

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies

General senior subject

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies recognises, and is a study of, the two distinct and diverse Indigenous groups in Australia: Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It makes students aware of diversity and complexity in Aboriginal cultures and Torres Strait Islander cultures in a way that informs understanding of the past, present and future.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies takes a holistic approach that explores how people, animals, plants and places are related to each other physically and spiritually. Students come to understand that people have custodial responsibilities that relate to maintaining the natural order of the universe. This enables them to consider how connectedness — of culture, society and history — is fundamental to the identity and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Students learn through an inquiry approach and develop critical thinking skills, including those of interpretation, analysis and evaluation, as well as communication skills. They learn to value and appreciate the worldviews of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a necessary condition for understanding a shared history in Australia. Through recognising this, students develop empathy and respect for the ways people think, feel and act, as well as informed awareness of the diversity that exists locally and globally.

Pathways

A course of study in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of anthropology, the arts, education,

health, journalism, law, politics, psychology, sociology, social work and tourism.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- define and use terminology
- demonstrate an understanding of Aboriginal societies and Torres Strait Islander societies
- analyse worldviews of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- consider and organise information from sources
- evaluate the significance of cultural interactions relating to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- create responses that communicate meaning to suit purpose.

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
<p>Culture, identity and connections</p> <p>Students are introduced to significant and intrinsic aspects of Aboriginal societies and Torres Strait Islander societies using a holistic approach. There are no discrete topics in this unit.</p>	<p>Continuity, change and influences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resistance • Social and political change 	<p>Responses and contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights and freedoms • Land rights 	<p>Moving forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience • Reconciliation and recognition

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.

In Units 3 and 4 students complete four summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
<p>Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination — extended response 	25%	<p>Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation — inquiry response 	25%
<p>Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation — inquiry response 	25%	<p>Summative external assessment (EA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination — short response 	25%

Recommendations: C or better in English and Humanities (History)