



VISUAL ARTS

ATAR course

**Year 11 syllabus – What’s changing: General Capabilities
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 to investigate the assessment and reporting of the General Capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA), the Authority has updated the statements about the General Capabilities in each syllabus.

The Authority has mapped the General Capabilities through the unit content and assessment types for each of the WACE courses. Students will have the opportunity to develop the General Capabilities identified in the course through the teaching, learning and assessment programs. These General Capabilities will be reflected on the WASSA.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Investigating the assessment and reporting of the General Capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)

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.

Copyright

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2025

This document – apart from any third-party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the Authority's moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with prior written permission of the Authority. Copying or communication of any third-party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence](#).

Progression from the Years 7–10 curriculum

This syllabus continues to develop student understanding and skills from Years 7–10. Through their study of the visual arts in Year 11, students are encouraged to challenge conventions and express concerns about wider issues. They explore and question their own immediate experience and their understanding of the world. Students make their own artwork and respond to the artwork of others, drawing on their developing knowledge, understanding and skills. Students use inquiry processes and critical and creative thinking to shape ideas. They develop an understanding of the role of the visual arts in social, cultural and historical contexts, applying skills of analysis, evaluation and aesthetic understanding.

Representation of the General Capabilities

The General Capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will support students to live and work successfully now and into the future. They are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the following General Capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the Visual Arts ATAR course.

Critical and creative thinking

The development of creative and critical thinking is integral to the Visual Arts ATAR course. In creating art, students draw on their curiosity, imagination and thinking skills to generate, refine and express ideas. They consider possibilities and processes and make choices, developing creative thinking strategies transferable to any problem-solving context. Students analyse visual language and compositional choices, evaluate artistic effectiveness and interpret meaning and purpose when interpreting artwork.

Digital literacy

Students develop digital literacy by incorporating digital tools and software throughout the creative process, from idea generation, research and design to production and presentation of artwork. This facilitates innovative approaches to traditional art forms and enables new modes of artistic expression, allowing students to represent their ideas and artwork. Students consider ethical and legal issues in digital creation, and select relevant digital tools to expand creative possibilities and enhance communication with audiences.

Ethical understanding

Students develop and apply ethical understanding when they encounter or create artwork that requires ethical consideration. This includes issues such as cultural representation, environmental responsibility, artistic freedom and social impact. Students actively engage in ethical decision-making when reflecting on their own and others' artwork.

Intercultural understanding

Students develop intercultural understanding in the course as they explore new ideas, media and practices from diverse local, national, regional and global cultural contexts. Students are encouraged to demonstrate open-mindedness to perspectives and visual languages that differ from their own and to appreciate the diversity of cultures and contexts of both artists and audiences.

Literacy

Students develop literacy through the study of visual arts by working in multiple meaning-making modes. When students document their creative process, analyse artworks or write artist statements, they integrate visual and written literacy. They develop visual literacy by interpreting symbols and narratives in artworks, strengthening their ability to decode meaning across contexts.

Numeracy

Students develop numerical and geometric understanding through spatial reasoning, measurement, proportion and pattern recognition. They apply scale calculations and understandings of ratio and measurement when creating and interpreting in the visual arts.

Personal and social capability

The course promotes self-discipline, initiative, confidence, empathy and adaptability as students work individually and collaboratively. Students develop and apply personal capabilities such as self-discipline and goal setting.

Summary representation of the General Capabilities in the Visual Arts ATAR course

The unit content and assessment types for this course provide students with the opportunity to develop the General Capabilities summarised in the table below.

Year	Course	Course type	General Capabilities						
			CCT	DL	EU	IU	L	N	PSC
Year 11	Visual Arts (AEVAR)	ATAR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Year 12	Visual Arts (ATVAR)	ATAR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Key

CCT: Critical and creative thinking, DL: Digital literacy, EU: Ethical understanding, IU: Intercultural understanding, L: Literacy, N: Numeracy, PSC: Personal and social capability