



Reflections on designing and implementing the Australian Curriculum Year 7 MLC

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The Australian Curriculum journey and development

- May 2009 The *Shape of the Australian Curriculum: History* guided the writing of the history curriculum K-12
- March 2010 Draft consultation version
- Change in curriculum writers
- December 2010 Final version 1:1 endorsed by states – March 2011 Final version 1:2
- End of 2011 – States to release further version but no significant changes anticipated
- End of 2011 – revised versions of senior curriculum to be released
- Hours – Victoria will not mandate; possible to teach History courses in a semester
- Assessment - consensus and AC direction not likely in the immediate future


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The Australian Curriculum final version - Y7 History

- Reduction of content – no school based Depth Study 4
- Key inquiry questions and overview statement for the year
- Content specified for overview
- Streamlined features for civilisations
- Ancient Australia included as part of the first depth study (Investigating the Ancient Past) and no longer an option for Asian depth study
- Minor changes to skills
- Achievement standard more detailed
- Useful to look at Y7 and 8 as a sequence, and Y9 and 10 as a sequence

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The Australian Curriculum at MLC

- 2008 and 2009 Heads of Department and others attend consultation sessions on AC
- 2010 Feedback to ACARA on draft curriculum – regional sessions and online; VCAA, HTAV etc
- AC group convened – Director of Learning and Curriculum; Heads of English, Maths, Science and Humanities; meetings each month
- UbD adopted as framework for curriculum mapping across the College with common [template](#) for use by subjects teams
- Online resource base ([wiki](#)) and in-house PD sessions on UbD with Y7 and 9 focused on the AC
- College PD sessions and Department meeting sessions allocated to AC and UbD
- History – [set](#) of common key questions and [understandings](#) developed Y7-12
- Draft combined current and AC Y7 History [units](#) in UbD format

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2011 and beyond

2011

- UbD framework merged with Atlas online curriculum documentation system across College
- Time allocation for Y7 and 9 AC team leaders
- Y7 and 9 AC development via UbD for 2012 with some trialling in 2011; [ma](#)
- [Mapping](#) across the year
- Y7 History - [allocate](#) individuals to developing draft UbD for each of the 5 sections of the course and use time at the end of the year to share, review, revise and document via Atlas


2012

- Y7 and 9 AC implemented in English, Maths, Science and History

2013

- [★](#) 7, 8, 9, 10 AC in English, Maths, Science and History
- Senior curriculum work?

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The Australian Curriculum at Year 7

- Team reading and review of AC documentation with elaborations
- Summary of observations – content, skills, timing etc
- Audit - Current curriculum and AC compared
- AC – new elements to be incorporated
- Depth studies - Team decisions as to relative merit of the various choices, current materials, resources etc

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Existing MLC curriculum and Australian Curriculum

MLC (34 weeks)

- Introduction to History (2-3 short exercises on time, evidence etc) 8 weeks
- Egypt (Creative research task and document study) 7 weeks
- Greece (Review task) 7 weeks
- China (Document study) 5 weeks
- Rome (Research task) 6 weeks
- Comparison of civilisations 1 week

AC (34 weeks)

- Overview 1 – introductory 1.5 weeks
- Depth study 1: Investigating the Ancient Past (Intro to History, Egypt and Australia) 10 weeks
- Depth study 2: The Mediterranean World – Greece 11 weeks
- Depth study 3: The Asian World – China 9 weeks
- Overview 2 – review and comparison 2.5 weeks



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Overview planning for the Australian Curriculum at Y7


- Currently allocated 4 x 75 min lessons per cycle for the year = 34 weeks – 17 cycles = 68 lessons total approx.
- 10% overview = 8 lessons (In 2 sections – introductory and review)
- 90% 3 x depth studies (Investigating the Ancient Past; The Mediterranean World; The Asian World) = 64 lessons = 18-22 lessons per topic approx. Possibly a little more on Depth Study 1?
- Oxford overview planner table useful



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Overview planning for the Australian Curriculum at Y7

Overview section 1: PP overview; lecture style and small class activities	Depth Study 1: Investigating the Ancient Past (Intro to History; Egypt and Australia)	Depth Study 2: The Mediterranean World (Greece)	Depth Study 3: The Asian World (China)	Overview section 2: PP overview; lecture style and small class activities
Time allocation				
Content				
Lesson planning				
Assessment				



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Reflections and observations to date

Overview:

- The current version of the AC has detailed the content of the overview more fully
- Can be viewed as the links and connections between the depth studies
- Could be covered by way of PP introductions, text work, teacher lectures, short whole class comprehension exercises etc

Depth Study 1: Investigating the Ancient Past:

- Could be used as a vehicle to explore Egypt
- Must include Ancient Australia component

European civilisations:

- The AC reduces the ability to study more than 1 European civilisation – have to choose between Greece and Rome



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Future planning

- Where possible, collaborative team use of the UbD framework to develop each section of the course
- 5 x UbD templates : 2 x overviews and 3 x depth studies
- Allocate individuals to finalise draft version in UbD template form and to develop lesson plan, draft assessment task, resources for each of the 5 x sections of the course
- After team drafting in UbD template format, team leader transfers documentation to online Atlas format
- Develop whole year view of assessment tasks and then allocate tasks to each depth study
- Need to plan for semester reports (currently 3 common tasks per semester; Overview and Depth Study 1 Sem 1; Depth Studies 2 and 3 and Overview Part 2 Sem 2)



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Resources

- Much existing material can be utilised
- Expand materials on methods of historians, China
- Resource new areas of overview, ancient Australia
- Oxford Big Ideas Y7 – has student text, student workbook, teacher text, obook – due December
- Dialogue Education – *Teaching History* CDROM of PPs for key topic areas of the AC
- Nelson – due November
- Macmillan – due March
- Pearson Y7 – samples first chapters - due?
- Network groups?

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