



ENGLISH

General 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.

Copyright

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2025

This document – apart from any third-party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the Authority's moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with prior written permission of the Authority. Copying or communication of any third-party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Rationale

The English General course focuses on consolidating and refining the knowledge and skills needed by students to become competent, confident and engaged users of English in everyday, community, social, further education, training and workplace contexts. The course provides opportunities for students to understand, appreciate and create a variety of texts for a range of purposes, audiences and contexts. It is designed to support students to build skills that will empower them to succeed in their future pathways.

In the English General course, students comprehend, analyse, interpret and evaluate the content, structure and style of a wide variety of oral, written, visual, multimodal and digital texts. They learn how structure, language, audience and context interact to shape how the audience makes meaning.

The course develops students' language, literacy and literary skills to enable them to communicate successfully both orally and in writing, and to enjoy and value using language for both imaginative and practical purposes. It provides opportunities for students to work independently and collaboratively to develop their skills in these areas.

Students apply their knowledge and skills to create analytical, imaginative, interpretive and persuasive texts in different modes for imagined and real-world contexts. Knowledge and skills gained in the course are applicable and beneficial to students' current and future daily living, including autonomously, socially and in the workplace.

The English General course provides students with the skills that will empower them to thrive in a wide range of post-secondary pathways, including employment, training and vocational education. It may be used towards alternative entry for some university studies.

Aims

All senior secondary English courses aim to develop students' ability to:

- listen, speak, read, view and write
- create texts for a range of purposes, audiences and contexts
- understand and appreciate different uses of language.

In addition, the English General course aims to develop students' ability to:

- use and apply language and information effectively, confidently and creatively in vocational, community and academic contexts and enhance their broader communication skills
- understand the ways in which text structures and language features combine to make meaning and influence responses
- be proficient in comprehending and creating a range of oral, written, visual, multimodal and digital texts.
- work collaboratively, interacting confidently and effectively with others in everyday, community, social and applied learning contexts.