Port Moresby International School

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Unit & Assessment Semester Outline for Students & Parents Grades 11 – 12.

Year	2026	Semester	2	Grade	11	Unit Value	1
Curriculum		IB/ACT					
Subject Title/s		Modern History					
Course Name		Understanding the Modern World					
Unit Name		Unit 3 The Changing World Order • The Modern World since 1945					
Course Code		3239		Unit Code		32853	

Assessment Tasks

Week Due	Topic(s)	Type of Task	Weighting
6	The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries	Document Study Exam	30%
11	The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries	Historical Interpretations Inquiry	30%
14	The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries	Extended Essay Exam	40%

Learning outcomes against which the students will be reported

1. Understands historical sources and terminology
2. Evaluates and assess historical sources
3. Conducts independent historical research
4. Presents a logical and structured historical argument
5. Explains and defends work orally

Assessment Criteria

1. Knowledge and understanding (IB & ACT)
   - Demonstrate detailed, relevant and accurate historical knowledge. understanding of historical concepts and context.
2. Application and analysis (IB) Skills (ACT)
   - Formulate clear and coherent arguments. Use relevant historical knowledge to effectively support analysis. Analyse and interpret a variety of sources.
3. Synthesis and evaluation (IB) Skills (ACT)
   - Integrate evidence and analysis to produce a coherent response. Evaluate different perspectives on historical issues and events, and integrate this evaluation effectively into a response. Evaluate sources as historical evidence, recognizing their value and limitations. Synthesize information from a selection of relevant sources.
4. Use and application of appropriate skills (IB) Skills (ACT)
   - Focused essays that respond effectively to the demands of a question. Reflect on the methods used by, and challenges facing, the historian. Formulate an appropriate, focused question to guide a historical inquiry. Demonstrate evidence of research skills, organisation, referencing and selection of appropriate sources. knowledge and understanding skills

Regulations governing ACT Late Submission of Work, Non-Submission of Work, Attendance, Cheating/Plagiarism, Grade Descriptors, Moderation Procedures, Method of unit score calculation, meshing procedures, Course information - are available from the BSSS website;

www.bsss.act.edu.au/home

Summary of Content

Weeks	Content Outline	Curriculum Links
1 – 2	The Cold War: superpower tensions and rivalries. The breakdown of the Grand Alliance and the emergence of superpower rivalry in Europe and Asia (1943–1949): role of ideology; fear and aggression; economic interests; a comparison of the roles of the US and the USSR	AC core content. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)
3 - 4	The Cold War: superpower tensions and rivalries. The breakdown of the Grand Alliance and the emergence of superpower rivalry in Europe and Asia (1943–1949): role of ideology; fear and aggression; economic interests; a comparison of the roles of the US and the USSR Historiography	ACT. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)
5 - 6	The Cold War goes global: The Korean War 56 The USA and containment in Asia **ASSESSMENT TASK 1: Document Study Exam in Week 6**	ACT. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)
7 - 8	Peaceful co-existence: New leaders, new ideas? Cold War crises case studies: Berlin 1948 and Cuba 1962	ACT. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)
9 - 10	The US, USSR and China—superpower relations (1947–1979): Sino-Soviet and Sino-US relations,	ACT. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)
11 - 12	Soviet containment 1945–1980 **ASSESSMENT TASK 2: Interpretations Exam in Week 11**	ACT. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)
13 - 14	Détente and the impact of the arms race on the Cold War Afghanistan **ASSESSMENT TASK 3: Extended Essay Exam in Week 14**	ACT. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)
15 - 16	Confrontation and reconciliation; reasons for the end of the Cold War (1980–1991): ideological challenges and dissent; economic problems; arms race	ACT. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)
17 - 18	The impact of two leaders, Cold War crises case studies: detailed study of any two Cold War crises from different regions: examination and comparison of the causes, impact and significance of the two crises	ACT. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)
19 - 20	Historical Investigation – IB students finalising IA / ACT students personal interest	ACT. Unit 3 The Changing World Order. IB Paper 2 The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)