

## MODERN HISTORY (HSM315117)

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external assessments. The primary audience for this document is the course Setting Examiner and Exam Critics. It may also be of use to teachers and students.

These specifications must be read in conjunction with the Course Document on the TASC website.

The external assessment for this course consists of a written exam.

## WRITTEN EXAM STRUCTURE

The written exam is THREE hours.

Students will have an additional 15-minute preparation time during which students can take notes on the note paper provided and highlight any key words in the exam booklet during the allocated time. Students will not be permitted to start their exam until advised by the Exam Supervisor.

The written exam includes THREE sections.

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

Criterion 3: communicate historical ideas and information

Criterion 4: use evidence to support historical interpretations and arguments

Criterion 5: assess drivers of social, economic and political change and nature and impact of changes in modern history

Criterion 6: describe and assess internal and external threats on the history of modern nations

Criterion 7: describe and assess key concepts of differing historical interpretations on issues affecting the modern world

## SPECIFIC MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT APPROVED FOR USE BY STUDENTS

There is no external Information Sheet for this course.

## ASSESSMENT

All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, t+, t, t- or z. Note that a C- is a low C, in that it just meets the standards for a C but is not a t.

A marking tool which clarifies – but does not change – the standards in the Course Document (Standards/Glossary) will be provided for this exam and will be published on the TASC website prior to the commencement of external marking for that year. The marking tools will however include definitions of all ratings A, B, C, and t.

Only the authorised marking tool issued by TASC through their website is to be used in the final external assessment marking. If there is no marking tool available (i.e., the subject requires a set of solutions) this will be provided to markers at the marking meeting and made publicly available and published with the assessment report early in the following year.

The external assessment must include questions that, separately or together, give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A.

Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document. The algorithm to achieve final ratings for Sections A – C will take account of the fact that each section carries equal weight.

## SECTION A: MODERN WESTERN NATIONS IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

### Structure

- This section will take students approximately 60 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE of FOUR questions.
- This section will address course content from the list given in Section A of the course document – Modern Western Nations in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 3 communicate historical ideas and information (Elements 1, 2, 3, and 5).
- Criterion 4 use evidence to support historical interpretations and arguments (Elements 1, 2 and 5).
- Criterion 5 assess drivers of social, economic and political change and nature and impact of changes in modern history (Elements 3, 4 and 5).

### Nature of Questions

- Each of the FOUR question options will refer to TWO separate time periods: an early and a later time period in the history of the modern nation.
- There will be ONE question on each country.
- Each question will provide students with the option of responding with respect to either an earlier or later period specific to the chosen country. For example, USA: the earlier period will relate to 1917 – 1932; the later period will relate to 1933 – 1945.

## Nature of Response

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Students will select one question to respond to, EITHER the earlier period of time OR the later period of time. NOT BOTH.
- Extended essay response.
- Students will respond to a given question/topic (which may include a stimulus) on one or more of the following: drivers of social, economic and political change, political systems and ideologies and/or the nature and impact of change on modern history, with reference to one country from the list given in Section A of the course document – Modern Western Nations in the 20th Century.
- The countries and chronological eras available to be covered by students in this section will be printed on the exam paper.

## SECTION B: MODERN ASIAN NATIONS IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

### Structure

- This section will take students approximately 60 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE of FOUR questions.
- This section will address course content from Section B of the course document – Modern Asian Nations in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 3 communicate historical ideas and information (Elements 1, 2, 3, and 5).
- Criterion 4 use evidence to support historical interpretations and arguments (Elements 1, 2 and 5).
- Criterion 6 describe and assess internal and external threats on the history of modern nations (Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4).

### Nature of Questions

- Each of the FOUR question options will refer to TWO separate time periods: an early and a later time period in the history of the modern nation.
- There will be ONE question on each country.
- Each question will provide students with the option of responding with respect to either an earlier or later period specific to the chosen country. For example, Japan: the earlier period will relate to 1931 – 1941; the later period will relate to 1941 – 1952.

### Nature of Response

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Students will select ONE question to respond to, EITHER the earlier period of time OR the later period of time. NOT BOTH.
- Extended essay response.

- Students will respond to a given question/topic (which may include a stimulus) on one or more of the following:
  - national responses to internal tensions/issues
  - external threats/issues
  - how political systems and ideologies shaped responses to external threats/issues**and/or**
  - the nature and impact of change on modern history with reference to one country from Section B of the course document – Modern Asian Nations in the 20th Century.
- The countries and chronological eras available to be covered by students in this section will be printed on the exam paper.

## SECTION C: THE CHANGING WORLD ORDER 1945 – 2010

### Structure

- This section will take students approximately 60 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE of FOUR questions.
- This section will address course content from Section C of the course document– The Changing World Order 1945 – 2010.

### Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 3 communicate historical ideas and information (Elements 1, 2, 3, and 5).
- Criterion 4 use evidence to support historical interpretations and arguments (Elements 1, 2 and 5).
- Criterion 7 describe and assess key concepts of differing historical interpretations on issues affecting the modern world (Elements 1, 2, 6 and 7).

### Nature of Questions

- There will be FOUR question options, ONE on each topic in Section C:
  - The Cold War
  - Australia's Engagement with Asia
  - Patterns of Migration
  - Peace, Conflict and the Nature of Terrorism
- Each question **may** use a brief 'statement' as a stimulus.

### Nature of Response

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Students will select ONE question to respond to.
- Extended essay response.