a sense of respect for evidence, and tolerance of a range of opinions.

Social Studies

The Social Studies Syllabus focuses on issues pertaining to the historical, economic and social development of Singapore. Besides these national issues, this syllabus also addresses those regional and international issues which can or may affect the development of Singapore. With a greater awareness of these issues, pupils will be more informed about Singapore's achievements and limitations and have confidence in her future. This will prepare them to adopt a more participative role in shaping Singapore's destiny in the 21st century. The syllabus is organized around the six National Education messages. In addition, the syllabus also provides a framework within which pupils can develop thinking skills and learn to use information technology to independently access and evaluate information.

Learning Outcomes:

- Pupils are able to understand issues that affect the socio-economic development, the governance and the future of Singapore.
- Pupils are able to learn from experiences of other countries to build and sustain a politically viable, socially cohesive and economically vibrant Singapore.
- Pupils are able to develop into citizens who have empathy towards others and who will participate responsibly and sensibly in a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious society.
- Pupils are able to have a deep sense of shared destiny and national identity.