

Proposed Summary of changes to the Western Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences

Overall

The Western Australian Humanities and Social Sciences curriculum was originally adapted from the Australian Curriculum version 8.4 (2018) to develop year level syllabuses.

The Humanities and Social Sciences curriculum has been revised against the Australian Curriculum version 9, contextualised for Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline to meet the needs of students and teachers. The content has been clarified, and exemplified, to support teachers in planning for teaching, learning and assessment.

Learning area content

New content

- The language in the content descriptions across the Pre-primary to Year 10 Humanities and Social Sciences Knowledge and understanding strand has been strengthened to support teacher understanding
- Examples have been added from Pre-primary to Year 10 to clarify content descriptions and, where appropriate, to support teacher understanding and provide contexts for teaching
- The examples provided are not mandated; teachers may use different examples that are appropriate to their students and school community
- Inclusion of the Deep Time History unit in Year 7 History
- Inclusion of the Australian History (1750–1914) unit in Year 9 History
- Introduction of explicit reference to economic models in content descriptions throughout Years 7 to 10; the circular flow model, demand and supply models and the business cycle
- New content description in Year 8 Civics and Citizenship ‘Young people’s rights and responsibilities when interacting with law enforcement’
- New content description in Year 10 Economics and Business ‘The role of ethical decision making in production and consumption’

Reorganised content

- Across Pre-primary to Year 10, content has been reduced in line with feedback from stakeholders during the review of ACARA version 9
- In each year level from Year 7–10, all subjects have been broken into two distinct units of study focused on a particular topic
- Black Death has been removed as a unit of study, but has been maintained as a content description in the Year 8 Medieval Europe unit
- The Industrial Revolution unit has been moved into Year 8 History
- Some content in Economics and Business has been reorganised across year levels to allow the development of distinct units of study

Year level descriptions

Updated material

- Inclusion of Phases of schooling information to provide teachers with guidance about the sorts of curriculum experiences likely to support children and students at each phase
- In the Early Childhood phases of schooling, the Year Level Descriptions have adopted the language of the *Early Years Learning Framework*
- Updated to align with the revised content descriptions

Achievement standards

Changes

- Reviewed to align with revised content descriptions
- Consistent organisation of Humanities and Social Sciences Knowledge and understanding and Humanities and Social Sciences skills across year levels
- Language change from 'At standard' to 'By the end of the year' at the beginning of each year level achievement standard