

English

Subject guide 2010

This subject guide relates to courses developed from the English Senior Syllabus 2010.

Why study English?

Australia is a linguistically diverse country, with Standard Australian English as its national language.

Senior English recognises and promotes effective communication skills in Standard Australian English to enable individuals to share in and contribute to current and future local, national and global communities and cultures.

Senior English requires students to write, speak or sign, view, listen, and think critically. In studying literary and non-literary texts, and through creating their own texts, students will conceptualise, imagine, appreciate, experiment, speculate, reflect, make decisions, hypothesise, analyse and evaluate.

Students will enhance their ability to think, use language, and create meaning through reflecting on their place in the world and expressing their ideas and feelings. They are encouraged to enjoy and appreciate texts, and to understand the power texts have to influence, tell stories of a culture and promote shared understandings.

What is studied?

Students studying English courses will learn to:

- examine a range of literary and non-literary works in English, in various modes and mediums across diverse cultures and periods
- interpret, analyse, evaluate, respond to and construct a wide range of texts through reading, listening, viewing, speaking, writing and shaping
- communicate effectively in Standard Australian English for various social and cultural purposes and audiences
- make choices about generic structures, language, textual features and technologies to convey intended meaning
- control language (written, spoken or signed and visual), using grammar, punctuation, vocabulary and spelling.

There will be a range and balance in the texts that students read, listen to and view. Australian texts by Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers will be included as will texts from different times, places and cultures. Texts will encompass traditional, contemporary and translated works. Texts will include:

- novels, short stories and poetry
- scripted drama and drama performed as theatre
- reflective texts such as biographies, autobiographies and journals
- popular culture, media and multimodal works
- spoken and written everyday texts of work, family and community life.

How do students learn?

Students learn by working with language and texts. Learning experiences in English are designed to cater for the diverse range of learning styles, interests and abilities of senior students. They may include:

- individual, small group and whole class activities such as workshops, conferencing, debates and discussions
- reading, analysing and producing texts
- attending plays, films and forums
- listening to and interacting with guest speakers and experts.

How are students assessed?

Assessment in senior English is standards-based and is designed to help students demonstrate achievement in the dimensions of the syllabus. The dimensions used are *Understanding and responding to contexts*, *Understanding and controlling textual features* and *Creating and evaluating meaning*.

Assessment is both written and spoken/signed. Students complete three or four written tasks and two or three spoken/signed tasks in each year. Some assessment tasks are completed under test conditions, some using a combination of class and student time.

How can parents help?

Parents can help by:

- encouraging their children to read widely
- taking an active interest in the texts that their children are studying
- encouraging participation in school debating, plays and musicals
- supporting school excursions to plays and films
- discussing community views on issues and concerns of the contemporary world
- helping their children learn how to manage time effectively and to meet deadlines
- contacting the school to establish communication with their child's English teacher to help understand the work undertaken at senior level, and to become familiar with assessment requirements.

More information

If you would like more information, please email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au. You can also visit the QCAA subject page: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/subjects/english/english-2010.