**EXTENDED INVESTIGATION**

This study is comprised of a Units 3 and 4 sequence only.

The VCE Extended Investigation enables students to develop, refine and extend knowledge and skills in independent research and carry out an investigation that focuses on a rigorous research question. The investigation may be an extension of an area of curriculum already undertaken by the student or it may be completely independent of any other study in the student’s VCE program.

Through this study, students develop their capacity to explore, justify and defend their research findings in both oral and written forms to a general, or non-specialist audience.

**AIMS**

This study is designed to enable students to:

* Develop and construct a rigorous research question
* Understand and apply research methods
* Explore a chosen area of investigation in depth
* Develop as independent, critical and reflective learners
* Develop research project management knowledge and skills
* Analyse and evaluate findings and results
* Develop skills in written and oral presentation of research findings

**STRUCTURE**

**UNIT 3: Designing an Extended Investigation**

**UNIT 4: Presenting an Extended Investigation**

Units 3 and 4 each involve at least 50 hours of scheduled supervised instruction and mentoring combined with independent study monitored by the supervising teacher. It is expected that students will commit out of school time to undertake research and that schools will monitor this aspect of the study.

**ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING**

The Extended Investigation Journal is submitted as a component of satisfactory completion of Unit 3 and Unit 4.

Percentage contributions to the study score in the Extended Investigation are as follows:

* Unit 3 School-assessed Coursework: 30%
* Unit 3 Externally-assessed Critical Thinking Test: 10%
* Unit 4 Externally-assessed Task: 60%