

VCE History: Australian History 2022–2026

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). [VCAA examination rules](#) will apply.

There will be 15 minutes of reading time and 2 hours of writing time.

The examination will be assessed by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE History Study Design 2022–2026* ('Units 3 and 4: Australian History') is the document for the development of the examination. The study design includes a section on characteristics of the study (pages 6 and 7). The [characteristics of the study](#) are elaborated on in the [Advice for teachers – History](#).

All outcomes in 'Units 3 and 4: Australian History' will be examined. All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes in 'Units 3 and 4: Australian History' are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of two sections. Each section will have questions on each of the four historical investigations: From custodianship to the Anthropocene (60 000 BCE – 2010), Creating a nation (1834–2008), Power and resistance (1788–1998), and War and upheaval (1909–1992).

Section A will consist of four questions – one question for each historical investigation. Each question will consist of multiple parts (short-answer questions and one extended-answer question) and will be worth a total of 25 marks. The questions may require analysis of three to four visual and/or written sources. The extended-answer question will be worth 8–10 marks. The questions and sources will draw from Area of Study 1, Area of Study 2 or both areas of study. The sources will be presented in a separate sources book and may be presented in colour. Students must respond to all parts of the **two** questions in this section that correspond to the two historical investigations that they have studied. Section A will be worth a total of 50 marks.

Section B will consist of four essay questions – one essay question for each historical investigation. The essay topics will be drawn from Area of Study 1, Area of Study 2 or both areas of study. Students must respond to **one** question in this section that corresponds to one of the two historical investigations that they have studied. Section B will be worth a total of 20 marks.

The total marks for the examination will be 70.

Answers are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

Assessment criteria

The essay in Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- construction of a coherent and relevant historical argument that addresses the specific demands of the essay question
- demonstration of historical knowledge that is accurate and appropriate for the essay question
- application of historical thinking concepts such as cause and consequence, continuity and change, and/or historical significance
- use of sources as evidence to support a historical argument, including a range of primary sources, perspectives and historical interpretations

Approved materials and equipment

Normal stationery requirements (pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers)

Relevant references

The following resources should be referred to in relation to the VCE History: Australian History examination:

- *VCE History Study Design 2022–2026* ('Units 3 and 4: Australian History')
- [Advice for teachers – History](#)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2022–2026 accreditation period for VCE History: Australian History, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

Teachers and students should be aware of the characteristics of the study, as described on pages 6 and 7 of the study design and elaborated on in the [Advice for teachers – History](#). In VCE History, evidence may be drawn from primary and/or secondary sources, and may include factual detail related to the key knowledge stated in the study design, historical perspectives and historical interpretations.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the VCE History: Australian History '[Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports](#)' page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over. It demonstrates a range of source configurations that could appear on the examination.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.