




Teaching Humanities & Social Science: Teaching & Learning Across Australia 8th Edition

Yesi Martha Afrillia  and Sekar Purbarini Kawuryan

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[See table of contents](#)

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Book Review:

**Teaching Humanities & Social Science: Teaching & Learning
Across Australia 8th Edition**

by Libby Tudball, Peter Brett, and Rob Gilbert

Australia: Cengage, 2025, 512 pages

ISBN: 9780170460187 (hardcover)

Reviewed by:

Yesi Martha Afrillia

Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta

Sekar Purbarini Kawuryan

Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta

The book written by Libby Tudball, Peter Brett, and Rob Gilbert in 2025, published by Cengage, is discussed in the review for the Journal Teaching and Learning. The book emphasizes preparing students for the complexities of the twenty-first century through active, critical, and informed citizenship. With its focus on blending theoretical knowledge with practical teaching strategies, this text is an essential tool for educators.

Part 1 sets the context for teaching humanities and social sciences at national and global levels. This includes the scope of the learning subject, its place in the curriculum, its implications for teaching and learning in local, national, and global dimensions, and an understanding of the past, current issues, and future possibilities.

Part 2 discusses the essential components of the humanities and social sciences (HASS) teaching, including the integrated approach in years one and two, as well as key processes in planning critical inquiry and student learning. It discusses how to plan activities, lessons, and units to enhance essential knowledge, understanding, and thinking skills. The focus is on developing general abilities, such as critical thinking and critical analysis. How teachers can improve students' language and literacy skills in these areas of learning is the next focus. Finally, discusses the use of digital technology in HASS. These are all important parts of teachers' professional knowledge and practices applied in this curriculum.

Part 3 discusses teaching and learning HASS in secondary schools. The focus is on the subjects of History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics and Business, and how an integrated approach is used to teach basic knowledge, ideas, skills, and principles.

Part 4 focuses on teaching and learning three cross-curricular priorities of the Australian Curriculum: sustainability; Asian and Australian engagement with Asia; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture. It also discusses how HASS can assist this learning. Key questions and a range of activities, including checking your understanding, teaching and learning, and general ability, are provided for further discussion, application, and reflection. In addition, there are additional resources to extend the reader's inquiry.

The book discusses the curriculum from the first year to the end of compulsory education and emphasizes that a developmental approach should be used in planning throughout the entire school term. Several examples of concepts and activities, such as excerpts and case studies of classroom experiences, demonstrate how the book's methods can be applied in teaching and learning in the first and second years. The subjects that make up HASS are challenging and exciting areas full of potential for student learning. The subjects that make up this area relate to questions and issues that are important to students' lives and issues that are important to people in local, national, and global contexts. HASS can show students the richness of human experience in past and present societies, cultures, and environments. It can help them create visions and strategies to achieve them in the future. The principles and practices discussed in this book will help teachers transform the HASS curriculum into an engaging, rigorous, and effective teaching and learning program.

Overall, this book helps teachers create educational experiences that will help students contribute to a just, equitable, peaceful, and sustainable future.

References

Tudball, L., Brett, P., & Gilbert, R. (2025). *Teaching humanities and social science: Teaching and learning across Australia 8th Edition*. Cengage.

