



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

TAMIL: SECOND 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 Tamil: Second Language ATAR 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 provides students with a rich and challenging experience of the linguistic and cultural diversity of Tamil-speaking communities. Through Tamil, students explore their personal world and the perspectives of others, and the effect of trends in the global community. Within these perspectives, students reflect on their future planning and investigate popular entertainment, the Tamil cultural heritage and issues related to the Tamil speakers. They examine the impact of Tamil speakers, their culture and environmental issues on the global community.

Students expand and consolidate their skills, knowledge and linguistic resources in Tamil, enabling them to communicate in a range of situations. They gain a broader and deeper understanding of the language and culture, fostering a stronger sense of intercultural awareness and empathy. The course also enhances students' literacy skills and awareness of their own language. By comparing information and ideas from Tamil media, texts and cultural practices, students strengthen their critical thinking skills and learn to approach global issues from diverse perspectives.

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

Australia has strong personal, cultural, political and trade connections with the 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: Second 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 and 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.