

## **Senior Secondary History Optimised Curriculum Framework**

### **Curriculum Aims**

The aims of this curriculum are to enable students to:

- (a) understand the history and development trends of our country and the world, and the interdependence among nations through learning about the origins and development of the contemporary world;
- (b) broaden historical perspective in the process of exploring historical issues, and learn to base their understanding of history on facts and evidence, and adopt an impartial, respectful, rational and scientific manner in reviewing history from different perspectives and conducting reasonable analysis;
- (c) cultivate in students an affection for our country, and a sense of national identity and global perspectives, appreciate and inherit national history and culture, while respecting and showing acceptance of different cultures in the world, as well as valuing the shared characteristics of human societies and the importance of common issues encountered;
- (d) nurture historical literacy and humanistic concerns, and develop proper values and attitudes, thereby becoming informed and responsible citizens of our country and the world; and
- (e) be equipped to explore in depth issues relevant to their personal interests, future careers and professional studies.

### **Curriculum Objectives**

Students are expected to acquire knowledge and develop the understanding of:

- (a) basic historical concepts, such as time and space, cause-and-effect relationship, change and continuity, and similarities and differences of events;
- (b) diverse standpoints and perspectives inherent in different ways of narrating and interpreting history;

- (c) the major events in the history of our country and the world and their inter-relations from the modern times to the present; and
- (d) the major historical developments and trends shaping the contemporary world.

Students are expected to master skills which will enable them to:

- (a) master the methodology of constructing the chronology of major historical events, periods and developments, and develop an understanding of historical events within the time and space in which they occurred;
- (b) apply historical concepts, such as cause and effect, change and continuity, and historical significance, to examine trends and developments, make connections and comparisons, as well as conduct analyses;
- (c) understand the different ways of interpreting history, and adopt rational and objective methods to distinguish facts from biased opinions, so as to build up an understanding of history;
- (d) identify, compare, synthesise and analyse various types of historical sources, understand the significance of various historical sources and how they reflect the historical contexts in the relevant periods, and evaluate the sources used to draw valid conclusions;
- (e) select and organise historical sources properly to make impartial and objective interpretations and evaluations on history; and
- (f) apply historical knowledge, concepts and skills in daily life.

Students are expected to cultivate proper values and attitudes which will enable them to:

- (a) identify themselves as a Chinese national, appreciate and inherit the history and mission of building self-reliance and strength of the Chinese nation;
- (b) understand the difficulties and challenges faced by our country and other different peoples and countries in the past, and appreciate the efforts made by different peoples in the face of adversity and the achievements they made through innovating and forging ahead;

- (c) respect the cultures of different countries around the world, establish the awareness of building a community with a shared future for mankind, care for the common well-being of humanity, and become Chinese with global perspectives; and
- (d) cultivate the attitude of acting based on historical facts, impartiality and objective judgements through understanding past experiences of mankind.

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### **Compulsory Part : Major Development and Trends in Modern and Contemporary World History**

#### **Module 1 The Making of the Modern World [Suggested lesson time: 10 hours]**

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Learning Points</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>	<b>Suggested Lesson Time</b>
1.1 The rise of the West	a) Background: The changes in Europe from the 15th to the 17th century b) The opening of new sea routes and early European colonial expansion c) The formation and development of the capitalist system d) The impact of the two Industrial Revolutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquire a general understanding of the impact brought about by the Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment on Europe;</li><li>• Learn about the impact of the opening of new sea routes on the building up of global connections and early European colonial expansion;</li><li>• Learn about the political revolutions and the establishment of the capitalist system in the major European and American countries;</li><li>• Learn about the impact of the two Industrial Revolutions on Europe and North America, including the advances in technology and productivity, the establishment of the modern capitalist system, and the tremendous changes brought about in the areas of society, economy, politics and culture, etc.</li></ul>	5 hours
1.2 The expansion of imperialism and the resistance in Latin America and Asia	a) The colonial expansion of the imperialist countries b) The resistance in Latin America and Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn about the relationships between the rise of Europe and America and imperialistic colonial expansion, and the major characteristics of colonial empires from the late 19th to the early 20th century;</li></ul>	5 hours

Topics	Learning Points	Explanatory Notes	Suggested Lesson Time
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about the responses of China and Japan towards the invasion of the West from the mid-19th to the early 20th century and their consequences;</li> <li>• Acquire a general understanding of the resistance of Latin America and other regions in Asia, such as India, the Ottoman Empire and Southeast Asia, etc., to the imperialistic colonial expansion from the 19th to the early 20th century.</li> </ul>	

**Module 2 War and Peace: Major International Conflicts and the Quest for Peace since the 20th century [Suggested lesson time: 90 hours]**

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Learning Points</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>	<b>Suggested Lesson Time</b>
2.1 The First World War (WWI)	a) Background: International relations from the late 19th to the early 20th century b) The outbreak, course, results and impact of WWI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the changes in international order in Europe from the late 19th to the early 20th century;</li> <li>• Identify the important conflicts among the major European countries and the efforts made to maintain peace;</li> <li>• Analyse the major factors leading to the outbreak of WWI, including extreme nationalism, imperialism, armaments race and alliance system, etc., as well as how the pre-war crises eventually triggered the outbreak of the war;</li> <li>• Identify the important events in the course of the war, and analyse the major impact brought about by WWI, including the October Revolution in Russia, the founding of the League of Nations and collective security, and the changes in technology, medicine and society during the war, etc.</li> </ul>	15 hours
2.2 The Second World War (WWII) and the post-war international order	a) The international situation in the inter-war period b) The Great Depression and its impact c) The aggression of Japan, Italy and Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the international situation in the inter-war period, including the dilemma of post-war Europe, the economic prosperity and diplomacy of the United States, the establishment of the Soviet Union and socialist construction, as well as the formation and development of militarism in Japan,</li> </ul>	30 hours

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Learning Points</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>	<b>Suggested Lesson Time</b>
	d) The outbreak, course, results and impact of WWII e) The formation of post-war international order	Fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany, etc., and analyse their cause-and-effect relationship with the two world wars; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the impact brought about by the Great Depression, and analyse how the aggressions of Japan, Italy and Germany triggered the outbreak of WWII;</li> <li>• Identify the important events in the course of the war, and analyse the diplomacy among the major allied nations during the war and the post-war peace settlements reached;</li> <li>• Explain the far-reaching impact brought about by WWII, and the formation of a new international order as well as the collapse of the colonial empires, and compare and assess the historical significance of the two wars.</li> </ul>	
2.3 The development of Asia, Africa and Latin America	a) The national democratic movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the inter-war period b) The collapse of the imperialistic colonial system after WWII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the situation of the national democratic movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the inter-war period;</li> <li>• Explain the national independence movements and the collapse of the imperialistic colonial system after WWII, and understand the building of new emerging countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.</li> </ul>	15 hours
2.4 The outbreak and the end of the Cold War	a) The emergence of the Cold War and the formation of a bipolar international landscape b) The development of the Cold War, and the confrontations and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trace and explain the causes of the Cold War, its important events and development;</li> <li>• Analyse the formation of the US-Soviet bipolar landscape and the confrontations and dialogues between the two blocs led by the</li> </ul>	30 hours

Topics	Learning Points	Explanatory Notes	Suggested Lesson Time
	<p>dialogues between the United States and the Soviet Union</p> <p>c) The Non-Aligned Movement and the rise of the Third World</p> <p>d) The end of the Cold War and the development and trend towards multi-polarisation of the world</p>	<p>United States and the Soviet Union, and the basic characteristics of the Cold War;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the emergence of the Non-Aligned Movement and the rise of the Third World;</li> <li>• Identify the major factors leading to the end of the Cold War, and assess their relative importance;</li> <li>• Learn about the trends of multi-polarisation and economic globalisation after the end of the Cold War and the recent development in the international landscape.</li> </ul>	



**Module 3 China and the World: Our Country's Path to Modernisation and the Journey of Becoming an Important Member of the International Community [Suggested lesson time: 90 hours]**

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Learning Points</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>	<b>Suggested Lesson Time</b>
3.1 China from a monarchy to a republic	a) Background: The domestic turmoil and external threats in late Qing b) The 1911 Revolution and the establishment of the Republic of China c) China and the First World War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire a general understanding of the crises faced by the rule of late Qing under the international landscape of imperialistic colonial expansion, and the invasion of the Eight-Power Expedition and the harms of the <i>Boxer Protocol</i>;</li> <li>• Understand the Late Qing Reform and the 1911 Revolution in the early 20th century, explain their respective backgrounds and natures, and assess their historical significance as well as limitations;</li> <li>• Understand the internal and external situation of China after the end of the monarchical system brought about by the 1911 Revolution;</li> <li>• Analyse China's entry into the First World War, its contributions and historical significance, as well as the impact of the war on China and East Asia.</li> </ul>	15 hours
3.2 From the founding of the Communist Party of China to the founding of the People's Republic of China	a) The May Fourth Movement b) The founding of the Communist Party of China, and the relationships between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party of China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the diplomatic setbacks of China in the Paris Peace Conference, the outbreak of the May Fourth Movement and its impact, including the spread and development of Marxism in China, etc.;</li> <li>• Understand the founding of the Communist Party of China, the development and relationships between the Kuomintang and the</li> </ul>	35 hours

Topics	Learning Points	Explanatory Notes	Suggested Lesson Time
	c) The War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the Second World War d) The Civil War and the founding of the People's Republic of China e) The development of Hong Kong in the early phase of the 20th century	<p>Communist Party of China, the establishment of the Nanjing Nationalist Government and its policies, as well as the exploration and opening up of a new revolutionary path by the Communist Party of China;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the causes of the Japanese invasion of China from the 1930s onwards, and understand the course of China's transition from regional resistance to whole-nation resistance against Japanese aggression;</li> <li>• Analyse the relations between the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the Second World War, and China's participation in the Second World War and its contributions;</li> <li>• Understand the situation in Asia after WWII, the course of the Civil War, the factors leading to the victory of the Communist Party of China, and the historical significance of the founding of the People's Republic of China;</li> <li>• Analyse the overview of the economic and social development of Hong Kong from the end of the 19th century to the early phase of the 20th century, including the early urbanisation, the development of industries and entrepot trade, the rise of Chinese merchants and Chinese associations, the contributions of various ethnic groups and organisations, the Seamen's Strike and the</li> </ul>	

Topics	Learning Points	Explanatory Notes	Suggested Lesson Time
		<p>Canton-Hong Kong Strike, etc., and understand the ties between the Mainland and Hong Kong;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand Hong Kong during the period of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, including the support of people to the War of Resistance before the fall of Hong Kong, the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong society and its anti-Japanese resistance during the Japanese occupation, etc.</li> </ul>	
3.3 The development and achievements of the People's Republic of China (PRC)	<p>a) The exploration and achievements of building a modern socialist country</p> <p>b) China becoming an important member in the international community</p> <p>c) The Reform and Opening-up and the building of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and its contributions to the world</p> <p>d) Major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind</p> <p>e) The development of Hong Kong after the founding of New China</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse the exploration and achievements of the building of a modern socialist country since the founding of the PRC, including the establishment of the basic socialist system in the early days of the PRC, the general guideline of “One industrialisation and Three transformations” in the transition period and the First Five Year Plan, the zigzag exploration of socialist construction from 1957 to the end of the “Cultural Revolution”, as well as the achievements made in various fields, etc.;</li> <li>• Understand the commitment to the principle of an independent foreign policy of peace since the founding of New China and the historical events about its active breaking of new ground in diplomacy, including the Geneva Conference, the Bandung</li> </ul>	40 hours

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		<p>Conference, the restoration of the lawful seat in the United Nations, etc.;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the important achievements attained through the Reform and Opening-up and the building of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, and understand the impact of China on the global economy and politics through the historical events of China's accession to the World Trade Organisation and participation in the United Nations peacekeeping operations, etc.;</li> <li>Learn about the major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and China's active participation in global governance practice, including the "Belt and Road Initiative" and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, etc.;</li> <li>Analyse the characteristics of Hong Kong's economic development and urbanisation, understand the close ties between the Mainland and Hong Kong after the founding of New China, particularly since the Reform and Opening-up, and analyse the ties of Hong Kong with the Mainland and the world from three perspectives: Hong Kong being an international shipping and financial hub, an international tourist city, and an East-meets-</li> </ul>	

Topics	Learning Points	Explanatory Notes	Suggested Lesson Time
		<p>West centre for international cultural exchange;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, the course of Hong Kong’s return to the motherland, and the relevant historical events of Hong Kong’s integration into the overall development of the country after the return.</li> </ul>	

**Elective Part (2 Modules in total, Select 1 out of 2)**

**Module 4 Cooperation and Development: The International Cooperation since the mid-19th Century [Suggested lesson time: 40 hours]**

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Learning Points</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>	<b>Suggested Lesson Time</b>
4.1 The beginning of the modern international cooperation: The international cooperation from the mid-19th to the early 20th century	a) The Geneva Conventions and the Hague Conventions b) The Hague Conferences (1899, 1907) and the development of the Hague Conventions system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trace and explain the early development of the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Conventions, including the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Conferences and the Hague Conventions system, analyse the relationships between the international conflicts, the attempts at adopting peaceful means to settle disputes, as well as humanitarianism in the period from the mid-19th century to the First World War;</li> <li>Assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Conventions during the First World War, and analyse the achievements and limitations therein.</li> </ul>	10 hours
4.2 The attempts at collective security: The major international cooperation after the First World War	a) The establishment of the Versailles–Washington System b) The further development of the Geneva Conventions c) The founding of the League of Nations d) The Locarno Treaties e) The Kellogg-Briand Pact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the various attempts at strengthening collective security in the inter-war period, including the establishment of the Versailles–Washington System, the development of the Geneva Conventions, the founding of the League of Nations, and the objectives of the signing of the Locarno Treaties and the Kellogg-Briand Pact and their respective content;</li> </ul>	10 hours

Topics	Learning Points	Explanatory Notes	Suggested Lesson Time
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the importance of the various attempts at shaping the framework of international cooperation for achieving peace and security in the 20th century.</li> </ul>	
4.3 Peace, security and development: The major international cooperation after the Second World War	a) The founding of the United Nations and its work b) The establishment of global and regional economic cooperation organisations c) The non-traditional security issues and international cooperation d) The implementation of the work of international humanitarian relief after the Second World War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the global and regional international organisations and their work, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation, European integration and the European Union, the Group of 77, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;</li> <li>Understand the non-traditional security issues, including terrorism, population and environmental issues, and epidemics, analyse how the international community collectively coped with the challenges brought about by the above issues, and assess the effectiveness and significance of such cooperation;</li> <li>Through learning about the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, understand the implementation of the work of international humanitarian relief after the Second World War, and assess the effectiveness and significance of such work.</li> </ul>	20 hours

**Module 5 Drifting and Self-strengthening: The Overseas Chinese since the mid-19th Century [Suggested lesson time: 40 hours]**

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Learning Points</b>	<b>Explanatory Notes</b>	<b>Suggested Lesson Time</b>
5.1 The Chinese overseas migration since the mid-19th century	The overview of and reasons for the Chinese overseas migration since the mid-19th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the overview of the Chinese overseas migration in the mid-19th century, including the routes of migration and destinations, the work and life in the places of settlement, etc.;</li> <li>• Analyse the reasons for the Chinese migration to Southeast Asia, Oceania, Europe, the Americas and other regions since the mid-19th century, including the internal situation of China and the international environment, the emergence of “Chinese contracted coolies”, etc.</li> </ul>	15 hours
5.2 The development of the overseas Chinese communities	a) The development of overseas Chinese merchants and Chinese labourers in Southeast Asia, Oceania and the Americas b) The development and characteristics of the overseas Chinese communities in Southeast Asia, Oceania and the Americas c) The contributions of the overseas Chinese to their places of settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trace and explain the development of the overseas Chinese merchants and Chinese labourers in Southeast Asia, Oceania and the Americas since the mid-19th century, including the Chinese merchants’ promotion of commerce and overseas trade, expansion of the economic and trade networks covering the Mainland, Hong Kong and various regions, etc., and the Chinese labourers’ engagement in mining, farming in plantations, railway construction, labouring as coolies at docks, and other work;</li> <li>• Analyse the development of the communities of the Chinese merchants and Chinese</li> </ul>	15 hours



Topics	Learning Points	Explanatory Notes	Suggested Lesson Time
		<p>labourers, including the emergence of the social classes of labourers and merchants, the setting up of overseas Chinese organisations, the promotion of the Chinese language education in the locality, and the provision of the bone repatriation service to the places of origin of the overseas Chinese, etc.;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the achievements and contributions of the overseas Chinese in their places of settlement.</li> </ul>	
5.3 The relationships between the overseas Chinese and the motherland	<p>a) The contributions of the overseas Chinese to the development of the motherland</p> <p>b) The protection of the interests of the overseas Chinese by the motherland after the founding of New China</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse the ties of the overseas Chinese with the motherland and their contributions to their native places and the country in different periods from political, economic, social, cultural and other perspectives, including bolstering the development of their native places, supporting the 1911 Revolution and the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, returning to China for national development after the founding of New China, and making investments in the country, exchanging technical skills, management and other professional knowledge since the Reform and Opening-up;</li> <li>Learn about China's measures to protect the overseas Chinese.</li> </ul>	10 hours