



Highfields State
Secondary College

Semester 2 Course Overview

Faculty: Humanities

Subject: History

Year level: 7

The Ancient World

The Year 7 curriculum provides a study of history from the time of the earliest human communities to the end of the ancient period, approximately 60 000 BC (BCE) – c.650 AD (CE). It was a period defined by the development of cultural practices and organised societies. The study of the ancient world includes the discoveries (the remains of the past and what we know) and the mysteries (what we do not know) about this period of history, in a range of societies in places including Australia, Egypt and China.

The content provides opportunities to develop historical understanding through key concepts, including evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy, significance and contestability. These concepts may be investigated within a particular historical context to facilitate an understanding of the past and to provide a focus for historical inquiries.

The history content at this year level involves two strands: Historical Knowledge and Understanding and Historical Skills. These strands are interrelated and should be taught in an integrated way; and in ways that are appropriate to specific local contexts. The order and detail in which they are taught are programming decisions.

A framework for developing students' historical knowledge, understanding and skills is provided by inquiry questions through the use and interpretation of sources.

The key inquiry questions at this year level are:

- How do we know about the ancient past?
- Why and where did the earliest societies develop?
- What emerged as the defining characteristics of ancient societies?
- What have been the legacies of ancient societies?

Term 3

Unit 1: The Mediterranean World: Egypt

In this unit, students will utilise historical research and evidence evaluation skills developed in term one to investigate continuity and change in Ancient Egyptian society.

Assessment – Research and museum display

Students will complete research on an aspect of Ancient Egyptian culture. From this students will complete a museum display of their chosen topic based on their research.

Term 4

Unit 2: Ancient China

In this unit, students will continue to practice their historical inquiry and critical thinking skills developed in previous units to examine, compare and contrast emergent characteristics of ancient Chinese civilization.

Assessment – Examination

Students will complete a knowledge and understanding examination of Ancient China including the hierarchy and social classes, cultural values and beliefs and the role of significant individuals such as Qin Shi Huang and Confucius