The aim of Society and Culture is to develop a student’s knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes essential to achieving social and cultural literacy by examining the interactions between persons, societies, cultures and environments across time. At Masada we offer Society and Culture as a Preliminary course in Year 11 and an HSC course in Year 12.

**Mission Statement**

The knowledge and skills that are typically demonstrated by those who have completed the course are listed below:

- become self aware, with a sense of personal, social and cultural identity
- show concern for the welfare, rights and dignity of all people
- understand continuity and change and the implications for our future
- communicate effectively
- show critical discernment regarding the media
- research efficiently and ethically
- empathise with people of different societies and cultures
- are capable of informed decision making and of taking action on social issues
- look beyond the notion of ‘us’ and ‘them’

In Year 12, students are required to complete a major piece of social research on a topic of their choice, a Personal Interest Project, PIP. This major work accounts for 40% of their HSC assessment. This is enormously beneficial in future study, in work, and in understanding the human actions, attitudes and relationships that emerge during the research process. Past students of Masada College have been very successful in this research task, obtaining interviews with significant members of the community (politicians, community and religious leaders) and having their interview results published in online journals.

**Our Results**

- In 2012, 55% of students achieved a Band 6, 100% achieved in the top 2 Bands
- In 2011, 40% of students achieved a Band 6, 90% achieved in the top 2 Bands
- In 2010, 100% of students were in the top 2 Bands (compared to 33% in state)
- In 2009, 82% of students were in the top 2 Bands (compared to 42% in the state)

**Support**

Students are provided with excellent support for both their Personal Interest Projects and course work. All Masada students in Year 11 and 12 have a tutorial lesson where they can make an appointment with their teachers to discuss progress with their coursework. In addition to this, Year 12 students of Society and Culture have a period per cycle allocated to them for individual tuition with their teacher. Communication then continues on a regular basis via email.