
VCE UNITS INFORMATION

VCE History: Twentieth Century History Units 1 and 2

CONTENT

Unit 1: 1918 – 1939

The Twentieth Century was a period of dynamic political, economic and social changes. This unit examines different events that shaped the world from 1918 – 1939. These events include the way the 1920s changed cultural life in America and laid the foundations for the Great Depression. The unit also explores how the development of various ideologies contributed to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Unit 2: 1945 – 2000

This unit looks at the world in the post Second World War period, with the establishment of the United Nations and how this organisation aimed to restore peace to an ideologically divided world, which was undermined by the Cold War. Crisis such as the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis took the world to the brink of nuclear war, tensions only exacerbated by the 1963 assassination of American President Kennedy. Students also learn about events of the new millennium such as partition and initiatives for independence in India and Palestine.

OUTCOMES

Unit 1

- Students should be able to explain the consequences of the peace treaties, which ended World War One, the impact of ideologies on nations and the events that led to World War Two
- Students should be able to explain patterns of social life and cultural change in one or more contexts, and analyse the factors, which influenced changes to social life and culture, in the inter-war years. To achieve this outcome, the student will draw on key knowledge and key skills outlined in Area of Study 2, focusing on one or more of the following contexts: Italy, Germany, Japan, USSR and/or USA

Unit 2

- Student should be able to explain the ideological divisions in the post-war period and analyse the nature, development and impact of the Cold War on nations and people, in relation to one or more particular conflicts of the period
- Students should be able to explain the causes and nature of challenge and change in relation to two selected contexts in the second half of the twentieth century and analyse the consequences for nations and people

ASSESSMENT

Assessment tasks over Units 1 and 2 should include the following:

- A historical inquiry
- An analysis of primary sources
- An analysis of historical interpretations
- An essay