



## **Curriculum for *Social Studies* Grades 9-12 Short version**

Reference curriculum: Thuringia, Germany

Year created: 2018

### **Preliminary remarks**

The school curriculum of the GISW is based on the curriculum of the German Bundesland of Thuringia. It is skill-oriented and adapted for use at the German International School. The subject of Social Studies is taught from grade 9 through 12. During the qualification phase (classes 11/12) Social Studies is a mandatory subject.

### **Individualization und Internal Differentiation**

When teaching domain-specific competencies, specifically the primary, subject-specific competencies of the school curriculum, to a heterogeneous group of learners, it is essential to structure the subject in a way that takes into account the individual personalities of the students.

Hence, in Social Studies we focus on forms of open instruction, which means that the students are taught based on learning diagnoses, so that the subject matter is essentially personalized to the students' learning type, class performance and learning rate as well as to different organizational forms (frontal, individual, pair, group work). On all grade levels, cooperative teaching methods that focus on the individual student (like role play, planning exercises and project work) in combination with a variety of mandatory and optional tasks make up an integral part of the subject of Social Studies. As a result, we see democratic learning processes that develop organically when the students act and reflect on the subject matter and are given choices and make decisions in the learning process. Forms of democratic speaking, such as structured debates, foster the ability to take on and distribute differentiated roles in class. The same is true for planning exercises and role play.

## Performance Assessment

The written exams in grade 9 make up 30 % of the report mark, class performance and other testing makes up the remaining 70 %. In grades 10 – 12 the written exams make up 50 % of the report mark, all other class performance and testing makes up the remaining 50 %.

## Hours per week the subject is taught

Grades 9 and 10: 2 hours per week each

Grades 11 and 12: 3 hours per week each

## Primary subject-specific competencies

Students develop a system of categories which is based on scientific social theories and which aids in analyzing and evaluating political, economic and socioeconomic structures, actions and parties as well as the role the students themselves play in civil society, politics and economy.

- Students recognize, illustrate and evaluate the multiple dimensions of political concepts – *polity, policy, politics*.
- Students recognize and address the fact that social, economic and political actions are bound to different interests.
- Students recognize that political actions are motivated by multiple causes (economic, socioeconomic and political aspects).
- Students develop the skills to think critically and to actively participate in civil society.

Topics in grades 9/10	Topics in grades 11/12
1. Interpersonal relationships	1. Social structures and social change
1.1 Socialization, the individual and society	2. Democracy
1.2 Social Security/Health Care/Public Assistance/Social Welfare	3. Economic policy
2. Adolescents and their rights	3.1 Business cycle policy
3. Democracy	3.2 Concepts of economic policy
3.1 Local politics and participation	3.3 Foreign trade policy
3.2 Elections and political systems	4. International policy and peacekeeping
4. Economy	5. Globalization and development
4.1 Basic principles of economies	6. European integration
4.2 Basic conditions of business management	