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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (S.A.)
SOLOMON MAHLANGU FREEDOM COLLEGE
SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

This report is largely based on the minutes of a departmental meeting at which there was full attendance with the exception of the head. of the department, comde Zola, who had duties elsewhere. However, the other teacher of the History of the Struggle was present.

HISTORY OF THE STRUGGLE:

1. We have found it necessary to teach this subject in all M and not only in Form I. The following reasons were given:

(8.) Many, if not most, students go into forms higher than Form I on arrival.

(b) Form I students lack the conceptual ability necessary to understand the subject in sufficient depth.

. (c) The format and orientation of the lessons is radically different to History which was originally supposed to incorporate the History of the Struggle from Form II.

2. It is pmposed that the History of the Struggle (H. of S.) should concentrate on the late 19th century to the present day with earlier periods dealt with in History. The reasons are that this will avoid repetition and will provide time for the proposed changes in the History syllabus outlined below.

HI STORY

1. We have been teaching History from Form I and not from Form II as in the original curriculum. TWO factors were taken into account when making this decision; 5

,/ (a) The very low level of the students' general historical knowledge.

. J (b) The department agreed that while South African History should, form a large part of the syllabus, History should. also provide a broader global perspective within which South African History can be properly located. This will also provide the necessary "background" for teaching of Development of Societies which i cannot deal fully with events such as the French or Russian revolution or the world Wars. We propose that in addition to South African History, European and North American History should be dealt with in Forms IV and V.

(see the appended list of suggested topics)

DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETIES

1. We still need to clearly define how the topics in each syllabiis , should 'be taught with respect to the different disciplines. :

6 Mesa .7 Several of the D/S topics such as "sigygxy in Africa" should 'be dealt with in History, while in the History syllabus topics such as "The Rise of Mercantilism" should be dealt with in D/S".

34 s Mate, Case. It is felt that Histbry, instead of the broad conceptual frame- 5MW .554. work provided by D/S, should deal with "case histories". For

(PU(W C522,? y" example, instead of the general features of imperialism it must 3; L ,1, . concentrate on the effects of imperialism a t i ontin nto

CQWW a W 3 In short, both the History and D/S syllabigmmnf'ggkgt oEe'aohqibmA CUT if Ab\$f other on the basis of a clear definition of their essential

(QFWN g Wk, YR . differences.

GEOGRAPHY

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At the moment Forms I to V deal almost exclusively with Africa and South Africa. To see S.A. in the global context a broad A . outline of world physical and economic geography is necessary, Lack of this general knowledge prejudices the teaching of History and D/s. History and Geography between them should strive to: develop the students' overall awareness of time and space, V and this cannot be limited to one country or continent. It was also pointed out that in the earlier Forms students enjoy: 2% memorising the facts which provide the base from which the more advanced conceptual analysis in the higher Forms can be 'developed.

NOTE: We felt that we should use the opportunity presented by the 3rd National Education Council to discuss our proposals in terms of the general principals involved and not get bogged down on details.

APPENDIX: Suggested history topics for Forms IV and V.

FORM IV. FORM V.

Europe 1789 to 1871 Imperialism and monopoly capital

The French Revolution leading to WW1 . 1

The Napoleonic Era Russian revolution/civil war/NEP

The Metternich period (to 1830) Socialist reconstruction

The revolutions of 1830/48 Capitalist growth/class struggles

The Crimean War (1854/6) Depression and Fascism

Italian and German unification Development of Anti-colonial movement

Abolition of serfdom in Russia WW2 and the defeat of fascism

The Franco-Prussian war Emergence of Socialist system

Socialist movement and the Paris

Commune Development of the National Liberation

Movement. 7

North America ' Cold War/Fight for peace/the

War of Independence, causes and continuing crisis of capitalism results

Economic and political developments

up to the civil war (1860/5)

Anti-slavery Movement

Civil War

Reconstruction period.