

Extended Investigation

Units 3-4

Extended Investigation is an exciting new VCE Unit 3-4. The study involves students designing, investigating and presenting a research project that is based on their own specialised interests. The Extended Investigation is based on a research question that students design and a research focus can come from any discipline area. Classroom teaching focuses on building skills and an understanding of the research process including designing research questions, planning approaches to research and applying critical thinking skills. Students conduct their research independently with the ongoing support of a teacher and specialist mentor. The results of the investigation are presented in a written report together with an oral presentation. This is an ideal subject for students interested in building the skills needed to undertake tertiary study.

UNIT 3

This unit focuses on developing an understanding of the skills of critical thinking and research. Students will design a research question that requires critical inquiry and develop a detailed proposal and implementation plan, justify appropriate research methods and undertake research. Students will consider research ethics, relevant selected literature and the conventions of academic writing including referencing systems and acknowledging sources.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Analysis of critical thinking, a written rationale and proposal for investigation, and an oral presentation.

KEY SKILLS

High level research skills, analytical skills focusing on critical thinking, communication skills, organisational skills and the ability to work independently.

ASSESSED TASKS

Designing a research question and a written rationale, critical thinking exercises, research plan and an oral task, as well as an external critical thinking test.

UNIT 4

This unit focuses on completing the independent investigation and producing a written report that critically evaluates the results of the investigation. The study concludes with the presentation of research findings to an audience.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Written and oral report.

KEY SKILLS

High level research skills, analytical skills focusing on critical thinking, communication skills, organisational skills and the ability to work independently.

ASSESSED TASKS

Written report of 4000 words and an oral presentation requiring students to respond to questions and challenges from a panel. There is no end of year examination.

VCAA ASSESSMENT – The overall Study Score will consist of: School Assessed Coursework (40%) and externally assessed tasks including the final research report and oral presentation (60%).