



my homeschool

Course Outline

Year Seven

By Michelle Morrow

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All enquiries to My Homeschool.

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Hello!

I'm so glad that you are considering My Homeschool for your child's home education. This outline will hopefully answer some of your questions and help you understand the workings of this course. Let's begin!

Typically, a child in Year 7 is around 12 or 13.

The My Homeschool Graded Courses are based on the Australian Curriculum (and the NSW Syllabus) content and outcome statements. It will comply with all the states and territories' requirements.

Charlotte Mason's literature rich approach to home education is our inspiration. However, we have also introduced a range of eclectic teaching ideas and resources that reflect a modern approach to the Australian Curriculum. An atmosphere of learning is encouraged in the home including taking advantage of natural learning opportunities. Delight directed learning is supported with children having the freedom to explore desired areas of interest.

A range of authors have collaborated to provide a rich feast for the Year 7 My Homeschool course. Michelle Morrow, Jo Lloyd, Beth Morrow, Ian Brown and Margaret Taylor have created a robust course that both instruct and inspire your high schooler. We believe this course will satisfy your desire to give your child a wholesome living book education which will still comply with government obligations for home education registration.

Choice has also been built into this curriculum to give you the flexibility you need for teaching multiple ages and adapting to the special needs and interests of your child/children.

As the teaching parent, you are also learning how to teach your child at home. This course uses a few Charlotte Mason teaching strategies that need to be understood to follow this curriculum. If you are unfamiliar with any of these ideas then explanations are found in the complimentary **Homeschool Teaching 101** course provided when you subscribe.

Do I need to start the My Homeschool Course at the beginning of the year?

No! This course has a flexible format that can be started at any time. If you wish to begin mid-term or mid-year you can still pick up the course from Week One. You can also start the second semester if you haven't completed the first semester.

Since math resources are purchased separately you can follow the level you were using prior to starting the course.

Secular or Christian

This curriculum aims to give parents confidence that they are educating their children with a world view that honours the values of Christian education however our resources are not exclusively Christian. We have attempted to choose great resources and often a secular resource was the best option. Specific Bible study resources have not been included in this course but you are encouraged to set up your own schedule for this and add it to your read aloud time if desired. Education of the whole child is important to us and parents are encouraged to nurture their children's spiritual, intellectual, emotional and social needs.

How Much Does This Course Cost?

Initial Course Price with Subscription

*If you are new to My Homeschool and not a member then your course membership is activated once you purchase your first course; the initial course price includes your \$15 monthly membership subscription fee. Membership remains active as long as you stay subscribed. Membership gives you access to the My Homeschool Learning Platform, the grade you purchased, our *How to Homeschool 101* course, our *Homeschool Registration* course and our art and music enrichment courses. The membership can only be used for the family subscribed. The membership may not be used for non-family members.*

Year 7 is split into 2 semesters:

- Semester One (Terms 1– 2) = \$300 (+ \$15 per month for first time subscriber)
- Semester Two (Terms 3 – 4) = \$300 (+ \$15 per month for first time subscriber)

If you are already a member then you can login to the My Homeschool platform to purchase any of our courses without the additional subscription fee.

Additional Costs

- **Own Choice Math Curriculum** – We suggest/like [Maths Online](#) but additional resource suggestions are given in the guide. Make sure you get a resource appropriate for your child's skill level. Prices vary depending on resource chosen.
- **Foreign Language Resource** – This is an elective in all states except Victoria and WA. We give suggestions.
- **Stationery** – This is an online course and printing of materials is required.
- **Additional Literature List.** These books ARE NOT provided with the course and need to be sourced separately. The total cost of purchasing these books is estimated at less than \$100 per semester.
 - [Mara Daughter of the Nile](#) by Eloise Jarvis McGraw **OR** [The Golden Goblet](#) by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
 - [Archaeology Book](#) by David Down
 - [The Story of Salt](#) by Mark Kurlansky
 - [Hittite Warrior](#) by Joanne Williamson **OR** [Tirzah](#) by Lucille Travis
 - [Water Sky](#) by Jean Craighead George **OR** [A Long Walk to Water](#) by Linda Sue Park.
 - [Marvels of the Orient](#) by Richard Halliburton
 - [Year of the Tiger](#) by Alison Lloyd
 - [The Bronze Bow](#) by Elizabeth George Speare **OR** [Twice Freed](#) by Patricia St John
 - [Carry On, Mr. Bowditch](#) by Jean Lee Latham
 - [Briefest English Grammar Ever](#) by Ruth Colman (Optional)
 - [Cleopatra](#) by Diane Stanley

Note: Some other book suggestions are given throughout the course, but these are optional.

How Much is Online?

We use Moodle, a popular educational online learning platform to run our courses. Your child will need access to the My Homeschool website to complete their lessons. A laptop, tablet, or desktop computer will work well. Your smart phone can be used for a quick review, or on the go, but it's not the best long-term option for online reading and watching videos.

Our courses are set out in three sections:

- Before You Start – This has the files that you will need to help you get going with our course. (This is for the parent)
- The Virtual Cupboard – stores all the lesson resources. (This is for the parent)
- Weekly Topics – This section is set out into the 18 weeks of the semester. It includes all the online links, and videos needed for that week in one handy place. No need to surf the internet looking for information, or find a PDF to open, because we've conveniently set it all up for you, so they can go straight to the place we recommend. Your child can also check off activities and you are sent an email when they complete their lessons for the week. (This is for the student)

Whilst we are utilizing this platform for learning, many of our lessons require reading from a real book or a paper-based resource. Our notebooking activities use pen and paper (some could be done digitally if preferred). Additional time online will be included if your mathematics resource is online. [Here is a video showing how it works.](#)

How Much Time Will This Involve?

My Homeschool follows the Charlotte Mason practice of shorter lessons so there is time for the student to follow other interests. Approximately three to four hours per week (45 minutes to 1 hour per day) is allocated to group study and reading aloud. An initial read through of each subject's resource is also advised so you understand what your child is studying, and you can help them progress with the resource. You will also need to be present for some lessons.

| My Homeschool Year Seven – Approximate Hours of Study 4 days per week | | | | | Time |
|---|---|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| Family Study or Personal Growth | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 10 min |
| Enrichment Activities | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 10 min |
| Read Aloud | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 40 min |
| Read Alone (Historical Fiction) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 30 min |
| Own Reader or Foreign Language | Own Choice | Own Choice | Own Choice | Own Choice | 20 min |
| English & History (45min to 1 hour) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 45 min |
| Geography & Science | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 45 min |
| Math (45 mins to 1 hour) | Own Choice | Own Choice | Own Choice | Own Choice | 45 min |
| Core Hours Daily (4 days per week) Total | | | | | 4 hours |
| Optional/Occasional & Weekly | To be completed on Day 5 or after core work is finished. (8 hours) Weekly Total | | | | 24 hours |
| • Field Trips | Various field trips are suggested in your geography studies | | | | |
| • Science Experiments | Some are given during your science lessons. Day 5 is often a good day for these | | | | |
| • Music Practice | Consider music lessons for an instrument of choice | | | | |
| • Sport/Gymnastics or Dance | Consider weekly sport classes | | | | |
| • Creative Art/Drama | Consider dance and art classes | | | | |
| • Educational Videos | Some are provided on the Moodle platform | | | | |
| • Design & Technology Projects | Consider cooking, home economics, woodwork, photography & industrial design | | | | |

There are administration requirements such as completing reports that you can use for reregistration. Prompts are given for you to collect samples at the end of each term. You will also be required to mark some work, read out dictations and make a student portfolio.

Transition to High School

The My Homeschool high school curriculum encourages your child to make the transition from teacher dependent work to more independent learning. You, as your child's educator, will still be involved with your child's studies but you will mostly be giving direction and feedback for completed work. Some reading aloud is required but your children should be reading most of their material on their own.

Year Seven Course Structure

A four-term schedule is used. Semester One includes Term One and Two, and Semester Two includes Term Three and Four. There are nine weeks per term, eight weeks have set lessons and the ninth week is an **optional** exam week (see page 16).

End of Term Examinations and Assessments

- Weeks 9, 18, 27 & 36 of this course have been allocated to assessment and examinations.

The exams given are not like those in a traditional school with grades but rather as an assessment tool for the parent and an opportunity for your child to share what they have learnt. They are not meant to be a stressful event or a tool for comparison with peers or siblings, but rather a way to assess progress of your child throughout the year.

Documentation - Before You Start Section of Your Course

In your My Homeschool course there are a few documents that we have provided:

Course Introduction – is an orientation and explanation of how things work in our My Homeschool Year Seven Course. It gives you an overview of the course, discusses where to look for things and what to do in order to get your student up and running.

The Weekly Planner - is a summary of all the activities for the week provided in a timetable format. Resource lesson guides give specific instructions with more details. (See a sample on page 15)

Year Seven Scope and Sequence - matches our curriculum to the Australian Curriculum and the NSW (NESA) syllabus. You may never need to look at this, but it is there if you need it - for your homeschool registration application, or if you just want a little reassurance that we really have ticked all the curriculum boxes.

Yearly Plan Template - We have written up a Microsoft Word template plan that you can submit for registration. However, you will need to individualise this and make it your own.

Term Reports Template – These are available as a Microsoft Word template. You just need to enter in the details of what you actually completed. These are to be put in your portfolios and used as an assessment of progress when reapplying for homeschool registration. They shouldn't take much time to complete and we prompt you to fill them in on the last week of each term.

Course Subject Overview

Here is a brief summary of the resources that are being used over the year.

Math

We have allotted approximately 45 minutes per day, four days a week, to complete your chosen math resource. If you haven't decided on one, the course introduction gives some suggestions.

Resource

- **Core Math Curriculum** – This is an own choice resource.
- **Alboe 7** – is a math revision resource which has 100 quick lessons that include 'a little bit of everything' from the Australian Curriculum's Year Six Mathematics syllabus. (All year)

English & Literature

We have a range of resources that we are using to teach English.

Resources:

- **The Art of Recitation** – is a short twice weekly enrichment activity that incorporates elocution and the art of reading aloud. Oral presentation skills are taught using classic literature of various genres. (All year)
- **Shakespeare Copywork** – is a weekly handwriting resource using some of Shakespeare's best known and profound quotes. (All year)
- **Parsing Dictation** - A collection of short weekly activities to practise the skill of dictation and the analysis of the parts of a sentence. This resource uses a diverse range of great texts to model excellent writing to the student. (All year)
- **Exploring Stories** - An English literature resource to enjoy and analyse great writing and help develop creative writing skills. Featuring tales from the great Greek and Nordic myths, it connects the classics alongside contemporary stories to teach students to become better writers. (Term One)
- **The Art of Language** - A resource to train students to write well and refine the technical aspects of writing, including grammar and punctuation. It uses examples from the great artists to review the mechanics of language, explore the roots of words from Latin and Greek and gain a fuller understanding of the English language. Analysis and critical thinking along with persuasive and descriptive writing are included. (Term Two)
- **Year of the Tiger and Study Guide** - is a historical novel and novel study guide that examines key ideas in story writing (plot, theme, settings, characters and literary devices). The guide includes a range of optional writing exercises that dovetail with Ancient China history studies for Term Three.
- **Shakespeare Play** – This is an own choice resource. (Term Three)
- **Appreciating Poetry** – A resource providing an introduction to reading and analysing poetry as well as the grammar of poetry. It includes Australian and classical poems that will appeal to high schoolers. (Term Four)
- **Additional Booklist** – These are books that need to be sourced separately and ARE NOT provided with the course. (They are listed on page 6).

History & Economics & Business

Ancient history is the focus of Year 7.

Resources

- **Exploring the Ancient Past** – is a history resource examining the origins and archaeological evidence of the civilisation of Mesopotamia, Africa and Australia. It includes historical stories, maps and artefacts from the Sumerians, Hebrews, Egyptians, Greeks and Australia's first people. Notebooking exercises, video suggestions and *Book of Centuries* dates are included. (Term 1 & 2)
- **Richest Man in Babylon and Study Guide** – includes a list of discussion questions relating to personal money management, entrepreneurship, financial institutions and the global economy. Children are encouraged to examine their own financial beliefs and plan some budgeting ideas as they read through the book with their parent. (Term 1)
- **China's Ancient Past** – is an in-depth study of Ancient China that begins with the Xia Dynasty and ends at the Han Dynasty. It includes: stories of origin, geographical features, the culture, literature and focuses on the life of Confucius. Notebooking exercises, video suggestions and *Book of Centuries* dates are included. (Term 3).
- **Rewriting Ancient History** – This in-depth study begins with an overview of Greek history and its impact on Roman culture and society. It continues with biographical accounts of the lives of different Romans who played significant roles in the history of the Roman Empire. Notebooking exercises, video suggestions and *Book of Centuries* dates are included. (Term 3 & 4)
- **The Archaeology Book by David Down** – is an exciting exploration of history and ancient cultures. It teaches the techniques of the archaeologist and the accounts of some of the richest discoveries of the Middle East that demonstrate the accuracy and historicity of the Bible. It is a companion resource to *Exploring the Ancient Past*. (Purchased separately) (Term 1 & 2)
- **A Civil Society** – looks at Australia's governance, laws, culture and society. It encourages a thoughtful appraisal of the student's identity as part of a cohesive society in Australia. (Term 3).

Science & Geography

This year covers the Chemistry content for Year 7 & 8. In Year 8 of the My Homeschool course we will have a greater focus on Physics. For all these resources **you will be required to have internet access** as your child will need to look up research links and watch videos.

Resources:

- **Simply Chemistry** – incorporates the study of atoms, molecules, the Periodic Table, chemical bonding, compounds, mixtures, and solutions. It also includes a **design and technology** unit looking at industrial applications of chemistry in lead recycling, honey harvesting, blood donations and Australian wool production. Science related videos are included as illustrations, and demonstrations, of chemistry concepts and experiments. Notebooking pages included. (Term 1)
- **Looking Up: Starting Astronomy** – is an introduction to astronomy in the Southern Hemisphere. Covering earth science, physics and science skills, it also includes tips on how to observe the night sky south of the Equator. Science related videos and note booking activities are provided. (Term 1)
- **Biology: An Introduction** – is an entry point to cell biology, the classification of plant and animal species, food webs and food chains. It includes science skills and examines the lives and works of biologists and their contributions, including contemporary Australian examples. It also addresses the use of equipment in scientific research and how this can be explored at home. (Term 3)
- **Water in the Landscape** – is an inter-disciplinary approach that explores the important role of water in our world. It includes physical geography and geology topics, social justice issues, sustainability challenges, and hands-on geography skills. Notebooking ideas, mapping exercises and options for fieldwork projects are also included. (Term 1 & 2)
- **Places and Liveability** – Engages students to explore the importance of place, including where people live and issues around housing choice. (Term 3)
- **Out in the Filed: Skills in Physical Geography and Earth Science** - A practical, hands-on course focusing on the skills of reading and creating maps, the use of data, and mastery of other tools to better understand geographical and science concepts. This course complements the other geography and science units. (Term 4)

- **Ecology & Sustainability** – provides an overview of natural resources and their use, biodiversity, ecosystems, conservation and the issues being addressed in this field of science. It explores Australian and overseas examples, and profiles on scientists in this field. It incorporates the cross-curriculum priorities of sustainability, and **design and technology** (marine aquaculture). (Term 4)
- **Nature Study in Australia by William Gillies**—is story styled nature study book.

Foreign Languages (Compulsory in Vic & WA)

- Own choice resource. (We give some suggestions in our Year 7 Course Introduction)

Note: You can apply for an exemption from a Foreign Language when applying for registration in Victoria.

Personal Health and Development

- **Healthy Conversations 7 & 8** – is a personal growth resource that encourages parents to have conversations with their children about issues related to adolescence including: identity, drug usage, emotional health, risk behaviours, bullying and sexuality. It also includes prompts to encourage healthy eating and exercise. (All year)

Creative Arts

Art includes: dance, drama, media arts, music and visual arts.

- Own choice subject for skill development and practical lessons.
- **Music Appreciation** – My Homeschool online course that incorporates the study of a variety of composers, their life and music. (All year)
- **Art Appreciation** – My Homeschool online course that incorporates the study of artists, their work and techniques. (All year)

Sample Timetable—Term One

[Sign Up HERE to receive a sample of Week 1 lessons.](#)

| Term One | Day One | Day Two | Day Three | Day Four |
|---|---|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Family Time | | | | |
| Devotion or Personal Growth Reading | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Enrichment Activity | Music Appreciation | Picture Study | Art of Recitation | Student Recitation |
| Read Aloud & Dictation | Richest Man in Babylon | Richest Man in Babylon | Richest Man in Babylon | Parsing Dictation |
| Read Alone or Together: Choose one of the following books to read. Only follow one schedule. | | | | |
| • Mara Daughter of the Nile | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Nature Study in Australia |
| • Golden Goblet | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Work Alone Activities | | | | |
| Language Arts & Narrations | Exploring Ancient Past | Exploring Stories | Exploring Ancient Past | Exploring Stories |
| Geography & Science | Simply Chemistry | Simply Chemistry | Water in the Landscape | Water in the Landscape |
| Copywork & Math Revision | Shakespeare Copywork | Alboe Y7 | Alboe Y7 | Alboe Y7 |
| Math Text (Own Choice) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Foreign Language (Own Choice) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Optional/Occasional & Weekly Activities | To be completed on Day 5 or after core work is finished. Own Choice. | | | |
| • Field Trips | | | | |
| • Science Experiments | | | | |
| • Music Practice | | | | |
| • Sport/Gymnastics or Dance | | | | |
| • Creative Art/Drama | | | | |
| • Educational Videos | | | | |
| • Design & Technology Projects | | | | |

Sample Exam Week—Optional

Examination Timetable Week Nine

Exams are optional. Their purpose is discussed in the course introduction, review if necessary. Here is a suggested plan for your exam week. There are ten exam options to be completed over four days.

| Day One - English | Day Two – Science & Economics | Day Three –Social Studies & Art | Day Four – Math & Music |
|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Exploring Stories</i> Exam | <i>Simply Chemistry</i> Exam | <i>Water in the Landscape</i> Exam | Maths test from chosen resource. Maths Online has topic tests and revision tests. |
| <i>Parsing Dictation</i> Exam | Discuss an economic principal learned from <i>Richest Man in Babylon</i> and how you can apply it to your own situation. Give some specific examples. | <i>Exploring the Ancient Past</i> Exam | Discuss a composer studied and their work or perform a musical item that has been studied over the term. |
| Give an oral narration of <i>Mara Daughter of the Nile</i> or <i>The Golden Goblet</i> . | | Describe a picture you have studied this term. | |

Sample Timetable—Term Four

| TERM FOUR | Day One | Day Two | Day Three | Day Four |
|---|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Family Time | | | | |
| Devotion or Personal Growth Reading | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Enrichment Activity | Music Appreciation | Picture Study | Poetry Reading | Student Recitations |
| Read Alone & Dictation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Parsing Dictation |
| • Beric the Briton | | | | |
| Read Alone or Together: Choose one of the following books to read. | | | | |
| • Twice Freed | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Nature Study in Australia |
| • The Bronze Bow | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Work Alone Activities | | | | |
| Language Arts & Narrations | Rewriting Ancient History | Appreciating Poetry | Rewriting Ancient History | Appreciating Poetry |
| Politics & Science/Geography | A Civil Society | Ecology & Sustainability | Ecology & Sustainability | Out in the Field |
| Science/ History/Geography Reader | Carry On, Mr. Bowditch | Marvels of the Orient | Carry On, Mr. Bowditch | Marvels of the Orient |
| Copywork & Math Revision | Shakespeare Copywork | Alboe Y7 | Alboe Y7 | Alboe Y7 |
| Math Text (Own Choice) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Foreign Language (Own Choice) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Optional/Occasional & Weekly Activities | To be completed on Day 5 or after core work is finished. Own Choice | | | |
| • Field Trips | | | | |
| • Science Experiments | | | | |
| • Music Practice | | | | |
| • Sport/Gymnastics or Dance | | | | |
| • Creative Art/Drama | | | | |
| • Educational Videos | | | | |
| • Design & Technology Projects | | | | |