

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

21 August 2017

Senior secondary

Number: 044/17

Ancient History and Modern History update

Purpose

To provide information to curriculum leaders, heads of department for Humanities and Social Sciences, and teachers of Years 11 and 12 about the subject matter and external assessment in the recently approved *Ancient History 2019 v1.0: General Senior Syllabus* and the *Modern History 2019 v1.0: General Senior Syllabus*, as well as information about the professional development workshops commencing in October 2017.

Background

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is developing senior syllabuses to support the introduction of the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system from 2019. New syllabuses for Ancient History and Modern History were approved by the QCAA Board in April 2017. The development process was informed by feedback received during three rounds of public consultation on drafts of both syllabuses. Implementation of these syllabuses will commence in 2019. Teachers can access the syllabuses via the QCAA School Portal: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/schoolportal/login.

Information

Subject matter

Subject matter in the *Ancient History 2019* and *Modern History 2019* syllabuses is organised into topics. In both syllabuses, the definition of subject matter includes 'mental procedures', and these mental procedures incorporate 'historical skills'. Teachers are encouraged to read the syllabus glossary definitions for 'subject matter' and 'historical skills', as well as the 'Rationale', 'Syllabus objectives' and 'Underpinning factors' sub-sections in each syllabus.

Subject matter developed through the application of historical skills continues to be a strong focus in the *Ancient History 2019* and *Modern History 2019* syllabuses, as it was in the *Ancient History 2004* and *Modern History 2004* syllabuses. This focus recognises the role historical content plays in developing students' historical skills, providing contexts through which historical skills are taught and understood.

The breadth of subject matter identified in the *Modern History 2019* syllabus provides opportunities for teachers to select a particular aspect of a topic when developing units of work. Teachers are encouraged to read the syllabus glossary definition for 'aspect of the topic'.

To support the implementation of subject matter for both syllabuses, the QCAA will provide schools with a list of sample content for every topic. These lists should not be considered

definitive or exhaustive accounts of the past. Sample content for a topic in Unit 4 is available via the School Portal resources for *Modern History 2019* and *Ancient History 2019*.

External assessment

External assessment contributes 25% to a student's final result in both Ancient History and Modern History. In both subjects, the second of the two topics studied in Unit 4 links to the external assessment. Additional information about external assessment — including descriptions of the external assessment, assessment objectives and specifications — is available on the 'Assessment' tab for both syllabuses via the School Portal.

The topic chosen for the external assessment will be selected from:

- Topics 6–12 in **Ancient History**
- Topics 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 12 in **Modern History**.

In Modern History, any of the topics not chosen for the external assessment in a given year can be the first topic studied in Unit 4, e.g. in 2020, when Topic 1 is chosen for the external assessment, schools can select any one of Topics 2–13 to be the first topic studied.

Topic schedule for external assessment in 2020 and 2021

Ancient History

Year	Topic
2020	12: Augustus
2021	12: Augustus

Modern History

Year	Topic	Aspect of the topic
2020	1: Australian engagement with Asia since 1945	Australia and the Vietnam War
2021	1: Australian engagement with Asia since 1945	Australia and the Vietnam War

In 2018, the QCAA will provide the following resources to support schools in preparing for the external assessment:

- a sample external assessment instrument that includes an instrument-specific marking guide (ISMG) and an annotated sample response
- sample teaching, learning and assessment plans (TLAPs)
- lists of sample content to support the development of topic subject matter.

Professional development

Senior syllabus implementation workshops for *Ancient History 2019* and *Modern History 2019* will commence in October 2017. The QCAA will provide teachers with a range of resources — including sample TLAPs, sample assessment instruments, and an annotated sample response demonstrating the application of an ISMG.

Teachers will use these workshop resources to build their understanding of the *Ancient History 2019* and *Modern History 2019* syllabuses and assessment. In preparation for these workshops

teachers can access the new syllabuses and complete online syllabus orientation modules via the School Portal.

What you need to do

Please take note of the information provided in this memo and distribute it to curriculum leaders, heads of department for Humanities and Social Sciences, and teachers of Years 11 and 12 who will implement Ancient History and Modern History from 2019.

Finding out more

Please email Jo Bickerstaff (Learning Area Manager, Humanities and Social Sciences) at Jo.Bickerstaff@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone (07) 3120 6134.

Jacqueline Wilton
Director, Curriculum Services Division