

**Yishun Innova Junior College
Humanities Department 2022**

Frequently asked questions

Geography and History

1. I have no pure History/Geography background, can I offer GE/HT at 'A' Level?

Yes, most of our students don't have pure background. What is needed more is the interest in the subject, the readiness to read and write essays.

2. I did Combined Humanities with GE/HT at 'O' Levels, can I cope with 'A' Level GE/HT?

No different from effort required for any other 'A' Level subject.
Slight advantages only as topics are either new or done at surface level at 'O' Level.

3. I have never taken GE/HT at 'O' Level, will I be at a disadvantage as those who did pure or Combined Humanities GE/HT?

No, as long as there is the interest and effort put into the subject and you are interested in writing essays at length.

4. Can I do both H2 Geography and H2 History?

As both H2 History and H2 Geography are content-heavy subjects and highly demanding, the College does not advise students to take both subjects together. Moreover, this combination is not offered in the list of subject combinations as it is not a popular request, with the possibility of a class not being to form. On top of that, Geography and History lectures/tutorials are concurrent so it will pose as a constraint to timetabling matters as well.

5. Are there any pre-requisites for the Humanities subjects?

No, but these subjects require essay writing so choose them if you like to write, can write in length and have a linguistic advantage which is important for analysis and evaluation. There are specific prerequisites for H2 Art. You need to take a short test which will be arranged by the Art tutor to ascertain your suitability. You do not need to have offered Art at 'O' Level to offer it at 'A' Level. The tutor will ascertain your suitability.

6. Does the college offer H3 for the Humanities subjects?

Yes, but this offer is conditional upon the student's performance in the specific subject and overall performance after the JC 1 Promotional examination and his/her research interests. It is also subjected to the recommendation by the relevant tutors.

FAQs for ART

Q: What is the difference between 'O' and 'A' Level Art?

Ans: 'O' Level Art consists of Coursework and either Drawing and Painting paper or SOVA.

Ans: 'A' Level Art consists of Coursework (H2 Art only) and SOVA (Study of Visual Art) which is a written paper (both H1 and H2 Art).

Q: What is the difference between H1 and H2 Art?

Ans: There is no coursework for H1 Art. H1 Art is a pure theory paper.

Q: Are there any prerequisites for taking Art?

Ans: There are no prerequisites for H1 Art but for H2 Art there is a selection test conducted by the art teacher.

Q: Why is there a need for a selection test for H2 Art?

Ans: The selection test is only for those who are interested in taking H2 Art. The test allows the teacher to have a better understanding of your current technical skills and your readiness to tackle the A-Level coursework. From the test, the teacher will advise you on your level of readiness to take H2 Art, and help you decide if you wish to take H2 Art or consider other subject combinations.

Q: What is the coursework like? What is expected of us and what is the duration?

Ans: Coursework is 60% of the A Level Examinations. Students are required to submit 8 A2 preparatory boards to show their process of investigating and developing their chosen theme. Students are expected to be very self-directed in the process of coursework and consistently update their progress with their coursework supervisor (art teacher) across the duration of approximately 9 months.

Q: I did not do Art at O level, can I do Art at A level?

Ans: Yes, we welcome students without O Level art background. There have been students without O level Art who attained good grades for H2 Art and are currently reading Art & Design in NUS and NTU.

Q: Is there H3 for Art and does your college offer it?

Ans *Yes there is H3 for Art, however our college does not offer it.

Note: Questions on the syllabus can be redirected to asking the student/parent to go to SEAB's website to have a look at the details of the syllabus and assessment.

FAQs for China Studies in English (CSE)

Q: What is China Studies in English (CSE)?

Ans: It is the in-depth study of **contemporary China** with regard to her economic, political, social and cultural developments. Time frame is very current.

Q: What is the difference between H1 and H2 CSE?

Ans: H2 CSE has a coursework component which accounts for 30% and is an independent research essay consisting of 2000 to 2500 words, while H1 does not. In terms of content, H2 CSE focuses on 4 Issues and Dimensions, whereas H1 CSE focuses on 2 Issues.

In terms of examination format, both H1 and H2 consists of case study and essay questions.

Q: What does the H2 CSE coursework entail and what is expected of students?

Ans: The CSE coursework is known as an Independent Study which accounts for 30% of the final 'A' Level grade and is a research essay consisting of 2000 to 2500 words. As the term '**independent**' suggests, students are expected to be very self-directed and represent their ability to work on own and develop their critical mind.

However, coursework supervisors (i.e. teachers) will provide support in the form of monitoring the work in progress, ensuring that candidates adhere to the deadlines stipulated by SEAB, and giving some degree of guidance during student-supervisor conferences. The end product of the proposal, conference and writing stages, will be the 2000 to 2500 research essay based on a research area related to any of the four key issues on China's transformation since 1978 and its future.

Q: Is there a fixed text for CSE?

Ans: No. Requires student to be widely read, kept up-to-date with events in China through newspapers, magazines, journals and the Internet.

Q: Is CSE like History? Is it the study of the history of China?

Ans: No. China Studies focuses on the transformation of China since 1978 and its future. As such, it is the study of current developments and challenges in contemporary China.

Q: Do I have to know Chinese?

Ans: No. However, you do need a deep interest in China's developments.

Q: How is CSE useful to me?

Ans: It will allow you to develop the relevant knowledge and critical thinking skills to pursue a holistic understanding of contemporary China and also a greater awareness of larger global trends. In the future, you can also potentially contribute, in your own capacity, to further Singapore-China interactions.

Q: Can I pursue CSE in university?

Ans: You can pursue modules related to China's development offered both at NUS / NTU.

Q: Are there any prerequisites for CSE?

Ans: There are none but for H2 CSE, due to the coursework component which is a 2000 to 2500 word research essay, it would be an advantage to have a good command of English and a passion for writing essays and doing research.

Note: Questions on the syllabus can be redirected to asking the student/parent to go to SEAB's website to have a look at the details of the syllabus and assessment.