

School administrators, Heads of Learning Area – Humanities and Social Sciences and Teachers of Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies ATAR Year 12 are requested to note for 2026 the following minor syllabus changes. The syllabus is labelled as 'For teaching from 2026'.

### Humanities and Social Sciences | ATAR Year 12 | Summary of minor syllabus changes

The content identified by ~~strike through~~ has been deleted from the syllabus and the content identified in *italics* has been revised in the syllabus for teaching in 2026.

#### Organisation of content

*The content in each unit is divided into an overview and two depth studies. The content descriptions associated with the overview are designed to be taught at a broad level and in a short timeframe. The content descriptions associated with the depth study are designed to be taught in a more focused and detailed way and, therefore, take more time to teach.*

#### Principles and protocols for teaching and learning

##### *Historic terminology*

- *Acknowledge that the syllabus and support materials include reference to some historical documents, policies and texts, which may include language that is now considered outdated or inappropriate. These terms reflect the norms and attitudes of the time in which they were written and do not represent the values we uphold today – values that emphasise respect, inclusion and understanding. For example, terms like 'Aborigines' or 'half-caste' are considered extremely offensive when referring to Australian First Nations Peoples.*
- *In the classroom, teachers should approach these materials with care and context, the aim being to help students critically engage with history, understand how language evolves and recognise the importance of creating inclusive communities. When encountering such terms, teachers should encourage open discussion, guided by empathy and a commitment to learning from the past.*
- *Using respectful and inclusive language and terminology is an essential part of reconciliation and strengthening relationships between First Nations Peoples and the wider community. Refer to <https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/about/terminology-guide> for guidance on respectful terminology.*

#### Unit 4 – Depth Study Two

- the challenges ~~and barriers~~ to reconciliation in both Australia and **one** other ~~country~~ **countries**
- **one** example of an action taken by groups and/or organisations to progress reconciliation in **one** other ~~another~~ country (e.g. Canada).

#### Assessment table

##### Type of assessment – Extended answer

Students can be required to respond to one or more questions that can require a discussion, analysis, explanation and/or evaluation of the knowledge and understandings from the *depth studies* ~~syllabus~~. Formats can include a sectionalised or a non-sectionalised answer. Typically, questions require the students to explain, discuss, compare, analyse, evaluate and/or consider different perspectives. Extended answer tasks are administered under test conditions. For a full list of verbs, see the Glossary of keywords used in the formulation of questions on the course page.

## Examination design brief

### Section One – Supporting information

Questions can consist of parts. ~~Typically, the parts within a question are of increasing difficulty.~~

Questions can require the candidate to *respond to a series of questions that require them to refer to source material and/or syllabus content.*

*Questions typically require a candidate to identify, define, describe, outline, explain, compare, analyse and/or discuss.*

- ~~• interpret, analyse and/or evaluate source material~~
- ~~• define, describe, list, identify, outline, explain, discuss and/or compare syllabus content.~~

Source material can include:

- written texts (an extract from a government paper, a newspaper and/or journal article; and/or an extract from a narrative, a poem, a song lyric, a play script, and/or a letter)
- graphic materials (a photograph, a map, a graph, a diagram, a cartoon, and/or a drawing).

### Section Two

#### Extended response

40% of the total examination

#### **Unit 3 Depth studies: 20%**

One question from a choice of two

Suggested working time: 40 minutes

#### **Unit 4 Depth studies: 20%**

One question from a choice of two

Suggested working time: 40 minutes