

Shirley Smith High School Vision and Values

Grow with us.

At Shirley Smith High School, teaching and learning is authentic, rigorous, and designed to maximise student agency. We align deep disciplinary knowledge and excellent pedagogical practice to ensure our learners are empowered to find their purpose, fulfil their potential, and shape their own futures.

Students at Shirley Smith High School are:

Curious

brave and open minded inquirers with a desire to know and understand

Connected

inclusive young people connected to each other, connected to their community and connected to Country

Learners

creative empowered learners with boundless potential for their futures and the future of our planet

Subject Details

Subject/s:	Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS)	Learning Area:	Global Perspectives
Teacher/s:	Melissa Traynor, Rachel Bartlett & Chris York	Learning Period:	Semester Two, 2026

Engagement in Learning

In order to facilitate active engagement in their learning, students are expected to:

- Arrive prepared for their lessons, equipped with a fully charged chromebook, a notebook, a pen or pencil, and any other subject-specific materials that may be necessary.
- Independently make an effort to retrieve and complete any missed assignments or coursework due to absences or extracurricular activities during their own time.
- Embrace the principles of the school's Yindyamarra wellbeing framework by treading lightly. This involves taking moments to pause, authentically connecting with others, engaging in deep listening, thoughtful reflection, and considering the impact of their actions on others.

Learning and Assessment Policies

Please see the school website for policies regarding the submission of late work, extension requests for assessment tasks, and plagiarism and academic integrity.

Description of Learning

History: Making and Transforming a Nation

Students explore the key events, ideas and individuals that shaped Australia as a nation during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They examine the political, social, cultural and economic changes that influenced the development of the Australian nation, including Federation and the experiences of diverse groups within society. During this unit of study, students develop skills in historical inquiry by locating, analysing and evaluating primary and secondary sources, comparing perspectives and interpretations, and using evidence to construct historical explanations and arguments.

History: First World War (1914–1918)

Students explore the causes, experiences and impacts of the First World War, with a focus on Australia's involvement and the significance of the conflict both nationally and globally. They examine the role of key individuals, groups and events, and investigate the social, cultural, political and economic effects of the war, including its legacy. During this unit of study, students develop skills in historical inquiry by formulating questions, analysing and evaluating primary and secondary sources, comparing perspectives and interpretations, and using evidence to develop historical explanations and arguments.

Unit overview:**Unit learning outcomes:**

By the end of this unit, students will demonstrate a level of achievement for the following standards:

- explain the role of significant ideas, individuals, groups and institutions connected to the developments of this period and their influences on the historical events.
- develop and modify questions about the past to inform historical inquiry.
- locate, select and compare primary and secondary sources, and use information in sources as evidence in historical inquiry.
- compare sources to determine the accuracy, usefulness and reliability of sources as evidence.
- explain causes and effects, and patterns of continuity and change connected to a period, event or movement.
- use historical knowledge, concepts and terms to develop descriptions, explanations and historical arguments that acknowledge evidence from sources.

Assessment:

Task	Approximate Due Date
- Class work	Ongoing
- Formative Assessment	Ongoing
- Source Analysis Assessment Task	31/08/2026
- First World War Assessment Task	19/11/2026

Learning Experiences

Throughout the unit, students may have the opportunity to engage in the following learning experiences:

Incursions/Excursions - Australian War Memorial

Competitions - National History Challenge, Simpson Prize Competition

Film Studies - *Massacre at Myall Creek* (2012)