

## HSC Core: Social and Cultural Continuity and Change

(30% of course time)

The focus of this study is to understand the nature of social and cultural research methodologies and apply the fundamental concepts of Society and Culture within the context of continuity and change in a selected country.

### Outcomes

#### ***A student:***

- H1 explains the interaction between persons, societies, cultures and environments across time
- H3 accounts for cultural diversity and commonality within societies and cultures
- H4 evaluates continuity and change, and assesses social futures and strategies for change and the implications for societies and cultures
- H5 evaluates the influence of power, authority, gender and technology on decision-making and participation in society
- H6 applies and evaluates the methodologies of social and cultural research
- H7 applies appropriate language and concepts associated with society and culture
- H8 selects, organises and evaluates information and sources for usefulness, validity and bias
- H10 communicates information, ideas and issues using appropriate written, oral and graphic forms.

### Content

#### ***Students learn about:***

#### **Concepts**

The fundamental concepts of society, culture, persons, environment, time and the concepts of power, authority, gender and technology are to be integrated across Social and Cultural Continuity and Change.

The key concepts to be integrated across Social and Cultural Continuity and Change are:

- continuity
- change
- values
- tradition
- cooperation
- social and cultural literacy
- globalisation
- westernisation
- beliefs
- identity
- industrialisation
- modernisation
- institutions
- heritage
- conflict
- empowerment

### **The Nature of Social and Cultural Research Methodologies**

- examine the nature and characteristics of primary and secondary research
- distinguish between quantitative and qualitative research
- examine the characteristics of the following social and cultural research methodologies and techniques:
  - survey
  - case study
  - participant observation
  - content analysis
  - focus group
  - action research
  - interview
  - questionnaire
  - observation
  - ethnographic study
  - statistical analysis (data analysis)

### **The Nature of Social and Cultural Continuity and Change**

Understanding continuity and change through:

- identifying the nature of social and cultural continuity and change
- examining the impact of continuity and change upon the lives of people in the micro and macro worlds
- distinguishing between personal experience and public knowledge
- examining the role of power and authority in social and cultural continuity and change
- introducing theories of social change and evaluating their role in explaining continuities and changes in society.

Explore continuity and change through examination of the following questions:

- is all change necessarily progress?
- which groups benefit from change? Which do not?
- are westernisation, modernisation and industrialisation inevitable?

## **Social and Cultural Continuity and Change in a Selected Country**

Through the selection of a country for detailed study, students will:

- apply the fundamental course concepts to that country
- examine the nature of traditional society and culture in that country
- evaluate the nature of power and authority in that country
- apply one theory of social change appropriate to the selected country
- make a detailed study of ONE of the following features that demonstrates both continuity and change in the selected country:
  - education
  - beliefs, values and lifestyles
  - social welfare and health
  - gender roles and the status of women and men
  - laws and the legal system
  - government institutions
  - family life and population changes
- develop hypotheses for thinking about the future of the selected country, using techniques, such as:
  - simulation games
  - feasibility studies
  - scenario writing
  - analysing trends and making projections into the near future (forecasting).

### ***Students learn to:***

- differentiate between the social and cultural research methodologies and techniques listed in this core study
- refine a research question, topic or issue
- select and justify appropriate methodologies to apply to a research question, topic or issue
- compare and contrast the impact of continuity and change to a specific feature of the selected country
- construct scenarios for future directions in the selected country
- evaluate strategies for change in the selected country.