KS3 Human & Social Sciences Curriculum Plan

The **KS3 Human & Social Sciences curriculum** provides students with a broad understanding of **History, Geography, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Citizenship**. This curriculum plan aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to explore human society, its history, and its cultural diversity, while also fostering critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and global awareness.

The curriculum is designed to be progressive, building on previous knowledge and developing key skills at each stage. This plan will outline topics to be covered across each year group, as well as specific learning objectives, assessment methods, and resources.

**Curriculum Overview**

**Year 7**

Focus: **Introduction to Society, History, and Geography**  
Key areas: Basic social concepts, ancient civilizations, mapping skills, and religious understanding.

| **Subject** | **Term 1** | **Term 2** | **Term 3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **History** | Introduction to Historical Skills: chronology, sources, and interpreting the past. | The Egyptians and Ancient Civilizations: daily life, society, and culture. | The Roman Empire: impact on Britain and legacy. |
| **Geography** | Map Skills: Reading maps, interpreting scale, coordinates, and symbols. | Introduction to Physical Geography: types of landscapes, weather, and climate. | Human Geography: urbanization, population growth, and global connections. |
| **Religious Studies** | Introduction to World Religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam. | The Role of Religion in Society: how religions influence culture and daily life. | Exploring the concept of Religious Diversity. |
| **Sociology** | Understanding Social Structures: family, school, and peer groups. | Social Norms and Values: What holds societies together? | Social Roles and Gender: understanding expectations and stereotypes. |
| **Citizenship** | Rights and Responsibilities: understanding individual rights and social responsibilities. | The Role of Government: Local and national government functions. | Global Citizenship: exploring global issues and multicultural societies. |

**Year 8**

Focus: **Developing Societal Understanding and Historical Context**  
Key areas: The Middle Ages, Medieval societies, geography of trade, human rights, and cultural diversity.

| **Subject** | **Term 1** | **Term 2** | **Term 3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **History** | The Middle Ages: Feudal system, knights, castles, and daily life. | The Black Death: Causes, impact, and consequences. | The Tudors: Religion, politics, and society in Tudor England. |
| **Geography** | Human Geography: The growth of towns, trade routes, and communication in Medieval times. | Physical Geography: Mountains, rivers, and their importance to civilizations. | Climate Change: An introduction to environmental issues and global warming. |
| **Religious Studies** | The Rise of Christianity and Islam: Historical development, key figures, and beliefs. | Comparative Religions: Beliefs, practices, and values of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism. | Secularism and Religion: Understanding the role of religion in modern societies. |
| **Sociology** | Social Inequality: Class, wealth, and access to opportunities. | Social Change: Industrialization, urbanization, and its social consequences. | Social Movements: Human rights and the struggle for equality. |
| **Citizenship** | The UK Constitution: Democracy, laws, and the role of Parliament. | Human Rights: Exploring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. | Global Issues: Migration, refugee crises, and responses to global conflicts. |

**Year 9**

Focus: **Modern Society, Social Justice, and Global Issues**  
Key areas: Industrial Revolution, global trade, social justice, understanding the modern world, and ethical considerations.

| **Subject** | **Term 1** | **Term 2** | **Term 3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **History** | The Industrial Revolution: Changes to industry, economy, and society. | The British Empire: Its impact on the world and legacy. | World War I: Causes, key events, and consequences. |
| **Geography** | Global Trade: Understanding supply chains, trade routes, and global markets. | Environmental Issues: Deforestation, pollution, and conservation. | Natural Hazards: Earthquakes, volcanoes, and their impact on societies. |
| **Religious Studies** | The Role of Religion in the Modern World: Secularism vs. Religion. | Ethical Issues in Religion: Euthanasia, cloning, and stem cell research. | Religion and Conflict: Exploring how religious beliefs can lead to conflict. |
| **Sociology** | Modern Family Structures: Changes in the family unit and social roles. | Youth Culture: Influence of media, music, and peer pressure on young people. | Social Justice: Inequality, discrimination, and movements for social change. |
| **Citizenship** | Democracy in Action: Voting, elections, and the role of the individual in a democratic society. | Understanding Global Inequality: Poverty, access to education, and healthcare. | Exploring Ethical Citizenship: Volunteering, environmental responsibility, and global activism. |

**Assessment Methods**

* **Formative Assessments**
  + Regular quizzes, class discussions, and group activities.
  + Peer and self-assessment during group projects or presentations.
  + Homework tasks to reinforce learning and develop independent study skills.
* **Summative Assessments**
  + End-of-unit tests and exams to assess knowledge and understanding.
  + Coursework (e.g., research projects, essays) to assess critical thinking, argumentation, and research skills.
  + Group presentations to evaluate teamwork, communication, and synthesis of information.

**Key Skills Developed**

1. **Critical Thinking**: Students will develop the ability to analyse historical events, interpret geographical data, and evaluate societal trends and issues.
2. **Research and Inquiry**: Encouraging students to use different resources, including books, articles, and digital media, to gather information for projects and assignments.
3. **Debate and Argumentation**: Students will have opportunities to engage in debates and discussions on social, ethical, and political issues, developing communication and persuasion skills.
4. **Collaboration and Teamwork**: Group tasks, such as presentations and collaborative research, will help students develop teamwork skills.
5. **Global Awareness**: Exploring current events, global issues, and social justice will raise students’ awareness of the interconnectedness of the world.

**Cross-Curricular Links**

* **Literacy**: Writing essays, reports, and projects across subjects will support literacy development.
* **Maths**: Incorporating statistical data analysis (e.g., population studies, climate change data) into geographical and social sciences.
* **PSHE**: Citizenship topics overlap with PSHE, particularly related to human rights, personal safety, and responsibility.

**Resources**

* **Textbooks**: Age-appropriate textbooks for each subject area (History, Geography, Religious Studies, Sociology, Citizenship).
* **Online Resources**: Websites, videos, and interactive learning platforms (e.g., BBC Bitesize, National Geographic, Ted Talks).
* **Field Trips**: Visits to local museums, historical sites, or geographical locations (e.g., city tours, historical landmarks).
* **Guest Speakers**: Inviting professionals or community leaders to discuss social, political, and environmental issues.

**Conclusion**

This **KS3 Human & Social Sciences curriculum** is designed to foster curiosity and awareness of the world around students. By engaging with diverse topics related to **history, geography, sociology, religion, and citizenship**, students will be prepared to explore global issues, understand societal structures, and develop critical thinking skills that are essential in today’s interconnected world.