

PRIMARY SOCIAL STUDIES GUIDELINES for TEACHERS ~ 2021/22

PRIMARY YEARS: Years 1 and 2 & Years 3 to 6:

Years 1 and 2:

Primary Social Studies in Years 1 & 2:

No specific changes to the existing syllabi for these year groups are deemed necessary. The topics are very simple and independent of each other. The content and/or skills concerned are also independent and do not build or scaffold on each other. Therefore, the topics, or materials, do not require tackling in any particular sequence.

In the current scenario class teachers may pick and choose what to cover from the available materials (which are all provided online) according to time availability and constraints. The online materials include the respective syllabi, teaching ideas and strategies, and the worksheets to be covered by the pupils.

Naturally, all possible efforts should be made to cover as much of the syllabus as possible in a realistic but efficient and effective manner.

In Year 2, depending on individual class progress, teachers may also revert to covering some Year 1 materials if they feel that this is required and will be of more benefit to their pupils.

Year 3 to Year 6:

Topics, Content and Learning Outcomes.

With reference to Primary Social Studies in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 there is no need for any particular changes in the topics, content or Learning Outcomes given in the current syllabus.

The learning Outcomes are all of similar importance and length in relation to the subject. Each topic is of a stand-alone nature, and neither its content nor skills depend or build / scaffold on each other.

From Year 3 to Year 6, in normal circumstances, teachers were expected to cover 3 Core or Compulsory Topics and then choose another 3 Selective Topics (i.e. 6 topics in all per year).

However, in view of the current circumstances, Year 3 to Year 6 teachers should be at liberty to choose to follow one of the following two possible paths forward.

EITHER:

- a) To cover the three Compulsory Topics, established in the syllabus, and then cover as much of the rest of the three Selective Topics as possible according to time availability and possible constraints.

OR:

- b) To cover all the six topics (three compulsory topics and three selective ones) but reduce the number of Learning Outcomes to cover for each topic. Each topic generally has five Learning Outcomes, thus now teachers can opt to cover three or four Learning Outcomes from each topic, or as many LOs as the time available in reality allows for.

Naturally all possible efforts should be made to cover as much of the syllabus as possible in a realistic but efficient and effective manner.

Fieldwork and/or Projects

Another important element of Primary Social Studies is the Fieldwork and/or Project component. Usually teachers were expected to carry out one compulsory Fieldwork excursion, and then either embark on a second fieldwork or on a project.

In the current scenarios SLT members and teachers should discuss and assess each case individually and take into consideration all the latest guidelines issued by the authorities concerned.

In the current circumstances, teachers should not necessarily be obliged to carry out any compulsory fieldwork excursions without any exceptions. They should be able to opt to carry out two projects instead during the scholastic year. In this way they will not be forced to organize outings with the current logistical and possible safety issues that such out-of-school activities might give rise to.

If serious time constraints absolutely do not allow for covering two projects during the scholastic year, teachers should also, in special cases only and as a last resort, be allowed to work on one project only. Naturally all possible efforts should be made by all concerned for the two projects to be carried out.

Primary Social Studies does not involve any formal, summative examinations. Thus, teachers are more at liberty to create a flexible, functional and realistic scheme of work selecting which materials to cover and which to possibly omit as a last resort, and only if this is fully justified.

These guidelines are equally applicable to Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 with regards to the subject of Primary Social Studies.

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