



LITERATURE

ATAR course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims
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 for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses

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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Rationale

The Literature ATAR course explores how literary texts construct representations, shape perceptions of the world and enable us to enter other worlds of the imagination. It is centred on the study of literary texts, their forms and generic conventions. The course focuses on the contexts within which those texts are produced and received, and therefore, on different ways of reading literary texts. Students produce literary texts, combining analytical and creative skills that develop students who appreciate the aesthetic use of language, evaluate perspectives and evidence, and contest ideas and interpretations.

Students engage with a range of poetry, prose fiction and drama texts. They learn to analyse and reflect on the relationships between authors, readers, texts and contexts. Students respond critically to literary texts, reflecting on what these texts offer them as individuals, members of Australian society and world citizens. They establish and articulate their views through analytical, logical argument. They reflect on the qualities of literary texts: form, generic conventions, structure, language features, literary devices and stylistic techniques. They analyse representations created and associated attitudes, values, ideologies and discourses, reading closely and evaluating others' interpretations of texts. Using this experience, students produce creative literary texts of their own.

Students learn how to organise viewpoints and analyses in different ways; use appropriate linguistic, stylistic and critical terminology to compare and contrast texts; and select appropriate arguments and evidence to support interpretations. They read complex texts in a careful and critical way; interpret texts using a variety of perspectives and reading practices; and respond to those texts in a logical manner. More broadly, students learn how to understand the attitudes, values and ideologies underpinning texts.

The type of critical thinking developed in the Literature ATAR course can be applied to the 'texts' that students encounter in daily life: informative documents, legal documents, employment contracts, council policies, multimodal texts like film and television and oral texts like speeches and conversations. The course equips students with critical and creative skills that are highly valuable in further education, training, and employment. Through the study of literary texts, students develop as independent, innovative and analytical thinkers, fostering abilities that are applicable across multiple career pathways.

Studying the Literature ATAR course opens pathways to vocational and tertiary studies, where ability to critically analyse texts, construct arguments and engage with diverse perspectives is key. It prepares students for areas including English, journalism, law, communications, history, public relations, media studies and creative writing. The study of literary forms supports careers in editing, publishing, acting, screenwriting and other careers in the creative arts. In addition, it develops knowledge, skills and understandings that support STEM career development by bolstering critical thinking, logic and analysis.

Aims

All senior secondary English courses aim to develop students’:

- skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing
- capacity to create texts for a range of purposes, audiences and contexts
- understanding and appreciation of different uses of language.

In addition, the Literature ATAR course aims to develop students’:

- ability to respond personally, critically and imaginatively to a range of literary texts drawn from Australian and other historical, contemporary and cultural contexts and traditions
- capacity to engage with and contest complex and challenging ideas to form their own interpretations informed by a range of critical perspectives
- capacity to reflect critically on connections and resonances between texts.