



義順中學

**YISHUN SECONDARY SCHOOL**

4 Yishun Street 71, Singapore 768516 Tel: 68767129 Fax: 67557748

12 Jan 2022

Dear Parents/Guardian

## **Overview of the Secondary Humanities Syllabus**

### **Introduction to Learning the Humanities**

As your child/ward begins his/her journey at secondary school, he/she will be introduced to many new subjects that were not taught at the primary level. The Humanities, which includes History and Geography, will be a valuable and important part of school life. Knowledge gained in the Humanities classroom will help them develop as global citizens with a keen ability to understand and contribute to an increasing volatile and ambiguous world.

### **History at the Express and Normal Academic (NA) Level**

#### **Syllabus**

The Lower Secondary History syllabuses, will be carried out over two years and will seek to develop in our students a sense of national identity by helping them understand and appreciate the Singapore they live in today. This will require students to understand the relevance of Singapore's past in shaping its position in the world. Topics taught at the Lower Secondary level are as follows:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Sec 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early Singapore within key trading networks (1299 – early 1800s)</li><li>• Singapore's establishment as a trading post under British control in early 1800s</li><li>• Singapore's development as a port-city</li><li>• Outbreak of World War II and the Fall of Singapore</li></ul>
Sec 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People's experiences during the Japanese Occupation</li><li>• Progress towards Self-Government</li><li>• Merger and Separation with Malaysia</li><li>• Safeguarding the sovereignty of Singapore</li><li>• Transformation of people's lives</li></ul>

#### **Assessment**

Assessment in History tests students' ability to organise knowledge, communicate this knowledge in writing as well as their ability to interpret and analyse sources of information. Historical source analysis remains the foundation of all assessments. Sources would include written texts from the past, photographs of events, political cartoons and even images of artefacts. Your child/ward will learn how to make reasoned inferences, draw comparisons between different sources and contextualise sources in its time and place in order to make a detailed analysis of the source. Source analysis is an important skill that can be transferred to other subjects such as English Language and can be applied to your child/ward's navigation of information outside the boundaries of his/her classroom.

**WE SEEK, WE STRIVE, WE SOAR**

An overview of assessment at the Sec 1 level is as follows:

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Weighted Assessment Term 1	Take-home task: Family/Personal History	15%
Weighted Assessment Term 2	Written test: Historical source analysis	15%
Weighted Assessment Term 3	Historical Investigation project	15%
End-of-year Examination	To be confirmed	55%

### **Geography at the Express and Normal Academic Level**

#### **Syllabus**

Geography is a holistic discipline whereby geographers use a range of methods to investigate various natural and human phenomena to understand how the environments come to be, how they change with both time and the influence of humankind. Through the knowledge and skills prescribed in the Geography syllabuses, the subject aims to provide students with unique ways of seeing and understanding selected physical and human phenomena and their related issues. The syllabuses are framed by the overarching theme of 'Sustainable Resource Use and Management'. The prescribed content is organised into two thematic questions (TQs) and four topics that are to be taught over two years as follows:

<b>Theme: Sustainable Resource Use and Management</b>	
<b>Introduction to Geography</b>	<b>Thematic Question 2:</b> How Can We Sustainably Build Cities?
<b>Thematic Question 1:</b> How Can We Sustainably Manage Natural Resources?	
Topic 1.1: Water	Topic 2.1: Housing
Topic 1.2: Tropical Rainforests and Mangroves	Topic 2.2: Transport Systems

#### **Assessment**

Assessment in Geography tests students' ability to understand geographical terms, facts and phenomena and apply their understanding in their analysis of geographical data. Interpreting and evaluating geographical data remains at the core of assessment in Geography be it through written assessments or group-based projects where they are opportunities for students to apply geographical knowledge.

An overview of assessment at the Sec 1 level is as follows:

<b>Weighted Assessment (WA)</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Weightage</b>
Weighted Assessment Term 1	Geographical Investigation project	15%
Weighted Assessment Term 2	Written test: Sustainability of Water Management	15%
Weighted Assessment Term 3	Written test: Spatial distribution of Tropical Rainforests	15%
End-of-year Examination	To be confirmed	55%

### **Social Studies at the Normal Technical Level**

#### **Syllabus**

The SS NT syllabus aims to develop students who are able to show concern for their society and who can demonstrate empathy in their relationships with other members of society. It also hopes to encourage students to be informed about the world they live in and to participate in matters concerning their society. The Lower Sec SS NT Syllabus is taught over a period of two years and students will investigate the following issues:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Issue</b>
Sec 1	Issue 1: Living in a multicultural Society Issue 2: Embracing Migration
Sec 2	Issue 3: Resolving Conflict and Building Peace Issue 4: Protecting our environment

#### **Assessment**

The summative assessment in SS is carried out through two performance tasks (PT) per year. These tasks are typically group projects that will require students to do some research and to deliberate on the issues listed above. The conduct of the PT will also allow the NT students to be exposed to some of the knowledge and skills which their counterparts in the Express and NA course will experience through Geographical and Historical Investigations.

#### **Offering Humanities at a more demanding level**

Sec 1 SS NT students who have done well may choose to offer Humanities at a more demanding level at Sec 2. He/she must meet all of the following criteria in order to do History or Geography at the NA level:

1. 75% and above overall grade for English Language at Sec 1
2. Pass with distinction for both SS NT Sec 1 PTs
3. Overall attitude during SS/NT lessons is positive and includes but not limited to the following considerations:
  - In-class participation in group discussions
  - Ability to ask questions about SS content
  - Effort put into class projects as well as performance tasks

## **Supporting your child's journey in the Humanities**

Let us work together to support our students as they begin their journey in the Humanities. Please encourage your child/ward to read up on current affairs, make interpretations about the material they read, engage in conversation about the world, stay curious about their surroundings and to ask questions whenever they are in doubt. You may find a more detailed overview of the topics covered at the link below:

<https://yishunsec.moe.edu.sg/students/content-outlines/content-outlines-for-humanities>

Should you have any clarification on the Humanities, do feel free to contact Ms Rekha Reddy, SH/History (covering Social Studies) at [Manohar rekha reddy@schools.gov.sg](mailto:Manohar_rekha_reddy@schools.gov.sg) or Mr Kong Rui Jia, SH/Geography at [kong\\_rui\\_jia@schools.gov.sg](mailto:kong_rui_jia@schools.gov.sg).

Warmest regards



Mrs Regina Lee  
Principal