



**ST. FRANCIS  
METHODIST SCHOOL**  
*Possibilities to Realities*

## **Curriculum Description for Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'O' Level**

### **History O Level 2008 Exam (2173)**

Candidates will sit for two papers of which the duration for each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes. The two papers will be taken at different sittings.

#### **Paper 1: History of Southeast Asia, c.1870-1967**

This paper will comprise the following two sections:

Section A: Source-based Question

Section B: Structured-essay Questions

Candidates are required to answer the compulsory source-based question from Section A and one structured-essay question from Section B.

The source-based question in Section A will be set on the topic indicated by the symbol (\*) in the syllabus outline. Structured-essay questions will be set on all topics in the syllabus except the subject matter covered by the source-based topic. All questions carry equal weighting (25% each).

#### **Paper 2: 20th Century World History, 1910s-1991**

This paper will comprise the following two sections:

Section A: Source-based Question

Section B: Structured-essay Questions

Candidates are required to answer the compulsory source-based question from Section A and one structured-essay question from Section B. The source-based question in Section A will be set on one of the topics indicated by the symbol (\*) in the syllabus outline. Structured-essay questions will be set on all topics in the syllabus including the subject matter covered by the source-based topic. All questions carry equal weighting (25 % each).

#### **Source-based Questions**

Source-based questions will be based on sources. Candidates are expected to have a sound knowledge of the prescribed topics and an acquaintance with the kinds of sources available and their uses. Candidates are also expected to have an understanding of the ways in which sources may be evaluated.

Various types of sources such as textual, statistical/numerical, and graphical/pictorial, may be used. Candidates are expected to use their knowledge, skills and conceptual understanding developed during the course to help them use the given sources to answer the questions.

### Question construction

No more than six sources may be set for the source-based question. One or more differing accounts of the same situation might be set, showing different views as time progresses or in communicating to different audiences, or one or more accounts on the same topic.

No individual source will exceed 150 words. Sources may be simplified where necessary. Obscure terms (other than those which should be known to those who have studied the syllabus) will be annotated.

Each source-based question will have four sub-questions.

### Structured-essay Questions

A structured-essay question is an essay question which consists of two clearly separate sub-questions. The weighting for each sub-question will be indicated within brackets, as an indication of the length of the answer expected.

### Question construction

Three structured-essay questions will be set. Each structured-essay question comprises two sub-questions. The two sub-questions will test candidates' ability to explain, analyse and make judgements on events and/or issues. Both sub-questions will be marked using the 'Levels of Response Mark scheme (LORMs)'.

For Paper 1 History of Southeast Asia, c.1870-1967, structured-essay questions will be set on all topics in the syllabus except for the subject matter covered by the source-based topic.

For Paper 2 20th Century World History, 1910s-1991, structured-essay questions will be set on all topics in the syllabus outline including the subject matter covered by the source-based topic.

## SYLLABUS OUTLINE

### **Paper 1 History of Southeast Asia, c.1870-1967**

The focus of this paper is on the themes of colonialism, nationalism and independence in Southeast Asia between c.1870-1967. The paper emphasises a cross-comparative study of three Southeast Asian countries, representing the imprint of British, Dutch and French colonial rule in Southeast Asia, during the different stages of their experience in the period under study. Candidates are expected to select at least two of the following countries as examples to support their answers to the structured-essay questions

Indonesia

Malaya

Vietnam

### Unit 1: Introduction to 'Southeast Asia'

What was 'Southeast Asia' and its attraction to the Europeans?

- Concept of 'Southeast Asia'

Note: This unit is taught as a backdrop to the study of key developments in Southeast Asia from 1870-1967.

It is non-examinable.

### Unit 2: Colonial Rule and Impact (1870-1900)

Did colonial rule change Southeast Asia?

- Reasons for colonial expansion into Southeast Asia
- Impact of colonial rule

### Unit 3: Rise of Nationalism (1900-1945)

What was nationalism like in Southeast Asia by 1945?

- Rise of nationalism
- Impact of Japanese Occupation on nationalism

### Unit 4: Struggles for Independence in Post-War Southeast Asia (1945-1967)

Why did the paths to independence take the form that they did?

- The re-establishment of colonial rule
- Emergence of independent Southeast Asia
- \* Singapore's path to independence

Source-based questions will only be set on the topic indicated by the symbol \*. No structured-essay questions will be set on the source-based topic. Candidates are not allowed to draw examples from Singapore to support their answers to the structured-essay questions for this paper.

## **Paper 2 20th Century World History, 1910s-1991**

The paper is a study of the historical forces such as war, ideology and nationalism that shaped the twentieth century. An issues-based approach is adopted for this study.

### Unit 1: Impact of World War I

Did World War I change the world?

- The world at war and the immediate aftermath

Note: This unit is taught as a backdrop to the study of world developments in the twentieth century. It is non-examinable.

### Unit 2: Hope for a Better World?

In what ways were the years between World War I and World War II a time of both new hopes and great troubles?

- Establishing peace
- \* Rise of authoritarian regimes

### Unit 3: The Breakdown of World Order

Why had international peace collapsed by 1939?

- \*War in Europe
- War in the Asia Pacific

### Unit 4: A World Divided and United?

How stable was the post-World War II era?

- \*The outbreak and escalation of the Cold War
- End of the Cold War

Source-based questions will only be set on specific sub-topics within the topics indicated by the symbol \*. Teachers should note that for 20th Century World History, detailed study of the military campaigns of World War II is not required.

Please refer to the SEAB website for more information regarding this course.

<http://www.seab.gov.sg>