

# Modern History

## General senior subject

General

Modern History is a discipline-based subject where students examine traces of humanity's recent past so they may form their own views about the Modern World since 1750. Through Modern History, students' curiosity and imagination is invigorated while their appreciation of civilisation is broadened and deepened. Students consider different perspectives and learn that interpretations and explanations of events and developments in the past are contestable and tentative. Modern History distinguishes itself from other subjects by enabling students to empathise with others and make meaningful connections between what existed previously, and the world being lived in today — all of which may help build a better tomorrow.

Modern History has two main aims. First, Modern History seeks to have students gain historical knowledge and understanding about some of the main forces that have contributed to the development of the Modern World. Second, Modern History aims to have students engage in historical thinking and form a historical consciousness in relation to these same forces. Both aims complement and build on the learning covered in the Australian Curriculum: History 7–10. The first aim is achieved through the thematic organisation of Modern History around four of the forces that have helped to shape the Modern World — ideas, movements, national experiences and international experiences. In each unit, students explore the nature, origins, development, legacies and contemporary significance of the force being examined. The second aim is achieved through the rigorous application of historical concepts and historical skills across the syllabus. To fulfil both aims, engagement with a historical inquiry process is integral and results in students devising historical questions and

conducting research, analysing, evaluating and synthesising evidence from historical sources, and communicating the outcomes of their historical thinking.

Modern History benefits students as it enables them to thrive in a dynamic, globalised and knowledge-based world. Through Modern History, students acquire an intellectual toolkit consisting of literacy, numeracy and 21st century skills. This ensures students of Modern History gain a range of transferable skills that will help them forge their own pathways to personal and professional success, as well as become empathetic and critically literate citizens who are equipped to embrace a multicultural, pluralistic, inclusive, democratic, compassionate and sustainable future.

## Pathways

A course of study in Modern History can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of history, education, psychology, sociology, law, business, economics, politics, journalism, the media, writing, academia and strategic analysis.

## Objectives

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

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

## Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
<p><b>Ideas in the Modern World</b></p> <p>Schools select two of the following topics to study in this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Frontier Wars, 1788–1930s (First Fleet arrives in Australia – Caledon Bay Crisis ends)</li> <li>• Age of Enlightenment, 1750s–1789 (Encyclopédie published – French Revolution begins)</li> <li>• Industrial Revolution, 1760s–1890s (Spinning Jenny invented – Kinetoscope developed)</li> <li>• American Revolution, 1763–1783 (French and Indian War ends – Treaty of Paris signed)</li> <li>• French Revolution, 1789–1799 (Estates General meets – New Consulate established)</li> <li>• Age of Imperialism, 1848–1914 (Second Anglo-Sikh War begins – World War I begins)</li> <li>• Meiji Restoration, 1868–1912 (Meiji Government established – Emperor Meiji dies)</li> <li>• Boxer Rebellion and its aftermath, 1900–1911 (Boxer militancy in Pingyuan begins – overthrow of the Qing Dynasty)</li> <li>• Russian Revolution, 1905–1920s (Bloody Sunday takes place – Russian Civil War ends)</li> <li>• Xinhai Revolution and its aftermath,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Movements in the Modern World</b></p> <p>Schools select two of the following topics to study in this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowerment of First Nations Australians since 1938 (first Day of Mourning protest takes place)</li> <li>• Independence movement in India, 1857–1947 (Sepoy Rebellion begins – Indian Independence Act 1947 becomes law)</li> <li>• Workers’ movement since the 1860s (Great Shoemakers Strike in New England begins)</li> <li>• Women’s movement since 1893 (Women’s suffrage in New Zealand becomes law)</li> <li>• May Fourth Movement in China and its aftermath, 1919–1930s (Student protests at Beijing University begin – the New Life Movement begins)</li> <li>• Independence movement in Algeria, 1945–1962 (demonstrations in Setif begin – Algerian independence declared)</li> <li>• Independence movement in Vietnam, 1945–1975 (Vietnamese independence declared – Saigon falls to North Vietnamese forces)</li> <li>• Anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, 1948–1991 (apartheid laws start – apartheid laws end)</li> </ul>	<p><b>National experiences in the Modern World</b></p> <p>Schools select two of the following topics to study in this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia since 1901 (Federation of Australia)</li> <li>• United Kingdom since 1901 (Edwardian Era begins)</li> <li>• France, 1799–1815 (Coup of 18 Brumaire begins – Hundred Days end)</li> <li>• New Zealand since 1841 (separate colony of New Zealand established)</li> <li>• Germany since 1914 (World War I begins)</li> <li>• United States of America, 1917–1945 (entry into World War I – World War II ends)</li> <li>• Soviet Union, 1920s–1945 (Russian Civil War ends – World War II ends)</li> <li>• Japan since 1931 (invasion of Manchuria begins)</li> <li>• China since 1931 (invasion of Manchuria begins)</li> <li>• Indonesia since 1942 (Japanese occupation begins)</li> <li>• India since 1947 (Indian Independence Act of 1947 becomes law)</li> <li>• Israel since 1917 (announcement of the Balfour Declaration)</li> <li>• South Korea since 1948 (Republic of Korea begins).</li> </ul>	<p><b>International experiences in the Modern World</b></p> <p>Schools select one of the following topics to study in this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian engagement with Asia since 1945 (World War II in the Pacific ends)</li> <li>• Search for collective peace and security since 1815 (Concert of Europe begins)</li> <li>• Trade and commerce between nations since 1833 (Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Siam and the United States of America signed)</li> <li>• Mass migrations since 1848 (California Gold Rush begins)</li> <li>• Information Age since 1936 (On Computable Numbers published)</li> <li>• Genocides and ethnic cleansings since the 1930s (Holocaust begins)</li> <li>• Nuclear Age since 1945 (first atomic bomb detonated)</li> <li>• Cold War and its aftermath, 1945–2014 (Yalta Conference begins – Russo-Ukrainian War begins)</li> <li>• Struggle for peace in the Middle East since 1948 (Arab-Israeli War begins)</li> <li>• Cultural globalisation since 1956 (international broadcast of the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne takes place)</li> <li>• Space exploration since the 1950s (publication of articles focused on space travel)</li> <li>• Rights and recognition of First Peoples since 1982 (United Nations Working Group on</li> </ul>