History is the study and practice of making meaning of the past with a view to understanding the present. It engages us with the ideas, beliefs and values that shape and influence our lives. At the same time it helps us clarify our own beliefs and values compared to those of others.

Modern History 2AB

Recommended Background
To be successful in this course, students should have obtained:

B/C grade or above in Year 10 Society & Environment and English.

Commitment
Students will be required to:

∞ Complete 2 hours of study per week; and
∞ Attend compulsory assessment excursions.

Course Content (2A)
The focus for this unit is societies and change. Students learn about the evolving nature of societies and the various forces for continuity and change that exist.

Within the broad focus of societies and change, students will study:

∞ USA between the wars

During this course students will cover:

∞ Devising a range of specific and general questions for the purpose of an investigation;

∞ Formulating assumptions based on evidence or dominant issues/themes in the information collected;

∞ How the purpose of an investigation and the audience affect the ways in which findings are best communicated;

∞ Values, beliefs and traditions that have evolved and/or become integral to the society;

∞ Relationship between events, ideas and people throughout the period;

∞ Connections between historical forces, individual motivations and their consequences;

∞ Explanations and representations of past people and events may differ between societies, groups and individuals; and

∞ Range of perspectives that exist at a particular time will include those of dominant groups and individuals.

Course Content (2B)
The focus for this unit is historical trends and movements. Students understand that throughout history there have been events, ideas, beliefs and values that have contributed to underlying historical trends and movements.

Within the broad focus of historical trends and movements, students will study:

∞ Nazism in Germany 1918–1945.

During this course students will cover:

∞ Formulating research questions to construct and test an hypothesis or proposition;

∞ Drawing inferences based upon the key elements in information collected e.g. origin, audience, language, symbols, accuracy and perspective;

∞ How explicit and implicit points of view impact on the way historical debates and issues are communicated;

∞ Values, beliefs and traditions that have been emphasised, continued or made less important over time;

∞ Events that contributed to the development of particular ideas underlying movements or trends throughout the period;

∞ the relationship between the nature of society (e.g. special circumstances or situations) and the rate and forms of continuity and change;

∞ Contemporary issues and ideas influence explanations, representations, interpretations and understandings of the past; and

∞ Some perspectives are emphasised while others are omitted.

Modern History 3AB

Recommended Background
To be successful in this course, students should have obtained:

∞ C grade or above in Modern History 2AB and English 2AB.

Commitment
Students will be required to:

∞ Complete 3 hours of study per week; and
∞ Attend compulsory assessment excursions.

Course Content (3A)
The focus for this unit is cohesion
and division. Students learn that there are internal and external forces that result in cohesion and/or division within societies and these have consequences for continuity and change.

Within the broad focus of cohesion and division, students will study:

∞ Australian History 1950s–1990s.

During this course students will cover:

∞ Constructing and modifying an hypothesis or a proposition to be used as a focus for an investigation;
∞ Making inferences based upon patterns, trends and representations in evidence;
∞ Challenges to prevailing values, beliefs and traditions that exist at the start of the period of study;
∞ Examples of cohesion and division within the society throughout the period;
∞ Extent to which cohesion and division are causes and consequences of continuity and change;
∞ Forces that assist and hinder explanations and representations about the past e.g. political correctness, cultural mindsets and survival of some evidence over others; and
∞ How different perspectives can present a limited view which can misrepresent the past, either unconsciously or deliberately.

Course Content (3B)

The focus for this unit is ideas that shaped history. The object of this unit is to explore the power of ideas and ideologies as forces for change and/or their use to reinforce dominant elements in society.

Within the broad focus of ideas that shaped history students will study:

∞ Ideas that shaped the Russian Revolution—Autocracy, Marxism, Leninism and Stalinism (1900s–1941).

During this course students will cover:

∞ Formulating research questions that focus on motive/purpose, perspective and interpretation;
∞ Formulating assumptions based upon patterns, trends and representations presented in perspectives of others e.g. historians, writers and journalists;
∞ Forms of communication used to convey a historical position which seeks to persuade, manipulate or inform a specific audience or range of audiences;
∞ How values, beliefs and traditions have been manipulated or used to reinforce dominant elements of society;
∞ Key influences (both internal and external) on the emergence of prominent people, events and ideas within a society throughout the period of study;
∞ Role of ideas and ideologies as forces for continuity and change in society e.g. egalitarianism, democracy, communism, religion, dictatorship and imperialism;
∞ Debates about the past reflect the nature, context, aims and purposes of historians and others e.g. their identity, class, time, place, experiences, status, reputation, beliefs and values; and
∞ Changing perspectives about past events, people and ideas can challenge accepted explanations and representations.