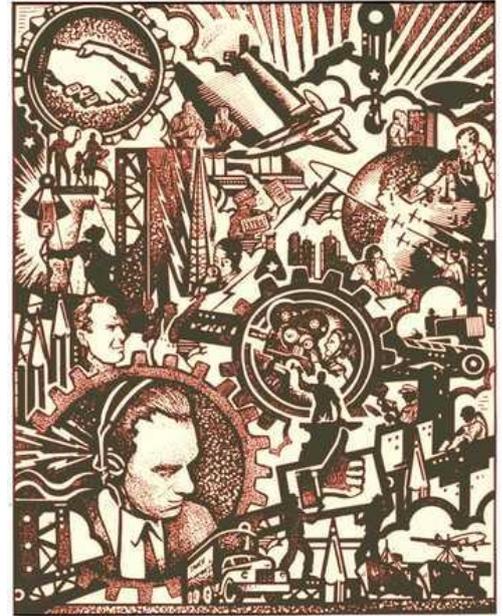


Modern History

Why study Modern History?

The study of Modern History engages students in an investigation of the forces that have shaped the world, based on the analysis and interpretation of sources. It offers students the opportunity to investigate the possible motivations and actions of individuals and groups, and how they have shaped the world politically, culturally, economically and socially. Modern History stimulates students' curiosity and imagination, and enriches their appreciation of humanity by introducing them to a range of historical developments and experiences that have defined the modern world.

Modern History enables students to trace the historical background of contemporary issues and to explore the significance of individuals, events and ideas. It equips students with knowledge, understanding and skills to help them examine and make sense of the world around them. Modern History provides opportunities for students to explore historical problems, to pose questions and to consider problems of evidence, causation and historical agency as part of the historical inquiry process, using the information technology available to them.



The study of Modern History in Stage 6 enables students to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the modern world, the skills of critical analysis, and values and attitudes essential for an appreciation of the people, forces and ideas that have shaped the modern world
- develop a lifelong interest in the study of history
- prepare for active and informed citizenship in the contemporary world.

What will I study?

Year 11 Course

Investigating Modern History

This introductory unit considers the nature of modern history, explored through an investigation of relevant historical methods and issues, such as 'The Construction of History,' and 'The Contestability of the Past.'

The unit also involves the study of at least two case studies, which are inquiry-based investigations into historical features, individuals, groups, events or concepts in modern history. They are oriented towards the problems and issues of investigating the past. Students study one case study from the European/Western world, such as 'The Decline and Fall of the Romanov Dynasty' or 'The American Civil War.' The other case study is drawn from the non-European/Western world, such as 'Tibet in the Modern World' or 'The Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict.'

Historical Investigation

The historical investigation is designed to provide opportunities for all students to further develop relevant investigative, research and presentation skills that are the core of the historical inquiry process. The historical investigation should extend a particular area of individual student or group interest. Students are encouraged to select a topic that reflects their individual interests.

The Shaping of the Modern World

Students investigate forces and ideas that shaped the modern world through a study of key events and developments and the meaning of modernity. This unit is studied through a focus on at least one topic, for example, 'The Age of Imperialism' or 'World War One' and a consideration of role of the topic in shaping the modern world.

HSC Course

Core Study: Power and Authority in the Modern World 1919-1946

Through a focus on the nature of power and authority 1919-1946, and a broader transnational perspective, students investigate the rise of fascist, totalitarian and militarist movements after World War One; what drew people to these movements; the regimes that emerged and ongoing international efforts to achieve collective security.

Through a study of Germany as a key example, students develop an understanding of how a democracy can collapse, the impact of dictatorship on a society, the elimination of individual freedoms, and the threats that dictatorships can pose to peace and security. This provides students with insights that contribute to a critical perspective on power and authority in the contemporary world.

National Studies

Students investigate key features, individuals, groups, events and developments that shaped the history of a selected nation. One country is studied during a specific period of the 20th century, for example, 'Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1941,' or 'China 1927-1949.'

Peace and Conflict

Students investigate key features of the history of one study in peace and conflict during a specific period of the 20th and/or 21st Centuries. Options for study include 'The Cold War 1945-1991' and 'The Arab-Israeli Conflict 1948-1996.'

Change in the Modern World

Students investigate key features of the history of one of a range of topics, focusing on political and social change, and the role of individuals and groups. The options for these topics include 'Apartheid in South Africa 1960-1994' and 'Civil Rights in the USA 1945-1968.'

