

English Senior External Examination

Subject notice 2026

Background

The English General Senior External Examination (SEE) syllabus exists as a comparable alternative to the English General senior syllabus. It replicates the objectives and subject matter of the English General senior syllabus and uses versions of internal assessments that are adapted to suit the examination conditions of the SEE.

The SEE is developed and marked by the QCAA. In English, it contributes 100% of a candidate's overall subject result. The SEE consists of two assessments (papers), each of which is a written examination of three hours plus planning time.

Assessment

External assessment 1

External assessment 1 (EA1) assesses subject matter from Unit 3. It contains two sections:

- Section 1: Persuasive written response
- Section 2: Extended written response for a public audience

Section 1 is comparable to Internal assessment 1 in the English General senior syllabus. Section 2 is comparable to Internal assessment 2 in the English General senior syllabus.

External assessment 2

External assessment 2 (EA2) assesses subject matter from Unit 4. It contains two sections:

- Section 1: Imaginative written response
- Section 2: Analytical written response.

Section 1 is comparable to Internal assessment 3 in the English General senior syllabus. Section 2 will use the paper set by the QCAA for the English and English as an Additional Language external assessment, and the responses will be marked together.

Notification

The QCAA has a responsibility to notify candidates of important information before the examination. This information, in conjunction with the English General SEE syllabus, guides candidates in their study of the course. In 2026, it is as follows:

EA1 Section 1

Persuasive written response	
Issues for exploration in the media (candidates to select one)	Genre for response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues related to corruption • Issues related to displacement 	Speech for a local youth forum

EA1 Section 2

Extended written response for a public audience		
Concepts and representations	Prescribed text list	Genre for response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Truth • Time and place 	<p>Candidates to select a text pair from the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Boat</i> by Nam Lee ('Love and honour and pity and pride and compassion and sacrifice', 'Meeting Elise') and <i>When the Rain Stops Falling</i> by Andrew Bovell • <i>Glitch</i> (TV series) Season 1, Episodes five and six by Emma Freeman and <i>If Cats Disappeared from the World</i> by Genki Kawamura • <i>Begin, End, Begin: A #LoveOzYA Anthology</i> ('I can see the ending' by Will Kostakis, and 'The heartbeat' by Alice Pung) and <i>Hidden Figures</i> (film) 	Literary article

EA2 Section 1

Imaginative written response	
Prescribed text list	Genre for response
<p>Candidates to study the prescribed poems of at least one poet from the following options:</p> <p>Judith Wright</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magpies • Sandy swamp • Five senses • The surfer • To a child <p>(All prescribed poems by Judith Wright are in <i>Judith Wright Collected Poems</i> published in 1994 by Harper Collins Publishers.)</p> <p>Kirli Saunders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindred • Brother • The jackpot • Self care • Sandcastles <p>(All prescribed poems by Kirli Saunders are in <i>Kindred</i> published in 2019 by Magabala Books.)</p>	Monologue

Imaginative written response	
Prescribed text list	Genre for response
<p>Wilfred Owen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strange meeting • Futility • The send off • Exposure • And I <p>(All prescribed poems by Wilfred Owen are in <i>Poems</i> published in 2017 by Penguin Classics.)</p>	

EA2 Section 2

Analytical written response	
Prescribed text list	Genre for response
<p>Candidates to conduct a close study of one of the texts prescribed for the English and English as an Additional Language external assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> — Anthony Doerr • <i>Never Let Me Go</i> – Kazuo Ishiguro • <i>Twelfth Night</i> — William Shakespeare • <i>Othello</i> — William Shakespeare • <i>The Namesake</i> — Jhumpa Lahir • <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> — Jane Austen • <i>The Dry</i> — Jane Harper • <i>The Yield</i> — Tara June Winch 	Analytical essay



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