

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

24 March 2026

Senior secondary

Number: 019/26

Updates to Ancient History and Modern History syllabuses

Purpose

To advise schools that the QCAA has updated the Ancient History and Modern History General senior syllabuses and alternative sequence resources to clarify expectations and support consistent implementation.

Background

A recent review of external assessment identified an opportunity to communicate nominated topics and their requirements more clearly to support consistent implementation across schools.

In response, the QCAA has strengthened how it notifies schools of the topics by including them in the relevant syllabus

Information

The following updated syllabus versions are available in the Syllabuses application in the QCAA Portal:

- *Ancient History General senior syllabus 2025 v1.4*
- *Ancient History alternative sequence resource 2025 v1.4*
- *Modern History General senior syllabus 2025 v1.4*
- *Modern History alternative sequence resource 2025 v1.4.*

General syllabuses are also available on the QCAA website.

Key updates include:

- specifying external assessment topics — the syllabus now sets topics for defined cohorts (e.g. 2026 and 2027), replacing previous references to future QCAA notification and giving schools greater certainty for planning teaching and learning programs
- clarifying topic selection requirements — additional guidance ensures topics are distinct, supporting appropriate breadth of study
- aligning syllabuses — subject matter in alternative sequences has been reorganised to better reflect the structure of the General syllabuses.

These updates do not add new content or change the intent of the syllabuses. Instead, they make existing expectations clearer and easier for teachers and students to understand. They aim to reduce variation in interpretation and support consistent implementation across schools.

What you need to do

- Ensure all teachers of Ancient History and Modern History are aware of these updates.
- Review the updated syllabus documents to support planning, implementation and preparation for the external assessment.

Finding out more

For further information, please email the Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Area Unit at HASS@qcaa.qld.edu.au.

Jo Butterworth
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