

The draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum (page 1 of 2)

What does the draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum look like?

ACARA has developed draft senior secondary curriculum in the four subjects of English, mathematics, history and science. Specific curriculum content has been developed for 14 courses as per the table below:

	Course
English	Essential English English as an Additional Language English Literature
Mathematics	Essential Mathematics General Mathematics Mathematical Methods Specialist Mathematics
Science	Physics Chemistry Biology Earth Environmental Science
History	Ancient History Modern History

Each course contains units of nominally 50-60 hours duration with four units studied over a two-year period. Units 1 and 2 are designed to follow on from learning in Year 10. Units 3 and 4 are designed to be developmentally more challenging and assume prior knowledge of learning contained in Units 1 and 2.

For each of these 14 courses ACARA will develop senior secondary Australian Curriculum content and achievement standards only. Content will be described for each unit, with achievement standards described for each year of schooling (that is, per pair of units). No content elaborations will be developed for the senior secondary

Australian Curriculum courses. The cross-curriculum dimensions and general capabilities will be embedded across the senior secondary Australian Curriculum as appropriate to each course, as for K-10.

While there will be a variety of learning pathways before Year 11, some assumptions about prior learning are necessary. For example, it is assumed that students who choose to undertake a senior secondary course have the prior knowledge and skills developed up to Year 10. Each course in the senior secondary Australian Curriculum will indicate the assumptions about prior learning of students who may wish to undertake study of the course. The decision on whether a student should enrol in a course in the senior years, taking into account assumptions about prior learning, is a matter between students and their schools.

Only the draft content for the senior secondary Australian Curriculum is available for consultation between 14 May and 30 July. Given the different purposes and uses of current achievement standards in states and territories it will take longer to develop the Australian Curriculum senior secondary achievement standards. Development will occur through 2010 and consultation on draft achievement standards will be undertaken in early 2011. Following this, draft achievement standards will be available to accompany curriculum content for implementation.

State and territory curriculum and certification authorities will provide any other elements that complete the course packages in accordance with local, state or territory requirements.

The current suite of 14 senior secondary Australian Curriculum courses being developed have been selected to reflect the commonality in approach that currently exists across states and territories. The writers of the Australian Curriculum have also examined state/territory and overseas curriculum documents. As a result there are many elements

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of the specific draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum courses that will also be familiar to teachers.

The full extent of the differences between the draft Australian Curriculum and each state and territory curriculum will be mapped by ACARA to assist states and territories through the implementation process.

The extent of the senior secondary Australian Curriculum (that is, the number of national courses available) in the first four subjects, and in other subjects, may grow over time. Additional senior secondary courses are currently planned for geography, languages and the Arts, with further senior secondary course development pending decisions by the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA).

What is the consultation process for the draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum?

The draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum content will be available for consultation between 14 May and 30 July 2010. The draft achievement standards for each of the senior secondary courses will be available for consultation and trialling in early 2011.

Between 14 May and 30 July 2010, feedback can be provided on the draft curriculum content for each senior secondary course.

The draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum will be published online at the Australian Curriculum consultation portal at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au. ACARA's consultation processes on the draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum content will be conducted in partnership with state and territory curriculum and school authorities.

ACARA welcomes and encourages the involvement of all stakeholders in the consultation

process. Whether you are a teacher, parent or student, there are opportunities to provide feedback on the draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum. You can rate and comment on each draft course online, complete an online survey for each course and provide more detailed written feedback via email.

During late May and early June, ACARA will invite experts to participate in national consultation forums for each course. Some states and territories may also conduct their own consultation sessions. Participation in the state and territory consultation forums for the draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum will be coordinated by the relevant authorities.

During the entire consultation period for the draft senior secondary curriculum, the K-10 draft curriculum will be available to be viewed online along with the draft senior secondary curriculum. However, the capacity to provide feedback on the K-10 draft curriculum ends on 30 May. (This arrangement allows for a short period of overlap between consultation on the draft K-10 curriculum and draft senior secondary curriculum.)

ACARA will work with an independent research company to collect and analyse the senior secondary curriculum consultation data. ACARA will refine the draft curriculum in response to all the feedback from national consultation, and will publish a final version of the senior secondary Australian Curriculum content in English, mathematics, science and history in late 2010. Consultation reports will outline the methodology used to collect and analyse consultation data, the quantitative and qualitative data itself and conclusions.