

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

15 October 2025

Senior secondary

Number: 044/25

Ancient History and Modern History 2026 and 2027 external assessment topics

Purpose

To notify schools of the QCAA-nominated topics for external assessment (EA) in 2026 and 2027 for Ancient History and Modern History General senior syllabuses and alternative sequence resources.

Background

The QCAA nominates the Ancient History and Modern History topics for EA before it is implemented. For Modern History, the QCAA also nominates an 'aspect of the topic'.

Topic notifications for 2025 and 2026 were provided in memo 016/24.

Topic notifications are published under Resources in the relevant syllabus on the QCAA Portal.

Information

The Ancient History and Modern History EA topics for 2026 and 2027 are listed in the following tables. In 2026 and 2027, schools choose from **one** of the two topics and, for Modern History only, the related aspect of the topic, as the focus for the EA.

Note: From 2027, the Ancient History EA topics will be the same for both the General syllabus and the alternative sequence resource.

General senior syllabuses and alternative sequence resources

Ancient History 2026 and 2027 EA topics

Year	Ancient History 2025 v1.2 General senior syllabus	Year	Ancient History 2025 v1.2 alternative sequence resource (same topic as General senior syllabus)
2026	Unit 4 Topic 2: Julius Caesar OR Unit 4 Topic 2: Cleopatra	2026	AS Unit 4 Topic 2: Julius Caesar OR AS Unit 4 Topic 2: Cleopatra
2027	Unit 4 Topic 2: Julius Caesar OR Unit 4 Topic 2: Cleopatra	2027	AS Unit 2 Topic 2: Julius Caesar OR AS Unit 2 Topic 2: Cleopatra

Modern History 2026 and 2027 EA topics

Year	Modern History 2025 v1.2 General senior syllabus	Year	Modern History 2025 v1.2 alternative sequence resource
2026	Unit 4 Topic 4: Mass migrations since 1848 (California Gold Rush begins) <i>Aspect of the topic:</i> Migration from Asia to Australia, 1960s–1990s OR Unit 4 Topic 8: Cold War and its aftermath, 1945–2014 (Yalta Conference begins — Russo–Ukrainian War begins) <i>Aspect of the topic:</i> Reasons for the end of the Soviet Union, 1980s–1990s	2026	AS Unit 4 Topic 4: Mass migrations since 1848 (California Gold Rush begins) <i>Aspect of the topic:</i> Migration from Asia to Australia, 1960s–1990s OR AS Unit 4 Topic 8: Cold War and its aftermath, 1945–2014 (Yalta Conference begins — Russo–Ukrainian War begins) <i>Aspect of the topic:</i> Reasons for the end of the Soviet Union, 1980s–1990s
2027	Unit 4 Topic 4: Mass migrations since 1848 (California Gold Rush begins) <i>Aspect of the topic:</i> Migration from Asia to Australia, 1960s–1990s OR Unit 4 Topic 8: Cold War and its aftermath, 1945–2014 (Yalta Conference begins — Russo–Ukrainian War begins) <i>Aspect of the topic:</i> Reasons for the end of the Soviet Union, 1980s–1990s	2027	AS Unit 2 Topic 8: Anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, 1948–1991 (apartheid laws start–apartheid laws end) <i>Aspect of the topic:</i> Strategies used to oppose apartheid in South Africa OR AS Unit 2 Topic 11: LGBTQIA+ civil rights movement since 1969 (Stonewall riots begin) <i>Aspect of the topic:</i> Marriage equality movement in the United States of America (1970s–2015)

What you need to do

Bring this memo to the attention of teachers of senior history subjects in your school.

Ensure teachers know that EA topic notifications for Ancient History and Modern History are published under Resources in the relevant syllabus on the QCAA Portal.

Finding out more

Please email the Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Area at HASS@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone (07) 3120 6173.

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