Levels 9 and 10: Continuity and Change – Teacher Notes

Activity 1

1. What do you think continuity means?

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| Student answers will vary but a sample answer might be: ‘Not all things change over time; some things remain the same across long periods in time, sometimes lasting into the modern world. So, **continuity** refers to things that stay the same, relatively unchanged, over time.’ |

1. What do you think change means?

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| Student answers will vary but a sample answer might be: ‘Change refers to something that is obviously different from what occurred previously.’Explain to your students that one way to identify continuity and change is to examine two points in time to look for what has changed and what has stayed the same. |

1. Examine the following photographs carefully. Can you identify examples of continuity and change between the two photos?

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| Student answers will vary but should include the following:

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| **Continuities** | **Changes** |
| Comfortable chairs | The form of entertainment (the television) is more technologically sophisticated |
| A form of entertainment – the gramophone in 1907 and the television in 2020 | Air conditioning unit |
| Side tables with photographs and flowers in vases | Electronic personal devices – laptop and iPad |
| Framed pictures on the wall | No evidence of electricity in 1907 (the gramophone is wind up); the television and air conditioning need electricity to work. |

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Activity 2

To complete this activity, download the PDF document ‘4102 – Australian Social Trends’ from the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/DetailsPage/4102.02000?OpenDocument) website.

With a partner, examine the section called ‘20th Century: beginning and end: Population Characteristics’ on pages 6 to 10 and answer the following questions:

1. Identify three to five aspects of Australian society in 1900.

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| Your students’ answers will vary but could include the following:* most people lived in the country
* younger – 55% of population were under 25
* mainly Christian
* more likely to be renting a home
* male dominated – 52% were men.
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1. Evaluate each of these aspects by comparing them in 1900 and in 2000.

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| Your students’ answers will vary but could include the following:* more women able to vote – in 1900 only women in South Australia and Western Australia; by 2000, 50.7% of women able to vote
* more urbanised population – 53% live in cities
* less Christian – now only 78% as opposed to 98% in 1900
* more likely to own a home – 71% either own or are buying their homes
* more people working in service-based industries
* most Australians still lived on the southern and eastern coasts
* majority of people were still born in Australia, the United Kingdom or Ireland
* women over 65 were still unlikely to be in the labour force
* significant export income still derived from primary production industries.
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1. Create a table that outlines how these aspects of Australian society have stayed the same (continuity) and/or have changed.
2. What do you think were the causes of the changes?

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| Your students’ answers will vary but could include the following:* scientific and technological advances
* better health care
* increasing population
* changes to racist immigration policies
* changes to attitudes about gender differences.
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1. What do you think were the reasons that some things remained the same?

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| Your students’ answers will vary but could include the following:* Gender equality has still not been achieved.
* Multicultural immigration policies were introduced quite late in the 20th century.
* Geographically, Australia is rich in primary resources and fertile land.
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