

The accreditation period for VCE English has been extended and expires 31 December 2023.

# VCE English

## 2017–2023

## Written examination – May/June

### 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 3 hours of 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 2017–2023* (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 key 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 modified for the Northern Hemisphere Timetable (NHT) for the year in question. There will be two topics for each of the four 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 modified for NHT for the year in question. There will be two topics for each of the two 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.

## Assessment criteria

Section A will be assessed against the following criteria:

- knowledge and understanding of the text, and the ideas and values 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 (NHT) examination:

- *VCE English and English as an Additional Language Study Design 2017–2023* (Units 3 and 4)
- *VCE English and English as an Additional Language – Advice for teachers 2017–2023* (includes assessment advice)
- VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Text List modified for NHT (published annually)
- *Assessment criteria and expected qualities*
- *VCAA Bulletin*

## Advice

The examination for VCE English (NHT) will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. The examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key 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 sample examination is published to demonstrate the format of the examination.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.