



ATAR Ancient History – Summary of syllabus changes

As a result of the review, the main differences between the current Years 11 and 12 ATAR course syllabuses and the proposed Years 11 and 12 ATAR course syllabuses are summarised below.

Content changes

Overall

- The course aims have replaced course outcomes
- The information related to the representation of the General Capabilities and Cross-Curriculum Priorities have been updated
- The Unit Descriptions have been updated to better reflect the revised content for each unit
- The Historical Skills have been refined and become more explicit to provide greater clarity for teachers
 - Contestability has been removed as an Historical Skill
- The Historical Knowledge and Understanding Syllabus points have been broken down to allow further elaboration of the required content and knowledge for each elective
- Learning outcomes have been removed
- Glossary has had the definition for Contestability removed

Year 11 specific

- The order of Unit 1 and Unit 2 have been reversed
- BC has been changed to BCE and AD to CE
- Unit 1 has been modified in the following ways:
 - a new framework has been created for Unit 1 to allow for the creation of school-devised electives that will require Authority approval
 - the number of electives available have been reduced to four (from the current 15 electives) to allow for moderation processes across all schools that offer the course
 - Elective 1: Egypt: From Tetisheri to Tuthmosis III
 - specific content dot points have been included for this elective
 - Elective 2: Athens: The rise of Athens
 - specific content dot points have been included for this elective
 - Elective 3: Rome: Decline of the Republic
 - specific content dot points have been included for this elective
 - Elective 4: School-devised elective (Authority approval required)
 - the required framework has been provided
- Unit 2 has been modified in the following ways:
 - a new framework has been created for Unit 2 to allow for the creation of school-devised electives that will require Authority approval
 - Elective 1: Egypt From Amenhotep 1V/Akhenaten to Horemheb
 - specific content dot points have been included for this elective
 - Elective 2: The Peloponnesian War
 - specific content dot points have been included for this elective
 - Elective 3: Rome: Republic to Empire

- specific content dot points have been included for this elective
- Elective 4: School-devised elective (Authority approval required)
 - the required framework has been provided

Year 12 specific

- BC has been changed to BCE and AD to CE

Unit 3 has been modified in the following ways:

- Elective 1: Egypt: From Tetisheri to Tuthmosis III
 - elective has been renamed
 - content dot points have been refined and additional information added to clarify teaching points
 - content dot points have been re-sequenced between Unit 3 and Unit 4 as appropriate to the ancient historical narrative
 - more sub-headings have been added to clarify teaching points
- Elective 2: The rise of Athens
 - elective has been renamed
 - content dot points have been refined and additional information added to clarify teaching points
 - some content dot points have been combined and information has been removed
 - more sub-headings have been added to clarify teaching points
- Elective 3: Decline of the Roman Republic
 - content dot points have been refined and additional information added to clarify teaching points
 - some content dot points have been combined and information has been removed
 - more sub-headings have been added to clarify teaching points
- Part B: Individuals has been removed as a separate section and the content dot points have been added to each elective as appropriate.
- Unit 4 has been modified in the following ways:
 - Elective 1: Egypt: From Amenhotep II to Horemheb
 - elective has been renamed
 - content dot points have been refined and additional information added to clarify teaching points
 - content dot points have been re-sequenced between Unit 3 and Unit 4 as appropriate to the ancient historical narrative
 - more sub-headings have been added to clarify teaching points
 - Elective 2: The Peloponnesian War
 - elective has been renamed
 - content dot points have been refined and additional information added to clarify teaching points
 - some content dot points have been combined and information has been removed
 - more sub-headings have been added to clarify teaching points
 - Elective 3: Rome: From Republic to Empire
 - content dot points have been refined and additional information added to clarify teaching points
 - some content dot points have been combined and information has been removed

- more sub-headings have been added to clarify teaching points
- Elective 4: Pompeii and Herculaneum 80 BC–AD 79
 - elective has been removed. This elective has no pair in the current Year 12 course and the content dot points are not comparable to those of the other electives, making equitable examination of the electives difficult.

School-based assessment changes

Overall

- Source analysis has been removed as an assessment type in both the Assessment table and Examination design brief. Currently there are 5 assessment types which is too many to accommodate the move to a maximum of 8 assessments per year.

Assessment table – Year 11

- The School-based assessment section has been revised and now includes the following statement.
Summative assessments in this course must:
 - be limited in number to no more than eight tasks
 - allow for the assessment of each assessment type at least once for each unit in the unit pair
 - have a minimum value of 5 per cent of the total school assessment mark
 - provide a representative sampling of the syllabus content
- Changes have been made to the wording of the assessment type descriptions
- Source analysis has been removed as an assessment type. The number of assessment types has been reduced from the current five to four assessment types. This is to accommodate the move to a maximum of 8 assessments per year
- Essay assessment type has been renamed Extended answer.

Assessment table – Year 12

- The School-based assessment section has been revised and now includes the following statement.
Summative assessments in this course must:
 - be limited in number to no more than eight tasks
 - allow for the assessment of each assessment type at least once for each unit in the unit pair
 - have a minimum value of 5 per cent of the total school assessment mark
 - provide a representative sampling of the syllabus content
- Changes have been made to the wording of the assessment type descriptions
- Source analysis has been removed as an assessment type. The number of assessment types has been reduced from the current five to four assessment types. This is to accommodate the move to a maximum of 8 assessments per year
- Essay assessment type has been renamed Extended answer.

Assessment type weightings – Year 11

- Historical inquiry: was 15–20% and is now 20%
- Short answer: was 10–15% and is now 20%
- Source analysis has been removed
- Extended answer: was 15–20% and is now 20%
- Examination remains at 40%

Assessment type weightings – Year 12

- Historical inquiry: was 15% and is now 20%
- Short answer: was 10% and is now 20%
- Source analysis has been removed
- Extended answer: was 25% and is now 20%
- Examination remains at 40%

Reporting section changes – Overall

- This section title has been revised and is now called Reporting (it was previously Grading).
- Some text has been removed, as this information can be located in the *WACE Manual*.

Examination design brief changes

Section/s renamed

- Section Three: Essay has been renamed Section Two: Extended response

Section/s format or weighting

- Section One Short answer was 25% but is now 50%
- Section One Short answer now includes a Part B: Unit 4 which is worth 25% of the examination (a replacement for the Source analysis)

Sections removed

- Section Two: Source analysis – Unit 4 has been removed

Sections added

- Nil

Other changes

- The Supporting information for Section One: short answer has been changed to accommodate the addition of Part B.