



## **SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE**

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**MODERN HISTORY**

**ATAR YEAR 12**

**UNIT 3 – ELECTIVE 1: AUSTRALIA 1918–1949  
(THE END OF WORLD WAR I TO THE 1949 ELECTION)**

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## Sample course outline

### Modern History – ATAR Year 12

#### Semester 1 – Unit 3 – Modern nations in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

This outline is based on elective 1: Australia 1918–49 (the end of World War I to the 1949 election).

**The development of historical skills is intrinsic to the teaching of this unit.** This content is shown beneath this table.

The impact of the following forces should be considered, where appropriate, throughout the unit:

- economic
- international relations
- leadership
- political
- social.

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the economic, political and social conditions in Australia in 1918</li> <li>• the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ women</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the significant ideas of the period, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ egalitarianism</li> <li>▪ assimilation</li> <li>▪ communism</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism</li> <li>▪ nationalism</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Overview of Australia in 1918</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• political conditions and an overview of the political parties in Australia</li> <li>• economic conditions – protectionist policies and reliance on wheat and sheep</li> <li>• social conditions – outline of the Immigration Restriction Act, treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, women’s position in the family and in the workforce</li> </ul> <p><b>World War I (WWI) and its impact on Australia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reasons for going to war – individuals and as a country (foreign policy)</li> <li>• impacts of enlistments, government wartime controls and propaganda</li> <li>• the role of women</li> <li>• the conscription debate, the role of Billy Hughes and the ongoing political impact on the Labor Party</li> <li>• social divisions and economic impact</li> </ul> <p><b>Identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mateship and the Anzac legend, and the growth of nationalism</li> <li>• the different views of the Anzac legend</li> <li>• the exclusion of groups from the idea of ‘mateship’</li> </ul>

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the management of national priorities in the 1920s, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the tensions between urbanisation, industrialisation and rural development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy from 1918–39, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and the role of Billy Hughes</li> <li>▪ membership of the League of Nations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ women</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the significant ideas of the period, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ egalitarianism</li> <li>▪ assimilation</li> <li>▪ communism</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism</li> <li>▪ nationalism</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Post-WWI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Peace Conference of 1919 and membership of the League of Nations</li> <li>• the adjustment of national priorities in the 1920s</li> <li>• the significant ideas of the period, including egalitarianism and communism</li> <li>• the changing politics of the period</li> </ul> <p><b>Industrial unrest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the causes, unrest, political response, unionism and formation of the ACTU</li> </ul> <p><b>Social issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continuity and change in women’s status in society</li> <li>• treatment (exclusion) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</li> <li>• Experience of Immigrants and the policy of assimilation</li> <li>• technological change and impact, including entertainment</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy from 1918–39, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the 1926 Imperial Conference and the Statute of Westminster</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the management of national priorities in the 1920s, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the challenges of returned soldiers and the Soldier Settlement Schemes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the significant political developments of the period, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the rise of the Country Party</li> <li>▪ ‘Men, money, markets’</li> <li>▪ the growth of unionism</li> <li>▪ the 1931 Labor Split</li> <li>▪ the formation of the Liberal Party</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>National priorities in Australia in the 1920s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tensions between urbanisation, industrialisation and rural development</li> <li>• the Imperial Conference of 1926</li> <li>• impact of returned service personnel, the Returned and Services League (RSL) and the Soldier Settlement Schemes, Imperial Conferences, the Statute of Westminster &amp; relations with Britain</li> <li>• the origin and growth of the Country Party and the Bruce-Page government</li> </ul> <p><b>‘Men, money, markets’</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• economic development and the policies of ‘Men, money, markets’</li> <li>• <i>Empire Settlement Act of 1922</i></li> </ul>

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
5–7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the causes of, and the political responses to the Great Depression and its impact on different groups within Australian society</li> <li>• the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ women</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the significant ideas of the period, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ egalitarianism</li> <li>▪ assimilation</li> <li>▪ communism</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism</li> <li>▪ nationalism</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the significant political developments of the period, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the rise of the Country Party</li> <li>▪ ‘Men, money, markets’</li> <li>▪ the growth of unionism</li> <li>▪ the 1931 Labor Split</li> <li>▪ the formation of the Liberal Party</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>The Great Depression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• the changing politics of the period – the significant ideas of the period, including communism</li> <li>• the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Causes of the Great Depression 1929–1932</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• analysis of causes</li> </ul> <p><b>The Great Depression and its impact on different groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social classes; women and children; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</li> </ul> <p><b>Government responses to the Depression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the role and impact of Scullin and Lang</li> <li>• effectiveness of government responses/the plans</li> </ul> <p><b>Division in the Labor Party</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• causes of the 1931 ALP split, the divisive impact and its consequences</li> </ul> <p><b>Impact of political division</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the emergence of the extreme right-wing (Fascist) New Guard and left-wing political parties</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic recovery post-Depression 1932–1939</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Lyons government and the economy’s path to recovery</li> </ul> <p><b>Task 1 – Explanation: The political responses to the Great Depression (Week 7)</b></p>
8–11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy from 1918–39, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ relations with Japan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the nature of and response to Australia’s involvement in World War II in Europe, Asia and the Pacific (1939–45) and the experiences on the home front, including</li> </ul>	<p><b>International relations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relations with Britain – the ‘Singapore strategy’ and preferential trade agreements</li> <li>• relations with Japan, including the growing fear of Japan</li> </ul> <p><b>Australia and World War II (WWII)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the nature and scope of Australia’s war effort in Europe, Asia and the Pacific (1939–1945) and on the home front</li> </ul>

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the wartime leadership of Robert Menzies and John Curtin</li> <li>▪ the alliance with the United States of America</li> <li>▪ austerity and total war</li> <li>▪ Australia's role in the United Nations Organisation (UNO)</li> <li>• the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ women</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the significant political developments of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the rise of the Country Party</li> <li>▪ 'Men, money, markets'</li> <li>▪ the growth of unionism</li> <li>▪ the 1931 Labor Split</li> <li>▪ the formation of the Liberal Party</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the changing nature and significance of Australia's foreign policy, including relations with Japan; WWII, in particular the war in the Pacific and the alliance with America</li> <li>• the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social leaders</li> </ul> <p><b>WWII – background and outbreak</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the causes, including the rise of Fascism; Australia's response</li> </ul> <p><b>Australia's involvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the nature and scope of Australia's involvement with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Europe</li> <li>▪ Asia and the Pacific</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the alliance with America</li> <li>• the home front – social, economic and political situation, including the roles of Curtin, Menzies, and the formation of the Liberal Party in 1944</li> <li>• significant foreign policy issues such as the Fall of Singapore, Curtin's appeal for assistance from the USA, the defeat and occupation of Japan</li> </ul> <p><b>Task 2 – Source analysis: Australia's changing foreign policy and the Second World War (Week 10)</b></p> <p><b>Task 3 Part A – Historical inquiry: The role and impact of a significant leader (Issue: Week 10)</b></p>
12–14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the significant political developments of the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the rise of the Country Party</li> <li>▪ 'Men, money, markets'</li> <li>▪ the growth of unionism</li> <li>▪ the 1931 Labor Split</li> <li>▪ the formation of the Liberal Party</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the key features of post-World War II reconstruction, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the leadership of Ben Chifley</li> <li>▪ industrialisation, urbanisation and immigration</li> <li>▪ the provision of social welfare</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ women</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Post-1945 Australia: the pre-Menzies era 1945–1949</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the changing politics of the period, including the formation of the Liberal Party</li> <li>• post-war reconstruction – the White Paper on Employment, Snowy Mountain Scheme</li> <li>• Chifley and the 'Light on the Hill' – service personnel, banking reform, social welfare, social reform agenda</li> </ul> <p><b>Post-war Australia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• foreign policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ United Nations – role in the formation, role in the General Assembly and the role of Evatt</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Week	Syllabus content	Suggested teaching points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</li> <li>• the significant ideas of the period, including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ egalitarianism</li> <li>▪ assimilation</li> <li>▪ communism</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism</li> <li>▪ Nationalism</li> </ul> </li> <li>• the key factors influencing the election of Robert Menzies and the Liberal-Country Coalition in 1949</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ changing relations with Japan, support for Indonesian and Indian independence</li> </ul> <p><b>Post-war social change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• significant ideas of the period including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism – Aboriginal Australians               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ causes and impact of changing attitudes</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal activism including the roles of William Cooper (1930s), Faith Bandler and Jack Patten</li> </ul> </li> <li>• provision of social welfare</li> <li>• migration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ reasons for/against migration, changes to migration policy – ‘Populate or Perish’</li> <li>▪ the social impact of migration</li> </ul> </li> <li>• women               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ impact of WWII</li> </ul> </li> <li>• post-war opportunities in education, the expanding economy, government legislation</li> <li>• the 1949 election               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ contrasting economic and social policies offered by Chifley, Menzies and the Coalition</li> <li>▪ impact of communism on the election, the 1949 NSW Coal Strike</li> <li>▪ the political implications of the election</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Task 3 Part A – Historical inquiry: The role and impact of a significant leader (Submit: Week 13)</b></p> <p><b>Task 3 Part B – In-class validation: The role and impact of a significant leader (Week 13)</b></p>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• highlight the Historical Knowledge and Understanding content points and the Historical Skills</li> </ul>
16	<b>Task 4 – Semester 1 examination: Unit 3 content</b>	

### Historical Skills

The following skills will be developed during this unit.

#### Chronology, terms and concepts

- identify links between events to understand the nature and significance of causation, continuity and change over time
- use historical terms and concepts in appropriate contexts to demonstrate historical knowledge and understanding

#### Historical questions and inquiry

- frame questions to guide inquiry and develop a coherent research plan for inquiry
- identify, locate and organise relevant information from a range of primary and secondary sources
- acknowledge and reference sources, as appropriate

#### Analysis and use of historical sources

- identify the message, origin, purpose and context of historical sources
- analyse and synthesise evidence from different types of historical sources
- evaluate the reliability and usefulness of historical sources

#### Perspectives and interpretations

- analyse and account for the different perspectives of individuals and groups in the past
- evaluate different historical interpretations of the past and how they are shaped by the historian's perspective
- evaluate the significance of ideas, events and people

#### Explanation and communication

- develop texts that integrate appropriate evidence from a range of sources to explain the past and to sustain an argument
- communicate historical understanding, using historical knowledge, concepts and terms