



Humanities and Social Sciences



Working Life



Sakurajima Japan Volcanic Eruption



Medieval Knight

Year 8 Parent and Student Information Booklet 2018

Also available at <http://www.rossmoyné.wa.edu.au/programs/learning-areas/humanities-and-social-sciences/>



Perth Water Western Australia

Student's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

Developing *Active Citizens* for the Future

Acknowledgements Cover Page Images

Working Life

This image is in the [public domain](#) because it only contains materials that originally came from <http://www.australianunions.org.au/workinglife>

Sakurajima Japan volcano erupts

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2016/02/05/Japans-Sakurajima-volcano-erupts-on-southern-island-of-Kyushu/6691454688709/

This image is in the [public domain](#) because it only contains materials that originally came from *the* United Press International is a leading provider of news, photos and information to millions of readers around the globe via UPI.com and its licensing services.

Pictures of Knights

Pictures of Knights, artist Karen Hatzigeorgiou, <http://karenswhimsy.com/public-domain-images/pictures-of-knights/images/pictures-of-knights-1.jpg>

Design by WPTHEMEDESIGNER.COM, Author: KimonBerlin, <http://en.free-photos.gatag.net/2013/08/30/200000.html> License: ID:201308302000 © 2013 - GATAG | Free Images and Photos 4.0 - Design by WPTHEMEDESIGNER.COM.



Perth Water

Perth Water with Perth Western Australia in the background photo by [Nachoman-au,2005](#), published under GNU Free Documentation License Version1.2.

Following our Sustainability Priority – the whole booklet is available on
<http://www.rossmoyne.wa.edu.au/programs/learning-areas/humanities-and-social-sciences/>

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student

The Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Area provides opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, skills and values to become active citizens in a rapidly changing world. During the course of the Lower School Humanities and Social Sciences Program, students will develop an understanding of how and why individuals and groups live together and interact with their environment. This will involve developing a respect for our cultural heritage, a commitment to social justice, the democratic process and ecological sustainability.

Monitoring Progress

Students are encouraged to record their Humanities and Social Sciences results in the Student Record of Achievement on page 8 of this document. This provides parents with the opportunity to monitor their child's progress and contact the classroom teacher if there are any issues of concern that need addressing. Teachers will likewise contact parents when necessary.

Upper School Courses of Study

The knowledge, skills and values acquired during the Lower School Program will equip students to successfully complete studies in the following Upper School Courses of Study:

- History
- Politics & Law
- Accounting and Finance
- Psychology
- Geography
- Economics
- Certificate II Business

Please read the remainder of the booklet to familiarise yourself with the whole program being offered by the Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Area.

COURSE OUTLINE SCHEDULE FOR YEARS 8, 9 AND 10

Humanities and Social Sciences courses at Rossmoyne follow the mandated curriculum for the planning, assessment and reporting of student progress in Western Australia, as prescribed by the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline*.

Each grade will be based on the courses below.

Research skills will be included in all courses and not be reported separately.

	Year 8 – 2018	Year 9 – 2019	Year 10 - 2020
Semester 1	Term 1		
	Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landforms and Landscapes • Changing Nations 	History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Industrial Revolution (1750-1914) • World War 1 (1914-1918) 	History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War II (1939-1945) • Rights and Freedoms (1945-present)
	Term 2		
	History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ancient to the Modern World • Medieval Europe (c. 590 – c. 1500) • The Black Death in Asia, Europe and Africa (14th century plague) 	Civics and Citizenship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Democratic Rights 	Civics and Citizenship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice at home and overseas
Semester 2	Term 3		
	Economics and Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation and influences in the marketplace 	Economics and Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia and the Global Economy 	Economics and Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic performance and standards of living
	Term 4		
	Civics and Citizenship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy and law in action 	Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomes and food security • Geographies of interconnection 	Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental change and management • Geographies of Human Wellbeing

Semester 1

Term 1 – Geography

Landforms and landscapes

- The different types of landscapes in Australia and their distinctive landform features
- The spiritual, cultural and aesthetic value of landscapes and landforms for people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- The geographical processes that produce landforms
- The causes, spatial distribution, impacts and responses to a geomorphic hazard
- How the effects caused by geomorphic hazards are influenced by social, cultural and economic factors
- How the application of principles of prevention, mitigation and preparedness minimises the harmful effects of geomorphic hazards

Changing Nations

- The causes and consequences of urbanisation in Australia and one other country from the Asia region
- The reasons for, and effects of, internal and international migration in Australia

Term 2 – History

The Ancient to Modern World

- Key features of the medieval world

Medieval Europe

- The way of life in medieval and the roles and relationships of different groups in society
- Significant developments and/or cultural achievements
- Continuity and change in society
- The role of significant individuals in the medieval period
- Living conditions and religious beliefs in the 14th century, including life expectancy, medical knowledge and beliefs about the power of God

Black Death

- Living conditions and religious beliefs in the 14th century, including life expectancy, medical knowledge and beliefs about the power of God

Semester 1

- The role of expanding trade between Europe and Asia during the Black Death, including the origin and spread of the disease
- The causes and symptoms of the Black Death and the responses of different groups in society to the spread of the disease, such as the flagellants and monasteries
- The effects of the Black Death on Asian, European and African populations, and conflicting theories about the impact of the plague

Semester 2

**Term 3 – Economics & Business
Participation and influences in the marketplace**

- The way markets operate in Australia and how the interaction between buyers and sellers influences prices and how markets enable the allocation of resources
- How the government is involved in the market, such as providing some types of goods and services that are not being provided for sufficiently by the
- The rights and responsibilities of consumers and businesses in Australia
- Types of businesses and the ways that businesses respond to opportunities in Australia
- Influences on the ways people work

**Term 4 – Civics & Citizenship
Democracy and law in action**

- The freedoms that enable active participation in Australia's democracy within the bounds of law
- How citizens can participate in Australia's democracy
- How laws are made in Australia through parliaments (statutory law)
- How laws are made in Australia through the courts (common law)
- The types of law in Australia
- Different perspectives about Australia's national identity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and what it means to be Australian

SKILLS TO BE DEVELOPED DURING THE YEAR

General

Research and Questioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify current understandings to consider possible gaps and/or misconceptions, new knowledge needed and challenges to personal perspectives • Construct a range of questions, propositions and/or hypotheses • Use a variety of methods to collect relevant information and/or data from a range of appropriate sources, such as print, digital, audio, visual and fieldwork • Select the best method for recording selected information and/or data • Identify differences in terms of origin and purpose between primary sources and secondary sources • Use appropriate ethical protocols to plan and conduct an inquiry
Analysing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use criteria to select relevant information and/or data such as accuracy, reliability, currency and usefulness to the question • Interpret information and/or data to identify key relationships and/or trends displayed in various formats • Identify points of view/perspectives, attitudes and/or values in information and/or data • Translate information and/or data from one format to another • Apply subject-specific skills and concepts in familiar and new situations
Evaluating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw evidence-based conclusions by evaluating information and/or data to generate a range of alternatives and plan for action in response to contemporary events, challenges, developments, issues, problems and/or phenomena; make comparisons; evaluate costs (disadvantages) and benefits (advantages); and infer relationships
Communicating and Reflecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent information and/or data using appropriate formats to suit audience and purpose • Develop texts, particularly descriptions and explanations, using appropriate subject-specific terminology and concepts that use evidence to support findings, conclusions and/or arguments, from a range of sources. • Reflect on learning to review original understandings and/or determine actions in response to events, challenges, developments, issues, problems and/or phenomena
Subject specific	
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of the 7 key concepts of Geography • Data interpretation • Short answer responses • Topographical and Image mapping skills • Research skills
Economics & Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data interpretation • Short answer responses • Extended answer responses • Research Skills
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines • Source analysis (message, perspective, compare and contrast, purpose and context) • Extended answer responses • Research Skills
Civics & Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short answer responses • Extended answer responses • Research Skills

RESEARCH SKILLS

The main process/methodology of learning in Humanities and Social Sciences is through research. There are four stages involved in research tasks:

1. PLANNING RESEARCH

Students plan ways to organise and gather information:

- Identify factors to be considered
- Devise questions
- Identify possible sources of information
- Make simple predictions
- Negotiate how to use the information
- Formulate hypotheses

2. CONDUCTING RESEARCH

Students conduct the investigation by determining where sources of information are located then organising and evaluating the information:

- Use a range of social science techniques to make observations
- Refer to more than one source and type of sources e.g. interviews, DVDs, internet
- Use a variety of techniques to record information e.g. tables
- Identify a range of perspectives
- Identify the most appropriate sources of information

3. PROCESSING & TRANSLATING INFORMATION

Students process and translate information to make findings/judgements:

- Select, categorise and compare information gathered
- Transform the information into structured forms of display
- Identify, select and combine information
- Connect similar ideas
- Make generalisations and draw conclusions
- Present a particular point of view

4. APPLYING & COMMUNICATING FINDINGS

Students evaluate data, apply and communicate findings according to purpose and audience:

- Present findings
- Present evidence for findings
- Communicate findings effectively
- Demonstrate consideration of facts, opinions and motives of a particular point of view

Students will have numerous opportunities to work on developing their proficiency in the above skills.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is presenting work that is not your own. To avoid this situation, students need to ensure that they:

- Take **key points** from sources rather than 'cut and paste'
- Label notes with the references used
- Maintain a detailed **bibliography**
- Develop their **own findings** regarding the topic based on research

Students who plagiarise may have marks deducted or not receive any credit for the task.

ASSESSMENT POLICY

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the course knowledge and skills through different types of assessments such as:

- research tasks
- in-class essays or extended answer questions
- common assessment tasks
- class participation in discussions and other activities

Students are encouraged to record their results on the Student Record of Achievement below.

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE AND WEIGHTING

SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Assessment Task• Other Formative Tasks	Economics and Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Assessment Task• Other Formative Tasks
History <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Assessment Task• Other Formative Tasks	Civics and Citizenship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Assessment Task• Other Formative Tasks

STUDENT RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

Semester 1		
Date	Description of Assessment	Result

Semester 2		
Date	Description of Assessment	Result

COMPLETING ASSESSMENT TASKS

All assessment tasks need to be completed. Failure to complete an assessment task will jeopardise your chances of being awarded a higher grade.

ABSENT FOR AN ASSESSMENT

If a student misses an in-class assessment OR a due date for handing in a piece of work as a result of being away on the day, a parent note will need to be presented to the teacher on the day they return to school. Alternatively, a telephone call (or email) can be made to the teacher.

If a satisfactory explanation for the absence is not provided, a mark of zero may be awarded for that section of the course.

Please refer to the Assessment Policy in the School Handbook or Rossmoyne Senior High School's website for more information.

<http://www.rossmoyne.wa.edu.au/about-us/policies/assessment-and-reporting-policy/>

HOMEWORK AND STUDY

Students will need to spend time working on their Humanities and Social Sciences learning out of school hours.

This may take one of the following forms:

- A set task to be completed by a certain date
- General review of material covered in class
- Revision for an in class assessment
- Conducting research
- Completing tasks which cannot be completed in class e.g. local area study

The amount of time students should be spending on their Humanities and Social Sciences learning should fit within the parameters set by the school for each year group for all subjects.

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRESS

Teachers will monitor student progress and report in the following ways:

- Marking of assessment tasks
- Parent Evening
- Semester 1 and 2 reports
- Letters of Commendation and Concern
- Telephone calls and/or e-mails

ACHIEVEMENT TARGETS

Students aiming to successfully proceed into History, Economics, Geography, Accounting & Finance, Psychology and Politics & Law courses should be achieving B grades or better.

COMPETITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Area has a strong focus in providing students with opportunities to participate in a wide range of competitions and activities. Some examples are:

Premier's Anzac Tour

Students prepare a five minute oral presentation on an ANZAC related topic to a panel of RSHS Humanities and Social Sciences teachers. One student from each age category continues to a district level and a possibility of being selected for a trip of a lifetime to a World War I or a World War II location with the other state winners.

National History Challenge

The National History Challenge encourages inquiry-based learning, the use of primary and secondary sources and offers a variety of presentation styles that can cater to individual learning preferences. Students are the historians, they can investigate their community, explore their family's past, major events, new ideas or historical theories.

Australian Geography Competition

Students complete a multiple-choice test which can lead all the way to an interstate or international competition. All entrants will receive a certificate informing them of the level they have achieved.

Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Program Year 10

Students are nominated for a four day camp where leadership skills are sharpened and students participate in collaborative activities that enhance their learning.

ASX School Share-Market Game

Students participate in an online virtual share market game. Students develop a range of skills including decision making in an ever-changing environment.

Cultural Activity Day Year 9

Students will be given the opportunity to experience the different arts and traditions of an Asian culture from Tai Chi to calligraphy, mah-jong to origami.

Other competitions and activities may also be offered to enhance student learning.

AWARDS

Each semester, student achievement in the Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Area will be acknowledged in the following ways:

- The most outstanding Humanities and Social Sciences students will receive **Outstanding Student Awards** in each year group.

End of Year Awards

At the end of the Year, the most outstanding student in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will receive one of the following Humanities and Social Sciences medals:

- Year 7 - C. Y. O'Connor Medal
- Year 8 - Yagan Medal
- Year 9 - Dorothy Tangney Medal
- Year 10 - John Curtin Medal

Humanities and Social Sciences Electives in Year 9 and 10

- Most Outstanding Award Certificate at end of the Year

The Selection Process for Outstanding Student and Medal Awardees:

Teachers will invite students who have performed at the highest level in their Humanities and Social Sciences studies to submit a portfolio reflecting their progress throughout the year.

The portfolio should contain:

- A short summary of how they have performed in their Humanities and Social Sciences studies (Teacher writes this)
- ONE extended answer (essay)
- ONE investigation (research assignment)
- Evidence of Cornell note taking from their exercise book
- Documentation that reflects active citizenship in the school environment and beyond in accordance with the principles and values associated with the democratic process, social justice and ecological sustainability

MAXIMISING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

Students can use the following guidelines to ensure they maximise their achievement.

ARRIVING TO CLASS ON TIME

It is your responsibility to be in class on time.

ABSENT FROM CLASS

If you know you are going to miss class ensure you inform your teacher at the earliest opportunity so the necessary arrangements can be made. If you have an unscheduled absence check with your classmates and teacher to ensure you catch up on all work missed.

BEING ORGANISED

Students need to use their diary to ensure they are fully aware of their Humanities and Social Sciences responsibilities. This will include **using their diary effectively, always having the appropriate equipment, completing homework, meeting deadlines and being involved in class activities.**

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Students will need a file with their Humanities and Social Sciences section clearly labelled, pens, pencils, ruler, eraser, sheet protectors, plenty of paper, a USB and earphones. Students should have their exercise book for Cornell Note taking with them every day. The bringing of a laptop computer every day is highly recommended.

ORGANISING YOUR INFORMATION

All work needs to be correctly titled, dated and completed neatly. It is important to be able to keep sections of work together – particularly when working on a research assignment (ICP). All Humanities and Social Sciences work completed on computers should be kept in an Humanities and Social Sciences folder with sub-folders for separate topics such as Research Assignments, History, Politics etc.

COMPLETING TASKS IN CLASS

It is important for students to participate in all aspects of their Humanities and Social Sciences learning. This involves being able to discuss ideas, ask questions and complete a variety of tasks which will include researching, writing, using a variety of information sources such as texts, atlases and the internet.

WORKING IN THE LIBRARY AND ON COMPUTERS

Students need to ensure they gain maximum benefit from being in the library or using computers. This will involve identifying a clear task for you to complete, identifying the source of information you wish to use quickly and using appropriate note taking skills to record the information needed. Use Moodle to access information to upload your work, download tasks and for collaborative learning activities.

LOWER SCHOOL SUBJECT OPTIONS

Year 9

- Financial Management

Year 10

- Accounting & Entrepreneurship
- Certificate II/III in Business
- Criminal Investigation
- Critical Thinking
- International Tourism
- Law and Commerce
- Psychology in Action

UPPER SCHOOL COURSES

Successful completion of the Year 7 – 10 programs will provide an excellent platform for selecting the following upper school courses.

Economics

The Economics course provides the knowledge and develops the skills of reasoning, logical thinking and interpretation that are demanded by business and government. Topics are taught within the real world context of the retail market, stock market, labour market and international markets. Macroeconomics and the government's role in the economy are explored. Issues such as economic growth, inflation, unemployment, income distribution, business strategy, and international relations, global markets and economic policy are considered and financial literacy skills are developed.

Students learn the language of economics and the use of theories and models to explain and interpret economic events and issues.

Geography

Some of the areas studied in upper school include natural hazards, resources, urban planning and climate change. By exploring their impact and proposed solutions for sustainable development whilst meeting environmental, economic and community needs, students should develop knowledge, skills and understandings that enables them to live and work in a rapidly changing world.

History

The Modern History course fosters students' skills through analysing information and using evidence to develop a strong coherent argument. Students are encouraged to question and evaluate historical sources, representations, interpretations and versions of history. Historical studies help students to use critical thinking skills as they compare and contrast information, detect inconsistencies in details, recognise manipulation of evidence, note one-sided presentation of material and evaluate degrees of accuracy in sources.

Politics & Law

Democracy requires involvement. An essential part of life in the 21st century is an understanding of the framework of politics and law in this society so that students will be able to participate in the processes which will, in turn, empower them to make informed choices.

The knowledge, skills and values examined by the course allow students to become informed, active participants in the political and legal decisions that affect their lives and the future of their communities.

Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of how people think, feel and act. It aims to answer important questions such as what factors influence human development. Students will look at a range of psychological concepts including biological bases of psychology, personality theory, intelligence theory, social psychology, ethics, scientific investigation, developmental psychology and communication.

Accounting and Finance

Accounting provides students with an understanding of concepts and procedures needed to process the financial records of a small business. The course includes some computerised accounting. The knowledge and skills gained in this course are useful for careers in accounting, marketing, management and finance.

Certificate II/III in Business

The Business course covers a range of business subjects including word processing, spread sheets, designing organisational documents, mail procedures, preparing and processing accounts and processing and maintaining workplace information.

Students develop relevant technical skills, vocational and interpersonal competencies suitable to employment and further training in business as well as skills, knowledge and experiences that are transferable to other industry areas.

A GUIDE TO ANSWERING ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answering essay questions is a skill that can be acquired with a combination of practice and applied technique.

The technique of essay writing:

1. PLANNING THE ANSWER

- Planning is the key to success
- All good essays are well constructed, follow a sound 'line of argument' and answer the question clearly
- To plan successfully, you must have a clear understanding what the question is asking. Underline key words and know what these key words are asking you to do e.g. evaluate.

2. WRITING THE ESSAY ANSWER

Essays should have an **introduction**, a **body** of several paragraphs and a **conclusion**.

INTRODUCTION:

- **State the central argument/theme/thesis that you are presenting**
- Outline the structure of your essay, what major points you are going to make?
- Identify the limits/parameters of your essay
- Where appropriate define any terms
- Relate the topic to the keywords of the question e.g. describe, compare.

BODY:

- **'Say it'**
- Use paragraphs
- Put one main point in each paragraph
- For each paragraph provide a topic sentence, explain the point, give evidence and examples to support your explanation, conclude the paragraph by connecting it to your thesis/question
- Try, if possible, to link each paragraph to the one before or to the question.

CONCLUSION:

- **'Say that you've said it'**
- Keep the conclusion crisp, strong and clear
- Make a direct reference to the question, re-iterate key words of the question if you can and show that you have answered the question.

The purpose of your conclusion is to draw all the major points of your answer into one or two strong, powerful statements.

3. CHECKLIST FOR ESSAYS

- Ask yourself the following questions when editing your essay:
 1. Does the essay answer the question?
 2. Have I followed the instruction words i.e. discuss, analyse, compare
 3. Does the essay have an introduction that outlines the main points?
 4. Does the essay present relevant information and details appropriate to the question?
 5. Is there a logical sequencing of ideas and facts?
 6. Is the essay coherent with correct use of grammar, spelling, sentence and paragraph structure?

INTERPRETING QUESTIONS

Account for	To give reasons for something.
Analyse	To separate or break up a whole into its parts so that you may study how each part relates to the whole question/event/topic, etc. It is important to make some comment about the main idea or concept of the question/event/topic.
Assess	To estimate the importance, quality, significance of something. Look carefully at the situation/aspect you are being asked to assess. In general, you should point to strengths and weaknesses and/or similarities and differences.
Compare	To look for similar and different qualities or characteristics of events/ ideas, etc.
Contrast	To stress dissimilarities/differences of qualities, events or problems.
Criticise	To judge the merit or truth of factors or views mentioned. Give the results of your analysis of these factors, discussing their limitations and good points.
Debate	To present an argument. To argue a particular point of view, using evidence to support the argument. You must present a proposition.
Define	To give short, clear and authoritative meanings. Do not give details but keep to the limits of the definition by staying on the point.
Describe	To narrate or write a detailed account of the particular event or factor.
Develop	Put forward your ideas in a logical and detailed manner.
Discuss	To critically examine and give reasons for and against. Present your views in detail using examples or illustrations. This may require the student to combine definition, description, explanation, drawing conclusions etc. The answer should be comprehensive and detailed.
Evaluate	To present a judgement of an issue by stressing both strengths/advantages and weaknesses/limitations. Conclude with your own opinion (<i>not using first person</i>) or evaluation supported by available evidence.

Examine	To carefully inspect the known facts about a particular situation/aspect and present the findings in a balanced way.
Explain	To make clear with detailed information. To provide reasons for -
Identify	To recognise or establish something e.g. reasons for a particular event/aspect or concept through an examination of the known facts.
Illustrate	To use example/s to explain a particular topic or proposition.
Interpret	To make sense of something, often a table of data or a graph.
Justify	Give an explanation why a particular course of action has been or should be followed. Justify means make a reasoned choice.
List	To write an itemised series of concise/accurate statements using prose (complete sentences). Do not use note-making format in Humanities and Social Sciences subjects.
Outline	Summarise by mentioning important points only. Provide a short discussion to demonstrate a good overall knowledge of the topic or concept.
Relate	(a) Show how events are related to one another or (b) To explain the link between cause and effect – understand a relationship.
State	To narrate or write main points in a brief, clear and logical sequence.
Suggest	Identify possible reasons why an event has occurred. The question might also be asking for a prediction – suggest what might happen if...?
Summarise	To give the main points or facts in a condensed/shortened form omitting details and illustrations. Do not use note-making format.
Trace	To describe in narrative form the progress, development or sequence of historical events from the point of origin.