



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Accelerated Class for Humanities (ACH)

INTRODUCTION

In the history of the human race, Man's behaviour has shown itself to be gregarious, adaptive, and expansionist. This two-year course is a study of humanity through selected case studies from Singapore, Southeast Asia, East Asia, Europe and America. It explores how societies progressed and interacted with other societies from across the globe due to networks of trade and civilisational interactions.

In the first year, students will be provided with a broad framework of how Southeast Asia came into being and underwent the cultural influences of Indianisation, Sinicisation and Islamisation. It will then identify the major changes that took place in modern Europe and ideas that gave rise to the colonising spirit that had an impact on many societies. The similarities and differences in the colonial policies towards Southeast Asia by the British, French, Dutch and American will be explored along with the impact of the Japanese occupation in the region during WWII. In addition, the decolonisation struggles in Southeast Asia and the role of ASEAN will be examined. In the second year, the focus is on the development of Singapore from post WWII to the present day. Students will also undertake case studies relating to global political challenges presented by environment, culture, migration, security and economic issues.

It is crucial in our view of the future that we be retrospective in our understanding of humankind. This will enable us to understand the behaviour and motivations that have written our history thus far. The content of this course deliberately includes elements of human geography, social interaction, political and religious thought, economic theory, historical links and the darker and destructive sides of human conflict and military power. These elements are intertwined to illustrate the reach of human endeavour and the global inter-connections which make each society part of the human world. By providing access to the grand tapestry of humanity, International Studies hopes to help each student find greater understanding and depth in the way he views his position and value to society and the world as a whole.

International Studies aims to develop **international mindedness** among young people who are knowledgeable, open-minded and thinkers who will be willing to help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

The course is designed as an integrated curriculum that draws on the various strands of the Humanities. It contains elements of Geography, History, Economics, Sociology, Current Affairs, Theory of Knowledge, and Political Science, and aims to provide a point of access to the Humanities and Social Sciences, but not to supersede these disciplines. Interdisciplinary learning is crucial in the understanding of complex concepts and big issues and these will also be supplemented with field trips.

The curriculum, especially in the second year, contains issues related to Singapore. This aims to instil in students a sense of national identity as well as a global awareness, as they develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions as citizens of a multi-cultural and democratic society.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

Content

- Understand the global interconnectedness and interdependence among world societies
- Evaluate the factors leading to the development of societies in Southeast Asia, East Asia and Europe accounting for successes or failures
- Understand issues that affect socio-economic development, the governance and future of Singapore.

Skills

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

- Develop an inquisitive, critical, innovative and reflective mind by asking useful questions for understanding the past and envisaging possible and preferred futures.
- Compare and contrast how different societies deal with specific challenges.
- Develop into citizens who has empathy towards others and will participate responsibly and sensibly in a multi-cultural and global society

YEAR THREE COURSE OUTLINE

The syllabus is organised around themes, concepts and case-studies.

- 1) Introduction: UNIQUENESS
 - An Overview of International studies
 - Introduction to ASEAN
 - The physical geography of Southeast Asia
- 2) Asian influences interacting with Southeast Asia: ADAPTABILITY
 - The Indianization of Southeast Asia
 - The Sinicization of Southeast Asia
 - The Islamization of Southeast Asia
- 3) Western influences interacting with Southeast Asia: RESILIENCE
 - American Colonial rule in Philippines & British Colonial rule in Malaya
 - Dutch Colonial rule in Indonesia & French Colonial rule in Indochina
- 4) Conflict and nationalism in Southeast Asia: PERSEVERANCE
 - Impact of Japanese occupation and the rise of nationalism in SEA
- 5) Growth of political power in Southeast Asia and the development of ASEAN: OPTIMISM
 - Decolonization and the emergences of nation states in Southeast Asia from 1945
 - Strengths and weaknesses of ASEAN

YEAR FOUR COURSE OUTLINE

The syllabus is organised around themes, concepts and case-studies.

- 6) Introduction
 - An Overview of International studies
- 7) Governing Systems
 - China's governing system
 - Is China set to be a global superpower?
 - Is the USA in decline as a global power?
- 8) Singapore's unity
 - Multiracialism in Singapore
 - Migration and Integration of foreigners in Singapore
- 9) Prosperity of Singapore
 - Opportunity for Singapore to partner with Indonesia
- 10) Equality in Singapore
 - Income inequality and poverty
- 11) Happiness in Singapore
 - Singapore's education system
- 12) Global Security
 - Ukraine War
 - Prospects of a war over Taiwan

ASSESSMENT

Assessment for the IP International Studies course comprises Weighted Assessment, Coursework and the Final Examination. Students are assessed based on their ability to deploy knowledge, make persuasive arguments (both in writing and in speaking), analyse documents critically, as well as working in groups.

TEACHING & LEARNING APPROACHES

The International Studies curriculum in the Accelerated Class for Humanities seeks to enhance student understanding and appreciation of SEA and ASEAN in many engaging ways:

- To foster a strong conceptual understanding surrounding regional affairs through a theme-based approach so students are able to develop rigour in their thinking and writing skills
- To provide students with opportunities to acquire authentic experiences of the subject matter learnt in the classroom through learning journeys and experiences with 'experts in the field' such as academics, civil society groups, research institutions and NGOs
- To offer students the opportunity to explore selected destinations in Southeast Asia to cultivate a deeper appreciation of the country and to be sensitive to varying contexts beyond Singapore

CURRICULAR ENHANCEMENT

Though the structure of the content is the same across the Y3 IP level, ACH students will further their understanding of the historical and cultural interconnections underpinning SEA through engagement with current affair issues which would allow the students to perceive continuity and change in the region. This is achieved through show and tell activities which will facilitate discussions on –

- How similar are the EU and ASEAN?
- To what extent is SEA still reliant on external influences?
- Are ASEAN's nationalistic concerns undermining cooperation in the region?
- What is neo-colonialism? Does it have an impact on the growth of ASEAN?
- Is Ethnic Nationalism inherently racist and divisive?
- How did Japan overcome its war guilt to establish positive relations with SEA?
- Is ASEAN still relevant in view of Brexit?
- Rohingya issue – A case-study of ASEAN's weakness?

TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Moot Parliament Programme: Jointly organised by the GE Branch of MOE and the Curriculum Planning and Development Division of MOE, the programme aims educate Secondary 3 and Secondary 4 SBGE/IP pupils on the Singapore model of democratic government, enhance pupils' interest in parliamentary debates and legislation and instill a sense of ownership and 'rootedness' to Singapore.

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/education/programmes/gifted-education-programme/special-programmes/moot-parliament-programme>

The Year 3 Integrated Programme Leadership Conference: Jointly organised by ACS (Independent) and Methodist Girls' School, the symposium provides an immersive educational experience for students to develop critical insights into pressing global issues. It also provides an apt form for students to discuss, collaborate and develop possible solutions.

<https://www.imunc.org/>