4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Links with our times

When fire devastated Victoria and floods ravaged Queensland in February 2009, the Sound Relief benefit concert at the MCG drew the largest paying crowd — many of them teenagers — ever to attend a music concert in Australia. The event raised more than $5 million.

Mass culture and mobilisation of young people is a relatively recent phenomenon. In the early and mid-twentieth century, only those teenagers from privileged backgrounds had the opportunity to finish school and attend university. This changed after World War II as Australia, England and the United States experienced a period of relative peace and prosperity. A ‘baby boom’ followed and families were encouraged to buy a home and fill it with the latest consumer goods.

Teenagers of this ‘baby boom’ generations would help to end the Vietnam War and fight for civil rights, land rights, women’s rights and gay rights. They were encouraged by a growing awareness of their own power, best exemplified in popular culture.

**Big Questions**

As you work through this topic, look for information that will help you to answer these questions:

1. What major global influences have had an impact upon Australian culture and society since World War II?
2. How do the social, economic, cultural and political changes of the 1960s continue to influence our world today?
3. How did changes in technology shape the lives, work and culture of Australians during the 1950s and 1960s?
4. How have teenagers in particular helped to reshape the world between 1945 and the present?
5. How have perspectives on popular culture changed?

**Starter Questions**

1. Who are the most influential young people you know? What makes them so influential?
2. Do you think teenagers in the twenty-first century have the ability to change the world?
3. How can current technology be used to effect cultural, social or political change?
4. Is challenging the values and beliefs of the previous generation a necessary part of growing up?
4.2 Examining the evidence

4.2.1 How do we know about popular culture?

Popular culture refers to the beliefs, attitudes and lifestyle shared by a group of people. These are reflected in their actions and in the products they choose to consume. After World War II, improvements to communications technology created a direct connection between the mass media (newspaper, television and radio) and their target audience, many of whom were teenagers. The period after World War II was a time of social turmoil in Australia, as people began to challenge the status quo. By analysing popular film, music, television, sport and fashion, we can better understand the sorts of things that have preoccupied, motivated and inspired people during this tumultuous period.

First-hand sources

As historians, we can draw on many primary sources produced by people who lived through the events, including photos, songs, film, books, letters, newspaper and magazine articles, and interviews. Because we are considering recent history, many members of our community have lived through and remember this period, making these people a rich source of first-hand information.

Historical accounts

The post-war period, especially the 1960s, is widely recognised as a time of great change. Because of this, many secondary sources have been created to explore the events of this time. While some secondary sources, such as history books and documentaries, may generally be considered factual, movies and television shows offer fictitious representations of the period, even if based on true events. Their accuracy needs to be analysed and compared against other sources to identify potential bias.

Satire

Satire can be a primary source and can take written, visual or audio forms. In the 1970s, the Sydney Push, a sub-culture made up of some of Sydney’s most well known young intellectuals, produced a controversial satirical magazine named Oz, which was known for its confronting covers and severe criticism of the government (see source 2).

Advertising

Since the mid 1950s, advertising budgets and the range of venues in which you will find advertising, have increased dramatically. For advertising to work, it needs to capture the attention of its target audience. Because advertising is aimed at such a specific target market, it can often reveal important values of the time and place in which it was created. By influencing people to purchase products or think in a certain way, advertising can also influence popular culture.

SOURCE 1 In the 1960s and 1970s, many teenagers rebelled against their parents’ generation by joining the anti-war movement, while others joined the Mods, Rockers or Sharpies. Each group had its own culture, with members following strict rules regarding the way they behaved, the music they listened to and the clothes they wore. In this interview, former Sharpie Alannah describes the pains she went to in order to get the right ‘look’.

Cuffed pants, roman sandals were the shoes that were ‘in’ then — as well as platforms . . . Cardigans with emblems on either side. Short hair . . . scissor cut and flat over with one side parted — very Mia Farrow. We didn’t go to the hairdressers, we went to the barbers to have our hair cut with the guys. We’d have our hair cut all the same — all on the same Saturday morning. We’d have our hair cut every two weeks because we couldn’t let it grow too long.

SOURCE 2 Oz magazine was the subject of two obscenity trials, one in Australia and the other in England. The latter would become the longest running obscenity case in British legal history.

DID YOU KNOW?

Oz magazine was the subject of two obscenity trials, one in Australia and the other in England. The latter would become the longest running obscenity case in British legal history.
4.2 Putting it All Together

Using Historical Sources as Evidence

1. In Source 1, the interviewee, Alannah, says that she and other Sharpie girls were influenced by an actress of the time, Mia Farrow. What does this suggest about the connection between subcultures, like the Sharpies, and mass media such as films?

2. In what ways does Source 2 meet the definition of satire? In what ways might it differ from this definition?

3. Which would you expect to give the most accurate depiction of history — first-hand experiences, historical accounts, expert opinion or satire? Explain your response.

Identifying Continuity and Change

4. Source 3 is a 1950s advertisement for the Trans-Australian Railway. Based on the images and words used in this advertisement, what can this source reveal about:
   a. the people of the time
   b. their changing interests
   c. the importance of technology?

   Use evidence from the advertisement to support your responses.

Determining Historical Significance

5. Popular satirical magazines like Oz (Source 2) were very critical of the government of the time. Research other issues of Oz magazine (archived online) and consider what messages the magazine might have for Australians today.

SOURCE 2 This 1968 cover of Oz magazine carries a famous image from the Vietnam War. It shows a Viet Cong prisoner being executed by General Nguyen Ngoc Loan, chief of police of the South Vietnamese regime with whom the United States and Australia had allied themselves.

SOURCE 3 This advertisement for the Trans-Australian Railway was designed to entice travellers to see Australia from the comfort of a train. Like much advertising of the time, it paints a cheerful and positive picture of post-war Australia, a period in which wartime rationing and hardship were giving way to enjoyment of leisure time.

Viet Cong a political and military organisation that fought against the South Vietnamese government and their US allies.
4.3 Post-war Australia — the 1950s

4.3.1 Populating Australia

During the 1930s, Australia had suffered a depression that, at its peak, saw 32 per cent of people out of work. Whole neighbourhoods turned into slums. Then war hit, and the country was plunged into a six-year battle that saw the mainland bombed by the Japanese and enemy submarines make it into Sydney Harbour. Australians, who had always felt great solidarity with the English, found themselves relying upon America for protection while England fought to defend itself against attack from Nazi Germany. This was a time of fear for many Australians: fear of poverty, fear of invasion, and fear that they would never be reunited with their loved ones. When the war ended in 1945, Australia rejoiced, but the soldiers returned to a country that still faced years of hardship.

The Australia to which the soldiers returned could no longer take its security for granted. The government, together with much of Australian society, believed that the only protection against foreign invaders was to dramatically increase the population, which at the time stood at only 7 million. The ruling Curtin Government set the target of increasing Australia’s population by 1 per cent per year. This was largely to be accomplished by dramatically increasing the number of immigrants accepted into Australia. While many Australians recognised the need to populate the country, others feared that this would lead to a flood of undesirable immigrants entering the country. The government of the day reassured the populace that only the most suitable immigrants would be chosen and began recruiting Europeans who had been displaced by the war, such as ‘the beautiful Balts’ (see SOURCE 1). With an influx of immigrants ready to work, the country began building major infrastructure projects such as the Snowy Mountains Scheme. These projects were designed to improve the lives of regular Australians, to supply new suburbs with much-needed power and to make a statement: Australia was on the move.

SOURCE 1 One campaign designed to reassure Australians of immigrants’ suitability involved offering residency to blond, blue-eyed members of the Baltic states, who were referred to as ‘the beautiful Balts’. This photograph of Baltic immigrants was taken in Victoria in 1948.

SOURCE 2 Australia’s population increase during the twentieth century

![Graph showing natural increase and net migration, Australia—1901 to 1999](image)

SOURCE: CBCS Demography Bulletins; ABS 1985; ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0), various issues.

4.3.1 Activities

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. What was Australia’s population at the end of World War II? What percentage of today’s population does this figure represent?
2. What reason was advanced for Australia’s need to increase its population after the war?

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE

3. SOURCE 1 depicts a group of ‘beautiful Balts’. What did this immigration campaign suggest about the values of Australia’s citizens at the time?
4. What chronological period is covered by the graph in SOURCE 2?
5. What two aspects of Australia’s population are shown over the period measured in the graph in SOURCE 2? Explain what each of these aspects means.
6. There are three peaks shown in the net migration line on the graph and one very low trough. Can you explain these in historical terms?
4.3.2 The nature of Australian society

Women and work

Social and economic changes after the war were slow to be felt by the women of Australia, particularly in relation to work. During the war, many women had found work in industries such as munitions production and nursing, and in the Women’s Land Army. Undertaking this work gave many women a new-found sense of independence and pride. When the men returned from war, initially, women were expected to vacate their positions and resume their duties at home. However, an acute labour shortage meant that governments were forced to turn to married women to fill working roles (see Source 3). Women in the workforce, married or single, were usually given a lower wage than their male counterparts. In 1949–50, the National Council of Women and the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Clubs petitioned for women to receive equal pay, and they were granted 75 per cent of what a man would earn to undertake the same job. It would be the late 1960s before Australian women would be granted equal pay for equal work, and the 1980s before they would be legally protected from harassment in the workplace.

Prosperity increases in the 1950s

As the 1950s began, unemployment was down, manufacturing was up, and the economy was growing steadily. Despite the recent influx of migrants, Australia was still a predominantly white, Anglo-Saxon society, in which the majority of people sought entertainment in film; bonded over sport and community events such as dinner-dances and church services; and learned about current affairs from radio, newspapers and the Movietone news. When this generation finally ‘settled down’, it was in comfortable, purpose-built suburbs, with quarter-acre blocks complete with a driveway for a new car. Women were not encouraged to work outside the home, but affordable whitegoods, vacuum cleaners and other products promised to make domestic chores less tedious. With this relative peace and prosperity as a backdrop, babies were born in record numbers, leading to a ‘baby boom’.

The stability could not last forever. In the coming decades, world politics would once again throw the country into political turmoil, while advances in communications technology would introduce ‘baby boomers’ to a flood of American popular culture. The combination of these factors would cause many to question the social and political views of their parents, the nation’s loyalty to its English roots and the very notion of what it meant to be ‘Australian’.

4.3.2 Activities

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. What working roles had women undertaken in World War II?
2. Create a timeline for women’s progress towards equal pay using the dates mentioned in section 4.3.2. Add appropriate labels next to each date.

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE

3. Write a paragraph explaining the data in the graph in Source 3.
4. Source 4 depicts Australians lining the streets to see the Queen on her first royal visit. What can you tell about Australians at this time from this image alone?
4.3.3 Suburban life in the 1960s

By the mid 1960s, many changes were afoot around the world and although the pace of change may have been slower, Australia was no exception. In the next decade, women’s rights movements would transform Australian society but in the 1960s, many women still took on traditional roles, working in ‘women’s jobs’ until they married. Australian wages and working conditions, for men at least, were better than ever. In the suburbs, in their kitchens and living rooms, many women reigned over the domestic domain. Families gathered around the television and absorbed a largely imported American culture.

SOURCE 5 A modern artist’s impression of an Australian dinner party in the 1960s

A The kitchen was where a woman would spend much of her day. With sleek, modern lines and pastel colours, the kitchen radiated control, hygiene and femininity, and often sported modern appliances.

B Men usually wore a suit and tie to a dinner party while women wore the latest floral designs.
C. Children were generally expected to remain silent unless spoken to.

D. The living room was the pride of the house, with furniture and art that demonstrated the owner's style and sophistication.

E. Too old to hang out with the children and too young to sit with the adults, teenagers entertained themselves by listening to music, gossiping or practising the latest dance craze.
4.3.3 Activities

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING
1 Fill in the blanks in the following passage drawing on information in section 4.2.3.
Australian ________ was changing in the 1960s. Men received ________ wages, while women were mostly content to work at _________. Once they were _________, many women were happy to stay at ________, in the ________. An important source of entertainment for families was ________, which transmitted a largely ________ version of culture.

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE
2 What sources might the artist who created SOURCE 5 have used as references for his artwork?
Do you consider SOURCE 5 as a primary or secondary source? Explain.

4.3 Putting it All Together

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE
1 Based on the information in this subtopic, briefly explain what life was like during the period of post-war Australia for:
   a men
   b women.

ANALYSING CAUSE AND EFFECT
2 Some of you may have grandparents who are part of the ‘baby boom’ generation.
   a Explain how this demographic group received its name.
   b The generation is often described collectively as having certain defining characteristics, such as being individualistic, optimistic, high-achieving and acquisitive. How valid is it to classify a whole group in this way?

IDENTIFYING CONTINUITY AND CHANGE
3 Is the monarchy more or less important to Australians today than it was in the post-war decades?
   In pairs or small groups, discuss and account for any change in feelings about the monarchy from then to now.

4 Investigate the participation of women in the work force in present-day Australia. Use your research as well as the information in this subtopic to draw a graph showing participation rates from the period 1950 to 2015. Write a paragraph describing the changing trends shown in your graph.

5 SOURCE 5 is a modern artist’s impression of life in the Australian suburbs in the 1960s. Create a table with two columns to compare and contrast the details of life depicted in SOURCE 5 with details you think are representative of life in the Australian suburbs today.

DETERMINING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
6 Evaluate the following statement: The demographic changes that occurred immediately after World War II were directly responsible for creating the Australia we see today. Use examples in your response.

4.4 Sport and society

4.4.1 Developing a surfing culture
Sport has long been recognised as an important element of national identity. As free settlers arrived in Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century, they built rugby fields, cricket pitches and racetracks in an effort to re-create their English ‘homeland’. Yet sport provided more than just a connection to the motherland. Both organised and informal sporting activities helped forge the characteristics of Australian communities. Sport provided a sense of community, identity and social interaction for communities often spread across vast distances. In the post-war era, while many sports teams promoted inclusiveness, others practised social exclusion and even racism.

Before 1902, it was illegal to swim on Australian beaches in daylight hours. By the 1970s, Australian beach and surf culture had become a clearly defined movement with a strong focus on freedom of expression and rebellion. In the early twentieth century, mixed swimming at
Australian beaches was still rare. Modest and almost full body bathing costumes (as seen in *SOURCE 1*) were still commonplace.

**SOURCE 1** (a) Women in traditional bathing suits in New South Wales, 1908 (b) This one-piece suit worn by Australian film and swimming star, Annette Kellerman, was extremely controversial during the early 1900s.

It was a visit from American Olympic champion Duke Kahanamokue in 1914 which introduced Australians to modern surfing (see **SOURCE 2**). With his royal Hawaiian heritage, surfing was a skill well known to the swimming champion. While on a post-Olympic tour in 1914, Kahanamokue was persuaded to demonstrate surfing to a group of bathers at Freshwater Beach in Sydney’s north. Australian teenagers soon released that their coastal beaches provided the perfect conditions for this new past-time. Yet surfing's initial popularity was significantly affected by the years of conflict and national economic hardship. It was only after World War II that Australian surf culture began to flourish. The timing of Australian surfing's rise corresponded with a range of social issues which were having a wider and dramatic impact on Australian society. The peace and civil rights movements, together with growing environmental concerns, contributed to the growing popularity of surfing. As such, the sport became a focus for youth counter-culture and rebellion; it became a way for young Australians to make a statement to older generations. A series of local and international films further popularised the archetypal surfer.

**SOURCE 2** Duke Kahanamoku (pictured centre-right with a long-board over his shoulder) leaves the beach at Freshwater, Sydney in January 1915.
4.4.1 Activities

**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

1. Explain how surfing was introduced to Australia.
2. Which global events initially restricted the popularity of surfing in Australia? Explain why these events had such an impact.
3. Explain why there was a connection between surfing and counter-culture.

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**

4. Why do you believe Annette Kellerman’s bathing suit as shown in **SOURCE 1b** was considered controversial at the time? Would it be considered controversial now?
5. Closely examine **SOURCE 2**. Identify and describe three features of interest to a historian in this photograph.
6. Which of the sources shown in this section best represents early Australian surf culture? Explain your answer.

4.4.2 Going for gold

There may be no greater stage in world sport and no greater representation of inclusiveness and tolerance than that of the Olympic Games. Australia has been part of the Olympic movement since the first modern games in 1896. In fact, only Greece and Australia have participated in every Summer Olympics. Only one Australian athlete, Edwin Flack, was sent to Athens in 1896, yet his return with two gold models is, to this day, one of Australia’s most successful Olympic track and field performances. Since the inaugural games, Australia’s involvement has continued to grow, culminating in hosting the Olympics in 1956 and later in 2000. The games in 1956 corresponded with the official launch of television in Australia.

Australia’s involvement in the Olympic Games and the wider Olympic movement represents our country’s passion for sport but also our commitment to Olympic and Paralympic values of friendship, respect, excellence, determination, inspiration, courage and equality. The Australian government believes that the Olympic Games are an ‘opportunity for nations to come together in peace and friendship’ and it has a long history of service to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
The Olympics as a platform for political protest

Australia has also featured prominently in some of the most enduring moments of the modern Olympics. At the 1956 Melbourne games, Hungary and the Soviet Union met in a water polo game which came to be known as the 'Blood in the water' match. Just months before the Olympics, Hungarians had revolted over the Soviet control of their country. Tensions exploded during the game, with brutal tactics employed by both sides. Fearing a crowd riot, officials eventually called the game off.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, 325 Australian athletes participated, winning 35 medals: 13 gold, 8 silver and 14 bronze. This resulted in Australia being placed third after USSR and USA on the overall medal table, an achievement not yet surpassed.

SOURCE 5 The start of the 100 metre sprint at the 1896 Athens Olympics. It was won by Thomas Burke (USA) in a time of 12.0s.

SOURCE 6 The start of the 100 metre sprint at the 2012 London Olympics. It was won by Usain Bolt (Jamaica) in a time of 9.63s.
Later in 1968, Australian athlete Peter Norman found himself embroiled in controversy surrounding a civil rights protest by his American counterparts. On the way to the medal presentation ceremony, first-place getter Tommie Smith and third-place getter John Carlos, informed Norman they intended to make a statement supporting African American rights by raising their fists in the 'Black Power' salute. From the image in **SOURCE 8**, it may not seem as though Norman was doing much to support his fellow athletes. Yet it was Norman who suggested that Smith and Carlos wear black gloves on the dais. Norman paid a significant price for his actions, being shunned by his peers and overlooked for selection in subsequent games, despite surpassing qualification standards. Only in 2012, six years after his death, did the Australian government issue a formal apology to Norman and his family.

**SOURCE 7** Hungarian water polo player Ervin Zador is led from the pool after being punched in the closing moments of the 'Blood in the water' match against the Soviet Union at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

**SOURCE 8** Peter Norman stands in support while Americans Tommie Smith and John Carlos give the 'Black Power' salute at the 1968 Mexico Olympics.

### 4.4.2 Activities

#### CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. For how many years has Australian been involved in the modern Olympics?
2. In which years has Australia been the host nation for staging the Olympic Games?
3. What does the Australian government believe about the value of the Olympic Games? Do you agree?
4. Describe how Peter Norman demonstrated his support for the American civil rights movement.

#### USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE

5. Compare and contrast **SOURCES 5** and **6**. Identify and describe the key similarities and differences of these images.
6. Discuss the strengths and weakness of **SOURCE 7** as a piece of historical evidence.
7. What emotions does the image in **SOURCE 8** invoke? Are these emotions relevant in evaluating the value of a historical source? Explain your answer.
4.4.3 Immigration, soccer and national identity

Although other codes of football, namely Australian Rules and Rugby, had already become established in Australia, it was soccer, known in Europe as ‘football’, that was the sport that European migrants to Australia knew and loved.

Between 1947 and 1964, more than two million migrants entered Australia under schemes designed to expand industry, or as displaced persons following World War II. Often, they found themselves unwelcome in the established sporting clubs and sought refuge in soccer. The high number of migrants participating in soccer led to it being labelled ‘Wogball’ by some white Australians.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, soccer remained popular with migrant communities in all states. Clubs were run by immigrants and often represented a single ethnicity. The petroleum company Ampol sponsored these competitions and sponsored a national Ampol Cup. In 1974, just one year after the official end of the White Australia policy, Australia qualified for the FIFA World Cup. Although they were beaten by East Germany (2–0), West Germany (3–0), and drew with Chile (0–0), playing at one of the biggest sporting events in the world was a major achievement and reignited interest in establishing an Australian league.

SOURCE 10 Australia’s 1974 soccer team, hailing from clubs such as Hakoah Melbourne, St George Budapest and Pan Hellenic, represented a mixture of ethnicities.
Ethnic tensions
The National Soccer League was established in 1977. For most of its history, it would remain fairly segregated, with players and supporters divided along ethnic lines. Of the 14 teams that competed in the 1991 season, 11 were ‘ethnic’: three were Italian, four Greek, two Croatian, one Macedonian and one Maltese. The 1991 final was played between South Melbourne Hellas and Preston Makedonia, replicating the tensions felt in the Greek and Macedonian communities over the disputed Macedonian territory. Throughout the match, fans from both sides taunted each other with racial slurs, leading one member of the crowd to describe the match as a ‘proxy war’.

In a society that claimed to be embracing multiculturalism, this sort of ethnic intolerance was a cause for major concern. In 1992, the Australian Soccer Federation began a process of ‘Australianising’ soccer clubs, which included banning any club that carried the name of a foreign country, state, or place, or any name with ‘political implications’. This was an attempt to stop the xenophobia and racism that had sometimes accompanied the sport, as well as being a business decision designed to attract corporate sponsorship.

Establishment of the A-League
The National Soccer League was succeeded by the A-League, which had its inaugural season in 2005–06. Run by Football Federation Australia (FFA), it is the top professional soccer league in Australia. The A-League is associated with the National Youth League, and the W-League for women. One year after the establishment of the A-League, Australian soccer — or football, as it is referred to by many of its fans — had its greatest victory in decades. The Socceroos, Australia’s national team, defeated Uruguay to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1974. The team would go on to make it into the Round of 16 for the first time. They continued this success in the 2011 AFC Asia Cup, making the final, where they were defeated by Japan 1–0.
SOURCE 12 Harry Kewell tackles Dario Srna and cements his place as man of the match in Australia’s win over Croatia in the 2006 World Cup.

4.4.3 Activities

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING
1 Explain how the popularity of soccer in Australia increased.
2 How did the National Soccer League represent the different ethnicities found within Australian society?
3 What problems did the cultural background of soccer clubs pose for state and national soccer competitions?

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE
4 Compare the scenes shown in SOURCES 9 and 10 to those you might see in contemporary Australian soccer. Analyse and describe the key changes (both positive and negative).
5 Soccer is often referred to as ‘the world game’. Explain what this phrase means. How does SOURCE 10 support this description?
6 Fan violence at soccer games is a continuing issue in Australia and around the world. Using the internet, find two articles about this issue. Summarise the key arguments used by the respective authors. Can you detect any bias in the two articles you have found?

4.4 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE
1 What value do photographs and written accounts of sporting events have as historical sources? Consider what else these sources could be used for apart from the documentation of sporting events.
2 Examine the images shown throughout this subtopic. What do they tell us about the role sport has in Australian society?

IDENTIFYING CONTINUITY AND CHANGE
3 Do you believe the role of sport in Australia has changed over time? Use examples to explain your answer.

ANALYSING CAUSE AND EFFECT
4 Provide examples of sporting events or organisations having one positive or one negative effect on Australian communities.
5 Explain how Australian immigration patterns have influenced the development of Australian soccer.

DETERMINING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
6 Conduct your own research to determine the most socially significant moments in Australian sporting history. Justify your response.

To access videos, interactivities, discussion widgets, image galleries, weblinks and more, go to www.jacplus.com.au
4.5 The rock’n’roll revolution

4.5.1 The origins of rock’n’roll

Australian popular music of the 1940s and 1950s consisted of jazz, country and big band music, and reflected the mostly conservative tastes of its listeners. Major stars of the day included the crooners Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra. Radio stations in this era did not specialise in styles, but played a range of popular songs, usually as part of programs that focused on a particular musical genre. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, teenagers were looking for a sound that was riskier and more ‘authentic’ than the music their parents were listening to. They found it in rock’n’roll, a new genre of music that would take the world by storm.

Rock’n’roll began in America and blended country and western music with the beat of rhythm and blues and the vocal power of African American gospel music. As a blend of traditionally white and black musical styles, rock’n’roll was met with initial controversy and opposition. The prevailing conservatism of the time simultaneously hindered and helped the popularity of rock’n’roll. Teenagers were drawn to rock’n’roll’s faster beats and melodies, yet they were also attracted to the social statements made by this new genre of music. In this way, a demographic division between older and younger generations was created by the rise of rock’n’roll music. This cultural and generational divide continued to grow as the popularity of rock’n’roll increased. The emergence of rock’n’roll also corresponded with technological developments in the musical world. Electric instruments were becoming more commonplace, and radio and television both had significant influences on the popularity of rock’n’roll.

Australian rock’n’roll — the first wave

In Australia, rock’n’roll found fans in disc jockeys such as Bob Rogers. Previously, Rogers had achieved some fame by discovering the song ‘Pub with no beer’ by Australian country and western artist Slim Dusty. Now Rogers would present the first top 40 show in Australia, bringing Australian teenagers the new sounds coming out of America on his weekly radio show. Australian teenagers had been enthralled with rock’n’roll since the movie Blackboard Jungle hit theatres in 1955; its soundtrack featured ‘Rock around the clock’ by Bill Haley. Before this, most music hits would sell around 50,000 copies in Australia. ‘Rock around the clock’ sold three times as many copies. For Australian teenagers, rock’n’roll represented new-found freedom and an opportunity to break away from what they saw as the old-fashioned values of their parents. As it was developing in their lifetime, young people saw rock’n’roll as their music. In this way, rock’n’roll became the first musical style to be closely associated with a distinct generation — the baby boomers.

SOURCE 2 Australian singer Lonnie Lee, who would go on to have a string of number 1 hits of his own, recalls the effect that Blackboard Jungle had on him when he watched it for the first time.

I can remember walking down George Street with a couple of my friends to go and see it and it was really exciting. I was — I think I was about 16 or 17 and we went into the movie and the music came on and oh, mercy, I swear you could not put it into words the incredible effect that that music had on young people knowing myself how I felt and my friends felt. And the people were thumping on the floor with their feet to the beat of the thing and clapping and yelling, it was like a live performance.
Rock’n’roll was featured across Australia in live shows organised by promoters such as Lee Gordon. Through his ‘Big Show’ concerts, Gordon brought a number of major rock’n’roll acts to Australia, including Bill Haley and the Comets, Little Richard, and Buddy Holly and the Crickets, and allowed Australian acts to open for them, thereby promoting the local music scene. It was on one of these tours that audiences were introduced to an Australian singer named Johnny O’Keefe (known as ‘The Wild One’).

O’Keefe, who had modelled himself on Elvis Presley and Little Richard, became the first Australian rock’n’roll performer to tour the United States and to break into the United States top 40. Television would also play a major role in popularising early rock’n’roll, as television shows such as Six O’clock Rock, hosted by O’Keefe, presented rock’n’roll to a predominantly teenage audience.

As the 1950s drew to a close, the American rock’n’roll performers were about to face a challenge from British rock’n’roll bands including the Rolling Stones, the Animals, and, of course, the Beatles. Together, these bands would come to be known as ‘The British Invasion’.

4.5.1 Activities

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. What music styles were major influences on early rock’n’roll?
2. Explain how rock’n’roll created a cultural and generational divide between teenagers of the 1950s and 1960s and their parents.
3. Through which medium did rock’n’roll enter Australia?

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE

4. SOURCE 1 depicts a performance by one of the biggest rock’n’roll artists of all time, Elvis Presley. Based on body language and dress, what can you tell about Elvis at this point in his career? Why do you think he was so popular?
5. SOURCE 2 describes Australian teenagers’ responses to Blackboard Jungle. According to this quote, what was it about the soundtrack that made it so popular?
   a. What do you notice about the audience?
   b. What similarities and differences can you discern between this concert and a modern concert?
7. Compare Johnny O’Keefe (SOURCE 3) to Elvis Presley (SOURCE 1). What similarities and differences can you discern?

4.5.2 The rise of the Beatles

The working-class English city of Liverpool was a grim place to grow up in the post-war years. Local teenagers were looking for a creative outlet and many found it in music. Four of the best were John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, who together, became known as the Beatles. After being turned down by all the major record labels in London, the Beatles were finally signed to Parlophone Records, which had previously published classical, jazz and comedy albums. Their first single, ‘Love me do’, was released in October 1962 and peaked at number 17 on the British charts. In March the following year they made it to number 1 with a song they wrote themselves, ‘Please please me’. This would be the first of many hits in the singles and album charts.
The Beatles’ musical style was heavily influenced by the emergence of rock’n’roll. Elvis Presley, Little Richard and Chuck Berry were among those listed by the band as formative influences. The Beatles soon developed their own musical style which, in their early years, was characterised by cheerful guitar rifts and well-blended vocal harmonies. Subsequent albums would see the Beatles’ musical style evolve and diversify. The band experimented with genres including country, heavy rock and later, psychedelic rock. Though their physical appearance may not seem outrageous compared to modern standards, the ‘mod-top’ hairstyle worn by all four Beatles in their early days was considered to be an expression of rebellion. This added to their popularity and placed the Beatles at the centre of the rock’n’revolution.

**Beatlemania touches down in Australia**

Following a meteoric rise to fame in England and a string of number one hits in the United States, the Beatles set off on a tour of Australia known as Beatlemania. When their plane touched down at Sydney’s Mascot International Airport on 11 June 1964, the Fab Four (as the Beatles were known) were greeted by around 2000 screaming fans. They would make 15 appearances at venues around the country, but nowhere would they receive a reception like they did in Adelaide. Large crowds of screaming teenage fans had been expected; what wasn’t expected was the turnout estimated at between 250,000–350,000 people — more than a quarter of the city’s population.

After they left Australia, the Beatles were more popular than ever, holding the top six spots on the top 40.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

When the Beatles toured Australia, the DJs hosting the events failed to stop the fans from screaming through the performance, making it almost impossible to hear the music.

**SOURCE 4** Fans scream for Paul, one of the ‘Fab Four’, at Sydney airport in 1964.

**SOURCE 5** John Bywaters was an Adelaide-based musician when the Beatles toured in 1964. In this excerpt with reporter Mike Sexton, he explains how he gained popularity in the post-Beatlemania hype with the Twilights.

**MIKE SEXTON:** But after the Beatles left and the screaming died down, the beat went on. Local musicians inspired by the visit were asking the question — if it could happen to four lads from Liverpool, then why not them?

**JOHN BYWATERS, MUSICIAN:** We then became sort of vacuums, or like a sponge if you like, sucking in all this new material that the Beatles started to produce and we sort of had a bit of reflected glory from them as they became popular.

**MIKE SEXTON:** John Bywaters played in a Beatles cover band called the Twilights which was fronted by a British migrant named Glenn Shorrock. Soon they started writing their own songs and found themselves in the charts alongside their idols.

**JOHN BYWATERS:** I think it’s back to the migrant thing where these hip kids came from mainly England and the north of England. I think, you know, they were already into the influence of that sort of music and they came here and they made Adelaide a very vibey scene with the clubs and such like.

**4.5.2 Activities**

**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

1. Using the information available to you in this section, how do you explain the incredible popularity of the Beatles?
2. Describe the musical style of the Beatles.

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**

3. Based upon SOURCE 4, who do you think the Beatles were trying to appeal to? What makes you say this?
4. How might SOURCE 4 provide evidence for a division between the ‘establishment’ or older generation and teenagers?

5. Based upon SOURCE 5 as well as other information in this spread, do you think that the Beatles’ 1964 tour promoted or stifled the creativity of Australian rock’n’roll?

**DETERMINING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

6. In 1966, John Lennon of The Beatles caused controversy when he said ‘We’re more popular than Jesus now; I don’t know which will go first — rock’n’roll or Christianity’. Do you agree with his statement? Justify your answer.
4.5.3 Australian rock goes worldwide

It was not long after rock’n’roll music made its way to Australia that the first home-grown rock bands began to emerge. This first wave of Australian rock was directly influenced by the new sounds coming out of the American music industry. Australian artists such as Johnny O’Keefe were part of this first wave. Although these acts were hugely popular in Australia, they struggled for international recognition. The same could not be said for artists who were part of the second wave of Australian rock. This era of Australian rock’n’roll occurred directly after the Beatles’ 1964 Australian tour and its sound was heavily reminiscent of the famous British band. Part of this second wave were the Easybeats, the first Australian band to have an international rock’n’roll hit with the 1966 single, ‘Friday on my mind’.

A third wave of Australian rock’n’roll developed in the grit and grime of the ‘pub rock’ scene. The rise in popularity of pub rock was due, in part, to the continuing influence of TV music shows, particularly the ABC’s Countdown, which ran from 1974 to 1987. Hosted by respected musical personality Ian ‘Molly’ Meldrum, this enormously popular show promoted Australian musical acts to a local audience. Bands such as Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs and later Cold Chisel, the Angels and AC/DC all emerged from this period of time. In 1975, members of the Easybeats produced AC/DC’s first album, High Voltage. Fronted by Bon Scott (who was replaced by Brian Johnson in 1980), AC/DC would become mainstays on Countdown, endearing them to Australian audiences before they embarked upon their international career. After signing with Atlantic Records, AC/DC gained a succession of international hits, becoming one of the world’s most popular and enduring rock bands over the following decades.

4.5.3 Activities

**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**
1. List the different waves of Australian rock’n’roll and the artists in each wave.
2. Explain the role the television show Countdown had in increasing the popularity of Australian rock’n’roll.
3. Which band released Australia’s first international rock’n’roll hit?

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**
4. **SOURCE 6** depicts a performance from one of Australia’s most successful rock’n’roll bands, AC/DC, who are well-known for staging exhilarating and theatrical performances. What similarities and differences do you see between AC/DC and the earlier rock acts depicted in this spread?
4.5 Putting It All Together

Using Historical Sources as Evidence
1. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of using song lyrics as historical sources.
2. Compare and contrast the scenes in Source 3, 4.5.1 and Source 4, 4.5.2. What does this say about the evolution of rock’n’roll?

Identifying Continuity and Change
3. Explain how rock’n’roll created generational conflict in the 1950s and 1960s.
4. Describe the development of rock’n’roll in Australia. Include references to artists and bands.

Analysing Cause and Effect
5. Why were Australian audiences and musicians so open to influence from American musicians in the late 1950s and early 1960s? How did this change after the Beatlemania tour of 1964?
6. How might the development of Australian rock’n’roll have helped with the development of Australia’s post-war identity?

Determining Historical Significance
7. ‘The 1964 Beatles tour was the most influential moment in Australian popular music.’ What other evidence would you need to evaluate the accuracy of this statement?

4.6 Global political and social influences on popular culture

4.6.1 Music and the power of protest

The 1960s was a time of political and social upheaval. The country went to war in Vietnam. Battles sprung up at home against Australia’s participation in the war and in the name of civil rights, and in support of Indigenous land rights and women’s liberation. Around the world, many people took to the streets in protest, while others were inspired to create music that expressed their concerns. Musicians began to recognise that through their songs, they had an opportunity to educate and inform their listeners about political and social issues. This music became known as ‘protest music’.

In 1964, Prime Minister Robert Menzies announced that the government would begin selective conscription of 20-year-old Australian men. While all young men of eligible age were required to register, only those whose birth dates were selected by lottery would be required for National Service. The following year, Menzies announced that Australia would send troops to assist the South Vietnamese government in combating the threat posed by the communists. The new conscripts could now be sent to Vietnam.

While many people who disagreed with Australia’s presence in Vietnam took to the streets in protest, others – inspired by members of America’s Folk Revival movement – put pen to paper to create protest music. Written by Johnny Young and sung by Ronnie Burns in 1969, ‘Smiley’ was inspired by the experiences of Normie Rowe, an Australian pop singer who was highly disturbed by the experience of fighting in Vietnam. The lyrics tell a story: ‘Smiley / You’re off to the Asian War / And we won’t see you smile no more’.

The Vietnam War and the horrors experienced by its young soldiers would continue to inspire musicians for decades. In 1983, Australian folk group Redgum released ‘I was only nineteen’, in which they wrote, ‘Frankie kicked a mine the day that mankind kicked the moon. God help me, he was going home in June’.

To access videos, interactivities, discussion widgets, image galleries, weblinks and more, go to www.jacplus.com.au

SOURCE 1 Normie Rowe in Vietnam

conscription

Compulsory enlistment, especially in the armed forces; also called the draft.
Another major issue to preoccupy protest singers of the 1960s was civil rights. During this era, the protest against Vietnam and for civil rights went hand-in-hand. In America Bob Dylan led the musical protests around civil rights for African Americans. Many Australians supported Indigenous Australians’ right to own their traditional lands (also known as ‘land rights’).

SOURCE 2 On 28 August 1963, Bob Dylan, widely recognised as the pioneer of the folk rock music style, and singer-activist Joan Baez, played in front of an estimated 250,000 people who had gathered in America’s capital in support of economic and civil rights for African Americans. His song ‘Blowin’ in the wind’ became a protest anthem.

Protest music continued to hold a strong place in the Australian rock’n’roll scene through the 1970s and 1980s. Bands such as Midnight Oil proved that it was possible to have commercial success with socially responsible music. Contemporary Australian bands like John Butler Trio and hip-hop act The Herd continue to produce protest music.

4.6.1 Activities

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING
1 Write your own definition of protest music. Which group of Australians faced conscription?

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE
3 What do you think the respective photographers are trying to capture in SOURCES 1 and 2? How are you positioned to view the subjects in the photographs?

4.6.2 The hippie movement
The hippie subculture emerged out of the beat generation of the 1950s in America, Australia, England and elsewhere. Rather than protesting as stridently as those who had come before them, hippies aimed to challenge the conventional values of regular, mainstream society by embracing a less materialistic, more communal lifestyle, and promoting a peaceful, compassionate and sustainable way of life. It could be said that they were attempting to create a utopia.
America’s hippies and other like-minded people came together at Woodstock, a three-day, free music festival held outside Bethel, New York, in August 1969. Thirty-two musical acts performed for half a million people who danced in the rain and mud. The festival would come to be synonymous with the values of peace, love and communal living. Many of the values that underpinned Woodstock were also represented by Australia’s Aquarius Festival, held in Nimbin in 1973, and attended by between 5000 and 10 000 young people from around the country. This festival was advertised with the slogan, ‘From our hearts, with our hands, for the Earth, all the world together’.

Music festivals in Australia

In Australia, between 1970 and 1975, many outdoor music festivals were staged. The first Sunbury Music Festival in January of 1972 is often referred to as ‘Australia’s Woodstock’. The inaugural festival drew an audience of 35 000, all of whom camped out and lived communally for three days listening to rock, blues, soul and r’n’b (rhythm and blues) music. However, as far as music and mood was concerned, the hippie movement of peace and love was giving way to the essential Australian ingredients of sun, beer and gritty rock. Performers like Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs, Max Merritt and the Meteors and Chain showcased Australian contemporary music. The festival eventually folded in 1975 after financial difficulties that arose from the concert being rained out.

In 1973 the Aquarius Festival was held at Nimbin and attended by between 5000 and 10 000 young people. This festival was advertised with the slogan ‘From our hearts, with our hands, for the Earth, all the world together’. Many hippies decided to stay on in the Nimbin area after the festival and continue its counter-culture lifestyle philosophy.

SOURCE 3 The Aquarius Festival, held in Nimbin in 1973, was designed to celebrate freedom of mind, body and spirit.
4.6 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

4.6.2 Activities

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING
1 List the aims of hippies and their movement.
2 What values were represented in the Woodstock music festival?
3 List the festivals mentioned in this section in order of occurrence. How did Australia’s Sunbury Music Festival differ from Woodstock?

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE
4 What could a historian learn from studying the photograph (SOURCE 3)? In your response, consider:
   a the gender of those shown
   b the age of those shown.

4.6 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE
1 How would you categorise the sources included in this subtopic?

IDENTIFYING CONTINUITY AND CHANGE
2 Are music festivals held today in Australia? Are they based on a particular philosophy or set of values as Woodstock was? If so, what are they? If not, does this suggest music is no longer a means of protest?

ANALYSING CAUSE AND EFFECT
3 Choose a decade of the twentieth century (the 1960s, 1970s or 1980s) and conduct research into protest music from the decade. Find an example of lyrics that could be classified as ‘protest’ and write a persuasive essay of 400 words showing how it represents a protest against events of its time.

4.7 The evolution of television as a cultural influence

4.7.1 Welcome to television
Since it arrived in Australia in 1956, no form of mass media has been more influential in establishing and reinforcing popular culture than television. From humble beginnings, the television would become a pivotal cultural and political tool, and would help to transform the country forever. In recent years, television has gone digital, offering viewers more choice than ever, and forcing television producers to think of new ways to attract and maintain their audience.

Bruce Gyngell, a presenter on Australia’s first commercial television network TCN-9, officially introduced television to the Australian public on 16 September 1956 with the words ‘Good evening, and welcome to television’. The release date coincided with the Melbourne Olympics, which were held from 22 November to 8 December 1956. By the time the Olympics was broadcast, TCN-9 had been joined by HSV Melbourne and ABN-2. Other stations sprung up in the following years, including stations based in major metropolitan areas and regional or rural areas. The most popular programs of the day were produced overseas, where higher budgets allowed studios to create shows with higher production values. Local productions included quiz and musical variety shows, which had been popular during the radio era, as well as news and current affairs shows.

Vietnam — the first ‘television war’
By 1966, only ten years after it was released in Australia, the television had become a common household item, and could be found in 95 per cent of homes in Sydney and Melbourne. Before television, listening...
to the radio was a family event, with a large radio found in the living rooms of most Australian homes. This trend was kept when household televisions replaced radios, with entire families huddled around a small screen. The Vietnam War was the first war to be shown on Australian television and gained the name ‘the television war’. Early coverage of the war was upbeat, containing few images of the dead and focusing instead on the military’s progress. However, as the conflict dragged on, and public opinion began to turn against the war, television opened a window into the more troubling stories. This culminated in the coverage of a South Vietnamese napalm strike on an enemy stronghold in the summer of 1972. During the attack, South Vietnamese bombers bombed their own citizens and soldiers as they ran for their lives. One of the most striking images of this event is of Phan Thí Kim Phúc, a young girl burned by napalm, running down the middle of a road surrounded by American soldiers.

**Channel 0/28 — multiculturalism on screen**

In 1980, Australia made history when it established Channel 0/28, the world’s first ethnic television channel. The Fraser government supported the station because it would assist immigrants in understanding Australia and would better reflect their interests. This was part of a deliberate strategy to develop a more multicultural nation, one that respected its residents’ cultural heritage rather than attempting to force a dominant culture upon them.

From the start, the 0/28 Channel broadcast was designed to offer a broad range of programming that would appeal to people whose interests weren’t adequately covered by the other networks. On its first night, it screened the documentary *Who are we?*, which traced the history of immigration to Australia. This set the tone for the new channel, which would become known for screening movies from around the world and for covering international issues in depth within its news programs.

### 4.7.1 Activities

**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

1. With what global event did the launch of television in Australia correspond?
2. Explain how the television could be seen as a tool for family cohesion.
3. What impact did televised updates from the Vietnam War have on Australian families and communities?
4. Why was the establishment of Channel 0/28 seen as a milestone for Australia?

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**

5. Graham Kennedy, a former radio star, was one of Australian television’s first big stars. Looking at [SOURCE 1](#), describe what you see, including the set, Kennedy’s costume and overall ‘look’, and anything else that strikes you about the picture.
6. [SOURCE 2](#) depicts Australian investigative journalist Neil Davis. What can you tell about his style of reporting based upon this image? How might this style of reporting have given him an advantage during the Vietnam War?
4.7.2 From soapies to reality

Australia has produced a number of dramatic serials, or ‘soap operas’. They typically feature an open storyline, which continues from one episode to the next, seemingly indefinitely. Early Australian soap operas included Number 96 (1972), The Sullivans (1976) and Sons and Daughters (1982), all of which ran in prime-time slots and were important in reflecting the changing social attitudes.

Number 96 was one show that courted controversy on a number of occasions. Launched in 1972 by an ailing 0–10 Network (now Channel 10), Number 96 focused on the relationships of a group of people living in one apartment complex. The show featured a multiracial cast, frequent nudity, sex scenes, homosexuality and drug use. These racy storylines and themes had never been seen on television before. The impact of Number 96 was exaggerated by its contrast to more conventional Australian ‘soapies’ such as The Sullivans. Viewers were confronted with representations of a changing world and this shocked and scared many Australian households.

The genre reached new heights with Neighbours (1985) and Home and Away (1988) gaining huge popularity with predominantly teenage audiences in Australia. Neighbours and Home and Away also performed well overseas, particularly in England, because they represented a very different lifestyle than that of the British. Some Australian soap opera stars, most notably Kylie Minogue, used their new-found international stardom to become successful pop singers, while others, such as Russell Crowe, Margo Robbie, Liam Hemsworth and Chris Hemsworth, became A-list movie and television actors.
Domestic and international tourists continue to make the pilgrimage to the sets of **Home and Away** and **Neighbours** each year, where they can view the Summer Bay Surf Lifesaving Club, Alf’s Bait Shop and Ramsay Street up close.

Reality television ‘gets real’

In the late 1990s, a new genre of television emerged from England and America known as ‘reality television’. This genre took audience participation far beyond the competition of game shows or the (usually) strictly controlled documentaries of the past. **Big Brother**, once referred to as ‘the mother of all reality shows’, promised contestants a large cash prize if they could escape elimination by the audience over a number of weeks. Some people viewed the show as an interesting social experiment or reflection of our times, while others viewed it as degrading to participants.

Most reality television consists of a group of people put into a challenging situation and offered a substantial prize if they can survive a process of elimination. Since it requires no professional actors and can be shot entirely on location, reality television is quite cheap to produce, making it attractive to television stations. The popularity of reality television is largely due to viewers relating better to participants than to paid actors. Viewers enjoy watching normal people faced with abnormal situations. They are fascinated by flawed personality traits and are intrigued by the potential of conflict. In fact, some reality television shows have been criticised for deliberately misrepresented participants and manufacturing conflict. Examples of popular reality TV shows include **Australian Survivor**, **Australian Idol**, **Australia’s Next Top Model**, **The X-factor Australia**, and **MasterChef**, all of which were based upon concepts developed in other countries.

The technology of television

Ever since the first television signal was broadcast in Australia, technology has dictated what Australians watch and how they watch it. In 1966, Australia received its first satellite images from the United States, a technology that would eventually allow television companies to show events live rather than waiting to broadcast recorded footage. On 20 July 1969, satellite images allowed Australians to watch Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walk on the moon. This immediate access to information became even more important when Australian soldiers entered the Vietnam War. In 1975, colour television arrived in Australia, leading to a growing popularity in this medium, and further establishing its dominance over radio.
When it was first broadcast in 1968, *Skippy the bush kangaroo* was the most expensive Australian television production ever made, costing around $6,000 per episode. It was the first Australian show to be widely screened in the United States, as well as 80 other countries worldwide. However, Australians would have to wait until 1975 to view *Skippy* in colour.

SOURCE 5 Australia fell in love with *MasterChef* when it was broadcast on Network Ten in April 2009. It would go on to be one of the top rating programs of the year, with an estimated 3.7 million people tuning in to the finale. The *MasterChef* format was originally developed for English television. Australia is one of more than 25 countries to have localised the show.

SOURCE 6 In recent decades, Australians have been given access to a broader range of television stations via cable television, which they pay for on a subscription basis. In 2010, Australia began the complex process of shifting from analogue to digital TV, which allows for an increasing number of television channels. However, many people, including content producers, worry that, rather than promoting a greater amount of local television production, these channels will become yet more venues for broadcasting American re-runs. The increase of internet pirates illegally downloading television shows and the rise of streaming services such as Netflix, also pose a significant threat to the future of television in Australia and around the world.
4.7.2 Activities

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING
1 Explain the origins of the term ‘soapie’.
2 Compare and contrast the content of the television shows *The Sullivans* and Number 96.
3 Discuss the impact of Number 96 on Australian society.
4 Identify and explain the reasons viewers often prefer to watch reality television rather than ‘soapies’.
5 Describe the ways in which technological changes have improved television in the period from 1956 to the present.

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE
6 As you can see from SOURCE 4, some tourists include a tour of a soap opera set when they travel to Australia. What does this suggest about the importance of Australian soap operas to our image internationally? What sort of impression do you think that the major soap operas, Neighbours and *Home and Away*, give of Australia? Is this an accurate impression?

7 Study SOURCE 3.
   a How do these images and the popularity of the television program *Number 96* support or refute the idea of Australia as a conservative society in the early 1970s?
   b *The Daily Mirror* newspaper that reported the ‘amazing figures’ of ‘1.8 million viewers’ every night is considered a tabloid newspaper. Why might a historian be reluctant to use a tabloid newspaper as a reliable source?
   c Can you think of any television programs today that draw ‘amazing’ numbers of viewers? What explanation about the interests and views of Australian society can you offer for this popularity?

8 SOURCES 5 and 6 represent very different television programs and television viewing habits over time. Comment on what you consider this change to show about Australian popular culture.

9 Conduct your own research on the issue of illegal downloading of television shows. Find two articles with opposing views on the issue. Compare and contrast their main arguments.

4.7 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE
1 Compare and contrast the images of early Australian television shown in this subtopic to those that are familiar to you from contemporary television. Make a table which summarises the main similarities and differences (include references to genre and content).
2 Can all genres of television be used as historical sources? Are there some genres that are more reliable than others?

IDENTIFYING CONTINUITY AND CHANGE
3 Identify and explain the key changes in Australian television style since its launch in 1956.
4 Identify and explain the key changes in Australian television technology since its launch in 1956.

ANALYSING CAUSE AND EFFECT
5 How might illegal downloading affect Australian television broadcasting?

DETERMINING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
6 What do you believe has been the most significant moment in Australian television? You may need to conduct your own research in order to answer this question.

4.8 The Australian film industry: post-war to today

4.8.1 The growth of the Australian film industry
The Australian film industry has a long and proud history. Australian filmmakers the Tait brothers created the world’s first feature film in 1906 with *The Story of the Kelly Gang*. Throughout the rest of the silent era, filmmakers would continue to create films that reflected Australia’s colonial past. In the 1940s and 1950s, the industry was neglected by the government, and major productions were made possible only with investment from large British and American studios. In the 1970s, the Australian government began to invest heavily in its film industry, starting a boom period that would last for two...
decades. This cinematic ‘new wave’ would launch the careers of many of the country's best-known actors, filmmakers and on-screen personalities, and would underpin Australia’s contribution to the global film industry in the decades to follow.

After the early success of the Australian silent movie industry, World War I and later, the Great Depression stymied further development in this new art form. Despite the tragedies of the World War II, some important films were made during this period. In the 1930s, film studio Cinesound was active producing newsreels and short documentary films. They were also responsible for the hugely popular Dad and Dave series of comedies. The first Australian feature film to be produced in colour was the groundbreaking movie, Jedda (1955). Still one of the most debated Australian films, Jedda tells the story of a young Aboriginal girl who is brought up by a European family after her mother dies. Representing themes that are still deeply relevant in Australian society today, Jedda was also a film of firsts. It was the first Australian film to feature Indigenous lead actors and the first to debut at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. After this time, however, the Australian film industry went into a decline that was almost terminal. It was only saved by tax concessions introduced by the Gorton and Whitlam governments in the early 1970s.

From 1970 to 1985, the nation produced about 400 movies, more films than had been made since film production began in Australia. During this period, the Australian government threw its support behind the industry by offering large tax breaks to encourage investment in film production, and establishing both the Australian Film Development Corporation (later renamed Film Australia) and the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS). This growth in the film industry allowed local audiences to watch films that felt truly Australian, created by home-grown directors. Popular films of the period included Sunday Too Far Away and Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975), and Mad Max (1979).
**SOURCE 2** Mad Max (1979) tells the story of a police officer in a post-apocalyptic Australian future. It was immensely popular in Australia and around the world, leading to a number of sequels and establishing Mel Gibson as an international movie star.

In 2015, the fourth in the Mad Max film series, Mad Max: Fury Road became the highest grossing Australian film ever, surpassing Crocodile Dundee, Australia and Babe. It also won six Oscars (from 10 nominations) at the 2016 Academy Awards.
4.8.2 The Australian character in film

Since *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, Australian audiences have enjoyed watching characters test the boundaries of acceptable behaviour. Rogues, larrikins and scoundrels depicted on screen seem to have an enduring appeal for both Australian filmmakers and filmgoers. One of the first films financed by the newly established Australian Film Development Corporation was *The Adventures of Barry McKenzie* (1972). The film was written by Barry Humphries and directed by Bruce Beresford, and cost $250,000 to produce. *The Adventures of Barry McKenzie* told the story of Bazza, an ill-mannered, hard-drinking ‘hero’, and his ‘shameless adventures in Pommyland’. The movie relied heavily upon stereotypes of Australians and the English for its humour, pitting Bazza against a cast of upright British characters. The *ocker* comedy was a hit in Australia and Britain, and was the first Australian film to earn more than $1 million at the box office.

In *Crocodile Dundee* (1986), Sue Charlton, a reporter from the ‘big apple’ visits the Australian bush in an attempt to meet a famed crocodile hunter. Michael J ‘Crocodile’ Dundee is unrefined with a good sense of humour, but, unlike Barry McKenzie, he demonstrates a number of features associated with the traditional hero, such as bravery and the willingness to protect his friends. After Mick rescues Sue from a crocodile attack, she takes him back to New York, where his straightforward manner and lack of pretence charm the people he meets. A worldwide smash hit, *Crocodile Dundee* still holds the number one box office record for an Australian movie.

In 2010’s *Animal Kingdom*, Jackie Weaver plays crime family matriarch Janine ‘Smurf’ Cody, who is willing to do anything to protect ‘her boys’, a criminal gang targeted by the police. A critical sensation, *Animal Kingdom* picked up numerous awards including the AFI’s Best Australian Film of 2010, while Weaver received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress.

**Source 3** *The Adventures of Barry McKenzie*, made in 1972, relied heavily on Australian and British stereotypes for its humour.

**Source 4** Crocodile Dundee makes his entrance wrestling the crocodile that almost took his life, which is now dead and stuffed . . . but still makes a great impression on the tourists.
Interestingly, the success of *Animal Kingdom* both at home and abroad mirrors the success of Australia’s first feature film, another crime drama, more than 100 years earlier.

**SOURCE 5** In this scene from *Animal Kingdom*, Janine ‘Smurf’ Cody offers guidance to her criminal son Craig.

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**4.8.2 Activities**

**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

1. Study the characters mentioned in this section. For each of them, describe their personalities and explain how they represent members of Australian society.
   - Barry McKenzie
   - Mick ‘Crocodile’ Dundee
   - Janine ‘Smurf’ Cody

2. Based on the descriptions provided in this section, which movie provides the most accurate representation of Australian culture?

3. Stereotypes are frequently used to depict characters in film. Why do you believe this is so?

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**

4. Based upon the scenes depicted in SOURCES 3 and 4, what do Barry McKenzie and Crocodile Dundee have in common? How might they differ? What might their depictions suggest about the way Australia changed between 1972 and 1986?

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**4.8.3 Influences on Australian film and the future**

The Australian film industry has been entwined with Hollywood for decades. Following World War II, many films shot in Australia, such as 1959’s *On the Beach*, were financed at least in part by American studios, and featured foreign actors in major roles. This practice has been heavily criticised by some people, who claim that Australian stories would be better served by using local talent. However, others claim that major international productions shot locally, including *The Matrix* (1999), *Australia* (2008), *Where the Wild Things Are* (2009) and *The Wolverine* (2013), have given Australian actors and film crews experience that would be almost impossible for them to get otherwise.

Many Australians have made it big in Hollywood in front of, and behind, the camera. These days, it is not uncommon to see an Australian actor headlining an American film (usually with an American accent), while Australian directors such as Peter Weir and Bruce Beresford have had long, successful careers in Hollywood. Since the advent of computer-generated imagery (CGI), Australian special effects studios have contributed special effects to American films such as *Finding Nemo* (2003) and *The Lego Movie* (2014) and television series including multi-Emmy Award winner *The Pacific* (2010).

The Australian film industry has also recently developed strong ties with Bollywood. The largest and most successful film industry in the world, Bollywood is the name given to the Indian film industry.
Since the 1990s, the link between the two industries has become closer. Increased Indian immigration, a changing Australian diplomatic and economic focus in Asia and strong cultural links, including a shared colonial heritage, have assisted the development of this relationship. Many Bollywood films have been shot in Australia and several Australian actors and personalities have featured in them. Even Australian test cricketer, Brett Lee, has starred in Bollywood movies!

**SOURCE 6** The Australian government supports the idea of movies being shot in Australia, in part because of the money that can be generated through promoting Australia as a travel destination. *Australia* (2008) was shot in various locations throughout Australia and was tied to a tourism campaign titled, ‘See the movie, see the country’.

**SOURCE 7** In 2015, former Australian cricketer Brett Lee starred in the Bollywood-style feature film *UnIndian*. The movie was set in Australia and funded by the Australia India Film Fund, whose aim is to ‘fund India-centric films for a global audience’. Its box office takings were $133,910.
Cinema versus living rooms

In the five years following the introduction of television to Australia in 1956, cinema ticket sales fell drastically, resulting in the closure of many cinemas. Film studios, film distributors and cinemas responded by offering audiences productions that were shot and exhibited in Cinema Scope, a format that was twice as wide as it was tall, creating a very different experience to watching a television screen. Another important innovation was the drive-in — an open-air cinema designed to accommodate cars full of people. Throughout the 1960s, drive-ins grew in popularity by bringing together two things that suburban families loved: cars and films. By the end of the 1960s, there were 230 drive-ins in Australia.

In 1975, Australia’s first Multiplex, the Hoyts Entertainment Centre, opened in George Street, Sydney, with movies showing on seven screens. This signalled the development of multiplexes around the country and the gradual decline of single-screen cinemas. Despite this major innovation, in 1975, Australian cinemas faced another threat from television as black and white went colour. Within three years, around two-thirds of homes in Melbourne and Sydney had a new colour television, and cinema attendance had fallen by more than 30 per cent. This pattern was repeated with the release of the video recorder, which grew in popularity throughout the 1980s.

Today, movie studios and cinemas continue to search for new and innovative ways to package their product in order to bring audiences into the cinema. Some strategies that have become popular in recent years have been to release films in 3D, and to appeal to cinema goers’ sense of occasion by serving food and drinks within the movies, and offering customers a more luxurious experience. Cinemas have also experimented with showing live events such as theatrical performances, opera and ballet. In 2010, Hoyts formed a partnership with television station SBS, the official broadcaster of the FIFA World Cup, and showed a series of live matches, in 3D, in Australia and New Zealand.

SOURCE 8 Hundreds of cars parked at the Sundown Drive-In in Canberra, 1970
Cinemas have tried to entice people to go out to see films by offering a more luxurious experience, serving food and drink in a smaller, more intimate theatre with larger seats.

**The future of Australian films**

The future of Australian film (as well as the film industries of other countries) is under threat from the recent rise of illegal downloading. Making *bootleg* copies of movies has occurred for years in cinemas across the world. Most recently, bootlegged DVDs were commonly sold at markets around Australia. It is now even easier to find high quality copies of newly released movies online. These movies can be downloaded for free and watched in the comfort of your own home. The rates of illegal downloading have increased so dramatically in Australia that the federal government introduced the Copyright Amendment (Online Infringement) Bill (2015). This legislation seeks to implement tighter regulations on the downloading of music, television and movies. Such controls are necessary if the Australian film industry is to survive. Box office tickets and official DVD sales are two of the main forms of revenue for film studios. If Australians are downloading movies instead of paying to see them either in a cinema or at home, then less money will be earned by film studios. This will significantly reduce their ability to create films in the future.

More than half (57 per cent) of the films released in Australian cinemas over the past 31 years have come from the US. However, 2007 marked the beginning of a downward trend, with the US share falling below 50 per cent for the first time in 27 years in 2010 and reaching an historical low of 34 per cent in 2014. Nevertheless, US films earned 88 per cent ($883.7 million) of the total box office ($998.0 million) for all films released in Australia during 2013.

Since 2003 the number of films from Asia has increased significantly, comprising 25 per cent of releases in 2014, 15 per cent above the 31-year average. Local films comprised 8 per cent, below the 31-year average of 9 per cent (source: Screen Australia).

**SOURCE 9** Cinemas have tried to entice people to go out to see films by offering a more luxurious experience, serving food and drink in a smaller, more intimate theatre with larger seats.

**SOURCE 10** Origin of films released, 2014

- US: 34%
- Asia: 25%
- Australia: 8%
- UK: 12%
- Rest of Europe: 7%
- France: 6%
- Other: 6%
- NZ: 1%
### 4.8.3 Activities

**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**
1. Explain how the relationship between American and Australian film studios developed.
2. How do Australian companies currently contribute to the American film industry?
3. What recent developments have assisted the formation of a close relationship between the Indian and Australian film industries?
4. Explain how the rise of television influenced the popularity of cinema.
5. Discuss how illegal downloading influences the Australian film industry.

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**
6. Compare the movies referred to in SOURCES 6 and 7. Which film do you think filmgoers might prefer to visit a cinema to watch and why?
7. Compare SOURCES 8 and 9.
   a. Which cinematic experience would you prefer and why?
   b. Which cinematic experience do you believe would appeal more to Australian cinema-goers?
   c. More than 230 drive-ins were once located across Australia. What factors have contributed to the decline of drive-ins?

**4.8 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**
1. Evaluate the following statement: ‘As movies are mostly works of fiction, they have no use as historical sources.’
2. Using the sources in the topic, as well as your knowledge of Australian cinema, construct a graphical representation (flow chart or similar) showing the major developments in Australian post-war film.

**IDENTIFYING CONTINUITY AND CHANGE**
3. The Australian film industry has been forced to change to suit the habits of the Australian people. Discuss these changes and how they have influenced Australian cinematic experiences.
4. What do you think is the appeal of rogues, larrikins and scoundrels to the Australian filmmaker and filmgoer, and will this appeal continue?

**ANALYSING CAUSE AND EFFECT**
5. What do you believe is the greatest threat to the future of the Australian film industry?
6. Why do you think the rate of illegal downloading of movies in Australia has increased so dramatically?
7. Identify and explain any policies or strategies governments can implement to support the Australian film industry.

**DETERMINING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**
8. ‘The Australian film industry is doomed unless the illegal downloading of movies is stopped.’ Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain your response.

### 4.9 Continuity and change in beliefs and values

#### 4.9.1 Advance Australia fair?

From 1945, as the British Empire lost its influence in Asia, Australia began forging closer ties with its Asian neighbours and America. Australia also changed its immigration policies between the late 1940s and the last decades of the twentieth century. From the 1960s onward, it responded to major social changes that were sweeping much of the world. These moves would have major implications for Australia — socially, politically and culturally. Although Australia had traditionally considered itself to be an egalitarian nation, this period of social upheaval would force many people to question just how fair the nation was towards all its citizens. Events, particularly in the 1970s, would lead many Australians to question the extent to which Australia was a truly democratic nation. And it was also during this turmoil that the country would finally break free from some long-held religious prejudices.
Australians have traditionally considered our nation to be an egalitarian society; that is, one that values equality and fairness. Some people have even referred to Australia as a ‘classless society’ because every member of society, in theory, has the opportunity to succeed. However, in 1945, there were a great number of people whose voices were left out of the national debate, including Indigenous Australians, non-white immigrants, homosexuals and many women. It would take decades for Australia to become a society that would truly value citizens of any colour, sexual orientation, religion and gender.

But in some ways Australians have become less equal since 1945. Today, while it is possible for people from a range of backgrounds to get an education, gain employment and become productive members of society, many Australians still live in poverty, and lack access to education, health care and other essential services. In the last 70 years, Australia has also seen the gap widen between its poorest and richest citizens (see SOURCE 1). For those living in poverty, the concept of egalitarianism can seem more myth than reality.

### SOURCE 1

**Australian income inequality $ per week, by quintile**

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quintile</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
<th>Fourth</th>
<th>Highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ per week</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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*Source: ABS (2013) Household income and income distribution, Australia, 2011–12*

**The changes in Australian society since 1950 have been profound. From a minority of women in paid work in 1950, it is now the norm to combine both paid work and family care across the life course. The reality of the male breadwinner exists in a minority of families, as both women and men contribute to the family funds in the majority of households. Major changes have occurred in the conditions of work for women. Whereas lower wages for women were the law in 1950, this is now forbidden through anti-discrimination and industrial legislation. Equal opportunity at work and equality of conditions and rewards are now the law. What kind of working world do the grand-daughters of those women of the 1950s face? They are the most highly educated cohort with more women than men possessing university degrees. They will spend longer than their grandmothers in the paid workforce and can enter any occupation and industry and expect equal pay with their male co-workers. They can expect organisations (at least those with more than 100 employees as set out in the legislation) to have employment equity programs that consider and address equity issues. What is the current reality at work? There are many more opportunities for women to enter the workforce but these opportunities decrease if women choose to move to managerial ranks. Most managers are men. Women may be constrained in their choices by hostile organisational cultures and lack of practices that assist with managing both paid work and family care. Are women still working for a man? Most probably.**

### SOURCE 2

This extract from *Still working for the man? Women’s employment experiences in Australia since 1950* suggests gender inequality in work remains an issue for women in Australia.

**The power of democracy**

A democratic society is one in which the people have the power to determine the laws and actions of the state. Australia has one of the oldest continuous democracies in the world. In 1945, all white Australian adults over 21 were entitled to vote in the federal election. This right did not extend to most Indigenous Australians. In 1962, as the civil rights movement built up momentum in Australia and overseas, the Menzies government extended the vote to all Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders (see spread 4.7). In 1971, Liberal senator Neville Bonner became the first Indigenous person to sit in Parliament. It was not until 2016 that Linda Burney became the first Indigenous woman to be elected to the House of Representatives.
In 1975, Australian democracy was put to the test when the Labor prime minister, Gough Whitlam, was dismissed by the governor-general, Sir John Kerr (see topic 7). This dismissal was due to many reasons. One reason was because the government’s supply of money had been frozen by the Opposition in the Senate. This made it impossible for the prime minister to govern the country.

The Whitlam dismissal was very significant because it was the first time that many Australians realised that the governor-general (who was appointed by the prime minister to represent the Queen) could sack an elected prime minister.

Despite the unsettling nature of this decision, the response by all parties demonstrated the strength of Australian democracy. All parties, including the Labor Party and trade unions, agreed to resolve their issues though the established democratic process.

Today, all Australians aged 18 and over are required to vote in state/territory and federal elections. Each person’s vote is cast in secret and recorded on a ballot (list of candidates); ballots are counted by independent monitors. Donations to political parties above a certain level must be disclosed. The whole electoral process is designed to be as fair and inclusive as possible, and is a great source of pride for many Australians.

4.9.1 Activities

**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

1. In your own words, define the terms egalitarianism and democracy.
2. Explain the ways in which Australia both is and is not an example of an egalitarian society.
3. To the best of your knowledge, explain how it might be possible for inequality between a country’s rich and poor populations to develop.
4. Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was sensationally sacked by Governor-General Sir John Kerr in 1975. If Whitlam was elected by the Australian people, explain how his sacking was an example of democracy in action.

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**

5. Using the graph in SOURCE 1:
   a. Compute the difference between the weekly income of Australians in the lowest and highest quintile.
   b. Compute this as an annual income. What statement can you make about the results you obtain in relation to income equality amongst Australians?

6. What issue is being explored in SOURCE 2?
   What changes in Australian society are outlined in the source? Can you detect any bias in this source? What would you need to know in order to establish whether the source was biased?

4.9.2 Religious tolerance in a changing society

Technically, Australia is a secular society. This means that there is no official religion in Australia and governments are forbidden to promote one religion above others. Despite this, religious observance is still an important part of Australian society. In the 1940s, most of Australia’s Anglo-Celtic population identified themselves as Christian (either Protestant or Catholic). It was expected that these people would attend church at least once a week. Followers of these faiths wore their ‘Sunday best’, and church-sponsored events, including dances, were a common meeting place for girls and boys. However, there was still a large religious divide between these denominations.

When World War II ended, most Australians considered themselves loyal to England, the ‘mother country’. Many of these people viewed Catholics, who had traditionally immigrated from Ireland rather than England, as unreliable, superstitious and even disloyal to Australia. It was not uncommon for a job to be advertised accompanied by the disclaimer, ‘Catholics need not apply’. At this time, a ‘mixed marriage’ referred to marriage between a Protestant and a Catholic.
It was an act that could break families apart. Catholics who were married in a Protestant church were excommunicated, which meant they were denied membership to the Catholic Church, a fate that befell Ben Chifley, who was prime minister in the late 1940s. Despite the potential damage that it could cause, 1 in 5 people chose to marry outside their faith prior to 1960.

**SOURCE 4** In an opinion piece written for the *National Times* in 2009, Siobhan McHugh reports on the Protestant/Catholic divide that was ever-present in Australia during much of the early twentieth century.

**HOW THE IRISH ROSE ABOVE AUSTRALIA’S SOCIAL APARTHEID**

Religion in “Anglo-Celtic” Australia was code for identity: it branded you as part of the Protestant Ascendancy or the Catholic “Bog Irish”. To marry across these entrenched divides was nothing short of consorting with the enemy for many…

One Randwick man was cut out of three wills for marrying a Catholic — yet his nominally Anglican parents did not even attend church regularly. It was all about upholding Englishness and Empire, about fealty [loyalty] not faith. On the Catholic side, the hatred was just as strong, fuelled by memories of the Irish famine of the 1840s, which halved the population through death, disease and emigration, as the English exported food from Ireland. After one Maitland woman, Julia O’Brien, eloped with her Protestant lover, her father forbade the mention of her name and spurned her deathbed visit. When Julia died in childbirth, neither side would help with the children, who had to be placed in an orphanage. The eldest went on to reject all religion…

**Changing attitudes to religious practice**

Some of these long-held prejudices would start to be broken down as a tide of European migrants reached Australia’s shores following World War II. Suddenly, the number of Roman Catholics (many from Italy) increased dramatically, along with members of other Christian denominations such as the Greek Orthodox church, challenging the supremacy of the Anglican church. Another significant milestone occurred following the 1963 federal election. The largely Protestant Coalition government approved state aid for Catholic schools (and other non-government schools). Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam consolidated this in 1972 when he tripled the amount of state aid given to all schools. From this point onwards, it could be said that the religious intolerance that had marked much of Australia’s early history had finally begun to crumble.

With Whitlam’s abolition of the White Australia policy in 1973, the nation opened its arms, and its borders, to people from across Asia, greatly increasing the number of practising Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs in Australia. Between the 1980s and the present, an influx of immigrants from the Middle East and more recently, Africa, has led to a large increase in the number of practising Muslims. Throughout this era, growing support for multiculturalism has led to an increasing level of religious tolerance within the community.

In recent years, it has also become more common to hear some political leaders referring to their faith in election campaigns and other interviews. This has become a point of debate for some people, who fear that such religious politicians may be unable to choose between their religion and the needs of the country, particularly when dealing with controversial issues. The recent debate over same-sex rights and marriage equality is an example of how social and political issues can be influenced by religious beliefs.
At this interfaith memorial service held in 2011 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks, spiritual leaders from many religions and cultures come together as a sign of solidarity. William Barton (left) plays the didgeridoo while Sheik Dr Mohammed Anas, Cardinal George Pell and Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence listen.

**4.9.2 Activities**

**CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING**

1. In 1940, what was the predominant religion in Australia?
2. After World War II, a distinct anti-Catholic sentiment existed in Australia. What was the origin of this ill-feeling towards Catholics?
3. Explain how the abolition of the White Australia Policy led to increased religious freedom and tolerance in Australian communities.
4. Provide an example of how the religious beliefs of politicians can increase policy decisions.

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**

5. Examine **SOURCE 5.**
   a. What were the largest religions at the middle of each decade between 1945 and 2006?
   b. Based on your current knowledge, how do these changes reflect Australia’s changing immigrant intake?
   c. What do these changes suggest about Australia’s changing attitude toward religion since 1945?

**4.9 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

**USING HISTORICAL SOURCES AS EVIDENCE**

1. How reliable are statistics as a source for showing broad patterns of change over time? What might be their limitations?
2. ‘Religion in Australia is a unifying force, not a divisive force.’ Discuss this contention in small groups and develop for and against arguments. Conduct some research on religious forces in Australia after World War II to underpin your arguments.

**ANALYSING CAUSE AND EFFECT**

3. Based on this subtopic and your own observations, do you think it is accurate to describe Australia as a classless society? What factors have contributed to this description of Australia by historians and commentators?

**DETERMINING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

4. Complete an image search for ‘marriage equality rallies’ using an internet browser. Examine these images and make a list of the slogans written on placards held by protesters.
   a. According to the placards, what do protesters want to change?
   b. Are any political organisations represented in the crowds. If so, which ones are present and why do you think they attended these rallies? What do you see as the historical significance of this debate around marriage equality?
4.10 SkillBuilder: Conducting a historical inquiry

What is a historical inquiry?
Historical inquiry is a process that involves formulating inquiry questions, identifying evidence such as primary and secondary sources, then interrogating, interpreting, analysing and evaluating those sources in order to reach conclusions about an event or events from the past.

Go to your learnON course to access:
• An explanation of the skill (Tell me)
• A step-by-step process to develop the skill, with an example (Show me)
• An activity to allow you to practise the skill (Let me do it)
• Questions to test your application of the skill (Applying skills)

4.11 Review

This final subtopic provides a range of opportunities for you to review and respond through:
1. revising and checking your historical knowledge
2. demonstrating your ability to apply historical concepts and skills.

Go to your learnON course to access:
• A key chronology of events relevant to the topic
• A summary of the key knowledge presented in the topic
• A ‘Big Questions’ activity
• A multiple choice topic test
• Short answer or extended writing responses

Interactivity
Popular culture timeline
Use this interactivity to create a visual timeline of the key events in popular culture from 1945 to present
int-2973