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# India Matters



**Cambridge IGCSE India Studies  
Newsletter 3  
October 2009**

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*India Matters* sets out to support subject teachers in Pilot schools, aiming to keep Centres informed and seeking to encourage the spread of ideas and the exchange of good practice. Please keep in touch with feedback.

*India Matters* is published every other month and emailed to every contact address we have in each Pilot Centre. All India Studies teachers in your Centre should have a copy so please circulate it to everyone involved. There is no restriction on photocopying.

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## Cambridge IGCSE India Studies eDiscussion Forum

The IGCSE India Studies eDiscussion Forum is now live. You access it via CIE's Teacher Support site: [http://teachers.cie.org.uk/login/login\\_form](http://teachers.cie.org.uk/login/login_form)

If you do not have a personal log-in already, we advise that you sign up straight away as the eDiscussion Forum will be the major means by which Pilot schools communicate with each other and with Cambridge. For details of how to obtain a log-in, visit [http://www.cie.org.uk/contactus/faqs/teacher\\_support\\_access](http://www.cie.org.uk/contactus/faqs/teacher_support_access)

Once you have logged in, click the blue tab 'Community' and the green tab 'Discussion Forums'.

Forums are dedicated areas where you may

- Discuss and swap ideas about teaching strategies
- Share and seek advice on teaching materials
- Ask for suggestions about useful teaching resources
- Upload your own schemes of work, lesson plans, teaching notes, worksheets, activities, tests, favourite web links and other teaching materials
- Download similar materials that other teachers have contributed to use in your classroom (or to revise them to suit your own students or to add parts to your own materials to create even better ones).

All support documents are made available to Pilot schools on the Forum, including:

- The specimen question papers
- Pre-Course teaching notes, tips and resources
- The latest edition of the Resources Lists (currently, the third edition)
- Power Point presentations from the April 2009 video conference
- Power Point presentations and other materials from the September 2009 workshops
- A timeline of some significant events
- Back copies of *India Matters*.

## Teacher Workshops, September 2009

The two workshops went very well, providing a welcome opportunity for teachers to meet each other and swap ideas and contact details. The programme provided lots of opportunities to think about teaching and learning strategies, and to work together on various activities.

We are most grateful to India International School, Bengaluru and Utpal Shanghvi School, Mumbai for hosting these important training events, for providing us all with such excellent lunches and refreshments, and for such friendly hospitality.

Electronic copies of the training materials have been posted on the eDiscussion Forum.

## CIE moderation of your 2009 - 2010 end of year examination

If you are planning to hold an end of first year examination in 2010 on the syllabus for Paper 1, CIE will moderate your marking and send you a group performance report free of charge.

You will need to:

- Let us know when your examination will be, and how many students will be taking it
- Write your examination paper and marking scheme, modelled closely on the style and format of the published 0447/01 specimen paper

- Mark the work, with clear annotations that link to the mark scheme so your judgements can be followed and understood by our senior examiners (i.e. not just ticks and crosses)
- Send us the marked scripts plus your question paper and mark scheme, together with a word processed/typed list of your candidates in rank order.

What CIE will do:

- Moderate your marking
- Return your scripts with a collective report on the levels of performance of your candidates as a group, pointing out major strengths and any key weaknesses that need to be addressed.

CIE will then be in a position to use anonymised examples chosen from these scripts in feedback training on Paper 1 ahead of the first live examinations in summer 2011. If you would like to take advantage of free moderation and a group performance report, please let us know before 31 December 2009 by contacting Martin Jones via [international@cie.org.uk](mailto:international@cie.org.uk)

## Guides to teaching

There are three resources which help to provide guidance for teachers:

- The syllabus which defines the content and coverage required (breadth and depth).
- The assessment objectives which define the skills and approaches required.
- The specimen papers which show styles of assessment to be used.  
Please note that these are specimens only. You should expect other question-types to be used in the examinations. A good syllabus uses a range of question styles and avoids a formulaic approach.

Questions will focus on the application of knowledge and understanding, in contexts familiar and less familiar. Some questions will range across the syllabus, encouraging connections to be made between topics and concepts. Teaching should always encourage students to take a broad view and to see links and influences between different issues.

As the recent workshops demonstrated, the syllabus requires you to employ teaching styles that emphasise and develop skills of:

- Critical enquiry
- Understanding
- Judgement
- Problem-solving
- Reflection
- Independent learning

## Future teacher training

Whether you will be entering your first candidates for the examinations in May 2011 or 2012, the on-going support programme of meetings for teachers will help you to prepare for the course:

- Video Conference (between India and Cambridge), April 2010 with a special focus on Papers 2 and 3
- Workshop (in India), September/October 2010 including feedback on Paper 1 end of first year scripts

Are there other points CIE needs to address? If you have any special requests, let us know via the eDiscussion Forum.

## **Video conference DVD**

A DVD of the April video conference was sent to Pilot schools on 28 July. With its overview of the syllabus, this will provide a valuable reference tool for teachers as the course is taught for the first time. The four Power Point presentations used that day will also be found on the eDiscussion Forum. If you did not received your copy, please let us know by contacting Martin Jones via [international@cie.org.uk](mailto:international@cie.org.uk)

## **Using ICT in the classroom - an interactive image gallery**

Image slide shows are a good way of building or reinforcing understanding of concepts, definitions and chronology. On PCs, you are able to save the images into a folder, open the first image in preview and then click on the 'slideshow' option. This will run through all the images stored in that folder in sequence.

Image slideshows may be shared using free online services. If you register with sites such as <http://www.slide.com/> or <http://flickr.com/> you will be able to make use of their software to create online slideshows and then add them to a school intranet/departmental website.

These slide shows make good starter activities in various contexts in your classroom. For example:

- When introducing a topic, show a series of images and ask your students to note down features/facts/issues that strike them as important
- During the teaching of a topic, use a slideshow to prompt students to question or discuss a specific aspect of the subject
- As a revision classroom activity, show a series of images in a short period of time, with students having to memorise as many as possible to note down afterwards and explain why each is important.

## **Use of visual stimulus in questions in Paper 2 Section A**

The purpose of the photographs in Paper 2 Section A was raised at the recent Mumbai Teacher Workshop. The specimen paper includes two photographs in question 1 and one in question 2. None are to be used directly to answer any specific sub-question, but they nonetheless serve a specific purpose, helping candidates in the examination room to focus on the issue in breadth and in consequence, we hope, write more effective answers.

**Please keep in touch – with each other as well as CIE.**

## Appendix 1: visual resource bank - Paper 1 Theme 4

The idea for building up a visual resources bank has been well received: here is the next input from Cambridge. For this issue, we have chosen three cartoons and a map on the subject of India as a nuclear power. These might be of value when considering with your class various aspects of Paper 1 Theme 4 ('India & the world').



A cartoon from *The Australian*, published 2003  
[Download this image – 49k](#)



A US cartoon about the India-USA nuclear deal, published 2006  
[Download this image – 60k](#)



An Indian cartoon about the India-USA nuclear deal, *The Hindu*, 2007  
[Download this image – 46k](#)



Map showing the estimated ranges of the ballistic missiles (nuclear or conventional) that could be launched by India and Pakistan, 2004  
[Download this map – 28k](#)

If you have suggestions for specific visual items that we might circulate in future issues of *India Matters* and add to the teacher resource bank, please post them on the eDiscussion Forum, including details of what they are and where they came from.

## Appendix 2: Teacher Workshops photos

Teachers who attended a workshop on 14 or 15 September may like to have these pictures as mementos of successful and enjoyable days.

### Bengaluru



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