

Modern History

(ATAR)

Pre-requisite: A minimum of a 'B' grade in Year 10 HaSS is recommended

Students will study the forces that have shaped today's world and develop a broader, deeper comprehension of the world in which they live. While the focus is on the 20th century, the course refers to formative changes from the late 18th century and encourages students to make connections with the changing world of the 21st century. Modern History enhances students' curiosity, imagination and their appreciation of larger themes, individuals, movements, events and ideas that have shaped the contemporary world.

Humanities & Social Science

Courses

Course structure

Year 11

Unit 1 – Understanding the modern world

- This unit examines developments of significance in the modern era, including the ideas that inspired them and their far-reaching consequences.
- Students examine one development or turning point that has helped to define the modern world.
- Students explore crucial changes, for example, the application of reason to human affairs; the transformation of production, capitalism and consumption, transport and communications; the challenge to social hierarchy and hereditary privilege, and the assertion of inalienable rights; and the new principles of government by consent.
- Through their studies, students explore the nature of the sources for the study of modern history and build their skills in historical method through inquiry.
- The key conceptual understandings covered in this unit are: what makes a historical development significant; the changing nature and usefulness of sources; the changing representations and interpretations of the past; and the historical legacy of these developments for the Western world and beyond.

Unit 2 – Movements for change in the 20th century

- This unit examines significant movements for change in the 20th century that led to change in society, including people's attitudes and circumstances.
- Through a detailed examination of one major 20th century movement, students investigate the ways in which individuals, groups and institutions have challenged existing political structures, accepted social organisation, and prevailing economic models, to transform societies.
- The key conceptual understandings covered in this unit are: the factors leading to the development of movements; the methods adopted to achieve effective change; the changing nature of these movements; and changing perspectives of the value of these movements and how their significance is interpreted.

Humanities & Social Science

Courses

Year 12

Unit 3 – Modern nations in the 20th century

- This unit examines the characteristics of modern nations in the 20th century; the crises that confronted nations, their responses to these crises and the different paths nations have taken to fulfil their goals.
- Students study the characteristics of one nation. They investigate crises that challenged the stability of government, the path of development that was taken and the social, economic and political order that was either established or maintained.
- Students examine the ways in which the nation dealt with internal divisions and external threats. They emerge with a deeper understanding of the character of a modern nation.
- The key conceptual understandings covered in this unit are the reliability and usefulness of evidence; cause and effect; continuity and change; significance; empathy; contestability; and changing representations and interpretations.

Unit 4 – The modern world since 1945

- This unit examines some significant and distinctive features of the modern world within the period 1945–2001 in order to build students' understanding of the contemporary world – that is, why we are here at this point in time.
- These include changes to the nature of the world order: shifting international tensions, alliances and power blocs; the emergence of Asia as a significant international political and economic force, and the nature of engagement by and with Australia; the nature of various conflicts and regional and international attempts to create peace and security.
- The key conceptual understandings covered in this unit are: causation; continuity and change; historical significance and changing perspectives and interpretations of the past; and contestability.