



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

KOREAN: BACKGROUND LANGUAGE

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 Korean: Background Language ATAR course connects students with a culture that has become a dynamic force in shaping contemporary global culture. This influence is evident in diverse fields, including music, film, television, beauty, technology, cuisine, medicine and education. It is an important language in global entertainment, digital innovation, and international relations, with prominence in domains such as K-pop, Korean drama, esports, skincare, cinema, and culinary arts. Korean is also spoken by more than 80 million people worldwide and is the official language of both South Korea and North Korea. It is a language of growing global interest and relevance, particularly across the Asia-Pacific region.

The course is designed for students who acquired the language through immersion or interaction within their environment, such as through family, community, in-country or cultural experiences. They explore their personal world and the perspectives of others, particularly within Korean-speaking communities, and the effect of change and current issues in the global community. Within these perspectives, students reflect on their life and career choices, and their contributions to society. They explore Korean identity through culture, the arts, and international migration experiences. From a global viewpoint, students examine current issues and the changing nature of work, considering how these are understood across different communities.

Students extend and refine their intercultural and linguistic skills in Korean to communicate confidently in a range of situations. They gain a deeper understanding of the global significance of Korean language and culture, fostering a heightened sense of intercultural awareness and empathy. Students analyse cultural practices and norms in an ongoing process of interpretation, self-reflection, comparison and negotiation, developing their cognitive skills by thinking critically and analytically, solving problems and making connections.

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 that broadens students' worldviews. Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity provides many opportunities to hear and use Korean in real-life situations as well as through Korean media, and to create actual and virtual connections with Korean-speaking communities throughout the world.

Australia has strong personal, cultural, political, and trade connections with Korean-speaking countries, and proficiency in Korean provides students with enhanced vocational opportunities in a wide range of sectors. Studying Korean opens pathways for further academic study in fields like languages, international studies, and cross-cultural communication, and careers in areas such as education, business, trade, commerce, diplomacy, tourism, government, and international law. Korean also provides a foundation for learning other East Asian languages, such as Japanese and Chinese, expanding career and intercultural opportunities. Ultimately, the course offers students valuable linguistic and intercultural skills, fosters personal growth and empathy, and enhances future academic and career prospects.

Aims

The Korean: Background Language ATAR course builds on students' Korean language proficiency and knowledge about the cultures of Korean-speaking communities. It enables students to:

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