



# **INDONESIAN: SECOND LANGUAGE**

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ATAR 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 Indonesian: Second Language ATAR course connects students with a language that has approximately 290 million speakers throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Indonesian is the official language of Indonesia and a working language of Timor-Leste. In addition, Indonesian, or *Bahasa Indonesia*, has closely related dialects of the same language, usually called *Bahasa Melayu*, which is used in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and southern Thailand. The languages of the Indonesian archipelago have been used in Australia since contact several centuries ago between the peoples of the islands now known as Indonesia and the Aboriginal peoples of northern Australia. The ties between Australia and Indonesia continue to develop, with Indonesia hosting Australia's largest overseas diplomatic presence, and increasing numbers of Australians living and working in Indonesia and Indonesians living, working and holidaying in Australia.

The course provides students with a rich and challenging experience of the linguistic and cultural diversity of Indonesian-speaking communities. Through Indonesian, students explore their personal world and the perspectives of others and the effect of change and current issues in the global community. Within these contexts, students reflect on the issues in the lives of young people, explore social issues in Indonesia and the influence of Indonesian media and entertainment, and consider globalisation and the media, and Australia–Indonesia relations.

Students expand and consolidate their skills, knowledge and linguistic resources in Indonesian to communicate effectively in a range of situations. They gain a broader and deeper understanding of the language and culture, fostering a stronger sense of intercultural awareness and empathy. The course also enhances students' literacy skills and awareness of their own language. By comparing information and ideas from Indonesian media, texts, and cultural practices, students strengthen their critical thinking skills and learn to approach global issues from diverse perspectives.

Through the course, students engage with the linguistic and cultural diversity of our interconnected world, reflecting on their role in society and how they interact with others across various social contexts. Language learning is a powerful tool for personal growth and broadens students' worldviews. Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity provides many opportunities to hear and use Indonesian in real-life situations as well as through Indonesian media, and to make actual and virtual connections with Indonesian-speaking communities throughout the world.

Australia has strong personal, cultural, political and trade connections with Indonesia and proficiency in Indonesian provides students with enhanced vocational opportunities in a wide range of sectors. Studying Indonesian opens pathways for further academic study in fields like languages, international studies, and cross-cultural communication, and careers in areas such as law, diplomacy, business, tourism, teaching and translation. Ultimately, the course offers students valuable linguistic and intercultural skills, fosters personal growth and empathy, and enhances future academic and career prospects.

## Aims

The Indonesian: Second Language ATAR course builds on students' skills and understanding of Indonesian and knowledge about the cultures of Indonesian-speaking communities. It enables students to:

- interact with others to exchange information, ideas, opinions and experiences in Indonesian
- analyse a range of texts in Indonesian to comprehend, and interpret meaning
- apply the skills they have acquired to produce texts in Indonesian to convey information, express ideas and opinions and experiences for specific audiences, purposes and contexts
- strengthen their intercultural communication skills in both the Indonesian and English languages
- demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of language as a system
- reflect on the relationship between language and culture.