
RINGWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

SENIOR SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION HANDBOOK 2023



Bedford Road Ringwood, Victoria 3134

Website: www.ringwoodsc.vic.edu.au

RINGWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

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RINGWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Senior School Information

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**VCE - Vocational Major
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Stacey Miriklis**

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Senior School

Year Level Coordinators: Kelleigh Lamb (Year 11)
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RINGWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

VCE

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is usually a two-year certificate based around the successful completion of senior secondary schooling. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) implement and manage the VCE.

A wide selection of studies from all VCAA Learning Areas are offered to best cater to the needs and choices of students at Ringwood Secondary College.

Studies are organised into semester units. Units 1 & 2 are usually undertaken in Year 11 and Units 3 & 4 are usually undertaken in Year 12. Students at Ringwood Secondary College typically undertake 12 Units in Year 11 and then a further 10 Units in Year 12. Satisfactory completion of VCE involves the successful completion of a minimum of 16 units that satisfy the required VCAA requirements.

Students should ensure that in choosing VCE studies, their selections satisfy any requirements needed for entry into tertiary education programs or occupations that students may intend to pursue upon leaving school. Students should also consider their individual strengths and weaknesses in subjects previously undertaken and use their interest in particular studies to support the selection process. Any proposed VCE courses should be discussed with parents and teachers with direct knowledge of VCE, especially those within Senior School and members of the Careers Team.

Some students may have already begun their VCE as a Year 10 student. Students who met specific criteria to undertake a Unit 1 & 2 study as a Year 10 student had this opportunity. Students wishing to continue with this study as a Unit 3 & 4 sequence in Year 11 have to achieve at least an overall result of B+ to ensure continuity of learning. Strong results in all other Year 10 subjects is also a requirement.

Higher Education in VCE Studies (HEVS)

The opportunity to complete a Higher Education study during Year 12 may be of interest to high achieving students and/or students wishing to experience university subjects in advance of starting university. This can provide a great learning opportunity and challenge for students within a particular area of interest. Prerequisites are required for most subjects across universities. To be eligible to undertake a HEVS, students will need to have successfully completed a Unit 3 & 4 sequence in Year 11. The HEVS subject will only be recognised as a 5th or 6th subject, contributing approximately 10% of the achieved result towards a student's ATAR.

VCE Baccalaureate

The VCAA VCE Baccalaureate is awarded to students in recognition of the depth, breadth and achievement levels within particular studies. To be eligible to receive the VCE Baccalaureate students must complete VCE with:

- a score of 30 or above for English, Literature or English Language
- a VCE Languages study
- a VCE Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics
- study scores for at least two other Unit 3 and 4 sequences

VCE Assessment and Reporting

Satisfactory Completion of Units

To satisfactorily complete VCE, a student must achieve a satisfactory result for a minimum of 16 units that satisfy the requirements of VCAA. These requirements must include:

- o at least three units from the English group, two of which must be a Unit 3 & 4 sequence
- o an additional three Unit 3 & 4 sequences of studies other than English, which may include further sequences from the English group

Each VCE unit includes a set of Learning Outcomes in accordance with VCAA. These require students to demonstrate key knowledge and skills within subjects undertaken, School Assessed Coursework (SAC) and School Assessed Tasks (SAT) are graded and used to assess Learning Outcomes.

Upon conclusion of a Unit, a student's result of Satisfactory (S) or Not Satisfactory (N) will be reported to VCAA for each unit undertaken. This information will be recorded on a student's 'Statement of Results' issued by VCAA.

Assessment Units 1 & 2

VCAA will issue all students with a Statement of Results that will show an S or N for each unit. An S indicates that the Learning Outcomes have been satisfactorily completed. Examinations will also form part of the school-based assessment of Units 1 & 2.

Assessment Units 3 & 4

At the conclusion of a Unit 3 & 4 study sequence, a study score (out of 50) will be determined. This is based on a student's performance in both school-based assessment (SACs and/or SATs) and external examinations. These individual study scores form the basis of calculation of a student's Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

General Assessment Test (GAT)

The GAT is a test of general knowledge and skills in written communication, mathematics, science, technology, humanities and the arts. All Year 12 students (VCE & Vocational Major) and/or students undertaking a Unit 3 and 4 sequence are required to sit the GAT. This examination is designed to ensure school assessments and examinations have been accurately assessed. It is also used as an indicator of a student's level of

ability if a student applies for a Derived Examination Score due to unforeseen circumstances. For these reasons, it is essential for students to complete the GAT to the best of their ability.

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

A student's ATAR is used as a basis for entry to many university and some TAFE courses. The ATAR will place students on a percentile ranking, with 99.95 being the highest possible rank. This achieved rank will be used by all courses that choose to select applicants on the basis of VCE results.

The ATAR is calculated using results achieved in Unit 3 & 4 sequences. A student's ATAR is calculated using:

- o The student's best scaled score in one of English, English Language, Literature or English as an Additional Language
- o The next best three scaled study scores permissible
- o 10% of the fifth and sixth permissible study scores available

Alternative Tertiary Entry

Direct offers are available for a variety of university and TAFE courses. These are updated annually by individual institutions and current information is accessible via websites.

Scaling

Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) scaled study scores allow for fair comparisons to be made between students' achievements across all their studies, regardless of the studies undertaken. This enables students to freely choose studies they like or are good at without worrying about the effect on their ATAR.

If you choose a study that you are not very good at simply because it will be scaled up, the study score you receive will be a lot lower than what you could expect in a study you are good at and that interests you. While your score will be scaled up, it is unlikely that your VTAC scaled study score would be any higher than if you had chosen a more suitable study, even one that is scaled down.

The way to ensure that you achieve your best ATAR is to choose your studies according to what you are interested in; what you are good at; and what studies you need for future study.

The calculation of the ATAR guarantees that all studies are treated equally and provides you with a common score for tertiary selection across Australia.

RINGWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Victorian Certificate of Education - Vocational Major (VCE-VM)

What is VCE-VM?

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE-VM) is a more practical based learning option for Year 11 and 12 students. VCE-VM aims to provide the skills, knowledge and attributes to enable students to make informed choices about pathways to work and further education. The program provides opportunities to build personal skills and further interests in an applied learning environment. A feature of the VCE-VM program is the continued participation in community related events and programs. All Year 12 VCE-VM students are required to sit the GAT.

Selection and Application Process

It is important to note that VCE-VM will challenge all students. It is a more hands-on approach and appropriate pathway for many students. Likewise, this program will not suit all students and therefore an application and interview process is required to select students for the VCE-VM. Further information about the application process and requirements are available from the Careers Office.



VCE-VM Overview

To satisfactorily complete VCE-VM, a student must achieve a satisfactory result for a minimum of 16 units that satisfy the requirements of VCAA. These requirements must include:

- at least three Literacy units, two of which must be a Unit 3 & 4 sequence
- two units of General Mathematics
- four units of Work Related Skills
- four units of Personal Development Skills
- VET Courses (Cert. 3 in Business and one course specific to each student's individual industry pathway)
- organised structured work placements

Each VCE-VM unit includes Learning Outcomes in accordance with VCAA. These require students to demonstrate key knowledge and skills within subjects undertaken.

Upon conclusion of a Unit, a student's result of Satisfactory (S) or Not Satisfactory (N) will be reported to VCAA for each unit undertaken. This information will be recorded on a student's 'Statement of Results' issued by VCAA.

School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SBAT)

School based apprenticeships and traineeships provide opportunities for students to gain a vocational qualification while completing all required aspects of the VCE-VM.

SBATs combine school, paid part-time work and structured training with a TAFE or training provider. Students are required to spend a minimum of seven hours per week in employment and another six hours per week in structured training. In order to gain an SBAT, a formal Apprenticeship Contract and Training Plan is required. Completion of an SBAT will earn credit towards completion of the VCE-VM.

RINGWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Studies

What is VET?

VET Programs are designed to broaden opportunities for students in vocationally orientated programs, and can complement the traditional VCE program. VET is a compulsory strand in VCAL.

For students, a VET course may be a suitable option. These programs enable students to undertake preliminary vocational training as part of their overall school program. If a student elects to complete a VET course, it will take the place of one elective subject each semester.

Most courses run on Wednesday afternoons commencing at 1.00pm, and concluding at 5.30pm, although some VET courses require a full day training. Specific details will be confirmed at the end of this year or early next year. Students wishing to complete a VET course next year must complete and submit an application. Application forms and further information about any of the possible VET courses is available from the Careers Office.

Ringwood Secondary College students have access to a number of different VET courses and providers. Ringwood Secondary College offers Automotive Technology, Dance, CISCO and Engineering, but students are not limited to these courses. Students have the opportunity to undertake many other VET courses offered at different schools and institutions.

Please be aware that VET courses may incur an additional cost.

VET Units

VET units can contribute towards the required 16 units needed to successfully complete VCE.

All VET courses with a Unit 3 & 4 scored assessment sequence contribute to the calculation of a student's ATAR and can count as part of the 'Primary Four'.

Where scored assessment is not available, the VET course will contribute as a 10% increment of the lowest study score of the Primary Four.

VET Courses Offered within our Network

The following VET courses are offered to students. These courses are held at variety of different locations:

- Acting, Film & TV
- Allied Health
- Animal Studies
- Automotive
- Beauty Services
- Building
- Cisco
- AIE IT
- Community Services
- Creative Industries
- Dance
- Early Childhood Education and Care
- Electrotechnology
- Engineering
- Equine Studies
- Fashion Design
- Design Fundamentals
- Graphic Design Fundamentals
- Hairdressing
- Horticulture
- Hospitality
- Make-up and Skincare
- Music Industry
- Plumbing
- Sport and Recreation



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Course Selection Process

The first step in the course selection process is to consider a student's pathway beyond school. It is important to ensure that selections have met any required prerequisites for university or TAFE courses, and that selected studies are appropriately matched to the individual interests and abilities of a student.

A VCE program is usually completed over two years chosen from the VCE studies offered at Ringwood Secondary College. When creating a VCE program, students must select 4 units of an English grouped subject. Students can then select other units that best fulfil requirements to make a total of 22 units to be completed across Years 11 and 12. As previously stated, this typically consists of 12 units during Year 11 and 10 units during Year 12.

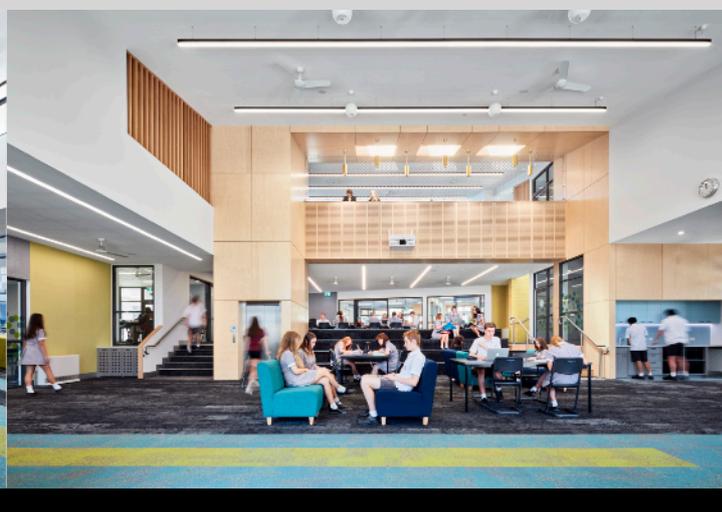
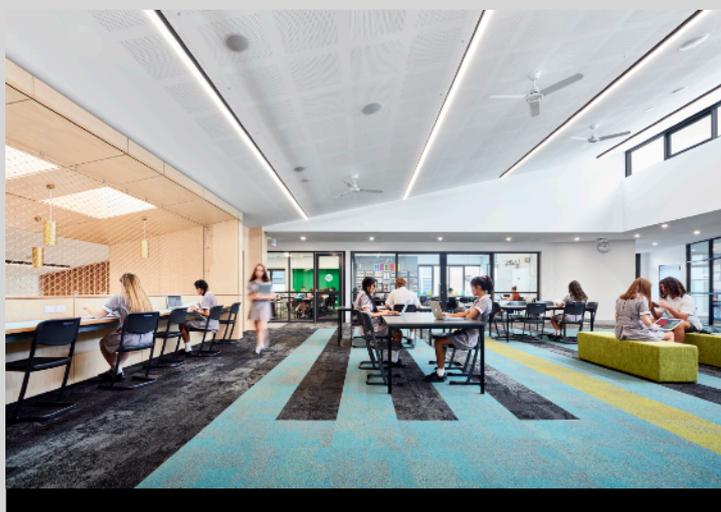
Whilst a VCE program initially selected creates a course of study over a two year period, there is the opportunity for students to change direction or focus throughout Year 11. It is important that all students complete a meaningful course of study that will provide adequate pathways into further study or employment.

If VCE-VM is the most appropriate option, it consists of prescribed units, along with individual VET units. Students within the VCE-VM undertake 11 units in Year 11 and another 11 units in Year 12.

The initial selection of the most appropriate option (VCE or VCE-VM) is an important stage within the course selection process. Considerable thought and planning should be given when selecting the most appropriate program and units to undertake.

In creating a VCE program, students are supported in a variety of ways:

- Presentations and information distributed in Year Level Assemblies
- Pathways research and investigation within the Bounce program
- Completion of a Career Action Plan
- VCE & VCE-VM information sessions for students and parents to inform of curriculum and administrative requirements
- Careers counselling to support students with appropriate study selections within VCAA guidelines and university prerequisites
- Individual checking and entry of proposed subject preferences
- Confirmation of allocated subjects



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VCE Studies Offered

Art

Art Creative Practice
Dance
Drama
Media
Music (Units 1 & 2)
Music Contemporary or Repertoire Performance (Units 3 & 4)
Visual Communication Design

Business and Economics

Accounting
Business Management
Economics
Legal Studies

Cross-Curricular

Extended Investigation (Units 3 & 4)

English

English
English as an Additional Language (EAL)
English Language
Literature

Health and Physical Education

Health and Human Development
Physical Education

Humanities

Classical Studies
Geography
History: Modern History (Units 1 & 2)
History: Revolutions (Units 3 & 4)
Philosophy

Mathematics

General Mathematics
Mathematical Methods
Specialist Mathematics

Science

Biology
Chemistry
Environmental Science
Physics
Psychology

Technologies

Food Studies
Product Design and Technology: Textiles
Product Design and Technology: Wood

Digital Technologies

Applied Computing (Units 1 & 2)
Software Development (Units 3 & 4)

Languages

French
Indonesian

* All subjects are offered from Units 1-4 unless specified.

* Curriculum contributions are requested for some subjects due to necessary resources and/or activities for student learning.

* Timetabling constraints, minimum class sizes, available physical and human resources are all factors that contribute to classes running. Ringwood Secondary College aims to satisfy the choices and requirements of students wherever possible.

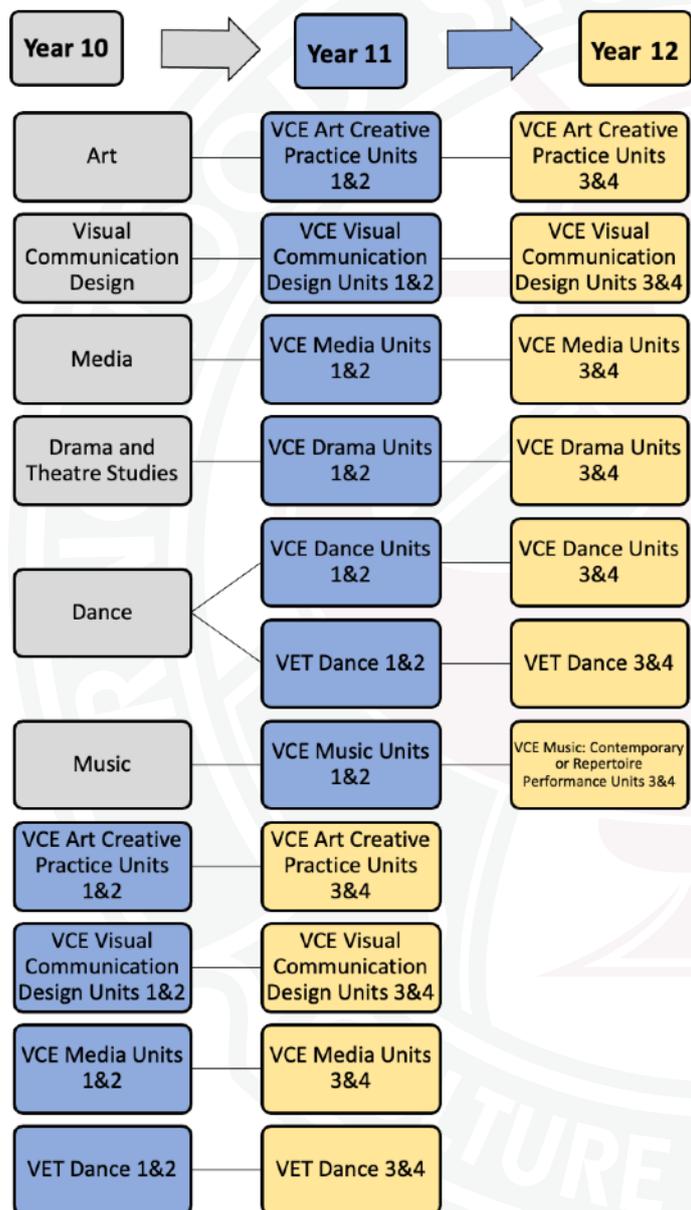
VCAA study designs and further information about each course can be accessed via the link below:
<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/Pages/vce-study-designs.aspx>

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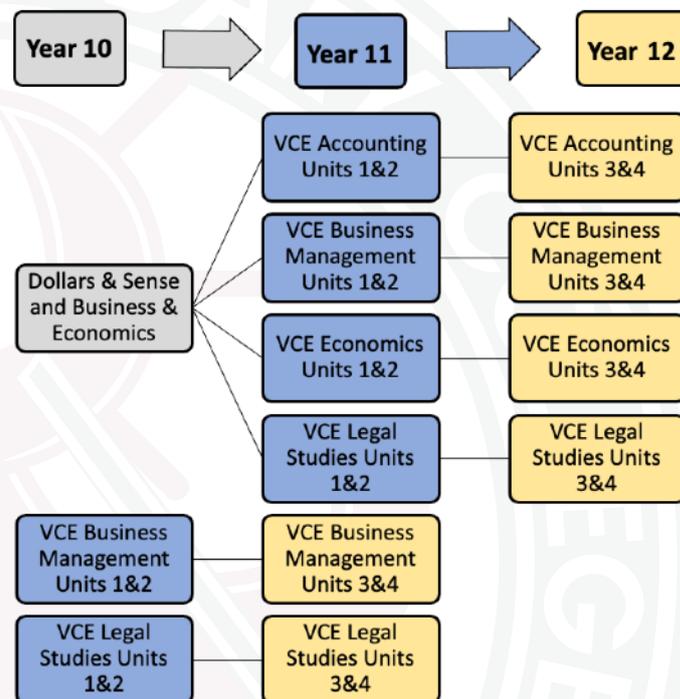
Subject Pathways

The subject pathway diagrams provided in this handbook represent a traditional sequence of Units 1-4 within particular studies. Other options and variations may be possible through consultation with Senior School & Careers Team staff members.

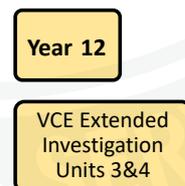
Art Studies Pathways



Business and Economics Studies Pathways



Cross-Curricular

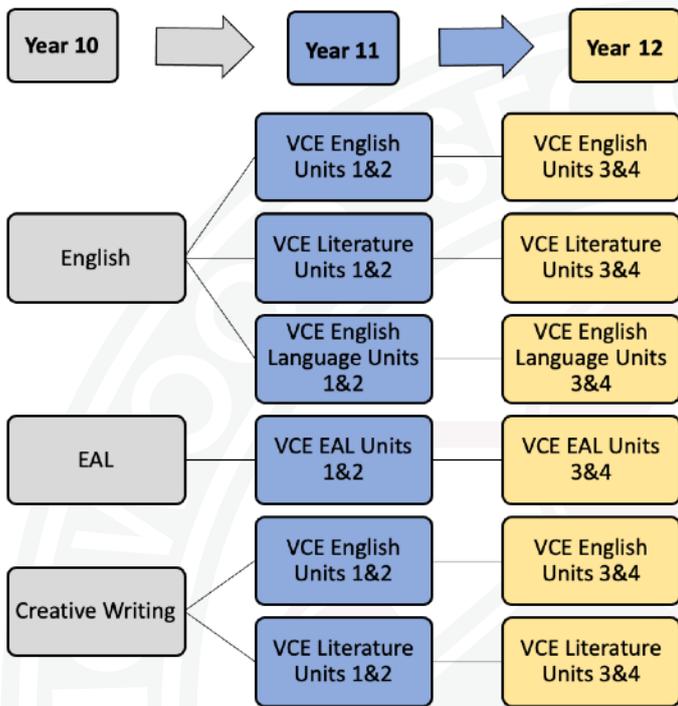


* A strong work ethic and ability to work independently is essential for any student planning to undertake this study.

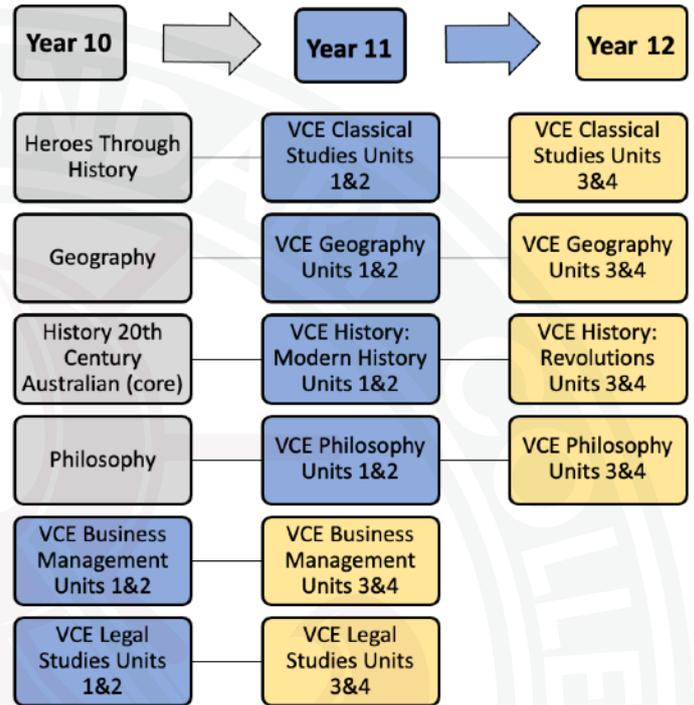
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Subject Pathways

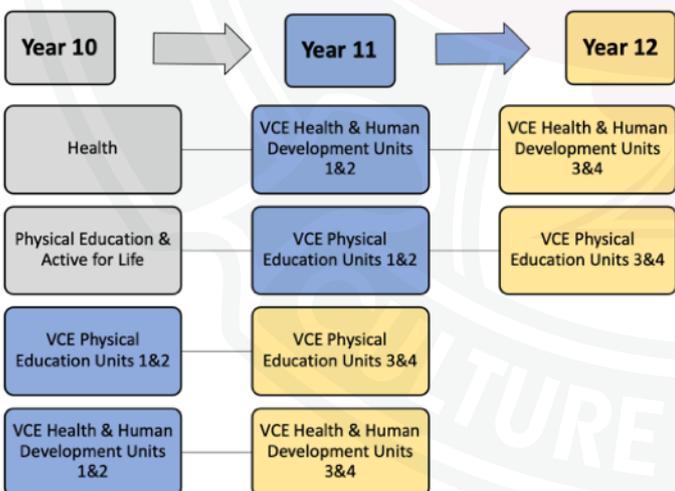
English Studies Pathways



Humanities Studies Pathways



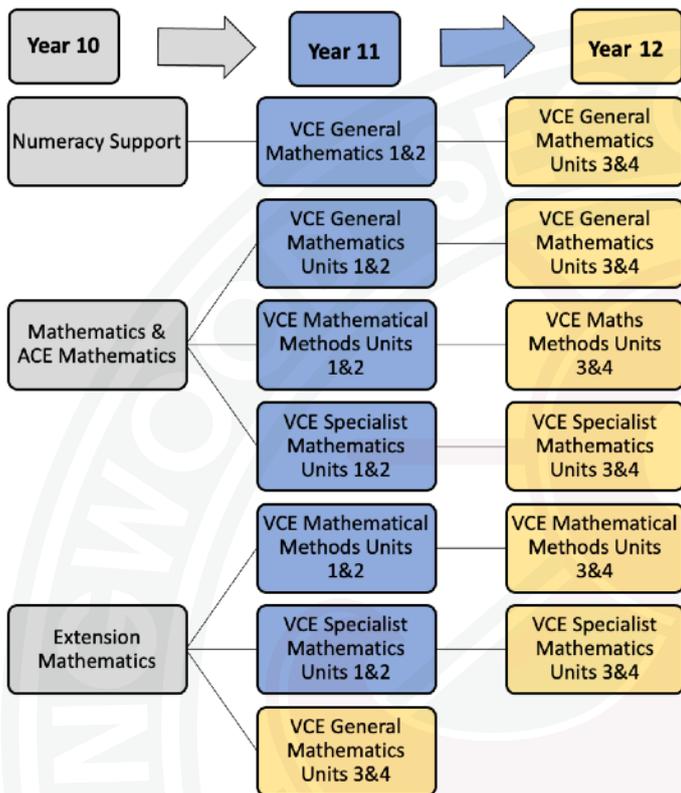
Health and Physical Education Studies Pathways



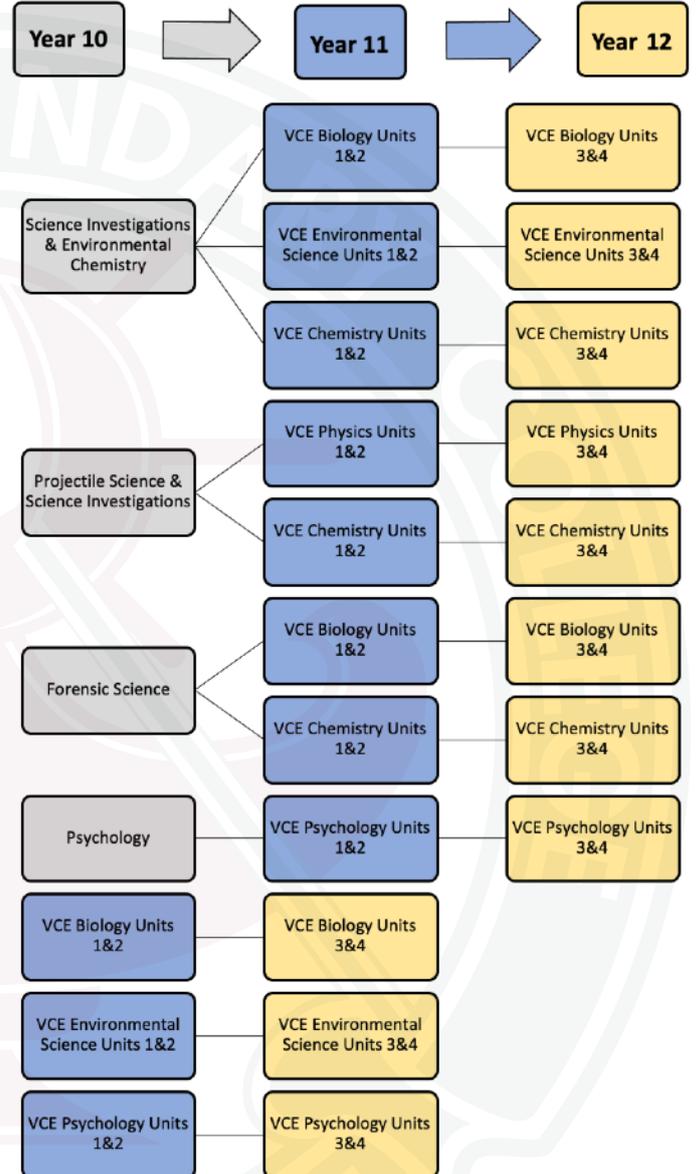
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Subject Pathways

Mathematics Studies Pathways



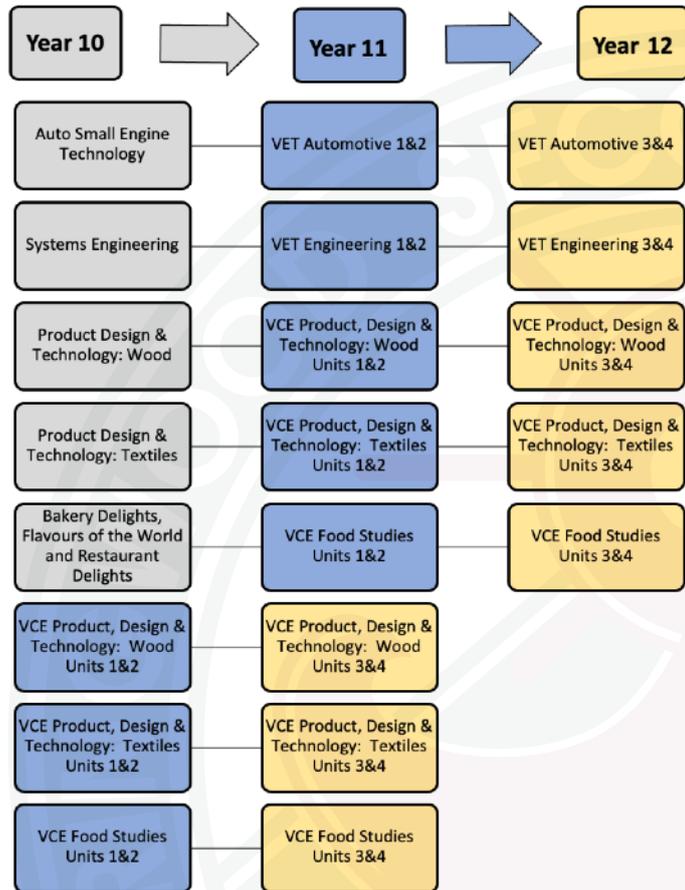
Science Studies Pathways



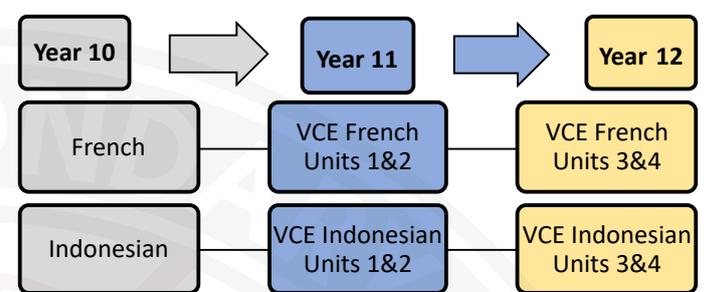
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Subject Pathways

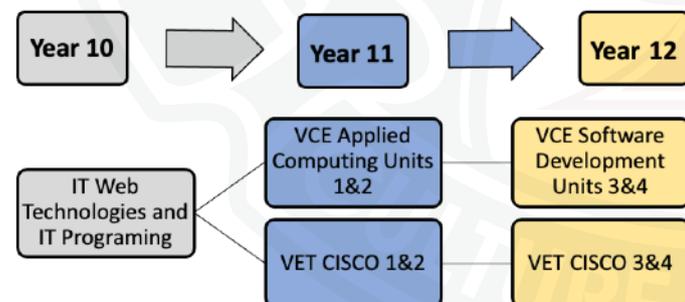
Technology Studies Pathways



Languages Studies Pathways



Digital Technologies Studies Pathways



Learning Area: Arts

Art Creative Practice

Unit 1: Interpreting artworks and exploring the Creative Practice

In Unit 1 students use Experiential learning in Making and Responding to explore ideas using the Creative Practice. As the artist and audience, students consider their connection to artworks, and how their communication of ideas and presentation of artworks challenge, shape and influence viewer or audience perspectives.

They focus on the making of art and examine how artists communicate ideas and meaning in artworks. They examine artists in different societies, cultures and historical periods and develop their own interpretations and viewpoints about the meanings and messages of artworks. They explore how artists create new ways of thinking and representation, while developing their own art practice.

Students explore the practices of artists who have been inspired by ideas relating to personal identity. They study at least three artists and at least one artwork from each of the selected artists. Through their analysis and interpretation students learn how to formulate and substantiate personal opinions about artworks. Students apply the Structural Lens and the Personal Lens to analyse and interpret the meanings and messages of artworks and to document the reflection of their own ideas throughout their art practice.

Students learn about the components of the Creative Practice and explore areas of personal interest to develop a series of visual responses. They use a range of materials, techniques, processes and art forms to create a body of experimental work in response to their research of the practices of artists and their personal observations of artworks. They experiment with a range of approaches to develop technical skills and promote creative thinking through the study of both traditional and contemporary art practices. They are guided through an Experiential learning process to research, explore, experiment and develop, and to evaluate and reflect upon their use of the Creative Practice.

Unit 2: Interpreting artworks and developing the Creative Practice

In Unit 2 students use Inquiry learning to investigate the artistic and collaborative practices of artists. They use the Cultural Lens, and the other Interpretive Lenses as appropriate, to examine artworks from different periods of time and cultures, and to explore the different ways that artists interpret and communicate social and personal ideas in artworks

Students explore the collaborative practices of artists and use the Creative Practice to make and present artworks. They develop visual responses based on their investigations, exploring the way historical and contemporary cultural contexts, ideas and approaches have influenced the artworks and the practices of the artists they investigate, as well as their own art practice.

Artworks can acknowledge specific ideas or beliefs, or commemorate people, institutions, social movements and events. They can reinforce the intentions and purpose of a social, cultural or community group, or they can challenge social or cultural attitudes and assumptions. Throughout Unit 2, students examine the importance of the social and cultural contexts of artworks and analyse the varying social functions that art can serve. They also investigate how artworks can be created as forms of expression for specific social and cultural contexts. Students research historical and contemporary artworks and explore diverse and alternative approaches to making and presenting artworks.

While the focus of this unit is on the Cultural Lens, students should continue to apply aspects of the Structural and Personal Lenses where relevant in the analysis and interpretation of artworks and in the documentation of their art practice.

Learning Area: Arts

Art Creative Practice

Unit 3: Investigation, ideas, artworks and the Creative Practice

In this unit students use Inquiry and Project-based learning as starting points to develop a Body of Work. They explore ideas and experiment with materials, techniques and processes using the Creative Practice. The research of historical and contemporary artists is integral to students' use of the Creative Practice and informs the basis of their investigation. Students also investigate the issues that may arise from the artworks they view and discuss, or those evolving from the practice of the artist. Unit 3 commences with students researching the practice of a selected artist as the starting point to develop a finished artwork. The finished artwork will contribute to the Body of Work developed over Units 3 and 4.

In Unit 3, the Interpretive Lenses are used in Making and Responding throughout the students' art practice. Students apply the Interpretive Lenses to researched artworks and in their reflective analysis and evaluation of their use of the Creative Practice. They use critical and creative thinking skills to explore and develop ideas, and experiment with materials, techniques and processes.

Unit 4: Interpreting, resolving and presenting artworks and the Creative Practice

In Unit 4 students continue to develop their art practice through Project-based and Inquiry learning as their research and exploration continues to support the development of their Body of Work. Throughout their research students study the practices of selected historical and contemporary artists to inform their own art practice. They use the Interpretive Lenses to analyse, compare and interpret the meanings and messages of artworks produced by the artists they study. Students also apply the Interpretive Lenses throughout the Creative Practice to resolve and refine their Body of Work.

Students continue to build upon the ideas begun in Unit 3 and present a critique of their use of the Creative Practice. They reflect on the feedback from their critique to further refine and resolve a Body of Work that demonstrates their use of the Creative Practice and the realisation of their personal ideas. The students present their Body of Work to an audience accompanied by documentation of their use of the Creative Practice.

In Unit 4, Areas of Study 1 and 2 are taught concurrently. The critique in Area of Study 1 takes place before the resolution and presentation of the Body of Work. Documentation of the Creative Practice is carried throughout Areas of Study 1 and 2 in the refinement, resolution and presentation of the student's Body of Work.

The students' use of the Creative Practice involves both Making and Responding and is underpinned by the Interpretive Lenses. Students use the Interpretive Lenses to analyse and interpret the meanings and messages of artworks created by the artists they study and to investigate the practices used to create them. Applied together, these Interpretive Lenses enable students to appreciate how an artwork may contain different aspects and layers of meaning and to acknowledge the validity of diverse interpretations. Students view a range of artworks in different contexts and interpret the ideas and meanings communicated in the artworks.

Learning Area: Arts

Dance

Unit 1

In this unit students explore the potential of the body as an instrument of expression and communication in conjunction with the regular and systematic development of physical dance skills. Students discover the diversity of expressive movement and purposes for dancing in dances from different times, places, cultures, traditions and/or styles. They commence the process of developing a personal movement vocabulary and also begin the practices of documenting and analysing movement.

Through this work they develop understanding of how other choreographers use these practices. Students learn about relevant physiology and approaches to health and wellbeing, and about care and maintenance of the body. They apply this knowledge through regular and systematic dance training. Students explore the choreographic process through movement studies, cohesive dance compositions and performances. They discuss influences on other choreographers and the impact of these influences on intentions and movement vocabulary in selected dance works.

Unit 2

In this unit students extend their personal movement vocabulary and skill in using a choreographic process by exploring elements of movement (time, space and energy), the manipulation of movement through choreographic devices and the types of form used by choreographers. Students use the choreographic process to develop and link movement phrases to create a dance work. They apply their understanding of the processes used to realise a solo or group dance work – choreographing and/or learning, rehearsing, preparing for performance and performing. Students are introduced to a range of dance traditions, styles and works. Dance traditions, styles and works selected for study should encompass the dance output of traditional and/or contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other Australian dance artists. Students may also study material such as dance from other cultures, music theatre, the work of tap/jazz or street performers, ballet choreographers, and/or modern dance. Students describe the movement vocabulary in their own and others' dances by identifying the use of movement categories and ways the elements of movement have been manipulated through the use of choreographic devices.

Unit 3

In this unit students choreograph, rehearse and perform a solo dance work that allows them to execute a diverse range of physical skills and actions drawn from all movement categories. Students continue dance training and learn and perform a duo or group dance work created by another choreographer. They continue to develop their ability to safely execute movement vocabulary and perform with artistry. Students analyse the realisation of their solo and the learnt duo or group dance work, focusing on the processes of choreographing or learning, rehearsing, preparing for performance and performing. This analysis connects each student's work as a choreographer to the work of professional choreographers. Students analyse how the intentions chosen by choreographers are developed through the use of choreographic devices and arrangement of phrases and sections. They analyse the dance design and use of movement vocabulary in the selected works and consider influences on the choreographers' choices of intention, movement vocabulary and production aspects of the dance works.

Unit 4

In this unit students choreograph, rehearse and perform a solo dance work with a cohesive structure. When rehearsing and performing this dance work students focus on communicating the intention with accurate execution of choreographic variations of spatial organisation. They explore how they can demonstrate artistry in performance. Students document and analyse the realisation of the solo dance work across the processes of choreographing, rehearsing, preparing to perform and performing the dance work. Students continue to develop their understanding of the choreographic process through analysis of a group dance work by a twentieth or twenty-first century choreographer. This analysis focuses on ways in which the intention is expressed through the manipulation of spatial relationships. Students analyse the use of group structures (canon, contrast, unison, and asymmetrical and symmetrical groupings and relationships) and spatial organisation (direction, level, focus and dimension) and investigate the influences on choices made by choreographers in these works.

Learning Area: Arts

Drama

Unit 1: Introducing performance styles

In this unit students study three or more performance styles from a range of social, historical and cultural contexts. They examine drama traditions of ritual and storytelling to devise performances that go beyond re-creation and/or representation of real life as it is lived. This unit focuses on creating, presenting and analysing a devised solo and/or ensemble performance that includes real or imagined characters and is based on stimulus material that reflects personal, cultural and/or community experiences and stories. This unit also involves analysis of a student's own performance work and a work by professional drama performers. Students apply play-making techniques to shape and give meaning to their performance. They manipulate expressive and performance skills in the creation and presentation of characters, and develop awareness and understanding of how characters are portrayed in a range of performance styles. They document the processes they use as they explore a range of stimulus material, and experiment with production areas, dramatic elements, conventions and performance styles.

Unit 2: Australian identity

In this unit students study aspects of Australian identity evident in contemporary drama practice. This unit focuses on the use and documentation of the processes involved in constructing a devised solo or ensemble performance. Students create, present and analyse a performance based on a person, an event, an issue, a place, an artwork, a text and/or an icon from a contemporary or historical Australian context. In creating the performance, students use stimulus material that allows them to explore an aspect or aspects of Australian identity. They examine selected performance styles and explore the associated conventions. Students further develop their knowledge of the conventions of transformation of character, time and place, the application of symbol, and how these conventions may be manipulated to create meaning in performance and the use of dramatic elements and production areas. Students analyse their own performance work as well as undertaking an analysis of a performance of an Australian work, where possible, by professional actors.

Unit 3: Devised ensemble performance

In this unit students explore the work of drama practitioners and draw on contemporary practice as they devise ensemble performance work. Students explore performance styles and associated conventions from a diverse range of contemporary and/or traditional contexts. They work collaboratively to devise, develop and present an ensemble performance. Students create work that reflects a specific performance style or one that draws on multiple performance styles and is therefore eclectic in nature. They use play-making techniques to extract dramatic potential from stimulus material, then apply and manipulate conventions, dramatic elements, expressive skills, performance skills and production areas. Throughout development of the work they experiment with transformation of character, time and place, and application of symbol. Students devise and shape their work to communicate meaning or to have a specific impact on their audience. In addition, students document and evaluate stages involved in the creation, development and presentation of the ensemble performance.

Unit 4: Devised solo performance

This unit focuses on the development and the presentation of devised solo performances. Students explore contemporary practice and works that are eclectic in nature; that is, they draw on a range of performance styles and associated conventions from a diverse range of contemporary and traditional contexts. Students develop skills in extracting dramatic potential from stimulus material and use play-making techniques to develop and present a short solo performance. They experiment with application of symbol and transformation of character, time and place. They apply conventions, dramatic elements, expressive skills, performance skills and performance styles to shape and give meaning to their work. Students further develop and refine these skills as they create a performance in response to a prescribed structure. They consider the use of production areas to enhance their performance and the application of symbol and transformations. Students document and evaluate the stages involved in the creation, development and presentation of their solo performance.

Learning Area: Arts

Media

Unit 1: Media forms, representations and Australian stories

In this unit students develop an understanding of audiences and the core concepts underpinning the construction of representations and meaning across different media forms.

They examine the complexity of this relationship and how audience readings may differ. They explore media codes/conventions and the construction of meaning in media products. Students analyse how representations and media codes/conventions contribute to the construction of reality TV.

Students gain an understanding of the production process and construct their own reality TV representations in multiple media forms. They will learn how to use a DSLR camera and editing software to create these media products. They will be able to apply their understanding of codes and conventions into constructing their own representation of reality TV characters. Students develop an understanding of the Australian media industry including social, political and economical constraints.

They will analyse how the structural features of Australian fictional and non-fictional narratives multiple media forms engage, and are consumed and read by, audiences.

Unit 2: Narrative across media forms

In this unit students develop an understanding of how media codes and conventions are used to create a personal and distinctive style. They will analyse and compare multiple media creators and how they have manipulated codes to create their own auteur.

Students will further develop their understanding of the production process by planning and creating a media product for a specified audience. They will also undertake a range of production roles and work collaboratively with others.

Students analyse the influence of developments in media technologies on individuals and society, examining in a range of media forms the effects of media convergence and hybridisation on the design, production and distribution of narratives in the media and audience engagement, consumption and reception.

Unit 3: Media narratives and pre-production

In this unit students explore stories that circulate in society through media narratives. They consider the use of media codes and conventions to structure meaning, and how this construction is influenced by the social, cultural, ideological and institutional contexts of production, distribution, consumption and reception. Students assess how audiences from different periods of time and contexts are engaged by, consume and read narratives using appropriate media language.

Students complete the development and pre-production stage of the media production process, to plan for a media product that they will create in Unit 4. This process will require students to investigate and research a selected media form to inform the development of their proposed production. Explore and experiment with media technologies to develop skills in their selected media form, reflecting on and documenting their progress. Use industry specific design and planning, both in written and visual documentation, to complete a media production design.

Unit 4: Media production and issues in the media

In this unit students focus on the production and post-production stages of the media production process, bringing the media production design created in Unit 3 to its realisation. They refine their media production in response to feedback and through personal reflection, documenting the iterations of their production as they work towards completion.

Students explore the complex relationship between the media and audiences, focusing on the opportunities and challenges afforded by current developments in the media industry. They consider the nature of communication between the media and audiences, explore the capacity of the media to be used by governments, institutions and audiences, and analyse the role of the Australian government in regulating the media.

Learning Area: Arts

Music

Unit 1: Organisation of music

In this unit students explore and develop their understanding of how music is organised. By performing, creating, analysing and responding to music works that exhibit different approaches, students explore and develop their understanding of the possibilities of musical organisation.

They prepare and perform ensemble and/or solo musical works to develop technical control, expression and stylistic understanding on their chosen instrument/sound source. At least two works should be associated with their study of approaches to music organisation.

They create (arrange, compose or improvise) short music exercises that reflect their understanding of the organisation of music and the processes they have studied.

They develop knowledge of music language concepts as they analyse and respond to a range of music, becoming familiar with the ways music creators treat elements of music and concepts and use compositional devices to create works that communicate their ideas.

Unit 2: Effect in music

In this unit, students focus on the way music can be used to create an intended effect. By performing, analysing and responding to music works/examples that create different effects, students explore and develop their understanding of the possibilities of how effect can be created. Through creating their own music, they reflect this exploration and understanding.

Students prepare and perform ensemble and/or solo musical works to develop technical control, expression and stylistic understanding using their chosen instrument/sound source. They should perform at least one work to convey a specified effect and demonstrate this in performance.

They create (arrange, compose or improvise) short music exercises that reflect their understanding of the organisation of music and the processes they have studied.

As they analyse and respond to a wide range of music, they become familiar with the ways music creators treat elements and concepts of music and use compositional devices to create works that communicate their ideas. They continue to develop their understanding of common musical language concepts by identifying, recreating and notating these concepts.

Unit 3 and 4: Music contemporary performance

This study offers pathways for students whose performance practice includes embellishment and/or improvisation, uses collaborative and aural practices in learning, often takes recordings as a primary text, and projects a personal voice. Students study the work of other performers and analyse their approaches to interpretation and how personal voice can be developed through reimagining existing music works. They refine selected strategies to enhance their own approach to performance.

Students identify technical, expressive and stylistic challenges relevant to works they are preparing for performance and endeavour to address these challenges. They listen and respond to a wide range of music by a variety of performers in contemporary styles. They also study music language concepts such as scales, harmony and rhythmic materials that relate to contemporary music.

Students may present with any instrument or combination of instruments which will be suitable to convey understanding of the key knowledge and application of key skills for Outcome 1, with styles including (but not limited to) rock, pop, jazz, EDM, country, funk and R&B.

Unit 3 and 4: Music repertoire performance

This study is designed for students whose musical interests are grounded in the recreation and interpretation of notated musical works, and who wish to gain and share knowledge of musical styles and performance practices. Students may present on any instrument for which there is an established repertoire of notated works. They work towards a recital program that demonstrates highly developed technical skills and stylistic refinement as both a soloist and as an ensemble member. They develop the capacity for critical evaluations of their performances and those of others, and an ability to articulate their performance decisions with musical evidence and independence of thought.

Students identify technical, expressive and stylistic challenges relevant to works they are preparing for performance and endeavour to address these challenges. They listen and respond to a wide range of music by a variety of performers and study music language concepts such as scales, harmony and rhythmic materials.

Learning Area: Arts

Visual Communication Design

Unit 1: Introduction to visual communication design

This unit focuses on using visual language to communicate messages, ideas and concepts. This involves acquiring and applying design thinking skills as well as drawing skills to create messages, ideas and concepts, both visible and tangible.

Students practise their ability to draw what they observe and they use visualisation drawing methods to explore their own ideas and concepts. Students develop an understanding of the importance of presentation drawings to clearly communicate their final visual communications.

Through experimentation and exploration of the relationship between design elements and design principles, students develop an understanding of how they affect the visual message and the way information and ideas are read and perceived. Students review the contextual background of visual communication through an investigation of design styles. This research introduces students to the broader context of the place and purpose of design. Students are introduced to the importance of copyright and intellectual property and the conventions for acknowledging sources of inspiration.

Unit 2: Applications of visual communication within design fields

This unit focuses on the application of visual communication design knowledge, design thinking and drawing methods to create visual communications to meet specific purposes in designated design fields. Students use presentation drawing methods that incorporate the use of technical drawing conventions to communicate information and ideas associated with the environmental or industrial fields of design.

Students also investigate how typography and imagery are used in these fields as well as the communication field of design.

They apply design thinking skills when exploring ways in which images and type can be manipulated to communicate ideas and concepts in different ways in the communication design field.

Students develop an understanding of the design process as a means of organising their thinking about approaches to solving design problems and presenting ideas. In response to a brief, students engage in all stages of the design process.

Unit 3: Visual communication design practices

In this unit students respond to stimulus in the communication, industrial and environmental design field by analysing their materials, methods and materials, and the application of design elements and design principles which can create effective visual communications for specific audiences and purposes. Students then use their research and analysis of the process of visual communication designers to support the development of their own designs. They investigate and experiment with the use of manual and digital methods, media and materials to make informed decisions when selecting suitable approaches for the development of their own design ideas and concepts. Students will investigate and discuss the practices of a contemporary designer from each design field and explain factors that influence these practices.

Students will begin their School Assessed Task (SAT) by establishing their own brief, conducting research and completing generation of ideas on a real or fictitious client. These stages of the design process underpin the developmental, refinement and final presentation work undertaken in Unit 4.

Unit 4: Visual communication design development, evaluation and presentation

The focus of this unit is to continue their progress of their School Assessed Task (SAT), in which students will focus on the development of design concepts, refinement and final presentations which meet the expectations of the brief outlined in Unit 3. The SAT involves applying the design process twice to meet each of the stated communication needs. They utilise a range of digital and manual two- and three-dimensional methods, media and materials in their design process. They investigate how the application of design elements and design principles creates different communication messages and conveys ideas to the target audience. Students will learn to construct and present a pitch to an audience. Throughout the design process students will be using design thinking strategies to think creatively, critically and reflective, which are important skills to develop a 21st century learner.

Learning Area: Business and Economics

Accounting

Unit 1: Role of accounting in business

This unit explores the establishment of a business and the role of accounting in the determination of business success or failure. In this, it considers the importance of accounting information to stakeholders. Students analyse, interpret and evaluate the performance of the business using financial and non-financial information. They use these evaluations to make recommendations regarding the suitability of a business as an investment. Students record financial data and prepare reports for service businesses owned by sole proprietors. Where appropriate, the accounting procedures developed in each area of study should incorporate the application of the Conceptual Framework and financial indicators to measure business performance, and take into account the range of ethical considerations faced by business owners when making decisions, including financial, social and environmental.

Unit 2: Accounting and decision-making for a trading business

In this unit students develop their knowledge of the accounting process for sole proprietors operating a trading business, with a focus on inventory, accounts receivable, accounts payable and non-current assets. Students use manual processes and ICT, including spreadsheets, to prepare historical and budgeted accounting reports. Students analyse and evaluate the performance of the business relating to inventory, accounts receivable, accounts payable and non-current assets. They use relevant financial and other information to predict, budget and compare the potential effects of alternative strategies on the performance of the business. Using these evaluations, students develop and suggest to the owner strategies to improve business performance. Where appropriate, the accounting procedures developed in each area of study should incorporate application of the Conceptual Framework, financial indicators and ethical considerations for business owners when making business decisions, including financial, social and environmental.

Unit 3: Financial accounting for a trading business

This unit focuses on financial accounting for a trading business owned by a sole proprietor, and highlights the role of accounting as an information system. Students use the double entry system of recording financial data and prepare reports using the accrual basis of accounting and the perpetual method of inventory recording. Students develop their understanding of the accounting processes for recording and reporting and consider the effect of decisions made on the performance of the business. They interpret reports and information presented in a variety of formats and suggest strategies to the owner to improve the performance of the business. Where appropriate, the accounting procedures developed in each area of study should incorporate the application of the Conceptual Framework, financial indicators to measure business performance, as well as the ethical considerations of business owners when making decisions, including financial, social and environmental.

Unit 4: Recording, reporting, budgeting and decision-making

In this unit students further develop their understanding of accounting for a trading business owned by a sole proprietor and the role of accounting as an information system. Students use the double entry system of recording financial data, and prepare reports using the accrual basis of accounting and the perpetual method of inventory recording. Both manual methods and ICT are used to record and report. Students extend their understanding of the recording and reporting process with the inclusion of balance day adjustments and alternative depreciation methods. They investigate both the role and importance of budgeting in decision-making for a business. They analyse and interpret accounting reports and graphical representations to evaluate the performance of a business. From this evaluation, students suggest strategies to business owners to improve business performance. Where appropriate, the accounting procedures developed in each area of study should incorporate application of the Conceptual Framework and financial indicators to measure business performance, as well as the ethical considerations of business owners when making decisions, including financial, social and environmental.

Learning Area: Business and Economics

Business Management

Unit 1: Planning a business

Businesses of all sizes are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of a nation. The ability of entrepreneurs to establish a business and the fostering of conditions under which new business ideas can emerge are vital for a nation's wellbeing. Taking a business idea and planning how to make it a reality are the cornerstones of economic and social development. In this unit students explore the factors affecting business ideas and the internal and external environments within which businesses operate, as well as the effect of these on planning a business. They also consider the importance of the business sector to the national economy and social wellbeing.

Unit 2: Establishing a business

This unit focuses on the establishment phase of a business. Establishing a business involves compliance with legal requirements as well as decisions about how best to establish a system of financial record keeping, staff the business and establish a customer base. In this unit students examine the legal requirements that must be met to establish a business. They investigate the essential features of effective marketing and consider the best way to meet the needs of the business in terms of staffing and financial record keeping. Students analyse management practices by applying key knowledge to contemporary business case studies from the past four years.

Unit 3: Managing a business

In this unit students explore the key processes and considerations for managing a business efficiently and effectively to achieve business objectives. Students examine different types of businesses and their respective objectives and stakeholders. They investigate strategies to manage both staff and business operations to meet objectives, and develop an understanding of the complexity and challenge of managing businesses. Students compare theoretical perspectives with current practice through the use of contemporary Australian and global business case studies from the past four years.

Unit 4: Transforming a business

Businesses are under constant pressure to adapt and change to meet their objectives. In this unit students consider the importance of reviewing key performance indicators to determine current performance and the strategic management necessary to position a business for the future. Students study a theoretical model to undertake change and consider a variety of strategies to manage change in the most efficient and effective way to improve business performance. They investigate the importance of effective management and leadership in change management. Using one or more contemporary business case studies from the past four years, students evaluate business practice against theory.

Learning Area: Business and Economics

Economics

Unit 1: Economic decision-making

Economics is a dynamic and constantly evolving field of social science, which looks at the way humans behave and the decisions made to meet the needs and wants of society. In this unit students explore their role in the economy, how they interact with businesses, and the role of the government in the economy. Students are introduced to and explore fundamental economic concepts. They examine basic economic models where consumers and businesses engage in mutually beneficial transactions, and investigate the motivations behind both consumer and business behaviour. They examine how individuals might respond to incentives. Students are encouraged to investigate contemporary examples and case studies to enhance their understanding of the introductory economics concepts.

Students use demand and supply models to explain changes in prices and quantities traded. Through close examination of one or more markets, they gain insight into the factors that may affect the way resources are allocated in an economy and how market power can affect efficiency and living standards.

Students consider the insights of behavioural economics and how those insights contrast with the traditional model of consumer behaviour. They investigate at least one behavioural economics experiment, and analyse how the theories and observations of behavioural economics have been used by government in planning and implementing policy, and by businesses in managing their relationships with consumers.

Unit 2: Economic issues and living standards

A core principle of economics is maximising the living standards of society. This is done through economic decisions that optimise the use of resources to produce goods and services that satisfy human needs and wants. Economic activity is therefore a key consideration for economics. Students consider the link between economic activity and economic growth and investigate the importance of economic growth in raising living standards. They evaluate the benefits and costs of continued economic growth and consider the extent to which our current measurements of living standards are adequate.

Economics provides useful tools for investigating contemporary issues that inspire debate and wide differences in opinion. Students undertake an applied economic analysis of two contemporary economics issues from a local, national and international perspective. They use the tools of data collection, analysis, synthesis and evaluation to examine the issue through an economics lens. They do this through investigation of the economic factors influencing the issue and via examination of its economic importance at a local, national and international level. Students consider the perspectives of relevant economic agents and evaluate the validity and effectiveness of individual and collective responses to the issue.

Learning Area: Business and Economics

Economics

Unit 3: Australia's living standards

The Australian economy is constantly evolving. The main instrument for allocating resources is the market, but government also plays a significant role in resource allocation. In this unit students investigate the role of the market in allocating resources and examine the factors that affect the price and quantity traded for a range of goods and services. Students develop an understanding of the key measures of efficiency and how market systems might result in efficient outcomes. Students consider contemporary issues to explain the need for government intervention in markets and why markets might fail to maximise society's living standards. As part of a balanced examination, students also consider unintended consequences of government intervention in the market.

Students develop an understanding of the macroeconomy. They investigate the factors that affect the level of aggregate demand and aggregate supply in the economy and apply theories to explain how changes in these variables might affect achievement of domestic macroeconomic goals and living standards. Students assess the extent to which the Australian economy has achieved these macroeconomic goals during the past two years.

Australia's living standards depend, in part, on strong economic relationships with its major trading partners. Students investigate the importance of international economic relationships and the effect of these on Australian living standards. Students analyse how international transactions are recorded, and examine how economic factors might affect the value of the exchange rate, the terms of trade and Australia's international competitiveness. Students also analyse how changes in the value of the exchange rate, the terms of trade and international competitiveness affect the domestic macroeconomic goals.

Unit 4: Managing the economy

The ability of the Australian economy to achieve its domestic macroeconomic goals has a significant effect on living standards in Australia. Policymakers, including the Australian Government and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), can utilise a wide range of policy instruments to affect these goals and to affect living standards.

This unit focuses on the role of aggregate demand policies in stabilising the business cycle to achieve the domestic macroeconomic goals. Students develop an understanding of how the Australian Government can alter the composition of budgetary outlays and receipts to directly and indirectly affect the level of aggregate demand, the achievement of domestic macroeconomic goals and living standards.

Students also examine the role of the RBA with a focus on its responsibility to conduct monetary policy. Students consider how the tools of monetary policy can affect interest rates, the transmission mechanism of monetary policy to the economy and how this contributes towards the achievement of the domestic macroeconomic goals and living standards.

Students consider and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the aggregate demand policies in achieving the domestic macroeconomic goals and living standards.

Expanding the productive capacity of the economy and improving Australia's international competitiveness is critical to ensuring that economic growth, low inflation and employment opportunities can be maintained both now and into the future. Students consider how the Australian Government utilises selected aggregate supply policies to pursue the achievement of the domestic macroeconomic goals and living standards over the long term.

Learning Area: Business and Economics

Legal Studies

Unit 1: Guilt and liability

Criminal law and civil law aim to achieve social cohesion and protect the rights of individuals. Criminal law is aimed at maintaining social order and infringing criminal law can result in charges. Civil law deals with the infringement of a person's or group's rights and breaching civil law can result in litigation. In this unit students develop an understanding of legal foundations, such as the different types and sources of law and the existence of a court hierarchy in Victoria. Students investigate key concepts of criminal law and civil law and apply these to actual and/or hypothetical scenarios to determine whether an accused may be found guilty of a crime, or liable in a civil dispute. In doing so, students develop an appreciation of the way in which legal principles and information are used in making reasoned judgments and conclusions about the culpability of an accused, and the liability of a party in a civil dispute.

Unit 2: Sanctions, remedies and rights

Criminal law and civil law aim to protect the rights of individuals. When rights are infringed, a case or dispute may arise which needs to be determined or resolved, and sanctions or remedies may be imposed. This unit focuses on the enforcement of criminal law and civil law, the methods and institutions that may be used to determine a criminal case or resolve a civil dispute, and the purposes and types of sanctions and remedies and their effectiveness. Students undertake a detailed investigation of two criminal cases and two civil cases from the past four years to form a judgment about the ability of sanctions and remedies to achieve the principles of justice. Students develop their understanding of the way rights are protected in Australia and in another country, and possible reforms to the protection of rights. They examine a significant case in relation to the protection of rights in Australia.

Unit 3: Rights and justice

The Victorian justice system, which includes the criminal and civil justice systems, aims to protect the rights of individuals and uphold the principles of justice: fairness, equality and access. In this unit students examine the methods and institutions in the justice system and consider their appropriateness in determining criminal cases and resolving civil disputes. Students consider the Magistrates' Court, County Court and Supreme Court within the Victorian court hierarchy, as well as other Victorian legal institutions and bodies available to assist with cases. Students explore matters such as the rights available to an accused and to victims in the criminal justice system, the roles of the judge, jury, legal practitioners and the parties, and the ability of sanctions and remedies to achieve their purposes. Students investigate the extent to which the principles of justice are upheld in the justice system. They discuss recent reforms from the past four years and recommended reforms to enhance the ability of the justice system to achieve the principles of justice. Throughout this unit, students apply legal reasoning and information to actual and/or hypothetical scenarios.

Unit 4: The people and the law

The study of Australia's laws and legal system involves an understanding of institutions that make and reform our laws, and the relationship between the Australian people, the Australian Constitution and law-making bodies. In this unit, students explore how the Australian Constitution establishes the law-making powers of the Commonwealth and state parliaments, and protects the Australian people through structures that act as a check on parliament in law-making. Students develop an understanding of the significance of the High Court in protecting and interpreting the Australian Constitution. They investigate parliament and the courts, and the relationship between the two in law-making, and consider the roles of the individual, the media and law reform bodies in influencing law reform. Throughout this unit, students apply legal reasoning and information to actual scenarios.

Learning Area: Cross-Curricular

Extended Investigation

Unit 3: Designing an extended investigation

In this unit students develop skills in question construction and design, explore the nature and purpose of research and various research methodologies, critically review research literature and identify a specific research question. Students undertake initial research and document their progress in their Extended Investigation Journal. They use their Journal to record the progressive refinement of a selected area of interest and the distillation of an individual research question. The research question is formally lodged with the VCAA during Term 1 on a date published annually. Underpinning the student's preparatory work for their investigation is the development and application of critical thinking skills. While the critical thinking component of this study is located in Area of Study 3, it is assumed and expected that students will develop and utilise these skills throughout Unit 3 in the context of developing their individual investigation and continue to exercise them in Unit 4.

Unit 4: Presenting an extended investigation

This unit is comprised of two parts that together constitute the student's completion of their investigation. The results of the investigation are presented in a final written report and in an oral presentation incorporating a defence to an educated non-specialist audience. While undertaking Unit 4, students are supported and monitored to maintain the dimensions and scope of their investigation and to meet the milestones established in Unit 3. The Extended Investigation Journal is used to record the progress of their investigation and the assistance they receive from supervising teachers, mentors and others.

Learning Area: English

English and EAL

Unit 1

In this unit, students engage in reading and viewing texts with a focus on personal connections with the story. They discuss and clarify the ideas and values presented by authors through their evocations of character, setting and plot, and through investigations of the point of view and/or the voice of the text. They develop and strengthen inferential reading and viewing skills, and consider the ways a text's vocabulary, text structures and language features can create meaning on several levels and in different ways.

Students' exploration of texts involves understanding and appreciating the role of vocabulary, text structures and language features in creating story and meaning. They contemplate the ways a text can present and reflect human experiences, and how stories or aspects of stories resonate with their own memories and lives. Students are encouraged to share their experience and understanding of the world, and make connections with key ideas, concerns and tensions presented in a text. They also explore the cultural, social and historical values embedded in the text, and can compare these values with their own. It is through these moments of connection that students engage more closely with the reading experience, and draw parallels with their own observations of the world.

Students engage with and develop an understanding of effective and cohesive writing. They apply, extend and challenge their understanding and use of imaginative, persuasive and informative text through a growing awareness of situated contexts, stated purposes and audience.

Students read and engage imaginatively and critically with mentor texts that model effective writing. Through guided reading of mentor texts, students develop an understanding of the diverse ways that vocabulary, text structures, language features and ideas can interweave to craft compelling texts. They consider these texts through knowledge of the ways purpose, context (including mode) and audience influence and shape writing.

Unit 2

In this unit, students develop their reading and viewing skills, including deepening their capacity for inferential reading and viewing, to further open possible meanings in a text, and to extend their writing in response to text. Students will develop their skills from Unit 1 through an exploration of a different text type from that studied in Unit 1.

Students read or view a text, engaging with the ideas, concerns and tensions, and recognise ways vocabulary, text structures, language features and conventions of a text work together to create meaning. Through discussions about representations in a text, they examine the ways readers understand text considering its historical context, and social and cultural values. They also explore the text through the prism of their own cultural knowledge, experiences and understanding of the world, and extend their observations into analytical and abstracted explorations.

Students consider the way arguments are developed and delivered in many forms of media. Through the prism of a contemporary and substantial local and/or national issue, students read, view and listen to a range of texts that attempt to position an intended audience in a particular context. They explore the structure of these texts, including contention, sequence of arguments, use of supporting evidence and persuasive strategies. They closely examine the language and the visuals employed by the author, and offer analysis of the intended effect on the audience. Students apply their knowledge of argument to create a point of view text for oral presentation.

Learning Area: English

English and EAL

Unit 3

In this unit students read and respond to texts analytically and creatively. They analyse arguments and the use of persuasive language in texts. In Area of Study One, students identify, discuss and analyse how the features of selected texts create meaning and how they influence interpretation. They also prepare sustained analytical interpretations of selected texts, discussing how features of the texts create meaning and using textual evidence to support their responses. Finally, students present sustained creative responses to selected texts, demonstrating their understanding of the world of the texts and how texts construct meaning. In Area of Study Two, students analyse and compare the use of argument and language in texts that debate a topical issue. Students read and view media texts in a variety of forms. Considering information about the purpose, audience and context of a text, students explore the argument of a persuasive piece, and the way written, spoken and visual language is used. In considering these, students examine the ways that persuasive language is used to express an argument and how this may strengthen or detract from the intended impact of a text. For EAL, students are also required to complete Outcome three 'Listening to Texts'.

Unit 4

In this unit students explore the meaningful connections between two texts. They analyse texts, including the interplay between character and setting, voice and structure, and how ideas, issues and themes are conveyed. By comparing the texts, they gain a deeper understanding of the ideas, issues and themes that reflect the world and human experiences. Additionally, students build their understanding of both the analysis and construction of texts that attempt to influence audiences. They use their knowledge of argument and persuasive language as a basis for the development of their own persuasive texts in relation to a topical issue that has appeared in the media since 1 September of the previous year. This area of study focuses on the construction of persuasive texts. Students use their understanding of argument and language as the basis for the development of an oral presentation of their points of view. Students draw on their knowledge to express their viewpoints through arguments and persuasive language selected specifically to position an audience.

Learning Area: English

English Language

Unit 1: Language and communication

Language is an essential aspect of human behaviour and the means by which individuals relate to the world, to each other and to the communities of which they are members. In this unit, students consider the way language is organised so that its users have the means to make sense of their experiences and to interact with others. Students explore the various functions of language and the nature of language as an elaborate system of signs. The relationship between speech and writing as the dominant modes of language and the impact of situational and cultural contexts on language choices are also considered. Students investigate children's ability to acquire language and the stages of language acquisition across a range of subsystems. In area of study one, students explore the nature of language and the various functions language performs in a range of contexts. In area of study two, students focus on the developmental stages of child language acquisition.

Unit 2: Language change

In this unit, students focus on language change. Languages are dynamic and language change is an inevitable and a continuous process. Students consider factors contributing to change over time in the English language and factors contributing to the spread of English. They explore texts from the past and from the present, considering how all subsystems of the language system are affected – phonetics and phonology, morphology and lexicology, syntax, discourse and semantics. Attitudes to language change vary considerably and these are also considered. In addition to developing an understanding of how English has been transformed over the centuries, students explore the various possibilities for the future of English. They consider how the global spread of English has led to a diversification of the language and to English now being used by more people as an additional or a foreign language than as a first language. Contact between English and other languages has led to the development of geographical and ethnic varieties, but has also hastened the decline of indigenous languages. Students consider the cultural repercussions of the spread of English.

Unit 3: Language variation and social purpose

In this unit students investigate English language in contemporary Australian social settings, along a continuum of informal and formal registers. They consider language as a means of social interaction, exploring how through written and spoken texts we communicate information, ideas, attitudes, prejudices and ideological stances. Students examine the stylistic features of formal and informal language in both spoken and written modes. Students learn how to describe the interrelationship between words, sentences and text as a means of exploring how texts construct message and meaning. They consider how texts are influenced by the situational and cultural contexts in which they occur. Students learn how speakers and writers select features from within particular stylistic variants, or registers, and this in turn establishes the degree of formality within a discourse. They learn how language can be indicative of relationships, power structures and purpose through the choice of a particular variety of language and through the ways in which language varieties are used in processes of inclusion and exclusion.

Unit 4: Language variation and identity

In this unit students focus on the role of language in establishing and challenging different identities. There are many varieties of English used in contemporary Australian society, including national, regional, cultural and social variations. Standard Australian English is the variety that is granted prestige in contemporary Australian society and it has a role in establishing national identity. However, non-Standard English varieties also play a role in constructing users' social and cultural identities. Students examine a range of texts to explore the ways different identities are constructed. Students explore how our sense of identity evolves in response to situations and experiences and is influenced by how we see ourselves and how others see us. Through our language we express ourselves as individuals and signal our membership of particular groups. Students explore how language can distinguish between 'us' and 'them', creating solidarity and reinforcing social distance.

Learning Area: English

Literature

Unit 1

Reading practices

In this area of study students consider how language, structure and stylistic choices are used in different literary forms and types of text. They consider both print and non-print texts, reflecting on the contribution of form and style to meaning. Students reflect on the degree to which points of view, experiences and contexts shape their own and others' interpretations of text.

Students closely examine the literary forms, features and language of texts. They begin to identify and explore textual details, including language and features, to develop a close analysis response to a text.

Exploration of literary movements and genres

In this area of study students explore the concerns, ideas, style and conventions common to a distinctive type of literature seen in literary movements or genres. Examples of these groupings include literary movements and/or genres such as modernism, epic, tragedy and magic realism, as well as more popular, or mainstream, genres and subgenres such as crime, romance and science fiction. Students explore texts from the selected movement or genre, identifying and examining attributes, patterns and similarities that locate each text within that grouping. Students engage with the ideas and concerns shared by the texts through language, settings, narrative structures and characterisation, and they experiment with the assumptions and representations embedded in the texts.

Unit 2

Voices of Country

In this area of study students explore the voices, perspectives and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and creators. They consider the interconnectedness of place, culture and identity through the experiences, texts and voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including connections to Country, the impact of colonisation and its ongoing consequences, and issues of reconciliation and reclamation.

Students examine representations of culture and identity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' texts and the ways in which these texts present voices and perspectives that explore and challenge assumptions and stereotypes arising from colonisation.

Students acknowledge and reflect on a range of Australian views and values (including their own) through a text(s). Within that exploration, students consider stories about the Australian landscape and culture.

The text in its context

In this area of study students focus on the text and its historical, social and cultural context. Students reflect on representations of a specific time period and/or culture within a text.

Students explore the text to understand its point of view and what it reflects or comments on. They identify the language and the representations in the text that reflect the specific time period and/or culture, its ideas and concepts. Students develop an understanding that contextual meaning is already implicitly or explicitly inscribed in a text and that textual details and structures can be scrutinised to illustrate its significance. Students develop the ability to analyse language closely, recognising that words have historical and cultural import.

Learning Area: English

Literature

Unit 3

Adaptations and transformations

In this area of study students focus on how the form of a text contributes to its meaning. Students explore the form of a set text by constructing a close analysis of that text. They then reflect on the extent to which adapting the text to a different form, and often in a new or reimagined context, affects its meaning, comparing the original with the adaptation. By exploring an adaptation, students also consider how creators of adaptations may emphasise or minimise viewpoints, assumptions and ideas present in the original text.

Developing interpretations

In this area of study students explore the different ways we can read and understand a text by developing, considering and comparing interpretations of a set text.

Students first develop their own interpretations of a set text, analysing how ideas, views and values are presented in a text, and the ways these are endorsed, challenged and/or marginalised through literary forms, features and language. These student interpretations should consider the historical, social and cultural context in which a text is written and set. Students also consider their own views and values as readers.

Students then explore a supplementary reading that can enrich, challenge and/or contest the ideas and the views, values and assumptions of the set text to further enhance the students' understanding. Examples of a supplementary reading can include writing by a teacher, a scholarly article or an explication of a literary theory. A supplementary reading that provides only opinion or evaluation of the relative merits of the text is not considered appropriate for this task.

Informed by the supplementary reading, students develop a second interpretation of the same text, reflecting an enhanced appreciation and understanding of the text. They then apply this understanding to key moments from the text, supporting their work with considered textual evidence.

Unit 4

Creative responses to text

In this area of study students focus on the imaginative techniques used for creating and recreating a literary work. Students use their knowledge of how the meaning of texts can change as context and form change to construct their own creative transformations of texts. They learn how authors develop representations of people and places, and they develop an understanding of language, voice, form and structure. Students draw inferences from the original text in order to create their own writing. In their adaptation of the tone and the style of the original text, students develop an understanding of the views and values explored.

Students develop an understanding of the various ways in which authors craft texts. They reflect critically on the literary form, features and language of a text, and discuss their own responses as they relate to the text, including the purpose and context of their creations.

Close analysis of texts

In this area of study students focus on a detailed scrutiny of the language, style, concerns and construction of texts. Students attend closely to textual details to examine the ways specific passages in a text contribute to their overall understanding of the whole text. Students consider literary forms, features and language, and the views and values of the text. They write expressively to develop a close analysis, using detailed references to the text.

Learning Area: Health & Physical Education

Human Health & Development

Unit 1: Understanding health and wellbeing

This unit looks at health and wellbeing as a concept with varied and evolving perspectives and definitions. It takes the view that health and wellbeing are subject to a wide range of contexts and interpretations, with different meanings for different people. As a foundation to the understanding of health, students should investigate the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition and also explore other interpretations. Wellbeing is a complex combination of all dimensions of health, characterised by an equilibrium in which the individual feels happy, healthy, capable and engaged. For the purposes of this study, students should consider wellbeing to be an implicit element of health. In this unit students identify personal perspectives and priorities relating to health and wellbeing, and enquire into factors that influence health attitudes, beliefs and practices, including among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Students look at multiple dimensions of health and wellbeing, the complex interplay of influences on health and wellbeing and the indicators used to measure and evaluate health status. With a focus on youth, students consider their own health as individuals and as a cohort. They build health literacy through interpreting and using data, through investigating the role of food, and through extended inquiry into one youth health focus area.

Unit 2: Managing health and development

This unit investigates transitions in health and wellbeing, and development, from lifespan and societal perspectives. Students look at changes and expectations that are part of the progression from youth to adulthood. This unit promotes the application of health literacy skills through an examination of adulthood as a time of increasing independence and responsibility, involving the establishment of long-term relationships, possible considerations of parenthood and management of health-related milestones and changes. Students enquire into the Australian healthcare system and extend their capacity to access and analyse health information. They investigate the challenges and opportunities presented by digital media and health technologies, and consider issues surrounding the use of health data and access to quality health care.

Unit 3: Australia's health in a globalised world

This unit looks at health, wellbeing and illness as multidimensional, dynamic and subject to different interpretations and contexts. Students begin to explore health and wellbeing as a global concept and to take a broader approach to inquiry. As they consider the benefits of optimal health and wellbeing and its importance as an individual and a collective resource, their thinking extends to health as a universal right. Students look at the fundamental conditions required for health improvement, as stated by the World Health Organization (WHO). They use this knowledge as background to their analysis and evaluation of variations in the health status of Australians. Area of Study 2 focuses on health promotion and improvements in population health over time. Students look at various public health approaches and the interdependence of different models as they research health improvements and evaluate successful programs. While the emphasis is on the Australian health system, the progression of change in public health approaches should be seen within a global context.

Unit 4: Health and human development in a global context

This unit examines health and wellbeing, and human development in a global context. Students use data to investigate health status and burden of disease in different countries, exploring factors that contribute to health inequalities between and within countries, including the physical, social and economic conditions in which people live. Students build their understanding of health in a global context through examining changes in burden of disease over time and studying the key concepts of sustainability and human development. They consider the health implications of increased globalisation and worldwide trends relating to climate change, digital technologies, world trade and the mass movement of people. Area of Study 2 looks at global action to improve health and wellbeing and human development, focusing on the United Nations' (UN's) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the work of the World Health Organization (WHO). Students also investigate the role of non-government organisations and Australia's overseas aid program. Students evaluate the effectiveness of health initiatives and programs in a global context and reflect on their capacity to take action.

Learning Area: Health & Physical Education

Physical Education

Unit 1: The human body in motion

Students explore how the musculoskeletal and cardiorespiratory systems work together to produce movement. Through practical activities students explore the relationships between the body systems and physical activity, sport and exercise, and how the systems adapt and adjust to the demands of the activity. Students investigate the role and function of the main structures in each system and how they respond to physical activity, sport and exercise. They explore how the capacity and functioning of each system acts as an enabler or barrier to movement and participation in physical activity. Students evaluate the social, cultural and environmental influences on movement. They consider the implications of the use of legal and illegal practices to improve the performance of the musculoskeletal and cardiorespiratory systems, evaluating perceived benefits and describing potential harms.

Unit 2: Physical activity, sport and society

Students develop their understanding of physical activity, sport and society from a participatory perspective. Students are introduced to types of physical activity and the role participation in physical activity and sedentary behaviour plays in their own health and wellbeing as well as in other people's lives in different population groups. Through a series of practical activities, students experience and explore different types of physical activity promoted in their own and different population groups. Students investigate how participation in physical activity varies across the lifespan. They explore a range of factors that influence and facilitate participation in regular physical activity. They collect data to determine perceived enablers of and barriers to physical activity and the ways in which opportunities for participation in physical activity can be extended in various communities, social, cultural and environmental contexts. Students investigate individual and population-based consequences of physical inactivity and sedentary behaviour. Students apply various methods to assess physical activity and sedentary behaviour levels at the individual and population level, and analyse the data in relation to physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines. Students study and apply the social-ecological model and/or the Youth Physical Activity Promotion Model to critique a range of individual- and settings-based strategies that are effective in promoting participation in some form of regular physical activity.

Unit 3: Movement skills and energy for physical activity

This unit introduces students to the biomechanical and skill acquisition principles used to analyse human movement skills and energy production from a physiological perspective. Students use a variety of tools and techniques to analyse movement skills and apply biomechanical and skill acquisition principles to improve and refine movement in physical activity, sport and exercise. They use practical activities to demonstrate how correct application of these principles can lead to improved performance in physical activity and sport. Students investigate the relative contribution and interplay of the three energy systems to performance in physical activity, sport and exercise. In particular, they investigate the characteristics of each system and the interplay of the systems during physical activity. Students explore the causes of fatigue and consider different strategies used to postpone fatigue and promote recovery.

Unit 4: Training to improve performance

Students analyse movement skills from a physiological, psychological and sociocultural perspective, and apply relevant training principles and methods to improve performance within physical activity at an individual, club and elite level. Improvements in performance, in particular fitness, depend on the ability of the individual and/ or coach to gain, apply and evaluate knowledge and understanding of training. Students analyse skill frequencies, movement patterns, heart rates and work to rest ratios to determine the requirements of an activity. Students consider the physiological, psychological and sociological requirements of training to design and evaluate an effective training program. Students participate in a variety of training sessions designed to improve or maintain fitness and evaluate the effectiveness of different training methods. Students critique the effectiveness of the implementation of training principles and methods to meet the needs of the individual, and evaluate the chronic adaptations to training from a theoretical perspective.

Learning Area: Humanities

Classical Studies

Unit 1: Mythical worlds

This unit of study explores the myths of ancient Greece and/or ancient Rome, the search for their origins and their contribution to classical culture. Myths are traditional narratives that examine ideas that were of central importance to these societies. They were used to explain the physical world, the foundation of institutions, aspects of daily life and the human condition. The nature of the gods and the deeds of heroes like Theseus and the epic voyages of Odysseus and Aeneas have fascinated people since classical times. Women such as Helen, Clytemnestra and Dido have endured in myths that consider love and war, the human and the monstrous. The pioneers of archaeology sought to explain the possible historical basis of particular myths and excavated at Troy, Knossos and Mycenae and other sites in search of the mythical heroes and their worlds. Myths were represented in many forms including epic, sculpture, tragedy, vase paintings and wall paintings, and mosaics. They were transmitted through festivals, religious rituals, art and architecture. In Unit 1 students engage with the intellectual and material culture of ancient Greece and/or ancient Rome, working with translations.

Unit 2: Classical worlds

This unit examines classical works across time, beginning with the study of ancient Greek and/or ancient Roman society through an exploration of intellectual and material culture. Students work with translations rather than with the Ancient Greek or Latin. Classical works offer a means of exploring social and political life in classical antiquity. What does Homer reveal about the heroic code? How does Thucydides portray Athens during the Peloponnesian War? How does Sallust capture the demise of the Roman Republic? How does Tacitus depict Roman political life over a century later? What do works of architecture such as the Parthenon and the Colosseum reveal about the societies in which they were produced? Students analyse and compare the ways in which classical writers and artists use similar and different techniques within a classical work. The reception of these classical works extends beyond antiquity into the present. The cultural achievements of the classical world have inspired people and societies for centuries. The works of classical artists and classical writers have provided reference points for subsequent generations to emulate, to transform, or to react against. In this way, classical works are subject to constant re-imagining.

Units 3 and 4: Classical works

In Units 3 and 4 students engage with the intellectual and material culture of ancient Greece and/or ancient Rome, working with translations rather than the Ancient Greek or Latin. Students analyse individual works and engage with ideas that are explored and techniques that are used by particular writers and artists. They analyse and compare the ways in which classical writers and artists use similar and different techniques within a classical work. Students analyse the techniques used to present these ideas and the relationship between the work and its sociohistorical context. They critique the circumstances that have led to the significant events described in the classical works. To deepen their understanding of the significance of selected classical works, students compare classical works and consider ways in which different writers and artists address similar ideas or themes and construct an argument drawing on the ideas, techniques and the work's sociohistorical context. Such analysis reveals the changing nature of the classical world.

Learning Area: Humanities

Geography

Unit 1: Hazards and disasters

In this unit students undertake an overview of hazards before investigating two contrasting types of hazards and the responses to them by people. Hazards represent the potential to cause harm to people and or the environment whereas disasters are judgments about the impacts of hazard events. Hazards include a wide range of situations including those within local areas, such as fast moving traffic or the likelihood of coastal erosion, to regional and global hazards such as drought and infectious disease. Students examine the processes involved with hazards and hazard events, including their causes and impacts, human responses to hazard events and interconnections between human activities and natural phenomena. This unit investigates how people have responded to specific types of hazards, including attempts to reduce vulnerability to, and the impact of, hazard events.

Unit 2: Tourism – issues and challenges

In this unit students investigate the characteristics of tourism, with particular emphasis on where it has developed, its various forms, how it has changed and continues to change and its impacts on people, places and environments. They select contrasting examples of tourism from within Australia and elsewhere in the world to support their investigations. Tourism involves the movement of people travelling away from and staying outside of their usual environment for more than 24 hours but not more than one consecutive year (United Nations World Tourism Organisation definition). Over one billion tourists a year cross international boundaries with greater numbers involved as domestic tourists within their own countries. The Asia and the Pacific hosts 23 per cent of international arrivals. The scale of tourist movements since the 1950s and its predicted growth has had and continues to have a significant impact on local, regional and national environments, economies and cultures. The travel and tourism industry is directly responsible for one in every twelve jobs globally and generates around 5 per cent of its GDP.

Unit 3: Changing the land

This unit focuses on two investigations of geographical change: change to land cover and change to land use. Land cover is the natural state of the biophysical environment developed over time as a result of the interconnection between climate, soils, landforms, flora and fauna and interconnections with human activity. Land cover includes biomes such as forest, grassland, tundra and wetlands, as well as land covered by ice and water. Students will investigate two major processes that are changing land cover in many regions of the world: the melting of glaciers and ice sheets, and deforestation.

People have modified land cover to produce a range of land uses to satisfy needs such as housing, resource provision, recreation and communication. At a local scale, students investigate an example of land use change through fieldwork.

Unit 4: Human population – trends and issues

In this unit students investigate the geography of human populations. They explore the patterns of population change, movement and distribution, and how governments, organisations and individuals have responded to those changes in different parts of the world. They examine the dynamics of populations and the social, economic, cultural, and environmental impacts on people and places. Much of the current growth is occurring within developing countries while the populations in many developed countries are either growing slowly or declining. Populations change by growth or decline in fertility and mortality, and by people moving to different places. Population movements such as voluntary and forced movements over long or short terms add further complexity to population structures and to social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions. Students then undertake an investigation into two significant population trends arising in different parts of the world. Students undertake investigations into two countries with significant population trends in different parts of the world: a growing population of one country and an ageing population of another country.

Learning Area: Humanities

Modern History

Unit 1: Change and conflict

In this unit students investigate the nature of social, political, economic and cultural change in the later part of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. Modern History provides students with an opportunity to explore the significant events, ideas, individuals and movements that shaped the social, political, economic and technological conditions and developments that have defined the modern world.

The late 19th century marked a challenge to existing empires, alongside growing militarism and imperialism. Empires continued to exert their powers as they competed for new territories, resources and labour across Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Americas, contributing to tremendous change. This increasingly brought these world powers into contact and conflict. Italian unification and German unification changed the balance of power in Europe, the USA emerged from a bitter civil war and the Meiji Restoration brought political revolution to Japan. Meanwhile, China under the Qing struggled to survive due to foreign imperialism. Modernisation and industrialisation also challenged and changed the existing political, social and economic authority of empires and states. During this time the everyday lives of people significantly changed.

World War One was a significant turning point in modern history. It represented a complete departure from the past and heralded changes that were to have significant consequences for the rest of the twentieth century. The post-war treaties ushered in a period where the world was, to a large degree, reshaped with new borders, movements, ideologies and power structures and led to the creation of many new nation states. These changes had many unintended consequences that would lay the foundations for future conflict and instability in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Economic instability caused by the Great Depression contributed to great social hardship as well as to the development of new political movements.

The period after World War One, in the contrasting decades of the 1920s and 1930s, was characterised by significant social, political, economic, cultural and technological change. In 1920 the League of Nations was established, but despite its ideals about future peace, subsequent events and competing ideologies would contribute to the world being overtaken by war in 1939.

New fascist governments used the military, education and propaganda to impose controls on the way people lived, to exclude particular groups of people and to silence criticism. In Germany, the persecution of the Jewish people and other minorities intensified, resulting, during World War Two, in the Holocaust. In the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), millions of people were forced to work in state-owned factories and farms and had limited personal freedom. Japan became increasingly militarised and anti-Western. Turkey emerged out of the ruins of the Ottoman Empire and embarked on reforms to establish a secular democracy. In the United States of America (USA), foreign policy was shaped by isolationism, and the

consumerism and material progress of the Roaring Twenties was tempered by the Great Depression in 1929. Writers, artists, musicians, choreographers and filmmakers reflected, promoted or resisted political, economic and social changes.

Units 2: The changing world order

In this unit students investigate the nature and impact of the Cold War and challenges and changes to social, political and economic structures and systems of power in the second half of the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first century.

The establishment of the United Nations (UN) in 1945 was intended to take an internationalist approach to avoiding warfare, resolving political tensions and addressing threats to human life and safety. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 was the first global expression of human rights. However, despite internationalist moves, the second half of the twentieth century was dominated by the Cold War, competing ideologies of democracy and communism and proxy wars. By 1989 the USSR began to collapse. Beginning with Poland, Eastern European communist dictatorships fell one by one. The fall of the Berlin Wall was a significant turning point in modern history.

The period also saw continuities in and challenges and changes to the established social, political and economic order in many countries. The continuation of moves towards decolonisation led to independence movements in former colonies in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific. New countries were created and independence was achieved through both military and diplomatic means. Ethnic and sectarian conflicts also continued and terrorism became increasingly global.

The second half of the twentieth century also saw the rise of social movements that challenged existing values and traditions, such as the civil rights movement, feminism and environmental movements, as well as new political partnerships, such as the UN, European Union, APEC, OPEC, ASEAN and the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The beginning of the twenty-first century heralded both a changing world order and further advancements in technology and social mobility on a global scale. However, terrorism remained a major threat, influencing politics, social dynamics and the migration of people across the world. The attack on the World Trade Centre on 11 September, 2001 was a significant turning point for what became known as the war on global terror and shaped the first decade of the twenty-first century, including the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Global Financial Crisis challenged and contributed to some change in the social, political and economic features and structures; however, many continuities remained. Technology also played a key role in shaping social and political change in different contexts. The internet significantly changed everyday life and revolutionised communication and the sharing of information and ideas, some of which challenged authority, most notably the Arab Spring.

Learning Area: Humanities

History: Revolutions

Units 3 and 4: Revolutions

In Units 3 and 4 Revolutions students investigate the significant historical causes and consequences of political revolution.

Revolutions represent great ruptures in time and are a major turning point in the collapse and destruction of an existing political order which results in extensive change to society. Revolutions are caused by the interplay of events, ideas, individuals and popular movements, and the interplay between the political, social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions. Their consequences have a profound effect on the political and social structures of the post-revolutionary society. Revolution is a dramatically accelerated process whereby the new regime attempts to create political, social, cultural and economic change and transformation based on the regime's ideology.

Change in a post-revolutionary society is not guaranteed or inevitable and continuities can remain from the pre-revolutionary society. The implementation of revolutionary ideology was often challenged internally by civil war and externally by foreign threats. These challenges can result in a compromise of revolutionary ideals and extreme measures of violence, oppression and terror.

In these units students construct an argument about the past using historical sources (primary sources and historical interpretations) as evidence to analyse the complexity and multiplicity of the causes and consequences of revolution, and to evaluate the extent to which the revolution brought change to the lives of people. Students analyse the different perspectives and experiences of people who lived through dramatic revolutionary moments, and how society changed and/or remained the same. Students use historical interpretations to evaluate the causes and consequences of revolution and the extent of change instigated by the new regime.

Learning Area: Humanities

Philosophy

Unit 1: Existence, knowledge and reasoning

What is the nature of reality? How can we acquire certain knowledge? These are some of the questions that have challenged humans for millennia and underpin ongoing endeavours in areas as diverse as science, justice and the arts. This unit engages students with fundamental philosophical questions through active, guided investigation and critical discussion of two key areas of philosophy: epistemology and metaphysics. The emphasis is on philosophical inquiry – ‘doing philosophy’, for example through formulation of questions and philosophical exchanges with others. Hence the study and practice of techniques of reasoning are central to this unit. As students learn to think philosophically, appropriate examples of philosophical viewpoints and arguments, both contemporary and historical, are used to support, stimulate and enhance their thinking about central concepts and problems. At least one of these examples will be from a primary philosophical text using a complete text or an extract. For the purposes of this study, a primary text is defined as offering a positive argument or viewpoint rather than a mere critique. Students investigate relevant debates in applied epistemology and metaphysics, and consider whether the philosophical bases of these debates continue to have relevance in contemporary society and our everyday lives.

Unit 2: Questions of value

What are the foundations of our judgments about value? What is the relationship between different types of value? How, if at all, can particular value judgments be defended or criticised? This unit enables students to explore these questions in relation to different categories of value judgment within the realms of morality, political and social philosophy and aesthetics. Students also explore ways in which viewpoints and arguments in value theory can inform and be informed by contemporary debates. They study at least one primary philosophical text, using the complete text or an extract, and develop a range of skills including formulating philosophical questions and informed responses. Students consider the cultural repercussions of the spread of English.

Unit 3: Minds, bodies and persons

This unit considers basic questions regarding the mind and the self through two key questions: Are human beings more than their bodies? Is there a basis for the belief that an individual remains the same person over time? Students critically compare the viewpoints and arguments put forward in philosophical sources to their own views on these questions and to contemporary debates. For the purposes of this study, arguments make a claim supported by propositions and reasoning, whereas a viewpoint makes a claim without necessarily supporting it with reasons or reasoning. Philosophical debates encompass philosophical questions and associated viewpoints and arguments within other spheres of discourse such as religion, psychology, sociology and politics.

Unit 4: The good life

This unit considers the crucial question of what it is for a human to live well. What does an understanding of human nature tell us about what it is to live well? What is the role of happiness in a life well lived? Is morality central to a good life? How does our social context impact on our conception of a good life? In this unit, students explore philosophical texts that have had a significant impact on western ideas about the good life. Students critically compare the viewpoints and arguments in set texts to their views on how we should live, and use their understandings to inform a reasoned response to contemporary debates. For the purposes of this study, arguments make a claim supported by propositions and reasoning, whereas a viewpoint makes a claim without necessarily supporting it with reasons or reasoning. Philosophical debates encompass philosophical questions and associated viewpoints and arguments within other spheres of discourse such as psychology, sociology, science, engineering and politics.

Learning Area: Mathematics

General Mathematics

Units 1 & 2

General Mathematics Units 1 and 2 cater for a range of student interests, provide preparation for the study of VCE General Mathematics at the Units 3 and 4 level and contain assumed knowledge and skills for these units. The areas of study for Unit 1 of General Mathematics are 'Data analysis, probability and statistics', 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Functions, relations and graphs' and 'Discrete mathematics'.

In undertaking these units, students are expected to be able to apply techniques, routines and processes involving rational and real arithmetic, sets, lists, tables and matrices, diagrams and geometric constructions, algorithms, algebraic manipulation, recurrence relations, equations and graphs, with and without the use of technology. They should have facility with relevant mental and by-hand approaches to estimation and computation. The use of numerical, graphical, geometric, symbolic, financial and statistical functionality of technology for teaching and learning mathematics, for working mathematically, and in related assessment, is to be incorporated throughout each unit as applicable.

Units 3 and 4

General Mathematics Units 3 and 4 focus on real-life application of mathematics and consist of the areas of study 'Data analysis, probability and statistics' and 'Discrete mathematics'.

Unit 3 comprises Data analysis and Recursion and financial modelling, and Unit 4 comprises Matrices and Networks and decision mathematics.

Assumed knowledge and skills for General Mathematics Units 3 and 4 are contained in General Mathematics Units 1 and 2, and will be drawn on, as applicable, in the development of related content from the areas of study, and key knowledge and key skills for the outcomes of General Mathematics Units 3 and 4.

In undertaking these units, students are expected to be able to apply techniques, routines and processes involving rational and real arithmetic, sets, lists, tables and matrices, diagrams, networks, algorithms, algebraic manipulation, recurrence relations, equations and graphs. They should have facility with relevant mental and by-hand approaches to estimation and computation. The use of numerical, graphical, geometric, symbolic statistical and financial functionality of technology for teaching and learning mathematics, for working mathematically, and in related assessment, is to be incorporated throughout each unit as applicable.

Learning Area: Mathematics

Mathematical Methods

Units 1 and 2

Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2 provide an introductory study of simple elementary functions of a single real variable, algebra, calculus, probability and statistics and their applications in a variety of practical and theoretical contexts. The units are designed as preparation for Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4 and contain assumed knowledge and skills for these units.

The focus of Unit 1 is the study of simple algebraic functions, and the areas of study are 'Functions, relations and graphs', 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Calculus' and 'Data analysis, probability and statistics'. At the end of Unit 1, students are expected to have covered the content outlined in each area of study, with the exception of 'Algebra, number and structure' which extends across Units 1 and 2. This content should be presented so that there is a balanced and progressive development of skills and knowledge from each of the four areas of study with connections between and across the areas of study being developed consistently throughout both Units 1 and 2.

The focus of Unit 2 is the study of simple transcendental functions, the calculus of polynomial functions and related modelling applications. The areas of study are 'Functions, relations and graphs', 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Calculus' and 'Data analysis, probability and statistics'. At the end of Unit 2, students are expected to have covered the content outlined in each area of study.

In undertaking this unit, students are expected to be able to apply techniques, routines and processes involving rational and real arithmetic, sets, lists and tables, diagrams and geometric constructions, algorithms, algebraic manipulation, equations, graphs and differentiation, with and without the use of technology. They should have facility with relevant mental and by-hand approaches to estimation and computation. The use of numerical, graphical, geometric, symbolic and statistical functionality of technology for teaching and learning mathematics, for working mathematically, and in related assessment, is to be incorporated throughout the unit as applicable.

Units 3 and 4

Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4 extend the introductory study of simple elementary functions of a single real variable, to include combinations of these functions, algebra, calculus, probability and statistics, and their applications in a variety of practical and theoretical contexts. Units 3 and 4 consist of the areas of study 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Data analysis,

probability and statistics', 'Calculus', and 'Functions, relations and graphs', which must be covered in progression from Unit 3 to Unit 4, with an appropriate selection of content for each of Unit 3 and Unit 4. Assumed knowledge and skills for Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4 are contained in Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2, and will be drawn on, as applicable, in the development of related content from the areas of study, and key knowledge and key skills for the outcomes of Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4.

For Unit 3 a selection of content would typically include the areas of study 'Functions, relations and graphs' and 'Algebra, number and structure', applications of derivatives and differentiation, and identifying and analysing key features of the functions and their graphs from the 'Calculus' area of study. For Unit 4, a corresponding selection of content would typically consist of remaining content from 'Functions, relations and graphs', 'Algebra, number and structure' and 'Calculus' areas of study, and the study of random variables, discrete and continuous probability distributions, and the distribution of sample proportions from the 'Data analysis, probability and statistics' area of study. For Unit 4, the content from the 'Calculus' area of study would be likely to include the treatment of anti-differentiation, integration, the relation between integration and the area of regions specified by lines or curves described by the rules of functions, and simple applications of this content, including to probability distributions of continuous random variables.

The selection of content from the areas of study should be constructed so that there is a development in the complexity and sophistication of problem types and mathematical processes used (modelling, transformations, graph sketching and equation solving) in application to contexts related to these areas of study. There should be a clear progression of skills and knowledge from Unit 3 to Unit 4 in an area of study.

In undertaking these units, students are expected to be able to apply techniques, routines and processes involving rational and real arithmetic, sets, lists and tables, diagrams and geometric constructions, algorithms, algebraic manipulation, equations, graphs, differentiation, anti-differentiation, integration and inference, with and without the use of technology. They should have facility with relevant mental and by-hand approaches to estimation and computation. The use of numerical, graphical, geometric, symbolic and statistical functionality of technology for teaching and learning mathematics, for working mathematically, and in related assessment, is to be incorporated throughout each unit as applicable.

Learning Area: Mathematics

Specialist Mathematics

Units 1 and 2

Specialist Mathematics Units 1 and 2 provide a course of study for students who wish to undertake an in-depth study of mathematics, with an emphasis on concepts, skills and processes related to mathematical structure, modelling, problem-solving, reasoning and proof. This study has a focus on interest in the discipline of mathematics and investigation of a broad range of applications, as well as development of a sound background for further studies in mathematics and mathematics related fields.

Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2 and Specialist Mathematics Units 1 and 2, taken in conjunction, provide a comprehensive preparation for Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4. Study of Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4 also assumes concurrent study or previous completion of Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4.

The areas of study for Specialist Mathematics Units 1 and 2 are 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Data analysis, probability and statistics', 'Discrete mathematics', 'Functions, relations and graphs' and 'Space and measurement'.

At the end of Unit 1 students are expected to have covered the material in the areas of study: 'Algebra, number and structure' and 'Discrete mathematics'. Concepts from these areas of study will be further developed and used in Unit 2 and also in Units 3 and 4.

At the end of Unit 2 students are expected to have covered the material in the areas of studies: 'Data analysis, probability and statistics', 'Space and measurement', 'Algebra, number and structure' and 'Functions, relations and graphs'.

In undertaking this unit, students are expected to be able to apply techniques, routines and processes involving rational, real and complex arithmetic, sets, lists, tables and matrices, diagrams, graphs, logic gates and geometric constructions, algorithms, algebraic manipulation, recurrence relations, equations and graphs, with and without the use of technology. They are expected to be able to construct proofs and develop and interpret algorithms to solve problems. They should have facility with relevant mental and by-hand approaches to estimation and computation. The use of numerical, graphical, geometric, symbolic and statistical functionality of technology for teaching and learning mathematics, for working mathematically, and in related assessment, is to be incorporated throughout each unit as applicable.

Units 3 and 4

Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4 consist of the areas of study: 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Calculus', 'Data analysis, probability and statistics', 'Discrete mathematics', 'Functions, relations and graphs', and 'Space and measurement'. The development of course content should highlight mathematical structure, reasoning and proof and applications across a range of modelling contexts with an appropriate selection of content for each of Unit 3 and Unit 4. The selection of content for Unit 3 and Unit 4 should be constructed so that there is a balanced and progressive development of knowledge and skills with connections among the areas of study being developed as appropriate across Unit 3 and Unit 4.

Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4 assumes familiarity with the key knowledge and key skills from Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2; the key knowledge and key skills from Specialist Mathematics Units 1 and 2; and concurrent study or previous completion of Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4. Together these cover the assumed knowledge and skills for Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4, which are drawn on as applicable in the development of content from the areas of study and key knowledge and key skills for the outcomes.

For Unit 3 a selection of content would typically include content from the 'Discrete mathematics', 'Functions, relations and graphs', 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Space and measurement' and 'Calculus' areas of study. In Unit 4 the corresponding selection of content would typically consist of the remaining content from the 'Discrete mathematics', 'Calculus', and 'Space and measurement' areas of study and the content from the 'Data analysis, probability and statistics' area of study.

In undertaking these units, students are expected to be able to apply techniques, routines and processes involving rational, real and complex arithmetic, sets, lists, tables and vectors, diagrams and geometric constructions, algorithms, algebraic manipulation, equations, graphs, differentiation, anti-differentiation and integration and inference, with and without the use of technology. They should have facility with relevant mental and by-hand approaches to estimation and computation. The use of numerical, graphical, geometric, symbolic and statistical functionality of technology for teaching and learning mathematics, for working mathematically, and in related assessment, is to be incorporated throughout each unit as applicable.

Learning Area: Science

Biology

Unit 1: How do living things stay alive?

In this unit students are introduced to some of the challenges to an organism in sustaining life. Students examine the cell as the structural and functional unit of life, from the single celled to the multicellular organism, and the requirements for sustaining cellular processes in terms of inputs and outputs. They analyse types of adaptations that enhance the organism's survival in a particular environment and consider the role homeostatic mechanisms play in maintaining the internal environment. Students investigate how a diverse group of organisms form a living interconnected community that is adapted to, and utilises, the abiotic resources of its habitat. The role of a keystone species in maintaining the structure of an ecosystem is explored. Students consider how the planet's biodiversity is classified and the factors that affect the growth of a population.

Unit 2: How is continuity of life maintained?

In this unit students focus on cell reproduction and the transmission of biological information from generation to generation. Students learn that all cells are derived from pre-existing cells through the cell cycle. They examine the process of DNA replication and compare cell division in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms. Students explore the mechanisms of asexual and sexual reproductive strategies, and consider the advantages and disadvantages of these two types of reproduction. The role of stem cells in the differentiation, growth, repair and replacement of cells in humans is examined, and their potential use in medical therapies is considered. Students use chromosome theory and terminology from classical genetics to explain the inheritance of characteristics, analyse patterns of inheritance, interpret pedigree charts and predict outcomes of genetic crosses. They explore the relationship between genes, the environment and the regulation of genes in giving rise to phenotypes. They consider the role of genetic knowledge in decision making about the inheritance of autosomal dominant, autosomal recessive and sex-linked genetic conditions. In this context the uses of genetic screening and its social and ethical issues are examined.

Unit 3: How do cells maintain life?

The cell is a dynamic system of interacting molecules that define life. An understanding of the workings of the cell enables an appreciation of both the capabilities and the limitations of living organisms whether animal, plant, fungus or microorganism. The convergence of cytology, genetics and

biochemistry makes cell biology one of the most rapidly evolving disciplines in contemporary biology. In this unit students investigate the workings of the cell from several perspectives. They explore the importance of the insolubility of the plasma membrane in water and its differential permeability to specific solutes in defining the cell, its internal spaces and the control of the movement of molecules and ions in and out of such spaces. Students consider base pairing specificity, the binding of enzymes and substrates, the response of receptors to signalling molecules and reactions between antigens and antibodies to highlight the importance of molecular interactions based on the complementary nature of specific molecules. Students study the synthesis, structure and function of nucleic acids and proteins as key molecules in cellular processes. They explore the chemistry of cells by examining the nature of biochemical pathways, their components and energy transformations. Cells communicate with each other using a variety of signalling molecules. Students consider the types of signals, the transduction of information within the cell and cellular responses. At this molecular level students study the human immune system and the interactions between its components to provide immunity to a specific antigen.

Unit 4: How does life change and respond to challenges over time?

In this unit students consider the continual change and challenges to which life on Earth has been subjected. They investigate the relatedness between species and the impact of various change events on a population's gene pool. The accumulation of changes over time is considered as a mechanism for biological evolution by natural selection that leads to the rise of new species. Students examine change in life forms using evidence from palaeontology, biogeography, developmental biology and structural morphology. They explore how technological developments in the fields of comparative genomics, molecular homology and bioinformatics have resulted in evidence of change through measurements of relatedness between species. Students examine the structural and cognitive trends in the human fossil record and the interrelationships between human biological and cultural evolution. The biological consequences, and social and ethical implications, of manipulating the DNA molecule and applying biotechnologies is explored for both the individual and the species.

Learning Area: Science

Chemistry

Unit 1: How can the diversity of materials be explained?

The development and use of materials for specific purposes is an important human endeavour. In this unit students investigate the chemical structures and properties of a range of materials, including covalent compounds, metals, ionic compounds and polymers. They are introduced to ways that chemical quantities are measured. They consider how manufacturing innovations lead to more sustainable products being produced for society through the use of renewable raw materials and a transition from a linear economy towards a circular economy.

Students conduct practical investigations involving the reactivity series of metals, separation of mixtures by chromatography, use of precipitation reactions to identify ionic compounds, determination of empirical formulas, and synthesis of polymers.

Throughout this unit students use chemistry terminology including symbols, formulas, chemical nomenclature and equations to represent and explain observations and data from their own investigations and to evaluate the chemistry-based claims of others.

A student-directed research investigation into the sustainable production or use of a selected material is to be undertaken in Area of Study 3. The investigation explores how sustainability factors such as green chemistry principles and the transition to a circular economy are considered in the production of materials to ensure minimum toxicity and impacts on human health and the environment. The investigation draws on key knowledge and key science skills from Area of Study 1 and/or Area of Study 2.

Unit 2: How do chemical reactions shape the natural world?

Society is dependent on the work of chemists to analyse the materials and products in everyday use. In this unit students analyse and compare different substances dissolved in water and the gases that may be produced in chemical reactions. They explore applications of acid-base and redox reactions in society.

Students conduct practical investigations involving the specific heat capacity of water, acid-base and redox reactions, solubility, molar volume of a gas, volumetric analysis, and the use of a calibration curve.

Throughout the unit students use chemistry terminology, including symbols, formulas, chemical nomenclature and equations, to represent and explain observations and data from their own investigations and to evaluate the chemistry-based claims of others.

A student-adapted or student-designed scientific investigation is undertaken in Area of Study 3. The investigation involves the generation of primary data and is related to the production of gases, acid-base or redox reactions, or the analysis of substances in water. It draws on the key science skills and key knowledge from Unit 2 Area of Study 1 and/or Area of Study 2.

Learning Area: Science

Chemistry

Unit 3: How can chemical processes be designed to optimise efficiency?

The global demand for energy and materials is increasing with world population growth. In this unit students explore energy options and the chemical production of materials with reference to efficiencies, renewability and the minimisation of their impact on the environment. Students compare and evaluate different chemical energy resources. They investigate the combustion of fuels, including the energy transformations involved, they calculate the amounts of reactants and products involved in the reactions, and complete calculations of the amounts of energy released and their representations. Students consider the purpose, design and operating principles of galvanic cells, fuel cells and electrolytic cells. In this context they use the electrochemical series to predict and write half and overall redox equations and apply Faraday's laws to calculate quantities in electrolytic reactions. Students investigate and apply the equilibrium law and Le Chatelier's principle to different reaction systems, including to predict and explain the conditions that will improve the efficiency and percentage yield of chemical processes. They use the language and conventions of chemistry including symbols, units, chemical formulas and equations to represent and explain observations and data collected from experiments, and to discuss chemical phenomena.

Unit 4: How are organic compounds categorised, analysed and used?

The carbon atom has characteristics that explain the diversity and number of organic compounds that constitute living tissues and are also found in the fuels, foods, medicines and many of the materials we use in everyday life. Students investigate the structural features, bonding, typical reactions and uses of the major families of organic compounds including those found in food. Students study the ways in which organic structures are represented and named. They investigate instrumental analyses of organic compounds to confirm or deduce organic structures and perform volumetric analyses to determine the concentrations of organic chemicals in mixtures. Students consider the nature of the reactions involved to predict the products of reaction pathways and to design pathways to produce particular compounds starting materials. Students investigate key food molecules through an exploration of their chemical structures, the hydrolytic reactions in which they are broken down and the condensation reactions in which they are rebuilt to form new molecules. The role of enzymes and coenzymes in facilitating chemical reactions is explored. Students use calorimetry as an investigative tool to determine the energy released in the combustion of foods.

Learning Area: Science

Environmental Science

Unit 1: How are Earth's systems connected?

In this unit students examine Earth as a set of four interacting systems: the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere. Students apply a systems perspective when exploring the physical requirements for life in terms of inputs and outputs, and consider the effects of natural and human-induced changes in ecosystems. They investigate the physical environment and its components, the function of local ecosystems and the interactions that occur in and between ecological components over different timescales. Students consider how the biotic and abiotic components of local ecosystems can be monitored and measured.

Unit 2: How can pollution be managed?

In this unit students explore the concept of pollution and associated impacts on Earth's four systems through global, national and local perspectives. They distinguish between wastes, contaminants and pollutants and examine the characteristics, measurement and management of pollution. They analyse the effects of pollutants on the health of humans and the environment over time. Students consider the rules for use, treatment and disposal of pollutants and evaluate the different perspectives of those who are affected by pollutants. They explore the significance of technology, government initiatives, communities and individuals in redressing the effects of pollutants, and consider how values, beliefs and evidence affect environmental decision making. Pollutants can be produced through natural and human activities and can generate adverse effects for living and non-living things when released into ecosystems. Students examine how pollutant effects produced in one of Earth's four systems may have an impact on the other systems. They explore the factors that affect the nature and impact of pollution including pollutant sources, transport mechanisms and potential build-up due to long-term or repeated exposure. Students compare three pollutants of national and/or global significance with reference to their effects in the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere, and discuss management options.

Unit 3: How can biodiversity and development be sustained?

In this unit students focus on environmental management through the examination and application of sustainability principles. They explore the value and management of the biosphere by examining the concept of biodiversity and the services provided to all living things. They analyse the processes that threaten biodiversity and apply scientific principles in evaluating biodiversity management strategies for a selected threatened endemic species. Students use a selected environmental science case study with reference to the principles of sustainability and environmental management to explore management at an Earth systems scale, including impact on the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere.

Unit 4: How can the impacts of human energy use be reduced?

In this unit students analyse the social and environmental impacts of energy production and use on society and the environment. They explore the complexities of interacting systems of water, air, land and living organisms that influence climate, focusing on both local and global scales, and consider long-term consequences of energy production and use. Students examine scientific concepts and principles associated with energy, compare efficiencies of the use of renewable and non-renewable energy resources, and consider how science can be used to reduce the impacts of energy production and use. They distinguish between natural and enhanced greenhouse effects and discuss their impacts on living things and the environment, including climate change. Measurement of environmental indicators often involves uncertainty. Students develop skills in data interpretation, extrapolation and interpolation, test predictions, and recognise the limitations of provisional and incomplete data. They learn to differentiate between relationships that are correlative and those that are cause-and-effect, and make judgments about accuracy, validity and reliability of evidence.

Learning Area: Science

Physics

Unit 1: How is energy useful to society?

In this unit students examine some of the fundamental ideas and models used by physicists in an attempt to understand and explain energy. Models used to understand light, thermal energy, radioactivity, nuclear processes and electricity are explored. Students apply these physics ideas to contemporary societal issues: communication, climate change and global warming, medical treatment, electrical home safety and Australian energy needs.

Unit 2: How does physics help us to understand the world?

In this unit students explore the power of experiments in developing models and theories. They investigate a variety of phenomena by making their own observations and generating questions, which in turn lead to experiments.

In Area of Study 1, students investigate the ways in which forces are involved both in moving objects and in keeping objects stationary and apply these concepts to a chosen case study of motion.

In Area of Study 2, students choose one of eighteen options related to climate science, nuclear energy, flight, structural engineering, biomechanics, medical physics, bioelectricity, optics, photography, music, sports science, electronics, astrophysics, astrobiology, Australian traditional artefacts and techniques, particle physics, cosmology and local physics research. The selection of an option enables students to pursue an area of interest through an investigation and using physics to justify a stance, response or solution to a contemporary societal issue or application related to the option.

A student-adapted or student-designed scientific investigation is undertaken in Area of Study 3. The investigation involves the generation of primary data and draws on the key science skills and key knowledge from Area of Study 1 and/or Area of Study 2.

Unit 3: How do fields explain motion and electricity?

In this unit students explore the importance of energy in explaining and describing the physical world. They examine the production of electricity and its delivery to homes. Students consider the field model as a construct that has enabled an understanding of why objects move when they are not apparently in contact with other objects. Applications of concepts related to fields include the transmission of electricity over large distances and the design and operation of particle accelerators. They explore the interactions, effects and applications of gravitational, electric and magnetic fields. Students use Newton's laws to investigate motion in one and two dimensions, and are introduced to Einstein's theories to explain the motion of very fast objects. They consider how developing technologies can challenge existing explanations of the physical world, requiring a review of conceptual models and theories. Students design and undertake investigations involving at least two continuous independent variables.

Unit 4: How can two contradictory models explain both light and matter?

A complex interplay exists between theory and experiment in generating models to explain natural phenomena including light. Wave theory has classically been used to explain phenomena related to light; however, continued exploration of light and matter has revealed the particle-like properties of light. On very small scales, light and matter – which initially seem to be quite different – have been observed as having similar properties. In this unit, students explore the use of wave and particle theories to model the properties of light and matter. They examine how the concept of the wave is used to explain the nature of light and explore its limitations in describing light behaviour. Students further investigate light by using a particle model to explain its behaviour. A wave model is also used to explain the behaviour of matter which enables students to consider the relationship between light and matter. Students learn to think beyond the concepts experienced in everyday life to study the physical world from a new perspective. Students design and undertake investigations involving at least two continuous independent variables.

Learning Area: Science

Psychology

Unit 1: How are behaviour and mental processes shaped?

In this unit students examine the complex nature of psychological development, including situations where psychological development may not occur as expected. Students examine the contribution that classical and contemporary knowledge from Western and non-Western societies, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, has made to an understanding of psychological development and to the development of psychological models and theories used to predict and explain the development of thoughts, emotions and behaviours. They investigate the structure and functioning of the human brain and the role it plays in mental processes and behaviour and explore brain plasticity and the influence that brain damage may have on a person's psychological functioning.

A student-directed research investigation into contemporary psychological research is undertaken in Area of Study 3. The investigation involves the exploration of research, methodology and methods, as well as the application of critical and creative thinking to evaluate the validity of a research study by analysing secondary data. The investigation draws on the key science skills and key knowledge from Area of Study 1 and/or Area of Study 2.

Unit 2: How do internal and external factors influence behaviour and mental processes?

In this unit students evaluate the role social cognition plays in a person's attitudes, perception of themselves and relationships with others. Students explore a variety of factors and contexts that can influence the behaviour of individuals and groups, recognising that different cultural groups have different experiences and values. Students are encouraged to consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's experiences within Australian society and how these experiences may affect psychological functioning.

Students examine the contribution that classical and contemporary research has made to the understandings of human perception and why individuals and groups behave in specific ways. Students investigate how perception of stimuli enables a person to interact with the world around them and how their perception of stimuli can be distorted.

A student-adapted or student-designed scientific investigation is undertaken in Area of Study 3. The investigation involves the generation of primary data and is related to internal and external factors that influence behaviour and mental processes. The investigation draws on key knowledge and key science skills from Area of Study 1 and/or Area of Study 2.

Learning Area: Science

Psychology

Unit 3: How does experience affect behaviour and mental processes?

In this unit students investigate the contribution that classical and contemporary research has made to the understanding of the functioning of the nervous system and to the understanding of biological, psychological and social factors that influence learning and memory.

Students investigate how the human nervous system enables a person to interact with the world around them. They explore how stress may affect a person's psychological functioning and consider stress as a psychobiological process, including emerging research into the relationship between the gut and the brain in psychological functioning.

Students investigate how mechanisms of learning and memory lead to the acquisition of knowledge and the development of new and changed behaviours. They consider models to explain learning and memory as well as the interconnectedness of brain regions involved in memory. The use of mnemonics to improve memory is explored, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' use of place as a repository of memory.

A student-designed scientific investigation involving the generation of primary data related to mental processes and psychological functioning is undertaken in either Unit 3 or Unit 4, or across both Units 3 and 4, and is assessed in Unit 4 Outcome 3.

Unit 4: How is mental wellbeing supported and maintained?

In this unit students explore the demand for sleep and the influences of sleep on mental wellbeing. They consider the biological mechanisms that regulate sleep and the relationship between rapid eye movement (REM) and non-rapid eye movement (NREM) sleep across the life span. They also study the impact that changes to a person's sleep-wake cycle and sleep hygiene have on a person's psychological functioning and consider the contribution that classical and contemporary research has made to the understanding of sleep.

Students consider ways in which mental wellbeing may be defined and conceptualised, including social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) as a multidimensional and holistic framework to wellbeing. They explore the concept of mental wellbeing as a continuum and apply a biopsychosocial approach, as a scientific model, to understand specific phobia. They explore how mental wellbeing can be supported by considering the importance of biopsychosocial protective factors and cultural determinants as integral to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

A student-designed scientific investigation involving the generation of primary data related to mental processes and mental wellbeing is undertaken in either Unit 3 or Unit 4, or across both Units 3 and 4, and is assessed in Unit 4 Outcome 3.

Learning Area: Technologies

Food Studies

Unit 1: Food origins

In this unit students focus on food from historical and cultural perspectives, and investigate the origins and roles of food through time and across the world. In Area of Study 1 students explore how humans have historically sourced their food, examining the general progression from hunter-gatherer to rural-based agriculture, to today's urban living and global trade in food. Students consider the origins and significance of food through inquiry into one particular food-producing region of the world.

In Area of Study 2 students focus on Australia. They look at Australian indigenous food prior to European settlement and how food patterns have changed since, particularly through the influence of food production, processing and manufacturing industries and immigration. Students investigate cuisines that are part of Australia's culinary identity today and reflect on the concept of an Australian cuisine.

Students consider the influence of innovations, technologies and globalisation on food patterns. Throughout this unit they complete topical and contemporary practical activities to enhance, demonstrate and share their learning with others.

Unit 2: Food makers

In this unit students investigate food systems in contemporary Australia. Area of Study 1 focuses on commercial food production industries, while Area of Study 2 looks at food production in domestic and small-scale settings, as both a comparison and complement to commercial production. Students gain insight into the significance of food industries to the Australian economy and investigate the capacity of industry to provide safe, high-quality food that meets the needs of consumers.

Students use practical skills and knowledge to produce foods and consider a range of evaluation measures to compare their foods to commercial products. They consider the effective provision and preparation of food in the home, and analyse the benefits and challenges of developing and using practical food skills in daily life. In demonstrating their practical skills, students design new food products and adapt recipes to suit particular needs and circumstances. They consider the possible extension of their role as small-scale food producers by exploring potential entrepreneurial opportunities.

Learning Area: Technologies

Food Studies

Unit 3: Food in daily life

In this unit students investigate the many roles and everyday influences of food. Area of Study 1 explores the science of food: our physical need for it and how it nourishes and sometimes harms our bodies. Students investigate the science of food appreciation, the physiology of eating and digestion, and the role of diet on gut health. They analyse the scientific evidence, including nutritional rationale, behind the healthy eating recommendations of the Australian Dietary Guidelines and the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating (see www.eatforhealth.gov.au), and develop their understanding of diverse nutrient requirements.

Area of Study 2 focuses on influences on food choices: how communities, families and individuals change their eating patterns over time and how our food values and behaviours develop within social environments. Students inquire into the role of food in shaping and expressing identity and connectedness, and the ways in which food information can be filtered and manipulated. They investigate behavioural principles that assist in the establishment of lifelong, healthy dietary patterns.

Practical activities enable students to understand how to plan and prepare food to cater for various dietary needs through the production of everyday food that facilitates the establishment of nutritious and sustainable meal patterns.

Unit 4: Food issues, challenges and futures

In this unit students examine debates about Australia's food systems as part of the global food systems and describe key issues relating to the challenge of adequately feeding a rising world population.

In Area of Study 1 students focus on individual responses to food information and misinformation and the development of food knowledge, skills and habits to empower consumers to make discerning food choices. They also consider the relationship between food security, food sovereignty and food citizenship. Students consider how to assess information and draw evidence-based conclusions, and apply this methodology to navigate contemporary food fads, trends and diets. They practise and improve their food selection skills by interpreting food labels and analysing the marketing terms used on food packaging.

In Area of Study 2 students focus on issues about the environment, climate, ecology, ethics, farming practices, including the use and management of water and land, the development and application of innovations and technologies, and the challenges of food security, food sovereignty, food safety and food wastage. They research a selected topic, seeking clarity on current situations and points of view, considering solutions and analysing work undertaken to solve problems and support sustainable futures. The focus of this unit is on food issues, challenges and futures in Australia.

Practical activities provide students with opportunities to apply their responses to environmental and ethical food issues, reflect on healthy eating recommendations of the Australian Dietary Guidelines and the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, and consider how food selections and food choices can optimise human and planetary health.

Learning Area: Technologies

Product Design and Technology

Unit 1: Sustainable product redevelopment

This unit focuses on the analysis, modification and improvement of a product design with consideration of sustainability. It is common for designers in Australia to use products from overseas as inspiration when redeveloping products for the domestic market. Sustainable redevelopment refers to designers and makers ensuring products serve social, economic and environmental needs. Generating economic growth for design and manufacturing in Australia can begin with redeveloping existing products so they have positive social and minimal environmental impact. In this unit students examine claims of sustainable practices by designers. Students consider the sustainability of an existing product, such as the impact of sourcing materials, manufacture, distribution, use and likely disposal. They consider how a redeveloped product should attempt to solve a problem related to the original product. Where possible, materials and manufacturing processes used should be carefully selected to improve the overall sustainability of the redeveloped product.

Unit 2: Collaborative design

In this unit students work in teams to design and develop an item in a product range or contribute to the design, planning and production of a group product. They focus on factors including end-user/s' needs and wants; function, purpose and context for product design; aesthetics; materials and sustainability; and the impact of these factors on a design solution. Teamwork encourages communication between students and mirrors professional design practice where designers often work within a multi-disciplinary team to develop solutions to design problems. Students also use digital technologies to facilitate teams to work collaboratively online. In this unit students gain inspiration from an historical or a contemporary design movement or style and its defining factors such as ideological or technological change, philosophy or aesthetics.

Unit 3: Applying the product design process

In this unit students are engaged in the design and development of a product that addresses a personal, local, or global problem (such as humanitarian issues), or that meets the needs and wants of a potential end-user/s. The product is developed through a design process and is influenced by a range of factors including the purpose, function and context of the product; user-centred design; innovation and creativity; design elements and principles; sustainability concerns; economic limitations; legal responsibilities; material characteristics and properties; and technology. Design and product development and manufacture occur in a range of settings. An industrial setting provides a marked contrast to that of a one-off situation in a small cottage industry or a school setting. Although a product design process may vary in complexity or order, it is central to all of these situations regardless of the scale or context. This unit examines different settings and takes students through the product design process as they design for an end-user/s. Students identify methods which could be used in a low-volume or mass/high-volume production setting to manufacture a similar product to their design.

Unit 4: Product development and evaluation

In this unit students engage with an end-user/s to gain feedback throughout the process of production. Students make comparisons between similar products to help evaluate the success of a product in relation to a range of product design factors. The environmental, economic and social impact of products throughout their life cycle can be analysed and evaluated with reference to the product design factors.

Learning Area: Digital Technologies

Applied Computing

Unit 1: Applied computing

In this unit students are introduced to the stages of the problem-solving methodology. Students focus on how data can be used within software tools such as databases and spreadsheets to create data visualisations, and the use of programming languages to develop working software solutions.

In Area of Study 1, as an introduction to data analytics, students respond to a teacher-provided analysis of requirements and designs to identify and collect data in order to present their findings as data visualisations. They present work that includes database, spreadsheet and data visualisations solutions. In Area of Study 2 students select and use a programming language to create a working software solution. Students prepare, document and monitor project plans and engage in all stages of the problem-solving methodology.

Unit 2: Applied computing

In this unit students focus on developing innovative solutions to needs or opportunities that they have identified, and propose strategies for reducing security risks to data and information in a networked environment.

In Area of Study 1 students work collaboratively and select a topic for further study to create an innovative solution in an area of interest. The innovative solution can be presented as a proof of concept, a prototype or a product. Students engage in all areas of the problem-solving methodology. In Area of Study 2, as an introduction to cybersecurity, students investigate networks and the threats, vulnerabilities and risks to data and information. They propose strategies to protect the data accessed using a network.

Unit 3: Software development

In this unit students apply the problem-solving methodology to develop working software modules using a programming language. Students develop an understanding of the analysis, design and development stages of the problem-solving methodology.

In Area of Study 1 students respond to teacher-provided solution requirements and designs and develop a set of working modules through the use of a programming language. Students examine a simple software requirements specification and a range of software design tools in order to apply specific processing features of a programming language to create working modules. In Area of Study 2 students analyse a need or opportunity, select an appropriate development model, prepare a project plan, develop a software requirements specification and design a software solution. Area of Study 2 forms the first part of the School-assessed Task (SAT) that is completed in Unit 4, Area of Study 1.

Unit 4: Software development

In this unit students focus on how the information needs of individuals and organisations are met through the creation of software solutions. They consider the risks to software and data during the software development process, as well as throughout the use of the software solution by an organisation.

In Area of Study 1 students apply the problem-solving stages of development and evaluation to develop their preferred design prepared in Unit 3, Area of Study 2, into a software solution and evaluate the solution, chosen development model and project plan. Area of Study 1 forms the second part of the School-assessed Task (SAT). In Area of Study 2 students examine the security practices of an organisation and the risks to software and data during the development and use of the software solutions. Students evaluate the current security practices and develop a risk management plan.

Learning Area: Languages

French

Unit 1

In this unit students develop an understanding of the language and culture/s of French-speaking communities through the study of three or more topics from the prescribed themes listed on page 11. Each area of study in the unit must focus on a different subtopic. Students access and share useful information on the topics and subtopics through French and consolidate and extend vocabulary and grammar knowledge and language skills. They focus on analysing cultural products or practices including visual, spoken or written texts. Cultural products or practices can be drawn from a diverse range of texts, activities and creations. These may include the following: stories, poems, plays, novels, songs, films, photographs, artworks, architecture, technology, food, clothing, sports and festivals. Students apply acquired knowledge of French culture and language to new contexts. Students reflect on the interplay between language and culture, and its impact on the individual's language use in specific contexts and for specific audiences.

Unit 2

In this unit students develop an understanding of aspects of language and culture through the study of three or more topics from the prescribed themes listed on page 11. Each area of study must focus on a different subtopic. Students analyse visual, spoken and written texts. They access and share useful information on the topics and subtopics through French and consolidate and extend vocabulary, grammar knowledge and language skills. Cultural products or practices can be used to demonstrate how culture and perspectives may vary between communities. Students reflect on the interplay between language and culture, and its impact on meaning, understanding and the individual's language use in specific contexts and for specific audiences.

Unit 3

In this unit students investigate the way French speakers interpret and express ideas, and negotiate and persuade in French through the study of three or more subtopics from the prescribed themes and topics. Each area of study must cover a different subtopic, though teachers may choose to teach more than one subtopic in an area of study. Students interpret information, inform others, and reflect upon and develop persuasive arguments. They access and share useful information on the subtopics through French, and consolidate and extend vocabulary and grammar knowledge and language skills. Students consider the influence of language and culture in shaping meaning and reflect on the practices, products and perspectives of the cultures of French-speaking communities. They reflect on how knowledge of French and French-speaking communities can be applied in a range of contexts and endeavours, such as further study, travel, business or community involvement.

Unit 4

In this unit students investigate aspects of culture through the study of two or more subtopics from the prescribed themes and topics. Area of Study 1 and Area of Study 2 may focus on the same subtopic. Area of Study 3 should cover a different subtopic to the subtopic/s chosen for Areas of Study 1 and 2. Students build on their knowledge of French-speaking communities, considering cultural perspectives and language and explaining personal observations. Students consolidate and extend vocabulary, grammar knowledge and language skills to investigate the topics through French. Students identify and reflect on cultural products or practices that provide insights into French-speaking communities. Cultural products or practices can be drawn from a diverse range of texts, activities and creations. Students reflect on the ways culture, place and time influence values, attitudes and behaviours. They consider how knowledge of more than one culture can influence the ways individuals relate to each other and function in the world.

Learning Area: Languages

Indonesian

Unit 1

In this unit students develop an understanding of the language and culture/s of Indonesian-speaking communities through the study of three or more topics from the prescribed themes listed on page 11. Each area of study in the unit must focus on a different subtopic. Students access and share useful information on the topics and subtopics through Indonesian and consolidate and extend vocabulary and grammar knowledge and language skills. They focus on analysing cultural products or practices including visual, spoken or written texts. Cultural products or practices can be drawn from a diverse range of texts, activities and creations. These may include the following: stories, poems, plays, novels, songs, films, photographs, artworks, architecture, technology, food, clothing, sports and festivals. Students apply acquired knowledge of Indonesian culture and language to new contexts. Students reflect on the interplay between language and culture, and its impact on the individual's language use in specific contexts and for specific audiences.

Unit 2

In this unit students develop an understanding of aspects of language and culture through the study of three or more topics from the prescribed themes listed on page 11. Each area of study must focus on a different subtopic. Students analyse visual, spoken and written texts. They access and share useful information on the topics and subtopics through Indonesian and consolidate and extend vocabulary, grammar knowledge and language skills. Cultural products or practices can be used to demonstrate how culture and perspectives may vary between communities. Students reflect on the interplay between language and culture, and its impact on meaning, understanding and the individual's language use in specific contexts and for specific audiences.

Unit 3

In this unit students investigate the way Indonesian speakers interpret and express ideas, and negotiate and persuade in Indonesian through the study of three or more subtopics from the prescribed themes and topics. Each area of study must cover a different subtopic, though teachers may choose to teach more than one subtopic in an area of study. Students interpret information, inform others, and reflect upon and develop persuasive arguments. They access and share useful information on the subtopics through Indonesian, and consolidate and extend vocabulary and grammar knowledge and language skills. Students consider the influence of language and culture in shaping meaning and reflect on the practices, products and perspectives of the cultures of Indonesian-speaking communities. They reflect on how knowledge of Indonesian and Indonesian-speaking communities can be applied in a range of contexts and endeavours, such as further study, travel, business or community involvement.

Unit 4

In this unit students investigate aspects of culture through the study of two or more subtopics from the prescribed themes and topics. Area of Study 1 and Area of Study 2 may focus on the same subtopic. Area of Study 3 should cover a different subtopic to the subtopic/s chosen for Areas of Study 1 and 2. Students build on their knowledge of Indonesian-speaking communities, considering cultural perspectives and language and explaining personal observations. Students consolidate and extend vocabulary, grammar knowledge and language skills to investigate the topics through Indonesian. Students identify and reflect on cultural products or practices that provide insights into Indonesian-speaking communities. Cultural products or practices can be drawn from a diverse range of texts, activities and creations. Students reflect on the ways culture, place and time influence values, attitudes and behaviours. They consider how knowledge of more than one culture can influence the ways individuals relate to each other and function in the world.

Glossary of Terms and Resources

ATAR

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank. The ATAR is an overall percentile ranking, reflecting against the comparative performance of the student against their Year 12 cohort.

GAT

General Achievement Test undertaken by all Year 12 students (VCE & VCE-VM) and any students completing a Unit 3 and 4 sequence.

Learning Outcomes

Key skills and knowledge students must demonstrate to satisfactorily complete a unit (achieve an 'S').

SAC

A school based assessment that is graded and used to assess Learning Outcomes.

SAT

A school based assessment that is graded and used to assess Learning Outcomes.

VET

Vocational Education and Training

VCAA

Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. The VCAA is responsible for curriculum, assessment and certification across Years 11 and 12 in Victoria.

VCE & VCE-VM

Victorian Certificate of Education / Victorian Certificate of Education - Vocational Major. The relevant VCE certificate is awarded to students who satisfactorily complete the requirements of units within the certificate. This usually occurs during Years 11 and 12.

VTAC

Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre. This body is responsible for the compilation of tertiary entrance requirements and determining aggregate scores for all Victorian universities and most TAFE courses.

Resources

It is important that students refer to current resources and prerequisites, as these can change each year. The following resources may be useful:

- o RSC Careers website: <https://www.ringwoodsccareers.com/>
- o RSC Careers Team - please contact to make an appointment (if necessary)
- o VTAC website: www.vtac.edu.au
- o VCAA website: www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

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