

**COLLEGE BOARD**  
**CHARGE TO THE ACADEMIC ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES**

The following draft is a list of charges—mission, responsibilities, functions—of the College Board's Academic Advisory Committee for the Social Sciences. The charges are assembled in the following categories:

- I) Organization and Administrative Functions
- II) Knowledge and Research of the Social Sciences
- III) Curriculum and Instruction
- IV) Measurement and Evaluation (Assessment)
- V) Professional Development

The social sciences are defined, at this time and by the History Academic Advisory Committee as the current social science disciplines that comprise the Advanced Placement® curricula including: Economics, Geography, Political Science (United States and Comparative), and Psychology. The use of the term "social science" is not meant to exclude the disciplines of Sociology and/or Anthropology.

**I. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS**

1. To inform and advise the College Board related to the specific disciplines that comprise the social sciences.
2. To consult and collaborate with the *Academic Advisory Committee for History* on matters of mutual goals, objectives and projects that pertain to the mission of the College Board, including such areas as:
  - a) Curriculum, materials and resources that serve to direct instruction
  - b) Teaching, instructional design and pedagogy
  - c) Research and assessment data that provide formative and summative information to teachers and to students concerning the rate of learning and rate of success
  - d) Technology, tools to be used by students and teachers to foster learning
  - e) Learning standards, common objectives and cognitive skills for students to demonstrate
  - f) Professional development, vehicles and models to assist teachers in the delivery of instruction and its assessment
3. To maintain an equitable balance of discipline representation on the Academic Advisory Committee for the Social Sciences.
4. To monitor and revise the Social Science Committee's (Charge) on a regular and routine basis so as to reflect changes within the mission of the College Board and changes within the disciplines of the social sciences.

5. To consult and collaborate with Regional College Board Offices concerning the goals and aims of the Academic Advisory Committee for Social Sciences and for matters related to the learning and teaching of the social sciences.

## **II. KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES**

1. To inform the College Board on important research and academic trends within the disciplines of the social sciences.
2. To act as a liaison between the College Board and professional organizations to facilitate sharing and collaboration within the various social sciences disciplines.
3. To use the knowledge and skills that comprise the social sciences disciplines in order to advise the College Board and to collaborate on activities, projects, and programs as directed.
4. To advise the College Board on the validity of the academic standards, preparation, and achievement for success in post-secondary education.
5. To inform the College Board about cognitive research related to the teaching of the social sciences.
  - a) When requested or directed by the College Board, to collaborate and work with new and current procedural, research, and action policies related to the teaching of the social sciences.

## **III. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

1. To develop a Social Science framework that guides the work and operations of the College Board, specifically in the development and quality of secondary social science curricula.
  - a. Provide a rationale for the study of the social sciences.
  - b. Specify social science thinking skills.
  - c. Identify the major content themes within the disciplines that comprise the social sciences.
  - d. Promote a variety of approaches to assessment.
  - e. Assess professional development needs and encourage the expansion of opportunities.
2. To advise and recommend to the College Board on valid and effective practices related to the teaching of the social sciences.
3. Advise and recommend to the College Board concerning reviews and revisions to Advanced Placement (AP<sup>®</sup>) social science courses.

4. At the request of the College Board, to review and make recommendations for the improvement of courses and course descriptions, study guides, or other instructional materials related to the teaching of Advanced Placement courses in the social sciences.
5. To consult and collaborate with the College Board activities related to pre-secondary school.
6. Advocate for equal access to post-secondary preparedness, opportunity, and success in the social sciences.

**IV. MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION (ASSESSMENT)**

1. To advise the College Board on an effective and comprehensive set of examinations in the social science disciplines for use in preparation for college and in-college selection, placement, credit and exemption.
2. To recommend research, validity studies and curriculum surveys that aid in improving the examinations; help institutions make better use of the examinations.
3. Maintain a collaborative effort with *AP Test Development Committees* in the social sciences.
4. As directed by the College Board, to advise test development committees concerning issues related to assessment within the social sciences disciplines.

**V. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. To advise and recommend valid and effective technologies for the learning and teaching of the social sciences.
2. To advise and recommend conditions for teacher education and certification in the social sciences.
3. To serve as an advocate for secondary school teachers.
4. To develop and recommend programs that provide effective communication of information related to the content and the teaching of the social sciences.
5. To advise the College Board on the content and procedural features of the continuing professional development experiences for teachers within the social sciences.
6. To review curricular materials and instructional approaches within College Board publications.