

Geography and History

HSIE Department

Rationale: There is much interaction between individuals within our environment as we fulfil our roles in society. A study of subjects within the key learning area of Human Society and It's Environment should lead towards greater personal competence and more effective participation in these roles. It will make an important contribution to the total education of students as they, in the context of their social environment, move towards more perceptive understanding, mature judgement, and responsible self-direction.

Curriculum:

Geography: The aim of Geography is to stimulate students' *enjoyment and interest in the interaction of the physical and human environments*. Students achieve this as they *develop geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and values* and engage in the community as *active and informed citizens*.

7 – 10 **Topic areas** include Global and Australian Environments, Global change, Changing Australian Communities and Environments, and Australia's place in the world. Senior Topics include Biophysical Interactions, Global Challenges, Ecosystems at risk, Urban Places and People and Economic Activity.

History: The aim of History is to stimulate students' *interest in and enjoyment of exploring the past*, to develop a critical understanding of it and to enable them to participate as *active and informed citizens*.

7 – 10 Topics include Civilizations of the Past, Shaping the Modern World, Colonisation and its effects on Indigenous Peoples, and Australia's development from Federation until today. Senior Topics include Ancient Societies and Historical Periods in Ancient History, and Core Studies, National Studies and International Studies in Peace and Conflict in Modern History.

Practical / Theory Components: Students experience 'hands on' learning in both History and geography through practical activities such as Individual Research Projects where they undertake site studies and field work respectively, as part of their courses.

Use of technology:/ TEC program

This takes the form of students' use of computers for research and assignment work, internet research, utilization of CD Roms for data, and of multimedia presentations of assignment work including powerpoint presentations.

Students in the TEC classes use their personal laptops for accessing textbooks, word processing and document creation in class as well as for assessments. The HSIE Department is also developing the use of Geographic Information Systems using ABS/CMA data.

HSC and SC results

School Certificate results in History and Geography are commendable, with above state average results in both subjects at the 2006 external examinations. History had an average result of 65% of students achieving in the top 3 bands compared with the state average of 52%. Geography had an average of 82% of students in the top 3 bands, significantly above the state average of 66%. In addition there were 9 Band 6's in Geography and History. HSC results have shown some recent improvement with a school average 1.34% higher than the State Average of 74.66% in Ancient History. Additional there were Band 6's achieved in both Ancient History and History Extension (Band 4 in Extension is equivalent to a Band 6 in a 2 unit subject).

Special Needs / Gifted and talented / Extension:

Each subject taught has provision within its programs for students with special needs and special abilities. Special needs students receive additional assistance from the teacher's assistants, as well as modification of Assessments and program materials to suit their needs.

Extension work within all programs is designed to promote and advance the learning of Gifted and Talented students within all subject areas.

Extension History is taught in Years 11 and 12 for the HSC course. This subject is particularly suitable to students who have a particular interest in the Humanities area.

Excursions and other points of interest:

HSC has a well developed program of excursions in both History and Geography.

History Excursions include;

Yr 7 – Ancient Relics and Artefacts at the Nicholson Museum and Medieval Day at HCC

Yr 8 – Museum of Sydney and Botanic Gardens

Yr 9 – Cockatoo Island

Yr 10 – Viet Veteran's talk and display by War Historian

Yr 11 Modern – Virtual site study of Australian War Memorial Museum

Yr 11 Ancient – Study Day on History and Antiquity led by archaeologists.

Yr 12 Modern – Core - World War I Seminar Day

Yr 12 Modern – Option – 'Albert Speer' Lecture Day

Y2 12 Extension – Macquarie University Library Inquiry Research

Geography Excursions include;

Yr 7 – Blue Mountains - Ecosystem and Community

Yr 8 – Penrith Lakes / Warragamba Water Management

Yr 9 – Urban Community study – Pyrmont

Yr 10 – Community, Tourism and Coastal Uses in Manly

Yr 11 – Bicentennial Park Biosphere Studies

Y2 12 – Urban Studies in Inner Sydney