



## SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

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**MODERN HISTORY**  
**ATAR YEAR 11**  
**UNIT 1 – ELECTIVE 6**

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## Sample course outline

### Modern History – ATAR Year 11

#### Unit 1 – Elective 6: The Meiji Restoration – Japan (1853–1911)

Week	Key teaching points
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>introductory work on Japanese culture</li> <li>key ideas</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>The Tokugawa Shogunate</b></p> <p>Overview of the period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the feudal system in Japan</li> <li>the Shogan</li> <li>political and economic power</li> <li>political, economic and social change over the period</li> </ul>
3–4	<p><b>Background causes of the Meiji Restoration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the decline of the <i>bakufu</i></li> <li>changed role of the Samurai</li> <li>increased wealth of the merchant class</li> <li>peasant uprisings</li> <li>spread of Western ideas from Nagasaki</li> <li>arrival of the ‘Black Ships’ and Commodore Perry</li> </ul> <p><b>Task 1: Source analysis</b></p>
5–7	<p><b>Significant events leading to the Meiji Restoration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the unequal treaties, including the Treaty of Kanagawa and the Harris Treaty, and the role of Townsend Harris</li> <li>role of the <i>shi-shi</i> and the Sonno Movement</li> <li>the Satsuma-Choshu alliance and the roles of Saigo Takamori, Kido Takayoshi and Okubo Toshimichi</li> <li>restoration of the Emperor Meiji – from feudalism to constitutional monarchy</li> </ul> <p><b>Task 2 Part A: Historical inquiry – the inquiry process</b></p> <p><b>Task 2 Part B: Validation essay</b></p>
8–11	<p><b>Significant changes after the Meiji Restoration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>key ideas of militarism, including <i>fukoku kyohei</i> (rich country, strong military), modernisation/westernisation and <i>bummei kaika</i> (civilisation and enlightenment)</li> <li>the development of constitutional, legal and political reform, including the Charter Oath, Japan’s first constitution (<i>Seitaisho</i>), the end of feudalism and the Meiji Constitution</li> <li>the role of Ito Hirobumi and the genro</li> <li>modernisation and westernisation of the navy and military, including the introduction of conscription</li> <li>the demise of the Samurai, including the Satsuma Rebellion</li> <li>modernisation of industry through the importance of strategic industries, modern communications, the new land tax and the rise of the <i>zaibatsu</i></li> <li>changes to education, including the Rescript on Education</li> <li>the role of Fukuzawa Yukichi as a leading moderniser in Japan’s cultural revolution</li> <li>social/cultural changes, including religion, fashion, food and other aspects</li> </ul> <p><b>Task 3: Explanation – essay</b></p>

Week	Key teaching points
12–13	<b>International relations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how change impacted on international relations, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ the Sino-Japanese War</li><li>▪ the Anglo-Japanese Alliance</li><li>▪ the Russo-Japanese War</li><li>▪ annexation of Korea</li></ul></li><li>• the significance of these events</li></ul> <b>Task 4: Source analysis</b>
14–15	<b>Significance of the Meiji Restoration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• within Japan</li><li>• impact on other Asian nations</li><li>• how Japan was viewed by the West</li></ul> <b>Task 5: Explanation – short answer test</b>
16	<b>Task 6: Semester 1 examination</b>