

# History, Geography, ACH



Subjects Briefing for Year 3 & 4 IP | 10 July 2025

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Dean, Humanities

# Scope



## ➤ History

- ☐ Syllabus for Year 3 and 4 IP
- ☐ Syllabus outcomes
- ☐ Assessment
- ☐ Why study History?

## ➤ Geography

- ☐ Syllabus for Year 3 and 4 IP
- ☐ Syllabus outcomes
- ☐ Assessment
- ☐ Why study Geography?

## ➤ Accelerated Class for Humanities



# History

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# Year 3 History - Syllabus



- Origins of World War I
- Dictatorships in Europe
  - Adolf Hitler
- Revolution in China
  - 1911 Revolution



# Year 4 History - Syllabus



- World War II
- The Cold War
- The People's Republic of China





# Year 3 and 4 History - Skills



- Recall and communicate historical knowledge effectively
- Demonstrate understanding of historical terms and concepts
- Interpret, analyse and evaluate sources
- Present analysis and arguments
- Explain different interpretations of historical events and topics



# Syllabus outcomes



- Develop historical understanding, consciousness and literacy
- Deepen understanding of international dynamics and the forces that shape the modern world
- Stimulate global awareness and empathy
- To develop critical and reflective thinkers

# Assessment



- Year 3 IP
  - Common Test & Coursework – 30%
  - Final Examination – 70%
- Year 4 IP
  - Common Test & Coursework – 30%
  - Final Examination – 70%



# Why Study History?



*“Historical education achieves a number of goals at once: it trains the mind, enlarges the sympathies, and provides a much-needed historical perspective on some of the most pressing problems of our time.”*

John Tosh,  
*The Pursuit of History*, 1991

# Why Study History?



- Studying History enables you to be a disciplined and critical thinker





# Why Study History?



*“Many of the skills and ways of thinking that I learnt from IB History came in useful time and again during my university experience. Skills such as synthesising and analysing large amounts of information and formulating and writing persuasive arguments were useful across multi-disciplines.”*




**Alumnus Lim Kar Min,  
read History at Princeton University**



# Why Study History?



**HARVARD COLLEGE**  
Admissions & Financial Aid

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## How Can You Best Prepare for Harvard?

We hope you will read our thoughts about choosing high school courses that will provide a strong base for a liberal arts education. But in summary, we recommend:

- The study of English for four years: close and extensive reading of the classics of the world's literature
- Four years of a single foreign language
- **The study of history for at least two, and preferably three years: American history, European history, and one additional advanced history course**
- The study of mathematics for four years, including the particular topics described
- The study of science for four years: physics, chemistry, and biology, and preferably one of these at an advanced level
- Frequent practice in the writing of expository prose

Various important secondary school subjects, such as art and music, ...

### FACTS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID

**\$0**

Amount that parents making less than \$65,000 are expected to contribute.


**90%**





Ninety percent of American families would pay the same or less to send their children to Harvard as they would a state school.

[See the facts](#)

# Why Study History?





[HOME](#) [CALENDAR](#) [NEWS](#) [LOGIN](#)    

[STUDY AT KING'S](#) [RESEARCH](#) [VISIT KING'S](#) [CHAPEL](#) [CHOIR](#) [LIBRARY](#) [ARCHIVES](#) [CONFERENCE & DINING](#) [MEMBERS & FRIENDS](#)

## KEEPING YOUR OPTIONS OPEN

Choosing subject combinations that genuinely keep your options open is trickier than you might think. We often meet students who have chosen to study a mixture of essay subjects and maths / science subjects because they believe that it will keep their options open. While such a subject combination does provide a suitable preparation for many arts and social sciences courses at the University, it can make you a less competitive applicant for Cambridge's broad-based sciences courses.

There are, however, certain A-level subjects that are considered either essential or desirable for a number of courses at Cambridge. Choosing one or more of these will help you to keep your higher education options open. These subjects include:

- a modern language
- Biology
- Chemistry
- English Literature
- **History**
- Mathematics (and Further Mathematics)
- Physics

Even with the broad curriculum of the IB Diploma Programme, choosing subject combinations that genuinely keep your options open is trickier than you might think. As with A-levels, however, there are certain Higher Level subjects that are considered either essential or desirable for a number of courses at Cambridge. Choosing one or more of these to study at Higher Level will help to keep your higher education options open. These subjects include:

- Group 1: Language A Literature
- Group 2: a Language B option, Classical Languages
- **Group 3: History**
- Group 4: Chemistry, Physics
- Group 5: Mathematics
- Group 6: Consider taking a second option from groups 1-5.

Other Higher Level subjects that also facilitate course choice at Cambridge include Further Mathematics (normally taken in Group 6, in addition to Mathematics in group 5) and Biology (group 4 or 6).

NB. for students in the UK, the Further Mathematics Support Programme offers the opportunity to study Further Mathematics even if it is not offered by your school.



# Why Study History?



➤ Studying History enables you to be a global citizen





# Why Study History?



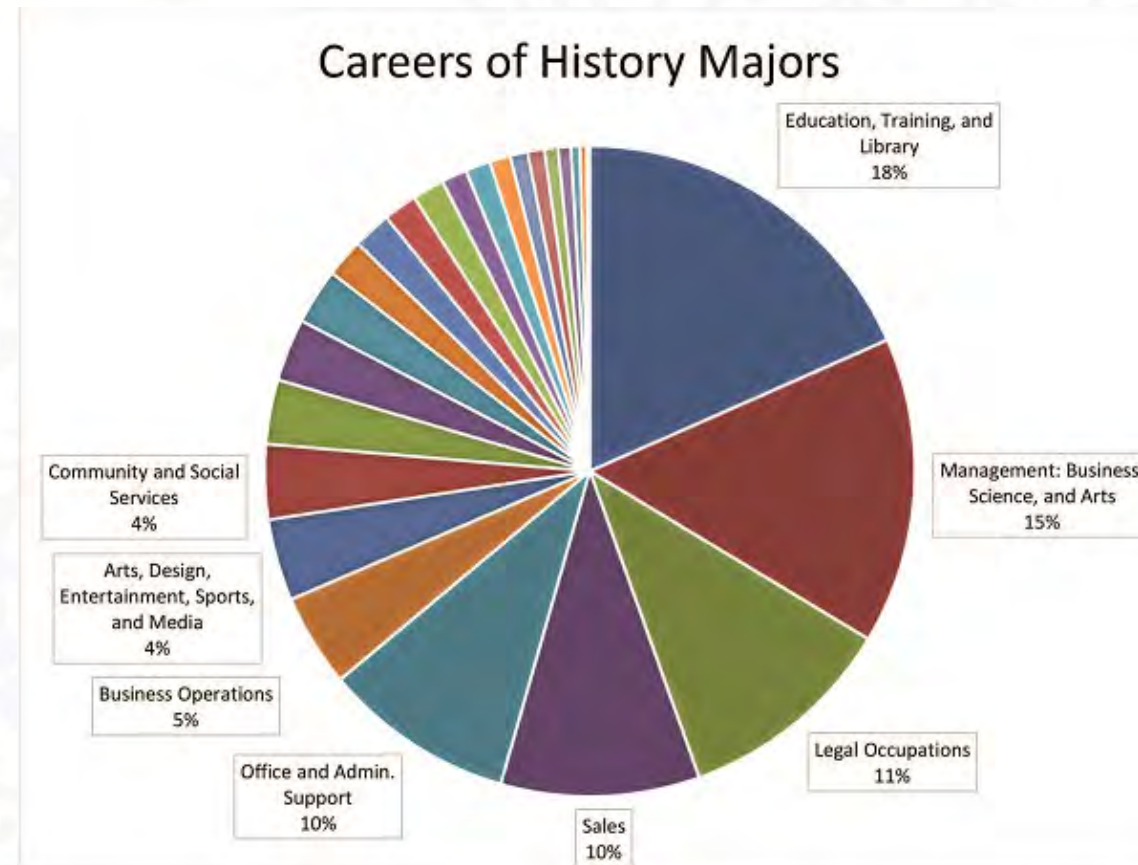
- Studying History empowers you to navigate our VUCA world



# Why Study History?



➤ History prepares you for your future career



# Career prospects



- Diplomacy and International Relations
- Public Policy – Various Ministries and statutory boards
- Legal Services
- Journalism
- Community and Social Services
- Media and Technology
- Business and Management
- Education
- Human Resource





# Why Study History?



*“History is one of the most useful subjects one could choose to study. The content is pertinent and the skills are very transferable. Through studying History, I’ve come to understand human nature a little better as well - why we are who we are today.”*

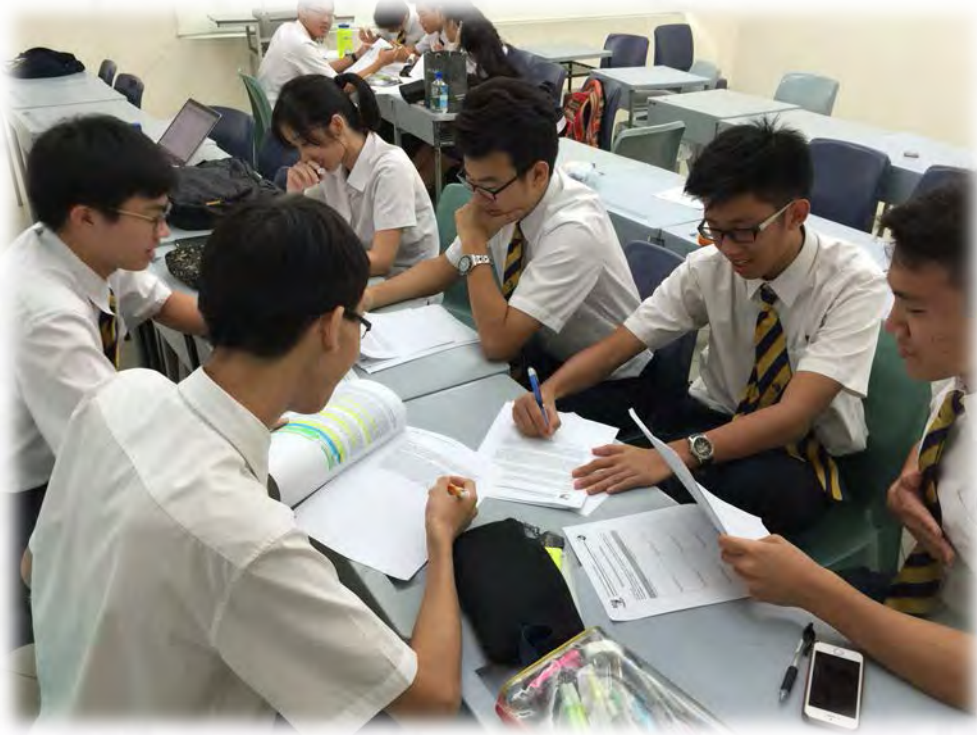


**Alumnus Moira Low,  
Public Service Commission Scholar,  
read Philosophy, Politics and  
Economics at Oxford University.**

# Why Study History?



➤ History lessons are fun and stimulating!





# Why Study History?







# Geography

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# Year 3 and 4 IP Geography



## Consists of

- Physical Geography
- Human Geography

## Focuses on

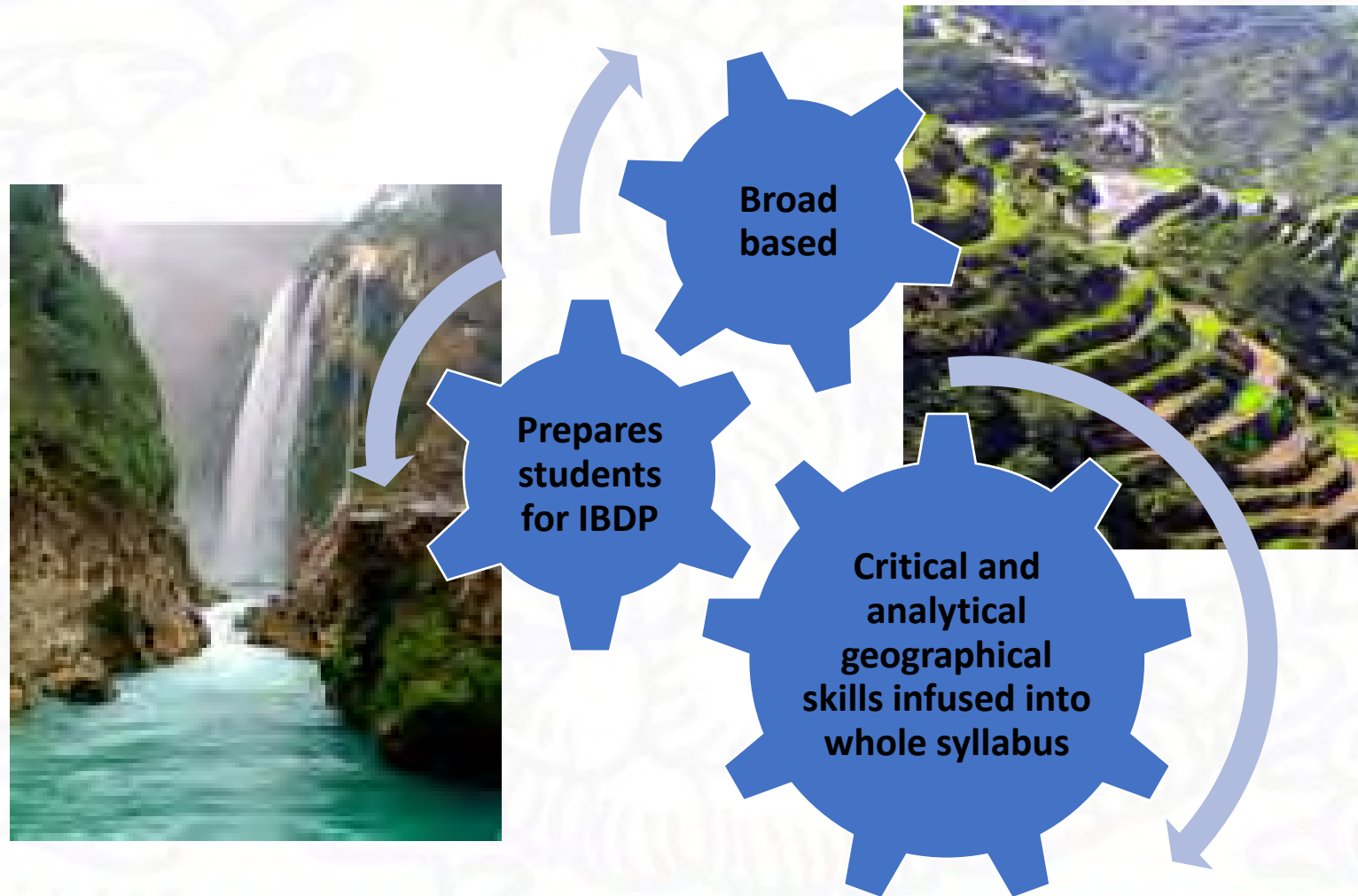
- Changes in Physical and Human Landscapes over space and time

## As well as

- Man-environment relationship



# Syllabus Outcomes





# Year 3 Geography - Syllabus



## ➤ Foundations in Geography and Core Themes 1

- ☐ Geography in Everyday Life
- ☐ Weather and Climate
- ☐ Geophysical Processes



# Year 4 Geography - Syllabus



## ➤ Application of Geography and Core Themes 2

- ☐ Urban Processes
- ☐ Tourism
- ☐ Singapore





# Year 3 & 4 Geography - Skills



- Geographic skills provide the necessary **tools and techniques** for us to **think** geographically.
- The skills are central to the subject's distinctive approach to understanding Earth's physical and human patterns and processes: **observe patterns, associations and spatial order**
- Ability to **acquire, arrange and use geographic information** helps us **make decisions** important to everyday life, e.g. where to buy/rent home, where to get a job, where to shop, where to vacation.



# Year 3 & 4 Geography - Skills



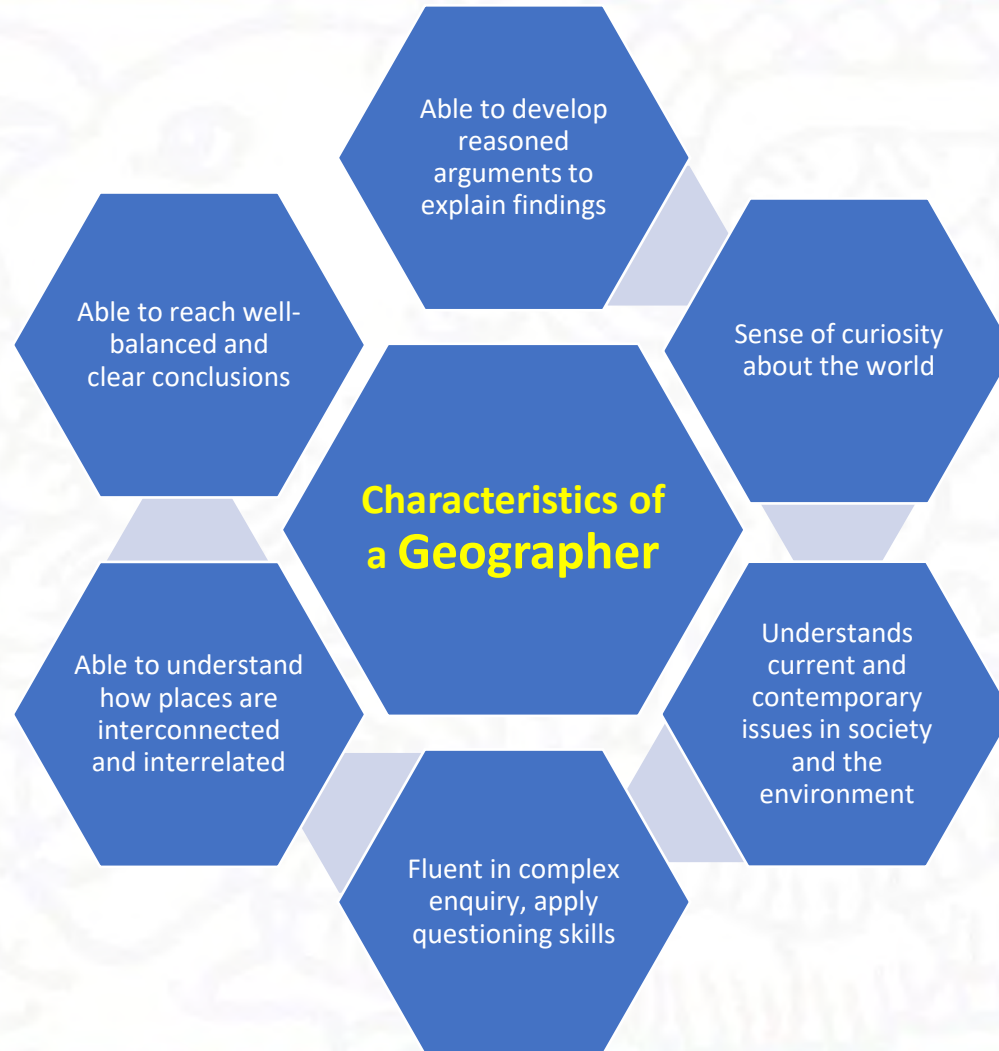
- **Community decisions** relating to problems of air, water and land pollution, location issues, e.g. where to place industries, schools, residential areas
- **Business decisions**, e.g. best site for supermarket, airports, issues of resource use or international trade
- **Political decisions**, e.g. evaluation of foreign affairs, international economic policy, local zoning and land use
- Geographic skills aid in the development and presentation of effective, persuasive arguments regarding matters of public policy

# Assessment



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- Year 4 IP
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  - Final Examination – 70%

# Year 3 & 4 Geography





# Why study Geography?



- Various opportunities to develop your talent
- Represent Singapore at international competitions, e.g. iGeo





# Why study Geography?





# Why study Geography?



## Trump: Climate change scientists have 'political agenda'

15 October 2018



US President Donald Trump has accused climate change scientists of having a "political agenda" as he cast doubt on whether humans were responsible for the earth's rising temperatures.

But Mr Trump also said he no longer believed climate change was a hoax.

The comments, made during an interview with CBS's 60 Minutes, come less than a week after climate scientists issued a final call to halt rising temperatures.

### Top Stories

#### Canada legalises sale and use of cannabis

The country becomes only the second nation in the world, after Uruguay, to legalise recreational use.

1 hour ago

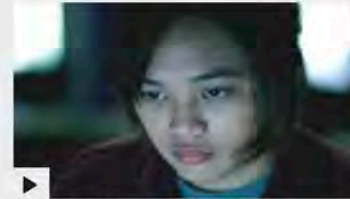
#### Should Canada's pot convicts get amnesty?

16 October 2018

#### Pakistan hangs six-year-old Zainab's killer

1 hour ago

### Features



The people who clean your Facebook



# Why study Geography?



How can Geography help us understand the COVID-19 pandemic?



Instagram may offer clues about the spread of the new coronavirus

Posts on the social-media platform show the movements of visitors from virus hotspots

#### Follow back

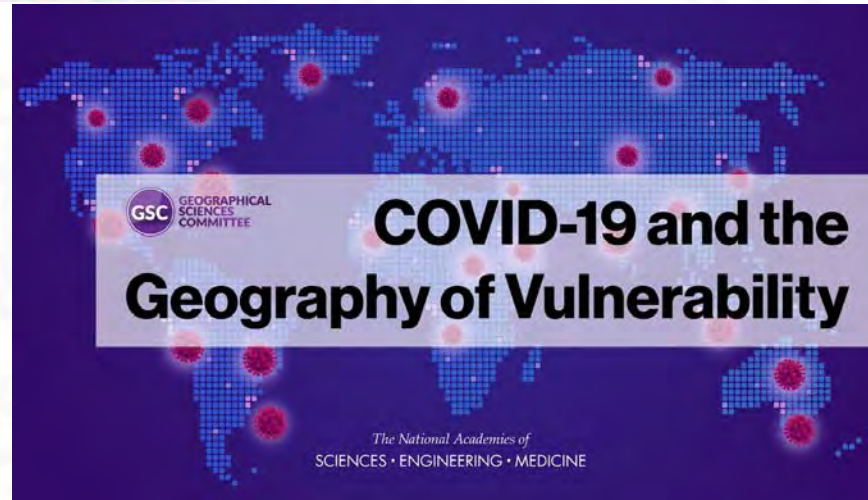
Locations Instagram users travelled to after visiting a location with 50 or more confirmed covid-19 cases

Location of possible virus exposure

- China
- Italy
- South Korea
- Iran
- United States
- Other

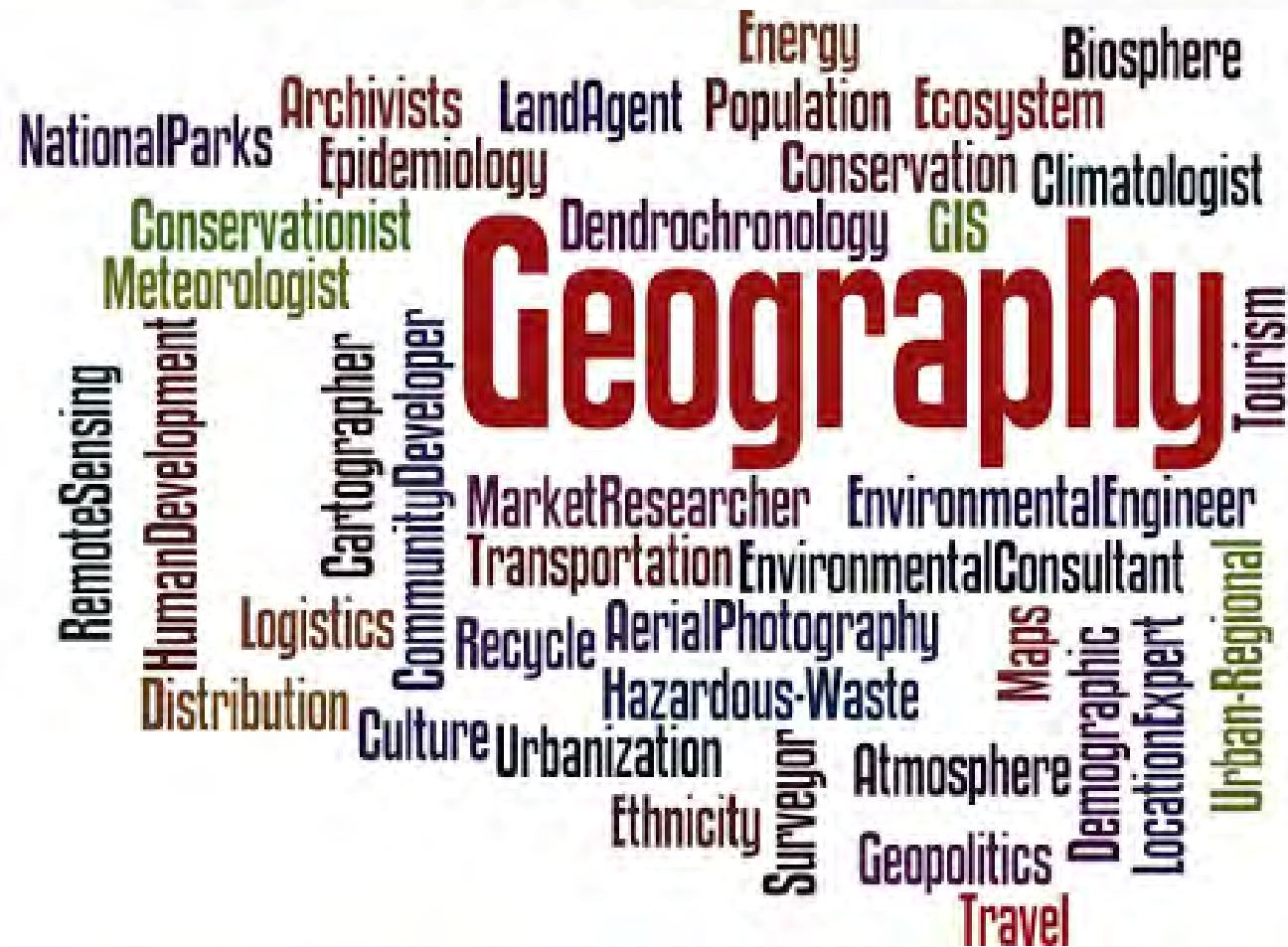


Sources: Public profiles on Instagram, The Economist, The Economist





# Career prospects



# Requirements for MOE Pre-University Scholarships at Year 5 & 6



## ➤ Humanities Scholarship Programme (HSP)

Students must offer:

- ☐ Literature (HL)
- ☐ Economics (HL)

*And:*

- ☐ History (HL) *Or*
- ☐ Geography (HL)

## ➤ Regional Studies Programme (RSP)

Students must offer:

- ☐ History (HL)

Please refer to our  
school website for  
details





# **Accelerated Class for Humanities (ACH)**

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A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a large group of diverse students, mostly of Asian descent, huddled together in a circle. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The students are wearing various colored shirts, including yellow, blue, and red. Some shirts have text on them, such as 'ACHS' and 'GHK'. The background is a bright blue sky with light clouds.

# What is the ACH?

The Accelerated Class for Humanities is a two-year talent development programme (Year 3 and 4 IP) that seeks to nurture passion in the Humanities among students with high intellectual potential and learning dispositions





# Purpose of ACH

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Develop talent in the Humanities through the provision of extension such as enriched curricula (Language Arts & Humanities), mentoring and service learning



# Purpose of ACH

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Equip learners  
for the rapidly  
changing 21st  
century world





# Subject combination for the ACH class

1. Language Arts (LA)\*
2. MT Language or Higher MT Language
3. Chemistry
4. Physics
5. Core Mathematics
6. Advanced Mathematics
7. International Studies (IS)\*
8. History OR Geography\*
9. Disciplines of Thought (DoT)
10. Collaborative Study Options (CSO) – *Only in Year 4*

*\*Subjects with curricular enrichment*



# Curricular enrichment in the ACH





# Achievements of our ACH students

- Singapore Championships History Bowl (Junior Varsity Teams) - **Champion**
- Singapore Championships History Bee (Middle School) - **Champion**
- IAC History Bowl Asian Championships (Junior Varsity Competition) - **Champion**
- IAC History Bee Asian Championships (Middle School) - **Champion**
- International History Olympiad (Middle School) - **Overall Champion**
- John Locke Institute Essay Competition - **Commendation**



# ACH selection process



## Eligibility Criteria:

- Consistent results; **Y2: >70% overall, min. 40 points**
- Good conduct grade
- Not concurrently in the MEP

## Registration of interest and Selection Test

- More details will be provided in Term 3



# ACH: Accelerated Class for Humanities

Talent Development

ACH



ACH: Accelerated Class  
for Humanities

Subjects Offered

Programmes

Frequently Asked  
Questions



*For more information, please refer to the ACH page on our school website:  
<https://www.acsindep.moe.edu.sg/talent-development/accelerated-class-for-humanities-ach/>*

Please contact the following teachers if you have any questions:

- **History** – Mr Neo Chai Wee ([chaiwee@acsindep.edu.sg](mailto:chaiwee@acsindep.edu.sg))
- **Geography** – Mr Jason Lai ([jasonlaijr@acsindep.edu.sg](mailto:jasonlaijr@acsindep.edu.sg))
- **Accelerated Class for Humanities (ACH)** – Mr Benjamin Yuan ([benjaminyuanjx@acsindep.edu.sg](mailto:benjaminyuanjx@acsindep.edu.sg))







To God Be The Glory!  
The Best Is Yet To Be!