

Tokyo International Progressive School

Grade 8 Social Studies Course Outline

2020-2021

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"A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people." - Mahatma Gandhi.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Grade 8 Social Studies topics include:

“East Asia: Physical Geography”: Land and Water, Climate and Vegetation, Natural Resources and Land Use

“East Asia: Cultures and History”: Historic Traditions, People and Cultures

“South, Southwest, and Central Asia: Cultures and History”: South Asia: Cultures and History, Southwest Asia: Cultures and History, Central Asia: Cultures and History

“Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region: Cultures and History”: Southeast Asia: Cultures and History, The Pacific Region: Cultures and History

“East Asia”: China: Transforming Itself, Japan: Tradition and Change, The Koreas: A Divided Land

“South, Southwest, and Central Asia” : India: In the Midst of Change, Pakistan: An Economy Based on Agriculture, Israel: Economics and Cultures, Saudi Arabia: Oil and Islam, The Stans: A Diverse Region

“Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region” : Vietnam: A Nation Rebuilds, Australia: A Pacific Rim Country

In this course, the primary focus will be upon the region of “Asia and the Pacific”. In Grade 8 there is not only a focus on the history, but also on the geography and culture that characterizes this region of the world. Students will develop their understanding of physical geography, as well as how culture plays an important role in different societies. An understanding of how culture has moulded different countries into what they are today will be a key focus of this course. Students will aim to be prepared with the tools they need to be successful as a high school social studies student.

To each class period you will bring your personal laptop, student planner, school folder, and pencil case. The teacher will provide textbooks. The textbook that will be used for this course is: “World Studies : Asia and the Pacific”. A numbered copy of a textbook will be lent to you. Write your name in it. When you return it, if it is not in usable condition or missing its cover, your family will be asked to replace the book.

EARNING YOUR GRADE

Your grade will be determined by your work in these categories:

1) Prepared/Punctual/Productive. Positive/Pleasant/Polite - 10% of your grade.

This is a grade you receive for your performance during every class. You are punctual if you are in your seat when the bell stops ringing.

2) Daily work – 25% of your grade.

Daily work is anything we complete in class including practical experiments, worksheets, and discussions.

3) Projects – 25% of your grade.

Projects are longer tasks, designed to practice skills including research, organization, group work, and presentation. They will usually take more than one class period to complete.

4) Quizzes – 20% of your grade

Short assessments between 5-10 questions, taking 5-10 minutes to complete. Used to check your progress throughout the course.

5) Unit Wrap-up Activity – 20% of your grade

A flexible activity that allows students to show their learning.

The grading scale for this course will be:

Letter grade	Mark range
A+	97-100
A	92-96
B+	88-91
B	83-87
C+	79-82
C	74-78
D+	70-73
D	65-69
F	64 or below

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Ch. Assessment Dates
September 30th	East Asia: Physical Geography
November 6th	East Asia: Cultures and History
December 11th	South, Southwest, and Southwest Asia: Cultures and History

January 29th	Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region: Cultures and History
February 26th	East Asia: Individual Country Focus
April 9th	South, Southwest, and Southwest Asia: Individual Country Focus
May 14th	Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region: Individual Country Focus
June 18th	Culture Today: How Has Culture Changed Over the Past Year (A Current Focus)