

VCE Literature

2023–2027

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). [VCAA examination rules](#) will apply.

There will be 15 minutes of reading time and 2 hours of writing time.

The examination will be assessed by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Literature Study Design 2023–2027* is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of two task books: one task book for Section A and one task book for Section B. Students will write their responses in an answer book.

Students must write on two texts, each from a different category (novels, plays, short stories, other literature, poetry), studied during the year. The texts and categories will be listed in the task books and will match the VCE Literature Text List for the year in question. Students who write on two texts from the same category will receive a score of zero for one of their responses.

Section A – Developing interpretations

Section A will require students to complete two extended-answer questions based on one set passage from **one** text from the VCE Literature Text List for the year in question.

Question 1 will require students to address the significance of the set passage within the context of the whole text. This question will be worth 6 marks.

Question 2 will require students to address a key concept from the text, taking into consideration both the set passage and the whole text. This question will be worth 14 marks.

Section A will be worth a total of 20 marks.

Section B – Close analysis

Section B will require a sustained interpretation of **one** text from the VCE Literature Text List for the year in question, drawing on a detailed analysis of **two or more** of three set passages.

Two or more of the set passages must be used as the basis of a discussion about the selected text. The set passages will be of sufficient length for students to engage with them and to allow students to fulfil the assessment criteria.

The set passages will be presented in the order in which they appear in the original text, but their original page numbers will not be given. For collections of short stories, the title of the story from which each set passage is selected will be provided. This will also apply to other text types, such as collections of essays and poetry.

Section B will be worth a total of 20 marks.

The total marks for the examination will be 40.

Answers to both Section A and Section B are to be recorded in an answer book.

Assessment criteria

Question 1 of Section A will be assessed against the following criteria:

- exploration of the significance of the set passage in the context of the whole text
- analysis of the significance of the set passage, demonstrated through the use of textual evidence
- ability to write coherently, expressively and fluently as appropriate to the task

Question 2 of Section A will be assessed against the following criteria:

- understanding of the ideas, views and values that arise from the concept identified in the question
- analysis of the ways in which the concept identified in the question is represented in the set passage and the whole text, demonstrated through the use of textual evidence
- exploration of how the relevant ideas, views and values of the text can be endorsed, challenged and/or marginalised
- ability to write coherently, expressively and fluently as appropriate to the task

Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- understanding of the text, demonstrated in a relevant and plausible interpretation of the text
- analysis of the set passages and/or key moments and how they contribute to an interpretation of the text
- close analysis of the language and literary features of the text and how they contribute to an interpretation of the text
- ability to write coherently, expressively and fluently as appropriate to the task

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following resources should be referred to in relation to the VCE Literature examination:

- *VCE Literature Study Design 2023–2027*
- Literature – Support materials
- VCE Literature Text List (published annually)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2023–2027 accreditation period for VCE Literature, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

Students should use [command/task words](#), other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published the VCE Literature [‘Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports’](#) page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The sample examination has been developed using texts from the 2017 VCE Literature Text List.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.