

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 the *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 the context of their school and student population
- Introduction of the Deep Time History of Australia unit in Year 7 History
- Introduction of the Australian history (1750–1914) unit in Year 9 History
- Explicit reference made 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 9 Economics and Business ‘How Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses develop opportunities in the market’
- New content description in Year 10 Economics and Business ‘The role of ethical decision-making in production and consumption’
- New content description in Year 8 History ‘The transformation of the medieval world to the early modern world, including the causes, impacts and significance of at least **one** of the following on European society: the Black Death, scientific advancement, cultural and intellectual revival’
- New content description in Year 10 History ‘The continuing efforts to create change in the rights and freedoms in Australia for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and **one** other group’

Reorganised content

- Across Pre-primary to Year 10, content has been reduced in line with feedback from stakeholders during the review of the Australian Curriculum version 9
- In each year level from Year 7 to Year 10, all subjects have been divided into two distinct units focused on a particular topic
- The content description in Year 5 Economics and Business 'The factors that influence purchase decisions (e.g. age, gender, advertising, price) and how these decisions affect resource use' has been moved to Year 6
- The content description in Year 6 Economics and Business 'Choices about the use of resource and result from the imbalance of limited resources and unlimited wants (i.e. the concept of scarcity)' has been moved to Year 5
- The content description in Year 6 Economics and Business 'Decisions about the alternative use of resources result in the need to consider trade-offs (e.g. using the land to grow crops or to graze cattle)' has been moved to Year 5
- Black Death has been removed as a unit, but has been included in the new content description for the Year 8 Medieval Europe unit
- The Industrial Revolution unit has been moved from Year 9 History into Year 8 History and reduced to three content descriptions
- Some content in Civics and Citizenship has been reorganised to improve continuity and flow within units
- Some content in Economics and Business has been reorganised across year levels to allow the development of distinct units
- Clarification of the content descriptions on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' cultures and histories
- The content description in Year 8 Civics and Citizenship 'Different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' perspectives and what it means to be Australian' has been reworked as examples throughout Civics and Citizenship
- Reduction in the number of content descriptions requiring comparative case studies in Geography

Removed content

- Removed the skill from Pre-primary Questioning and researching 'Explore a range of sources (e.g. observations, interviews, photographs, print text, digital sources)'
- Removed the skills from Pre-primary Analysing 'Process information and/or data collected (e.g. sequence familiar events, answer questions, discuss observations)' and 'Represent information gathered in different formats (e.g. drawings, diagrams, story maps, role-plays)'
- Removed the skills from Year 1 and Year 2 Analysing 'Identify relevant information' and 'Represent collected information and/or data in to different formats (e.g. tables, maps, plans)'
- Removed the skill from Year 3 and Year 4 Analysing 'Translate collected information and/or data in to different formats (e.g. create a timeline, change data into a table and/or graph)'
- Removed the skill from Year 5 and Year 6 Analysing 'Translate collected information and/or data in to a variety of different formats (e.g. create a timeline, convert a table of statistics into a graph)'

- Removed the skill from Pre-primary to Year 6 Communicating and reflecting related to the development of texts
- Removed the content description from Year 1 Geography 'How weather (e.g. rainfall, temperature, sunshine, wind) and seasons vary between places, and the terms used to describe them'
- Removed the content description from Year 1 Geography 'The activities (e.g. retailing, recreational, farming, manufacturing, medical, policing, educational, religious) that take place in the local community which create its distinctive features'
- Removed the content description from Year 2 Geography 'The influence of purpose (e.g. shopping, recreation), the distance (e.g. location) and accessibility (e.g. technology, transport) in the frequency with which people visit places'
- Removed the content description in Year 3 Civics and Citizenship 'Communities make decisions in different ways and voting is a way that groups make decisions democratically'
- Removed the content description in Year 3 Geography 'The difference between climate and weather, the main climatic zones of the world (e.g. equatorial, tropical, arid, temperate) and the similarities and differences between the climates of different places'
- Removed the content description in Year 4 Geography 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's ways of living were adapted to available resources and their connection to Country/Place has influenced their views on the sustainable use of these resources, before and after colonisation'
- Removed the content description from Year 5 Civics and Citizenship 'The roles and responsibilities of key personnel in law enforcement (e.g. customs officials, police) and in the legal system (e.g. lawyers, judges)'
- Removed the content description from Year 5 Geography 'Features of environments (e.g. climate, landforms, vegetation) influence human activities and the built features of places'
- Removed the content description from Year 5 History 'The economic, social and political impact of one significant development or event on a colony and the potential outcomes created by 'what if'...?' scenarios (e.g. frontier conflict; the gold rushes; the Eureka Stockade; the Pinjarra Massacre; the advent of rail; the expansion of farming; drought)'
- Removed the content description from Year 6 Civics and Citizenship 'Who can be an Australian citizen, the formal rights and responsibilities, and shared values of Australian citizenship'
- Removed the content description from Year 6 Geography 'Differences in the economic characteristics (e.g. per capita income, energy consumption), demographic characteristics (e.g. populations size, density) and social characteristics (e.g. life expectancy, education) of a selection of countries across the world'
- Removed the unit from Year 7 History 'Depth Study 1: Investigating the Ancient Past' inclusive of three content descriptions (replaced by 'Deep Time History of Australia')
- Removed the unit from Year 8 History 'Depth Study 2: Investigating the Black Death in Asia, Europe and Africa' inclusive of four content descriptions (replaced by 'Industrial Revolution 1750–1914')
- Removed the content description in Year 7 Civics and Citizenship 'The division of powers between state/territory and federal levels of government in Australia'
- Removed the content description in Year 7 Economics and Business 'The ways people who have retired from employment earn an income (e.g. age pension, superannuation, private savings)'

- Removed the content description in Year 8 Geography ‘The geographical processes that produce landforms, including a case study of one type of landform, such as mountains, volcanoes, riverine or coastal landforms’
- Removed the content description in Year 8 Geography ‘How the application of principles of prevention, mitigation and preparedness minimises the harmful effects of geomorphic hazards’
- Removed the content description in Year 9 Geography ‘The environmental, economic and technological factors that influence crop yields in Australia and across the world (e.g. climate, soils, landforms, water resources, irrigation, accessibility, labour supply, agricultural technologies)’
- Removed the content description in Year 7 History ‘Roles of key groups in the ancient society, and the influence of law and religion’
- Removed the content description in Year 8 History ‘Key features of the medieval world (feudalism, trade routes, voyages of discovery, contact and conflict)’
- Removed the content description in Year 8 History ‘The population movements and changing settlement patterns during the Industrial Revolution’
- Removed the content description in Year 9 History ‘The important features of the modern period (1750–1918) including technological change, Imperialism and Nationalism’
- Removed the content description in Year 10 History ‘The inter-war years between World War I and World War II, including the Treaty of Versailles, the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression’
- Removed the content description in Year 10 History ‘Methods used by civil rights activists to achieve change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the role of one individual or group in the struggle’
- Removed the content description in Year 10 History ‘The US civil rights movement and its influence on Australia’

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