

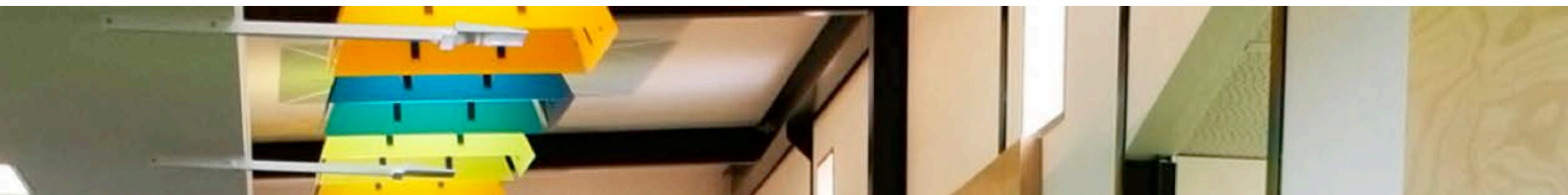
VCASS

YEAR 10
ACADEMIC CURRICULUM HANDBOOK



Victoria's Premier School for the Training and Education of Talented
Young Dancers, Musicians, Theatre and Visual Artists

2020



CONTENT

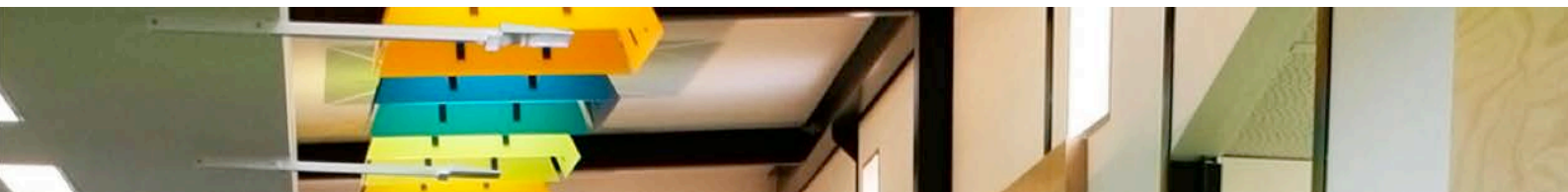
Year 10 Academic Curriculum

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VCASS

YEAR 10 CURRICULUM



YEAR 10 ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

The Academic Program puts into practice processes that significantly raise the standards and learning outcomes of students. The curriculum is structured by the Victorian Curriculum and the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE).

In Year 10, students have access to a range of studies within the VCE, thus providing them with as broad a range of tertiary course options as possible. VCE results in the academic areas are remarkable and show that VCASS students are consistently able to achieve outstanding results.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

At VCASS we adopt a 'community of learners' model or framework. A 'community of learners' is where every member of the community feels involved in the school, either as a place to learn or a place for enrichment. This extends within the internal structure of the academic curriculum, where common visions, values and objectives are shared. These work collaboratively to enhance the teaching strategies and assessment. Each learning community is comprised of individuals with diverse expertise and knowledge. Within each community, students and teachers work in teams that facilitate exploration of ideas and questioning of beliefs and practices.

ABS & GYMNASTICS VICTORIA

The partnership between The Australian Ballet School (ABS), Gymnastics Victoria and VCASS allows students to commence a full time training program whilst maintaining a broad-based comprehensive academic education. At VCASS, students in ABS and Gymnastics Victoria enrol in the mainstream VCASS Academic Program that complements and supports the intensive specialist training.



VCASS

YEAR 10 CURRICULUM



BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) PROGRAM

The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School believes that to Bring Your Own Computer (BYOD) is an appropriate way for students of Year 10 to use technology at school in a world where a personal device can effectively meet a number of educational needs and can be self-managed. BYOD devices can be, but are not limited to a laptop or notebook, netbook or iPad. These devices are placed on the school Wi-Fi network at the discretion of the Principal. Conditions of use are identical to those in place for school owned devices. The student and their parent/guardian must sign an Acceptable Use Agreement (BYOD) upon enrolment.

ABS ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The partnership between The Australian Ballet School ABS and VCASS allows students to commence the full time ABS vocational training program whilst maintaining a broad-based, comprehensive academic education. At VCASS, students from ABS Levels 4 to 7 enrol in an academic program that complements and supports the intensive specialist ballet training.

ABS Level 5

YEAR 10 & VCE ACADEMIC STUDIES

In Level 5 students study for the **ABS Certificate III in Dance**. This is an accredited qualification that includes dance training and academic studies including allied subjects such as Music, Performance Psychology, Nutrition and Cultural Studies. Students in Level 5 are enrolled at VCASS in Year 10, 11 or 12. The academic year is dependent on the student's age and previous study. Students choose their course of study from the curriculum offerings outlined in the VCASS Year 10 Academic and VCE Academic programs.

CURRICULUM FOCUS

The Year 10 curriculum sets out to enable students to try new areas of study before Year 11 & 12, specialize in areas of interests and follow up on career/educational pathway opportunities. It is the foundation year for the VCE years.

APPROACH

The curriculum at Year 10 adopts an integrated approach where one or more learning domains are combined and addressed through unit topics and themes. The program is centered on semester units that allow students the opportunity to personalize their academic studies as well as support their intended pathways. The approach taken enables students to select from an extensive range of semester units based on the Victorian Curriculum. Year 10 students also have the opportunity to accelerate their studies and access a diverse range of VCE Units.

This ensures that students are stretched to learn.

The curriculum ensures:

- All students undertake core units in each semester that cover the Victorian Curriculum standards in English and Mathematics
- All students undertake core semester units that cover the Victorian Curriculum standards in Humanities and Science
- Students complete additional elective units that provide the foundation for VCE studies in The Arts and Languages
- Students have the opportunity to study VCE units at Year 10

In all Year 10 academic semester units, students complete assessment tasks. All assessment tasks are linked to achievement standards. The standards are set at a challenging level. Grades for the assessment tasks are based on the level of performance for each learning outcome covered in class. The assessment tasks will be presented in a variety of formats, to indicate how well students have demonstrated a learning outcome, and will include provision for authentication of student work and will take into account the overall curriculum workload. This ensures that students are stretched to learn. Each standard describes what students are expected to know and be able to do at that level, and how well they should know and be able to do it. Standards in the English, Humanities, Mathematics and Science domains are aligned to agreed national and state benchmarks.

VCE

At VCASS many students opt to commence their VCE studies in Year 10. The VCE provides a pathway to further study at University and TAFE. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is responsible for the curriculum, assessment and reporting of the VCE. Study designs for each subject are published by the VCAA and consist of four semester units. The study designs specify the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Tasks for each unit. A Learning Outcome is what the student must know or be able to do by the time the unit of work has been completed. Each Learning Outcome is carefully designed to encapsulate the important knowledge, skills and values integral to the study. Satisfactory completion of each VCE study is based on a student's ability to demonstrate successful completion of all Learning Outcomes specified for each study. The grade awarded is based on the Assessment Tasks, which is a combination of School Assessed Coursework (SACs)/School Assessed Tasks (SATs) and Examinations.



COURSE SELECTION

In Year 10 students will have to make some decisions about what subjects they want to study. It's important to carefully think about these choices, as future pathways may be affected if students do not select units at Year 10 which will prepare them for studies in Years 11 and 12. In order to assist students to select a Year 10 Course that will best prepare them for VCE, individual course selection interviews will take place in Term 3. The standard full time academic load for Year 10 students is 20 periods per week. Over the entire year, students will need to complete eight semester units.

ENGLISH & MATHEMATICS

To maintain breadth of pathways, all Year 10 students study core units from the English and Mathematics learning areas.

For English, students are required to undertake:-

- 10 ENGLISH - Semester 1
- 10 ENGLISH - Semester 2

For Mathematics, students are required to undertake-

- 10 MATHEMATICS CORE - Semester 1
- 10 MATHEMATICS PRE-GENERAL Semester 2

OR

- 10 MATHEMATICS PRE-METHODS Semester 2.

HUMANITIES & SCIENCE

To ensure a well-balanced program, all Year 10 students study core units from the Humanities and Science learning areas.

For Humanities, students are required to undertake ONE from 10 HISTORY, 10 ECONOMICS or 10 GEOGRAPHY in either Semester 1 or Semester 2.

For Science, students are required to undertake ONE from 10 BIOLOGY or 10 PHYSICS or 10 CHEMISTRY in either Semester 1 or Semester 2.

THE ARTS AND LANGUAGES

Students may select further discipline-based elective units from The Arts and Language learning areas. Elective units provide the foundation for further study and opportunity to explore areas of interest.



VCE UNITS

To provide further opportunities to extend studies in areas of interest, students have the option of completing some academic VCE units in the Academic Program while in Year 10. Students who complete a VCE Unit 1 & 2 study at Year 10 are then able to complete a VCE Unit 3 & 4 study in Year 11. The process effectively gives the student an extra subject at the end of Year 12. Before course approval is granted, suitability for acceleration will be discussed at Subject Selection interviews and, if necessary, with the relevant Head of Program (Specialism).

Year 10 students wishing to apply to study a VCE subject must demonstrate that they-:

- Have achieved good academic results at Year 9 in all Semester One subjects
- Are well organized and motivated to succeed
- Display strength and interest in the proposed study

While it is recommended that students undertake a VCE Unit 1 & 2 sequence in the same study, it is possible for students to undertake alternative studies for each semester.



UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

For VCE Unit descriptions, please refer to the VCE Curriculum Handbook

THE ARTS

10 VISUAL ART

In Year 10 Art students develop an expansive understanding of the history and development of various art making practices including animation and collaborative practices. Students explore key art making approaches including Surrealism and the use of found objects as they develop a series of artworks including an animated film. They have an opportunity to practice making a storyboard from which to develop their ideas by drawing on the work of other artists and responding to feedback from peers and their teacher. Students will visit galleries and museums to find inspiration and to support the work they undertake in class. Students refine their knowledge of the stages of art making to prepare them for further study in Units 1 and 2 Studio Arts.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Visual Diary
Finished Artworks
Research Assignment
Examination

10 DRAMA

Drama in Year 10 challenges students who are genuinely interested in acting to develop the skills and processes involved in the creation of character for performance. Students will explore playmaking and building technique by devising an adaptation from a literary text and from Shakespeare's works for ensemble and solo performances. In the first term of this unit students will be encouraged to explore techniques that will enable them to learn how to research, plan, prepare, improvise, role play and create characters and dramatic situations that will deepen their understanding of a well-known literary text and the process of devising and scripting an adaptation from that text. In the final term of this unit students will be encouraged to explore techniques that will enable them to learn how to research, plan, prepare, improvise, role play and create characters and dramatic situations that will deepen their understanding of Shakespeare's plays and the process of devising and scripting an adaptation. Through drama activities and workshop exercises students will explore how expressive skills such as movement, gesture and voice can be manipulated to create believable stage personalities. Dramatic elements such as focus, tension and timing will be introduced and explored. Class sessions will typically focus on improvisation, devised and scripted performance situations as well as specific character building exercises. At the end of this unit, students will present solo performances in class sessions.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Workshop & Class Activities & Ensemble Performance Work
Written Analysis & Evaluation Performance
Examination of a devised monologue performance



10 MEDIA

Film and television are integral parts of our culture. From the simplest children's television program to the depth and spectacle of great cinema and the growing range of digital media, much of our culture is defined and reflected in moving images displayed on screens. We enjoy and are influenced by these cultural products every day, so it is useful to understand them. In Media, students study the production techniques that filmmakers use to make us care about imaginary characters, rejoice at imaginary successes and feel terror at imaginary dangers. Students learn about how the movement and positioning of the camera, along with sound, lighting and other techniques, are used to manipulate the feelings of viewers. Media is both theoretical and practical: students study films and produce their own short films. It is a useful preparation for VCE Media and will help students to analyse the films they study in VCE English.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Film analysis on two genres of film
Short narrative film, documentary or mock trailer
Examination assessing both theoretical and practical skills

ENGLISH

10 ENGLISH: SEMESTER 1

Students will be involved in reading, viewing, listening, writing, creating, comparing, researching, and problem solving, reflecting and talking about a range of text types. Students will study Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and explore the art of persuasive language by examining Media Texts and Media Issues.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

A Midsummer Night's Dream Workbook & Analytical Essay
A Midsummer Night's Dream Oral
Examination: Persuasive Language Analysis

10 ENGLISH: SEMESTER 2

In second semester, students begin building on the skills and knowledge that are fundamental to success in VCE English and Literature. Students explore the issue of Civil Rights through the lens of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, and the film text *Jasper Jones*. Students also read *Tales of the Unexpected*, a collection of short stories by Roald Dahl before writing a creative narrative of their own. This course has been designed with the VCE in mind; students can expect to cultivate skills that will be beneficial in Years 11 and 12 English and Literature.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Reading and Creating Texts: *Tales of the Unexpected* by Roald Dahl
Examination - Reading and Comparing Texts: *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Jasper Jones*



HUMANITIES

10 ECONOMICS

In this unit students investigate how to obtain the tools and knowledge useful for financial literacy and success in adult life. Topics include the nature of the modern Australian and world economy; rights and responsibilities for employers and employees; business management skills and readiness for work. Students develop an understanding of how the Australian economy is managed, particularly within the international economic context. Students analyse how policies and programs advanced by governments and other institutions affect them and their fellow citizens. Students examine the role of exchange, trade and globalization in influencing Australia's standard of living. Students develop an understanding of enterprise attributes and skills and describe the impact of innovation and enterprise on the economy and society.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Analytical Exercise
Examination

10 GEOGRAPHY

In this unit, students investigate how human activities interact with major natural systems. Students study issues that affect Australia, its neighbours' and other countries around the globe, such as sustainability, urban development, population growth, global warming, climate change, land degradation, desertification, pollution and natural disasters, depending on students' own interests and concerns. Students develop skills to evaluate contributing factors and management strategies, while building knowledge of ways of collecting and collating data.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Research Report
Examination

10 HISTORY

In this unit, students develop historical knowledge, understanding and skills to help make informed decisions as an adult in the 21st century. The overall scope of the unit will cover world history from an Australian perspective from the end of World War I in 1918 to today. Particular attention will be paid to the topics of World War II and Indigenous Rights and Freedoms. Students consider how different events and points of view have impacted on individuals and groups in the past and how we can learn from the past to improve our lives now and in the future.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Commentary Essay
Examination



LANGUAGES

10 FRENCH

This unit is intended for those students wishing to pursue their French studies to VCE level. Students engage with a variety of written and spoken texts, ranging from poetry, songs, films, interviews, websites, stories, plays and articles. Students will explore and engage in activities associated with their own world and personal identity, including friendships and relationships, daily activities, film, television and pastimes. Grammar will include consolidation of past tenses, an introduction to the Future tense, the use of personal pronouns, relative pronouns, adverbs and negative expressions. Students will also undertake a film study.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Grammar & Writing Test
Speaking Test
Reading & Listening Comprehension
Examination

MATHEMATICS

10 MATHEMATICS: CORE

Core Mathematics a compulsory core unit for all Year 10 students in Semester One and is aimed at preparing students by providing a broad background from which to progress on to VCE Mathematics and/or develop skills in order to keep future career options open. The unit aims to give students the skills to be confident, creative users and communicators of Numeracy, able to investigate, represent and interpret situations both at school and in their lives outside of school. A sound knowledge of Mathematics is the cornerstone for decision-making and an essential requirement for many careers.

Students develop their knowledge and skills in:-

- Basic Algebra
- Linear and Quadratic Equations
- Trigonometry

The unit has a strong emphasis on problem solving and using technology such as calculators and computers. Learning activities will require students to work on set skill practice tasks and complete short problem solving tests.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Skill Practice Tasks (Worksheets, Exercises, & Homework)
Topic Tests
Assignment
Examination



10 MATHEMATICS: PRE-METHODS

This Semester Two unit provides a solid basis for further studies in VCE Mathematics and is our recommended course for progressing on to Mathematical Methods Units 1 & 2 in Year 11.

This unit provides students with the foundation work in algebraic mathematics including:-

- advanced expanding and factorizing
- quadratic graphs and trigonometry

The unit has a strong emphasis on problem solving, skill development and using technology such as calculators and computers. Learning activities will require students to work on set skill practice tasks, present short reports on project topics, and complete short problem solving tests.

The prerequisite for this unit is B+ average in Core Mathematics.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Skill Practice Tasks (Worksheets, Exercises, & Homework)

Topic Tests

Examination

10 MATHEMATICS: PRE-GENERAL

This Semester Two unit is a good introduction to the modules studied in General and Further Mathematics at VCE and is our recommended unit for these subjects. The course emphasizes applying mathematical analyses to practical situations, with a focus on interpreting mathematical results in/within real-world contexts. The course covers financial arithmetic, univariate and bivariate data and statistics, linear graphs and sequences.

There is no prerequisite for this subject.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Skill Practice Tasks (Worksheets, Exercises, & Homework)

Topic Tests

Examination



SCIENCE

10 BIOLOGY

DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the hereditary material in humans and all other organisms. It contains the genetic instructions used in the development and functioning of all living organisms and some viruses. In this unit you will discover what DNA is, the scientists behind its discovery, and why it is important. We will explore the role of DNA in protein synthesis and discover how forensic scientists identify criminals through forensic DNA collection. This will lead to a wider exploration of forensic techniques. We will also explore technological advances in DNA manipulation such as PCR (polymerase chain reaction) and restriction enzymes (biological scissors), both of which are used in forensics and recombinant DNA technologies. Genes are lengths of DNA that control our characteristics. You will explore how these characteristics are inherited in humans and other organisms and explore different types of inheritance patterns: dominant-recessive, incomplete dominance and co-dominance. There will be a focus on the inheritance of blood types. We will also discover how changes to DNA have led to the evolution of humans over time. The Theory of Natural selection will be discussed.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Chromosomal Abnormality Report
Genetic Disorder Assignment
Practical Reports
Mid Unit Test (Cells, DNA and Inheritance)
Examination

10 CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is an integral part of our everyday lives; a powerful subject and important discipline to understand the composition and processes of the material world, physical change and the environment. Chemistry enables us to explore the nature of chemicals and chemical processes. Students will learn about:-

- Atomic theory and its historical development
- The information revealed by the periodic table
- The importance of an atom's electronic configuration
- The bonds that form within metallic, covalent and ionic substances; how to write formulae based on joining ions; the sharing of electrons in covalent bonding
- Plastics and hydrocarbons
- Physical and chemical changes
- How to write and balance chemical equations
- Conservation of mass; reaction rates and the various types of chemical reactions that exist in nature, our lives and the laboratory

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Mid Unit Topic Test
Chemistry Assignment
Practical Reports
Examination



10 PHYSICS

Physics takes you on a journey from the beginning of time, and the creation of the universe, to life on the edge, and the creative universe in human performance. As both an art and a science, physics will empower and enable you to see things in entirely new ways. Physics will also prepare you for all of the VCE senior science subjects. It will look at the following:

- Forces and Newton's laws of motion along with Work and energy
- The motion of objects, using the laws of physics, enables us to understand the physics of moving objects, and analyse ordinary and extreme motion
- The universe contains features including galaxies, stars and solar systems, and the Big Bang theory can be used to explain the origin and evolution of the universe
Students will have the opportunity to use physics to do a creative research project of personal interest, related or unrelated to their other studies

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Motion Practical Investigations

The Universe Multimedia Presentation

Mid Unit Test

Examination



YEAR 10 STUDIES

Studies (Semester Units):		Periods per week	The Arts	English AC	Health & Physical Education	Humanities – Economics & Business	Humanities - Geography	Humanities – History	Languages	Mathematics	Science AC	Technologies	Critical & Creative Thinking	Ethical	Intercultural	Personal & Social
English	10 ENGLISH: SEMESTER 1	4	✓													
	10 ENGLISH SEMESTER 2	4	✓													
Mathematics	10 MATHEMATICS: CORE									✓						
	10 MATHEMATICS: PRE-METHODS	4								✓						
	10 MATHEMATICS: PRE-GENERAL	4								✓						
Arts	10 DRAMA	4											✓			
	10 ART	4	✓										✓			
	10 MEDIA	4	✓										✓	✓		
Humanities	10 GEOGRAPHY	4					✓									
	10 HISTORY.	4						✓								
	10 ECONOMICS	4				✓										
L'age	10 FRENCH:	4						✓							✓	
Science	10 BIOLOGY	4									✓					
	10 PHYSICS	4									✓					
	10 CHEMISTRY	4									✓					
VCASS DANCE PROGRAM			✓													
VCASS MUSIC PROGRAM			✓													



VCE STUDIES

VCE Studies	Periods per week	Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)				
		The Arts	Health & Physical Education	Humanities	Science	Technology
BIOLOGY Unit 1	4				✓	
CHEMISTRY Unit 1	4				✓	
DRAMA Unit 1	4	✓				
HEALTH & HD Unit 1	4		✓			
MEDIA Unit 1	4	✓				
PHYSICS UNIT 1	4				✓	
PSYCHOLOGY Unit 1	4				✓	
STUDIO ARTS Unit 1	4	✓				
BIOLOGY Unit 2	4				✓	
CHEMISTRY Unit 2	4				✓	
DRAMA Unit 2	4	✓				
HEALTH & HD Unit 2	4		✓			
MEDIA Unit 2	4	✓				
PHYSICS UNIT 2	4				✓	
PSYCHOLOGY Unit 2	4				✓	
STUDIO ARTS Unit 2	4	✓				

Please refer to the VCE Curriculum Handbook for more information about these VCE Units.



HOMEWORK

The ability to develop regular practice in specialist areas balanced with focused homework and home study is a valuable aspect of the learning process at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School. Music students are expected to undertake at least two hours of music performance study or practice each day. It is recognized that dance, gymnastic and tennis students have demands that ensure they are generally more tired and get home later than other students their age in other schools.

YEAR 10

- 90 minutes each week in each of English, Mathematics, Languages, Science and Classroom Music
- 90 minutes each fortnight in each other subject

Guidelines

- Homework is set by the teachers to reinforce, supplement and extend classroom teaching into the home environment
- Set homework should provide an opportunity for students to achieve goals, extend learning and develop self- discipline
- Where possible, homework should give students opportunities to develop as individuals by encouraging the use of their preferred leaning styles and varied methods of presentation
- Teachers should ensure that homework requirements are carefully planned and corrected as soon as possible. Students should be given training in the specific skills required to effectively complete homework
- Homework tasks should be set in such a way that students and parents recognize their relevance to work done in class, understand what is expected and can tell when the tasks are completed
- Homework for all students should develop from class work that has been very clearly and carefully explained
- Homework demands on time should be relatively predictable and evenly spaced.
- Homework requirements should allow time for social interaction with family and friends.
- Homework should encourage teachers, parents and students to establish links between school and home

