

# Senior secondary

## Humanities and Social Sciences



### Which subjects are available in the senior secondary Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)?

The Australian Curriculum: HASS offers three senior secondary subjects:

**Ancient History** covers the period from the development of early human communities to the end of late antiquity (around AD 650). It equips students with the skills to deal with written and archaeological sources and conflicting interpretations. It enhances students' understanding of the key institutions, structures and features of societies in the ancient world. The *Ancient History* curriculum also contributes to an understanding of issues related to the nature of the evidence and the ethical study, ownership and conservation of the past.

**Modern History** covers the period from 1750 through to the early 21st century. It equips students with the skills to evaluate the significance of events, movements, individuals and groups that have shaped the modern world. It enhances students' understanding of revolution and conflict, and continuing efforts to secure world peace.

**Geography** focuses on further developing student understanding and appreciation about the complexity of the world and the diversity of its environments, economies and cultures. Students investigate and analyse a range of challenges and associated opportunities from a local to a global scale including rapid change to biophysical environments, the sustainability of places, environmental risk, and the consequences of international integration.

### How are the senior secondary Australian Curriculum: HASS subjects structured?

The senior secondary Australian Curriculum: HASS subjects specify content and achievement standards:

- The content describes the knowledge, understanding and skills that are to be taught and learned within each subject.
- The achievement standards describe the quality of learning (the depth of understanding, extent of knowledge and sophistication of skill) expected of students who have studied the content for the subject.

The curriculum is designed to be taught over a two-year period. Each senior secondary subject is organised into four units with the final two units designed to be cognitively more challenging than the first two.

Content has been specified for each unit, and achievement standards are described for each pair of units (Units 1 and 2; Units 3 and 4).

The curriculum also includes a rationale and a set of aims for the subject, a description of how the subject is organised, how general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities are represented, and a glossary of key terms.



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#### How do the senior secondary HASS subjects align with the F-10 Australian Curriculum?

The senior secondary HASS subjects continue to develop student learning through the same strands, knowledge and understanding and inquiry skills, that form the F-6/7 HASS and Years 7-10 History and Geography curricula.

The two history subjects have a complementary focus on key concepts that underpin the discipline of history, including evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, significance, empathy, perspectives and contestability. The same set of historical skills is included in both senior secondary history subjects and provides a common focus for the teaching and learning of content in the *Historical knowledge and understanding* strand of each subject.

The *Historical knowledge and understanding* strand in *Ancient History* expands the concepts and contexts for historical study. There is particular attention to the methods of archaeologists and historians, the impact of individuals in ancient times, and the evidence for how people lived in ancient societies.

The *Historical knowledge and understanding* strand in *Modern History* develops the history of the modern world studied at Years 9-10. There is particular attention to significant developments and their far reaching consequences, the history of nations, tensions and conflicts of international significance, revolutionary change, and Asian and Australian history.

Both subjects further develop key inquiry skills through the *Historical skills* strand, with a greater focus on the skills associated with critical thinking, the analysis of sources, historical interpretation and contestability.

In *Geography*, the *Geographical knowledge and understanding* strand includes investigation and application of the underpinning concepts in greater depth and provides opportunities for geographical study in a wider range of contexts at a variety of scales, from local to global.

The *Geographical inquiry and skills* strand further develops key inquiry skills with a greater focus on applying these skills across a range of scales and contexts.

Each senior secondary HASS subject continues to develop the general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities introduced across Foundation to Year 10. Each subject includes a description of the opportunities for students to further develop their general capabilities and understanding of cross-curriculum priorities in ways that are relevant to the subject.

#### How do the senior secondary HASS subjects differ from those in states and territories?

ACARA continues to work with each of the state and territory curriculum, assessment and certification authorities to determine how senior secondary courses are aligned with their local courses in terms of content, achievement standards and the timeline for implementation.

For further information contact your local authority. Link to state and territory authorities here:

<b>ACT</b>	<a href="#"><u>ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies</u></a>
<b>NSW</b>	<a href="#"><u>NSW Education Standards Authority</u></a>
<b>NT</b>	<a href="#"><u>Northern Territory Board of Studies</u></a>
<b>Qld</b>	<a href="#"><u>Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority</u></a>
<b>SA</b>	<a href="#"><u>SACE Board of South Australia</u></a>
<b>Tas.</b>	<a href="#"><u>Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification</u></a>
<b>Vic.</b>	<a href="#"><u>Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority</u></a>
<b>WA</b>	<a href="#"><u>School Curriculum and Standards Authority</u></a>

#### Which national and international curricula and research was drawn upon to develop the senior secondary HASS subjects?

In developing the senior secondary Australian Curriculum for HASS, ACARA reviewed state and territory History and Geography curricula and the work was further guided by key international references including curricula from Canada (Ontario), Finland, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

As part of ACARA's curriculum development process and its focus on quality curriculum, the senior secondary Australian Curriculum subjects were reviewed by international experts and curriculum authorities from around Australia.

