



ENGLISH

ATAR course

Year 12 syllabus for teaching from 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.

Important information

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) has revised the course rationale and aims, and updated the General Capabilities to create clearer connections with the syllabus content.

This syllabus is effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of this 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.

Organisation

This course is organised into a Year 11 syllabus and a Year 12 syllabus. The cognitive complexity of the syllabus content increases from Year 11 to Year 12.

Structure of the syllabus

The Year 12 syllabus is divided into two units which are delivered as a pair. The notional time for the pair of units is 110 class contact hours.

Unit 3

Students explore representations of themes, issues, ideas and concepts through a comparison of texts. They analyse and compare the relationships between language, genre and contexts, comparing texts within and/or across different genres and modes. Students recognise and analyse the conventions of genre in texts and consider how those conventions may assist interpretation. Students compare and evaluate the effect of different forms and modes on the structure of texts and how audiences respond to them. Understanding of these concepts is demonstrated through the creation of imaginative, interpretive, persuasive and analytical responses.

Unit 4

Students examine different interpretations and perspectives to develop further their knowledge and analysis of purpose and style. They challenge perspectives, values and attitudes in texts, developing and testing their own interpretations through debate and argument. Through close study of texts, students explore relationships between content and structure, voice and perspectives and the text and context. This provides the opportunity for students to extend their experience of language and of texts and explore their ideas through their own reading and viewing. Students demonstrate understanding of the texts studied through creation of imaginative, interpretive, persuasive and analytical responses.

Each unit includes:

- a unit description – a short description of the focus of the unit
- learning outcomes – a set of statements describing the learning expected as a result of studying the unit
- unit content – the content to be taught and learned.

Organisation of content

Content descriptions in each unit in the English ATAR course are grouped under an organising framework consisting of:

- texts in contexts
- language and textual analysis
- engaging and responding
- creating texts
- reflecting.

The language modes

The processes of listening, speaking, reading, viewing and writing, also known as language modes, are interrelated. Classroom contexts that address particular content descriptions will necessarily draw from more than one of these modes in order to support students' effective learning. To acknowledge these interrelationships, content descriptions incorporate the processes of listening, speaking, reading, viewing and writing in an integrated and interdependent way.

Texts

Texts for the English ATAR course include literary texts (see glossary definition) and non-literary texts:

- fiction – novels, short stories, fables, fairy tales, plays, poems, song lyrics, films, television programs, comic books, computer games
- non-fiction – biographies, journals, essays, speeches, reference books, news reports, documentaries, photographs, diagrams
- media texts – newspaper articles, magazine articles, editorials, websites, advertisements, documentaries, photographs, television programs, radio programs
- everyday texts – blogs, films, television programs, comic books, computer games, manuals.

Texts will be drawn from increasingly complex and unfamiliar settings, ranging from the everyday language of personal experience to more abstract, specialised and technical language drawn from a range of contexts. Texts provide important opportunities for learning about aspects of human experience and about aesthetic appeal.

Texts can be written, spoken (dialogues, speeches, monologues, conversations, radio programs, interviews, lectures), multimodal (picture books, graphic novels, web pages, films, television programs, performances, advertisements, cartoons, music videos, computer games, maps) and in print or digital/online (books, websites, computer games, social networking sites, email, SMS, apps).

Texts are structured for particular purposes; for example, to retell, to instruct, to entertain, to explain and to argue. Teachers may select whole texts and/or parts of texts depending on units of study, cohorts and level of difficulty.

Suggested text list

This course has a suggested text list which can be found at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/syllabus-and-support-materials/english/english2>. Teachers may substitute comparable works for any of these.

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. They are not assessed unless identified within the specified unit content. Teachers should find opportunities to incorporate the following General Capabilities into the teaching and learning program for the English ATAR course.

Critical and creative thinking

Critical and creative thinking are integral to the study and creation of texts in the English ATAR course. In the course, students analyse and evaluate issues and ideas represented in texts. When creating their own texts, students 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, audiences and contexts. They use critical thinking to analyse a range of texts in relation to their purpose, audience, context, structural and language features, and underlying or unstated assumptions. Students 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 original works.

Ethical understanding

Students develop ethical understanding through the selection of texts for study, such as when students engage with ethical dilemmas presented in texts, considering the reasons for actions and implications of decisions. They explore and question values, attitudes, perspectives and assumptions in texts, examining how they are represented, their impact on audiences and how they are reflected in their own responses. Through the study of the English ATAR course, students come to appreciate and develop greater empathy for the rights and opinions of others. They develop increasingly advanced communication, research and presentation skills to express viewpoints.

Intercultural understanding

In the English 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.

Literacy

Literacy is important in the development of the skills and strategies needed to express, interpret, and communicate complex information and ideas. In the English ATAR course, students apply, extend and refine their repertoire of literacy skills and practices as they examine how meaning is communicated and engage in creative response and argument. Students compare texts, considering how they are created for specific purposes, contexts and audiences. In the course, the concept of literacy extends to the use of appropriate terminology or metalanguage within the discourse of English as a subject.

Personal and social capability

Students develop personal and social capability by enhancing their communication skills, teamwork and capacity to empathise with and appreciate the perspectives of others. Close study of texts assists students to understand different personal and social experiences, values, attitudes, perspectives and challenges. Students identify and express their own opinions, beliefs and responses by interacting with a range of texts. The English ATAR course actively assists students in developing communication skills needed for analysis, research and the expression of viewpoints and arguments. Students work both independently and collaboratively 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 English ATAR Year 12 syllabus, teachers may find opportunities to incorporate them into the teaching and learning program.

- Digital literacies
- 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 English ATAR course

The unit content and assessment types for this course provide students with the opportunity to develop the General Capabilities summarised in the table below.

Year	Course	Course type	General Capabilities						
			CCT	DL	EU	IU	L	N	PSC
Year 11	English (AEENG)	ATAR	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Year 12	English (ATENG)	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

Representation of the Cross-curriculum Priorities

The Cross-curriculum Priorities address contemporary issues which students face in a globalised world. Teachers may find opportunities to incorporate them into the teaching and learning program for the English ATAR course. The Cross-curriculum Priorities are not assessed unless they are identified within the specified unit content.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

The senior secondary English curriculum values the histories, cultures, traditions and languages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and their central place in contemporary Australian society and culture. Through the study of texts, students may be provided with opportunities to develop their understanding and appreciation of the diversity of cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their contribution to Australian society. The suggested text list for the English ATAR course includes a selection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander literature.

Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia

There are strong social, cultural and economic reasons for Australian students to engage with Asia and with the contribution of Asian Australians to our society and heritage. It is through the study of texts from Asia that a creative and forward-looking Australia can engage with our place in the region. Through story articulated in a range of media, students may be provided with opportunities to develop understanding of the diversity of Asia's peoples, environments and traditional and contemporary cultures. Texts relevant to this priority are included in the suggested text list.

Sustainability

The English ATAR course provides the opportunity for the development of informed and reasoned points of view, discussion of issues, research and problem solving. In this context, teachers are encouraged to select texts and issues for discussion connected with sustainability. Through analysis of media articles, documentaries and digital texts, students may have the opportunity to research and discuss this global issue and learn the importance of respecting and valuing a wide range of world views.

Unit 3

Unit description

Students explore representations of themes, issues, ideas and concepts through a comparison of texts. They analyse and compare the relationships between language, genre and contexts, comparing texts within and/or across different genres and modes. Students recognise and analyse the conventions of genre in texts and consider how those conventions may assist interpretation. Students compare and evaluate the effect of different forms and modes on the structure of texts and how audiences respond to them. Understanding of these concepts is demonstrated through the creation of imaginative, interpretive, persuasive and analytical responses.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this unit, students:

- understand relationships between texts, audiences, purposes, genres and contexts
- investigate the effects of different conventions on responses
- create oral, written and multimodal texts in a range of styles.

Unit content

An understanding of the English ATAR Year 11 content is assumed knowledge for students in Year 12. It is recommended that students studying Unit 3 and Unit 4 have completed Unit 1 and Unit 2.

This unit includes the knowledge, understandings and skills described below. This is the examinable content.

Compare texts from similar or different genres and contexts by:

- analysing language, structural and stylistic choices
- explaining how each text conforms to or challenges the conventions of particular genres or modes
- analysing and evaluating how similar themes, issues, ideas and concepts are treated in different texts.

Compare and contrast distinctive features of genres by:

- analysing the techniques and conventions used in different genres and modes
- considering how the conventions of genres can be manipulated
- examining how genres and their conventions have changed over time.

Analyse and critically appraise how the conventions of texts influence responses, including:

- the ways language patterns can create meaning
- how expectations of genres have developed and the effect when those expectations are met or not met
- how responses to texts and genres may change over time and in different cultural contexts.

Create a range of texts:

- transforming and adapting texts for different purposes, contexts and audiences
- making innovative and imaginative use of language features
- using and experimenting with text structures and language features related to specific genres for particular effects
- sustaining analysis and argument
- using appropriate quotation and referencing protocols
- using strategies for planning, drafting, editing and proofreading
- using accurate spelling, punctuation, syntax and metalanguage.

Reflect on their own and others' texts by:

- analysing and evaluating how different texts represent similar ideas in different ways
- comparing and evaluating the impact of language features used in a variety of texts and genres
- considering the role of the audience in making meaning.

Unit 4

Unit description

Students examine different interpretations and perspectives to develop further their knowledge and analysis of purpose and style. They challenge perspectives, values and attitudes in texts, developing and testing their own interpretations through debate and argument. Through close study of texts, students explore relationships between content and structure, voice and perspectives and the text and context. This provides the opportunity for students to extend their experience of language and of texts and explore their ideas through their own reading and viewing. Students demonstrate understanding of the texts studied through creation of imaginative, interpretive, persuasive and analytical responses.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this unit, students:

- understand how content, structure, voice and perspectives in texts shape responses and interpretations
- examine different interpretations of texts and how these resonate with, or challenge, their own responses
- create oral, written and multimodal texts in a range of forms and styles.

Unit content

This unit builds on the content covered in Unit 3.

This unit includes the knowledge, understandings and skills described below. This is the examinable content.

Investigate and evaluate the relationships between texts and contexts by:

- undertaking close analysis of texts
- examining how each text relates to a particular context or contexts
- comparing the contexts in which texts are created and received.

Evaluate different perspectives, attitudes and values represented in texts by:

- analysing content, purpose and choice of language
- analysing the use of voice and narrative point of view
- exploring other interpretations and aspects of context to develop a considered response.

Evaluate how texts offer perspectives through:

- the selection of mode, genre and type of text
- the ways viewpoints and values are represented
- the selection of language features that generate empathy or controversy.

Create a range of texts:

- using appropriate language and stylistic features to sustain a personal voice and perspective
- using nuanced language
- synthesising ideas and opinions to develop complex argument
- substantiating and justifying their own responses using textual evidence
- using appropriate quotation and referencing protocols
- using strategies for planning, drafting, editing and proofreading
- using accurate spelling, punctuation, syntax and metalanguage.

Reflect on their own and others' texts by:

- analysing and evaluating how different attitudes and perspectives underpin texts
- questioning the assumptions and values in texts
- identifying omissions, inclusions, emphases and marginalisations
- discussing and evaluating different interpretations of texts.

School-based assessment

The *Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Manual* contains essential information on principles, policies and procedures for school-based assessment that needs to be read in conjunction with this syllabus.

Teachers design school-based assessment tasks to meet the needs of students. The table below provides details of the assessment types for the English ATAR Year 12 syllabus and the weighting for each assessment type.

Assessment table – Year 12

Type of assessment	Weighting
Responding Types of assessment will involve tasks in which students comprehend, engage with, interpret, analyse, compare, contrast, reflect on, appreciate and evaluate a range of texts and text forms for a variety of purposes and audiences. Students can respond in a range of text forms including fiction and non-fiction, media texts, multimodal and digital texts.	35%
Creating Students create sustained imaginative, interpretive and persuasive texts in a range of modes for a variety of purposes and audiences. Students can create a range of text forms including fiction and non-fiction, media texts, multimodal and digital texts.	35%
Examination The examination assesses work covered in the unit(s) completed, using questions requiring responses to texts and the creation of texts. The examination is typically conducted at the end of the semester and/or unit and reflects the examination design brief for this syllabus.	30%

Teachers are required to use the assessment table to develop an assessment outline for the pair of units.

The assessment outline must:

- include a set of assessment tasks
- include a general description of each task
- indicate the unit content to be assessed
- indicate a weighting for each task and each assessment type
- include the approximate timing of each task (for example, the week the task is conducted, or the issue and submission dates for an extended task)
- include a speaking/listening assessment at least once over the year/pair of units.

In the assessment outline for the pair of units, each assessment type must be included at least once over the year/pair of units.

In addition to this advice on the minimum number of assessments, students must complete a speaking/listening assessment at least once for the pair of units (or once for a single unit where only one is studied).

The set of assessment tasks must provide a representative sampling of the content for Unit 3 and Unit 4.

Assessment tasks not administered under test/controlled conditions require appropriate validation/authentication processes. Student work submitted to demonstrate achievement should only be accepted if the teacher can attest that, to the best of his/her knowledge, all uncited work is the student's own.

Grading

Schools report student achievement in terms of the following grades:

Grade	Interpretation
A	Excellent achievement
B	High achievement
C	Satisfactory achievement
D	Limited achievement
E	Very low achievement

The teacher prepares a ranked list and assigns the student a grade for the pair of units. The grade is based on the student's overall performance as judged by reference to a set of pre-determined standards. These standards are defined by grade descriptions and annotated work samples. The grade descriptions for the English ATAR Year 12 syllabus are provided in Appendix 1. They can also be accessed, together with annotated work samples, through the Guide to Grades link on the course page of the Authority website at www.scsa.wa.edu.au.

To be assigned a grade, a student must have had the opportunity to complete the education program, including the assessment program (unless the school accepts that there are exceptional and justifiable circumstances).

Refer to the *WACE Manual* for further information about the use of a ranked list in the process of assigning grades.

ATAR course examination

All students enrolled in the English ATAR Year 12 course are required to sit the ATAR course examination. The examination is based on a representative sampling of the content for Unit 3 and Unit 4. Details of the ATAR course examination are prescribed in the examination design brief on the following page.

Refer to the WACE Manual for further information.

Examination design brief – Year 12

Time allowed

Reading time before commencing work: ten minutes

Working time for paper: three hours

Permissible items

Standard items: pens (blue/black preferred), pencils (including coloured), sharpener, correction fluid/tape, eraser, ruler, highlighters

Special items: nil

Section	Supporting information
Section One Comprehending 30% of the total examination Two questions Suggested working time: 60 minutes	Questions can require the candidate to comprehend and analyse unseen written and visual texts and respond concisely. The stimulus material consists of two unseen texts where one text is a written text and the second text is a: • written text, or • visual text, or • multimodal text. The texts exclude poetry and drama. The questions are of equal weighting. Each question requires the candidate to respond in approximately 200–300 words. One question can require comparison between Section One texts.
Section Two Responding 40% of the total examination One question from a choice of six Suggested working time: 60 minutes	Questions require the candidate to demonstrate analytical and critical thinking skills in relation to studied texts. The candidate can refer to any text or text type studied. Questions can require the candidate to interpret, analyse, compare, contrast, reflect on and/or evaluate a studied text or texts.
Section Three Composing 30% of the total examination One question from a choice of four or five Suggested working time: 60 minutes	Questions require the candidate to demonstrate writing skills by choosing form(s) of writing appropriate to specific audiences, contexts and purposes. The questions require the candidate to create a sustained imaginative, interpretive or persuasive text. Questions are not directly related to texts studied.

Appendix 1 – Grade descriptions Year 12

A		In responding to texts, the student	In creating texts, the student
	Language, language features, expression and style	Produces articulate, concise and cohesive analysis of the language used, the language features and the stylistic choices in texts.	Controls language and language features for precision, fluency of expression and stylistic effect.
	Mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation	Sustains control of the mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation.	Sustains control of the mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation.
	Purpose, audience, genre	Analyses the relationships between purpose, audience and genre.	Controls the relationships between purpose, audience and genre.
	Structure	Organises analysis, within a coherent structure, that addresses all of the requirements of the task.	Sustains control of an effective structure.
	Context	Applies an understanding of contexts to comprehend, interpret and evaluate texts.	Integrates an understanding of context to engage audiences.
	Comparisons of texts	Makes perceptive comparisons of texts.	
	Supporting evidence	Provides pertinent evidence (by way of quotes and/or examples) to enhance analysis.	

B		In responding to texts, the student	In creating texts, the student
	Language, language features, expression and style	Produces clearly expressed and logical analysis of the language used and the stylistic choices made in texts.	Uses language and language features for clarity of expression and development of style.
	Mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation	Controls most of the mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation.	Controls most of the mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation.
	Purpose, audience, genre	Analyses the purpose, audience and genre.	Applies a clear understanding of purpose, audience and genre.
	Structure	Organises analysis, within a logical structure, that addresses most of the requirements of the task.	Selects and controls most elements of structure.
	Context	Applies an understanding of contexts to make meaning(s) of texts.	Uses an understanding of context to engage audiences.
	Comparisons of texts	Makes meaningful comparisons of texts.	
	Supporting evidence	Provides relevant evidence (by way of quotes and/or examples) to develop and support analysis.	

C		In responding to texts, the student	In creating texts, the student
	Language, language features, expression and style	Discusses some language features and stylistic choices using some clear expression.	Uses some language and language features appropriate to purpose and style of expression.
	Mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation	Controls some of the mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation.	Controls some of the mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation.
	Purpose, audience, genre	Discusses the purpose, audience and genre.	Uses some understanding of purpose, audience and/or genre.
	Structure	Provides some structure for the response while addressing some of the requirements of the task.	Controls some elements of structure.
	Context	Demonstrates some understanding of contexts.	Uses some understanding of context to engage audiences.
	Comparisons of texts	Makes some relevant comparisons of texts.	
	Supporting evidence	Provides some evidence (by way of quotes and/or examples) to support analysis.	

D		In responding to texts, the student	In creating texts, the student
	Language, language features, expression and style	Identifies a limited range of language features and clarity of expression is limited.	Uses a limited range of language and/or language features and clarity of expression is limited.
	Mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation	Demonstrates limited control of the mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation.	Demonstrates limited control of the mechanics of grammar, spelling and punctuation.
	Purpose, audience, genre	Identifies the purpose, audience and/or genre.	Demonstrates limited understanding of purpose, audience and/or genre.
	Structure	Presents ideas within a limited structure while addressing a limited number of the requirements of the task.	Provides limited evidence of structure.
	Context	Demonstrates limited understanding of contexts.	Makes limited connection between context and audience.
	Comparisons of texts	Makes limited comparisons of texts.	
	Supporting evidence	Provides limited evidence (by way of quotes and/or examples) to support analysis.	

E	Does not meet the requirements of a D grade and/or has completed insufficient assessment tasks to be assigned a higher grade.
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Appendix 2 – Glossary

This glossary is provided to enable a common understanding of the key terms in this syllabus.

Aesthetic

A sense of beauty or an appreciation of artistic expression.

Analyse

Consider in detail for the purpose of finding meaning or relationships, and identifying patterns, similarities and differences.

Appreciation

The act of discerning quality and value of literary texts.

Attitudes

An outlook or a specific feeling about something. Our values underlie our attitudes. Attitudes can be expressed by what we say, do and wear.

Audience

The group of readers, listeners or viewers that the writer, designer, filmmaker or speaker is addressing. Audience includes students in the classroom, an individual, the wider community, review writers, critics and the implied audience.

Author

The composer or originator of a work (for example, a novel, film, website, speech, essay, autobiography).

Context

The environment in which a text is responded to or created. Context can include the general social, historical and cultural conditions in which a text is responded to and created (the context of culture) or the specific features of its immediate environment (context of situation). The term is also used to refer to the wording surrounding an unfamiliar word that a reader or listener uses to understand its meaning.

Convention

An accepted practice that has developed over time and is generally used and understood, for example, the use of specific structural aspects of texts such as in report writing with sections for introduction, background, discussion and recommendations. Conventions can be techniques, features or elements that belong to a genre. In order to belong to a particular genre, a text should adhere to, abide by or follow the conventions of that genre.

Digital technologies

The use of digital resources to effectively find, analyse, create, communicate, and use information in a digital context and incorporates the hardware of mobile phones, cameras, tablets, laptops and computers and the software to power these devices.

Digital texts

Audio, visual or multimodal texts produced through digital or electronic technology, which may be interactive and include animations and hyperlinks. Examples of digital texts include DVDs, websites and e-literature.

Evaluate

Evaluation of an issue or information that includes considering important factors and available evidence in making judgement that can be justified.

Figurative language

Word groups/phrases used in a way that differs from the expected or everyday usage. They are used in a non-literal way for particular effect (for example, simile – ‘white as a sheet’; metaphor – ‘all the world’s a stage’; personification – ‘the wind grabbed at my clothes’).

Form; forms of texts

The shape and structure of texts. Literary texts, for example, include a broad range of forms such as novels, poetry, short stories, plays, fiction, multimodal texts, and non-fiction. (See Texts under Organisation of content.)

Genre

The categories into which texts are grouped. The term has a complex history within literary theory and is often used to distinguish texts on the basis of their subject matter (for example, detective fiction, romance, science fiction, fantasy fiction), form and structure (for example, poetry, novels, biography, short stories).

Hybrid texts

Composite texts resulting from a mixing of elements from different sources or genres (for example, infotainment). Email is an example of a hybrid text, combining the immediacy of talk and the expectation of a reply with the permanence of print.

Ideas

In this course the word has an open meaning and can be interpreted as understandings, thoughts, notions, opinions, views or beliefs.

Idiom

A group of (more or less) fixed words having a meaning not deducible from the individual words. Idioms are typically informal expressions used by particular social groups and need to be explained as one unit (for example, ‘I am over the moon’, ‘on thin ice’, ‘a fish out of water’, ‘fed up to the back teeth’).

Interpretation

Interpretation is the meaning made of a text. Developing an interpretation can involve reading texts in particular ways, such as identifying ideas, issues and themes; analysing the effects of language features, conventions of genre, text structures and stylistic features; considering the influence of context; focusing on various representations; for example, representations of gender, class or cultural identity. Different ways of reading a text can produce different interpretations.

Issues

Matters of personal or public concern that are in dispute; things which directly or indirectly affect a person or members of a society and are considered to be problems. Many issues are raised in texts and it is for the reader/audience to identify these.

Language features

The features of language that support meaning (for example, sentence structure, noun group/phrase, vocabulary, punctuation, figurative language, framing, camera angles). Choices in language features and text structures together define a type of text and shape its meaning. These choices vary according to the purpose of a text, its subject matter, audience, and mode of production.

Language patterns

The arrangement of identifiable repeated or corresponding elements in a text. These include patterns of repetition or similarity (for example, the repeated use of verbs at the beginning of each step in a recipe, or the repetition of a chorus after each verse in a song). The patterns may alternate (for example, the call and response pattern of some games, or the to and fro of a dialogue). Other patterns may contrast (for example, opposing viewpoints in a discussion, or contrasting patterns of imagery in a poem). The language patterns of a text contribute to the distinctive nature of its overall organisation and shape its meaning.

Literary texts

Literary texts refers to past and present texts across a range of cultural contexts that are valued for their form and style and are recognised as having enduring or artistic value. While the nature of what constitutes 'literary texts' is dynamic and evolving, they are seen as having personal, social, cultural and aesthetic appeal and potential for enriching students' scope of experience. Literary texts include a broad range of forms, such as novels, poetry, short stories, plays, fiction, non-fiction and multimodal texts.

Metalinguage

Language used to discuss language (for example, language used to discuss film or literary study, such as mise-en-scène, symbolism, characterisation, or language used to talk about grammatical terms, such as 'sentence', 'clause', 'conjunction').

Mode

The various processes of communication: listening, speaking, reading/viewing and writing/creating. Modes are also used to refer to the semiotic (meaning-making) resources associated with these communicative processes, such as sound, print, image and gesture.

Mood

The atmosphere or feeling in a particular text. For example, a text might create a sombre, reflective, exhilarating or menacing mood or atmosphere depending on the imagery or other language used.

Multimodal text

Combination of two or more communication modes (for example, print, image and spoken text, as in film or computer presentations).

Narrative

A story of events or experiences, real or imagined. In literary theory, narrative includes the story (what is narrated) and the discourse (how it is narrated).

Narrative point of view

The ways in which a narrator may be related to the story. For example, the narrator might take the role of first or third person, omniscient or restricted in knowledge of events, reliable or unreliable in interpreting what happens. Texts can have multiple narrative points of view.

Personification

The description of an inanimate object as though it were a person or living thing.

Perspective(s)

A position from which things may be viewed or considered. People may have different perspectives on events or issues due to (for example) their age, gender, social position and beliefs and values. A perspective is more than an opinion; it is a viewpoint informed by one or more contexts. Texts through an embedded ideology can also present a particular perspective or be read from an ideological perspective.

Prose

Ordinary language used in speaking or writing, distinguished from poetry by its lack of a marked metrical structure. Short stories, novels, letters and essays are typically written in prose.

Reading

The process of making meaning of text. This process draws on a repertoire of social, cultural and cognitive resources. Reading occurs in different ways, for different purposes, in a variety of public and domestic settings. Reading is therefore a cultural, economic, ideological, political and psychological act. The term applies to the act of reading print texts or the act of viewing a film or static image.

Representation

Representation refers to the way people, events, issues or subjects are presented in a text. The term implies that texts are not mirrors of the real world; they are constructions of 'reality'. These constructions are partially shaped through the writer's use of conventions and techniques.

Rhetoric

The language of argument, using persuasive and forceful language.

Rhetorical devices

Language techniques used in argument to persuade audiences (for example, rhetorical questions, repetition, propositions, figurative language).

Standard Australian English (SAE)

The variety of spoken and written English language in Australia used in more formal settings such as for official or public purposes, and recorded in dictionaries, style guides and grammars. While it is always dynamic and evolving, it is recognised as the 'common language' of Australians.

Style

The culmination of distinctive qualities that distinguish/ characterise a text.

Style can also be discerned across a body of work. For example, Ernest Hemingway's spare prose, Judith Wright's figurative poetry, Baz Luhrmann's opulent films. Style can also be used to describe texts produced in a period of time; for example, the Elizabethan era.

Style can be appreciated for its aesthetic qualities.

Stylistic choices

The selection of stylistic features to achieve a particular effect.

Stylistic features

The features of a text that contribute to its style. Stylistic features can include lexical choice, syntax, narrative point of view, voice, structure, lighting, composition, language patterns and language features. For example, the low key lighting in film noir, the symmetrical composition in Wes Anderson's films or the changing syntax and voice in *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes.

Synthesise

Combine elements (information/ideas/components) into a coherent whole.

Text structure

The ways in which information is organised in different types of texts (for example, chapter headings, subheadings, tables of contents, indexes and glossaries, overviews, introductory and concluding paragraphs, sequencing, topic sentences, taxonomies, cause and effect). Choices in text structures and language features together define a text type and shape its meaning. Examples of text structures in literary texts include sonnets, monologues and hypertext.

Theme

An idea, concern or argument developed in a text; a recurring element (for example, the subject of a text may be love, and its theme could be how love involves sacrifice). A work may have more than one theme.

Tone

Tone describes the way the 'voice' is delivered. For example, the tone of a voice or the tone in a passage of writing could be friendly or angry or persuasive.

Types of texts

Classifications of texts according to the particular purposes they are designed to achieve. In general, in the senior courses in the English curriculum, texts are classified as imaginative, interpretive, persuasive or analytical types of texts, although these distinctions are neither static nor discrete and particular texts can belong to more than one category.

Analytical texts: Texts whose primary purpose is to identify, examine and draw conclusions about the elements or components that make up other texts. Analytical texts develop an argument or consider or advance an interpretation. Examples of these texts include commentaries, essays in criticism, reflective or discursive responses and reviews.

Imaginative texts: Texts whose primary purpose is to entertain or provoke thought through their imaginative use of literary elements. They are recognised for their form, style and artistic or aesthetic value. These texts include novels, traditional tales, poetry, stories, plays, fiction for young adults and children, including picture books, and multimodal texts such as film.

Interpretive texts: Texts whose primary purpose is to explain and interpret personalities, events, ideas, representations or concepts. They include autobiography, biography, feature articles, documentary, satire and allegory.

Persuasive texts: Texts whose primary purpose is to put forward a viewpoint and persuade a reader, viewer or listener. They form a significant part of modern communication in both print and digital environments. They include advertising, debates, arguments, discussions, polemics and essays and articles.

Visual elements

Visual components of a text such as composition, framing, representation of action or reaction, shot size, social distance and camera angle.

Voice

Voice is the distinct personality discernible in a text. Voice is constructed through the selection of language features and stylistic features to shape audience response. Voice can represent perspectives, attitudes and values.

Texts can also contain multiple voices which represent the perspectives, attitudes and values of individuals and/or groups.

