



H.S.I.E



HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)

A large number of individual subjects make up the key learning area of HSIE. Across Stage 4 and Stage 5, this includes Geography, History, Mysteries and Disasters, Commerce and Japanese. Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), is the study of how humans interact with the world, how society operates and how it is changing. HSIE subjects aim to prepare students to actively and responsibly participate as informed citizens in the contemporary world by developing their application of the core transferable skills of 21st Century education. They will evidence competency in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, creativity, citizenship and character. As such, learning and assessment activities focus on developing students' abilities to:

- research, gather and analyse information;
- question and make judgements; and,
- write for a variety of purposes.

Formative assessment tasks will be used to assess and monitor students' progress through the delivery of predominantly school-based learning activities and tasks. They will be scaffolded and supported by their teachers to achieve skills against an A-E standard. This standard has been carefully developed to ensure students are consistently assessed against a set level of achievement and so that students can clearly understand what they need to do to achieve each grade.

Students will receive an assessment notification at the commencement of each semester, outlining the range of formative assessment activities for each subject. Teachers will discuss the knowledge, skills and values that students will be required to demonstrate across each learning activity. As students progress throughout each assessment activity, teachers will explicitly discuss marking criteria, learning scaffolds and the requirements of each task. This will support students to achieve to the best of their ability.

Teacher feedback will also be a main focus of learning and assessment across HSIE subjects. Both written and verbal feedback will be provided by HSIE teachers to their classes. This feedback will be used to inform students of how they are performing, identify skills they have evidenced, describe areas of improvement and provide guidance on how they can progress to the next level of achievement, effectively moving students towards higher grades and the mastery of core skills.

The evidence captured across assessment activities will be reflected in student reports, with HSIE teachers communicating what students have achieved, what they need to improve, as well as strategies they can use to improve and progress to the next standard of achievement. In applying this approach to assessment in HSIE, formative tasks and activities will focus on students' ability to:

- undertake inquiry and research activities to develop critical-thinking skills;
- understand the relationship between cause and effect;
- develop verbal and written communication skills through collaborative and independent learning activities;
- explore different perspectives and interpretations of the past and present;
- make judgements and assessments of a variety of primary and secondary sources; and,
- establish real-world connections to both historical and contemporary issue.