

Ancient History and Modern History external assessment format: Release of examples aligned to the 2025 syllabuses

Purpose

To advise schools that examples are available of the external assessment book formats, aligned to the:

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

Background

The Ancient History 2025 and Modern History 2025 syllabuses (General and alternative sequence (AS)) specify that the external assessment includes **two** topic options. The Ancient History and Modern History assessment book formats for the 2026 external assessment have been revised to combine the two topics and the questions.

Assessment books aligned with the 2019 syllabus were in a question and response book format, and a stimulus book format. The format of the assessment books aligned with the 2025 syllabus include a question and stimulus book, and a student response book.

Information

The QCAA has developed example Ancient History and Modern History question and stimulus books, and student response books, to familiarise students with the revised formats, specifically:

- one example of the combined question and stimulus book format that includes both topics with
 - the questions and stimulus items for the first topic in the first half of the book
 - the questions and stimulus items for the second topic in the second half of the book
 - a front cover that directs students to go to the centre of the book for the second topic
 - a clear indication of the end of the first topic and the beginning of the second topic
- one example of the student response book format, which provides
 - clear instructions on page 1 that explain how the book is to be used
 - labelled response space for each question.

Schools should note that:

- these examples are provided to support teachers and students in understanding the revised assessment book formats for the 2026 external assessment.

What you need to do

Schools should use these examples to familiarise students with the revised format of the external assessment books. These are available via the [QCAA Portal](#) > Syllabuses app > Humanities and Social Sciences:

- Ancient History 2025 v1.4 > View resources > Samples
- Ancient History 2025 v1.4 — Alternative sequence > View resources > Samples
- Modern History 2025 v1.4 > View resources > Samples
- Modern History 2025 v1.4 — Alternative sequence > View resources > Samples.

Finding out more

Please email Kerry McCluskey at HASS@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone (07) 3864 0454.

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