

PRIMARY SCHOOL SYLLABUS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Introduction

The syllabus is designed to introduce basic elements of Social Studies required for an informed citizenry in Maldives while providing a basic introduction for those who wish to take up this subject for higher education.

The subject Social Studies is introduced to Middle School students of Grade 6 and 7 in the school curriculum of Maldives. The present syllabus has been designed considering the contemporary trends in the theory and methodology of the subject and to suit the requirements arising in the context of Maldives.

Aims

The main aim of the syllabus is to create an interest to look at humanity as a whole and to understand its physical and social milieu. Therefore, the Social Studies programme enables students to view humanity in its entirety and in that perspective to understand the immediate socio-environmental background in order to develop awareness and skills that are essential for human life.

Objectives

Students will be able to:-

1. Understand the physical and environmental background of human life in order to grasp the human-environment relationship.
2. View the important stages in the history of humanity.
3. Understand the major human institutions that direct the social and individual life of human beings.
4. View the history of Maldives in the perspectives of global developments.
5. Study the settlement and subsistence patterns of Maldives in comparison with such patterns in other countries.
6. Understand the statecraft and know the structure of Maldivian Government.
7. Develop a global outlook in understanding the current affairs.

The units of the Grade 6 syllabus have been derived from several disciplines such as Physical Geography, Archaeology, Pre-and Proto-history, History of Civilizations, Sociology, Social Anthropology and Linguistics. The components based on the disciplines, History, Economics, Human Geography and Government is dealt with in Grade 7.

Around 150 periods of 35 minutes each are available for the teaching of Social Studies in an academic year. Keeping aside some periods for the three examination sessions, the syllabus has been drafted to cover 113 periods.

The students and the teachers should not be overburdened with mechanical work. Developing an outlook for life is perhaps the best result that can be achieved by studying Social Studies. This is possible only when there is free and liberal interaction between the teacher and the students and there must be enough room for that in the syllabus. The schools and the teachers may undertake various experiments in teaching this syllabus to see that the students perceive the subject matter. The text of the pupils' book for the syllabus will be simple and precise with many illustrations and photographs to facilitate the teacher-student interaction. The textbook is only a basic guide. The success of this syllabus lies in the vigilance of the teacher towards the syllabus and through teaching with the effective use of appropriate teaching aids.

Term examinations and the scheme of assessment

Suggested scheme:

Multiple choice or one word answer questions	25%
Short answer questions	20%
Project work / Map marking / Illustrations	25%
Composition (short notes to essays)	30%

Curriculum Content

Grade 6

Unit 1 - The Universe, The Solar System and the Planet Earth

Aim: Inspiring awareness of the infinite background of life and encouraging the students to wonder at nature.

- 1.1 The Universe (3)
- 1.2 The Solar System (4)
- 1.3 The Planet Earth (5)
- 1.4 Movements Of The Earth (6)
- 1.5 Calculation of Time (7)

Unit 2 - The Atmosphere, Lithosphere and Hydrosphere

Aim: Understanding the structure of the Earth.

- 2.1 The Atmosphere (9)
- 2.2 Lithosphere And The Interior Of The Earth (10)
- 2.3 The Hydrosphere (11)
- 2.4 Currents And Tides (12)

Unit 3 - Weather And Climate

Aim - Understand the natural phenomena of weather and climate and awareness of their effects on life and lifestyle.

- 3.1 Weather (14)
- 3.2 Climate (15)

Unit 4 - Physical and Political Geography of the World

Aim: Familiarity with the physical features and political geography of the world.

- 4.1 Continents And Oceans (17)
- 4.2 Mountains And Rivers (18)
- 4.3 Political Divisions (19)
- 4.4 Capitals And Important Cities (20)

Unit 5 – Astronomy, geography and Navigation in Maldives

Aim: Familiarity with the local geographical features and awareness of the local genius pertaining to navigation.

- 5.1 Constellations and Navigation. (22)
- 5.2 Geography and Navigation. (23)
- 5.3 Mariners Charts. (24)
- 5.4 A Compass and its Uses. (25)

Unit 6 - Origins And Development of Human Cultures

Aim: Understand the place of humanity among other living things and view the early material and cultural developments of humanity.

- 6.1 Earth, Humanity and other Lives (27)
- 6.2 The Unique Features of Humanity (28)
- 6.3 Prehistoric Life (29)
- 6.4 The Beginnings of Agriculture (30)

Unit 7- The World Civilisations

Aim: Viewing the development of civilisations in the history of humanity

- 7.1 The Beginnings Of Urban Settlement (32)
- 7.2 The Early Civilisations (33)
- 7.3 Later Civilisations (34)

Unit 8 - Western Civilisation and the Industrial Revolution

Aim: Viewing the origins of a modern civilisation and understanding its impacts on humanity.

- 8.1 The Renaissance In Europe (36)
- 8.2 Geographical Voyages (37)
- 8.3 The Industrial Revolution (38)

Unit 9 - The Space Age

Aims: Perceiving the geometric growth in technology and in population and the impact on contemporary human life.

- 9.1 Growth of Population And Technology (40)
- 9.2 How The World Has Shrunk (41)
- 9.3 The Space Missions (42)
- 9.4 Life In Modern Times. (43)

Unit 10- Society And Culture

Aim: Understand the social behaviour of humanity and viewing culture as an interaction between humanity and environment.

- 10.1 Social Behaviour (45)
- 10.2 Social Institutions (46)
- 10.3 Culture (47)

Unit 11- Languages And Scripts

Aim: Viewing the Dhivehi Language and script in the background of world languages and scripts.

- 11.1 The World Languages (49)
- 11.2 Dhivehi(50)
- 11.3 Writing (51)
- 11.4 The Dhivehi Script (52)

Unit 12 - The Religions Of Humanity

Aims: Understand the presence of various religions in the world and be familiar with the distribution of the Islamic population

- 12.1 Early Faiths And Beliefs (54)
- 12.2 Major Religions(55)
- 12.3 Islamic Society (56)

Grade 7

Unit 1 - Maldives and South Asia

Aim: Viewing the early history of Maldives in a Maldivian context.

- 1.1 The Maldivian Civilisation (59)
- 1.2 Sources for the History of Maldives (60)
- 1.3 South Asia (61)

Unit 2- The Spread of Islam

Aim: Understand the history of Maldives in the light of the spread of Islam.

- 2.1 The Rise and Spread of Islam (63)
- 2.2 Islam in South and South East Asia (64)
- 2.3 The Rise of Islam in Maldives (65)

Unit 3- Maldives and Colonialism in South Asia

Aim: Understand the history of Maldives from 1500M - 1900M in the background of colonialism in South Asia.

- 3.1 Maldives liberated from the Portuguese (67)
- 3.2 Colonial Powers in South Asia (68)
- 3.3 Dhon Bandarain and the Malabari Conquest (69)

Unit 4 - Nationalism in Asia and 20th Century Maldives

Aim: Familiarity with the historical and political developments in 20th century Maldives in the background of the development of Nationalism and the end of colonialism in Asia.

- 4.1 Nationalism in Asia (71)
- 4.2 Indian National Movement and the Independence of South Asia (72)
- 4.3 Independence of Maldives (73)
- 4.4 Political Developments in Maldives after 1900 (74)

Unit 5 - Some Major Economic Activities

Aim: Understand the inter-relationship between environment, economic activities, settlement patterns and lifestyle.

- 5.1 Primary Economic Activities (76)
- 5.2 Secondary Economic Activities (77)
- 5.3 Tertiary Economic Activities (78)

Unit 6 - Economic Activities In Maldives

Aim: View the economic activities in Maldives in past and present times.

- 6.1 Early Economic Activities in Maldives (80)
- 6.2 Major Economic Activities Today (81)

Unit 7 - Population, Environment And Migration In Maldives

Aim: Understand the interrelationship between population, environment, migration and settlement patterns in Maldives.

- 7.1 Population Pattern in Maldives (83)
- 7.2 Environmental Issues and Population (84)
- 7.3 Population Movement within Maldives (85)

Unit 8 - Introduction To Commercial Activities

Aim: Getting introduced to commerce: Money and International Trade.

- 8.1 Money and Banking (87)
- 8.2 International Trade (88)

Unit 9 - Modern Statecraft

Aim: Elementary knowledge of the types and levels of governments that exist in our time.

- 9.1 The Functions of a Modern Government (90)
- 9.2 Different Systems of Government (91)
- 9.3 Levels of Government (92)

Unit 10 - The Structure of Maldivian Government

Aim: Familiarity with the structure of government in Maldives.

- 10.1 Development of Statecraft in Maldives (94)
- 10.2 Contemporary Government in Maldives (95)
- 10.3 Local Administration in Contemporary Maldives (96)

Unit 11 - Main Developments In The 20th Century

Aim: Viewing the major turning points of 20th century world and awareness of the growing global outlook

- 11.1 War and Peace in the 20th Century (98)
- 11.2 International and Regional Organisations (99)
