



Key information for the Modern History Stage 6 syllabus

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [Modern History Stage 6 syllabus \(2017\)](#) requires students to study 7 topics over 240 hours of course time.
- Schools are required to develop an assessment program for each Year 11 and Year 12 course. School-based assessment requirements are outlined at [Assessment and reporting in Modern History Stage 6](#).
- Modern History Stage 6 specific course requirements are outlined in the [Modern History Stage 6 syllabus \(2017\)](#). Studies undertaken in Year 11 must not overlap with or duplicate significantly any topic to be attempted in Year 12 or in History Extension. Year 12 students are required to study at least ONE non-European/Western topic.
- The subject specific terms in a glossary that are important to know can be found within the [Modern History Stage 6 syllabus \(2017\)](#) on page 89.
- The Modern History Stage 6 Syllabus (2017) will be taught in all NSW high schools in 2026. The [Modern History 11-12 2024 Syllabus](#) will be taught to Year 11 in 2027.

HSC examinations

- The Modern History HSC requires completion of a 3 hours of writing plus 5 minutes reading time. The written examination consists of 4 sections totalling 100 marks. Details on the HSC Modern History examination can be found at [Assessment and reporting in Modern History Stage 6](#). Also refer to [Modern History Examination Clarifications](#) for additional information.
- Past HSC papers by NESA, are a useful resource to help students to become familiar with the examination format and structure. Past papers for Modern History can be found at [HSC exam papers](#).
- HSC standards materials by NESA, provide a collection of resources of sample responses typical of work at the boundaries between HSC bands. The [Modern History Stage 6 HSC standards materials](#) can be found on the NESA webpages.

Support materials

The HSIE curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Modern History Stage 6 syllabus. Teachers can find support by:

- visiting and bookmarking the [HSIE webpage](#)
- engaging with the HSIE statewide staffroom ([Join the HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#))
- visiting and bookmarking the [HSIE SharePoint page](#)

NESA also has a range of support materials on the [Modern History Stage 6 Syllabus](#) webpage.

Professional learning

A range of 'on demand' [professional learning resources](#) to support the implementation of HSIE Stage 6 syllabus are available.

The HSIE curriculum team also offer a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. Upcoming events are posted in the [professional learning channel of the HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#).

General HSC information

- The [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) oversees the Higher School Certificate (HSC), offering resources for students on exam preparation, course selection, and academic integrity.
- The [NESA HSC glossary](#) provides teachers with guidance on how to use key terms consistently, ensuring students understand their meanings and apply them appropriately across various subjects for effective exam preparation.
- The NESA [HSC assessment moderation](#) process ensures fairness by adjusting school assessment marks based on exam results, making them comparable across schools.
- The [ACE rules](#) outline HSC school-based assessment integrity, task development, marking, appeals, and record-keeping. They cover malpractice policies, illness/misadventure procedures, task notifications, ranking, and restrictions on reporting final marks, ensuring compliance with NESA's assessment standards.
- HSC monitoring advice, Section 1.6 outlines HSC record-keeping requirements, including teaching programs, assessment documentation, interventions and work samples. Visit [Stage 6 – monitoring implementation and support](#) for more information.
- School-based assessment for the HSC contributes to a student's final mark and is designed to evaluate students' understanding and skills based on syllabus outcomes.



Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email hsie@det.nsw.edu.au or reach out to our team via the [HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#). Join the HSIE statewide staffroom if you are not already a member. You can also subscribe to our [HSIE Newsletter](#).