

VCE English

2017–2020

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. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 3 hours writing time.

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

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

Content

The *VCE English and English as an Additional Language Study Design 2017–2020* (Units 3 and 4) is the document for the development of the examination. Outcomes 1 and 2 in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and skills that underpin Outcomes 1 and 2 in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a task book. Students will write their responses in an answer book.

The examination will consist of three sections.

Section A – Analytical interpretation of a text

Students will be required to write an analytical interpretation of **one** of the two texts studied from List 1 of the VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Text List for the year in question. There will be two topics for each of the 20 texts in List 1 for Unit 3, Area of study 1. Students will be required to write a response to **one** topic on **one** text.

Student responses should be supported by close reference to the text. If the selected text is a collection of poetry or short stories, students may write on several poems or stories, or on at least two in close detail. The response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria specified below. Section A will be worth a total of 20 marks, which is one-third of the examination.

Section B – Comparative analysis of texts

Students will be required to write a detailed comparative analysis of **one** pair of texts studied from List 2 of the VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Text List for the year in question. There will be two topics for each of the eight pairs of texts in List 2 for Unit 4, Area of study 1. Students will be required to write a response to **one** topic on **one** pair of texts.

Student responses should be supported by close reference to both texts in the pair, and the ideas and issues they present. The comparison may consider connections, similarities, differences or a combination of these. If one of the texts in the selected pair is a collection of poetry or short stories, students may refer to several items in the collection, or closely analyse one or two items in the collection, depending on what is being compared. The response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria specified below. Section B will be worth a total of 20 marks, which is one-third of the examination.

Section C – Argument and persuasive language

Students will be required to write an analysis of how argument and language are used in an unseen text(s) to persuade others to share the point(s) of view expressed. For the purposes of this task, 'language' refers to written, spoken and visual language. Students will not be required to evaluate the relative merits of arguments or the effectiveness of the use of persuasive language in any text(s). The response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria specified below. Section C will be worth a total of 20 marks, which is one-third of the examination.

If students write on a multimodal text for Section A, they **must not** write on a text pair that includes a multimodal text in Section B. A multimodal text may be, for example, a film or graphic novel. A multimodal text may be chosen from **either** List 1 **or** List 2 of the VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Text List, but not from both.

The total marks for the examination will be 60.

Criteria

Section A will be assessed against the following criteria:

- knowledge and understanding of the text, and the ideas and issues it explores
- development of a coherent analysis in response to the topic
- use of textual evidence to support the interpretation
- control and effectiveness of language use, as appropriate to the task

Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- knowledge and understanding of both texts, and the ideas and issues they present
- discussion of meaningful connections, similarities or differences between the texts, in response to the topic
- use of textual evidence to support the comparative analysis
- control and effectiveness of language use, as appropriate to the task

Section C will be assessed against the following criteria:

- understanding of the argument(s) presented and point(s) of view expressed
- analysis of ways in which language and visual features are used to present an argument and to persuade
- control and effectiveness of language use, as appropriate to the task

Approved materials and equipment

- Normal stationery requirements (pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers)
- A printed English and/or bilingual dictionary

Relevant references

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

- *VCE English and English as an Additional Language Study Design 2017–2020* (Units 3 and 4)
- *VCE English and English as an Additional Language – Advice for teachers 2017–2020* (includes assessment advice)
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2017–2020 accreditation period for VCE English, 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 skills from Outcomes 1 and 2 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 'English – Exams and Examination Reports' page on the VCAA website.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.