

Year 8 Humanities and Social Sciences

The study of Humanities deepens discipline-specific knowledge, understandings and skills with opportunities for integration of History, Geography and Business & Economics.

Achievement

History

Students explain the historical significance of key periods between the ancient and modern worlds, examining causes and effects of major events and developments in societies such as Medieval and Renaissance Europe or the Asia-Pacific region. They describe the social, political, economic, cultural, environmental, and religious aspects of these societies, and the roles of significant individuals, groups, and institutions in shaping historical events. Through inquiry, students ask questions, analyse primary and secondary sources, evaluate their reliability, and interpret different perspectives and historical viewpoints. They use historical concepts, terms, and evidence to construct clear explanations and arguments about the past.

Geography

Students explain how human-environment interactions shape the characteristics of places and how these places are perceived and valued differently. They describe the effects of human activity and natural hazards on environments, and analyse distributions, interconnections, and their impacts on places. Students investigate geographical phenomena or challenges by developing relevant questions, collecting and analysing data from primary and secondary sources, and identifying patterns, trends, and relationships. They draw conclusions, propose appropriate strategies, and explain their potential impacts, using geographical concepts, methods, and evidence to create well-informed explanations and responses.

Economics and Business

Students explain how markets influence the allocation of resources and how businesses adapt to market opportunities and workplace conditions. They understand the role of Australia's taxation system and how it affects the decisions of individuals and businesses, as well as the importance of budgeting and planning. Students investigate economic and business issues by posing questions, gathering and analysing data, identifying trends and cause-and-effect relationships, and evaluating potential costs and benefits. They use economic knowledge, concepts, and evidence to develop informed explanations and responses.

Assessment Criteria

An overall level of achievement in this subject is determined by the teacher's on-balance judgment of the evidence presented in students' summative assessment across the following:

- Historical Knowledge and Understanding
- Historical Skills (Questioning, Researching, Analysing, Interpreting, Evaluating and Communicating)

Delivery (mode, time requirements, lessons)

Students have access to live sessions that are recorded and attendance is highly recommended for clarification, assistance and discussion. Students are expected to complete all tasks and assessments in accordance with the Work Rate Calendar. All course materials can be accessed via our designated Learning Management System (Qlearn).

Student Requirements

Computer, access to internet, email, printer, scanner, telephone or headset with microphone, audio visual – software/devices, exercise book, stationery.

Year 8 Humanities and Social Sciences

Units and Learning Experiences, Summative Assessment, Criteria Assessed		
Semester 1	Term 1	Unit 1 – Vikings: Raiders, Traders and Trailblazers The Vikings were seafaring warriors, traders, and settlers who shaped the medieval world through exploration, conflict, and cultural exchange. This unit explores the historical significance of the Viking Age (c. 793–1066 CE) and its impact on Europe and beyond. Students will investigate key events, such as Viking raids, settlement patterns, and interactions with other societies. Through the analysis of primary and secondary sources, students will evaluate different perspectives on the Vikings, their influence on medieval Europe, and the factors that led to the decline of the Viking era.
		Summative Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment: Examination – Source Analysis
	Term 2	Unit 2 – Plague and Peril Students will explore the historical significance of the Black Death and its impact on Medieval Europe. They will investigate the causes and effects of the pandemic, including its devastating consequences on society, religion, economics, and politics. Through historical inquiry, students will examine primary and secondary sources, engage in historical thinking skills, and consider the perspectives of people who lived through the crisis. The unit will culminate in a dramatic presentation, where students will step into the shoes of medieval doctors, peasants, priests, merchants, or rulers to demonstrate their understanding of the far-reaching impact of the Black Death.
		Summative Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment: Investigation - Research Multimodal
Semester 2	Term 3	Unit 3 – Wild Wonders: Exploring Australia’s National Parks Australia’s national parks are home to some of the world’s most unique landscapes, ecosystems, and wildlife. In this unit, students will embark on a virtual exploration of these protected areas, investigating their geographical and ecological significance, as well as the challenges they face. Through case studies and real-world examples, students will analyse how human activities—such as tourism, conservation efforts, and land management—impact these environments. They will also explore how governments, Indigenous communities, and environmental organisations work together to protect these natural treasures for future generations.
		Summative Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment: Investigation – Research Report
	Term 4	Unit 4 – Pitching a Greener Future: Sustainable Business Students will take on the role of eco-entrepreneurs, designing and presenting an innovative business idea that promotes sustainable development within a chosen national park. They will explore real-world environmental and economic challenges, learning how to balance conservation with responsible tourism and business opportunities.
		Summative Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment: Investigation – Business Pitch

Disclaimer All of the above information is accurate at the time of development.