What is Social and Community Studies all about?

What are your personality traits, your strengths and weaknesses? What are the influences on your personal identity? What skills do you need to function efficiently, effectively and positively in your current and future life roles as a family member, student, worker and citizen?

Social and Community Studies allows you to respond to these questions through developing important 'life skills' — the personal, interpersonal, and citizenship skills that are at the core of the subject. It will help you to develop responsible attitudes and behaviours, establish positive relationships and networks, and encourage you to be an active and informed citizen who can participate effectively in the community.

What will you learn?

Personal skills focuses on growing and developing as an individual and will help you to achieve a broad understanding of yourself through self-awareness, self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience. Interpersonal skills relate to the skills needed for respecting, living with and relating to other people. They are the social and workplace skills essential for managing work life and relationships, resolving conflict, identifying and solving problems, and for communicating effectively. The development of citizenship skills helps you to become an active and contributing member of society and allows you to understand and empathise with different perspectives, and within various social contexts.

You will explore and develop these life skills through a variety of interesting topics dealing with money management, the law and legal issues, the world of work, the Arts and the community, food and nutrition, health, recreation and leisure, relationships and gender issues, science and technology, Australia’s place in the world, and today’s society.

How will you learn?

Social and Community Studies challenges you to look at society and the world through a process of social investigation. This means being curious, asking questions, reflecting on the information you gather through research and investigation, and appraising and reconsidering the consequences and outcomes.

As activities in Social and Community Studies are practical in emphasis, much of the learning in this subject will be based in community settings, whether it is your classroom or school, in local community contexts, or workplaces. These connections build your awareness and understanding of life beyond school through authentic, real-world interactions.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment in Social and Community Studies gives you opportunities to develop and demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the three areas of life skills — personal, interpersonal and citizenship.
Assessment instruments include:

- projects, which provide you with authentic, real-world opportunities to inquire into social and community issues, whether local, national or global; a response includes at least two components chosen from written, spoken, multimodal, performance or product

- investigations, which are research based and follow an inquiry approach to a specific question or hypothesis

- extended responses to stimulus materials such as images, graphs, media articles, quotes or texts

- short response examinations.

In Semesters 3 and 4, you will be expected to complete from four to six assessment tasks, including one project or investigation, and one examination.

**How can parents/carers help?**

Your parents/carers may help you by:

- discussing different views about Social and Community Studies with you

- encouraging and helping you find suitable websites, documentaries, journals and other resources

- encouraging you to take part in school-based activities, including field trips, and extracurricular activities

- offering their services as guest speakers if they are involved in this area of study or related industry

- encouraging safe and ethical behaviour

- contacting your school to establish communication with your teachers to help understand the work undertaken at senior level, and to become familiar with assessment requirements.

**Where can Social and Community Studies take you?**

This subject contributes four credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) if you receive a Sound Achievement or higher. If you would like to learn more about this certificate, please visit the QCE page on the QCAA website, [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/589.html](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/589.html).

A course of study in Social and Community Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment as it helps you develop the personal, interpersonal and citizenship skills and attributes necessary in all workplaces. It allows you to manage change, to be resilient and adaptive, and to develop strategies so that you can cope with the demands, not only of everyday life, but also of continuing studies, employment and future careers.

**More information**

This subject guide relates to courses developed from the *Social and Community Studies Subject Area Syllabus 2014*. If you would like more information, please:

- visit the subject page on the QCAA website [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/30491.html](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/30491.html)

- email senior.syllabuses@qca.edu.au.