SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

MODERN HISTORY
ATAR YEAR 12

Unit 3 – Elective 1: Australia 1918–1955
Sample course outline

Modern History – ATAR Year 12

Semester 1 – Unit 3 – Modern nations in the 20th century

This overview is based on the elective: Australia 1918–1955 (the end of World War I to the ALP split)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Key teaching points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | **Historical Knowledge and Understanding**  
• overview of Australia in 1918  
• significant ideas of the period including mateship and the Anzac legend and nationalism  
• the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social/cultural leaders  
• the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy from 1918–1955  
**Overview of Australia in 1918 – WWI and its impact on Australia**  
• reasons for going to war  
• impact  
• enlistments  
• war controls and propaganda  
• women’s role  
• the conscription debate  
• the role of Billy Hughes and the ongoing political impact  
• social divisions  
• economic impact  
**Identity**  
• mateship and the Anzac legend  
• the growth of nationalism  
**The peace**  
• the Peace Conference of 1919  
• membership of the League of Nations  
• the Imperial Conference of 1926  
• the Statute of Westminster |
| 2–4  | **Historical Knowledge and Understanding**  
• the adjustment of national priorities in the 1920s  
• the significant ideas of the period including unionism and communism  
• the changing politics of the period  
**Historical skills**  
• Chronology, terms and concepts  
• Perspectives and interpretations  
**National priorities in Australia in the 1920s**  
• tensions between urbanisation, industrialisation and rural development  
• impact of returned service personnel, the Returned and Services League (RSL) and the Soldier Settlement schemes  
• Imperial Conferences, the Statute of Westminster and relations with Britain  
**Men, money and markets**  
• economic development  
• the policies of ‘Men, money, and markets’  
• *Empire Settlement Act of 1922*  
• the origin and growth of the Country Party and the Bruce-Page government |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Key teaching points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|      | **Industrial unrest**  
|      | • the causes, the unrest, the political response, unionism and the formation of the ACTU  
|      | **Social issues**  
|      | • continuity and change in women’s status in society  
|      | • treatment (exclusion) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Peoples  
|      | • technological change and impact including entertainment  
|      | **Historical skills**  
|      | • Chronology, terms and concepts  
|      | • Historical questions and research  
|      | • Analysis and use of sources  
|      | • Perspectives and interpretations  
|      | • Explanation and communication  
|      | **Task 1A: Historical inquiry process**  
|      | **Task 1B: Validation essay**  
| 5–7  | **Historical Knowledge and Understanding**  
|      | • the impact of the Great Depression on different groups within Australian society; the political responses to the Great Depression; and the effectiveness of the political responses to the crisis  
|      | • the changing politics of the period  
|      | • the significant ideas of the period including unionism and communism  
|      | • the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy from 1918–1955  
|      | **Historical skills**  
|      | • Chronology, terms and concepts  
|      | • Perspectives and interpretations  
|      | **Causes of the Depression 1929–1932**  
|      | • analysis of causes  
|      | **The Depression and its impact on different groups in society**  
|      | • social classes  
|      | • women and children  
|      | • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples  
|      | **Government responses to the Depression**  
|      | • the role and impact of Scullin and Lang  
|      | • effectiveness of government responses/the plans  
|      | **Division in the Labor Party**  
|      | • causes of the 1932 ALP split  
|      | • the divisive impact and its consequences  
|      | **Impact of political division**  
|      | • the emergence of the extreme right-wing (Fascist) New Guard and left-wing political parties  
|      | **Economic recovery post-Depression 1932–1939**  
|      | • the Lyons’ government  
|      | • the economy’s path to recovery  
|      | **International relations**  
|      | • relations with Britain: the ‘Singapore strategy’ and preferential trade agreements  
|      | • relations with Japan including the growing fear of Japan  
|      | **Historical skills**  
|      | • Analysis and use of sources  
|      | • Perspectives and interpretations  
|      | • Explanation and communication  
|      | **Task 2: Source analysis**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Key teaching points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8–9 | **Historical Knowledge and Understanding**  
- the nature and scope of Australia’s war effort in Europe, Asia and the Pacific (1939–1945) and on the home front  
- the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy including relations with Japan; World War II, in particular the war in the Pacific and the alliance with America  
- the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social/cultural leaders  
**World War II – background to and outbreak of**  
- the causes including the rise of Fascism  
- Australia’s response  
**Australia’s involvement**  
- the nature and scope of Australia’s involvement with:  
  - Europe  
  - Asia and the Pacific  
- the alliance with America  
- the home front – social/cultural, economic, political, including the roles of Curtin, Menzies, and the formation of the Liberal Party in 1944  
- significant foreign policy issues such as the Fall of Singapore, Curtin’s appeal for assistance from the USA, the defeat and occupation of Japan  
**Historical skills**  
- Chronology, terms and concepts  
- Perspectives and interpretations  
- Explanation and communication  
**Task 3: Explanation – essay** |
| 10–11 | **Historical Knowledge and Understanding**  
- the changing politics of the period including the formation of the Liberal Party; the Light on the Hill; and the ALP/DLP Split  
- the impact of the rise of communism  
- the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social/cultural leaders  
**Post-1945 Australia: the pre-Menzies era 1945–1949**  
- post-war reconstruction: the White Paper on employment, Snowy Mountain Scheme  
- Chifley and the ‘Light on the Hill’ – service personnel, banking reform, social welfare  
- the 1949 election:  
  - contrasting economic and social policies offered by Chifley, Menzies and the Coalition  
  - impact of communism on the election, the 1949 NSW Coal Strike  
  - the political implications of the election  
- foreign policy:  
  - United Nations: role in the formation, role in the General Assembly and the role of Evatt  
  - changing relations with Japan, support for Indonesian and Indian independence  
**Historical skills**  
- Analysis and use of sources  
- Perspectives and interpretations  
- Explanation and communication  
**Task 4: Source analysis** |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Key teaching points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **12–14** | **Historical Knowledge and Understanding**  
- the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy  
- the impact of the rise of communism  
- changing politics of the era  
**Historical skills**  
- Chronology, terms and concepts  
- Perspectives and interpretations  
**Post-1945 Australia: the Menzies era 1949–1955**  
**Fear of communism**  
- formation of the People’s Republic of China  
- the 1951 referendum  
- differing perspectives of the Petrov Affair and its impact on the ALP  
- the role of Evatt, the Labor split and the formation of the DLP  
- the long-term impact of political events  
- the impact on foreign policy:  
  - Korean War  
  - UNO  
  - ANZUS and SEATO  
**Historical Knowledge and Understanding**  
- the key features of post-war reconstruction  
- the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social/cultural leaders  
- significant ideas of the period including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism  
**Historical skills**  
- Perspectives and interpretations  
**Post-war reconstruction**  
- industrialisation  
- suburbanisation  
- migration policies  
**Post-war social change**  
- provision of social welfare  
- attitudes and policies towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants and women  
- Aboriginal Australians  
  - causes and impact of changing attitudes  
  - Aboriginal activism including the roles of William Cooper (1930s), Faith Bandler and Jack Patten  
- migration  
  - reasons for/against migration, changes to migration policy  
  - the social impact of migration  
- women  
  - impact of WWII  
  - post-war opportunities in education, the expanding economy, government legislation  
**Historical skills**  
- Chronology, terms and concepts  
- Perspectives and interpretations  
- Explanation and communication  
**Task 5: Explanation – essay**  
| **15** | **Task 6: Examination (Semester 1)** |