STUDIES OF SOCIETY

900091

2019

UNIT OUTLINE
### Handbook summary
This unit aims to help students develop an understanding and appreciation of Australian society. The unit will provide general information and familiarise students with key structures, events, concepts and terminology used in relation to modern Australian society.

At the end of this unit, students should have greater knowledge and understanding of Australia’s history and governmental and political systems. They will learn about consumer laws and civilian rights and responsibilities, as well as the composition of Australia’s population and relevant variations and trends.

### Learning outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. define and explain some key concepts related to the unit
2. identify key elements of Australian society, eg population composition and historical events
3. demonstrate an understanding of Australian institutions and systems, eg business, governmental, judicial and political systems
4. interpret information in the form of texts, graphs, statistics, and illustrations
5. write notes, summaries and extended responses based on unit content, readings and class discussions, and
6. distinguish and respond to key words and terms in relation to Australian society.
### Unit content

In this unit students will learn about:

- **Introduction:** Australian natural and human geography — size, shape, location, environments, key places and cities (main transport routes, orientation maps)
- **Australian history:** including Indigenous history, European settlement and evidence of British links (Australia Day)
- Information on diversity and distribution of Australia’s population — statistics, settlement patterns, multicultural composition, differences between major urban centres and rural settlements
- **Government structures and how they function:** type of government and electoral system, general roles and areas of responsibilities at a federal, state and local level, government services (health system in relation to Medicare and international visitors)
- **Australia’s legal system and civilian responsibilities:** role of different courts, judges, barristers, solicitors, legal aid. Consumer law and the basic rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens
- **Financial systems of Australia:** distinguishing between needs, wants, goods and services, factors that influence which wants are satisfied, consumption, impulse buying and saving — creating budgets with a focus on individual money management, incoming and outgoing expenses — the functions of money, credit, interest and other related principles.

### Mode of delivery

This unit is taught on a face-to-face basis through six hours of tutorials per week for 12 teaching weeks. There will be a final exam in the formal examination period in Week 13.

### Online learning requirements

**Essential texts**

There is no essential text for this unit, but students will have online access to the following course online workbooks:

- The College, *Studies of Society student workbooks, Topics 1 to 6*, Western Sydney University The College, Sydney.

**Further resources**

- Australian Electoral Commission — various publications
- Australian Bureau of Statistics — various publications
### ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND WEIGHTING

Assessment for this unit will be based on the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Learning outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Mandatory task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In-class test/exercises</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Stimulus response task</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1–4</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. In-class extended response</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1, 5, 6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Final examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1–6</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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For details of assessment due dates, please refer to the learning guide for this unit.

All marks will be determined in accordance with The College [Assessment Policy](#).

All assessment tasks are mandatory unless otherwise specified. Should a student fail to attempt/submit the first formal assessment task in a unit, they will be deemed to be at risk and will need to follow an intervention plan in order not to receive a Fail Non-Submission (FNS) grade. However, failure to attempt/submit all other mandatory assessment tasks will result in an immediate FNS grade for the unit.

In order to pass this unit, students must:

- attain an overall mark of at least 50% for the unit
- complete assessments based on the unit outline instructions given in Week 1 of term
- submit/completion all required items of assessment and activities, and
- keep a copy of all work submitted.