

Original Research Article

A Comparative Study of Thai and Indonesia High School History Curriculum

Husen Waedoloh^{1*}, Hieronymus Purwanta¹, Suryo Ediyono²

¹Department of History, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta 57126, Indonesia

²Department of Arabic Literature, Faculty of Cultural Science, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta 57126, Indonesia

Article History

Received: 28.04.2022

Accepted: 03.06.2022

Published: 07.06.2022

Journal homepage:

<https://www.easpublisher.com>

Quick Response Code



Abstract: This article compares educational systems and high school historical curriculum between Thai and Indonesian. The method used in this article is a qualitative descriptive method. The data referred to in this article are from the Thai Basic Education Core Curriculum 2008 and the Indonesian Curriculum 2013. Thailand and Indonesia have the same education system. As for high school history subjects, there are similarities and differences. Both countries emphasize this subject, with all students required to study history. The difference is the content of Indonesian history subject is much more than Thai. The time allotted for studying Thai history is much less than Indonesian history.

Keywords: Education System, history curriculum, high school.

Copyright © 2022 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution **4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0)** which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.

INTRODUCTION

Education is defined as a learning process that promotes individual and societal growth through the transfer of knowledge, training, cultural inheritance, creativity, sustaining academic progress, and creating a body of knowledge that results from the arrangement of the environment. Chavalit Chukampang (Chukampeang, 2010) said that education is the key to developing the country into a society. Therefore, education is very important to humans. Improving education, systematic teaching, and learning must have all the elements. The key educational elements are 1) educational philosophy, 2) curriculum, 3) teaching 4) assessment are the key educational elements. 5) the instructor, 6) the students, and 7) the educational institutions (Kaewwara *et al.*, 2016). The curriculum, one of the elements mentioned above of educational management, is extremely important to students. Because it determines all the content that students must learn, which is consistent with the opinion of Oliva (Oliva, 2005) defined curriculum as 1) curriculum is what is taught in school, 2) curriculum is the program of study, 3) curriculum is content, 4) curriculum is a set of subjects, 5) curriculum is a set of materials, 6) The curriculum determines the order of learning, 7) The curriculum is a set of practical objectives, 8) The curriculum determines what is to be learned, 9) The curriculum is everything in a school including special classes, activities, recommendations, 10) Curriculum is what is taught both inside and outside the school

through the school, 11) curriculum is everything planned by the school, 12) curriculum is the set of experiences that are delivered to the learners in the school, 13) curriculum is the outcome of each learner's experience in school.

Thailand and Indonesia are neighboring countries, both of which are members of ASEAN, although both countries are close to each other and are members of ASEAN. But these two countries are very different from each other. Whether in matters of religion, tradition, culture, politics, government, population, etc., Thailand has 66,19 million people, with most of the population practicing Buddhism. Islam is the second-largest religion, with approximately 4.9% followers (Nasional Statistical Office, 2020). Indonesia has a total population of 237,6 million, with most of the population practicing Islam. Although the two countries are different, what they have in common is education a lot to education for the nation's citizens to have the quality to develop their country. History is one of the important subjects that both countries have included in the curriculum for students to study the history of one's nation and other nations. History is one of the important subjects of study in any country. It is one of the subjects that most countries worldwide have placed in their national education. We will understand the background, development, and various problems encountered in the past and present by solving problems by studying history; thus, history is involved in developing national

*Corresponding Author: Husen Waedoloh

Department of History, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Sebelas Maret, Surakarta 57126, Indonesia

spirit and identity and improving living conditions in the future.

Thailand currently uses Basic Education Core Curriculum 2008 by the curriculum mentioned above by the Ministry of Education prepared for learners in 8 learning areas, namely 1) Thai language, 2) Mathematics, 3) science, 4) social studies, religion, and culture, 5) health and physical education, 6) arts, 7) occupation and technology 8) foreign languages. Each subject group has a learning unit. History subjects in the Thai curriculum are part of the subject Social studies, religion, and cultural groups are the subjects that students must study (Kementrian Pendidikan Thailand, 2008).

Indonesia has implemented several curricula to improve the intelligence of the nation's existence in line with the Basic Law of the Year 1945. The current curriculum in use is called the Curriculum of 2013, and before that was the Curriculum of 2006, also known as the *Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan* (KTSP). Indonesia places a great emphasis on history. It can be seen that the curriculum of 2013 includes history subjects. There are two categories of history subjects at the high school level: Indonesian history. All students must study, the history of social sciences for students who choose to study this major.

So this article will describe two main topics a comparison of Thai and Indonesian education systems and compare history curriculum at High schools in Thailand and Indonesia.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research was conducted using a qualitative descriptive approach; namely, research that seeks to carefully explain several social situations in a description of the five. The data is not related to numbers (Arikunto, 2010). The method used in this research is literature study or library research and conducting observational studies from previous studies and library research. Researchers study and collect data through literature and reading sources that support and are relevant to the research. In this case, literature research is carried out through the Thai Basic Education Core Curriculum 2008, Indonesia Curriculum 2013, books, and the internet.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Thai and Indonesian education system

A. Thai education system

The current Thai education system, as stipulated in the National Education Act 1999 Amended (No. 2) 1999 Management system of primary Education 6 years (6-grade levels), three years of lower secondary education (3 levels), and three years of upper secondary education (3 levels) or 6-3-3 system (Kementrian Pendidikan, 2010).

Thailand's education is classified as school-based, non-formal, and informal. Other acts won't separate formal and informal education. Education in the system, non-formal education, and informal education are considered "Models of Learning" in English. The new approach allows educational institutions to be organized in all three ways and compare all three types of learning transfers. According to the Education Act, Section 15 states that there are three forms of education management, namely, Education in the system, non-formal Education, and informal Education are:

- 1) Formal Education, It is an education that determines the aims, method of study, curriculum, and duration of the study, measurement, and evaluation which is a condition of certain graduation
- 2) formal education; it's a battle with flexibility in setting goals, educational management model, duration of the study, measurement and evaluation which is an important condition for educational success. The content and curriculum must be appropriate and consistent with the problems and needs of each group.
- 3) Informal education allows learners to learn on their own based on their interests, potential, readiness, and opportunities by studying from the person, experience, society, environment, or other sources of knowledge.

Formal education; There are two levels, basic education and higher education.

a) Basic education

Basic education consists of education organized not less than twelve years before higher education; classification and types of basic education to be as prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations Classification or comparison of non-formal education. Non-formal education, or informal education, is by the regulations prescribed by the Ministerial Law.

Education is the system that is basic education is divided into three levels.

- i. Pre-primary education is an education for children aged 3-6 years.
- ii. Primary education usually takes six years to study.
- iii. Secondary education is divided into two levels as follows:
 - Junior high school education usually takes time to study for three years.
 - High school education usually takes time to study three years, divided into two types as follows:
 - 1) General education. education management is a basis for further education at the higher education level.
 - 2) Type of vocational Education, It is an education to develop knowledge and skills in a career or continuing education at the highest vocational level.

b) Higher Education is divided into a lower level and a degree level.

Compulsory education of Thailand is nine years, from grade 1 of primary school (*Prathom 1*) to Grade 9 of junior high school (*Matthayom 3*).

B. Indonesian education system

As for the education system in Indonesia, there are many variations. Whether it is a basic education, Special Education, etc., data from the National Statistical Office of Indonesia (Badan Pusat Statistik: BPS) stated that In 2015, Indonesia had a population of 109.7 million students, or 42.7 percent of the total population. Indonesia has the 3rd largest education system in Asia and 4th after China, India, and the United States. The government has given the Ministry of Education the responsibility of planning and issuing education policies to account for 84% of schools in Indonesia, with the remaining 16 percent being overseen by the Ministry of Religion (Ministry of Commerce, 2017).

Indonesia has two types of Islamic schools under the responsibility of religion: boarding schools (*Pesantren*) and schools (*Madrasah*). In addition, the Ministry of Religion also oversees the university state Islamic Colleges.

Indonesia has a basic education system consisting of pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten, primary and secondary education. Nine years of compulsory education, namely six years of primary education and three years of junior high school, aiming to develop a quality population to society. The details are as follows (Pemerintah Indonesia, 2008).

a) Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten level education (optional)

This is an education for students aged 4-6 years old. It takes three years to prepare physically and mentally before entering primary school.

b) Basic education (9 years compulsory)

It is a compulsory education consisting of 6 years of primary education, Indonesian people called *Sekolah Dasar* (SD) and three years of *Sekolah Menengah Pertama* (SMP) or junior high school.

c) Senior high education or *Sekolah Menengah Atas* (SMA)

It is an education at the level following the nine years of compulsory education. Students must choose to suit their own and family needs, which can be divided into general courses. Three years of high school or three years of vocational education.

d) Higher education

Table 1: Comparison of Thai and Indonesian School Structures

Thailand		Indonesia	
Level	Educational Form	Level	Educational Form
P.1	<i>Prathom Suksa</i> (Primary School)	1	<i>Sekolah Dasar</i> (SD) (Primary School)
P.2		2	
P.3		3	
P.4		4	
P.5		5	
P.6		6	
M.1	<i>Mathayom Suksa Ton</i> (Junior High School)	7	<i>Sekolah menengah pertama</i> (SMP) (Junior High School)
M.2		8	
M.3		9	
M.4	<i>Mathayom Suksa Plai</i> (Senior high School)	10	<i>Sekolah menengah atas</i> (SMA) (Senior high School)
M.5		11	
M.6		10	

The table shows that Thailand and Indonesia have the same education system, starting with pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten for 3-6 years, then primary school for six years, and junior high for three years. It's compulsory education for Thailand and Indonesia. Then, students can enter senior high school based on their aptitude for three years.

2. Positions history subject in Thailand and Indonesian curriculum

History is included in the school curriculum because it teaches the country's background and international nations' past and present progress. The Thai government requires all students to study history. Thai education requires eight subject groups. Each subject had learning standards. Learners should know, practice, and have morals, ethics, and desirable values; after finishing basic education. History subject in Thai curriculum is one of Social Studies, Religion, and Culture learning subject group. The table shows the structure.

Table 2: Thai education curriculum structure

Learning subject group	Learning standard
1. Thai language	(1) Reading (2) Writing (3) Listening, Viewing, and Speaking (4) Principles of Thai usage (5) Literature.
2. Mathematics	(1) Numbers and operations (2) Measurements (3) Geometry (4) Algebra (5) Data analysis and probability (6) Mathematical skills and Processes.
3. Science	(1) Life sciences (2) Physical sciences (3) Earth and Space Sciences (5) Technology.
4. Social studies, religion, and culture	(1) Religion, Morality, Ethics (2) Civic duties, Culture, and Social life (3) Economics (4) History (5) Geography.
5. Health education and physical education	(1) Human Growth and Development (2) Life and Family (3) Movement exercise, Playing games, Thai and international sports; (3) Health Promotion, Performance, and Disease prevention; (5) Life safety.
6. Art	(1) Visual arts (2) Music (3) Dramatic arts.
7. Career and technology	(1) Livelihood and Family (2) Design and Technology (3) Information and Communication Technology (4) Occupation.
8. Foreign languages	(1) Language for communication (2) Language and Culture (3) Language and its relationship with other learning subject groups (4) Language and its relationship with people and the world.

The above table shows eight subject groups identified in the Thai Basic Education Curriculum. Each subject group will have learning standards or subjects that learners must study. In the learning subject group of social studies, religion, and culture, there are five learning standards, which are: (1) religion, morality,

ethics, (2) civic duty, culture, and social life, (3) economics, (4) history and, (5) Geography. History subject is one of the subjects in the social sciences group. The structure of the time for studying history in senior high school is the following table.

Table 3: Course time structure Social Studies, Religion, and Culture, for senior high school

Course	Weekly class time (hours)		
	M.4	M.5	M.6
Other subjects; 1. Religion, morality, ethics, 2. civic duty, culture, and social life, 3. economics, 4. geography	3	3	3
History	1	1	1
Total	4	4	4

According to the above table, in the subject group of social studies, religion, and culture in Thai curriculum, there are four lessons/hour per week in total, three lessons/hour for religion, morality, ethics, civic duty, culture, social life, economics, and geography. History subject takes 1 lesson/hour per week.

Indonesian's senior high school curriculum structure is divided into two groups, general and interested majors. Such structures can be viewed in the senior high school table. The structure is as follows (Abrar, 2017).

Table 4: General Group of Senior High School Curriculum Structure

Subjects	Weekly time allocation		
	X	XI	XII
Group A (general)			
Religion and manner of education	3	3	3
Pancasila and Citizenship Education	2	2	2
Indonesian	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4
Indonesian History	2	2	2
English	2	2	2

Subjects	Weekly time allocation		
	X	XI	XII
Group B (General)			
Art and culture	2	2	2
Sports physical Education and health	3	3	3
Craft and Entrepreneurship	2	2	2

Number of hours group A and B per week	24	24	24
Group C (Specialization)			
Subjects of academic interest	9 or 12	12 or 16	12 or 16
Cross-interest electives and/or deepening of interest	6 or 9	4 or 8	4 or 8
Number of hours for groups A, B, and C per week	42	44	44

Table 5: Senior High School Curriculum Structure of Interested Major

Subjects		Weekly Time Allocation		
Natural Science Major		X	XII	XII
1.	Mathematics	3	4	4
2.	Biology	3	4	4
3.	Physics	3	4	4
4.	Chemical	3	4	4
Social Science Major				
1.	Geography	3	4	4
2.	History	3	4	4
3.	Sociology	3	4	4
4.	Economy	3	4	4
Culture Major				
1.	Indonesian Language and Literature	3	4	4
2.	English Language and Literature	3	4	4
3.	Foreign Languages and Literature (Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, German, and French)	3	4	4
4.	Anthropology	3	4	4
Elective Subjects				
Group C (Specialization)				
Cross-interest elective subjects and deepening of interest		6 or 9	4 or 8	4 or 8

History is a specific subject of study from the table above in the Indonesian curriculum, which is not included with other subjects like the Thai curriculum. If we look at all the class hours of history subjects in Indonesian schools, usually study per semester for 4,5 months, the Indonesian History course takes 36 hours per semester.

For students who choose the Social Science Major, all history subjects will be studied 54-72 hours per term; therefore, for the position of Thai and Indonesian history subjects, there are similarities and differences. The similarity is students from both countries are required to study history. The difference is that Thai history subject is part of social sciences and just takes time to study for 1 hour per week or approximately 20 hours per semester.

History is a specific subject in the Indonesian curriculum and is not a subject in other disciplines. History is divided into two parts: Indonesia history, which will take 36 hours of study per semester, and history subjects in the social sciences major taking 54-72 hours of study time per semester.

3. The content of history subjects of Thai and Indonesian

If comparing the content of Thai history subjects with Indonesia, it is found that the content of Thai history subjects is less than Indonesia very much. Indonesia will have more content and wider. The

content of Thai that students will have to study seven main contents of history subject. The content will explain the main Thai-related subjects, such as the various royal dynasties that played a role in the formation of the Thai nation, the works of members of the royal family, and people who have played a role in Thai history and culture (Kementrian Pendidikan Nasional, 2009).

Content in Indonesian history, learners must study 10 topics, starting from the topic of prehistoric times to the revolutionary era; the course content will focus on the background of prehistoric Indonesian nations up to the country's reform era (Kementrian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 2020). The content students study in Indonesian history will find a greater depth and wider knowledge for students who choose to study social sciences major. The history course (Social Sciences) content has 13 topics students must study. From the topic of basic principles of history to the topic of Indonesia and the international revolution in technology and communication (Kementrian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, 2017).

Therefore, it can be explained that the Indonesia history will focus on the situation within Indonesia. The history in the major of social sciences describes the history of Indonesia that can not escape from the history of other nations, such as the advancement in academic knowledge and technology. A comparison of history subjects that students must

study in Thailand and Indonesia can be seen in the table below.

Table 6: Comparison of the content of history subjects in Thailand and Indonesia

Thailand	Indonesia	
History	Indonesian History	History of Interests
Historical Time and Period	Prehistoric	Basic Principles of History
History Method	Hindu-Buddhist Kingdoms	The early civilizations of the world community and Indonesia
Human Development	Islamic Kingdoms	The development of traditional countries in Indonesia
Important events that show the change in mankind	Western colonization	Indonesia during the colonial period
Thai Nation Background	National Movement	The great world revolution and its effects
Hero or important person in Thai history	Proclamation and Struggle to defend the independence	The rise of Indonesian heroism and nationality
Thai Culture and Wisdom	Liberal Democracy	The proclamation and development of the Indonesian state and nationality
	Guided Democracy	Struggle to defend Indonesia's independence
	The New Order	The world during the Cold War and global political changes
	Reformation	Indonesia during the Liberal Democracy and Guided Democracy
		Indonesia during the New Order
		Indonesia during the Reformation
		Indonesia and the World during the Information Technology Revolution

CONCLUSIONS

Thailand and Indonesian education systems are similar and not very different. The compulsory education between the two countries is nine years, six years of primary school, and three years of junior high school. After that, they continue to study at the senior high school for three years. At this level, students can choose a major that they want to study and specialize in according to the major that the school has set to prepare for admission to higher education. There are similarities and differences in the history curriculum of Thailand and Indonesia at the senior high school. The similarity is that both countries emphasize the subject by including history subjects in the curriculum for all students to study. The difference is that Indonesian history subjects have more content than Thailand. And in the senior high school curriculum of Indonesian, there are two categories of history subjects, Indonesian history, which is the general category that all senior high school students must study, and the history of social sciences for students who choose to study in this major. History of the Thai curriculum, history is one of the subjects in a social studies group. Study time is 1 hour per week. Indonesia curriculum takes 2 hours per week for Indonesian history and history of social sciences takes 3 hours per week for Class 10 and 4 hours per week for Class 11 and 12.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research did not receive any funding or financial support from any public or private body.

REFERENCES

- Abrar. (2017). Kurikulum Sejarah Jenjang SMA: Sebuah Perbandingan Indonesia-Australia. *Jurnal Pendidikan Sejarah*, 4(1), 14–31. <https://doi.org/10.21009/jps.041.02>
- Arikunto, S. (2010). *Prosedur Penelitian: Suatu Pendekatan Praktik*. Rineka Cipta.
- Chukampeang, C. (2010). *Penelitian Kurikulum dan Pengajaran*. Universitas Mahasarakham.
- Commerce, M. of. (2017). *Sistem Pendidikan di Indonesia*. Thai Trade Center.
- Inonesia, P. (2008). *Peraturan Pemerintah Republik Indonesia Nomor 47 Tahun 2008*. Pemerintah Republik Indonesia. [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/http://simpuh.kemenag.go.id/regulasi/pp_47_08.pdf](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/http://simpuh.kemenag.go.id/regulasi/pp_47_08.pdf)
- Kaewwara, J., Manekoson, C., & Intaya, Y. (2016). A Comparative Study Of Thai And Japanese Primary Education Curricula. *Warasal Bandhit Vijai*, 7(2).
- Kebudayaan, Kementerian Pendidikan dan. (2020). *Model Silabus Mata Pelajaran Sekolah Menengah Atas/Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan/Madrasah Aliyah/Madrasah Aliyah Kejuruan (SMA/MA) Mata Pelajaran Sejarah Indonesia*. Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan.
- Kebudayaan, Kementerian Pendidikan dan. (2017). *Silabus Mata Pelajaran Sekolah Menengah Atas/Madrasah Aliyah (SMA/MA), Mata Pelajaran Sejarah Peminatan*. Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan.
- Kementerian Pendidikan Nasional. (2009).

- Kurikulum Inti Pendidikan Dasar 2008*. Rongpim Chumchon Sahakorn Karnkaseth Heng Prateth Thai.
- Office, N. S. (2020). *The Number of Inhabitant Throughtout the Kingdom as Evidenced by the Civil Regitration*. *CIA World Book Fact*.
 - Oliva, P. F. (2005). *Developing the Curriculum*. Pearson Education Inc...
 - Pendidikan, K. (2010). *Undang-Undang Pendidikan Nasional 1999 Revisi (Nomor, 2) Tahun 2002 dan (Nomor 3) Tahun 2010* (Issue Nomor 2).
 - Thailand, K. P. (2008). *Kurikulum Inti Pendidikan Dasar*. Chumchon Sahakorn Karnkaseth Heng Prateth Thai.

Cite This Article: Husen Waedoloh, Hieronymus Purwanta, Suryo Ediyono (2022). A Comparative Study of Thai and Indonesia High School History Curriculum. *East African Scholars J Edu Humanit Lit*, 5(6), 139-145.