
VCE UNITS INFORMATION

VCE Extended Investigation Units 3 and 4

CONTENT

The VCE Extended Investigation enables students to develop, refine and extend their knowledge and skills through an independent research. Students are required to carry out an investigation that focuses on a rigorous research question.

The investigation may be an extension of a subject area already undertaken by the student or it may be completely independent of any other study in the student's VCE program. Through this study, students develop their capacity to explore, justify and defend their research findings to a general audience in both oral and written forms.

Critical thinking is a foundation of the study. The study requires students to engage with a range of texts that require the application of critical thinking skills, in particular the skills associated with questioning and evidence. Students learn about types of evidence, strong and weak argument and reasoning, the differences between fact and belief, and the kinds of questions that elicit higher order thinking. This provides the student with the framework for understanding how to undertake an individual investigation.

Students are introduced to a broad range of research methods and explore their comparative suitability for the investigation of particular questions. The skills that students develop in this study are transferable to any higher education course or vocational education and training program.

Unit 3: Designing an Extended Investigation

Students design a research question of significance and requiring detailed inquiry. They set parameters and consider their research methodology and develop a research plan. Students practise critical thinking and develop their capacity to evaluate information effectively.

Unit 4: Presenting an Extended Investigation

Students complete their Extended Investigation and write the final report that provides their response to the research question. They maintain journal as a record of their research and reflect on and evaluate their research. Students present their investigation before a non-specialist panel and respond to questions and challenges.

OUTCOMES

- Students should be able to develop and construct a rigorous research question
- Students should be able to design and undertake an independent investigation
- Students should be able to understand and apply research methods
- Students should be able to explore a chosen area of investigation in depth
- Students should be able to develop as independent, critical and reflective learners
- Students should be able to develop research project management knowledge and skills
- Students should be able to analyse and evaluate findings and results
- Students should be able to develop skills in written and oral presentation of research findings

ASSESSMENT

- Unit 3 School-assessed Coursework: Research Rationale, Research Plan Oral: 30%
- Unit 3 Externally-assessed Critical Thinking Test: 10%
- Unit 4 Externally-assessed Task: 4000 word Research Paper, 20 minute Oral: 60%