

Social & Community Studies

Applied senior subject

Social & Community Studies focuses on personal development and social skills which lead to self-reliance, self-management and concern for others. It fosters appreciation of, and respect for, cultural diversity and encourages responsible attitudes and behaviours required for effective participation in the community and for thinking critically, creatively and constructively about their future.

Students develop personal, interpersonal, and citizenship skills, encompassing social skills, communication skills, respect for and interaction with others, building rapport, problem solving and decision making, self-esteem, self-confidence and resilience, workplace skills, learning and study skills.

Students use an inquiry approach in collaborative learning environments to investigate the dynamics of society and the benefits of working with others in the community. They are provided with opportunities to explore and refine personal values and lifestyle choices and to practise, develop and value social, community and workplace participation skills.

Pathways

A course of study in Social & Community Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment, as it helps students develop the skills and attributes necessary in all workplaces.

Objectives

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

- recognise and explain the ways life skills relate to social contexts
 - explain issues and viewpoints related to social investigations
 - organise information and material related to social contexts and issues
 - analyse and compare viewpoints about social contexts and issues
 - apply concepts and ideas to make decisions about social investigations
 - use language conventions and features to communicate ideas and information, according to purposes
 - plan and undertake social investigations
 - communicate the outcomes of social investigations, to suit audiences
 - appraise inquiry processes and the outcomes of social investigations.
- recognise and describe concepts and ideas related to the development of personal, interpersonal and citizenship skills

Structure

The Social and Community Studies course is designed around three core life skills areas which must be covered within every elective topic studied, and be integrated throughout the course.

Core life skills	Elective topics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal skills — Growing and developing as an individual • Interpersonal skills — Living with and relating to other people • Citizenship skills — Receiving from and contributing to community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arts and the community • Australia’s place in the world • Gender and identity • Health: Food and nutrition • Health: Recreation and leisure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Into relationships • Legally, it could be you • Money management • Science and technology • Today’s society • The world of work

Assessment

For Social and Community Studies, assessment from Units 3 and 4 is used to determine the student’s exit result, and consists of four instruments from at least three different assessment techniques, including:

- one project or investigation
- one examination
- no more than two assessments from each technique.

Project	Investigation	Extended response	Examination
A response to a single task, situation and/or scenario.	A response that includes locating and using information beyond students’ own knowledge and the data they have been given.	A technique that assesses the interpretation, analysis/examination and/or evaluation of ideas and information in provided stimulus materials.	A response that answers a number of provided questions, scenarios and/or problems.
At least two different components from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written: 500–900 words • spoken: 2½–3½ minutes • multimodal: 3–6 minutes • performance: continuous class time • product: continuous class time. 	Presented in one of the following modes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written: 600–1000 words • spoken: 3–4 minutes • multimodal: 4–7 minutes. 	Presented in one of the following modes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written: 600–1000 words • spoken: 3–4 minutes • multimodal: 4–7 minutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60–90 minutes • 50–250 words per item on the test