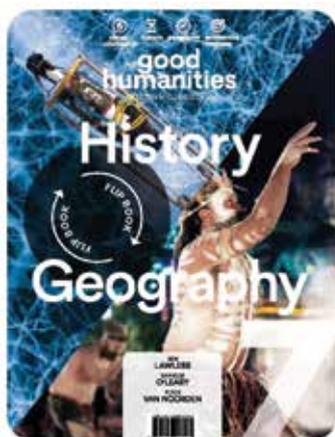


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## Good Humanities 7, 8 and 9: Victorian Curriculum

By Ben Lawless, Danielle O'Leary and Peter van Noorden

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Matilda Education

RRP: \$62.95 student book + e-book,

\$52.95 e-book only

Reviewed by Kara Taylor, Irymple College

*Good Humanities* is a flip book that includes History and Geography within its pages, but it doesn't stop there. It also integrates Economics and Civics and Citizenship within these two major sections.

The books in the series are accessible to students. The pages are well spaced, full of colour and easy to read. The sources used are detailed and stunning to look at, each adding to the learning taking place rather than crowding the page.

The books address teaching and learning historical skills with its 'History-How-To' chapter, which teaches students chronology, source analysis, continuity and change, cause and effect, and historical significance.

A 'Learning Ladder' weaved throughout the textbook gives students the ability to show their learning at any stage of development. This differentiation allows teachers to target the level needed for their students and for students to work at what best suits them and then push themselves to get to the next level of skill or understanding. The Learning Ladder is colour-coded to match the historical skills learned in the 'History-How-To' chapter. This allows for the practice of specific skills or all skills for each set of Learning Ladder questions and tasks.

There is also an end of unit Masterclass with stepped differentiated questions. These are also colour-coded to match history skills, showing the teacher which skills the students have grasped and which skills need more practice. After this Masterclass section there is also the ability to practise historical writing, and then a Capstone project accessed by a QR code.

Not only is this book 'future-ready', so is the support that the Matilda suite provides with the book. When you purchase *Good Humanities* for your class, you also get access to My Digital, Matilda's online textbook. My Digital holds so many resources it almost needs its own review. Each chapter has recordings to teach you how to better use the book or to support your students. There are worksheets to check learning, and answer pages too. There are also links to external websites and sources that can be used together with the textbook. Online quizzes self-mark to check learning as well. With lesson-by-lesson teacher plans, the work has been done for you.

Year 7 *Good Humanities* is organised into the following History chapters: Introduction to History, Ancient

Australia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Ancient China, and History-How-To. Its flip side is organised into the following Geography chapters: Introduction to Geography, Water on Earth, Water for Life, Living in Australia, World Liveability, Fieldwork, and Geo-How-To. With Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business woven though the main chapters.

Year 8 *Good Humanities* includes: Introduction to History, The Vikings, Medieval Europe, Mongol Expansion, Japan under the Shoguns, The Spanish Conquest, History-How-To. The flip side has: Introduction to Geography, Landscapes and Landforms, Coastal Landscapes, Changing Nations, Fieldwork, and Geo-How-To. Again, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business are covered within the other chapters.

Year 9 *Good Humanities* includes: Introduction to History, Australia (1750–1918), Australia and Asia (1750–1918), Australia at War (1914–1945) and History-How-To. The flip side contains: Introduction to Geography, A Natural World, A Human World, Perceptions and Places, Choices and Changes, Fieldwork, and Geo-How-To.

Matilda Publishing is adding resources to its My Digital platform all the time, including an upcoming learning pathway plan that will help students to see and track their own learning growth. They have made work assessable, readable and usable not only for teachers but for its students. It is worth a look if not the investment.