



SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

MODERN HISTORY
ATAR YEAR 11
UNIT 1 – ELECTIVE 7

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Any resources such as texts, websites and so on that may be referred to in this document are provided as examples of resources that teachers can use to support their learning programs. Their inclusion does not imply that they are mandatory or that they are the only resources relevant to the course.

Sample course outline

Modern History – ATAR Year 11

Unit 1 – Elective 7: Capitalism – the American experience (1907–1941)

Week	Key teaching points
1	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introductory work on US source materials • key ideas, including the theories of capitalism
2–3	<p>The rise of capitalism</p> <p>A review of the period from 1850–1907</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expansion of the railways • post-Civil War reconstruction • mass immigration and immigrant labour • discovery of oil and the importance of JD Rockefeller and Standard Oil • mass production <p>Task 1: Explanation – essay</p>
4	<p>1907–1914</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Ford, the Model T and consumerism • Theodore Roosevelt and expansionism • Taft and economic reform to curb laissez-faire policies
5	<p>World War 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodrow Wilson and America’s involvement in World War I • the Fourteen Points and the return to isolationism • the impact of World War I on American capitalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ industrialisation ▪ capitalism ▪ constitutional amendments: women voting ▪ immigration restriction
6–8	<p>The 1920s and the shaping of the American Dream</p> <p><i>After all, the chief business of the American people is business – Coolidge</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited government involvement and economic liberty (laissez-faire) • mass production in industry and agriculture • impact of the specialisation of industry • mass marketing, consumerism and a change in lifestyle, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Jazz Age ▪ film ▪ fashion ▪ prohibition <p>Task 2: Source analysis</p>

Week	Key teaching points
9–10	<p>The Great Depression and the New Deal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of the stock market dealings throughout the 1920s • how these led to the Wall Street Crash of 1929 • other factors which contributed to the Great Depression • the spiral into economic depression • the short-term and long-term social, political and economic impacts, including the impact on capitalism and on different groups in society • political responses, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hoover and ‘Rugged Individualism’ ▪ Roosevelt and the ‘New Deal’ <p>Task 3: Source analysis</p>
11	<p>Impact of WWII to 1941</p> <p>The impact of World War II on American capitalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the armaments industry • other industries • foreign affairs and trade • women in the workforce
12–14	<p>Impact of capitalism on different groups in society 1907–1941: An Inquiry</p> <p>At least two of the following groups should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Americans • immigrants • urban workers • rural workers • wealthy industrialists • the Indian Nations <p>Divisions within society</p> <p>Division caused, or widened, by capitalism</p> <p>Task 4 Part A: Historical inquiry – the inquiry process</p> <p>Task 4 Part B: Validation essay</p>
15	<p>The significance of capitalism</p> <p>A comparison with other economic systems at the time, particularly Communism</p> <p>Task 5: Explanation – short answer test</p>
16	<p>Task 6: Semester 1 examination</p>