



# ENGLISH PATHWAYS

## Subject Guide



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An understanding of the English language and how it is used to communicate is central to how students understand, critique and appreciate the world. That understanding also has an integral relationship with the ways in which they participate socially, economically and culturally in society. The study and analysis of texts in all of the VCE English courses are designed to provide ways to develop insight and ideas about the world in which we all live.

Study of the various strands of English will help to develop students' abilities to communicate effectively and to read, listen, speak and write with understanding. The courses encourage students to be enthusiastic and responsive readers, to foster critical thinking and developing the skills of communication – both oral and written. By the end of their chosen pathway, students should have a working understanding of how language works and how to use it to best utility in their post – school lives.



# ENGLISH PATHWAYS

English is a compulsory subject for all Year 10 students. Options are then available for students to select more than one English subject in Years 11 and 12.



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In Year 11, students have these options:



**VCE ENGLISH**



**VCE LITERATURE**



**VCE LANGUAGE**



**VCE ENGLISH - EAL**

English as an Additional Language (EAL) is for those students who qualify to study English as an Additional Language. A student is eligible for EAL status if:

1. They have been a resident in Australia or New Zealand for no more than seven years and
2. English has been the student's major language of instruction for a total period of no more than seven years over the period of their education.







# VCE ENGLISH



The VCE English course is built around the development of skills relating to building extended responses in responding to quality literature, the analysis of texts drawn from contemporary society and composing new creative responses. Study in the VCE English course develops students' abilities to communicate effectively and to read, listen and speak with understanding. It encourages students to be enthusiastic and responsive readers, fosters original thinking and a range of communication skills. By the end of the course, students will have a working understanding of how language works and provided tools with which to use it well.



# VCE ENGLISH



## FOCUS AREAS

### Units 1 & 2

- Reading and Creating Texts focuses on reading and analysing a range of literary texts for different purposes, specifically writing an analytical response and a creative response
- Comparing Texts focuses on a thematic study of different texts where students must compare how each conveys its message regarding a selected theme and / or themes.
- Analysing and Presenting Argument continues to build upon students' ability to become critical and insightful readers of the use of persuasive techniques in various media texts as well as developing their proficiency to create persuasive texts of their own.

### Units 3 & 4

- Reading and Creating Texts builds on skills learned in Units 1 and 2, with texts from the VCAA VCE Text List
- Analysing Argument builds further upon students' ability to become critical and insightful readers of the use of persuasive techniques in various media texts.
- Comparing Texts is the key task for Unit 4 and focuses on a thematic study of two different texts where students must compare how each explores the complexities of a selected theme.
- Presenting Argument requires students to build their understanding of both the analysis and construction of texts that attempt to influence audiences as they develop a persuasive response to an issue in the Australian media.

## ASSESSMENT

For Units 1 and 2, students will complete a range of outcomes and classwork throughout each semester. Each semester has an examination.

For Units 3 and 4, students complete School-Assessed Coursework (50%) subject to external moderation, and an end-of-year examination (50%).



# VCE LITERATURE



Literature is a course designed to connect with students with a love of English literature and an interest in reading and writing a variety of texts. The course explores a diverse range of challenging texts from around the world and across eras.

Students are encouraged to study Literature ***in conjunction*** with mainstream English Units 3 and 4 to ensure that they not only get the most out of their literary experience but also give themselves the best opportunity to maximise their VCE English results.





# VCE LITERATURE



## FOCUS AREAS

### Units 1 & 2

Students are encouraged to embrace the opportunity to increase understanding of various styles, authors and techniques while also experiencing a range of literary and theatrical experiences. The Literature course provides a chance for students to delve into a world of quality poetry, drama and prose with like-minded peers who share their love of reading and writing and understand the importance of serious collaborative appreciation and study of texts.

### Units 3 & 4

Literature Units 3 and 4 is designed to be the end of their high school journey with texts and a gateway for a post-school connection with quality literature. Designed to appeal to students with a particular passion for the written word and a deep desire to think more thoroughly about the works that they read, this course offers the study of a range of texts considered across various eras and by literary theorists as bringing valuable insights into the human condition.

## ASSESSMENT

For Units 1 and 2, students will complete a range of outcomes and classwork throughout each semester, followed by an examination.

For Units 3 and 4, students complete School-Assessed Coursework (50%) subject to external moderation, and an end-of-year examination (50%).



# VCE LANGUAGE



New to Nazareth College in 2021, VCE English Language provides the opportunity and structures for students to understand the ways in which language is used by individuals and groups. The course builds on students' previous learning in English Years 7 – 10 about the conventions and codes used by speakers and writers of English.

VCE English Language differs from VCE English and Literature in that it does not contain a focus on the study of substantive literary texts or the composition of extended responses to those texts. Instead, it provides students with the tools and structures to help understand and analyse language use in a range of contexts as well as equip them with an understanding of how language is changing and adapting its meaning in our society today.

The study of VCE English Language is designed to enable students to understand the structures, features and discourses of a range of written and spoken texts. These texts include non-fiction texts, films, advertisements, publications and public commentary about language in print and multimodal forms drawn from 21st Century society. Study in this course is designed to provide knowledge of how language functions act as a useful basis for further study or employment in numerous fields such as arts, sciences, law, politics, trades and education. The course would also support language-related subjects such as psychology and the study of languages other than English.



# VCE LANGUAGE

## FOCUS AREAS

### Unit 1: Language and Communication

- Students learn about the various functions of language and the nature of language as a system of signs and structures.
- Students also investigate the ability of children to acquire language and the stages of language acquisition across a range of subsystems.

### Unit 2: Language Change

- Students consider factors contributing to change over time in the English language and factors contributing to the spread of English.
- The unit also explores attitudes to how language changes over time.

### Unit 3: Language Variation and Social Purpose

- Students examine the stylistic features of formal and informal language in both spoken and written modes:

the grammatical and discourse structure of language; the choice and meanings of words within texts; how words are combined to convey a message; the purpose in conveying a message; and the particular context in which a message is conveyed.

- Students consider how texts are influenced by the situational and cultural contexts in which they occur.

### Unit 4: Language Variation and Identity

- In this unit students focus on the role of language in establishing and challenging different identities.
- This unit examines the existence of different types of Australian English, from Standard English and non-Standard English varieties, which also play a role in constructing users' social and cultural identities.
- Students examine a range of texts to explore the ways different identities are constructed. These texts include extracts from novels, films or television programs, poetry, letters and emails, transcripts of spoken interaction, songs, advertisements, speeches and bureaucratic or official documents.





# VCE LANGUAGE



## ASSESSMENT

**The school based assessment of VCE Language across all four units follows this pattern:**

Analysis of one or more samples of informal language in any one or a combination of the following

- a folio of annotated texts
- an investigative report
- a set of analytical commentaries
- short-answer questions
- Assessment tasks may be written, oral or multi-modal. The total suggested length of the student responses should be approximately 600–800 words or equivalent.

## EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

The level of achievement for Units 3 and 4 is also assessed by an end-of-year examination.  
Contribution to final assessment

The examination will contribute 50 per cent

End-of-year examination Description The examination will be set by a panel appointed by the VCAA. All the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.



# VCE ENGLISH – EAL



This is a version of the English Units 1 and 2 subject that is designed for students that have been assessed with specific English as an Additional Language (EAL) criteria. It includes intensive language work and support with essay writing and comprehension.



# VCE ENGLISH – EAL



## FOCUS AREAS

### Unit 1:

- Reading and creating texts
- Analysing and presenting arguments
- Listening to texts

### Unit 2:

- Reading and comparing texts
- Presenting arguments

### Unit 3 & 4:

- Further development of Units 1 and 2 including extensive language work

## ASSESSMENT

For Units 1 and 2, students will complete a range of outcomes and classwork throughout each semester, followed by an examination.

For Units 3 and 4, students complete School-Assessed Coursework (50%) subject to external moderation, and an end-of-year examination (50%).





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