

Citizenship and Social Development

Curriculum Framework of National Security Education (2025)

Introduction

This Curriculum Framework¹ illustrates in tabular form how learning in Citizenship and Social Development can be connected to related learning elements of national security education to facilitate the planning of the learning content of national security education in schools. Schools should integrate national security education into the curriculum planning and learning and teaching of this subject through “organic integration”, “natural connection”, “diversified strategies”, “mutual coordination”, “learning within and beyond the classroom” and “whole-school participation”. In addition, schools should also refer to the *Curriculum Framework of National Security Education in Hong Kong (2025)* and other relevant curriculum documents to implement national security education more effectively.

Citizenship and Social Development (Secondary 4 to Secondary 6)

1. Overall Teaching Foci

1.1 Citizenship and Social Development aims to help students develop a broad knowledge base, foster a sense of national identity with global perspective through studying topics related to Hong Kong, our country and the contemporary world, and understand the importance of safeguarding national security in the learning process. The curriculum comprises three themes, namely “Hong Kong under ‘One Country, Two Systems’”, “Our Country since Reform and Opening-up” and “Interconnectedness and Interdependence of the Contemporary World” and Mainland study tours. These serve as platforms for students to explore topics related to national security.

¹ The content of this framework is set out in the form of examples. Schools should adopt or adapt the relevant suggestions based on students’ learning needs and abilities.

- 1.2 “Hong Kong under ‘One Country, Two Systems’” primarily covers the relationship between our country and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region since Hong Kong’s return to the motherland, including the significance of safeguarding national security (a holistic approach to national security) and the relationship between the National Security Law in Hong Kong and the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance and promoting Hong Kong’s long-term development. It aims to enhance students’ understanding of the national situation and thereby foster a strong sense of national identity.
- 1.3 “Our Country since Reform and Opening-up” helps students understand the development process of our country from domestic and international aspects, and the shared responsibility of safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests.
- 1.4 “Interconnectedness and Interdependence of the Contemporary World” addresses the topics of economy, technology, sustainable development and public health, helping students understand the current situations facing our country in the contemporary world and understand the opportunities and challenges faced by our country in participating in international affairs and the importance of safeguarding national security.
- 1.5 Mainland study tour provides opportunities for students to gain a first-hand understanding of the current development of our country and people’s lives. Through these learning experiences, students become citizens with a sense of national identity, valuing national security and possessing global perspective.

2. Learning Foci

Citizenship and Social Development [Key Stage 4 (Senior Secondary)]		Curriculum Framework of National Security Education in Hong Kong (2025)
Learning Units (Examples)	Learning Elements (Examples)	Related Learning Elements / Major Fields of National Security (Examples)
<u>The meaning and implementation of “one country, two systems”</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction to the origin of the question of Hong Kong (the three unequal treaties and the background) and the process of Hong Kong’s return to China • Constitutional relationship between the country and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) (China has indisputable sovereignty and jurisdiction over Hong Kong), legal basis of “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.2 Have a deeper understanding of the important historical events of our country, political changes, deeds of important figures, overview of national development, social and cultural outlook and external exchanges, thereby fostering patriotic sentiments • 4.11 Learn about the constitutional relationship between our country and the HKSAR (e.g. that our country has the sovereignty and jurisdiction over the HKSAR; the

		<p>HKSAR is directly under the Central People's Government; and its high degree of autonomy originates from the authorisation of the Central Government)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related major fields of national security: Political Security, Military Security, Homeland Security
<p><u>The meaning and implementation of “one country, two systems”</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance of safeguarding national security (i.e. a holistic approach to national security); the National Security Law and promoting long term development of Hong Kong; and striking the balance between rule of law and human rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.6 Learn that safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity is the cornerstone of the country's long-term security and social stability; and will also bring vibrant opportunities for Hong Kong's development • 4.7 Learn the essence of the holistic approach to national security and the importance of balancing development and security; and that

		<p>the security of our country and the people can only be safeguarded by fully implementing a holistic approach to national security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.12 Learn that the Central People's Government has the fundamental responsibility for national security affairs relating to the HKSAR • 4.13 Have a deeper understanding that national security falls under the purview of the Central Authorities; safeguarding national security is a top priority for every country; and each country has its own legislation on safeguarding national security • 4.14 Learn about our country's policies and foci in the related fields of safeguarding national security, and the role of the Central
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		<p>Government in safeguarding national security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.15 Learn about how the HKSAR safeguards national security (e.g. supervision from and accountability to the Central People’s Government, and the work of the HKSAR in the areas of legislation, law enforcement, judiciary and education) • 4.16 Have a deeper understanding of the significance of the HKNSL and the SNSO in safeguarding national security and “one country, two systems” (e.g. maintaining Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity and stability, ensuring the steadfast and successful implementation of “one country, two systems”, and securing social order)
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.17 Learn about the concepts and principles of the rule of law in HKNSL and the SNSO, facilitating further exploration and reflection on the significance of safeguarding national security • 4.18 Learn that national security can protect the rights and freedom of the people, and that national security can be effectively safeguarded through our action • 4.20 Assume our national responsibilities consciously, be patriotic and love Hong Kong, jointly safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests; and contribute to the prosperity and stability of our country and Hong Kong
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover all major fields of national security
<u>The meaning and implementation of “one country, two systems”</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political structure of the HKSAR • Significance of rule of law: law abidingness; judicial independence; equality before the law; fair and open trial • Fundamental rights and duties of Hong Kong residents as stipulated in the Basic Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.11 Learn about the constitutional relationship between our country and the HKSAR (e.g. that our country has the sovereignty and jurisdiction over the HKSAR; the HKSAR is directly under the Central People’s Government; and its high degree of autonomy originates from the authorisation of the Central Government) • 4.17 Learn about the concepts and principles of the rule of law in HKNSL and the SNSO, facilitating further exploration and reflection on the significance of safeguarding national security

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related major fields of national security: Political Security, Societal Security
<u>Situation of the country and sense of national identity</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction to the contemporary situation of the country: political structure of the country; composition of the Chinese nation; concept of Chinese nationality and Chinese citizens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Learn about the composition of the Chinese nation, and the concepts of Chinese nationality and Chinese citizenship • 4.4 Have a deeper understanding of the political structure of our country (e.g. that the socialist system is the fundamental system of the People's Republic of China; the leadership of the Communist Party of China is the most essential feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics; and all power of the People's Republic of China belongs to the people) • Related major field of national security: Political Security

<p><u>Situation of the country and sense of national identity</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievements of the country in different areas in recent years (new high-end technologies, medical care and public health, culture and education, infrastructures, poverty eradication) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5 Further understand and care about the achievements of our country in various aspects (e.g. society, economy, national defence, environment, diplomacy, technology, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure), and have pride in our country's achievements • Related major fields of national security: Cultural Security, Societal Security, Science and Technology Security
<p><u>Characteristics of cultural diversity of the Hong Kong society</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors shaping the characteristics of cultural diversity with Chinese culture as the mainstay in the Hong Kong society: brief introduction to the development of Hong Kong, the impact of Chinese traditional culture integrating with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.3 Learn and recognise that safeguarding cultural security is a fundamental basis for maintaining national and ethnic unity, and national stability; and that equality and mutual learning among the

	<p>different cultures on the Hong Kong society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive significance of the characteristics of cultural diversity to the Hong Kong society: promoting inclusion of cultures, facilitating cultural innovations and reflections, promoting harmony among different ethnic groups, nurturing citizenship rooted in Chinese culture with a global perspective 	<p>cultures of different nations should be promoted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related major field of national security: Cultural Security
<p><u>Change in people's life and overall national strength</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction to the development of China's reform and opening up (key stages) and related strategies • Changes and enhancement of people's quality of life (income, mode of consumption, educational level, standard of medical care, life expectancy, poverty eradication, etc.) • Enhancement of overall national strength (economy, culture, natural resources, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.2 Have a deeper understanding of the important historical events of our country, political changes, deeds of important figures, overview of national development, social and cultural outlook and external exchanges, thereby fostering patriotic sentiments • 4.5 Further understand and care about the achievements of our

	<p>education, technology, national defence, etc.)</p>	<p>country in various aspects (e.g. society, economy, national defence, environment, diplomacy, technology, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure), and have pride in our country's achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.8 Further understand the challenges and opportunities faced by our country in the process of development, thereby strengthening the sense of vigilance against potential danger in times of peace • Related major fields of national security: Military Security, Economic Security, Cultural Security, Societal Security, Science and Technology Security, Resources Security
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<p><u>The development of our country and the integration of Hong Kong into the overall national development</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focuses and policies of the recent Five-Year Plans of our country, and the connection of these focuses and policies with the promotion of the development of our country and Hong Kong • The development plans and policies related to Hong Kong (the development of the Greater Bay Area, The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)) and the relationship with the promotion of the development of Hong Kong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5 Further understand and care about the achievements of our country in various aspects (e.g. society, economy, national defence, environment, diplomacy, technology, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure), and have pride in our country's achievements • 4.6 Learn that safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity is the cornerstone of the country's long-term security and social stability; and will also bring vibrant opportunities for Hong Kong's development • 4.8 Further understand the challenges and opportunities faced by our country in the process of development, thereby
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		<p>strengthening the sense of vigilance against potential danger in times of peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.20 Assume our national responsibilities consciously, be patriotic and love Hong Kong, jointly safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests; and contribute to the prosperity and stability of our country and Hong Kong
<u>Participation in international affairs</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The notion of multifaceted diplomacy since the 21st century • Actions and initiatives: rescues of various nature and assistance to other countries; setting up international organisations and organising international forums; the Belt and Road Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.8 Further understand the challenges and opportunities faced by our country in the process of development, thereby strengthening the sense of vigilance against potential danger in times of peace

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of participation in international affairs on the country's overall development, and the active role played by Hong Kong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.10 Learn about the challenges and opportunities faced by our country when participating in international affairs (e.g. the Belt and Road Initiative, counter-terrorism, addressing climate change, tackling infectious diseases, and assisting humanitarian rescue); the concept and significance of building a community with a shared future for mankind; and have pride in our country's contribution to the world • 4.20 Assume our national responsibilities consciously, be patriotic and love Hong Kong, jointly safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests; and contribute to the prosperity and
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		<p>stability of our country and Hong Kong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related major fields of national security: Political Security, Military Security, Economic Security, Cultural Security, Overseas Interests Security
<u>Economic globalisation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdependence of economies of all countries and cooperation of international economic organisations; development of multinational corporations' global labour and financial market integration; development of new economies and the impact on individuals' consumption and employment) and the development of Hong Kong and our country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.10 Learn about the challenges and opportunities faced by our country when participating in international affairs (e.g. the Belt and Road Initiative, counter-terrorism, addressing climate change, tackling infectious diseases, and assisting humanitarian rescue); the concept and significance of building a community with a shared future for mankind; and have pride in our country's contribution to the world

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related major field of national security: Economic Security
<u>Technological development and information literacy</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief introduction to the latest technological development around the world: artificial intelligence, big data, cloud storage of data • Development features of information technology: the Internet, social networking sites, instant messaging software • Relationship between information literacy and positive values; identifying false information; morals and conduct in using technologies; observing the relevant laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5 Further understand and care about the achievements of our country in various aspects (e.g. society, economy, national defence, environment, diplomacy, technology, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure), and have pride in our country's achievements • 4.9 Have a deeper understanding of the importance of the science and innovation and technology industries in our country and Hong Kong in safeguarding national security and promoting sustainable development • Related major fields of national security: Science and Technology

		Security, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence Security, Data Security
<u>Sustainable development</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rationale of sustainable development and the practical experiences of environmental conservation of our country, Hong Kong and other regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.5 Further understand and care about the achievements of our country in various aspects (e.g. society, economy, national defence, environment, diplomacy, technology, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure), and have pride in our country's achievements 4.9 Have a deeper understanding of the importance of the science and innovation and technology industries in our country and Hong Kong in safeguarding national security and promoting sustainable development Related major field of national security: Ecological Security

<p><u>Public health and human health</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions of our country and Hong Kong to global public health (particularly in preventing and controlling infectious diseases) • Individuals' responsibilities in promoting public health (particularly in responding to infectious diseases) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5 Further understand and care about the achievements of our country in various aspects (e.g. society, economy, national defence, environment, diplomacy, technology, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure), and have pride in our country's achievements • Related major fields of national security: Societal Security, Biosecurity
<p><u>Nature of traditional Chinese culture</u> (Mainland study tours)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and inheritance of cultural heritage (including tangible and intangible cultural heritage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.3 Learn and recognise that safeguarding cultural security is a fundamental basis for maintaining national and ethnic unity, and national stability; and that equality and mutual learning among the cultures of different nations should be promoted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5 Further understand and care about the achievements of our country in various aspects (e.g. society, economy, national defence, environment, diplomacy, technology, healthcare, transportation and infrastructure), and have pride in our country's achievements • 4.20 Assume our national responsibilities consciously, be patriotic and love Hong Kong, jointly safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests; and contribute to the prosperity and stability of our country and Hong Kong • Related major field of national security: Cultural Security
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		(different fields may be covered depending on the itinerary)
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3. Suggested Learning and Teaching Activities (Examples) (Senior Secondary)

The following are merely examples. Teachers can design appropriate activities based on the school context and subject characteristics to promote national security education.

✧ Classroom learning

- Through the Citizenship and Social Development curriculum, teachers can organically integrate and naturally connect national security education elements into the classroom, thereby connecting students' learning experiences. Through diverse classroom activities (such as data studies, discussion, presentation and reflection), students can master the relevant knowledge about national security and gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between national security and their own lives. This helps students achieve learning outcomes across the “cognitive, affective and action” facets:
 - At the “cognitive” facet, students understand the conditions and achievements of our country and comprehend the core meaning of a holistic approach to national security and the importance of safeguarding national security.
 - At the “affective” facet, students develop a stronger sense of national identity and patriotism.
 - At the “action” facet, students transform their awareness of safeguarding national security into conscious actions to safeguard national security.

✧ **Extended learning activities**

- Students work in groups to research national security laws in different countries and their respective measures for promoting national security education. Through these activities, students can understand that enacting legislation to safeguard national security is a common practice in the international community and thus appreciate the importance of the Hong Kong National Security Law and the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance in safeguarding the safety of Hong Kong residents and promoting national and regional social stability and development.
- Students work in groups to read sections of the Basic Law related to national security and then report and explain to their classmates. This allows them to understand the relationship between “one country, two systems” and the Basic Law and national security.

✧ **Competitions**

- Organise school-based competitions in conjunction with themes/important dates (e.g. the founding anniversary of the People’s Republic of China, the anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, National Security Education Day and the anniversary of the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law / Safeguarding National Security Ordinance). Students are encouraged to participate in territory-wide inter-school competitions and competitions organised by the Education Bureau to foster a positive atmosphere and promote national security education.

✧ **Visits**

- Visit the exhibitions and venues related to national security (e.g. the National Security Exhibition Gallery, the Hong Kong Museum of the War of Resistance and Coastal Defence and the PLA Hong Kong Garrison Exhibition Centre) to deepen

students' understanding of national security and help them appreciate the importance of national security through learning about the history of Hong Kong.

✧ **Exchanges with the Mainland**

- Citizenship and Social Development Mainland study tours cover a variety of topics, allowing all secondary students to gain a first-hand understanding of our country and experience Chinese culture through study tour activities. This allows them to gain a deeper understanding of our country's latest developments and achievements, thereby building cultural confidence and fostering a sense of national identity.
- Visit cultural heritage and environmental conservation sites in the Mainland to allow students to understand our country's situation in protecting cultural heritage and the environment, as well as to grasp the importance of safeguarding our country's cultural security, resource security and ecological security.
- Visit high-tech zones in cities in the Mainland to allow students to understand our country's high-tech development and the importance of safeguarding our country's science and technology security.

Disclaimer:

- *In case of any discrepancy in the meaning of wording between the English text and the Chinese text, the Chinese text shall prevail.*