

History

Ancient History

The study of history is an inquiry into past experience that helps make the present more intelligible. A study of the past is invaluable, for to be unaware of history is to be ignorant of those forces that have shaped our social and physical worlds. Through the study of ancient history, students learn both about the interaction of societies and the impact of individuals and groups on ancient events and ways of life. Whilst studying Ancient History students will gain an understanding of the possibilities and limitations of comparing the past to the present as well as the present to the past by exposing them to a variety of perspectives on key events and issues. It also gives students opportunities to develop their own perspectives on the origins and influence of ideas, values and behaviours that are still relevant in the modern world.

Ancient History provides students with opportunities to satisfy their fascination and interest in the stories of the past and the mysteries of human behaviour. It allows them to develop and apply the research skills and methodologies of the historian and archaeologist. It equips students to question critically and interpret written and archaeological sources for the evidence they provide about the ancient world.

Ancient History contributes to students' education, introducing them to a wide range of religious beliefs and customs, ideologies and other cultures. This broad knowledge encourages them to develop an appreciation and understanding of different views and makes them aware of how these views contribute to individual and group actions.

The skills, knowledge and understanding that students acquire through studying Ancient History in Years 11 and 12 make it a good introduction to the world of work and informed citizenship. This is because the Ancient History course teaches a critical and intelligent reading of events and documents, as well as the effective and fluent communication of narrative, detail, ideas and judgements.

The Year 11 Preliminary Course

In Year 11 students examine the nature of Ancient History, including the impact of Archaeology and Science and how they are used together in uncovering an understanding of the past. Students complete an independent historical investigation as well as look at case studies such as the Trojan War, Persepolis, Early Human Remains and Roman society and slavery.

The Year 12 Higher School Certificate Course

The core topic for all NSW Ancient History students is the excavation of Pompeii and Herculaneum. They look at societies such as the Spartans, personalities such as Agrippina and historical periods such as the Julio-Claudian era in Rome.

See the NESA Ancient History syllabus on the website below for more information.

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/hsie/ancient-history-2017>