Contents

How to use *Social Science and the Humanities…*

Before you use this book, read the information on these pages. It will help you to understand how it works. The aim of this book is to help you learn more about a range of social science and humanities subjects, to develop relevant skills, and to reflect upon important ideas in the social sciences and humanities.

Task Types

To help you in your learning, there are three kinds of tasks:

- **Exercises** focus on increasing your *knowledge* of the subjects in this book.
- **Activities** focus on developing and practicing important social science *skills* such as inferring, reasoning, comparing and contrasting, interpreting graphs and charts and statistics, understanding cartoons and thinking critically.
- **Discussions** focus on how the issues and ideas in the book relate to you, your community and society. They encourage you to develop your understanding by expressing your opinion and listening to the views of others.
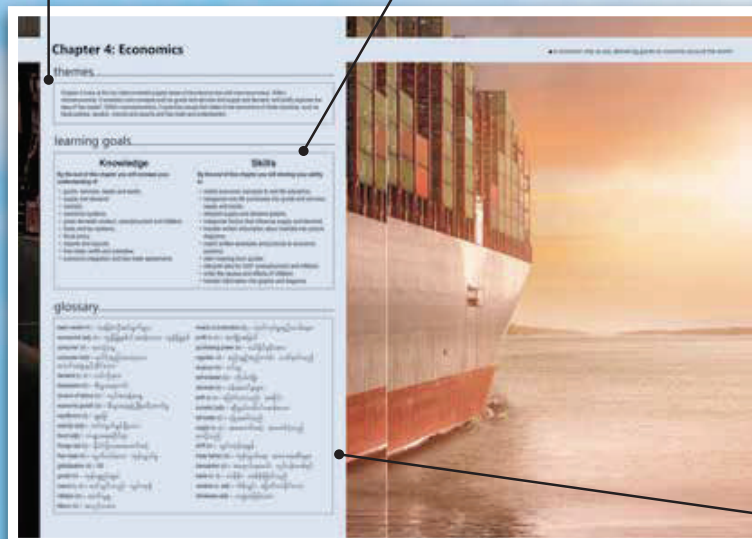
Structure

This book is divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 briefly introduces social science and the humanities and some of the main subjects within those areas of study. Chapters 2–6 explore some of those subjects in detail. We look at philosophy and ethics, the environment, economics, development and public health. Throughout the book we build upon, and show links between, topics that we have previously explored.

Before each chapter…

… read the *Themes* to prepare you for the main ideas in each chapter.

… look at the *Learning Goals*. These will help you to identify key knowledge and skills covered in the course. They will also provide guidelines to evaluate your progress through the course.

… there is a *glossary* of key words and phrases. Read them before the chapter or refer to them if you see a word in **bold** in the text that you do not know.

As you read…

… every section and subsection starts with a *Preview*. These encourage you to think about the topic you are going to study. They focus on what you already know, and your ideas about the topic.

… *Activities* are designed to help you practise useful skills. These include inferring, interpreting data, comparing and contrasting and thinking critically.

… *Exercises* develop your ability to work with information. They ask you to find and think about information in texts by answering questions about them.

… *Discussions* encourage you to discuss the ideas in the text and how they relate to important or controversial issues affecting your community and society.

Additionally…

… there are *Focus on…* sections, which look at the main theme of the section in relation to one or more countries in the region.