

CIVICS AND MORAL EDUCATION SYLLABUS

SECONDARY

**CURRICULUM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SINGAPORE**

**© MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION FROM 2000**

CIVICS AND MORAL EDUCATION (SECONDARY) SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION

The Civics and Moral Education (Secondary) syllabus has been revised to incorporate more concepts and contents that are relevant to meet the changing needs and future challenges of the nation. National Education messages have been infused in the content of the syllabus. It has been designed to give greater emphasis to the imbuing of values and attitudes of responsible citizenship. This ensures that our pupils are knowledgeable about issues that concern the nation. In addition, the syllabus continues to reinforce the processes involved in the character development of our pupils through the acquisition of appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes.

RATIONALE

In developing the syllabus, the following factors have been taken into consideration:

- The need to enhance our pupils' sense of emotional bonding and commitment to the community and the nation in the midst of increasing globalisation and a borderless world. Our pupils need to know and appreciate the uniqueness of Singapore, the struggles, constraints and vulnerabilities and the achievements of our nation, and the multi-racial, multi-cultural and the multi-religious nature of our society.

- It is also of critical importance that our pupils have a sound foundation in ethics in a rapidly changing world.
- There is also the need to further heighten our pupils' confidence in our nation's future and security. Our pupils have to be provided with opportunities that help them develop instincts for national survival and confidence in the future.

GOAL

The overarching goal of Civics and Moral Education (CME) is to nurture a person of integrity who acts responsibly with the welfare and interests of others and the nation in mind. This is in line with the mission of our Education service which is to mould the people who will determine the future of the nation.

THEMES IN THE SYLLABUS

The five broad themes of the syllabus are:

- Character Building
- Family Relationships
- Community Spirit
- Our Nation, Our Heritage
- Challenges Ahead

Underpinning the themes in the syllabus is our nation's ideology, Our Shared Values:

- Nation before community and society above self,
- Family as the basic unit of society,
- Community support and respect for the individual,
- Consensus, not conflict, and
- Racial and religious harmony.

OBJECTIVES

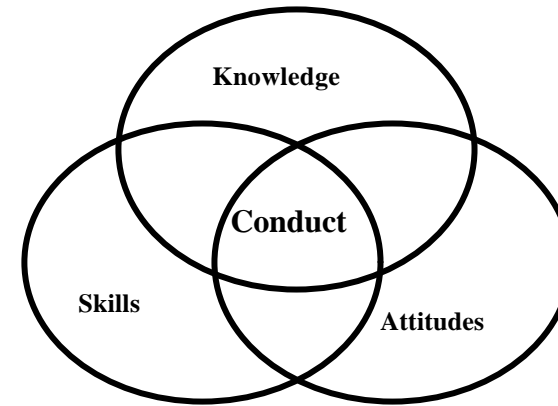
In order to achieve the goal of nurturing pupils with integrity who act responsibly with the interests of others and the nation in mind, it is fundamental that pupils acquire the three basic components, namely, Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes.

The Knowledge component includes values related to character building; moral principles, values and norms which are the basis for sound decision-making; and concepts and facts regarding the development and the future of our nation.

The Skills component develops those processes that our pupils should master so as to be able to handle specific situations or problems including those that are related to the development of the emotional intelligence of our pupils.

The Attitudes component deals with inculcating in pupils the innate qualities, for example, respect, care and consideration, and integrity that would move them towards correct behaviour and action.

The possession and application of the appropriate Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes will bring about responsible behaviour and action, which is Conduct. This is illustrated in the diagram shown.



KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the CME (Secondary) programme, pupils will be able to:

- know what it takes to be a person of integrity,
- know the principles involved in making sound decisions,
- understand the importance of the family in society,
- know the values essential to the well-being of our nation including Our Shared Values, Singapore Family Values and the fundamentals of governance,
- know the people and the events of our nation's past, and their links with the present,
- know the factors that contribute to nation building,
- understand our nation's constraints and vulnerabilities, and know how our nation overcame these constraints,
- know the system of our government,
- be aware of the impact and issues of a fast changing world on our nation's survival and success,
- understand the importance of paradigm shift in a fast changing world.

SKILLS OBJECTIVES

At the end of the CME (Secondary) programme, pupils will be able to:

- apply the processes of moral reflection and reasoning,
- demonstrate respect, empathy, and care and concern towards others,
- demonstrate skills in relating to others in the home, school and community,
- apply teamwork skills,
- apply the skills of information gathering, data analysis, evaluation and synthesis,
- demonstrate actions that reflect active and responsible citizenry, for example, participation in the Community Involvement Programme.

ATTITUDE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the CME (Secondary) programme, pupils will be able to:

- accept and adopt integrity as a fundamental principle that guides their behaviour,
- have the desire to accept, initiate and harness change,
- have respect, empathy, and care and concern towards others,
- be responsible for their actions,
- be committed to preserving the racial and religious harmony of our nation,
- have a sense of bonding and commitment to the family, the community and the nation,
- have the willingness to contribute to the well-being, including the defence, of the nation,
- have confidence, loyalty and pride in our nation's success.

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF CME IN SCHOOLS

An effective implementation of the CME programme contributes to the achievement of the Desired Outcomes of Education. The school climate provides the fertile social ground in which the moral development and civic responsibility of our pupils can be rooted.

- CME is an integral part of the school programme, which includes the school climate, procedures, and organisation. Values are transmitted to our pupils not only through the CME lessons but also through the organisation and operation of the school as a social system, the school rules and discipline, the teachers' approaches to classroom management, examples set by adults, and opportunities created by the school to experience what is taught in CME.
- Opportunities must be provided through both the formal and informal curricula that enable teachers and pupils to take part in the democratic process, to exercise teamwork, to be gracious in behaviour, to act responsibly and to be involved in the larger community.
- Principals and teachers have a critical role to play in being actively involved in imparting the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes that contribute to:
 - (i) the character development of our pupils enabling them to have strength of character and moral integrity and to have the desire for lifelong learning;
 - (ii) a heightened sense of being responsible citizens who are conscious of their responsibilities to family, community and nation.

Two periods per week are allocated for the teaching of CME in secondary schools. Schools are given flexibility in the order that the themes are taught so that they can match the CME lessons with the relevant supportive activities that the school has planned for the pupils.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

The CME syllabus contains learning outcomes that define the knowledge and skills pupils are expected to acquire. They are meant to guide teachers in assessing the effectiveness of their teaching and the rate of progress of their pupils in terms of knowledge and skills.

The assessment in CME focuses on Knowledge and Skills. Schools are advised to have both formal and non-formal modes of assessment for CME. Participation in community involvement activities is a component in the non-formal mode of assessment.

As the CME programme is an instructional programme within the formal curriculum, it should be evaluated. This will help to assess the extent to which the programme has been carried out successfully and effectively.

**Civics and Moral Education Unit
Curriculum Planning and Development Division
Ministry of Education
Singapore**

SYLLABUS CONTENT FOR LOWER SECONDARY

CHARACTER BUILDING

Topic

Personal integrity

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ identify and demonstrate qualities that contribute to the development of a person of integrity.

Concept

- integrity

Values

- ★ honesty
- ★ moral courage
- ★ fairness
- ★ incorruptibility
- ★ trustworthiness

Scope

- qualities that contribute to developing personal integrity e.g. trustworthiness, fairness, moral courage, honesty
- significance of having personal integrity with respect to self and nation
- types and significance of intellectual property
- impact of infringing intellectual property laws on self and society

Topic

Building good friendships

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ analyse what a good friend is in different situations;
- ◆ explore the importance of choosing the right peers as friends.

Concepts

- being a good friend
- peer influence

Values

- ★ trustworthiness
- ★ mutual responsibility
- ★ mutual respect
- ★ empathy
- ★ loyalty

Scope

- qualities of being a good friend
- choice of friends
- positive and negative influence of peers

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Topic

Family identity

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ understand that each family member can contribute to the well-being of the family;
- ◆ explain how love, care and concern, filial responsibility, and mutual respect contribute to strengthening family ties and enhancing family unity.

Concepts

- family ties
- responsibility in the family
- respect for elders

Values

- ★ love, care and concern
- ★ filial responsibility
- ★ mutual respect

Scope

- different types of family
- relationships within the family
- roles of family members
- 3 of Singapore Family Values: love, care and concern; filial responsibility; mutual respect

Topic

Family unity

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ appreciate how commitment and effective communication can contribute to cohesive family relationships.

Concept

- cohesiveness in the family

Values

- ★ commitment
- ★ communication
- ★ respect
- ★ empathy

Scope

- 2 of Singapore Family Values: commitment; communication
- skills of effective communication within the family
- generation gap and sibling rivalry

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Topic

The school community

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ demonstrate a sense of belonging to and identity with their school.

Concepts

- school identity
- school as a community
- teamwork

Values

- ★ pride in the school
- ★ respect
- ★ empathy
- ★ cooperation
- ★ accountability

Scope

- school song, motto and crest, school mission and achievements
- members of the school community
- aspects and importance of teamwork

Topic

Community involvement

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ appreciate that they, as members of a community, have a part to play, and to contribute to building a more cohesive nation.

Concepts

- social responsibility
- civic consciousness
- active citizenry

Values

- ★ respect for others
- ★ empathy
- ★ respect for public property
- ★ voluntarism

Scope

- avenues of participation
- benefits to the individual, community and the nation

OUR NATION, OUR HERITAGE

Topic

Our forefathers

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ appreciate the contributions of our forefathers to the community.

Concepts

- our roots
- rootedness
- philanthropy

Values

- ★ risk-taking
- ★ resilience
- ★ fortitude
- ★ pride in our heritage
- ★ service to community

Scope

- pioneering spirit of our forefathers
- contributions to improve the well-being of others/the community

Examples of personalities who contributed to improving the well-being of others

19 th century	Tan Tock Seng Narayana Pillay Hajjah Fatimah Dr Jose D'Almeida Syed Sharif Omar Aljunied Whampoa
early 20 th century	Dr Lim Boon Keng Govindasamy Pillay Mohammed Eunus bin Abdullah Sir Manasseh Meyer Aw Boon Haw Gan Eng Seng Lim Nee Soon
late 20 th century	Yusof Ishak Zubir Muhamad Said Benjamin Sheares Dr Ee Peng Liang Elizabeth Choy

Note: The personalities selected are based on their contributions and are representatives from the various ethnic groups.

OUR NATION, OUR HERITAGE

Topic

Ideals of Singapore

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ explain the meaning and significance of Singapore's national icons in nation building;
- ◆ demonstrate the ideals of Singapore in their daily lives.

Concepts

- national icons
- national ideology
- sense of belonging to and identity with the nation

Values

- ★ peace
- ★ prosperity
- ★ progress
- ★ justice
- ★ equality
- ★ democracy
- ★ Our Shared Values

Scope

- manifestations of our nation's ideals in our national icons
- etiquette with regard to national icons such as the National Flag, Anthem and Pledge
- unity in diversity

Topic

Our citizenship

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ identify their duties and responsibilities as citizens of Singapore.

Concepts

- citizenship as more than legal status
- legal obligations
- moral obligations

Values

- ★ loyalty
- ★ responsibility

Scope

- ways of becoming a citizen in our country
- rights and responsibilities of citizens

OUR NATION, OUR HERITAGE

Topic

Our nation's defence

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ examine the role of Total Defence in our nation and identify what they can do to support Total Defence.

Concepts

- Total Defence
- constraints and vulnerabilities of Singapore

Values

- ★ love for the nation
- ★ confidence in our defensibility
- ★ preparedness for any eventuality
- ★ commitment to our defence

Scope

- aspects of Total Defence: psychological, social, economic, civil and military defence

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Topic

Our achievements

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ explore the socio-economic indicators that reflect Singapore's development;
- ◆ identify the forces that can influence the growth and success of our nation in the future.

Concepts

- socio-economic indicators
- achievements despite constraints and vulnerabilities

Values

- ★ pragmatism
- ★ creativity
- ★ adaptability
- ★ resourcefulness
- ★ confidence in the nation
- ★ visionary leadership
- ★ indomitable will
- ★ stability
- ★ consensus
- ★ incorruptibility

Scope

- Singapore's economic history from 1950s to 1990s
- labour unrest due to communist infiltration in the trade unions
- factors that have contributed to the economic development of our nation
 - visionary leaders like Lee Kuan Yew, Dr Goh Keng Swee, Dr Toh Chin Chye, Rajaratnam, Lim Kim San and Hon Sui Sen
 - hardworking and determined people
 - tripartism (labour, government and employers working together)
 - an efficient and incorruptible civil service

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Topic

Ensuring Singapore's continued growth

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ anticipate how Singapore can have continued success in the future.

Concepts

- survival
- relationship between stability and growth

Values

- ★ visionary leaders
- ★ integrity
- ★ incorruptibility
- ★ meritocracy
- ★ continual learning
- ★ creativity
- ★ law and order
- ★ social cohesion
- ★ excellence

Scope

- current world situation
- ingredients for Singapore's continued success
 - meritocratic society
 - good leadership
 - good work ethic
 - peaceful and stable society
 - forward-looking and incorruptible civil service

SYLLABUS CONTENT FOR UPPER SECONDARY

CHARACTER BUILDING

Topic

Lifelong learning

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ examine and explain the importance of continual learning in a fast changing world;
- ◆ explore ways to cope with changes, including obstacles and failures, in their lives.

Concepts

- continual learning
- self-motivation
- change
- accepting change as a way of life
- anticipating and adapting to change

Values

- ★ creativity
- ★ resilience
- ★ survival
- ★ belief in oneself
- ★ hope
- ★ adaptability
- ★ responsibility

Scope

- personal growth
- seeking opportunities to better oneself
- change as part of growth
- changing demands at various stages in life
- ways of handling changes, including obstacles and failures

CHARACTER BUILDING

Topic

Developing the whole person

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ understand the importance of developing the five aspects of a whole person, namely physical, intellectual, emotional/ psychological, social and moral;
- ◆ demonstrate how they themselves can develop physically, intellectually, emotionally/psychologically, socially and morally.

Concept

- development of a whole person

Values

- ★ health
- ★ creativity
- ★ mental well-being
- ★ respect and empathy
- ★ integrity

Scope

- five aspects of development:
 - physical
taking care of one's body and health, ruggedness
 - intellectual
acquiring, processing and applying knowledge
 - emotional/psychological
communicating effectively a whole range of emotions (emotional intelligence), and mental health
 - social
interacting and relating effectively with others
 - moral
developing correct attitudes and behaviour and being able to make responsible decisions based on a sound value system
- influence of culture and religion

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Topic

The family and society

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ explain the importance of stable and cohesive families in our society.

Concepts

- family as the basic unit of society
- meritocracy and incorruptibility

Values

- ★ Singapore Family Values: love, care and concern; filial responsibility; mutual respect; commitment; communication
- ★ Our Shared Values: nation before community and society above self; family as the basic unit of society

Scope

- stability in the family
- importance of home influence on the character development of children
- stable family, stable nation
- nation before self and family

Topic

Responsibilities in marriage and parenting

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ analyse the qualities required to make a marriage work;
- ◆ identify ways of being responsible parents in a changing world.

Concepts

- marriage as a lifelong commitment
- mutual responsibility in marriage
- responsible parenthood

Values

- ★ mutual respect
- ★ acceptance
- ★ commitment
- ★ responsibility
- ★ discipline

Scope

- marriage preparation e.g. choice of life partner; social, cultural, emotional, religious and financial preparation
- handling expectations in marriage
- responsibilities of parents in nurturing and developing their children

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Topic

Unity in diversity

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ appreciate that the various cultures and religions in our society contribute to the rich diversity in our society;
- ◆ justify the need to be sensitive in our interactions with people of different communities;
- ◆ explore ways to demonstrate 'one people, one nation, one Singapore' in their lives.

Concepts

- multi-racialism
- social cohesion
- dangers of communalism
- sense of identity with the nation

Values

- ★ respect for others
- ★ racial and religious harmony
- ★ sensitivity
- ★ social responsibility
- ★ commitment
- ★ common good

Scope

- beliefs and practices of the main ethnic and religious groups e.g. festivals and customs
- racial and religious sensitivity
- inherent fault lines in our society e.g. racial riots in 1964
- promoting racial and religious harmony - 2 of Our Shared Values: racial and religious harmony; consensus, not conflict
- community groups such as youth and grassroots organisations, and self-help groups

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Topic

Respecting the elderly

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ explore and demonstrate ways of showing respect for the elderly in our community.

Concepts

- social responsibility
- community
- ageing population

Values

- ★ empathy
- ★ respect
- ★ voluntarism

Scope

- contributions of the elderly
- ways in which the individual (e.g. as a family member, a pupil) and the community can meet the needs of the elderly
- practical skills of caring for the elderly

Topic

Showing consideration for people with special needs

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ explore and demonstrate ways of showing care and concern for people with special needs.

Concepts

- social responsibility
- community

Values

- ★ empathy
- ★ care and concern
- ★ respect
- ★ voluntarism

Scope

- challenges faced by people with special needs, e.g. the disabled, the needy
- practical skills of caring for people with special needs

OUR NATION, OUR HERITAGE

Topic

The Government of Singapore

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ explain the roles and responsibilities of the government;
- ◆ understand the importance of the Constitution of Singapore.

Concepts

- The Constitution of Singapore
- The Government of Singapore

Values

- ★ peace
- ★ progress
- ★ happiness
- ★ justice
- ★ democracy
- ★ equality

Scope

- importance of the Constitution of Singapore
- The Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary
- roles and responsibilities of the government
- The Elected Presidency

Topic

The Singapore Electoral Process

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ explain the special features of our Parliamentary System and the Elected Presidency;
- ◆ demonstrate their understanding of the role of citizens in the electoral process.

Concepts

- democracy
- Parliament
- electoral process

Values

- ★ integrity
- ★ responsibility
- ★ incorruptibility
- ★ meritocracy
- ★ multi-racialism

Scope

- The Parliamentary System in Singapore: roles of Members of Parliament (MPs), Non-Constituency Members of Parliament (NCMPs) and Nominated Members of Parliament (NMPs)
- Single-member Constituencies and Group Representation Constituencies (GRCs)
- The Parliamentary Election and the Presidential Election
- responsible voting

OUR NATION, OUR HERITAGE

Topic

National security

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ explain the importance of national security to Singapore;
- ◆ outline what Singapore has done to cultivate relations with other nations.

Concepts

- national security
- internal stability

Values

- ★ survival
- ★ security
- ★ mutual benefit
- ★ interdependence

Scope

- Total Defence, internal stability and diplomacy
- The SAF - a citizens' army: well-equipped and technologically advanced defence force
- law enforcement - Singapore Police Force
- cultivating ties with other countries e.g. through diplomatic relations, national programmes and organisations such as the Singapore Co-operation Programme and Singapore International Foundation
- participation in the UN and ASEAN

Topic

Citizens and the law

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ explore the reasons for some laws in our nation.

Concept

- value of laws

Values

- ★ responsibility
- ★ law and order

Scope

- functions of law: protective, deterrent, punishment
- specific laws of interest and relevance such as anti-smoking, anti-drug and jay-walking, Family Maintenance Bill, Racial and Religious Harmony Bill, Women's Charter and laws with regard to intellectual property and substance-abuse

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Topic

Developing a civic society

Learning outcome

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ demonstrate what they can do to contribute to the development of a civic society.

Concept

- a civic society

Values

- ★ graciousness
- ★ love for the arts
- ★ kindness

Scope

- being civic-conscious, compassionate and caring
- the arts
- our rich cultural heritage

Topic

Staying ahead

Learning outcomes

Pupils will be able to:

- ◆ predict how Singapore can stay ahead of competition in a fast changing world;
- ◆ explore the importance of preserving our national identity in the context of globalisation.

Concepts

- globalisation
- competent and creative human resources
- entrepreneurial spirit
- intellectual capital
- rootedness
- independence
- interdependence
- networking

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Values

- ★ pride in our nation
- ★ confidence in our nation
- ★ resilience
- ★ risk-taking
- ★ innovativeness
- ★ continual learning
- ★ optimism
- ★ creativity
- ★ excellence
- ★ commitment
- ★ foresight
- ★ ruggedness

Scope

- borderless world
- increasing regional and global competition
- continual training and development
- research and development
- teamwork
- quality consciousness
- venturing overseas
- cultural heritage and a sense of belonging
- sovereignty of our nation
- economic links: membership in world and regional economic organisations e.g. WTO, ASEAN, APEC
- political links e.g. bilateral ties