

8. Year 11 Subjects 2011 (English)

VCE English Language Units 1&2

Introduction

Among the means of communication by people, language occupies a unique and central place. This study aims to combine learning about the nature of language in humans through communication with learning how to use English more effectively and creatively. It is informed by the discipline of linguistics.

- Students must enrol in English Units 3 and 4 or in Literature Units 3 and 4 or in English Language Units 3 and 4 to satisfy the English requirements for the completion of VCE. Students may enrol in all of these studies if they choose.

Unit 1: Language and communication

Areas of study:

- The nature and functions of language - This area of study provides students with an understanding of the nature of language and how language can be used for a variety of functions. It also explores the properties that distinguish human communication as unique.
- Language acquisition - This area of study focuses on the developmental stages of child language acquisition and what children need to learn as they develop from babyhood to early adolescence. In addition to words and their meanings, children must also master the phonological and grammatical conventions of the language, as well as the appropriate use of these conventions in different social situations.

Assessment:

There are two outcomes in this unit:

- Outcome 1 – Students should be able to identify and describe primary aspects of the nature and functions of human language.
- Outcome 2 – Students should be able to analyse what children learn when they acquire language and explain a range of perspectives on how language is acquired.

Assessment Break-Down:

Assessment tasks for this unit may include:

- a folio; an investigative report; a test; an essay; a case study; short-answer questions; a written or an oral analysis of data; an analysis of spoken and/or written text; an oral presentation.
- There is an End of Semester Examination.

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VCE English Language Units 1&2 (Cont...)

Unit 2: Language change

Areas of study:

- English across time - This area of study introduces the idea of language families, in particular the Indo-European language family, of which English is a member. It examines the origins of English as a Germanic language and traces its development from Old through to Early Modern English, and the establishment of a standard language in the eighteenth century. The development of Australian English is also discussed. The general concept of standardisation and the notion of 'correct English' are examined, emphasising that standard languages do not arise because of any inherent quality, but more as geographical and historical accidents.
- Englishes across the globe - This area of study considers the dramatic effects of the process of globalisation, involving the development of mass communication systems, and the spread of worldwide communication networks. This is occurring in the context of internationalisation of products and consumerism, and massive flows of people, including tourists, refugees and migrants. English is playing a crucial role in globalisation.

Assessment:

There are two outcomes in this unit:

- Outcome 1 – Students should be able to describe the making of English, identify how language change takes place and analyse a range of attitudes to language change.
- Outcome 2 - Students should be able to investigate the effects of the globalisation of English in terms of both conformity and diversity.

Assessment Break-Down:

Assessment tasks for this unit may include:

- a folio; an investigative report; a test; an essay; a case study; short-answer questions; a written or an oral analysis of data; an analysis of spoken and/or written text; an oral presentation.
- There is an End of Semester Examination.