

VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies 2024-2028

Unit 4: Sustainable outdoor
environments



VICTORIAN CURRICULUM
AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY



Acknowledgement of Country

The VCAA respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.



Accreditation Period
2024–2028

Victorian Certificate of Education
**Outdoor and
Environmental Studies**
Study Design

Purpose of video

- Introduce and familiarise teachers to Unit 4
- Resources available (including the Study Design)



Overview of major review changes

- Implementation 2024
- Consists of four units, with this video focusing on Unit
- Scope of study, Rationale, Aims
- Cross-study Specifications
- 4 units → 11 Areas of Study
 - Unit 1 = 3 Areas of Study
 - Unit 2 = 3 Areas of Study
 - Unit 3 = 2 Areas of Study
 - Unit 4 = 3 Areas of Study (3rd is taught over year)



Cross-study specifications

The development of cross-study specifications provides consistency with other VCE study designs and are threaded through unit 4.

1. Key concepts

2. Outdoor experiences

3. Key practical skills

- Purpose of outdoor experiences
- In designing teaching and learning programs for Area of Study 1 and Area of Study 2 it is expected as many opportunities as possible are included for the key skills to be taught and learned in outdoor environments, through different outdoor experiences.
- Unit 4 Area of Study 3 contains a specific set of key knowledge and key skills, commencing at the start of Unit 3



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Outdoor Experiences- Unit 4

- A plan to achieve between 25 - 50 hours in Unit 4.
- Examples of types of outdoor environments and experiences (in support materials) and reference to the [Department of Education's Safety Guidelines](#)
- Unit 4 Area of Study 3 – Commences at the beginning of Unit 3

Students undertake an independent investigation, collecting and evaluating information gathered during at least two different visited outdoor environments across both Units 3 and 4.



Unit 4 Structure

Unit Titles	Area of Study titles
Sustainable outdoor environments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="975 412 1767 511">1 The importance of healthy outdoor environments<li data-bbox="975 532 1806 576">2 The future of outdoor environments<li data-bbox="975 598 1806 642">3 Investigating outdoor environments <p data-bbox="975 764 1767 922">*Unit 4 Area of Study 3 is an ongoing investigation commencing at the beginning of Unit 3</p>



Commencing at the beginning of Unit 3, continuing to Unit 4

Unit 4 Area of Study 3 - Investigating Outdoor Environments

- To achieve this outcome students, undertake an independent investigation, collecting and evaluating information gathered during at least two different visited outdoor environments across both Units 3 and 4.
- The selected outdoor environments should draw on at least four selected key knowledge points across Units 3 and 4.
- At the completion of Unit 4 – Students will have had a minimum of two outdoor experiences and two entries into their logbooks, reflecting four selected key knowledge points from Unit 3 Area of Study 1, Unit 3 Area of Study 2, Unit 4 Area of Study 1 and Unit 4 AOS2 .



Unit 4 Area of Study 1 specific changes

On completion of this unit the student should be able to describe a range of environmental sustainability measures, analyse threats to outdoor environments and justify the importance of healthy outdoor environments for individuals and society, with reference to specific outdoor experiences

- the pillars of sustainability, the interdependence between these pillars and related critiques of sustainability
- observable characteristics
- the impact of threats on society and outdoor environments (new threats added, choose two)
- local, national and international solutions and mitigation strategies to combat climate change across a range of environments



Unit 4 Area of Study 2 specific changes

On completion of this unit the student should be able evaluate practices and strategies for sustaining outdoor environments, with reference to specific outdoor experiences.

- Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples' land management strategies for achieving and maintaining healthy and sustainable outdoor environments
- Acts or conventions related to the management and sustainability of a specific outdoor environment, species or ecological community – select two
- Community actions undertaken to sustain healthy outdoor environments – select two
- Individual actions undertaken to promote and sustain healthy outdoor environments – select two



Unit 4 Area of Study 3 Investigating Outdoor Environments

To achieve this outcome students, undertake an independent investigation, collecting and evaluating information gathered during at least two different visited outdoor environments across both Units 3 and 4

- At the completion of Unit 4 – Students will have had four outdoor experiences with four entries into their logbooks, reflecting four selected key knowledge points from Unit 3 and Unit 4
- The investigation within the selected outdoor environments can occur at any time during Unit 3 or Unit 4, with the expectation that the assessment of the investigation would occur at any time during Unit 4



Unit 4 Area of Study 3 Investigating Outdoor Environments

Logbooks are referenced in this study as the means for students to keep their records of practical activities and observations of key knowledge. The logbook is maintained and cited as a

- source of primary data,
- as a requirement for satisfactory completion of each unit, rather than being used as a specific assessment task.

Teachers must regularly sight and monitor the logbook, particularly for the investigative task in Area of Study 3 of Unit 4.



Logbooks

Logbook criteria may include:

- location
- environment type
- flora and fauna
- outdoor activity(ies) undertaken
- sustainability measures
- observation of key knowledge relevant to the experience chosen by the teacher across Unit 3 and 4
- observation of key skills.
- secondary data



Unit 4 Area of Study 3 – Written report

The student investigation will be assessed as a written report in which students will use the evidence recorded in their logbook to produce a written report that demonstrates the application of the key skills and key knowledge to the selected outdoor environments.

The logbook is used for authentication purposes when assessing the written report documenting the investigation.



Sample Learning activities for Unit 4

- using [Miro](#) compile a class mind map of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous land management practices. From this, students are to select one indigenous and one non-Indigenous practice to analyse and then present how these strategies sustain a range of outdoor environments during a class discussion
- research the Flora and Fauna Amended Guarantee Act 2019 and prepare a report that describes the act and evaluates its effectiveness in relation to sustaining a specific outdoor environment. Potentially use this environment as one of the visited practical locations during the year.
- visit a Trust for Nature Site in your local area or in transit to an outdoor experience to meet with a landowner and visually see and hear about the positive impact on biodiversity
- as a class create a live [Miro](#) document adding examples of ethical and sustainable consumerism. From this task students to research two examples in detail and compare how they sustain healthy outdoor environments

Detailed example for Unit 4

Unit 4 Area of Study 1

Climate change research task

Students are to develop a report on the three levels of climate change action

Choose a local climate change policy within their local municipality, a federal government policy and a global policy

Include in their investigation for all three policies;

- Name and jurisdiction of the policy
- Purpose of the policy to mitigate climate change
- Examples of this policy in action within its jurisdiction
- Common features that occur across all three policies investigated
- One recommendation for each policy to improve the outcome to mitigate climate change

New Study Design Support Materials

- Support materials will be supplied with
 - Updated resources for teaching Unit 4 Key Knowledge and Skills
 - Detailed examples
 - Example of a logbook



Contact

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