

Ancient History

General senior subject

General

Ancient History is concerned with studying people, societies and civilisations of the Ancient World, from the development of the earliest human communities to the end of the Middle Ages. Students explore the interaction of societies and the impact of individuals and groups on ancient events and ways of life, enriching their appreciation of humanity and the relevance of the ancient past. Ancient History illustrates the development of some of the distinctive features of modern society which shape our identity, such as social organisation, systems of law, governance and religion. Ancient History highlights how the world has changed, as well as the significant legacies that continue into the present. This insight gives context for the interconnectedness of past and present across a diverse range of societies. Ancient History aims to have students think historically and form a historical consciousness. A study of the past is invaluable in providing students with opportunities to explore their fascination with, and curiosity about, stories of the past and the mysteries of human behaviour.

Throughout the course of study, students develop an understanding of historical issues and problems by interrogating the surviving evidence of ancient sites, societies, individuals, events and significant historical periods. Students investigate the problematic nature of evidence, pose increasingly complex questions about the past and develop an understanding of different and sometimes conflicting perspectives on the past. A historical inquiry process is integral to the study of Ancient History. Students use the skills of historical inquiry to investigate the past. They devise historical questions and conduct research, analyse historical sources and evaluate and synthesise evidence from sources to formulate justified historical arguments.

Historical skills form the learning and subject matter provides the context. Learning in context enables the integration of historical concepts and understandings into four units of study: Investigating the Ancient World, Personalities in their times, Reconstructing the Ancient World, and People, power and authority.

A course of study in Ancient History empowers students with multi-disciplinary skills in analysing and evaluating textual and visual sources, constructing arguments, challenging assumptions, and thinking both creatively and critically. Ancient History students become knowledge creators, productive and discerning users of technology, and empathetic, open-minded global citizens.

Pathways

A course of study in Ancient History can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of archaeology, history, education, psychology, sociology, law, business, economics, politics, journalism, the media, health and social sciences, writing, academia and research.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- devise historical questions and conduct research
- comprehend terms, concepts and issues
- analyse evidence from historical sources
- evaluate evidence from historical sources
- synthesise evidence from historical sources
- communicate to suit purpose

Structure

Ancient History will be offered as alternative sequence. This means that the students will be taught the same subject matter and meet the same syllabus objects across the two years of study but the units will be completed in a different order.

For the 2027-2028 cohort, students will study Units 1 and 2 in Year 11 and Units 3 and 4 in Year 12.

The units covered in the Ancient History syllabus are as follows:

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Investigating the Ancient World • Digging up the past • Features of ancient societies	Personalities in their time • Personality from the Ancient World 1 • Personality from the Ancient World 2	Reconstructing the Ancient World CHSHS completes the following two historical periods to study in this unit: • Fifth Century Athens (BCE) • Pompeii and Herculaneum	People, power and authority CHSHS completes the following historical period to study in this unit: • Ancient Rome — Civil War and the breakdown of the Republic Schools select one of the personality options that has been nominated by the QCAA for the external assessment.

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.

In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — extended response	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Investigation	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Investigation	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — short responses	25%