



ENGLISH

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 English ATAR course focuses on developing students' analytical, creative, and critical thinking and communication skills. It encourages students to critically engage with texts from their contemporary world, from the past, and from Australian and other cultures. Such engagement helps students develop a sense of themselves, their world and their place in it.

Through close study and wide reading, viewing and listening, students develop the ability to appreciate, analyse and evaluate the purpose, stylistic qualities and conventions of literary and non-literary texts, and enjoy creating their own imaginative, interpretive, persuasive and analytical responses. They hone their oral communication skills through discussion, debate and argument, in a range of formal and informal situations.

Through this course, students develop and strengthen their language proficiency across reading, writing, speaking and listening modes. They engage in discussions that enhance their ability to articulate ideas clearly and persuasively.

These skills have broad real-world applications, enabling students to interpret information critically and to communicate effectively in diverse academic, professional and everyday contexts. The English ATAR course fosters an appreciation of a wide range of texts and language for lifelong learning.

The course also provides a strong foundation for future pathways in a wide range of fields, such as journalism, law, education, communications, media, public relations, allied health, social sciences, marketing and the creative industries. The skill sets learned in English ATAR course will support development of the confidence and competence required for many experiences in future social, training, academic, education and career-related contexts.

Aims

All senior secondary English courses aim to develop students’:

- skills in listening, speaking, reading, viewing 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 English ATAR course aims to develop students’ ability to:

- understand the use of language in terms of communication and context
- create imaginative, interpretive and persuasive texts in a range of genres
- critically engage with imaginative, interpretive and persuasive texts in a range of genres through analysis and evaluation.