VCE Texts and Traditions (2017–2022)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can themes beyond the prescribed list of themes be selected for study?

In discussing passages for special study or the wider set text in Units 3 and 4, students may wish to refer to themes beyond the prescribed list, where it supports this discussion. For example, a discussion of examples of particular events across the set text could include relating these events to particular themes, one or more of which might be outside the prescribed list.

Other than instances of this nature, the prescribed list of themes should be used across Units 3 and 4.

Themes are prescribed only for Units 3 and 4, not Units 1 and 2.

How many methods of exegesis must students study in Units 3 and 4?

Exegesis is required for Unit 3 Area of Study 3 and Unit 4 Area of Study 1. A minimum of two exegetical methods is studied by all students for these areas of study: sociocultural criticism and literary criticism. Further methods may be selected as appropriate to the tradition and as appropriate to the development of key knowledge and skills.

In Unit 3 Area of Study 3 and Unit 4 Area of Study 1, what does the key knowledge ‘as appropriate’ mean?

Unit 3 Area of Study 3 contains in the key knowledge: ‘the contextual placement of the passages for special study, including as appropriate:’ followed by a series of key knowledge points. Unit 4 Area of Study 1 contains the same key knowledge but with a slightly different stem: ‘the contextual placement of the passages for special study, including as appropriate to the tradition’. In both cases this simply means as appropriate to the current set text and passages for special study for the selected tradition. This recognises that from year to year, changes can be made to prescribed set texts and passages for special study, and accordingly the emphasis on and coverage of these key knowledge points may vary.

For Unit 3 Area of Study 2 do all students have to study issues of authorship?

The study includes the addition of the discussion of ‘other aspects related to the writing of the set text’ to Outcome 2 of Unit 3 Area of Study 2. Where the writing of the set text for a particular tradition does involve issues of authorship then these must be studied. If authorship is not at issue for a particular set text, then students concentrate instead on the range of conditions and issues of purpose and intended audience related to the writing of the set text, as stated in the study design.