

VCE History

Subject Description

Twentieth Century History involves the study of the radical changes, upheavals and wars that have shaped the modern world. The first half of the century was marked by world war, revolution, economic collapse and the horror of the Holocaust. The USA and USSR emerged from World War Two as the new world superpowers in a new age of atomic weapons. The relationship between these allies soon dissolved into distrust and suspicion and for the next forty years a Cold War was waged between these opposing ideologies. These units provide the skills required for all Unit 3 and 4 History subjects.

UNIT 1

1900-1945

Students will examine specific events between 1900-1945 including the causes of World War One, cultural expression in America in the 1920s and 30s and social life in Nazi Germany. Through an exploration of the horrors of the Western Front, the Great Depression and the Holocaust, students will consider the way that societies responded to these challenges and how they affected people's lives. Students will learn to think like historians enabling them to critically analyse and explain the development of crises and conflict and evaluate the validity of different historical perspectives.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Creative responses to historical events, oral presentations, discussion and debates, case studies, internet investigations and group activities.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Use of concepts relevant to the historical context, analysis of written and visual primary source materials, synthesising evidence to draw conclusions, research skills and essay writing skills.

ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, essays, image and document analysis, case studies and an end of semester written examination.

UNIT 2

1945-2000

Students will consider how individuals and communities responded to the political, economic, social and technological developments of the period. They will examine Cold War fear and suspicion and discuss how societies used ideologies to legitimise their worldview. They will study the way grassroots social movements for change such as the Civil Rights movement challenged traditional power structures. The course concludes with a case study of the experience of the Karen people through the Twentieth Century in understanding the complexity of the refugee experience. Finally, they will draw conclusions about the concept of progress in the 20th Century.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Case study research, oral presentations, internet investigations and group activities.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Use of concepts relevant to the selected historical context, analysis of written and visual materials, synthesising evidence to draw conclusions, research skills and essay writing skills.

ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, essays, image and document analysis, case studies and an end of semester written examination.

UNIT 3

Australian history

Students will focus on the European experience in Australia from the early years of the Port Phillip District (later Victoria) through the Nineteenth Century and up to the eve of World War One. The latter part of Unit Three focuses on the nature of Australian society around the turn of the Twentieth Century. Students continue their exploration of the ideas and visions which shaped the society – this time in the lead up to Federation and in the early years of the new Commonwealth.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Reading, group and class discussions, ICT and research activities.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Analysis and synthesis of materials to draw conclusions, formal writing, research and analysis of historical sources.

ASSESSED TASKS

Research report, analysis of visual and/or written documents and an essay.

UNIT 4

Australian history

Students examine how Australia's ideas and visions were under threat during World War Two. The emphasis is on the ways in which Australians responded to these threats and whether this led to a rethinking of old certainties. The study concludes with an examination of attitudes towards Indigenous rights in the 1960s and 1970s.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Reading, group and class discussions, ICT and research activities.

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Analysis and synthesis of materials to draw conclusions, formal writing, research and analysis of historical sources.

ASSESSED TASKS

Research report, analysis of visual and or written documents and an essay. Students will also complete an end of year written examination.

VCAA ASSESSMENT – The overall Study Score will consist of:

School Assessed Coursework Unit 3 (25%), School Assessed Coursework Unit 4 (25%), 2 hour written examination in November (50%).