
VCE UNITS INFORMATION

VCE History: Australian History Units 3 and 4

CONTENT

Australian History has been a part of your learning journey throughout primary and secondary school; however, in this subject you will learn aspects about your nation's history that you did not know existed. In VCE Australian History, students explore four periods of time from 1830 to 2000, which span some of the major events that developed and changed the nature of Australia society and created modern Australia.

Unit 3: Transformations – Colonial Society to Nation

Students explore the changes of the Port Phillip District (later Victoria) from the 1830s through to the end of the gold rush decade in 1860. They consider the dramatic changes introduced as the British colonisers swiftly established themselves, taking possession of the land and then its newly discovered mineral riches.

Students examine transformations in the way of life of the Aboriginal peoples and to the environment, as the European society became a permanent settlement. They also consider how new visions for the future created by the gold rush and the Eureka rebellion further transformed the new colony.

Students explore the type of society Australians attempted to create in the early years of the newly federated nation. Much of the legislation debated and passed by the Commonwealth Parliament was relatively advanced and Australia was seen as a social laboratory exploring new forms of rights and benefits for its citizens. Students evaluate the effect that Australian involvement in World War One had on the country's egalitarian and socially progressive aspirations.

Unit 4: Transformations – Old Certainties and New Visions

In Area of Study 1, students focus on how World War brought both internal and external crises to the nation.

In Area of Study 2, students explore social, economic and political changes in the latter part of the twentieth century that collectively challenged and/or overturned much of Australia's earlier carefully constructed social and economic fabric. Students examine changes brought about by Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and Indigenous Land Rights.