HSC CORE & DEPTH STUDY WRITING GUIDE

HSC: Core & Depth Studies

Hannah Geraghty, Caringbah High School, Caringbah

Syllabus Links

Various syllabus dot points across both the HSC Core (Social and Cultural Continuity and Change) and Depth Studies

Syllabus Outcomes

H1 evaluates and effectively applies social and cultural concepts

H7 selects, organises, synthesises and analyses information from a variety of sources for usefulness, validity and bias

H9 applies complex course language and concepts appropriate for a range of audiences and contexts

H10 communicates complex information, ideas and issues using appropriate written, oral and graphic forms

Relevant concepts

Please see relevant sections of the HSC Syllabus

Image source: Unsplash – Hannah Olinger@hannaholinger

Rationale

The following resource has been designed to assist HSC students in their written expression of understanding across both the HSC Core and Depth Studies (Belief Systems and Conformity/ Non-Conformity). The guide is a starting point, rather than being 'all inclusive'. It is hoped that teachers could use this writing guide below as a 'sample guide' for students in their class. From this point, students and teachers could use this document, the syllabus and their own knowledge and understanding to co-construct a class HSC 'writing guide'. The writing guide can be tailored to specific country/depth studies and examples (see below) whilst also targeting areas of student weakness, in relation to expression. Such a guide is not for students to memorise, rather it assists in exposing students to a broad range of relevant terms 'in context' so they can continue to simultaneously expand and refine their own expression of knowledge and understanding.

Image source: Unsplash – Andrew Seaman@amseamen

HSC CORE & DEPTH STUDY WRITING GUIDE

HSC Core: Social and Cultural Continuity and Change
Sentence Starters

- It is important to examine…
- … is important to understand…
- On a micro level…
- On a macro level…
- At the meso level of society…impacts groups such as
- Impacts the micro/macro/meso level of society…
- Generally it is understood that…
- … theory of social change adequately accounts for both processes and agents of social change, such as…
- …theory of social change lacks detail in relation to…
- … theory is extremely useful in examining…
- … theory of … is indicative of…
- Communication technologies have changed…
- Social interactions are …
- The impact of…
- The implications of…
- Environmental factors…
- The complex nature of society and culture is indicative through…
- Current trends suggest that…
- The impact of… is…
- The complex nature of change is highlighted by…
- The gradual evolution of…is indicative of the slow, adaptive nature of change…
- Changes have resulted in the dramatic shift in… across all levels of society. For example, within the micro/meso/macro level…
- Some ethical issues that may need to be considered include…
- Groups such as…have actively resisted changes at the…level of society due to…
- Globalisation has had a significant impact on…

- Westernisation has resulted in the diffusion of…
- Modernisation has been a powerful influence on…
- Perceptions of … are created by…
- Likely changes that may take place include…
- Probable continuities include…
- Factors that influence… include…
- The theory of… suggests that…
- Ethical issues such as… must be considered…
- … expresses ideas about…
- … examines the power and authority of…
- Continuity can be observed…
- Change can be observed…
- Aspects of continuity and change can be seen…
- The role of… is clearly demonstrated…
- Individuals are becoming…
- Cross cultural interactions are clearly observed…
- Institutions / the government tend to…
- The process of…
- Culture influences…
- Research has suggested…
- … is demonstrative of…
- … suggests that…
- Generally it is understood that…
- It is imperative that…
- The relationship between…
- The values of…are clearly demonstrated through…
- A rejection of… is demonstrated…
- A contemporary example of…suggests…
- Technologies are highly influential on groups/individuals/institutions

HSC CORE & DEPTH STUDY WRITING GUIDE

Country Study Sentence Starters
(sample country study focus – Timor Leste/East Timor)

- Change is a complex concept…
- Change can be transformative in nature…
- Individuals may resist change…
- Continuity can be seen in…
- Change is obvious within…
- Continuity contributes to the development of society at the micro/meso/macro level…
- Change contributes to the development of society at the micro/meso/macro level…
- Structural changes within society are clearly seen…
- The processes and agents of change are evident…
- Communication technologies impact continuity/change within society…
- Social research allows for an examination of the social world…
- Evolutionary theory suggest…
- Functionalist theory highlights…
- Interactionist theory provides an explanation about the micro level of society…
- Conflict theory is a change theory that…
- Conflict theory is…
- Conflict theory holds that…
- Conflict theory assumes that…
- Conflict theory relies on…
- In accordance with conflict theory…
- Conflict theory concerns change that is abrupt and revolutionary. Abrupt and revolution change occurred…
- Conflict theory asserts that authorities use legitimate power to control and dictate rights such as…
- Conflict theory relies on a belief in class consciousness which can be seen in…
- Within conflict theory is a belief that society is hierarchical in nature, resulting in people being dissatisfied with their position. This is clearly occurring within East Timor…

- Globalisation/modernisation/westernisation has impacted the continuity/change of… in Timor Leste…
- Within East Timor it is evident historically and contemporarily conflict is always brewing…
- Religion is utilised in order to pacify the population, this indicative within East Timor because…
- Whoever owns resources use their economic power to serve their own interests and control the state…
- This theory can be used to explain change in…
- Beliefs / Values / Lifestyle in Timor Leste can be traditionally described as…
- Beliefs / Values / Lifestyle in Timor Leste is traditionally…
- The role of … is …
- Thus, religion/culture/gender roles in East Timor primarily functions to…
- Prior to colonisation the East Timorese believed / valued / lived … this changed to an extent after Portuguese / Indonesian colonisation …
- One result of traditional beliefs / values / lifestyle is …
- Thus, traditional beliefs / values /lifestyle functions to…
- As a result of colonisation East Timorese beliefs / values / lifestyle …
- However, since colonisation there has been a conflict between traditional beliefs / values / lifestyles and the perceived modernisation of…
- Even post Indonesian occupation the results on East Timorese continuing beliefs / values / lifestyle have been impacted…
- At the mirco / meso / macro level beliefs / values / lifestyle have been impacted…
- … still dictates the life of the contemporary Timorese in the rural areas…

HSC CORE & DEPTH STUDY WRITING GUIDE

Country Study Sentence Starters

(sample country study focus – Timor Leste/East Timor)

- Therefore, in the villages, the concept of … plays an important role in the belief system…
- Thus, over time change has occurred where…
- Therefore, by using conflict theory to examine change in East Timor…
- Hence, a class struggle exists between…
- Thus, integrating Catholicism and animist religious beliefs and practices…
- Thus, as a result of gaining independence as a result of the struggle for independence…,

- Even though the majority of the Timorese are Catholic, they cannot abandon their traditional beliefs/values…
- Current trends within Timor Leste suggest…
- Timor Leste is likely to change in the following ways within the next 5 to 10 years…
- Timor Leste is likely to continue to…
- Technology will continue to develop in Timor Leste and impact institutions

Core Country Study Concepts
(sample country Timor Leste)

- Coffee Industry
- Farming – traditional methods versus modern practices
- Lulik
- Animist religion
- Catholic Church
- Tai weaving
- Bride Price
- Religious significances of women
- Women in the private sphere vs women in the public sphere
- Infant mortality rates
- Maternal mortality rates
- Programs that benefit women but disadvantage men
- Women's / Girls Literacy Rates
- Women / girls malnutrition
- Men's / Boys Literacy Rates
- Men's / Boys malnutrition
- UN Women's Programs

- Women in political leadership
- Portuguese Colonisation
- Indonesian Invasion
- UN Response at time of Indonesian Invasion
- UN role in the referendum
- A new nation emerges
- Oil and Gas / Conflict with Australia over Oil and Gas
- Movement to the city (Dili) and impact of urbanisation
- Movement away from rural communities
- Reconciliation within Limor Leste
- Domestic violence
- Changing roles of fathers
- Technology
- Tourism
- Leadership
- Environmental concerns
- Education
- … (the list is endless!)

HSC CORE & DEPTH STUDY WRITING GUIDE

HSC Core + Depth Studies
Integrating Examples As Evidence

- … exemplified by …
- … is indicative of …
- … is an excellent exploration of …
- … develops the idea/concept …
- … enhances an understanding of …
- … draws upon …
- … is a demonstration of …
- … provides clarification of …

- … is a clear examination of …
- For instance…
- Thus, it can be seen …
- Therefore it is clear that …
- … is clearly an indication of …
- … provides an excellent examination of …
- … provides an excellent exploration of …

Depth Study Sentence Starters + Specific Phrases

Belief Systems & Ideologies – *Judaism*

- Judaism suggests…
- Hierarchy within Judaism is…
- Internal power structures are a feature of Belief Systems and Ideologies…
- Secularisation has been on the rise in recent times in Australia…
- The underlying principles of Judaism…
- Jewish identity is created through…
- The beliefs and values of Judaism extol…
- There are varying strains of Judaism that are unique in their own ways…
- Hebrew, Yiddish and Aramaic are important languages within Judaism…
- The role of symbols in Judaism is significant…
- The role of rituals in Judaism act to…
- The customs of Judaism allow for…
- Gender within Judaism is a complex concept…
- Israel is a significant place to Jews
- Jerusalem holds a special place for Jews globally…
- There is at times a resistance to change…
- There are at times necessary change that occurs…
- Technology impacts Judaism positively/ negatively…
- Globalisation has impacted Jewish continuity/ change…

Conformity & Nonconformity – *Mormonism*

- Individuals are influenced by conformity in the following ways…
- Individuals are influenced by obedience in the following ways…
- Anonymity of individuals within groups has the impact of…
- Nonconformity comes with social costs…
- Nonconformity can have unexpected social benefits for individuals…
- Mormonism developed from…
- The history of Mormonism…
- The role of status within Mormonism is significant in achieving group conformity…
- Authority and power within Mormonism are highly significant elements…
- Cohesion and community operate together to create and define the identity of Mormons individually and as a group…
- Group values and norms are utilised by Mormons to achieve group cohesion…
- Peer pressure is an extremely influential factor in creating group cohesion within Mormonism…
- Mormonism is highly influential using methods such as… to influence individuals…
- Sanctions can be applied to Mormons is they break rules such as…

HSC CORE & DEPTH STUDY WRITING GUIDE

Belief Systems & Ideologies – *Judaism*

- Evidence of the acceptance of Judaism is demonstrated through…
- Evidence of the rejection of Judaism is clearly highlighted through…
- Peace and conflict are complex concepts…
- The philosophy of Judaism impacts the Jewish ideas surrounding peace and conflict…
- Myths and stories are significant to the continuation of Judaism…
- Adherents of Judaism…
- Ethical issues are considered within Judaism…
- Technology has been embraced by Judaism…
- Technology has been rejected by Judaism…
- Technology has been embraced by Judaism due to the philosophical ideals of…
- Judaism is a matrilineal religion…
- The philosophical view within Judaism of… impacts gender…
- The philosophical view within Judaism about technology has impacted Judaism…
- The future of Judaism is probably…
- Current trends within Judaism suggest that in the near future…
- Likely changes that will occur in Judaism in the next 5 to 10 years include…
- Probable continuities within Judaism include…
- Stereotypical media representations of Judaism include…and impact the perceptions of others in a negative manner…
- The role of religion and ideology is complex…
- The role of religion and ideology in conflicts is…
- The rise of religious conflicts…
- Religious belief systems have been a feature in numerous historical conflicts…
- Defensive wars are…
- Religion is…
- Dissent can have a negative impact…
- Dissent can be a vehicle for change…

Conformity & Nonconformity – *Mormonism*

- Sanctions that may be put in place against dissident adherents include…
- People who do not conform to Mormonism…
- Mormons interact with the wider community through…
- Mormons are viewed by the wider community as…
- Other Christians see Mormons as…
- The future of Mormonism may be impacted negatively by…
- The future of Mormonism may positively be impacted by…
- Mormonism is likely to change its views on…
- Mormonism is to likely to change its views on…
- Mormonism will likely continue to…
- Mormonism's influence on society is likely to…
- Technology has impacted Mormonism through…
- Technology allows a cohesive message about Mormonism to be transmitted globally…
- Within 5 to 10 years it is expected that Mormonism will…
- Communication technologies negatively impact on the conformity of Mormonism…
- Communication technologies positively impact conformity within Mormonism…
- Stereotypical media representations of Mormons…
- The values of Mormonism demonstrate…
- Mormons strong sense of community and cohesion has been created through its philosophy of…
- Community forms the foundation of Mormon identity…
- Mormons believe…
- Cohesion is fostered through…
- The development of strong social values…
- The development of structured power and authority levels…
- It is imperative that the community…

HSC CORE & DEPTH STUDY WRITING GUIDE

HSC Core + Depth Studies
Evaluative Words / Phrases

- Absolutely
- Always
- Amazingly
- As expected
- Certainly
- Definitely
- Definitely
- Indeed
- Never
- Objectively
- Obviously
- Presumably
- Regrettably
- Understandably
- Undoubtedly
- Must
- Certain
- Apparently
- By chance
- Initially
- Luckily
- Maybe
- Often
- Probably
- Seldom
- Seriously
- Surely
- Tentatively
- To be honest
- Will
- Probably
- Likely
- Unlikely

- central
- critical
- crucial
- decisive
- essential
- fundamental
- indispensable
- major
- necessary
- influential
- paradigmatic
- predominant
- primary
- prominent
- representative
- serious
- significant
- unique
- It is certain that
- It seems clear
- It appears obvious
- It is likely / unlikely
- It seems that probably
- It appears probable/likely
- It seems possible
- It appears possible
- It is possible
- It is impossible
- It appears impossible
- It seems impossible
- It undoubtedly
- It is certainly likely that
- Leads to a clear

- understanding that
- Clearly examines
- Provides excellent evidence that
- Provides doubt that
- Unexpectedly it creates the idea that
- Provides an excellent framework to explore
- Clearly defines
- Is questionable evidence of
- Is not clearly indicative of
- Is highly likely to
- Is a good/adequate exploration of
- Is not a good example of
- Fails to provide insights into
- Is crucial to explaining
- Is essential to evaluating
- Is crucial to assessing
- … clearly representative of…
- … essentially provides a framework of…
- … is highly influential in examining…
- … is highly useful…
- … is exceptional evidence of…
- … is very significant…
- Provides strong evidence of
- It becomes increasingly obvious that…
- Effectively conveys the idea that…
- Is exceptionally important in examining…

HSC CORE & DEPTH STUDY WRITING GUIDE

HSC Core + Depth Studies
Concluding Words / Phrases

- Evidently
- Overall
- Ultimately
- Essentially
- After all
- Definitely
- Undeniably
- Unquestioningly
- Irrefutably
- Culminating
- Generally
- Clearly
- Examination
- Perceptively

- It is clearly highlighted…
- It is therefore indicative of…
- It is clearly demonstrated through the evidence that…
- It is evident that…
- It is thus evident that…
- Essentially it is highlighted through… that… It is clearly seen that…
- In essence…
- In either case…
- As previously noted…
- In the final analysis…
- As noted…
- Therefore, it can be ascertained that…

Image source: Unsplash – Thought Catalog@thoughtcatalog