



Key information for the Community and Family Studies Stage 6 Syllabus

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [Community and Family Studies Stage 6 Syllabus \(2022\)](#) is divided into two 120-hour courses, the Preliminary course and the Higher School Certificate (HSC) course.
- The Preliminary course consists of three mandatory modules (cores). The modules include 'Resource Management' (20 percent of indicative course time), 'Individuals and Groups' (40 percent of indicative course time), and 'Families and Communities' (40 percent of indicative course time).
- The HSC course consists of three mandatory modules (cores) representing 75 percent of total course time with indicative course time of 25 percent per module. An option component represents the final 25 percent of indicative course time. Students select one option module.
- In addition to the above pattern of study, there is a specific course requirement for students in the HSC Course to complete an Independent Research Project (IRP). This is in the context of the HSC core module, 'Research Methodology'. The IRP may form part of the internal HSC assessment program. Further advice and guidance around the requirements of the IRP can be found on the NESAs [Assessment and reporting in Community and Family Studies Stage 6](#) webpage.
- Information and guidance regarding school-based assessment requirements for Community and Family Studies is available on the NESAs [Assessment and reporting in Community and Family Studies Stage 6](#) webpage.
- The [Community and Family Studies Stage 6 Syllabus](#) has a glossary that contains information about words specific to the course. It can be found on pages 46-49 of the syllabus.
- The Community and Family Studies Stage 6 Syllabus will enter the consultation period in 2026 under the NSW Curriculum Reform. The [Curriculum reform timeline](#) provides further information about the implementation journey.

HSC Examinations

- The HSC Community and Family Studies examination consists of a written paper worth 100 marks. The written examination has a working time of 3 hours with 5 minutes of reading time.
- Past HSC papers by NESAs are a useful resource to help students to become familiar with the examination format and structure. Past papers for Community and Family Studies can be found on the NESAs [HSC exam papers](#) webpage, under the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education learning area.
- HSC standards materials by NESAs provide a collection of sample responses typical of work at the boundaries between HSC bands. The [Community and Family Studies standards materials](#) can be found on the NESAs Community and Family Studies Stage 6 HSC standards materials webpage.

Support materials

The PDHPE curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Community and Family Studies syllabus and these can be located on the [PDHPE K-12 webpage](#). Here you will find advice and guidance on planning, programming and assessing, and a collection of resources and archived professional learning to support curriculum implementation.

Resources can also be found on the [CAFS Statewide staffroom website](#), which is a centralised hub through which you can access all of the professional learning and support materials developed over time by the PDHPE curriculum team.



NESA also has a range of support materials including:

- A comprehensive [resource list](#)
- [Groups in Context: Category A support materials document](#)
- An [HSC examination rubric](#)
- [Performance band descriptions](#) for Community and Family Studies.

Professional learning

There is a range of 'on demand' professional learning resources to support the implementation of the Community and Family Studies syllabus. You can access [PDHPE Professional learning](#) recording on the [PDHPE Statewide staffroom website](#).

We also offer a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. Go to the [PDHPE Professional Learning channel](#) to view upcoming events.

- 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.

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.

Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email the PDHPE curriculum team at PDHPEcurriculum@det.nsw.edu.au or reach out to our team via the [PDHPE Statewide Staffroom](#).

