

## **SENIOR 4: WESTERN CIVILIZATION – HISTORICAL REVIEW OF ITS DEVELOPMENT (OPTIONAL)**

The Senior 4 Western Civilization curriculum is designed to help students understand that Canadian society and other Western societies evolved and were shaped by complex movements and events.

The Senior 4 Western Civilization curriculum includes six units:

Unit I	An Introduction to Western Civilization (2 weeks)
Unit II	Pre-Modern Western Civilization (3 weeks)
Unit III	The Renaissance, The Reformation, and Absolutism versus Representative Government (3 weeks)
Unit IV	The Age of Reason, and the Political, Agricultural, and Industrial Revolutions (4 weeks)
Unit V	Major Movements and Events of the Nineteenth Century (1815 to 1919) (4 weeks)
Unit VI	The Twentieth Century (3 weeks)

The Senior 4 Western Civilization curriculum is organized around the following six major concepts: religion, ideology, humanism, individualism, secularism, and scepticism. The major goal of the Senior 4 Western Civilization curriculum is to help students explore and better understand:

- how and why Western civilization societies evolved
- how the six major concepts identified above apply to the development of Western civilization during different periods of time
- how Greece and Rome, Judeo-Christian thought, medieval religious and social institutions contributed to the development of Western societies
- how the Renaissance, the Reformation, absolutism, and representative government contributed to the development of Western societies
- how the Age of Reason, and the political, agricultural, and industrial revolutions influenced the development of Western societies
- how major events of the nineteenth century influenced Western society (the reactionary and reform movements, the 1815 Congress of Vienna, the revolutions of 1848)
- how World Wars I and II, the Cold War, and the collapse of the Soviet Union changed the world balance of power, and the ideological responses to these events
- how technology has influenced society
- why sustainable development should be considered an ideological direction for the future

### **Unit I – Introduction to Western Civilization**

Time suggested: 2 weeks

#### **Unit I Topics and Focusing Questions**

1. Writing History

- What is history? How is it recorded? What are the sources of history?
  - Why do we study Western civilization?
2. Characteristics and Influences of Western Civilization
    - What are the characteristics of Western civilization?
    - What characteristics of Western societies are not common to other societies?
    - How has Canada been influenced by developments within Western civilization?
  3. Major Concepts Influencing the Development of Western Societies
    - What are the six major concepts (religion, ideology, humanism, individualism, secularism, and scepticism) and why are they significant?

## **Unit II – Pre-Modern Western Civilization**

Time suggested: 3 weeks

### **Unit II Topics and Focusing Questions**

1. The Legacy of Greece and Rome
  - How did life in ancient Greece and Rome reflect the six major concepts? Why did these concepts arise in Greece? In Rome?
  - How did the ideals and practices of Roman society differ from those in Greece?
  - What is the legacy to Western civilization of Greece? Of Rome?
2. The Judeo-Christian and Islamic Influences
  - What are the similarities and differences among Christianity, Judaism, and Islam? Why were some religious groups persecuted?
  - What are the contributions of the Judeo-Christian and Islamic belief systems to Western civilization?
3. Medieval Religious and Social Institutions
  - What was the role of the church and its relationship to the state in medieval society?
  - How and where did the two branches of Christianity develop?
  - What caused the conflict between the Christian Church and Islam?
  - How did feudalism work and what effect did it have on society? (Consider the role the monarchy and the origin of Divine Right.)

## **Unit III – The Renaissance, The Reformation, and Absolutism versus Representative Government**

Time suggested: 3 weeks

### **Unit III Topics and Focusing Questions**

1. The Renaissance

- What does the term *renaissance* mean? Where and why did the Renaissance arise?
  - What changes occurred during the Renaissance? What was its effect on Western civilization? Who were some important people during the Renaissance? What were their contributions?
  - How are the six major cultural phenomena displayed in the Renaissance?
2. The Reformation
- What does the term *reformation* mean? Where did the Reformation arise?
  - Why did the Reformation occur? Which individuals and movements were significant during the Reformation? What were the effects of the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation?
3. Absolutism versus Representative Government
- In societies where Absolutism prevailed, why did the rulers become so powerful? How did they justify this power? What was the role of the common people? Of the middle class?
  - What changes in decision-making developed in Britain by the late 1700s? What was the role of the common people?

#### **Unit IV – The Age of Reason, and the Political, Agricultural, and Industrial Revolutions**

Time suggested: 4 weeks

#### **Unit IV Topics and Focusing Questions**

1. The Age of Reason
- What is a revolution? How and why do revolutions occur? How do revolutions create problems as well as solve them?
  - What was the Scientific Revolution? What did it mean? What did it involve? What was its effect?
  - What was the Enlightenment? What was its significance? (Consider the new movements, new philosophies, and new institutions.)
  - Who were some of the prominent individuals in the Age of Reason? What was their effect?
  - Which of the six major concepts were prominent during the Age of Reason?
2. The Political, Agricultural, and Industrial Revolutions
- What did the American Revolution accomplish? The French Revolution? How did they differ? How were they similar? What were the effects of these revolutions?
  - How did the Agricultural Revolution contribute to the Industrial Revolution? What was the effect of these revolutions?
  - How were the six major concepts reflected during the Political, Agricultural, and Industrial Revolutions?

#### **Unit V – Major Movements and Events of the Nineteenth Century (1815 to 1919)**

Time suggested: 4 weeks

### **Unit V Topics and Focusing Questions**

1. Reaction (Conservatism) versus Reform (Liberalism)
  - What does the term *reaction* mean? What does the term *reform* mean? How do reactionaries differ from reformers in their view of revolution?
  - What were the aims of the Congress of Vienna of 1815? To what extent were these aims achieved?
  - What were the aims of the 1848 revolutions? To what extent were the aims achieved?
2. Nationalism and Imperialism
  - What does the term *nationalism* mean? What does the term *imperialism* mean?
  - What are the economic and political motives of imperialism?
  - How did nationalist and imperialist ambitions affect international relations up to 1914?
3. Changing Perspectives (Optional)
  - What were some of the main currents of thought during the latter part of the nineteenth century? How did they influence society?

### **Unit VI – The Twentieth Century**

Time suggested: 3 weeks

### **Unit VI Topics and Focusing Questions**

1. World War I and Major Developments to 1939
  - How did World War I change the balance of power in the world?
  - What were the aims of the League of Nations? To what extent was the League successful? Not successful? Why?
  - What were the ideological responses to conditions prior to, during, and after World War I?
2. World War II and Major Developments to the end of the Twentieth Century
  - How did World War II change the balance of power in the world?
  - What were the aims of the United Nations? To what extent has the UN been successful? Not successful? Why?
  - What were the ideological responses to conditions prior to, during, and after World War II?
3. Toward the Twenty-first Century
  - What changes in realignment of powers took place in the 1990s?
  - How is the acceleration of technology influencing society?

- Is the implementation of the concept, principles, and guidelines of sustainable development an appropriate direction for Western civilization to take as it moves into the twenty-first century?