

# English Language

## Units 1-2

This study aims to combine learning about the nature of language in human thought and communication with learning how to use English more effectively. It is based on linguistics and involves an exploration of the nature of the English Language. A knowledge of how language functions helps to develop skills that are useful in any field in which communication is a focus.

### UNIT 1

This unit introduces students to the nature of language and the functions that we perform using language. Students are introduced to terminology to name the many features of language. These are explored through a range of texts, from transcripts of conversations to email and literary extracts. Students will also study how and when children learn language.

#### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Students will write analytical responses, and read a range of different types of texts. The subject promotes class-room activities that integrate the skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking. Class work will involve a range of individual and group-based activities.

#### KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Learning and using the subject's specialist vocabulary, reading and listening closely, conducting structured analysis of language use and writing and speaking effectively.

#### ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, an extended analytical task, essay and examinations.

### UNIT 2

Students will investigate the history of English, different Englishes used around the world and the future of English. A range of texts from the four periods of English will be analysed and discussed.

#### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Students will analyse and annotate texts from different periods in the history of English, research the different varieties of modern English and write essays on the future of English and associated issues. Class work will take a range of forms and involve individual and group-based activities.

#### KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Learning and using the subject's specialist vocabulary, reading and listening closely, conducting research and writing and speaking effectively.

#### ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, an extended analytical task, an essay, and an end of semester exam.

# English Language

## Units 3-4

### UNIT 3

In this unit students investigate English language in contemporary Australian social settings, along a continuum of informal and formal registers. They consider language as a means of social interaction, exploring how through written and spoken texts we communicate information, ideas, attitudes, prejudices and ideological stances. Students examine the stylistic features of formal and informal language in both spoken and written modes: the grammatical and discourse structure of language; the choice and meanings of words within texts; how words are combined to convey a message; the purpose in conveying a message; and the particular context in which a message is conveyed. Students learn how to describe the interrelationship between words, sentences and text as a means of exploring how texts construct message and meaning.

#### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Students will write analytical responses, and read a range of different types of texts. The subject promotes classroom activities that integrate the skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening and thinking. Class work will involve a range of individual and group-based activities.

#### KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Learning and using the subject's specialist vocabulary, reading and listening closely, conducting structured analysis of language use and writing and speaking effectively.

#### ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, an extended analytical task, oral presentation, essay and examinations.

### UNIT 4

In this unit students focus on the role of language in establishing and challenging different identities. There are many varieties of English used in contemporary Australian society, including national, regional, cultural and social variations. Standard Australian English is the variety that is granted prestige in contemporary Australian society and it has a role in establishing national identity. However, non-Standard English varieties also play a role in constructing users' social and cultural identities. Students examine a range of texts to explore the ways different identities are constructed. These texts include extracts from novels, films or television programs, poetry, letters and emails, transcripts of spoken interaction, songs, advertisements, speeches and bureaucratic or official documents.

#### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Students will analyse and annotate texts from the varieties of contemporary Australian English, research the different varieties of Australian English and will look at novels, films and poetry. Class work will take a range of forms and involve individual and group-based activities.

#### KEY SKILLS REQUIRED

Learning and using the subject's specialist vocabulary, reading and listening closely, conducting research and writing and speaking effectively.

#### ASSESSED TASKS

Short answer tests, an extended analytical task, an essay, and an end of year 2 hour exam.

**VCAA ASSESSMENT - The overall Study Score will consist of:** School Assessed Coursework Unit 3 (25%), School Assessed Coursework Unit 4 (25%), 2 hour written examination in November (50%).