



VISUAL ARTS

General course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims
For teaching in 2027**

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Rationale

The Visual Arts General course explores the diverse disciplines of art, craft and design, integrating both practical and theoretical components. It provides students with opportunities to express ideas, develop personal imagery and refine their artistic skills through creation and presentation of artwork. The course fosters an appreciation for visual culture, encouraging students to interpret visual information and engage critically with artworks.

Students engage in art-making and presentation, developing their ability to convey ideas and emotions through various art forms. They explore aesthetic principles, visual language and conceptual thinking, gaining insight into traditional and contemporary art practices. Through traditional art forms like painting, sculpture and ceramics, as well as contemporary practices such as video art, installations and multimedia, students experiment with various materials, techniques and emerging technologies, gaining hands-on experience in both classic and modern art forms to create artwork.

Through this course, students develop problem-solving and communication skills, creativity, analytical thinking and visual literacy. Students gain confidence in their creative abilities, experience with collaborative practice, motivation, self-esteem, discipline and resilience. They learn to analyse and evaluate artworks from cultural and historical perspectives, enhancing their ability to interpret and communicate meaning. The course fosters an awareness of the role of art in society and helps students to value their unique perspectives, environment, community and culture.

Students apply their knowledge and skills in real-world contexts by creating and presenting artworks that reflect, challenge and shape societal values. The course prepares students for creative thinking and problem-solving in daily life, fostering an appreciation for the environment and an awareness of ecological sustainability. Through the inquiry process and hands-on experimentation, students gain transferable skills applicable across various creative and professional fields.

The course lays a strong foundation for students aspiring to pursue further education, training or careers in creative industries, such as fine arts, design, education, art therapy, media and digital content creation. It enriches their lives by instilling a lifelong appreciation for art and culture. Students will be well-prepared to create and analyse artworks and understand the significant role art plays in reflecting and shaping societal values.

Aims

The Visual Arts General course aims to develop students’:

- ability to generate, develop and refine ideas using visual language to communicate artist intent
- application of art elements, principles, techniques and processes to produce artwork for specific purposes, audiences and contexts
- ability to reflect on the thinking and creative processes
- critical evaluation of their own and others' artworks using visual language and art terminology
- understanding of the role of visual arts across different times, places and cultural contexts.