



**INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**

Social Science Department Handbook

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the High School Social Science Department at ICS. This Subject Handbook is designed to provide an overview of the High School Social Science's Department's policies, procedures, and curriculum. It serves as a guide for teachers, students, and parents to ensure a cohesive and effective learning environment.

2. Department Vision and Mission

Vision:

Our vision for the Social Science Department at International Christian School is to cultivate globally-minded citizens who engage critically with the past, present, and future through the lens of Christian faith and values. Rooted in the principles of love, compassion, and justice as exemplified in the Bible, we aim to empower students to understand diverse cultures, histories, and societal structures while fostering a deep appreciation for the interconnectedness of humanity. By integrating Biblical teachings into our curriculum, we seek to inspire students to become ethical leaders equipped with the knowledge, empathy, and discernment needed to navigate complex social issues and demonstrate Christlike behaviors in the world at large.

Mission:

To provide high-quality Social Science education within a Biblical worldview that equips students with the knowledge, skills, and understanding necessary to glorify God and serve Him in their academic and personal lives.

3. ICS Teaching & Learning Philosophy

ICS Standards

ICS has a standards-based approach to education. This means we have clear and objective targets (standards) for learning in every subject, at every grade level. In the liberal arts (Math, Science and the Humanities) we emphasise the importance of knowledge, which is the basis for much of what we call 'skills'. In the creative arts (Music, Art and Drama) we emphasise the quality of both technique and interpretation. In Physical Education and Health we develop standards of physical capacity and skill.

Assessing learning of these standards is achieved by the use of proficiency rubrics, which clearly delineate a continuum from 'below standard' to 'approaching standard' to 'meeting standard' to 'exceeding standard'. Both formative and summative assessments are appropriate to the subject-specific standards. Theology is the 'Queen of the Sciences', and so the Bible has the pre-eminent place in our curriculum, training students in a Biblical worldview and understanding of the 'whole counsel of God'.

ICS Teaching & Learning Principles

- The Bible is our final authority in all matters of faith and conduct
- We use evidence-based practice founded on good cognitive science
- Optimal learning is knowledge-based and teacher-directed
- The teaching cycle: explicit instruction, modelling, practice, feedback
- The essence of a liberal arts education is deep reading, thinking, writing and discussion, in pursuit of goodness, truth and beauty.
- We prioritise the known benefits of physical reading and handwriting
- We prepare students to operate effectively in a dual-modal society: departmental handbooks outline where digital technology is effective in enhancing learning, and our curriculum policy details education in digital literacy
- ICS partners with parents in mitigating the harms associated with screen-based childhood and learning, including our policies on homework and device-use

Assessment

Formative assessment refers to a variety of methods teachers use to gather evidence of students' academic progress over time. Formative feedback to students aims to help students understand what to aim for and how to achieve that.

Summative assessments are high-stakes assessments that are used to evaluate students' proficiency against ICS Standards in a particular unit, semester, or course.

4. Social Science Department Curriculum Links

- **Curriculum Introduction**

The focus of the ICS Social Science curriculum is to build towards AP exams in the Social Sciences of History, Comparative Government and Politics, Macro and Micro Economics, and Psychology. Our learning standards for every grade level are backward-designed from the AP standards. Alongside these core disciplines, elective courses in Anthropology and Sociology are offered in High School. Our purpose is to provide a high-quality Social Science education, building foundations for understanding the world through historical analysis, guided research, and civic duty.

- **Middle School**

Content:

MS Social Science 6th Grade Scope and Sequence

MS Social Science 7th Grade Scope and Sequence

MS Social Science 8th Grade Scope and Sequence

- **High School**

Content:

European Studies Scope and Sequence

Asian Studies Scope and Sequence

Introduction to Human Rights Scope and Sequence

Introduction to Anthropology Scope and Sequence

Introduction to Sociology Scope and Sequence

AP Microeconomics Scope and Sequence

AP Macroeconomics Scope and Sequence

AP Psychology Scope and Sequence

AP World History Scope and Sequence

AP US History Scope and Sequence

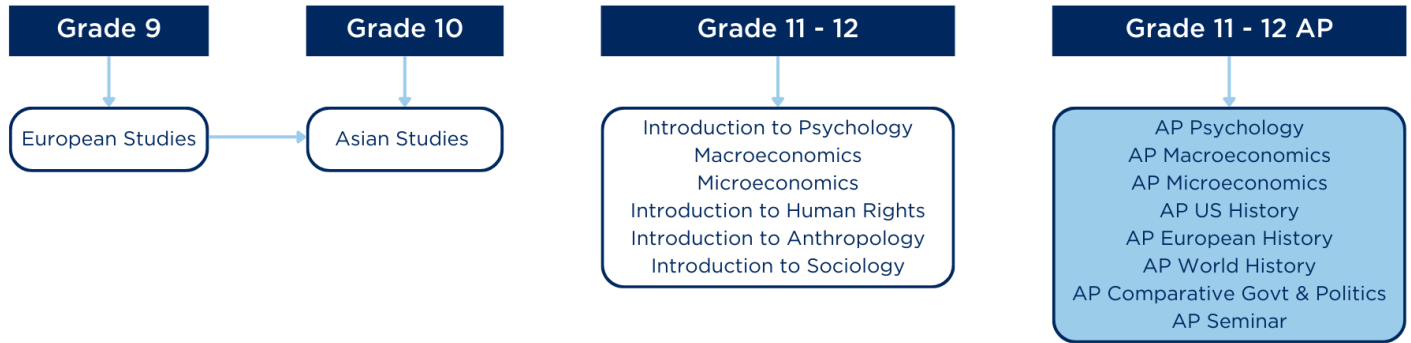
AP European History Scope and Sequence

AP Comparative Government and Politics Scope and Sequence

- **Social Sciences Pathways Grade 6 - Grade 12**

[Secondary Course Pathways - High School Course Guide](#)

Social Science Course Pathways



2 credits of Social Science are required for graduation

5. School & Department Policies

- **General Classroom Practice**

Hard-copy course textbooks are maintained in classrooms.

Students maintain Social Science notebooks which must be brought to every lesson.

Teachers are responsible for communicating Unit Rubrics at the beginning of every Unit of Study to students and parents as well as feedback on every assessment against the rubric.

- **Homework Policy**

We adhere to the [ICS Homework Policy](#)

- **Technology Policy**

We adhere to the [ICS Technology Policy](#)

- **Assessment Policy**

We adhere to the [ICS Secondary Assessment Policy](#)

- **Health and Safety**

Risk Assessments: Regular assessments to ensure a safe learning environment.

All such guidelines are maintained in the [ICS Safety and Security Policy](#)

6. Co-curricular Clubs, Trips and Activities

- **Clubs**

- Model United Nations
- History Bee & Bowl
- Marketing Club
- Psychology Club
- Philosophy Club
- Debate Club
- MS GIN Club
- MS Crew

- **Trips**

- MS Week Without Walls - Hong Kong History
- MS WWW - Telunas Community Service
- MS WWW - Adventure Learning & UNESCO SandWatch Program in Lingshui, Hainan
- MS WWW - Manila (Philippines) & Hanoi & Mai Chau (Vietnam)
- Grade 10 - HK History Museum
- Week Without Walls - Hong Kong Worldview & History
- Week Without Walls - Care for Refugees

- **Activities**

The ICS Social Science Department supports students in a number of annual competitions:

- Hong Kong Model United Nations
- Hong Kong History Bowl