



ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT

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

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 English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) 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 integral to the study and creation of texts in the EAL/D ATAR course. Students analyse and evaluate complex issues and ideas presented in texts. In both thinking about the texts they read and creating their own, 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 contexts, purposes and audiences. They develop their critical thinking skills when they use their knowledge of language to analyse a range of texts in relation to their context, purpose, audience, structural and language features, and underlying and unstated assumptions. They investigate the ways language is used to position individuals and social and cultural groups. Their creative thinking skills are developed as students apply imaginative and inventive capacities in the creation of their own original works.

Intercultural understanding

In the EAL/D ATAR course, students are encouraged to develop their intercultural understanding by making 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. They pay special attention to the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Asian cultures to literature and other media in Australia.

Literacy

Literacy is foundational to the EAL/D ATAR course as students learn skills and strategies needed to express, interpret and communicate complex information and ideas. In the course, literacy skills are developed and consolidated in conjunction with language learning through a focus on comprehending and creating oral, written and multimodal texts, and using and modifying language for different purposes in a range of contexts. Students apply, extend and refine their repertoire of literacy skills and practices when studying the use and impact of English in texts and contexts inside and outside the classroom and across learning areas.

Personal and social capability

Students develop personal and social capability in the course by developing their communication skills, teamwork skills, and understanding of verbal and non-verbal modes of interaction. They develop empathy with and appreciation of the perspectives of others. The course helps students to understand and more effectively manage themselves, and to understand different personal and social experiences, perspectives and challenges. Students identify and express their own opinions, beliefs and responses by interacting with a range of texts and social situations. The course actively assists students with the development of communication skills needed for conversation, research, presentations, and the expression of viewpoints and arguments. Students work both collaboratively and independently as part of their learning and research endeavours.

Addressing the other general capabilities

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

- Digital literacy
- Ethical understanding
- 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 EAL/D 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	EAL/D (AEELD)	ATAR	✓			✓	✓		✓
Year 12	EAL/D (ATELD)	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