Study of Society
Subject guide 2012

This subject guide relates to courses developed from the Study of Society Senior Syllabus 2012.

Why study Study of Society?

Study of Society provides students with processes and skills required for effective and thoughtful participation in society.

Study of Society may lead to a range of career pathways where understanding the organisational behaviour of individuals, groups and institutions is a key element. It also provides a good introduction to the academic disciplines of sociology, anthropology, psychology, law and criminology.

What is studied?

Study of Society provides students with ways to help them better understand themselves, other individuals, groups and institutions within society and across cultures. The subject explores the interaction between motivation and behaviour.

Students use sociology, social psychology and cultural anthropology, independently and together, to ask critical questions about social phenomena — about issues, contexts, assumptions, implicit values and differing world views. They recognise that social research promotes a deeper understanding of society, serving personal and social needs in a changing world.

How do students learn?

Students will explore social theory and social research methodology. They will research and observe to produce their own data and may observe cultural practices, interview community groups or representatives, conduct surveys, map social groups, replicate experiments and undertake content analyses. Students will collect, organise, analyse and evaluate the quality and validity of information, and plan and organise research. Individually and in groups, students will have opportunities to propose tentative resolutions to social issues. They will communicate ideas, information, opinions, arguments and conclusions and be required to interpret and use statistical data.

How are students assessed?

In Queensland, assessment is standards based. The standards for Study of Society are described in the dimensions, Knowledge and understanding, Critical processes and Communication, which identify the valued features of the subject about which evidence of student learning is collected and assessed. The standards describe the characteristics of student work.

In Study of Society, most assessment will be extended written responses based on research.
How can parents help?

Parents can help students by providing a supportive environment in the home, by showing interest in what students are doing daily, and by encouraging them in their studies. Frequent communication between the home and the school also provides additional support for students. Information about the inquiries and issues studied are listed in the approved work program of the school.

Parents and guardians might consider perusing the Study of Society syllabus from which schools plan their programs of work, discussing the school work program and their child’s progress with the teacher and relevant school personnel, and drawing attention to relevant issues presented in the media.

More information

If you would like more information, please email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au. You can also visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au and search for ‘Study of Society’.