

Modern History

General senior subject

Modern History is a study of the forces that have shaped, and which continue to shape, the world around us. It is a living subject in which interpretations and perspectives are constantly evolving, and it provides the critical and creating thinking skills necessary to live effectively in a world that is in constant motion.

Modern History enables students to empathise with others and make meaningful connections between the past, present and possible futures, considering the ongoing importance of historical events in shaping our world today, such as we have seen in Ukraine, China, and the United States in recent years.

Students learn that the past is contestable and tentative. Through inquiry into ideas, movements, national experiences and international experiences they discover how the past consists of various perspectives and interpretations.

Students gain a range of transferable skills that will help them become empathetic and critically-literate citizens who are equipped to embrace a multicultural, pluralistic, inclusive, democratic, compassionate and sustainable future.

Pathways

A course of study in Modern History can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of history, education, psychology, sociology, law, business, economics, politics, journalism, the media, writing, academia and strategic analysis. Additionally, the research and critical thinking skills embedded within the program are significant for further studies in any field.

Objectives

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

- comprehend terms, issues and concepts
- devise historical questions and conduct research
- analyse historical sources and evidence
- synthesise information from historical sources and evidence
- evaluate historical interpretations
- create responses that communicate meaning.

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Ideas in the modern world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Frontier Wars, 1788–1930s • Insurrection, Rebellion and Revolution in the Modern World from Robespierre to Trump, 1789 - 2020 	Movements in the modern world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African-American civil rights movement, 1954–1968 • LGBTIQ+, Global Warming and Women's Movements: Social and Political Movements in the Modern World, 1970-2020 	National experiences in the modern world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terror, Fear, and the Mechanics of Power in Nazi Germany, 1933–1945 • Prohibition, Gangster Wars, and the Great Depression, The United States, 1920-1939 	International experiences in the modern world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berlin, Brinkmanship and the Bomb – The Cold War, 1945–1991 • The Vietnam War and Australia, 1950s – 1970s

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	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — essay in response to historical sources	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Investigation — historical essay based on research	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Investigation — independent sources investigation	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — short response to historical sources	25%

Recommendations: C or better in English and Humanities