



# **TAMIL: BACKGROUND 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 Tamil: Second Language ATAR Year 12 course connects students with a language that has approximately 90 million speakers globally. Tamil is used for administrative and daily communication purposes in India's Southern states and Union territory of Puducherry as well as Andaman and Nicobar, and in Sri Lanka and Singapore. In addition, Tamil diaspora in many countries contribute to global society in various fields, such as medicine, classic literature and modern technology and entrepreneurship.

The course is designed for students who acquired the language through immersion or interaction within their environment, such as through family, community, or in-country or cultural experiences. They explore their personal world and the perspectives of others, particularly those shaped by Tamil culture, and the effect of trends and issues in the global community. Within these perspectives, students reflect on their life, career choices and role in the community, and investigate the place of culture and the arts in Tamil-speaking communities and the role of Tamil-speaking communities in the world. They examine the impact of communication technologies on future study and employment and global issues on society.

Students extend and refine their intercultural and linguistic skills in Tamil, enabling them to communicate confidently in a range of situations. They gain a deeper understanding of the global significance of Tamil 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, further 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 found provides many opportunities to hear and use Tamil in real-life situations as well as through Tamil media, and actual and virtual connections with Tamil-speaking communities throughout the world.

Australia has strong personal, cultural, political and trade connections with Tamil-speaking communities of India, Singapore and Sri Lanka and proficiency in Tamil provides students with enhanced vocational opportunities in a wide range of sectors. Studying Tamil opens pathways for further academic study in fields like languages, international studies and cross-cultural communication, and careers in areas such as business, commerce, diplomacy, education, medicine, tourism and law. Tamil also provides a foundation for learning other Dravidian languages, 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 Tamil: Background Language ATAR course builds on students' Tamil language proficiency and knowledge of the cultures of Tamil-speaking communities. It enables students to:

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