



SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

MODERN HISTORY ATAR YEAR 12

Unit 3 – Elective 1: Australia 1918–1955

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Sample course outline

Modern History – ATAR Year 12

Semester 1 – Unit 3 – Modern nations in the 20th century

This outline is based on the elective: Australia 1918–1955 (the end of World War I to the ALP Split)

Week	Key teaching points
1	<p>The Historical Skills are intrinsic to the teaching of this unit</p> <p>The impact of the following forces should be considered, where appropriate, throughout the unit: economic; external forces/international relations; ideas; leadership; political; social/cultural</p> <p>Overview of Australia in 1918 as background for more intensive study of the period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • political, economic and social situation in Australia in 1918 • significant ideas of the period, including mateship and the Anzac legend and nationalism • the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social/cultural leaders
2–4	<p>The adjustment of national priorities in the 1920s, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tensions between urbanisation, industrialisation and rural development • the difficulties of soldier settlement • the exclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples • the changing role of women <p>Changing politics of the 1920s, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Men, money, and markets’ • the rise of the Country Party • the significant ideas of the period, including unionism, communism, nationalism • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism in the 1920s • the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social/cultural leaders
5–7	<p>The Great Depression and the 1930s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the political responses to the Great Depression • the effectiveness of the political responses to the crisis • the impact of the Great Depression on different groups within Australian society <p>Changing politics of the 1930s, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Depression and the Labor Split • the significant ideas of the period, including unionism, communism, nationalism • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism in the 1930s • the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social/cultural leaders
8–9	<p>The changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy from 1918–1945</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Conference of 1919 • membership of the League of Nations • the 1926 Imperial Conference and the Statute of Westminster • relations with Japan • World War II, in particular the war in the Pacific and the alliance with America • the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social/cultural leaders <p>The nature and scope of Australia’s war effort in Europe, Asia and the Pacific (1939–1945) and on the home front</p>

Week	Key teaching points
10–12	Australia: 1945–1955 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the changing politics of the period, including the formation of the Liberal Party; the Light on the Hill; and the ALP/DLP Split• the impact of the rise of communism, its influence on the election of Robert Menzies and the Coalition in 1949, and the contrasting economic and social policies offered at the 1949 election, the 1951 referendum, and the Petrov affair and its impact on the ALP• the key features of post-war reconstruction, including industrialisation, suburbanisation and immigration; the provision of social welfare; and attitudes and policies towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, migrants and women• the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political, military and social/cultural leaders
13–14	The changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy 1945–1955 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the impact of the rise of communism• the Korean War• Australia’s role in the United Nations Organisation (UNO), the Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty (ANZUS) and the South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO)• the role and impact of significant individuals in the period, including political and military
15	Examination (Semester 1)

Historical Skills

The following skills will be developed during this unit.

Chronology, terms and concepts

- identify links between events to understand the nature and significance of causation, continuity and change over time
- use historical terms and concepts in appropriate contexts to demonstrate historical knowledge and understanding

Historical questions and research

- formulate, test and modify propositions to investigate historical issues
- frame questions to guide inquiry and develop a coherent research plan for inquiry
- identify, locate and organise relevant information from a range of primary and secondary sources
- practise ethical scholarship when conducting research

Analysis and use of sources

- identify the origin, purpose and context of historical sources
- analyse, interpret and synthesise evidence from different types of sources to develop and sustain an historical argument
- evaluate the reliability, usefulness and contestable nature of sources to develop informed judgements that support an historical argument

Perspectives and interpretations

- analyse and account for the different perspectives of individuals and groups in the past
- evaluate critically different historical interpretations of the past, how they evolved, and how they are shaped by the historian's perspective
- evaluate contested views about the past to understand the provisional nature of historical knowledge and to arrive at reasoned and supported conclusions

Explanation and communication

- develop texts that integrate appropriate evidence from a range of sources to explain the past and to support and refute arguments
- communicate historical understanding by selecting and using text forms appropriate to the purpose and audience
- apply appropriate referencing techniques accurately and consistently