

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

4 December 2017

Senior secondary

Number: 063/17

Release of prescribed text lists for English senior syllabuses 2019–2021

Purpose

To inform schools that the prescribed text lists for new and redeveloped General senior syllabuses for English, English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Literature are available via the QCAA Portal and the QCAA website.

Background

New and redeveloped senior syllabuses for English, EAL and Literature are the first in more than 40 years to be supported by lists of prescribed texts.

The lists were compiled by experts from the three schooling sectors as well as the English Teachers Association of Queensland, universities, State Library of Queensland, Aboriginal communities and Torres Strait Islander communities, and the QCAA.

Consultation and research included:

- a review of text selections in current school work programs
- student focus groups
- feedback from teachers at syllabus workshops
- feedback through an online forum on Goodreads.com
- a review of text selections in other jurisdictions.

The senior syllabuses are for implementation with Year 11 students in 2019.

Information

The prescribed texts have been approved by the QCAA as suitable for study in Units 3 and 4 in English, EAL and Literature, and were selected in accordance with the following criteria and guidelines.

Criteria for the text list

The text list as a whole will:

- meet the syllabus requirements
- reflect the cultural and social diversity of the Australian context and student cohorts
- provide a range and balance of texts and writers with respect to time, place and gender

- encourage critical and creative engagement
- include texts that provide affirming perspectives
- consider broad community standards and expectations in the context of a senior secondary study of texts.

Criteria for inclusion of texts

Texts selected for the list will:

- have merit in genre and style
- provide opportunities for sustained intensive study and challenge
- provide opportunities for student engagement.

Texts include novels, nonfiction works, plays, poetry, and film and television programs.

No single text is prescribed — schools have the opportunity to choose texts from the lists that are suitable for their contexts and cohorts.

Schools can engage with writers from different times, places and cultures, and of varied outlook and gender.

The initial text lists include a balance and range of established and new texts. Schools will be familiar with many of the texts as a large proportion of them are already being used in Queensland schools.

From 2022, 25% of the texts on the prescribed text lists will be retired annually. The first of these renewed text lists will be released in 2020 for use in 2022.

Access to syllabuses and text lists

Text lists can be accessed by clicking on the 'Resources' button associated with each syllabus in QCAA Portal: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/portal/home/landing#!/home

The lists are also publicly available with the syllabuses on the QCAA website: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te/redev-snr-syll.

Early next year, the QCAA will provide annotations that give guidance and key information about the texts and their relationship to the syllabuses.

What you need to do

Note the release of prescribed text lists for General English, EAL, and Literature syllabuses to help teachers with their planning.

Finding out more

Please email Lisa Bottomley (Learning Area Manager, English and Languages) at Lisa.Bottomley@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone (07) 3864 0129.

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