

# Year 11 – 12 English and English as an Additional Language

## Course Information



# What is English all about?

Everyone undertakes an English course in Years 10 and 11; in Year 12 your options open up, but you'll find English is still one of the subjects most of you will probably select.

English is all about improving your competence in written and spoken English. We want you to excel in this subject because you will then possess the skills to do well in other writing-based courses. Think smart, think English.



# What skills should I have?

Students are advised to have these attitudes:

- A willingness to read (as much as you can!)
- An openness to viewing writing as a craft, (so draft, draft and draft again)
- An ability to listen to other viewpoints and to concentrate purposefully
- An interest in creating engaging texts.



# What resources will I use?

The best approach to writing is old school - lots of speed writing using pen and paper. Of course, you then often need to draft to the best of your ability using Microsoft Word. Add ICTs where applicable, an inquiring mind, the advice of your teacher and your peers, and you'll be on the way to becoming a most proficient English student.

Don't forget the best resource: the most undervalued resource that needs to be developed is your own ability to think for yourself. Get thinking, get writing, and get the most out of English.



# Why are there different English subjects?

No one student is alike. Some students enjoy reading and like the challenge of writing in an academic voice. Such students will probably like English Literary Studies. It's more as if the *First Tuesday Book Club* meets *At the Movies* on the ABC. You'll like reading as a hobby and you'll be off to Palace Nova to see interesting films.

You might like creative writing and making use of ICTs to help you create different types of English assignments. You may not be the biggest reader, but you find language interesting. *The Gruen Transfer* is a cool show and English is fun when you study such things. Pack your bags and get ready for English.

You have an EAL background and are university bound. You are an organised student who wants to get a good ATAR; you'll be doing English as an Additional Language.

English is a bit of a challenge at times, but you want to keep your options open. You think (in addition to university) that an apprenticeship or TAFE is the go; well, Essential English is the choice for you.

Ask your English teacher what is the best fit for you. There's a class that meets your needs; the important thing is to do your best and see English as an opportunity to improve your writing and speaking skills. In short, it's a chance to become a better all-round student.



# What other things should you know?

You have to get a 'C' grade or better in Stage 1 in both semesters to get your twenty units towards your SACE certificate. At the end of semester 1 in Stage 1, the SACE Board may moderate your work. If you don't get your twenty points in Stage 1, you will have to choose an English subject at STAGE 2 to get the necessary units to qualify for SACE completion.

In English Literary Studies, you will be analysing texts in a literary way; you will consider the ways in which authors *tell* their stories. You'll be pushed to become very sharp and precise in your writing. You'll learn about the perils of the comma splice, the dangers of the misplaced apostrophe, and the joy of getting your writing tight and right.

In English, it helps to be a bit of a techno geek: presentation is important. If you become a food journalist in this subject, for example, you had better know how to format and publish an exquisitely presented article that deserves to be in a food magazine.

English as an Additional Language is a tough subject. All those aspiring 90 plus ATAR students with an EAL background will be doing this subject. You'll learn in-text referencing and bibliographic conventions, how to write a tertiary style report, and get university ready now.

If you want job ready skills, good communication skills and an ability to synthesise information and present cogent arguments - and if you like being creative and getting it right - an English-based subject is for you.



# Is an English subject for me?

Do you want to write more effectively?

Would you like to speak confidently in public?

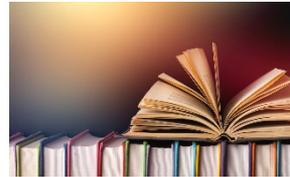
Do you like interesting books and films?

Are you interested in social issues?

Can you work independently and in small groups?

Do you answer YES to at least one of the above questions?

If so, then an English subject could be a course for you! Read on...



# What types of English can I do?

There's an English subject that's just right for you. With four different subject offerings, it's simply a matter of working out which subject is best suited to your needs and interests. Read what's on offer in Year 11 and 12 below:

- 1) In Year 11, you can select from English Literary Studies, English, Essential English, or EAL. What should you do? It's easy. If you are getting a 'B' or better in Year 10, choose English Literary Studies. If you are getting a 'C', choose English or EAL. And if English is not your thing, opt for Essential English. Whatever you choose, you'll be on the way to getting 20 units of English, which is a SACE Board requirement.
- 2) In Year 12, it's the same offerings as in Year 11. Check out university bonus points for certain courses, etc., and choose the subject you will most enjoy and be successful in. Most of the students at our school choose an English subject; you'll be in good company and no doubt be keen to succeed.

NB: If you want to do English as an Additional Language, you will need to be speaking another language other than English, and meet the eligibility criteria. Talk to Ms Diana Pruszkowski (Senior EAL teacher) to find out more information.

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