



HISTORY CORE

Introduction

In the 21st century, Singapore will face more rigorous challenges in terms of globalisation, the accelerating pace of technological development and the expansion of the Asian economies. The history syllabus aims to provide students with a regional and global perspective of the complexities of regional and international relations. It highlights the importance of understanding and interpreting history in all its complexity – its people, events, issues, periods, turning points, themes and sources. The syllabus also equips students with the necessary skills to make reasoned and informed decisions.

Content

At the end of the course, pupils should be able to :

- Recognise the purpose and relevance of studying history;
- Grasp the broad fundamental concepts common to all historical explanations and also a range of more specific ones;
- Demonstrate understanding of the history of Southeast Asia from c. 1870 to 1975; and
- Understand international affairs and the forces that shaped twentieth century world history.

Skills

At the end of the course, pupils should be able to :

- Understand History in its setting
 - Show a clear understanding of continuity and change over different time periods by drawing similarities and differences;
 - Grasp the complexity of historical causation, respect particularity and avoid excessively abstract generalisations;
 - Appreciate the often tentative nature of judgment about the past, and thereby avoid the temptation to seize upon particular lessons of history as cures for present ills, and
- Understand points of view in History
 - Recognise that there may be bias in history writing; and
 - Distinguish between fact and opinion in history writing.

- Process historical information
 - Understand the nature of evidence by emphasising history as a process of enquiry and by developing a wide range of skills required to interpret sources;
 - Acquire information derived from different types of historical evidence such as written records or oral history;
 - Organise and present information from historical sources using a variety of appropriate forms;
 - 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.

Values

At the end of the course, pupils should be able to :

- Develop an interest in the past and an appreciation for history and of human achievements and aspirations;
- Understand the significance of the past to their own lives, community and society;
- Develop an empathy for and sensitivity towards different political experiences;
- Appreciate that different societies hold different beliefs, values and attitudes at different times; and
- Instill a sense of respect for evidence and tolerance of a range of opinions.

Assessment Format

Candidates will sit for two papers.
The two papers will be taken at different sittings.
Each paper is 1 hour 40 minutes.

Paper 1 : European Dominance and Challenges (1870-1945)

This paper will comprise the following two sections :

- Section A : Compulsory Source-based Question (30m)
- Section B : Structured-essay Questions (20m)

Paper 2 : The Bi-Polar World Order (1945-1991)

This paper will comprise the following two sections :

- Section A : Compulsory Source-based Question (30m)
- Section B : Structured-essay Questions (20m)

Candidates are required to answer one compulsory source-based question from Section A and one structured-essay question from Section B for both Paper 1 and Paper 2.

Syllabus Content

Paper 1 : European Dominance and Challenges (1870-1945)

Unit 1: European Dominance and Expansion in the later 19th century.

How were systems and societies transformed by colonisation?

- Reasons for European interest and expansion in Southeast Asia.
- Responses of Southeast Asian states to European expansion.
- Impact of colonial rule on Southeast Asia.
- Case study of Malaya, 1874- c.1900.
- Either case study of Vietnam, 1870- c.1900 or
- Case study of Indonesia, 1870-c. 1900.

Unit 2 : The World in Crisis

What forces and developments changed Europe and Asia-Pacific in the first half of the 20th century?

- Case study of Communist Russia.
- Case study of Nazi Germany
- World War II in Europe and Asia Pacific.
- Reasons for outbreak of World War II in Europe.
- Reasons for outbreak of World War II in the Asia Pacific.
- Reasons for the defeat of Germany.
- Reasons for the defeat of Japan.

Paper 2: The Bi-Polar World Order. (1945-1991)

Unit 3 : Bi-Polarity and the Cold War

How did the Cold War impact the world order in the post-1945 years?

- Reasons for the Cold War in Europe.
- Case study of Korean War, 1950-53.
- Case study of Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962.
- Reasons for the end of the Cold War.

Unit 4: Decolonisation and the Emergence of Nation-States.

Was the attainment of independence in colonies shaped by the decline of Europe and Cold War politics?

- *Decolonisation and emergence of nation-states in Southeast Asia.*
- Overview of nationalism in Southeast Asian states (non-examinable)
- Struggles for independence in Southeast Asian states in the post-World War II period.
- Establishment of newly independent states in Southeast Asia.
- Case study of Malaya.
- Either case study of Vietnam or case study of Indonesia.