KS4 Human & Social Sciences Curriculum Plan

The **KS4 Human & Social Sciences curriculum** aims to build on the foundation laid at Key Stage 3, providing a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of **History, Geography, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Citizenship**. At this stage, students will begin to focus more on critical analysis, deeper research, and applying knowledge to contemporary issues in society. The curriculum prepares students for GCSE exams while fostering essential life skills like critical thinking, argumentation, and social responsibility.

**Curriculum Overview**

**Year 10**

Focus: **In-depth Study of Historical Events, Social Theories, and Global Citizenship** Key areas: Industrial Revolution, globalisation, social inequalities, environmental issues, and the study of world religions.

| **Subject** | **Term 1** | **Term 2** | **Term 3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **History** | The Industrial Revolution: Social, economic, and political changes. | The British Empire: Expansion, influence, and legacy. | World War I: Causes, events, and the aftermath. |
| **Geography** | Globalisation: Understanding trade, economics, and cultural exchange. | Environmental Issues: Climate change, deforestation, and conservation. | Development and Global Inequality: Poverty, education, and healthcare. |
| **Religious Studies** | The Nature of Belief: Exploring concepts of God, faith, and worship. | Ethical Issues in Religion: Euthanasia, abortion, and moral dilemmas. | Religion in Society: Secularism, pluralism, and religious conflict. |
| **Sociology** | Theories of Society: Functionalism, Marxism, and Feminism. | Social Institutions: Education, family, and the role of religion in society. | Social Inequality: Class, race, gender, and ethnicity. |
| **Citizenship** | Democracy and Participation: The role of voting, political parties, and pressure groups. | Rights and Responsibilities: Laws, human rights, and the justice system. | Global Citizenship: Exploring immigration, refugees, and international relations. |

**Year 11**

Focus: **Contemporary Issues, Social Justice, and Global Concerns** Key areas: Modern social movements, the impact of technology, human rights, and conflict resolution.

| **Subject** | **Term 1** | **Term 2** | **Term 3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **History** | World War II: Causes, major events, and outcomes. | The Cold War: Ideologies, key events, and tensions. | The Impact of the 20th Century: Decolonization and modern conflicts. |
| **Geography** | Natural Hazards: Earthquakes, volcanoes, and their social impacts. | Urbanization: Understanding cities, development, and migration. | Sustainable Development: Global challenges and solutions. |
| **Religious Studies** | The Concept of Good and Evil: Moral choices and free will. | Religion and Conflict: Historical and contemporary examples. | Religion and the Future: The role of religion in a secular world. |
| **Sociology** | Crime and Deviance: Theories of crime, policing, and punishment. | Social Change: The impact of media, technology, and globalization. | Global Inequality and Human Rights: Examining social justice movements. |
| **Citizenship** | Global Issues: War, poverty, and international aid. | Ethical Issues in Society: Technology, the environment, and social media. | Future Citizenship: Responsibilities, sustainability, and activism. |

**Assessment Methods**

**Formative Assessments**

* **Quizzes** on key terms, historical events, and case studies.
* **Classroom activities** such as group discussions, role-plays, debates, and peer feedback.
* **Homework** including research tasks, essays, and case study analyses.
* **Project-based assessments**, including group work and individual investigations into contemporary social issues.

**Summative Assessments**

* **Mock Exams** at the end of each term to prepare for GCSE exams.
* **End-of-topic tests** to assess knowledge retention and application.
* **GCSE Coursework** (if applicable in some subjects, such as Geography or Citizenship).
* **Essays** and extended responses for History, Sociology, and Religious Studies.

**Examinations**

* End-of-year exams for **History, Geography, Sociology, Religious Studies, and Citizenship**, following the GCSE specification guidelines.
* Focus on essay writing, case study analysis, and evaluating different viewpoints.

**Key Skills Developed**

1. **Critical Thinking**: Students will develop their ability to analyse, critique, and evaluate different perspectives on historical events, social issues, and contemporary concerns.
2. **Research Skills**: Emphasis on independent research, using primary and secondary sources, as well as learning how to reference and cite correctly.
3. **Debate and Argumentation**: Opportunities to engage in debates and structured arguments on topics such as ethics, human rights, and global issues.
4. **Sociological Understanding**: Understanding how society is structured, how institutions function, and the causes of social inequalities.
5. **Global Awareness**: Recognizing the interconnectedness of global events and understanding how social, environmental, and political factors shape the world.
6. **Ethical Decision Making**: Evaluating and reflecting on moral dilemmas, human rights, and social justice in contemporary society.

**Cross-Curricular Links**

* **Literacy**: Writing essays and extended responses will support students' ability to communicate clearly and persuasively in both written and spoken formats.
* **Maths**: Geography will focus on data analysis, such as interpreting climate data or examining trends in global inequality.
* **PSHE**: Topics on rights, responsibilities, and ethical issues are directly linked to personal, social, and health education (PSHE).
* **Technology**: In Geography and Sociology, students will examine the role of technology in global communication, urbanization, and environmental monitoring.

**Resources**

* **Textbooks** aligned with GCSE specifications in History, Geography, Religious Studies, Sociology, and Citizenship.
* **Online Resources** such as BBC Bitesize, History Channel, National Geographic, and reputable academic journals.
* **Primary Sources** for History, including documents, letters, and images from key events (e.g., World War I, the Industrial Revolution).
* **Documentaries and Films** that provide visual and auditory context to historical and contemporary issues (e.g., "The Fog of War," "The True Cost").
* **Guest Speakers**: Inviting community leaders, activists, and experts to discuss relevant topics in social justice, history, or global affairs.

**Year-by-Year Focus: Detailed Breakdown**

**Year 10 - Core Topics**

**History**

* **The Industrial Revolution**: Analyse the social, economic, and political transformations that occurred due to industrialization.
* **The British Empire**: Study the empire’s expansion, influence on global trade, and the long-lasting legacies.
* **World War I**: Understand the causes, key events, and consequences of the First World War, along with how it reshaped the global order.

**Geography**

* **Globalisation**: Study the economic and cultural changes in the world, including the impact of multinational corporations and the rise of international trade.
* **Environmental Issues**: Explore climate change, deforestation, and the steps that can be taken to conserve the planet’s resources.
* **Development and Global Inequality**: Discuss global poverty, healthcare access, and education, and how some regions of the world remain less developed than others.

**Religious Studies**

* **Ethical Issues in Religion**: Examine key ethical dilemmas and how different religions approach moral decisions.
* **Religion in Society**: Analyse the impact of secularism and religious pluralism in modern society.

**Sociology**

* **Social Theories**: Study major sociological theories (Marxism, Functionalism, Feminism) and how they explain social behaviour.
* **Social Inequality**: Examine how class, race, and gender affect opportunities in society.

**Citizenship**

* **Democracy and Participation**: Understand how democracy works, the importance of voting, and how political parties and pressure groups influence society.
* **Global Citizenship**: Explore the roles of individuals and communities in promoting peace, sustainability, and global awareness.

**Year 11 - Core Topics**

**History**

* **World War II**: Investigate the causes, major events, and effects of the Second World War.
* **The Cold War**: Examine the ideological, political, and military tensions between the USA and USSR.
* **Decolonization**: Study the post-war period, the independence movements, and the legacy of colonialism.

**Geography**

* **Natural Hazards**: Investigate the causes and effects of earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis on human populations.
* **Urbanization**: Examine the growth of cities and the effects of urbanization on both developed and developing countries.
* **Sustainable Development**: Discuss the importance of balancing development with environmental sustainability.

**Religious Studies**

* **Good and Evil**: Discuss concepts of morality, free will, and the problem of evil in religion.
* **Religion and Conflict**: Study how religious beliefs can lead to both social harmony and conflict.

**Sociology**

* **Crime and Deviance**: Explore the causes of crime, the role of the media, and the justice system.
* **Social Change**: Understand how technology and globalization are influencing social structures and relationships.

**Citizenship**

* **Global Issues**: Address international challenges such as war, poverty, and migration.
* **Ethical Society**: Debate issues such as technology, media, and the environment, considering the ethical implications of each.

**Conclusion**

The **KS4 Human & Social Sciences curriculum** aims to foster students' ability to think critically, understand social structures, engage with global issues, and participate actively as responsible citizens. This detailed curriculum plan ensures students receive a rich, interdisciplinary education that prepares them for GCSE exams and for navigating the complex, interconnected world in which we live.