Subject Outline:
A course in Modern History offers students the opportunity to increase their understanding of the contemporary world by placing into perspective its historical origins. Modern History is a study of change, and of continuity in human affairs.

Students begin to investigate the complexity of causation in human affairs. They learn about the causes and effects of significant events in the past and how these events have affected their world. The study of Modern History enables students to develop a range of inquiry and social skills. Through developing skills of critical inquiry, reflection and decision making, students are better able to cope with the complex demands of modern living and are thus more able to participate as citizens in a democratic society.

Contributes to Op: Yes
Prerequisite: Students must have attained a C level in Yr10 English.

Assessment Outline:
Assessment in Modern History is designed to enable students to demonstrate a broad range of abilities. A variety of assessment items will be used which may include:
- objective and short-answer tests;
- research tasks;
- oral presentations including seminars and tutorials;
- response to stimulus materials;
- essays.

Career Pathways:
Studies in Modern History may help young people gain employment in the travel industry, journalism, law, advertising, public relations, teaching, the public service and research work in a variety of fields such as consumerism and industrial relations.
Studies in numerous tertiary courses are also greatly aided by a knowledge of Modern History and the skills developed through the study, e.g. Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Art, Commerce and Economics, Education, English, Geography, Government, Law, History, Journalism, Media Studies, Music, Psychology, and Social Work.

Potential Activities:
Historical study is based on inquiry. This involves the asking of three basic questions. What happened? When did it happen? Why did it happen then? Inquiry is developed in the depth studies in which students identify an historical problem, investigate that problem and make judgements about it. Sources of information are crucial in any depth study, and students critically evaluate primary sources (e.g. diaries, letters) and secondary sources (commentaries by historians written after the event).
The course comprises four themes, with one theme studied each semester.
1. Studies of Conflict
2. Studies of Power
3. Studies of Hope
4. Studies of Change

Costs:
Students are required to provide writing materials. Text books and other resources will be provided via the text hire scheme. Further costs may be involved depending on excursion activities.