



REGIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMME

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Regional Studies Programme (RSP) is a prestigious programme offered to Year One students in five schools, namely Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), Raffles Institution, Raffles Girls' Secondary School, Victoria School and Cedar Girls' Secondary School.

RSP will have the following features:

- Students in the RSP will offer Malay (Special Programme) MSP as a third language.
- Up to 100 scholarships will be awarded per cohort of students across the five schools. The scholarships will cover school fee subsidy, an annual allowance of \$1,000 per annum, various subsidies and funding.
- RSP curriculum will include overseas immersion programmes (for selected levels) and structured enrichment modules spread out during the course.

RSP CURRICULUM

The programme is as follows:

(i) Malay (Special Programme)

Students will have to offer Malay (Special Programme) as a third language. This will be conducted in school after curriculum hours.

Year 1 MSP will be held every **Monday**, 3 to 6 pm.

(ii) Enrichment module: Understanding Southeast Asia (USEA)

To equip students with an understanding of cultural and social developments in the region, a module on 'Understanding and Appreciating Southeast Asia' (USEA) specially designed by the school will be incorporated in the RSP curriculum.

The module will be conducted in English. The curriculum time is estimated to be about 24 hours per academic year and will take place after school. MOE will also jointly organise seminars for all RSP students as a follow-up on this module.

(ii) Immersion Programme

During the whole course of the RSP, scholars will experience cultural immersion trips in Malaysia to gain better understanding of the cultural and social aspects of the region.

(iii) Enrichment Activities

MOE and the RSP schools will organise a combined cultural day camp and seminar for all Year One and Year Three RSP scholars. In addition, as part of the USEA module, the school will also organise other enrichment programmes such as research projects and local learning journeys to help deepen students' learning and understanding of the Southeast Asian culture.

Year 1 USEA lessons will be held weekly on **Wednesdays** from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

RSP SCHOLARSHIPS

The RSP scholarships are open to all Year One Singaporean students. The scholarship terms include:

- Annual scholarship allowance of \$1,000
- Annual school fees subsidy of \$2,400
- Subsidised local enrichment programmes including fieldtrips and seminars
- Funding for \$100 daily for overseas cultural immersion trips

ELIGIBILITY

Year One students interested in applying for the scholarships must:

- Be Singapore citizen
- Not have taken Malay as a Mother Tongue Language
- Achieve excellent PSLE results
- Offer Malay Special Programme (MSP) as a third language
- Exhibit scholarly qualities including leadership and other personal qualities

The scholarship is subject to yearly renewal based on good academic results and recommendations from subject teachers.

FREQUENTLY – ASKED QUESTIONS ON RSP AND MSP
(for any queries, please email Mdm Salinah at salinah@acsindep.edu.sg)

1) Is withdrawal from the RSP allowed anytime in the year?

It is advisable that any withdrawal should take place at the end of the year. A withdrawal form, from the scholar's parents, stating valid reasons, need to be submitted to the school and the Ministry of Education (MOE). The student will then stop receiving his scholarship for the next year.

2) My son's CCA clashes with the MSP or RSP lessons. Is there another day for make-up lesson?

There is no make-up lesson since the same MSP teachers are teaching other levels on other days. Please select a CCA that will minimise any clashes with both MSP and RSP lessons.

3) What are the days for MSP and RSP lessons for the different levels?

MSP lessons are on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for Year One, Two, Three and Four respectively. RSP lessons are on Wednesdays, Wednesdays, Tuesdays and Mondays for Year One, Two, Three and Four respectively.

4) Is a scholar allowed to be absent for RSP or MSP lessons due to CCA competitions or trainings?

He is allowed to be absent with valid reasons from RSP and MSP lessons due to CCA competitions. An email from the CCA teacher needs to be submitted to the RSP or MSP teacher. He is not allowed to miss any lessons due to regular training for CCA competitions.

5) Is a scholar allowed to be absent from RSP or MSP lessons due to school remedials?

He is not allowed to miss any lessons due to remedials. All teachers in the school have been informed on the importance of both RSP and MSP lessons, which take priority over CCAs and remedials.

6) How many sessions are there for MSP and RSP lessons in a year?

MSP lessons are conducted weekly. There will be around 12 sessions for RSP for the whole year. The dates for all RSP lessons will be given to your son by the teacher-in-charge for the level on the first RSP lesson.

7) How tough are the RSP and MSP lessons? I am unsure if my son can cope with his other academic subjects and CCAs.

RSP lessons are not strenuous as they consist of mostly local learning journeys, class discussions and relevant group presentations.

MSP is a third language which needs constant revision and prompt submission of assignments. The MSP teacher is preparing the students for the GCE O-level MSP examination at the end of Year 4. Hence, your son needs to ensure that he can cope with academic studies and CCAs before choosing RSP and MSP.

8) Is a parent's email or letter allowed for any absence from MSP or RSP lessons?

Only a medical certificate is allowed for any absence due to illness. An email from CCA teacher is required for any absence due to competitions. On a case-by-case basis, will a parent's letter be accepted for any absence from lessons.

9) Can a scholar skip the RSP overseas cultural immersion trip if it clashes with his family holidays?

The RSP overseas cultural immersion trip is compulsory for the Year 2 to Year 4 scholars (pending approvals from MOE). The trip is conducted during the June or November school holidays. The dates will be informed in January to them to ensure no clashes with bookings of family trips.

10) What are the advantages of being in the RSP?

Apart from learning a third language namely Bahasa Melayu, Southeast Asian culture, history and geography, RSP scholars will also benefit from the experiences of the yearly overseas cultural immersion trips and improve on his presentation and teambuilding skills. Students in the Express stream can also deduct 2 bonus points from their L1R5 GCE O-level examination points if he achieves a pass grade for the MSP GCE O-level examination. MSP grade can also be used in the calculation of the L1R5 points in the Humanities subject category in the GCE O-level examination.

11) My son is allocated French/ German/ Japanese as his third language by MOE. Must he withdraw from that or is he allowed to take the third language and be in the RSP?

According to the MOE's criteria, he has to withdraw from the other third language since MSP is already a third language.

12) My son is currently a Singaporean Permanent Resident (PR) but we are in the process of applying for a Singapore citizenship for him. Is he eligible for the RSP in Year One or can he apply again in the other levels?

The requirement is Singapore citizenship for the scholarship. A student may apply for the RSP if the citizenship is approved by February in Year One.

13) Is there a maximum number of students that will be shortlisted for the RSP interview?

There is no maximum number for the RSP interview in the school. Only 20 students will be accepted in the RSP in Year One. No appeals will be entertained after the decision is made by the RSP interview panel.

14) How is a student selected for the RSP?

If a student is interested in both MSP and RSP and meets the eligibility requirements, he needs to submit the RSP application form, found in the school website, before the closing date. He will then receive a letter for an interview by the panel of RSP teachers. Interviews will be conducted in English where he will be judged on his oral skills, confidence level, aptitude and interest in the programme.

15) Is the renewal of the RSP scholarship automatic yearly? Does MOE track the academic progress of my son?

The renewal is not automatic yearly. Scholars need to pass the MSP final year examinations and fulfil MOE's criteria of less than 20 points for the L1R5 and more than 26 IB points in the Final Year examination for those in the Express and Integrated Programmes streams respectively. The school submits every RSP scholars' overall examination results to MOE yearly for renewal of scholarships.

16) Is my son required to take History in Upper Secondary to be in the RSP?

It is not a requirement for him to take History in Upper Secondary. However, if he intends to continue with the RSP in Year 5 and Year 6, he needs to take History at Higher Level (HL) as one of the IB subjects.

17) Will my son receive any Values-In-Action (VIA) hours for being in RSP?

He will receive VIA hours for the activities that the scholars will be doing at the overseas cultural immersion trips. Activities included interaction with the local residents in the orphanage or homes for the aged.

18) Is there a certificate from the school on my son's RSP participation?

There is a certificate given to all Year One RSP scholars from MOE. In addition to that, at the end of Year Four, he will receive a certificate and testimonial on his participation in the RSP and MSP from the school.

QUESTIONS RELATED TO MALAY SPECIAL PROGRAMME (MSP)

1) Is the examination marks for MSP counted in the final year examination total marks?

MSP examination marks is calculated in the Year 1 and Year 2 examination overall marks since MSP is an additional subject. In the Year 3 and Year 4, MSP marks can be used in the calculation of L1R5 points or IP points for the Final Year Examination.

2) Is there a need for MSP tuition if my son is not performing well in the subject?

There is no need for tuition if he has been attentive in the MSP lessons and has been completing the assignments regularly. Furthermore, the MSP teacher is available for consultations after the lessons.

3) What is the format of the GCE O-level MSP examination?

There are 3 papers in the examination. Paper 1 is 20 marks on writing an email and essay writing in Malay. Paper 2 is 30 marks comprising of multiple-choice and open-ended questions related to grammar, vocabulary, cloze passage and comprehension passages in Malay. Paper 3 is 50 marks on oral conversation and listening comprehension in Malay. Please refer to attached sample of 2022 MSP GCE O-level examination papers.

4) My son did not apply for MSP as third language. If he is accepted for the RSP, do I need to apply for MSP at the MOE Language Centre (MOELC)?

The school will liaise with the MOELC for application of MSP as third language for the selected RSP students.

5) Is the MSP lesson conducted in the school by school teachers or at the MOELC?

Lessons are conducted in school for the RSP students by the Malay Language teacher, from 3 to 6pm weekly. There will be no MSP lessons during school holidays or the weeks before school examinations.

6) Is there opportunity for the scholars to participate in inter-school MSP competitions?

Selected students will be allowed to participate in inter-school MSP competitions, organised by the MOE. Our scholars have participated and won in the MSP Oratorical, Malay Scrabble, Bingo, Drama, Poetry Recital and Essay Writing Competitions in the past years.