



Key information for the Society and Culture Stage 6 syllabus (2013)

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [Society and Culture Stage 6 syllabus \(2013\)](#) requires students to study 7 topics over 240 hours of course time.
- In addition to the core topics and depth study options, students will be required to complete a Personal Interest Project (PIP) worth 40% of the HSC course. The Society and Culture specific course requirements are outlined at [Assessment and reporting in Society and Culture Stage 6](#).
- Schools are required to develop an assessment program for each Year 11 and Year 12 course. School-based assessment requirements are outlined at [Assessment and reporting in Society and Culture Stage 6](#).
- The subject specific terms in a glossary that are important to know can be found within the [Society and Culture Stage 6 Syllabus \(2013\)](#) on page 51.

HSC examinations

- The HSC society and culture examination consists of written and practical components. The written examination consists of a 2-hour examination consisting of two sections worth 60 marks.
- Past HSC papers by NESA, are a useful resource to help students to become familiar with the examination format and structure. Past papers for Society and Culture can be found at [HSC exam papers](#).
- HSC standards materials by NESA, provide a collection of resources of sample responses typical of work at the boundaries between HSC bands. The [Society and Culture Stage 6 HSC standards materials](#) can be found on the NESA webpages.

Support materials

The HSIE curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Society and Culture syllabus. Teachers can find support by:

- visiting and bookmarking the [HSIE webpage](#)
- engaging with the HSIE statewide staffroom ([HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#))
- visiting the [HSIE SharePoint page](#).

NESA also has a range of support materials on the [Society and Culture Stage 6 Syllabus](#) webpage.

Professional learning

There are a range of 'on demand' professional learning resources to support the implementation of the Society and Culture syllabus including:

- [Stage 6 society and culture teacher guide](#) (DOCX, 20 pages, 166KB)
- Recorded sessions for PIP support, facilitating the PIP and topic ideation available through the [Statewide Staffroom professional learning channel](#)
- [Facilitating the PIP resource links document](#)
- [Stage 6 PIP checklist](#)

The HSIE curriculum team also offers a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. Upcoming events are posted in the [professional learning channel of the HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#).

General HSC information

- The [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) oversees the Higher School Certificate (HSC), offering resources for students on exam preparation, course selection, and academic integrity.
- The [NESA HSC glossary](#) provides teachers with guidance on how to use key terms consistently, ensuring students understand their meanings and apply them appropriately across various subjects for effective exam preparation.
- The NESA [HSC assessment moderation](#) process ensures fairness by adjusting school assessment marks based on exam results, making them comparable across schools.
- The [ACE rules](#) outline HSC school-based assessment integrity, task development, marking, appeals, and record-keeping. They cover malpractice policies, illness/misadventure procedures, task notifications, ranking, and restrictions on reporting final marks, ensuring compliance with NESA's assessment standards.
- HSC monitoring advice, Section 1.6 outlines HSC record-keeping requirements, including teaching programs, assessment documentation, interventions and work samples. Visit [Stage 6 – monitoring implementation and support](#) for more information.
- School-based assessment for the HSC contributes to a student's final mark and is designed to evaluate students' understanding and skills based on syllabus outcomes.

Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email hsie@det.nsw.edu.au or reach out to our team via the [HSIE Statewide Staffroom](#). Join the HSIE statewide staffroom if you are not already a member. You can also subscribe to our [HSIE Newsletter](#).

