VCE English Language 2024–2028

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](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/Pages/ExaminationRules.aspx) will apply.

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

The total marks for the examination will be 75.

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 English Language Study Design 2024–2028 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 a Question and Answer Book.

The examination will consist of three sections.

**Section A** will consist of short-answer questions based on one or more formal or informal spoken or written texts and will be worth a total of 15 marks. All questions in Section A will be compulsory. Answers to Section A are to be recorded in the Question and Answer Book. Section A will be worth 20 per cent of the total marks available for the examination.

**Section B** will consist of an analytical commentary on the language in one or more texts and will be worth a total of 30 marks. There will be one compulsory task in Section B. Answers to Section B are to be recorded in the Question and Answer Book. Section B will be worth 40 per cent of the total marks available for the examination.

**Section C** will consist of essay questions supported by stimulus materialand will be worth a total of 30 marks. Students will choose one out of three essay questions in Section C. Answers to Section C are to be recorded in the Question and Answer Book. Section C will be worth 40 per cent of the total marks available for the examination.

The examination will contain a detachable insert with material for Section A and Section B from sources such as academic writing; public documents; personal exchanges (text messages, phone calls, domestic interactions); interviews; speeches and spoken public and private exchanges (transcripts); advertising and marketing; literature and storytelling; manuals and technical documents; newspaper reports and opinion pieces; and social media.

Criteria

Examination responses will be assessed on the extent to which they demonstrate the ability to:

* use metalanguage to describe and analyse structures, features and functions of language in a range of contexts
* explain and analyse linguistic features of written and spoken English in a range of registers
* understand and analyse relationships between language and identities in society
* identify and analyse differing attitudes to varieties of Australian English
* draw on contemporary discussions and debates about language
* write clearly organised responses with controlled and effective use of language appropriate to the task.

Approved materials and equipment

Basic stationery requirements (pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers)

Relevant references

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

* VCE English Language Study Design 2024–2028
* [Support materials – English Language](https://vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/englishlanguage/Pages/Index.aspx)
* VCAA Bulletin
* Assessment criteria and expected qualities

Advice

During the 2024–2028 accreditation period for VCE English Language, 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 on the VCE English Language ‘[Examination specifications, past examinations and examination reports](https://vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/past-examinations/Pages/English-Language.aspx)’ 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 VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations/questions.