

MPSD206 Democratic Citizenship Education

ECTS Value: 3
Self-Study Hours: 36

Contact Hours: 15
Assessment Hours: 24

Overall Objectives and Outcomes

Citizenship Education forms part of PSCD throughout compulsory education and constitutes a major means through which the learning area *Education for Democracy* within the Malta National Curriculum Framework (2012) is meant to be delivered. This module aims to develop course participants' knowledge and ability to critically engage and address issues in Citizenship Education. Throughout this module topics that will be covered include: democracy, the notion of freedom, equality, diversity and respect, responsibility, active citizenship and human rights.

By the end of this module, the learner will be able to:

Competences

- a) Justify the teaching of citizenship education in primary, middle and secondary schools to all stakeholders including students and parents;
- b) Enable school children to increasingly become active citizens by developing the necessary knowledge, skills and values;
- c) Support children's ability to make decisions independently in the areas related to citizenship;
- d) Identify opportunities within the school that can offer experiences of active citizenship and democratic education.

Knowledge

- a) Appreciate the value of democracy and the roles of democratic institutions.
- b) Critique the meaning of freedom, including freedom of expression (free press and other media), freedom of religion, freedom of association (joining political parties, trade unions, pressure groups, movements), political freedoms (voting rights) and economic freedoms (freedom of occupation, to invest, to trade, to own property and to donate to charity).
- c) Critique the meaning of equality in its many interpretations, including the differences between equality of opportunity, equality of outcomes, political equality, non-discrimination and equality before the law.
- d) Demonstrate the importance of diversity and respect, including notions of tolerance, multi-culturalism, gender equality, homophobia, xenophobia, racism, identity politics and open-mindedness.
- e) Outline the importance of responsibility including responsibility expressed as financial independence and the notion of the entrepreneurial self.
- f) Define the notion of Political Literacy and the importance of media, environmental awareness and sustainable development, consumer rights, voluntary organisations and globalisation.
- g) Demonstrate critical knowledge of what is meant by the idea of Active Citizenship at classroom / school / community levels and the related notions of civil rights, duties and the rule of law.
- h) Critically understand the notion of human rights and the international institutions established to protect them, including the UN and related important documents such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Skills

- a) Identify areas and aspects within primary and secondary school that can serve as opportunities for active citizenship (Eco-School Council, Student's Council, School Assemblies, Debate Groups)
- b) Critically engage with the subject content of Citizenship Education
- c) Apply knowledge and subject content related to citizenship education in the development of engaging lessons

- d) Deliver citizenship education lessons in line with the requirements of the Maltese Learning Outcomes Framework and Official Syllabi.

Assessment Methods

This module will be assessed through: Assignment, Practical Task.

Suggested Readings

Core Reading List:

- 1) Hoskins, B. and Gemen Janmaat, J. (2019). Education, Democracy and Inequality Political Engagement and Citizenship Education in Europe. London: Pelgrave McMillan
- 2) Kerry J Kennedy. (2019). Civic and Citizenship Education in Volatile Times Preparing Students for Citizenship in the 21st Century. Singapore:Springer

Supplementary Reading List:

- 1) Banks, J.A. (2007). Diversity and Citizenship Education: Global Perspectives. Jossey-Bass Education.
- 2) Arthur, J. Davies, I. and Hahn, C. (2008). SAGE Handbook of Education for Citizenship and Democracy. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- 3) McDonough, K. and Feinberg, W. (Eds.) (2006). Citizenship and Education in Liberal-Democratic Societies: Teaching for Cosmopolitan Values and Collective Identities. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 4) Gaudelli, W. (2016). Global citizenship Education. New York:Routledge