



LITERATURE

ATAR course

Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: General capabilities

For teaching in 2027

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment to investigate the assessment and reporting of the general capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA), the Authority has updated the statements about the general capabilities in each syllabus.

The Authority has mapped the general capabilities through the unit content and assessment types for each of the WACE courses. Students will have the opportunity to develop the general capabilities identified in the course through the teaching, learning and assessment programs. These general capabilities will be reflected on the WASSA.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Investigating the assessment and reporting of the general capabilities on the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA)

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Representation of the general capabilities Year 12 syllabus

The general capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will support students to live and work successfully now and into the future. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the following capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the Literature ATAR course. The general capabilities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Critical and creative thinking

Critical and creative thinking is an integral feature of the study and creation of texts in the Literature ATAR course. Students analyse and evaluate issues and ideas presented in texts. In both thinking about and creating their own texts, they recognise and develop arguments, use evidence and draw reasoned conclusions. Students experiment with text structures and language features as they transform and adapt texts for different purposes, contexts and audiences. They use critical thinking to analyse a range of texts in relation to their purpose, context, audience, structural and language features, and underlying assumptions. They investigate the ways language is used to position individuals as well as social and cultural groups. Creative thinking enables students to apply imaginative and inventive capacities in the creation of their own creative productions.

Ethical understanding

Students develop an increased understanding of complex issues and the questions surrounding rights and responsibilities in our modern world. They develop greater empathy for the attitudes and opinions of others by interacting with and interrogating a range of texts and reading practices. Ethical understanding is explored through texts studied, including engaging with ethical dilemmas presented in texts, considering reasons for characters' actions and the implications of decisions made. Students explore and question values, attitudes, perspectives and assumptions in texts, examining how they are presented, their impact on audiences and how they are reflected in their own responses.

Intercultural understanding

In the Literature ATAR course, intercultural understanding encourages students to make connections between their own experiences and the experiences of others. Through the study of contemporary texts, texts from the past and texts from diverse cultures, students explore and analyse these connections. Students understand and can express the interdependence of language, culture, identity and values, particularly in the Australian context, and are able to appreciate and empathise with the cultural beliefs, attitudes and values of others. They study how cultural concepts, beliefs, practices and perspectives are represented in a range of textual forms and for a variety of purposes and audiences. The course and the prescribed text list allow for particular attention to the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Asian cultures to Australian literature.

Literacy

Literacy is important in the development of the skills and strategies needed to express, interpret, and communicate complex information and ideas. In the Literature ATAR course, students apply, extend and refine their repertoire of literacy skills and practices by establishing and articulating their views through creative response and argument. They experiment with different modes, media and forms to create new texts and understand the power of language to represent ideas, events and people. The course provides a vehicle for reinforcing and refining functional literacy skills, extending to the use of appropriate terminology or metalanguage within literary analysis discourse.

Personal and social capability

Students develop personal and social capability by enhancing their communication skills, including through research, reflective practices and developing empathy with and appreciation of the perspectives of others. Close critical engagement with texts assists students to understand different personal and social experiences and perspectives. Students identify and express their own opinions, beliefs and responses by interacting with a range of texts.

Addressing the other general capabilities

Although the following general capabilities have not been identified as a focus in the Literature ATAR Year 12 syllabus, teachers may find opportunities to incorporate these capabilities into the teaching and learning program.

- Digital literacy
- Numeracy

Such opportunities may occur through the application of different contexts, pedagogical practices and/or assessment strategies that relate to the syllabus as part of the teaching and learning program.

Summary representation of the general capabilities in the Literature ATAR course

A representation of the general capabilities for the two years is summarised in the table below.

Year	Course	Course type	General capabilities						
			CCT	DL	EU	IU	L	N	PSC
Year 11	Literature (AELIT)	ATAR	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Year 12	Literature (ATLIT)	ATAR	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓

Key

CCT: Critical and creative thinking, DL: Digital literacy, EU: Ethical understanding, IU: Intercultural understanding, L: Literacy, N: Numeracy, PSC: Personal and social capability