

# VCE English as an Additional Language (EAL) 2017–2020

## Aural and written examination – End of year

### Examination specifications

#### Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 3 hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

#### Content

The *VCE English and English as an Additional Language Study Design 2017–2020* (Units 3 and 4) is the document for the development of the examination. Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 in Unit 3 and Outcome 2 in Unit 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 in Unit 3, and Outcome 2 in Unit 4 are examinable.

#### Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book with a separate task book. Students will write their responses in the question and answer book.

The examination will consist of three sections.

#### Section A – Listening to texts

Students will be required to respond to short-answer questions based on their comprehension of two to three unfamiliar spoken texts. Each text will be played twice. An announcement will be made at the start of the first playing of each text and a sound will alert students to the start of the second playing of each text. There will be a short break between the first and second playings of each text. Students may make notes at any time.

The questions will address the key knowledge and key skills as identified in Unit 3, Outcome 3 of the study design. Section A will be worth 20 per cent of the total marks available for the examination.

## Section B – Analytical interpretation of a text

Students will be required to write an analytical interpretation of **one** text from the VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Text List for the year in question. There will be two topics for each of the 20 texts in List 1 and two topics for each of the texts designated as 'EAL' in List 2, giving a total of 28 texts. Students will be required to write a response to **one** topic on **one** text.

Student responses should be supported by close reference to the text. If the selected text is a collection of poetry or short stories, students may write on several poems or stories, or on at least two in close detail. The response will be assessed according to the assessment criteria specified below. Section B will be worth 40 per cent of the total marks available for the examination.

## Section C – Argument and persuasive language

Students will be required to analyse how argument and language are used in an unseen text(s) to persuade others to share the point(s) of view expressed. For the purposes of this task, 'language' refers to written, spoken and visual language. Students will not be required to evaluate the relative merits of arguments or the effectiveness of the use of persuasive language in any text(s).

There will be **two questions** in Section C:

- Question 1 will require students to demonstrate their understanding of the text(s) by responding to short-answer questions.
- Question 2 will require students to analyse how argument and language have been used to attempt to persuade others to share the point(s) of view expressed. The response for Question 2 will be assessed according to the assessment criteria specified below.

Section C will be worth 40 per cent of the total marks available for the examination. Questions 1 and 2 will be equally weighted.

The total marks for the examination will be 100.

## Criteria

Section B will be assessed against the following criteria:

- knowledge and understanding of the text, and the ideas and issues it explores, demonstrated appropriately in response to the topic
- development of a coherent analysis in response to the topic
- control of expressive and effective language, as appropriate to the task

Question 2 of Section C will be assessed against the following criteria:

- analysis of the use of argument and language to try to persuade
- control of the mechanics of the English language to convey meaning

## Approved materials and equipment

- Normal stationery requirements (pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers)
- A printed English and/or bilingual dictionary

## Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE English as an Additional Language (EAL) examination:

- *VCE English and English as an Additional Language Study Design 2017–2020* (Units 3 and 4)
- *VCE English and English as an Additional Language – Advice for teachers 2017–2020* (includes assessment advice)
- VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) Text List (published annually)
- *Assessment criteria and expected qualities*
- *VCAA Bulletin*

## Advice

During the 2017–2020 accreditation period for VCE English as an Additional Language (EAL), examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 in Unit 3 and Outcome 2 in Unit 4.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination (with an accompanying zip file containing MP3 files for Section A) has been published on the 'English as an Additional Language (EAL) – Exams and Examination Reports' page on the VCAA website.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.