

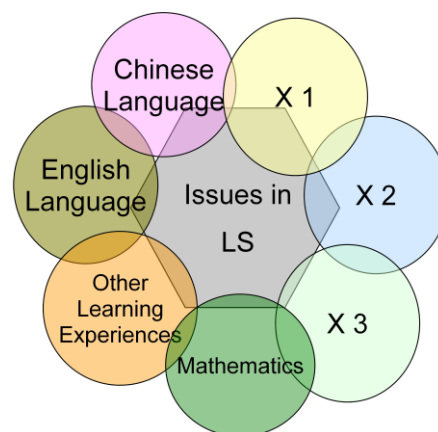
*St. Rose of Lima's College*  
*Liberal Studies Department*

**New Senior Secondary Curriculum**  
**Liberal Studies**

**1. Introduction**

Liberal studies will be a core subject and assessed like other subjects in the three-year senior secondary curriculum. It will help students to:

- ♦ **A:** Deepen their **Awareness** of contemporary issues, and develop positive values
- ♦ **B:** **Broaden** their knowledge base and perspectives
- ♦ **C:** **Connect** knowledge of different disciplines and strengthen their critical thinking skills

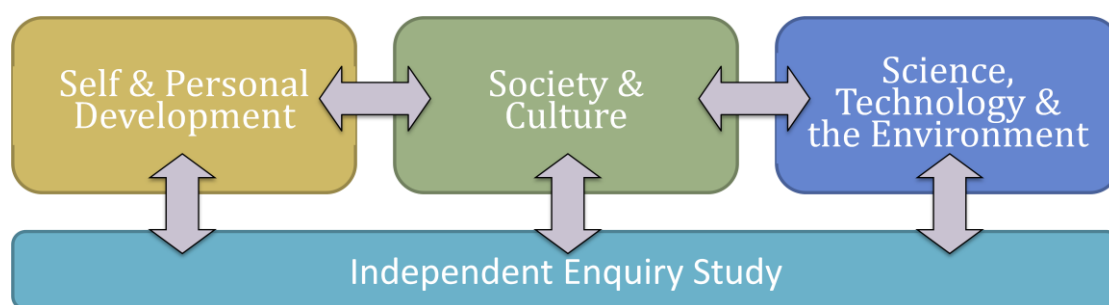


**2. Curriculum Aims**

The aims of Senior Secondary Liberal Studies are:

- ♦ To enhance students' understanding of themselves, their society, their nation, the human world and the physical environment;
- ♦ To enable students to develop multiple perspectives on perennial and contemporary issues in different contexts (e.g. cultural, social, economic, political and technological contexts);
- ♦ To help students become independent thinkers so that they can construct knowledge appropriate to changing personal and social circumstances;
- ♦ To develop in students a range of skills for life-long learning, including critical thinking skills, creativity, problem-solving skills, communication skills and information technology skills;
- ♦ To help students appreciate and respect diversity in cultures and views in a pluralistic society and handle conflicting values; and
- ♦ To help students develop positive values and attitude towards life, so that they can become informed and responsible citizens of society, the country and the world.

### 3. Curriculum



Areas of Study	Independent Enquiry Study (IES)
Self & Personal Development ♦ Module 1: Personal Development & Interpersonal Relationships	Students are required to conduct an IES making use of the knowledge and perspectives gained from the three Areas of Study and extending them to new issues of contexts. To help students develop their IES titles, the following themes are suggested: ♦ Media ♦ Education ♦ Religion ♦ Sports ♦ Art ♦ Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
Society & Culture ♦ Module 2: Hong Kong Today ♦ Module 3: Modern China ♦ Module 4: Globalization	
Science, Technology & the Environment ♦ Module 5: Public Health ♦ Module 6: Energy Technology & the Environment	

#### Area of Study: Self and Personal Development

##### Module 1: Personal Development and Interpersonal Relationships

Theme	Keys Questions for Enquiry
1. Understanding oneself	What challenges and opportunities does a person have during adolescence?
2. Interpersonal relationship	What interpersonal factors facilitate adolescents to reflect upon and prepare for the transition to adulthood?

## Area of Study: Society and Culture

### Module 2: Hong Kong Today

Theme	Keys Questions for Enquiry
1. Quality of life	Which directions might be chosen in maintaining and improving Hong Kong residents' quality of life?
2. Rule of law and socio-political participation	How do Hong Kong residents participate in political and social affairs and come to grips with rights and responsibilities with respect to the rule of law?
3. Identity	How are the identities of Hong Kong residents developed?

### Module 3: Modern China

Theme	Keys Questions for Enquiry
1. China's reform and opening – up	What impact has reform and opening-up had on the overall development of the country and on people's life?
2. Chinese culture and modern life	With respect to the evolution of concepts of family, what kind of relationship between traditional culture and modern life has been manifested? To what extent are traditional customs compatible with modern Chinese society?

### Module 4: Globalization

Theme	Keys Questions for Enquiry
1. Impact of globalization and related responses	Why do people from different parts of the world react differently to the opportunities and challenges brought by globalization?

## Area of Study: Science, Technology & the Environment

### Module 5: Public Health

Theme	Keys Questions for Enquiry
1. Understanding of public health	How is people's understanding of disease and public health affected by different factors?
2. Science, technology and public health	To what extent does science and technology enhance the development of public health?

### Module 6 Energy Technology and the Environment

Theme	Keys Questions for Enquiry
1. Understanding of public health	How is people's understanding of disease and public health affected by different factors?
2. Science, technology and public health	To what extent does science and technology enhance the development of public health?

## Independent Enquiry Learning (IES)

As an integral part of the curriculum of Liberal Studies, the IES contributes to the curriculum aims by:

- ◆ Providing an opportunity for students to learn to become self-directed learners responsible for their own learning;
- ◆ Enhancing students' ability to connect, integrate and apply knowledge, perspectives and skills developed through the three Areas of Study;
- ◆ Helping students develop higher-order thinking skills and communication skills through investigative exploration of issues; and
- ◆ Broadening students' horizons and catering for their interests and inclinations.

## Specifications for the IES

The IES has to be investigative and involve the following three stages:

Stages	Content
Stage I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Selection of study area / theme</li><li>◆ Collection of background information</li><li>◆ Confirmation of the question for enquiry</li><li>◆ Design of work plan and schedule</li></ul>
Stage II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Collection of data / other kinds of information</li><li>◆ Organization of data / other kinds of information</li></ul>
Stage III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Analysis of data / information</li><li>◆ Evaluation of different points of view</li><li>◆ Presentation of IES results, amendments according to feedback</li><li>◆ Writing up of study report, adoption of suitable ways to show the results of the study</li></ul>

## 4. Public Assessment

Component		Weighting	Duration
Public examination	Paper 1 Data-response questions	50%	2 hours
	Paper 2 Extended-response questions	30%	1 hour 15 minutes
School-based assessment	Independent Enquiry Study (IES)	20%	

## 5. Useful links

- ◆ <http://liberal-studies.net/>
- ◆ <http://hkpoverty.oxfam.org.hk/>
- ◆ <http://www.hkedcity.net/resources/>