Rationale: *In our study of Australia’s social and cultural history, we look at the way people lived in Australia. This task is an opportunity for you to investigate through oral history, various social and cultural features of the 1990s. This task also requires you to reflect on your research methods, and assessing the value of oral history as a source.*

**Task Description:**

- Design and conduct an interview with someone who was an adolescent growing up in Australia in the 1990s.
- Use this information and other sources to write up a report titled “Life in Australia in the 1990s”
- Answer set questions on historiography.

**Outcomes to be assessed:**

1. **5.1** explains social, political and cultural developments and events and evaluates their impact on Australian life.
2. **5.2** uses sources appropriately in an historical inquiry.
3. **5.7** explains different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past.
Task Instructions:


1. Your task here is to select someone who grew up (teens, early 20s) in Australia in the 1990s. You are to use this person as an ORAL SOURCE of history to find out about some of the following aspects of life in the 1990s. Write up the findings of your interview in a REPORT titled “Life in the 1990s”. Include five pictures in an appendix.

2. Include with the report a WRITTEN COPY OF YOUR INTERVIEW QUESTIONS and a BIBLIOGRAPHY of any other sources you use. The list below is a guide to some of the aspects of social and cultural life on which to base your report.

- Home and family life
- Fashion and clothes
- Technology
- Religion
- Political developments
- School
- Sports, pastimes and recreation
- Food and drink
- Transport
- Music
- Money
- The place of children and teenagers

Note carefully that you do not have to cover EVERY point from the list above. Individual students will access different people who had different experiences, so you need to carefully SELECT points from the list that suit the person being interviewed. How successfully you do this will be part of the marking criteria. In other words, you’ll be assessed on HOW WELL you cover selected issues, not how many you cover.

SUGGESTED APPROACH

1. Select the person on which to base your research. In most cases, this will be a family member, (Mum, Dad, Aunt etc) but in some cases this may not be possible. If you do not have access to a person, you will need to tell your History teacher as soon as possible, and someone will be arranged for you.

2. Design a series of questions that will allow your selected person to provide you with the information needed. Be careful to make your questions OPEN ENDED, that is, questions that can’t be answered with a “Yes” or “No”. An example of an open ended question would be “…What were the cool or fashionable clothes worn by young people in the 1990s?”

3. Interview the person using your prepared questions. This can be done in person, or on the phone, or via email. If you’re actually speaking to the person, a good idea would be to have a tape/video recorder with you, so you can refer back later to the answers. You will need to supplement your interview with research from OTHER SOURCES, such as books, websites and other material.

CHECKLIST OF TASKS FOR PART 1.

- Select your person
- Form up your questions
- Conduct the interview/record the results
- Write up your report (word processed) You must include 5 pictures/diagrams as an APPENDIX. These may be directly related to the interview subject or be from associated research.
- Don’t forget to include a copy of your original interview questions.
- Don’t forget to include a list of resources used (bibliography)

The word limit for Section 1 is 850-1200 words
SECTION 2: HISTORIOGRAPHY AND REFLECTING ON YOUR WORK.

In this section, you are required to EVALUATE (make a judgement) about how you carried out your research and presented your report.

1. What method/methods did you use to collect your information? 1 mark

2. What difficulties did you encounter? 1 mark

3. Do you think oral history is a valid and reliable source of historical knowledge? Give reasons for your answer. 3 marks

4. Explain how completing Section 1 has increased your understanding of life in the 1990s. 5 marks

The word limit Section 2 is 300-500 words.

Rubric/Marking Criteria:

Your work will be marked on

- Your ability to write a well-structured, coherent and sophisticated account of life in the 1990’s, using information gained from your interview and other sources.
- Your ability to select relevant and well worded interview questions, reflecting effective and appropriate selection of interview topics.
- Sound use of pictorial information in the appendix.
- Coherent and comprehensive responses to historiographical questions supported by evidence based on personal reflection and / or other sources.
- Providing a sophisticated explanation of how the research has increased understanding.