Sample Course Outline

Modern History

ATAR Year 12

Unit 3 – Elective 1: Australia 1918−1949

(the end of World War I to the 1949 election)

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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 elective 1: Australia 1918–49 (the end of World War I to the 1949 election).

**The development of historical skills is intrinsic to the teaching of this unit.** This content is shown beneath this table.

The impact of the following forces should be considered, where appropriate, throughout the unit:

* economic
* international relations
* leadership
* political
* social.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Syllabus content | Suggested teaching points |
| 1–2 | * the economic, political and social conditions in Australia in 1918
* the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including
	+ women
	+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
* the significant ideas of the period, including
	+ egalitarianism
	+ assimilation
	+ communism
	+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism
	+ nationalism
 | **Overview of Australia in 1918*** political conditions and an overview of the political parties in Australia
* economic conditions – protectionist policies and reliance on wheat and sheep
* social conditions – outline of the Immigration Restriction Act, treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, women’s position in the family and in the workforce

**World War I (WWI) and its impact on Australia*** reasons for going to war – individuals and as a country (foreign policy)
* impacts of enlistments, government wartime controls and propaganda
* the role of women
* the conscription debate, the role of Billy Hughes and the ongoing political impact on the Labor Party
* social divisions and economic impact

**Identity*** mateship and the Anzac legend, and the growth of nationalism
* the different views of the Anzac legend
* the exclusion of groups from the idea of ‘mateship’
 |
| 3 | * the management of national priorities in the 1920s, including
	+ the tensions between urbanisation, industrialisation and rural development
* the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy from 1918–39, including
	+ the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and the role of Billy Hughes
	+ membership of the League of Nations
* the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including
	+ women
	+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
* the significant ideas of the period, including
	+ egalitarianism
	+ assimilation
	+ communism
	+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism
	+ nationalism
 | **Post-WWI*** the Peace Conference of 1919 and membership of the League of Nations
* the adjustment of national priorities in the 1920s
* the significant ideas of the period, including egalitarianism and communism
* the changing politics of the period

**Industrial unrest*** the causes, unrest, political response, unionism and formation of the ACTU

**Social issues*** continuity and change in women’s status in society
* treatment (exclusion) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
* Experience of Immigrants and the policy of assimilation
* technological change and impact, including entertainment
 |
| 4 | * the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy from 1918–39, including
	+ the 1926 Imperial Conference and the Statute of Westminster
* the management of national priorities in the 1920s, including
* the challenges of returned soldiers and the Soldier Settlement Schemes
* the significant political developments of the period, including
	+ the rise of the Country Party
	+ ‘Men, money, markets’
	+ the growth of unionism
	+ the 1931 Labor Split
	+ the formation of the Liberal Party
 | **National priorities in Australia in the 1920s** * tensions between urbanisation, industrialisation and rural development
* the Imperial Conference of 1926
* impact of returned service personnel, the Returned and Services League (RSL) and the Soldier Settlement Schemes, Imperial Conferences, the Statute of Westminster & relations with Britain
* the origin and growth of the Country Party and the Bruce-Page government

**‘Men, money, markets’*** economic development and the policies of ‘Men, money, markets’
* *Empire Settlement Act of 1922*
 |
| 5–7 | * the causes of, and the political responses to the Great Depression and its impact on different groups within Australian society
* the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including
	+ women
	+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
* the significant ideas of the period, including
	+ egalitarianism
	+ assimilation
	+ communism
	+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism
	+ nationalism
* the significant political developments of the period, including
	+ the rise of the Country Party
	+ ‘Men, money, markets’
	+ the growth of unionism
	+ the 1931 Labor Split
	+ the formation of the Liberal Party
 | **The Great Depression*** the impact of the Great Depression on different groups within Australian society; the political responses to the Great Depression; and the effectiveness of the political responses to the crisis
* the changing politics of the period – the significant ideas of the period, including communism
* the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy

**Causes of the Great Depression 1929–1932*** analysis of causes

**The Great Depression and its impact on different groups** * social classes; women and children; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

**Government responses to the Depression*** the role and impact of Scullin and Lang
* effectiveness of government responses/the plans

**Division in the Labor Party** * causes of the 1931 ALP split, the divisive impact and its consequences

**Impact of political division*** the emergence of the extreme right-wing (Fascist) New Guard and left-wing political parties

**Economic recovery post-Depression 1932–1939** * the Lyons government and the economy’s path to recovery

**Task 1 – Explanation: The political responses to the Great Depression (Week 7)** |
| 8–11 | * the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy from 1918–39, including
	+ relations with Japan
* the nature of and response to Australia’s involvement in World War II in Europe, Asia and the Pacific (1939–45) and the experiences on the home front, including
	+ the wartime leadership of Robert Menzies and John Curtin
	+ the alliance with the United States of America
	+ austerity and total war
	+ Australia’s role in the United Nations Organisation (UNO)
* the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including
	+ women
	+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
* the significant political developments of the period, including
	+ the rise of the Country Party
	+ ‘Men, money, markets’
	+ the growth of unionism
	+ the 1931 Labor Split
	+ the formation of the Liberal Party
 | **International relations** * relations with Britain – the ‘Singapore strategy’ and preferential trade agreements
* relations with Japan, including the growing fear of Japan

**Australia and World War II (WWII)*** the nature and scope of Australia’s war effort in Europe, Asia and the Pacific (1939–1945) and on the home front
* the changing nature and significance of Australia’s foreign policy, including relations with Japan; WWII, 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 leaders

**WWII – background and outbreak** * the causes, including the rise of Fascism; Australia’s response

**Australia’s involvement** * the nature and scope of Australia’s involvement with
* Europe
* Asia and the Pacific
	+ the alliance with America
	+ the home front – social, economic and political situation, including the roles of Curtin, Menzies, and the formation of the Liberal Party in 1944
	+ significant foreign policy issues such as the Fall of Singapore, Curtin’s appeal for assistance from the USA, the defeat and occupation of Japan

**Task 2 – Source analysis: Australia’s changing foreign policy and the Second World War (Week 10)** **Task 3 Part A – Historical inquiry: The role and impact of a significant leader (Issue: Week 10)** |
| 12–14 | * the significant political developments of the period, including
	+ the rise of the Country Party
	+ ‘Men, money, markets’
	+ the growth of unionism
	+ the 1931 Labor Split
	+ the formation of the Liberal Party
* the key features of post-World War II reconstruction, including
	+ the leadership of Ben Chifley
	+ industrialisation, urbanisation and immigration
	+ the provision of social welfare
* the experiences of particular groups throughout the period, including
	+ women
	+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
* the significant ideas of the period, including
	+ egalitarianism
	+ assimilation
	+ communism
	+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism
	+ Nationalism
* the key factors influencing the election of Robert Menzies and the Liberal-Country Coalition in 1949
 | **Post-1945 Australia: the pre-Menzies era 1945–1949*** the changing politics of the period, including the formation of the Liberal Party
* post-war reconstruction – the White Paper on Employment, Snowy Mountain Scheme
* Chifley and the ‘Light on the Hill’ – service personnel, banking reform, social welfare, social reform agenda

**Post-war Australia*** foreign policy
* United Nations – role in the formation, role in the General Assembly and the role of Evatt
* changing relations with Japan, support for Indonesian and Indian independence

**Post-war social change*** significant ideas of the period including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activism – Aboriginal Australians
* causes and impact of changing attitudes
* Aboriginal activism including the roles of William Cooper (1930s), Faith Bandler and Jack Patten
* provision of social welfare
* migration
* reasons for/against migration, changes to migration policy – ‘Populate or Perish’
* the social impact of migration
* women
* impact of WWII
* post-war opportunities in education, the expanding economy, government legislation
* the 1949 election
* contrasting economic and social policies offered by Chifley, Menzies and the Coalition
* impact of communism on the election, the 1949 NSW Coal Strike
* the political implications of the election

**Task 3 Part A – Historical inquiry: The role and impact of a significant leader (Submit: Week 13)****Task 3 Part B – In-class validation: The role and impact of a significant leader (Week 13)** |
| 15 | * Revision
 | * highlight the Historical Knowledge and Understanding content points and the Historical Skills
 |
| 16 | **Task 4 – Semester 1 examination: Unit 3 content** |

| **Historical Skills** |
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| 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 inquiry*** 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
* acknowledge and reference sources, as appropriate

**Analysis and use of historical sources*** identify the message, origin, purpose and context of historical sources
* analyse and synthesise evidence from different types of historical sources
* evaluate the reliability and usefulness of historical sources

**Perspectives and interpretations*** analyse and account for the different perspectives of individuals and groups in the past
* evaluate different historical interpretations of the past and how they are shaped by the historian’s perspective
* evaluate the significance of ideas, events and people

**Explanation and communication*** develop texts that integrate appropriate evidence from a range of sources to explain the past and to sustain an argument
* communicate historical understanding, using historical knowledge, concepts and terms
 |