Module Synopses

GENERAL PAPER
Offered at: H1 level

General Paper aims to enable students to develop language proficiency and skills such as critical reading, clear and effective communication, and the ability to evaluate arguments and opinions. Students will be encouraged to take a global perspective, while keeping in view shared historical and social experiences both within Singapore and in the region.

Examinations:
Students sit for two written papers.
Essay (Paper 1): Students are required to write one 500 – 800 word essay.
Comprehension (Paper 2): One or two passages of continuous prose will be set. Questions cover understanding (including literal comprehension and inference), vocabulary, summary and application.

ECONOMICS
Offered at: H2 Level

H2 Economics provides a thematic approach to the understanding of economics. The themes comprise Market System, Market Failure & Government Intervention and National & International Economy. Students are required to demonstrate their understanding and ability to apply the tools of economic reasoning to explain, analyse and evaluate economic situations and policy decisions. The concepts, principles and issues are taught in the context of the Singapore economy, the regional economy and international economy.

Pre-requisite:
B3 grade in GCE ‘O’ Level Mathematics or equivalent

Examinations:
Students sit for two written papers, comprising case study and essay questions.

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
Offered at: H1 & H2 Levels

H1 Literature in English is an introductory paper designed to provide students with a broad exposure to literary study. Literary texts of recognised importance and significance are chosen and span the main genres of poetry, prose and drama. Through the study of set texts and unseen poetry, students will develop skills of literary response and appreciation.

Examinations:
Students sit for one paper. The examination is open book.
Reading Literature (Paper 1): Paper consists of essay and passage-based questions. Students will be examined on two set texts and unseen poetry.

H2 Literature in English consists of a compulsory paper, Reading Literature (Paper 1), which is offered by both H1 and H2 students, and an elective paper. The elective paper can be a period-based or topic-based paper. Students can choose an elective paper from two period-based and two topic-based elective papers set every year. Period-based papers focus on a distinct period of literary significance (e.g. Modern Writing) while topic-based papers focus on issues that span a range of periods and writers (e.g. Literature and Identity). For the elective paper, students will offer three texts from a range of writers and genres.

Pre-requisite:
Minimum B3 in GCE ‘O’ Level English and/or GCE ‘O’ Level Literature OR 6.5 Score in IELTS OR equivalent.

Examinations:
Students sit for two papers. Both are open book.
Reading Literature (Paper 1)
Elective Paper. It comprises essay and passage-based questions.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS
Offered at: H2 Level
**English Language and Linguistics** is the study and analysis of the English language. Candidates will be equipped to understand linguistic concepts and methods used to analyse meanings in different communication modes. Candidates will study change and variation of the English as a global language. The course also discusses language use in the larger contexts of society, geography and time, such as the impact of globalisation and new communications media on language change, culture and identity.

Pre-requisite:  
Minimum B3 in GCE ‘O’ Level English and/or GCE ‘O’ Level Literature OR 6.5 Score in IELTS OR equivalent.

Examinations:  
Students sit for two written papers.

**PAPER 1: Analysing Language Use (3 hours)**  
Section A: Analysis  
One compulsory task based on two linked texts printed on the question paper. The task will require systematic analysis of the various linguistic constituents of both texts, and consideration of relevant contextual factors.

Section B: Adaptive writing and commentary. One compulsory task, based on material printed on the question paper. The task will be structured in two parts, requiring candidates to:
(a) adapt given material for another written medium.
(b) write an evaluation of their adaptation.

**PAPER 2: Investigating Language Use in Society (3 hours)**  
Section A: Language Variation and Change  
Section B: Language, Culture and Identity  
Candidates must answer three questions in total; at least one question from each section. In both Section A and Section B, candidates should be able to offer detailed appraisal of stylistic features in the English language and to show evidence of appreciation of wider geographical/historical/social perspectives (as appropriate) in their answers.

**HISTORY**  
**Offered at: H1 & H2 Levels**

**History** is a contemporary study of regional and international developments in the twentieth century. An understanding of issues and events in the twentieth century offers students valuable insights into the complexities of regional and international relations. H2 History enables students to appreciate Singapore’s role in the region and the larger international community. Through a thematic comparative and issues-based approach, students are able to identify patterns, recognise change and continuity, and understand the historical forces that have shaped our present.

Examinations:  
Students sit for two written papers. Candidates are required to answer the compulsory source based study in Section A and three essay questions in Section B for each paper.  
**Paper 1: International History, 1945–2000 (3 hours)**  
**Themes:** The Cold War and How it Shaped the World, The Development of the Global Economy and Conflict and Cooperation  
**Paper 2: History of Southeast Asia, c.1900–1997 (3 hours)**  
**Themes:** How Independence was Achieved, Challenges to Independent Southeast Asian States and Regional Conflicts and Cooperation

**MATHEMATICS**  
**Offered at: H1 & H2 Levels**

**H1 Mathematics** provides a foundation in mathematics for students who intend to enrol in university courses such as business, economics and social sciences. Students will develop mathematical thinking and problem solving skills. The course covers Functions and Graphs, Calculus, Probability and Statistics. A major focus of the syllabus will be the understanding and application of basic concepts and techniques of statistics. This will equip students with the skills to analyse and interpret data, and make informed decisions.

Assumed knowledge: GCE ‘O’ level Mathematics

Pre-requisite:  
Minimum grade C6 for GCE ‘O’ Level Mathematics OR equivalent
Examinations: Students sit for one written paper.

**H2 Mathematics** prepares students adequately for university courses including mathematics, physics and engineering where more mathematics content is required. Topics covered include *Functions and Graphs, Sequences and Series, Vectors, Complex Numbers, Calculus, Permutations and Combinations, Probability and Statistics*. Students will learn to analyse, formulate and solve different types of problems. Students will also learn to work with data and perform statistical analyses.

Assumed knowledge:
GCE ‘O’ level Additional Mathematics

Pre-requisite:
Minimum grade B3 for GCE ‘O’ Level Additional Math & B3 in GCE ‘O’ Level Mathematics OR equivalent

Examinations:
Students sit for two written papers.

**PHYSICS**
Offered at: H2 Level

**H2 Physics** provides a sound basis for students planning to specialise in physics or engineering. It will develop their understanding of scientific concepts and their investigative scientific skills. The course covers more topics in the areas of *Mechanics, Waves, Electricity and Magnetism, and Modern Physics*. New areas of knowledge and basic fundamental concepts that form the basis for some of today’s technological developments are also included, for example Quantum Physics. Additional topics include *Motion in a Circle, Gravitational Field, Oscillations, Thermal Physics, Electric Fields, Electromagnetic Induction, Alternating Currents, Laser and Semiconductors*, and *Nuclear Physics*. Students will develop a thorough understanding of important physics principles and practical skills and use them to solve a wide range of problems.

Assumed knowledge:
GCE ‘O’ level Physics, as a single subject or as part of a science course e.g. Science (Physics/Chemistry).

Pre-requisite:
Minimum grade B3 for GCE ‘O’ Level Physics OR A2 in GCE ‘O’ Level Science (Physics/Chemistry), OR equivalent

Examinations:
Students undertake four components.
- One paper comprising Multiple-Choice Questions
- One paper comprising structured questions
- One paper comprising longer structured questions
- Revised School-based Science Practical Assessment (SPA)