VCE Sociology (2024-2028) Implementation
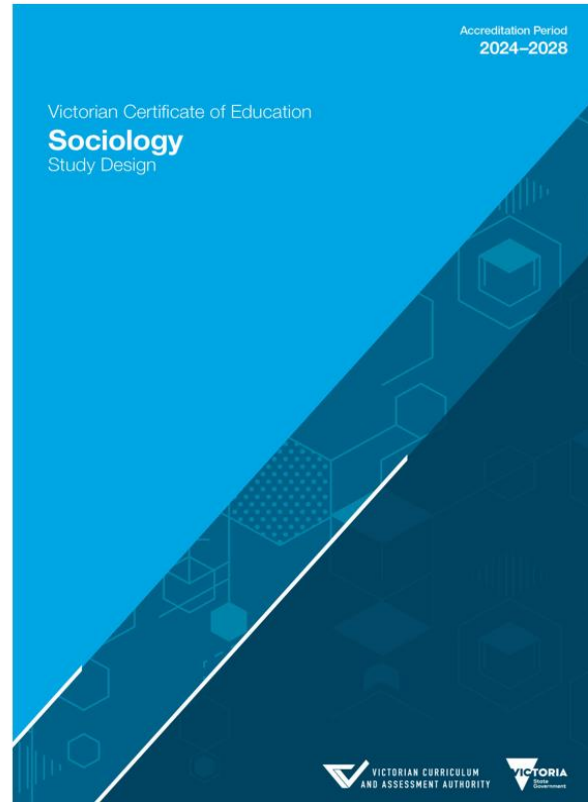
Unit 3: Culture and ethnicity

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

VICTORIA State Government

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.

VCE Sociology Study Design 2024- 2028

Important information

Safety and wellbeing

During the course of VCE Sociology students may undertake primary research.

Please refer to the Australian Sociological Association (TASA) for a formal set of ethical guidelines for conducting research.

Child Safe Standards

Schools are required to comply with the Child Safe Standards made under the Victorian *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*

Refer to VCE Sociology Study Design 2024- 2028 page 7

Unit 3   Culture and ethnicity

In this unit students explore expressions of culture and ethnicity within Australian society in two different contexts – Australian Indigenous cultures, and ethnicity in relation to migrant groups

Area of Study 1 - Australian Indigenous cultures

Area of Study 2 - Ethnicity

Unit 3   Culture and ethnicity

In Area of Study 1, students critically explore the **historical suppression** of, and **increasing public awareness** of, Australian Indigenous cultures

- Examine the **past and its influence on subsequent generations**

- **Contemporary factors** that may **support and/or limit increasing awareness** of Australian Indigenous cultures

- Students consider Indigenous and non-Indigenous **perspectives** and **responses** in their exploration.

Unit 3   Culture and ethnicity

In Area of Study 2, students investigate **ethnicity as a key sociological category** that plays an important role in social life

Students develop an understanding of a variety of factors that need to be considered when investigating **experiences of ethnicity.**

Area of Study 1
Australian Indigenous cultures

Area of Study 1

Students explore the **meaning of culture** and the distinction between **material** and **non-material culture**

The **sociological imagination** as conceived by **Charles Wright Mills**

Area of Study 1
Australian Indigenous cultures

Area of Study 1

Students consider the implications of representations for **building awareness** of Australian Indigenous cultures

Area of Study 1
Australian Indigenous cultures

Area of Study 1

Students study an **issue** supporting and/or limiting awareness of Australian Indigenous cultures, **using publicly accessible material produced in the last ten years.**

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

On completion of this unit the student should be able to **analyse the impacts of historical suppression and evaluate the increasing public awareness of Australian Indigenous cultures.**

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

Key knowledge

- the meaning of culture and its major components: **non-material culture and material culture**

- the **sociological imagination** as conceived by **Charles Wright Mills** and its connection to the study of cultures

- a range of **historical and contemporary** representations of Australian Indigenous cultures that could be interpreted as **ethnocentric and/or culturally relativistic** representations.

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

Key knowledge

- **public misconceptions** about Australian Indigenous cultures

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

Key knowledge

- the **historical suppression** of Australian Indigenous culture through **government policies** and **Indigenous responses** to this suppression

- the process of reconciliation through **symbolic** and **practical reconciliation.**

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

Key knowledge

- **one issue** related to **changing awareness** of Australian Indigenous cultures:

  - the **nature** of the issue

  - the **historical and political context** of this issue

  - the relationship between this issue and **awareness** and **public views** of Australian Indigenous cultures

  - significant **Indigenous and non-Indigenous people** (individuals and/or groups) involved and **their response(s)** to the issue.

Area of Study 1

Key skills **common** throughout the VCE Sociology Study Design 2024- 2028 Units 1-4

- **explain** and **apply** sociological concepts

- **gather** and **use** a variety of relevant source materials to support observation and analysis

- **evaluate** sources and **critically reflect** on their own and others' approaches to understanding the social world

- **synthesise** evidence to draw conclusions.

Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

Key skills

- **explain** the process of engaging the sociological imagination to study culture

- **analyse** representations

- **explain** public misconceptions about Australian Indigenous cultures
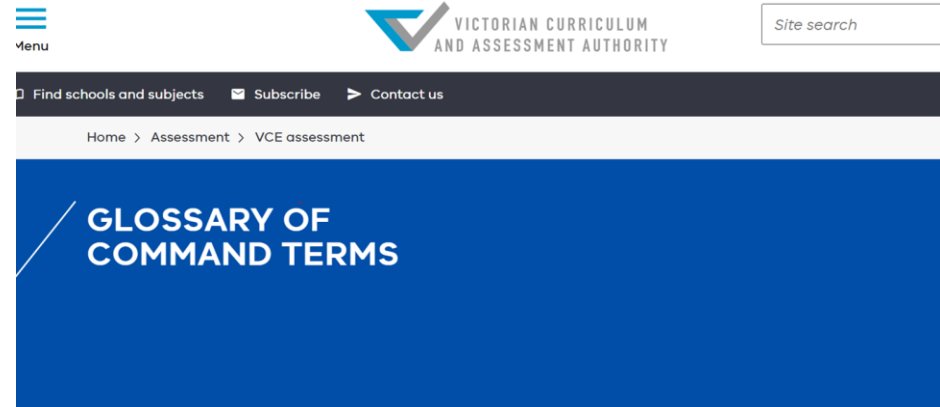
Area of Study 1

Outcome 1

Key skills

- **analyse** the impact of one example of historical suppression on Australian Indigenous cultures

- **analyse** the process of reconciliation

- **evaluate** how the issue supports and/or limits the public awareness and views of Australian Indigenous cultures.

VCAA Glossary of command terms

[VCAA Glossary of Command Terms](#)

Area of Study 2 Ethnicity

Area of Study 2

Students examine the sociological concepts of **race and ethnicity**

Students explore the ways that **cultural identity is formed** and experienced by Australian ethnic migrant groups, as shaped by various **material and non-material** aspects of culture such as **faith**, **tradition** and **customs**.

Area of Study 2
Ethnicity

Area of Study 2

Students investigate Australia's **ethnic diversity**

Students investigate the factors influencing members of ethnic groups and their sense of **belonging and inclusion** in multicultural Australia

Area of Study 2
Ethnicity

Area of Study 2

Students consider the **ethical implications** of conducting research on human subjects in the **context of research** into ethnic groups

Students' analyses of specific ethnic groups may be drawn from **secondary sources and/or from primary research** undertaken by the student.

- – informed by the ethical guidelines of the Australian Sociological Association refer to VCE Sociology Study Design 2024- 2028 page 7

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2

On completion of this unit the student should be **able to analyse experiences of ethnicity within Australian society.**

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2

Key knowledge

- the nature and meaning of the sociological concepts of **race** and **ethnicity**

- the process of **othering**

- the nature of the theory of **ethnic hybridity**, as informed by **Stuart Hall**, and its connection to experiences of ethnicity.

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2

Key knowledge

- Australia's current **ethnic diversity** compared with other countries
- the historical context and contemporary concept of **multiculturalism.**

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2

Key knowledge

- factors that may **prevent or enable a sense of belonging and inclusion** in Australia's multicultural society:

  - responses to cultural practices

  - media representations

  - political factors.

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2

Key knowledge

- the purpose of ethical methodology with reference to **voluntary participation, informed consent, privacy** and the **confidentiality of data.**

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2

Key knowledge

- the **experience** of a **specific ethnic group** in Australia's multicultural society:

    - how the ethnic group **identifies itself**
    - an **overview** of the **non-materia**l and **material culture distinctive** to the group
    - the **impact of practising certain customs and traditions**, **the media** and **political factors**, on the ethnic group's sense of **belonging and inclusion**
    - how an **ethical methodology** was or could be applied in the study of this ethnic group.

Area of Study 2

Key skills **common** throughout the VCE Sociology Study Design 2024- 2028 Units 1-4

- **explain** and **apply** sociological concepts

- **gather** and **use** a variety of relevant source materials to support **observation** and **analysis**

- **evaluate** sources and **critically reflect** on their own and others' approaches to understanding the social world

- **synthesise** evidence to **draw conclusions**

Area of Study 2

Outcome 2

Key Skills

- **explain** the theory of ethnic hybridity

- **outline** Australia's ethnic diversity through the use of a comparative perspectives methodology

- **analyse** factors that may prevent or enable a sense of belonging and inclusion in a multicultural Australian society.
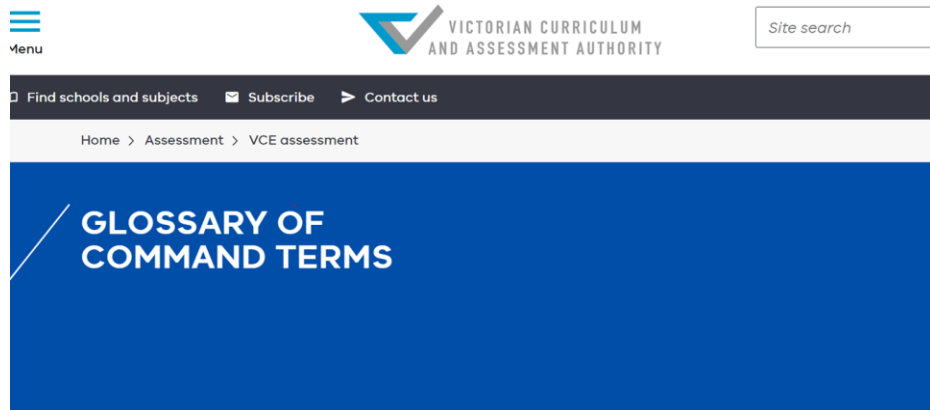
Area of Study 2

Outcome 2 Key Skills

- **analyse** the experience of a specific ethnic group with reference to relevant sociological concepts and theories

- **explain** the purpose of an ethical methodology

- **apply** an ethical methodology to source relevant evidence

VCAA Glossary of command terms

[VCAA Glossary of command terms](#)

This glossary of command terms provides a list of terms commonly used across the Victorian Curriculum F–10, VCE study designs and VCE examinations.

School-based assessment

Satisfactory completion

Satisfactory completion for a unit is based on whether the student has **demonstrated** the **set of outcomes** specified for the unit

Teachers should use a **variety** of learning activities and assessment tasks to provide a **range of opportunities** for students to demonstrate the key knowledge and key skills in the outcomes.

School-based assessment

Assessment of levels of achievement

School assessment Coursework

- The student's **level of achievement** in Units 3 will be determined by **School-assessed Coursework**

- The **types and range of forms** of School-assessed Coursework for the outcomes are **prescribed** within the study design

- Teachers will **provide** to the VCAA a **numerical score** representing an assessment of the student's level of achievement.

School-based assessment

Assessment of levels of achievement

Contribution to final assessment

School-assessed Coursework for **Unit 3** will contribute **25 per cent** to the study score

Assessment

Outcomes	Marks allocated
Outcome 1

Analyse the impacts of historical suppression and evaluate the increasing public awareness of Australian Indigenous cultures. | **50** |
| **Outcome 2**

Analyse experiences of ethnicity within Australian society. | **50** |
| **Total marks** | **100** |

Assessment tasks

The student's performance will be assessed using **two or more** of the following:

- a case study involving primary research
- an extended response
- a film analysis
- a media analysis
- a multimedia presentation
- a representation analysis
- a research report
- a selection of structured questions requiring short-answer responses.

External assessment

End-of-year examination

The level of achievement for Units 3 and 4 is also assessed by an end-of-year examination (see page 28), which will **contribute 50 per cent to the study score**.

The examination will be **set by a panel** appointed by the VCAA. **All the key knowledge and key skills** that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are **examinable**

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State
Government

External assessment

Conditions

The examination will be completed under the following conditions:

- Duration: 2 hours.
- Date: end-of-year, on a date to be published annually by the VCAA.
- VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook.
- The examination will be marked by assessors appointed by the VCAA.

Further advice

The VCAA publishes specifications for all VCE examinations on the VCAA website.

General Information

This presentation is one in a series of four On-demand videos –

- Unit 1   Youth and family
- Unit 2   Deviance and crime
- **Unit 3   Culture and ethnicity**
- Unit 4   Community, social movements and social change

    and one

Question and Answer Webinar covering Units 1-4 Sociology

Resources

For ideas on planning and developing teaching and learning activities and assessment please refer to the Support materials on [VCAA VCE Sociology Study](#) page

- Sample weekly planner

- Teaching and learning activities

- Advice on the design of assessment tasks and the assessment of student work for a level of achievement

- VCAA Performance Descriptors

- **Support materials**

  These support materials incorporate the previously known *Advice for teachers*.

  ○ **Assessment**

  ○ **Planning**

  ○ **Teaching and learning**

Contact

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