

SCO INTERNATIONAL

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

OLYMPIAD

COMPILED SYLLABUS

Chapter-wise notes and learning outcomes for Grades 1-12

Designed as a globally aligned, age-appropriate syllabus blueprint for students, teachers, parents, and schools preparing for SCO IGKO.

- grade-wise chapters from early awareness to pre-university global analysis
- chapter notes support quick understanding for teachers, parents and learners
- learning outcomes build recall, reasoning, map/data literacy, source evaluation and civic judgement

Maths	Grade 1-3	Grade 4-6	Grade 7-9	GK Skills
AI	Maps	Current Affairs	Data	Research

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1. Syllabus Purpose

This compiled syllabus converts the SCO IGKO blueprint into a clean, school-ready reference for students, teachers, parents and school leaders. It explains what each chapter is meant to build, how it can be taught, and what a student should be able to do after preparation.

The syllabus is global in orientation and can be adapted to local context. Schools may add local country examples while keeping the core competencies consistent: knowledge accuracy, understanding, map and data literacy, ethical citizenship, media awareness, research and clear communication.

2. Recommended Exam Structure

Component	Weightage	Assessment Style
Paper 1 - Foundational / Objective	Approx. 60%	MCQs, picture identification, true/false, matching, map-dotting and concept recognition.
Paper 2 - Applied / Descriptive	Approx. 25%	Short answers, interpretation, timeline/map labelling, data or source-based questions, especially Grades 5+.
Paper 3 - Project / Research / Presentation	Approx. 15%	Mini project, oral presentation or portfolio where published for Grade 4 onwards.

3. Grade-Wise Syllabus with Chapter Notes and Learning Outcomes

Class 1 - Beginner Awareness

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
Self & Family	Family roles, simple daily routines	Builds observation through familiar home, school and community contexts.	Identify family members and describe one routine.
My School & Neighborhood	Places in school, common community helpers	Builds observation through familiar home, school and community contexts.	Recognise 6-8 community helpers and places.
Plants & Animals	Common plants/animals, habitats	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Name 5 plants and 5 animals; match habitat.
Basic Earth & Sky	Day/night, weather types	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Describe sunny/rainy/windy and draw symbols.
Colours, Shapes, Numbers (GK links)	Colours, shapes, basic numbers to 20	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Recognise shapes, count to 20 accurately.
Festivals & Traditions	Major global/local festivals (simple)	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Name 4 festivals and one custom for each.

Student benefit: Builds curiosity about environment and community. Strengthens vocabulary, observation and oral expression. Lays the emotional and social foundation for cooperative learning.

Class 2 - Early Explorers

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
Myself in the World	Countries (name a few), flag recognition	Strengthens location sense, map awareness and cross-cultural understanding.	Identify home country and 5 other country flags.
Time & Calendar	Days, months, seasons	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Read day/month and identify seasons.
Basic Science in GK	Food groups, body parts, simple machines	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Classify foods; name major body parts.
Local & World Landmarks	Famous local landmark + 6 world landmarks	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Recognise 6 world landmarks and locate on map.
People & Professions	Jobs and what they do	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Describe 6 professions and tools used.
Safety & Environment	Road safety, waste basics	Promotes responsible action for local and global environmental challenges.	State 5 safety rules and three R's (Reduce/Reuse/Recycle).

Student benefit: Improves map awareness and multicultural curiosity. Builds early civic sense and personal safety habits. Enhances classification and observational logic.

Class 3 - Foundations of World Knowledge

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
Countries, Capitals & Flags	20 countries & capitals	Strengthens location sense, map awareness and cross-cultural understanding.	Match country ↔ capital for 20 nations.
Physical Geography basics	Continents, oceans, major rivers/mountains	Strengthens location sense, map awareness and cross-cultural understanding.	Label continents/oceans; identify 5 rivers/mountains.
Basic History & Heritage	Ancient tales, local history highlights	Connects events, people and timelines to cause-effect reasoning.	Sequence 3 events and name a local hero.
Science & Environment	Ecosystems, water cycle (conceptual)	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Explain water cycle in simple steps.
Sports & Culture	Popular global sports, art forms	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Identify rules of 2 sports and 3 art forms.
Current Affairs (gentle)	Major world events of past year (kid-friendly)	Builds source awareness, responsible judgement and information-literacy habits.	Explain one current event in 3 sentences.

Student benefit: Strengthens geographic literacy and historical sequencing. Encourages connecting science to daily life. Boosts concise explanation and presentation skills.

Class 4 - Building Reasoning and World Sense

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
World Geography	Countries by region, climate zones	Strengthens location sense, map awareness and cross-cultural understanding.	Group countries by continent and basic climate type.
Ancient & Modern History	Civilizations overview, explorers	Connects events, people and timelines to cause-effect reasoning.	Compare one ancient and one modern event.
Science in Society	Sources of energy (intro), human body systems	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Describe 2 energy sources and major organ functions.
Economy basics	Money, trade, needs vs wants	Develops basic economic reasoning through real-world examples and data.	Distinguish needs/wants and explain basic trade.
Technology & Innovation (basic)	Communication evolution (letters to phones)	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Sequence communication tools historically.
Current Affairs & Environment	Simple causes & effects (pollution, conservation)	Promotes responsible action for local and global environmental challenges.	Describe one environmental problem and one solution.

Student benefit: Develops analytical grouping and causal thinking. Gains basic economic and civic literacy. Prepares for project-based research and collaboration.

Class 5 - Transitional Critical Thinking

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
World & Regional Geography	Major countries, capitals, biomes	Strengthens location sense, map awareness and cross-cultural understanding.	Explain biome characteristics; locate countries by region.
World History overview	Medieval to Modern transitions, explorer impacts	Connects events, people and timelines to cause-effect reasoning.	Describe one turning point and its global effect.
Environment & Sustainability	Renewable vs non-renewable; biodiversity	Promotes responsible action for local and global environmental challenges.	Compare energy types; propose simple conservation action.
Science & Inventions	Landmark inventions & inventors	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Link inventions to social change (3 examples).
Civics & Rights	Basic rights, governance (local)	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Explain role of a local leader and one child right.
Data & Reasoning	Interpreting charts, simple statistics	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Read a bar chart and state two conclusions.

Student benefit: Strengthens evidence-based thinking and data reading. Builds global-citizen awareness and environmental responsibility. Prepares for structured research and clear written expression.

Class 6 - Expanding Context and Analysis

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
Physical & Political Geography	Boundaries, lat/long, major geo-features	Strengthens location sense, map awareness and cross-cultural understanding.	Use lat/long to approximate locations; explain borders.
World History & Civilizations	Major empires, trade routes	Connects events, people and timelines to cause-effect reasoning.	Explain trade-route impact on cultures (e.g., Silk Road).
Science, Tech & Society	Basics of climate change, health	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Explain greenhouse effect and basic prevention steps.
Economics & Globalisation	Supply/demand basics, global trade concept	Develops basic economic reasoning through real-world examples and data.	Describe import/export and currency basics.
Media Literacy & Current Affairs	Evaluating news sources, headlines	Builds source awareness, responsible judgement and information-literacy habits.	Identify reliable news vs rumor (3 checks).
Maps & Data Skills	Reading topographic maps, charts	Strengthens location sense, map awareness and cross-cultural understanding.	Interpret a simple topographic map and chart.

Student benefit: Improves critical consumption of information. Prepares for interdisciplinary thinking across history, economy and geography. Introduces data literacy and geographic coordinates.

Class 7 - Applied Knowledge and Reasoning

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
Regional Studies	Comparative study of continents/regions	Strengthens location sense, map awareness and cross-cultural understanding.	Compare socio-economic indicators of two regions.
Modern World History	Industrial revolution, colonisation effects	Connects events, people and timelines to cause-effect reasoning.	Analyse one cause-effect chain from industrialisation.
Environment & Resource Management	Water scarcity, urbanization	Promotes responsible action for local and global environmental challenges.	Propose local-level resource management plan.
Science & Innovation	Public health, simple genetics concepts	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Explain vaccination and heredity basics.
Global Institutions & Law	UN, WHO, basic human rights	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Describe role of one global body and one treaty.
Research Skills	Referencing, summarising sources	Trains students to ask questions, use evidence and communicate findings clearly.	Produce a 500-word report with 3 references.

Student benefit: Develops comparative and policy thinking. Strengthens research methodology and presentation skills. Encourages evidence-backed proposals.

Class 8 - Synthesis and Critical Evaluation

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
Global Patterns & Trends	Demographics, migration, urban trends	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Interpret demographic graphs and predict implications.
Contemporary History	20th century turning points	Connects events, people and timelines to cause-effect reasoning.	Critically evaluate impacts of a 20th-century event.
Economics in GK	GDP basics, development indices	Develops basic economic reasoning through real-world examples and data.	Use HDI/GDP to compare development for two nations.
Science, Health & Society	Epidemiology basics, sustainable tech	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Explain epidemic containment measures and one green tech.
World Culture & Ethics	Religion, art, cultural heritage debates	Connects events, people and timelines to cause-effect reasoning.	Discuss cultural heritage preservation challenges.
Current Affairs & Media	Interpreting editorial vs reportage	Builds source awareness, responsible judgement and information-literacy habits.	Write a balanced summary of a recent global issue.

Student benefit: Gains ability to synthesize data and critique narratives. Prepares for informed debate, civic engagement and higher-level research.

Class 9 - Pre-Advanced Critical GK

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
World Systems	Geopolitics, trade blocs, energy corridors	Develops basic economic reasoning through real-world examples and data.	Analyse a regional conflict/partnership and economic drivers.
Historical Causes & Effects	Revolutions, world wars	Connects events, people and timelines to cause-effect reasoning.	Evaluate causes & long-term global effects of one event.
Environmental Science & Policy	Climate policy, conservation economics	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Assess national climate policy vs targets.
Economics & Finance	Banking basics, forex, inflation	Develops basic economic reasoning through real-world examples and data.	Explain inflation causes and a mitigation policy.
Technology & Ethics	Data privacy, digital governance	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Discuss data privacy challenges and possible norms.
Research & Project	Extended research project (2000-3000 words)	Trains students to ask questions, use evidence and communicate findings clearly.	Plan and present independent research with citations.

Student benefit: Prepares for rigorous academic research and debate. Builds grounding for social sciences, environmental careers and policy studies.

Class 10 - Advanced Multidisciplinary GK

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
Global Governance & Law	International law basics, treaties	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Analyze a treaty's aims and implementation gaps.
World Economy	Trade policy, economic shocks, development strategies	Develops basic economic reasoning through real-world examples and data.	Evaluate a country's economic response to a shock.
Science, Technology & Society	Biotechnology basics, climate solutions	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Debate ethical & practical aspects of a tech (e.g. gene editing).
Geography & Resources	Food security, resource geopolitics	Strengthens location sense, map awareness and cross-cultural understanding.	Map resource flows and discuss geopolitical implications.
Contemporary Issues	Migration, human rights, digital divide	Builds source awareness, responsible judgement and information-literacy habits.	Propose multi-sector solutions for one issue.
Capstone Project	Interdisciplinary project (group/individual)	Trains students to ask questions, use evidence and communicate findings clearly.	Demonstrate integrated analysis and policy recommendations.

Student benefit: Ready for specialized pre-university tracks in social sciences, science and commerce. Develops abilities in policy analysis, ethical reasoning and multidisciplinary research.

Class 11 - Specialised Analytical GK

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
Advanced Geopolitics	Security studies, alliances, soft power	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Critically analyze a current geopolitical issue with evidence.
Global Economy & Finance	Macroeconomic policy, trade agreements	Develops basic economic reasoning through real-world examples and data.	Model effects of a policy (tax, subsidy) on economy.
Environment & Climate Policy	International climate negotiations, adaptation finance	Promotes responsible action for local and global environmental challenges.	Assess NDCs (national plans) and propose improvements.
Science Policy & Ethics	Emerging tech governance (bio/energy)	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Draft governance options for an emerging tech.
Society, Media & Law	International human rights case studies	Builds source awareness, responsible judgement and information-literacy habits.	Argue a human-rights case using legal precedents.
Research Methods	Advanced data analysis, referencing, ethics	Builds source awareness, responsible judgement and information-literacy habits.	Produce a 4-6k word research paper with statistical support.

Student benefit: Equips students with near-university research and analytic skills. Supports careers in policy, law, environment, data and international relations.

Class 12 - Pre-University / Competitive Standard

Chapter	Key Topics	Small Chapter Note	Learning Outcome
International Relations & Strategy	Conflict resolution, diplomacy, geopolitics	Encourages curiosity, structured thinking and evidence-based explanation.	Produce evidence-based policy advice for a current crisis.
Global Economy & Development	Development economics, international finance	Develops basic economic reasoning through real-world examples and data.	Critically evaluate development strategies with metrics.
Global Challenges & Solutions	Climate adaptation, pandemics, cyber security	Promotes responsible action for local and global environmental challenges.	Design interdisciplinary, implementable solution frameworks.
Science, Technology & Governance	Regulation frameworks, tech assessments	Links scientific ideas with society, ethics and everyday decision-making.	Assess societal impacts and regulatory options for tech.
Ethics, Law & Human Rights	International law, ethics frameworks	Builds source awareness, responsible judgement and information-literacy habits.	Build legal/ethical arguments and policy recommendations.
Capstone Research & Presentation	Extended thesis (6-8k words)	Trains students to ask questions, use evidence and communicate findings clearly.	Deliver publishable-quality research and public defense.

Student benefit: Builds university-ready research capability and portfolio. Applies directly to policy, law, international development, environment, data and media. Creates competitive edge for admissions, internships and scholarships.

4. Cross-Grade Assessment Rubric

Criterion	Suggested Weight	What It Measures
Knowledge accuracy	40%	Factual correctness, breadth of general awareness and grade-level command.
Understanding and connections	20%	Ability to explain, compare, classify and connect ideas across subjects.
Application and analysis	20%	Use of maps, data, sources, timelines, graphs, cases and evidence-based reasoning.
Communication	10%	Clear explanation, presentation quality, vocabulary, structure and response relevance.
Originality and research	10%	Questioning, source use, citation, independent thinking and depth of inquiry.

5. Teacher and School Guidance

- Use maps, atlases, timelines, images, charts and age-appropriate news sources regularly.
- For early grades, rely on pictures, storytelling, role-play, observations and oral explanations.
- For middle grades, add charts, short readings, projects, map tasks and cause-effect discussions.
- For senior grades, train students to evaluate sources, compare data, build arguments and present research findings.
- Localise examples without narrowing the syllabus: keep a balance of local, national, regional and global knowledge.

6. Recommended Resources

- Maps and atlases: scaled world maps, globes and age-appropriate digital map tools.
- Datasets: age-appropriate extracts from United Nations, World Bank, WHO and national public sources.
- Media-literacy tools: checklists for source verification, balanced summaries and misinformation awareness.
- Project templates: research question, evidence table, bibliography, presentation plan and reflection sheet.
- Assessment bank: progression from picture-based items to MCQs, source-based tasks, data analysis and policy reasoning.