



Highfields State
Secondary College

Semester 2 Course Overview

Faculty: Humanities

Subject: Humanities

Year level: 9

Course Outline

There are three focus areas in Year 9 Humanities (Geography: Term 2 ; Civics & Citizenship: Term 4 and History: Term 1 and 3). Semester 2 units include:

History:

The Year 9 curriculum provides a study of the history of the making of the modern world from 1750 to 1918. It was a period of industrialisation and rapid change in the ways people lived, worked and thought. It was an era of nationalism and imperialism, and the colonisation of Australia was part of the expansion of European power. The period culminated in World War I 1914-1918, the 'war to end all wars'.

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.

Civics and Citizenship:

This unit allows students to analyse the role of the Australian Constitution, the federal system of government, and the process and reasons for constitutional change. They explain policy development and legislative processes in Australia's democracy. They identify the key features and jurisdictions of Australia's court system and explain the role and processes of courts and tribunals. Students identify the reasons individuals and groups participate in and contribute to civic life nationally and globally. They explain the influence of the media on reflections of identity and diversity. Students develop a range of questions and locate, select and compare information from sources to investigate political and legal systems, and contemporary civic issues. They analyse information to explain perspectives and challenges related to political, legal or civic issues. Students identify and evaluate the methods or strategies related to civic participation or action. Students use civics and citizenship knowledge, concepts and terms to develop descriptions, explanations and evidence-based arguments.

Semester 2

Unit: World War 1

This depth study investigates the first major world war, in which powerful nation-states vied with each other for economic and political supremacy. Australia had only been a nation for thirteen years when war broke out in Europe and the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) were committed to fight for the 'Mother Country'.

Many politicians saw the war as a chance for Australia to prove itself on the world stage. On the battlefields of Gallipoli and on the Western Front the resourcefulness, heroism and bravery of the Australian soldiers helped to personify the Anzac legend.

The lasting legacy of the war was the death of a generation of young men. It marked a significant turning point in the formation of the Australian national identity, embodied in the Anzac legend. This unit provides an opportunity to investigate the significance of World War I (1914-1918) and the Australian experience of the war, including the nature and significance of the war in world and Australian history.

Assessment: Research Essay

Students will research either the use of propaganda **or** warfare – technology and weaponry to explain its impact throughout the course of the war. Students will;

- develop inquiry questions to frame their research
- Locate, organise and evaluate historical sources to answer inquiry questions
- Analyse and synthesis evidence and information from a range of primary and secondary sources
- Develop a plan and notes to take into the examination.
- Develop a written extended response as a historical argument. The response will explain the following:
 - Patterns of continuity and change (refer to key events and the action of groups)

- Motives and actions of people at the time
- Significance of events over the short and long term

Term 4: Civics – Examining how Australia’s Political and Legal Systems Enable Change

The Year 9 curriculum builds students’ understanding of Australia’s political system and how it enables change. Students examine the ways political parties, interest groups, media and individuals influence government and decision making processes. They investigate the features and principles of Australia’s court system, including its role in applying and interpreting Australian law. Students also examine global connectedness and how this is shaping contemporary Australian society.

A framework for developing students’ civics and citizenship knowledge, understanding and skills at this year level is provided by the following key questions:

- What influences shape the operation of Australia's political system?
- How does Australia's court system work in support of a democratic and just society?
- How do citizens participate in an interconnected world?

Assessment: Response to Stimulus Research Essay

Students will conduct research and write an essay to accompany their research on one component of Australian law reform