

International studies



Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

Nature of the subject

This two year course is a critical study of the human experience, interaction and behaviour across time and place. In the first year, there is a strong focus on the Southeast Asia region and her interactions with the world. It explores how societies progressed in the region and came into contact with the societies from across the globe due to networks of trade and civilizational interactions.

The curriculum, especially in the second year, has a special focus on Singapore's political, military, economic and social policies from 1965 to the present. It aims to instil in students a sense of national identity as well as global awareness, as they develop the ability to make informed and reasoned judgements as global citizens in a multi-ethnic and democratic society.

One key aim in the International Studies course is to develop **international mindedness** among the students through an examination of both local and international case studies at a variety of levels. In addition, the course is designed as an integrated curriculum that draws on the various disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. 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 understanding is crucial in the understanding of a particular topic as it helps to build the capacity among students to understand and address complex concepts and big issues.

Philosophy statement

International Studies aim 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 aims of international studies are to:

1. Encourage the systematic study and critical study of: human experience and behaviour; physical, economic and social environments; and the history and development of social and political institutions.
2. Develop in the student the capacity to identify, to analyse critically and to evaluate theories, concepts and arguments about the nature and activities of the individual and societies.
3. Enable the student to collect, describe and analyse data used in the studies of society, to interpret complex data and source material.
4. Promote the appreciation of the way in which learning is relevant both to the culture in which the student lives in, and the culture of global societies.
5. Develop awareness in the student that human attitudes and beliefs are widely diverse and that the study of societies requires an appreciation of diversity.

Assessment objectives

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of specified content

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key issues and concepts related to international studies
- Demonstrate understanding of relevant source material

2. Demonstrate application and analysis of knowledge and understanding

- Apply knowledge of and analyse fundamental Humanities concepts and approaches
- Identify and analyse relevant material and supporting examples
- Use humanities concepts and examples to formulate, present and sustain an argument

3. Demonstrate synthesis and evaluation

- Compare, synthesis and evaluate evidence from both sources and own knowledge
- Compare, synthesis and evaluate a variety of perspectives

4. Select, use and apply a variety of appropriate skills and techniques

- Produce well-structured written material which uses appropriate terminology
- Organize material into a clear, logical and coherent and relevant response
- Demonstrate evidence of research skills, organization and referencing

Concepts in International Studies

Concepts are broad, powerful organizing ideas that have relevance both within and across subject disciplines. Exploring concepts helps students to build the capacity to engage with complex ideas. There is also a strong link between teaching through concepts and moving students to higher-order thinking; for example, it allows students to move from concrete to abstract thinking, and facilitates the transfer of learning to new local and global contexts. As international studies is an integrated curriculum that draws on various disciplines in the Humanities, students will engage in a broad understanding of different concepts across disciplines.



Figure 1:
Key concepts in
International studies

Approaches to learning in International Studies

Through approaches of learning in International Studies, students will develop **skills** that are relevant to the 21st century.

Skills	Description
1. Thinking skills	Source Based: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding and interpreting sources• Evaluative skills are developed as students critic sources and draw on their own knowledge• Students will compare and synthesis evidence from both sources and own knowledge
2. Communication skills	Written communication <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through essay writing, students will learn how to write concisely and clearly• Students will learn how to formulate arguments Oral communication <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Through oral presentations, students will learn how to speak concisely and clearly• Students will learn to listen and understand text and oral forms of communication
3. Social skills	Coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will develop the ability to collaborate• Students will learn how to maintain positive social relationships
4. Self-management skills	Coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will learn organization skills such as managing time and tasks effectively.• Students will learn affective skills such as perseverance, self-motivation etc.
5. Research skills	Coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will learn appropriate internet research skills and the importance of academic honesty.

Syllabus Outline for Year 3 International Studies

Units	Material for detailed study
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to ASEAN• The physical geography of Southeast Asia
1. Asian influences interacting with Southeast Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Indianization of Southeast Asia• The Sinicization of Southeast Asia• The Islamization of Southeast Asia
2. Western influences interacting with Southeast Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Industrial Age: Epochal Moments in USA & European societies• Spanish and American Colonial rule in Philippines• Dutch Colonial rule in Indonesia• French Colonial rule in Vietnam• British Colonial rule in Malaya
3. Conflict and nationalism in Southeast Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of Nationalism during the Japanese Occupation• Impact of Japanese occupation in Indonesia• Impact of Japanese occupation in Malaya• Impact of Japanese occupation Vietnam• Impact of Japanese occupation in Philippines
4. Growth of political power and nationalism in Southeast Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decolonisation and the emergences of nation states in Southeast Asia from 1945 to 1991

Syllabus Outline for Year 4 International Studies

Units	Material for detailed study
Introduction Emergence of an new international world order	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Globalization in a post-Cold War World (1991 to 2014)
1. Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing: Nation building through the HDB• Defence: Nation building through the SAF• The Singapore identity in a global world
2. Prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oil and the global economy• Singapore's economic development• Sustainable development and environment protection
3. Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racial policies in Singapore• Income inequality in Singapore
4. Happiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Happiness index, material wealth and foreign talent policies in Singapore• Education in Singapore• Political developments in Singapore