VCE Ancient history Units 1– 4  
2016–2021

Resources

Some of the print resources contained in this list may be out of print. They have been included because they may still be available from libraries, bookshops and private collections.

At the time of publication the URLs (website addresses) cited were checked for accuracy and appropriateness of content. However, due to the transient nature of material placed on the web, their continuing accuracy cannot be verified. Teachers are strongly advised to prepare their own indexes of sites that are suitable and applicable to the courses they teach, and to check these addresses prior to allowing student access.

Books

General

Bowman, R 2008, *Ancient Greece for Senior Students*, Cengage, Australia.

Davies, G 2008, *Ancient Rome for Senior Students,* Cengage, Australia.

Hindmarsh, H & Harnack, C 2009, *The Near East: Nelson Ancient History for HSC,* Cengage, Australia.

Hurley, T, Medcalf, P et al. 2007, *Antiquity 1*, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Lawless, J, Cameron, K & Kenworthy, G 2010, *Studies in Ancient Egypt*, Cengage, Australia.

Lawless, J, Cameron, K & Young, C 2008, *Unlocking the Past,* 2nd edn, Thomson Learning Australia, Melbourne.

Stevens, V, Leadbetter, B, Thomas, C et al. 1999, *Ancient History Skills: Personalities and Groups Teacher Resource Book,* Nelson Cengage, Australia*.*

Unit 2B: Early China

Area of Study 1: Ancient China

Weeks 1–2: Neolithic and Bronze Age cultures

*Suggested teaching resources:*

* Li Feng, Early China: A Social and Cultural History, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013, pp.1–65, 90–111.
* Sources of Chinese Tradition, Volume 1: From Earliest Times to 1600, Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, trs., New York: Columbia University Press, 2nd edn, 1999, pp.3–21.
* The Grand Scribe’s Records, William Nienhauser, ed., Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1994, Volume 1, pp.1–17.
* New Sources of Early Chinese History, Edward Shaughnessy, ed., Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997, pp.30–41.
* [http://www.waa.ox.ac.uk/XDB/tours/china1.asp](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire)
* [http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/index.htm](http://etcweb.princeton.edu/asianart/selectionsdetail.jsp)
* [http://www.asia.si.edu/explore/china/bronzes/default.asp](http://www.youtube.com/user/WEDIGROME)
* [http://etcweb.princeton.edu/asianart/timeperiod\_china.jsp?ctry=China&pd=Neolithic](http://www.digitalegypt.ucl.ac.uk)
* [http://etcweb.princeton.edu/asianart/interactives/bronze/bronze.html](http://www.pbs.org/empires/Egypt)
* [http://archive.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/history/dynasty-neolithic.cfm](http://www.waa.ox.ac.uk/XDB/tours/china1.asp)

Weeks 3–4: Western Zhou

*Suggested teaching resources:*

* Li Feng, Early China: A Social and Cultural History, pp.112–61.
* Sources of Chinese Tradition, Volume 1: From Earliest Times to 1600, Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, trs., 2nd edn, pp.29–40.
* I Ching: *The Essential Translation of the Ancient Chinese Oracle and Book of Wisdom*, John Minford, tr., New York: Penguin, 2014.
* New Sources of Early Chinese History, Edward Shaughnessy, ed., pp.77–8, 82–3, 88–90,   
  97–99, 100–101, 111–3.
* Classical Chinese Literature: An Anthology of Translations, Volume 1: From Antiquity to the Tang Dynasty, John Minford and Joseph S.M. Lau, eds., New York: Columbia University Press, 2000, pp.97–99, 135–138, 138–140, 144–147, 147–150, 156–161.

Weeks 5–6: Spring and Autumn period and Warring States period

*Suggested teaching resources:*

* Li Feng, Early China: A Social and Cultural History, pp.162–182, 182–205.
* *Sources of Chinese Tradition, Volume 1: From Earliest Times to 1600*, William Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, trs., 2nd edn, pp.184–189, 216–223.
* The Tso chuan: Selections from China's Oldest Narrative History, Burton Watson, tr., New York: Columbia University Press, 1989, pp.50-64.
* Legends of the Warring States: Persuasions, Romances, and Stories from the Chan-kuo Ts'e, J.I. Crump, tr., Ann Arbor: Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, 1998, 63–74.

Weeks 7–8: Ethical thought and its contribution to state formation

*Suggested teaching resources:*

* ‘Kongzi (Confucius) ‘The Analects’, Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan W. Van Norden, eds., Indianapolis: Hackett, 2001, pp.1–53.
* ‘Mozi’, Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, pp.65–68, 68–76.
* ‘Mengzi (Mencius)’, Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, pp.117–125, 152–157.
* ‘Laozi (‘The Daodejing’)’, Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, pp.163–180.
* ‘Xunzi’, Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, pp.267, 267–269, 269, 274–285, 298-306.
* ‘Han Feizi’, Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy, pp.314–317, 335–339,   
  339–351.

Area of Study 2: The early empires

Weeks 9–10 : Qin

*Suggested teaching resources:*

* Li Feng, Early China: A Social and Cultural History, pp.228–255.
* *Sources of Chinese Tradition, Volume 1: From Earliest Times to 1600*, Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, trs., 2nd edn, pp.192–198, 208–212.
* *The* *Book of Lord Shang*, J.J.L. Duyvendak, tr., London: Arthur Probsthain, 1963, pp.185–196, 274–284, 311–314, 314–317, 322–327.
* Martin Kern, The Stele Inscriptions of Ch’in Shih-huang: Text and Ritual in Early Chinese Imperial Representation, New Haven, CT: American Oriental Society, 2000, pp.17–23, 71–75.
* *Records of the Grand Historian: Qin Dynasty*, Burton Watson, tr., New York: Columbia University Press, 1993, pp.85–87, 167–178, 179–206.
* Modern representations of Qin Shi Huangdi and Qin rule, for example: Jorge Luis Borges,   
  ‘The Wall and the Books’ in *Other Inquisitions, 1937–1952*, tr. Ruth L.C. Simms, Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1964, pp.3–5; films *The Emperor and the Assassin* (1999) and *Hero* (2002); TV drama-documentaries *First Emperor: The Man Who Made China* (2006) and *China’s First Emperor* (2008).
* Qin Shi Huangdi’s tomb: [http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/441](http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/index.htm).

Weeks 11–12: Western Han 1

*Suggested teaching resources:*

* Li Feng, Early China: A Social and Cultural History, pp.256–265, 282–323.
* *Sources of Chinese Tradition, Volume 1: From Earliest Times to 1600*, Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, trs., 2nd edn, pp.228–234, 268–273.
* *Records of the Grand Historian: Qin Dynasty*, Burton Watson, tr., pp.74–83.
* *Records of the Grand Historian: Han Dynasty 1*, Burton Watson, tr., New York: Columbia University Press, 1993, pp.28–33 and 63 (on the Hongmen Banquet); pp.40–44 and 70–74 (encounter across the Guangwu Gorge outside Chenggao).
* The Huainanzi: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Government in Early Han China, John S. Major et al., trs., New York: Columbia University Press, 2010, pp.295–299, 310–314,   
  315–321, 336–339 (‘The Ruler’s Techniques’), 848–862   
  (‘An Overview of the Essentials’).

Weeks 13–14: Western Han 2

*Suggested teaching resources:*

* Li Feng, Early China, as above; also pp.265–76.
* *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 2nd edn., Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, trs., 2nd edn, pp.295–310, 311–317.
* Records of the Grand Historian: Han Dynasty 2, Burton Watson, tr., New York: Columbia University Press, 1993, pp.61–85, 129–162.
* Homer Dubs, *History of the Former Han Dynasty*, Baltimore, Waverly Press, 1944, Volume 2, pp.38–66 (Chapter 6, ‘The Annals of Emperor Hsiao-Wu’: 133–119 BC) [Available online at: [http://www2.iath.virginia.edu:8080/exist/cocoon/xwomen/texts/hanshu/tpage/tocc/1/0/english]](http://etcweb.princeton.edu/asianart/timeperiod_china.jsp)
* Esson M. Gale, *Discourses on Salt and Iron*, Taibei: Ch’eng-wen Publishing Company, 1967, pp.1–11 (Chapter 1, ‘The Basic Argument’), 66–73 (Chapter 11, ‘Discoursing on Confucianists’), 99–105 (Chapter 16, ‘Territorial Expansion’), 104–110 (Chapter 28, ‘On National Ills’)[Available online at: [http://www2.iath.virginia.edu/saxon/servlet/SaxonServlet?source=xwomen/texts/yantie.xml&style=xwomen/xsl/dynaxml.xsl&doc.view=tocc&chunk.id=tpage&toc.depth=1&toc.id=d2.24&doc.lang=english](http://www2.iath.virginia.edu:8080/exist/cocoon/xwomen/texts/hanshu/tpage/tocc/1/0/english?source=xwomen/texts/yantie.xml&style=xwomen/xsl/dynaxml.xsl&doc.view=tocc&chunk.id=tpage&toc.depth=1&toc.id=d2.24&doc.lang=english)].

Weeks 15–16: Xin and Eastern Han

*Suggested teaching resources:*

* Li Feng, Early China, pp.276–282.
* *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 2nd edn., Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, trs.,   
  2nd edn, pp.363–366.
* Homer Dubs, *History of the Former Han Dynasty*, Baltimore, Waverly Press, 1955, Volume 3, pp.260–366 (chapter 99, Part B) [Available online at: [http://www2.iath.virginia.edu:8080/exist/cocoon/xwomen/texts/hanshu/tpage/tocc/1/0/english](http://etcweb.princeton.edu/asianart/interactives/bronze/bronze.html)].
* Rafe de Crespigny, *Emperor Huan and Emperor Ling*, Canberra: Faculty of Asian Studies, Australian National University, 1989, Volume 1, pp.174–180 (‘Guanghe 6’, ‘Zhongping 1’:   
  183–184 AD) [Available online at: [https://digitalcollections.anu.edu.au/html/1885/42048/HuanLing\_part6.pdf](http://archive.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/history/dynasty-neolithic.cfm)]
* *Early Daoist Scriptures*, tr. Stephen R. Bokenkamp, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997, pp.104–108, 113–117, 132–142.
* Wu Liang Shrine: [http://etcweb.princeton.edu/asianart/selectionsdetail.jsp?ctry&pd&id=1124952](http://www.asia.si.edu/explore/china/bronzes/default.asp?ctry&pd&id=1124952)

Egypt

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Shaw, I 2004, *Oxford history of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

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Thomas, AP 1988, *Akhenaten's Egypt,* Shire Publications, Aylesbury.

Wilding, D 1997, *Egypt, From Prehistory to the Romans,* Taschen, Cologne.

Greece

Azoulay, V 2014, *Pericles of Athens*, Princeton University Press, Princeton.

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Mesopotamia

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241–61.

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Rome

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Websites

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[www.digitalegypt.ucl.ac.uk](http://www2.iath.virginia.edu/saxon/servlet/SaxonServlet)

PBS, Egypt’s Golden Empire  
[www.pbs.org/empires/Egypt](https://digitalcollections.anu.edu.au/html/1885/42048/HuanLing_part6.pdf)

PBS, The Roman Empire in the First century  
[www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/441)

American Institute for Roman Culture – Ostia Antica – eight-part series  
[www.youtube.com/user/WEDIGROME](http://www2.iath.virginia.edu:8080/exist/cocoon/xwomen/texts/hanshu/tpage/tocc/1/0/english%5d)