

1. What is 'A' Level H1 China Studies in English?

Overview

China Studies in English focuses on the transformation of China since 1978 and its future. It allows students to develop the relevant knowledge and critical thinking skills to pursue a holistic understanding of contemporary China and to be cognisant of larger global trends. In the long run, it seeks to enable students to potentially contribute in their own capacity to further Singapore-China interactions.

China Studies in English is only offered at the 'A' Levels and at SAJC, we offer it at H1 level as a contrasting subject for both Arts and Science students.

What can I learn from China Studies in English?

The issues-based approach provides focus for the discussion of the developments in contemporary China. It supports and offers opportunities for constructivist teaching and learning as the study of issues will provide students with a way to thoughtfully consider how individuals and institutions in a society interact and relate to each other, and give them a meaningful way of using knowledge from relevant sources. It also requires students to utilise critical thinking skills such as reflective thinking and drawing conclusions through analysing different sources of information.

What do we study in China Studies in English?

The two issues ('State-society relations in China' and 'China as a global power') serve to guide discourse in the key knowledge dimensions in China Studies in English which involves politics, society, economy and international relations.

Topics that will be taught include the growth of Chinese civil society, the urbanisation process in China as well as Sino-US relations and China's contributions at the UN.

2. How is H1 China Studies in English taught at SAJC?

We adopt a seminar-style approach in the teaching of H1 China Studies in English, where content and skills are taught concurrently during lessons. Due to the dynamic and contemporary nature of the content, we are able to use very current materials (online or in print) to make our lessons more relevant and interesting. We also encourage active student participation through a variety of activities such as online quizzes, debates, and group projects like poster-making. Through these activities, students stay engaged and are able to appreciate the relevance of the subject, even in the context of their other subjects like Economics and General Paper.

3. How is H1 China Studies in English assessed at 'A' Level?

The assessment comprises one written examination paper. The paper will consist of two sections: Section A (Case Study), which is compulsory, and Section B (Essay Questions), where students answer two out of four questions.

The Case Study will be worth 30 marks and comprise of three sub-parts. It will consist of four sources on any one of the two key issues in the syllabus content. The given material will provide different perspectives and opinions. The Case Study will require candidates to interpret, analyse and evaluate the given material, and make postulations on outcomes and developments based on the given information. The

Case Study questions will be assessed using the Levels of Response Mark Scheme (LORMS).

For essays that are worth 25 marks each, students are required to show depth of understanding of issues and evidence of reading in their answers. The answers should demonstrate critical thinking skills such as the ability to interpret and evaluate different points of view and to present thoughtful and analytical arguments.

For more information, please refer to the SAJC College Prospectus.

4. What can I do to prepare myself for H1 China Studies in English?

H1 China Studies in English is for you if you are interested in current affairs, especially on present-day China, willing to read widely, and have a good command of English, essay writing and reading ability.

You do not need knowledge of the Chinese language in order to offer this subject as all materials, lessons and assessment will be in English.

6. What are some opportunities & experiences the China Studies in English Unit within the Humanities Department offers to students?

H1 China Studies in English students with stronger aptitude for the subject will be given opportunities to represent the College in external competitions, talks and seminars organised by other junior colleges or academic institutions.