

VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies 2024-2028

Unit 2: Discovering 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 2
- Resources available (including the Study Design)

Cross-study specifications (p. 10–13)

The development of cross-study specifications provides consistency with other VCE study designs and are threaded through Unit 2.

1. Key concepts

2. Outdoor experiences

3. Key practical skills

- 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.
- Area of Study 3 contains a specific set of key skills that are to be developed through the selected outdoor environments

Outdoor Experiences- Unit 2

- A plan to achieve between 25 - 50 hours in Unit 2.
- Examples of types of outdoor environments and experiences (in support materials) and reference to the [Department of Education's Safety Guidelines](#)

Unit 2 Structure

Unit Titles	Area of Study titles
Unit 2: Discovering outdoor environments	Area of Study 1: Understanding outdoor environments Area of Study 2: Observing impacts on outdoor environments Area of Study 3: Independent participation in outdoor environments

Unit 2 Area of Study 1 specific changes

On completion of this unit the student should be able to describe a range of understandings of outdoor environments and the effect of natural changes with reference to specific outdoor experiences.

- Title - Understanding Outdoor Environments
- Reduction in Key Knowledge from five to three
- New Indigenous peoples key knowledge point
- New key knowledge point focused on vocational pathways

Cross-study specifications threaded as:

- Indigenous Australians' knowledge
- Outdoor environments (types, relationships, health)

Unit 2 Area of Study 2 specific changes

On completion of this unit the student should be able to evaluate the impacts of humans on outdoor environments and associated management strategies, with reference to specific outdoor experiences.

- Title - Observing Impacts on Outdoor Environments
- Increase in KK from four to five
- 'Commercial' impacts changed to 'Economic' impacts
- Removal of impact of changing
- Additional key knowledge point ecological communities, both

Cross-study specifications threaded as:

- Outdoor environments (relationships, environmental citizenship, health of outdoor environments)

Unit 2 Area of Study 3 specific changes

On completion of this unit the student should be able to participate in a range of outdoor experiences safely and sustainably in an independent manner.

- plan for and conduct peer-led outdoor activities
- introduction of weather key knowledge
- analyse how this environment is impacted upon by human user groups.
- ongoing logbook entries plus reference to outdoor practical experiences in logbooks will be used for assessment of practical skills

Cross-study specifications threaded as:

- Outdoor environments (relationships)
- Key practical skills

Logbooks (p 13)

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
- observation of key skills

New Study Design Support Materials

- Support materials will be supplied with
 - Updated resources for teaching Unit 2 Key Knowledge and Skills
 - Detailed examples
 - Example of a logbook

Sample Learning activities for Unit 2

Area of Study 1 - Examples of learning activities

- Using an outdoor environment you have visited create a [Miro](#) board identifying natural changes that occur in that environment; for example, the difference between seasons, day and night, high and low tide or because of climate change; describe how these changes affect that specific environment and how they impact on the way people use that environment
- Watch sections of ABC documentary series [Back to Nature](#) and use [Google Doc](#) take class notes on examples of indigenous land management practices overtime
- Use [Miro](#) platform as a class together to compile a description of the vocational perspectives featured in the key knowledge.
- Invite a vocation expert into the class or when on a practical experience discuss their background in this field of work

Sample Learning activities for Unit 2

Detailed Example

Vocational perspectives

Research task and presentation as a pre-recorded video / podcast

Students to select one vocation that is on interest to the student

Outline the following

- overview
- day to day examples of this vocation
- possible locations and environments undertaken in
- environmental impacts
- qualification required to enter this vocation and step by step guide to
- include images and of short videos of this vocation in action

Area of Study 3

During practical experiences students are expected to demonstrate the following skills and provide observations and analysis of relevant information in their logbooks.

Minimal impact strategies for groups	Self-assessment of knowledge	Notes (reference to logbook entries)	Teacher assessment S/N or NA
Pre			
During			
Post			

Contact

- **Chris Clark**
- Curriculum Manager – Health and Physical Education
- PH: 9059 5315
- Email Address: christopher.clark2@education.vic.gov.au

© Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) 2023. Some elements in this presentation may be owned by third parties. VCAA presentations may be reproduced in accordance with the [VCAA Copyright Policy](#), and as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968. VCE is a registered trademark of the VCAA.

Authorised and published by the
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

