



HISTORY CORE (2174/01 & 2174/02)

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 50 minutes.

Paper 1: Extension of European control in Southeast Asia and challenges to European dominance, 1870s–1942

This paper will comprise the following two sections :

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

Paper 2: Developments in the post-World War II world: The Cold War and decolonisation in Southeast Asia, 1940s–1991

This paper will comprise the following two sections :

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

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

Syllabus Content

Paper 1 – Extension of European control in Southeast Asia and challenges to European dominance, 1870s–1942

Overview of Southeast Asia before 1870 [Non-examinable]

Extension of European control in Southeast Asia

- British Malaya, 1870s–1920s (Compulsory)*
- Dutch Indonesia, 1870s–1920s OR
- French Vietnam, 1870s–1920s

After World War I

- Overview of World War I [Non-examinable]
- Aims and terms of the Paris Peace Conference and its immediate impact on Europe in the 1920s

Rise of Authoritarian Regimes

- Overview of the attempts at establishing viable political systems after World War I [Non-examinable]
- Case Study of Nazi Germany*
- Case Study of Militarist Japan, 1920s–1930s

War in Europe and the Asia-Pacific

- Key developments leading to the outbreak of World War II in Europe*
- Key developments leading to the outbreak of World War II in the Asia-Pacific

Paper 2 – Developments in the post-World War II world: The Cold War and decolonisation in Southeast Asia, 1940s–1991 War in Europe and the Asia-Pacific

- Reasons for the end of World War II

The Cold War

- Origins and development of the Cold War in Europe*
- Extension of the Cold War outside Europe: Case study of Korean War, 1950–1953* and Vietnam War, 1954 – 1975

Decolonisation and establishment of newly independent nations in Southeast Asia

- British Malaya, 1945–1957 (Compulsory)*
- Dutch Indonesia, 1945–1949 OR
- French Vietnam, 1945–1954

End of the Cold War

- Overview of different phases of thawing and rising tensions between the USA and the USSR in the 1960s and 1970s [Non-examinable]
- Decline of the USSR and the end of Cold War

Source-based case studies will only be set on the topics indicated by the symbol [*].