

Ancient History

The following contains a description of the course we offer to students at St Marys Senior High. It is intended as a guide to help you select your subjects and you should read it carefully.

Please note:

- The details given represent the way that the course is delivered at St Marys Senior High and may involve different choices from the way other schools might operate the same course.
- Classes can only be formed where sufficient students select the particular course. The fact that a course is listed here is not a commitment to run the course in a particular year.
- The arrangements for particular courses are subject to change for a variety of reasons.
- HSC students may elect to take extension courses which we offer in some course areas.

Ancient History - Course Details

Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

What will I be doing in this course?

Ancient History provides students with the opportunity to satisfy their fascination and interest in the stories of the past while helping them to better understand the present. Students will focus on developing an understanding of the importance of historical perspectives and historical causation. Students will focus on the analysis of historical sources, the interpretation of historical content and explaining and analysing key historical features and issues.

The **Preliminary course** consists of three main areas:

- A study of key issues that influence investigations of the past, such as conservation, changing technology, and the ways in which the past is represented in media, art, and written texts.
- Case studies which involve investigations into past societies, events, places, people and institutions. Students may study topics such as the Roman Games, Persepolis (Persian archaeology), the Siege of Masada, or Palmyra and the Silk Road.
- Studies of ancient societies, which examines how people lived in the past and how and why their lives changed. Possible topics of study include Greek Drama, Women in Greece, Rome or Egypt, Death and Burial in Egypt, or Weapons and Warfare in China.
- An historical investigation into an area of interest by either individual students or groups.

The **Higher School Certificate course** consists of four main areas:

- Through a core study on the *Cities of Vesuvius*, students investigate a range of written and archaeological sources to explore issues related to the destruction and reconstruction of the cities and ownership and custodianship of the past.
- Through a study of an *Ancient Personality*, students will gain an understanding of their own time. Personalities include Hatshepsut, Akhenaten, Alexander the Great, Xerxes, Agrippina the Younger, and Hannibal.
- Through investigating the written and archaeological evidence of an *Ancient Society*, students will learn about the key developments and forces that shaped that society. Societies for study include Old Kingdom Egypt, New Kingdom Egypt, Persian Society, Minoan Society, Spartan Society, and Athenian Society.
- By considering one *Historical Period*, students will learn about important political and military developments that shaped the ancient world. Topics include Egypt from Unification to the end of Dynasty VI, New Kingdom Egypt to the death of Thutmose IV, The Greek World from 500 to 440 BC, and Augustus and the Julio-Claudians.

An **extension course in History** with further areas of study is available as an additional one unit course for the HSC. Good research skills and an independent approach to learning are needed to successfully study this course.

What should I be able to do at the end of this course?

Students will be able to:

- Collect, analyse and organise information
- Communicate ideas and information clearly in written visual and oral forms
- Plan and organise an inquiry
- Work with others as part of a team
- Use appropriate information technologies
- Understand the influence of the ancient past on the present and the future
- Understand, value and respect different viewpoints, ways of living, beliefs and languages

How will this course help me in the future?

Skills developed in a study of Ancient History are useful in a range of courses studied in university and TAFE as well as in the workforce and everyday life. They are particularly applicable to law, teaching, medicine, travel and tourism, librarianship, communications, social work and journalism. A high level of achievement in Ancient History is a good indicator of success at tertiary level in a wide range of courses.