

Modern History (General)

Studying the Modern History General course exposes students to a variety of historical sources, including government papers, extracts from newspapers, letters, diaries, photographs, cartoons, paintings, graphs and secondary sources, in order to understand the historical narrative including cause and effect, and the forces influencing people and events.

Through the process of historical inquiry, students are encouraged to question historical sources; identify various representations and versions of history; use evidence to formulate and support their own interpretations; and communicate their findings in a variety of ways.

Humanities & Social Science

Courses

Course Structure

Year 11

Unit 1 – People, place and time

- This unit allows students to become aware of the broad sweep of history and our place within the historical narrative.
- Students become aware of the values, beliefs and traditions within a society, the continuity between different societies and different time periods, and the importance of individuals within a time period.

Unit 2 – Power and authority

- Students learn that societies consist of individuals and institutions that have various types of power and authority and that these interact with each other.
- Students learn how power and authority is distributed throughout a group or society, that individuals and groups seek to influence the structures of power and authority and the difficulties of using these structures in a just or equitable manner.
- In learning about the structures and institutions of societies, students make comparisons and judgements about other societies and their own society.

Humanities & Social Science

Courses

Year 12

Unit 3 – Societies and change

- Students learn about the evolving nature of societies and the various forces for continuity and change that exist.
- Students learn that some values, beliefs and traditions are linked to the identity of a society.
- They also learn that, in any period of change, there are those individuals and institutions that support change, but others that oppose it, and that there are different interpretations of the resultant society.

Unit 4 – Historical trends and movements

- Students learn that, throughout history, there have been events, ideas, beliefs and values that have contributed to underlying historical trends and movements.
- Students learn that historical trends and movements have particular underlying ideas, that different methods and strategies are used to achieve change, and that there are consequences for continuity and change.