

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies General senior syllabus

Factsheet

Overview

[Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies](#) is a study of the First Peoples of Australia and the First Nations Peoples of the Torres Strait, the oldest living, continuous cultures in the world. Through this course of study, students are made aware of the diversity and sophistication of Aboriginal cultures and Torres Strait Islander cultures while considering the social, cultural and political relationships between First Nations Australians and non-First Nations Australians in historical and contemporary contexts.

This approach can inform critical understandings of the past and present, whilst providing students with opportunities to consider possible futures.

Course structure

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies is a General subject that contributes up to 4 credits towards a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and can contribute towards Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) pathways.

Unit 1: Cultures, identities and connections

Students are introduced to significant and intrinsic aspects of Aboriginal societies and Torres Strait Islander societies. The use of a holistic approach reflects the worldview that people, animals, plants and places are intimately related to each other physically and spiritually, and that people have custodial responsibilities that relate to maintaining the natural order of the universe.

Unit 2: Continuity, change and influences

Students investigate impacts of contact with other nations and how this influenced Aboriginal societies and Torres Strait Islander societies through to the early 20th century. Students will recognise different experiences of contact that occurred in different ways and at different times and places across Australia. They will also investigate the different ways that Aboriginal societies and Torres Strait Islander societies responded to contact, invasion and colonisation.

Unit 3: Responses and contributions

Students examine the impact of these influences on the rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as the responses of individuals, groups and institutions that contributed to greater recognition of the rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples during the 20th century.

Unit 4: Moving forward, looking back

Students consider the importance of moving toward a reconciled future for Aboriginal peoples, Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-First Nations Australians where sustaining the living cultural practices of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples is recognised as significant.

Assessment

In Units 1 and 2, schools determine the assessment program, tasks and marking guides used to assess student performance.

Students complete four assessment tasks across Units 3 and 4, including:

- one school-developed examination where students respond to a series of short response questions using stimulus
- two investigations where students research an issue, formulate a hypothesis and present their findings using an analytical essay
- one external examination that is developed and marked by the QCAA.

Each assessment contributes 25% to the student's final result.

Learning outcomes

Through the course of study, students will be provided the opportunity to:

- demonstrate understandings of Aboriginal societies and Torres Strait Islander societies
- interpret information from sources
- analyse viewpoints and perspectives
- evaluate the significance of cultural interactions.

Interested in studying this course?

Schools interested in offering the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies General senior syllabus can work with Elders, local communities and the QCAA to support culturally responsive teaching, learning and implementation.

Students and families are encouraged to speak with their school about considering adding this subject to the school curriculum.

For more information, email the subject Principal Education Officer at AboriginalandTorresStraitIslanderStudies@qcaa.qld.edu.au.



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