

English Senior External Examination

Subject notice 2025

Background

The English General Senior External Examination (SEE) syllabus exists as a comparable alternative to the English General senior syllabus. It replicates the objectives and subject matter of the English General senior syllabus and uses versions of internal assessments that are adapted to suit the examination conditions of the SEE.

The SEE is developed and marked by the QCAA. In English, it contributes 100% of a candidate's overall subject result. The SEE consists of two assessments (papers), each of which is a written examination of three hours plus planning time.

Assessment

External assessment 1

External assessment 1 (EA1) assesses subject matter from Unit 3. It contains two sections:

- Section 1: Extended written response for a public audience
- Section 2: Persuasive written response.

Section 1 is comparable to Internal assessment 1 in the English General senior syllabus.
Section 2 is comparable to Internal assessment 2 in the English General senior syllabus.

External assessment 2

External assessment 2 (EA2) assesses subject matter from Unit 4. It contains two sections:

- Section 1: Imaginative written response
- Section 2: Analytical written response.

Section 1 is comparable to Internal assessment 3 in the English General senior syllabus.
Section 2 will use the paper set by the QCAA for the English and English as an Additional Language external assessment, and the responses will be marked together.

Notification

The QCAA has a responsibility to notify candidates of important information before the examination. This information, in conjunction with the English General SEE syllabus, guides candidates in their study of the course. In 2025, the prescribed texts lists are as follows:

EA1 Section 1

| Extended written response for a public audience | | |
|--|--|--------------------|
| Concepts and perspectives | Prescribed text list | Genre for response |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belonging • Coming of age | Candidates to select a text pair from the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lady Windermere's Fan</i> by Oscar Wilde and <i>Little Women</i> by Greta Gerwig • <i>Jojo Rabbit</i> by Taika Waititi or <i>Persepolis: The story of a childhood</i> (graphic novel) by Marjane Satrapi • <i>Billy Elliot</i> directed by Stephen Daldry and <i>The White Earth</i> by Andrew McGahan | Literary article |

EA1 Section 2

| Persuasive written response | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Issues for exploration in the media (candidates to select one) | Genre for response |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues related to equality • Issues related to artificial intelligence | Opinion column for a digital platform |

EA2 Section 1

| Imaginative written response | |
|--|--------------------|
| Prescribed text list | Genre for response |
| Candidates to study the prescribed poems of at least one poet from the following options: <p>Luka Lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Giza</i> • <i>What will become of us?</i> (spoken word) • <i>Antidote</i> • <i>A letter to my daughter</i> • <i>May your pen grace the page</i> <p>Ali Cobby Eckermann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kumana</i> • <i>First time (I met my grandmother)</i> • <i>Ayers Rock / Uluru</i> • <i>Ribbons</i> • <i>Marrakai</i> <p>Emily Dickenson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why do I love you, sir?</i> • <i>My life had stood a loaded gun</i> • <i>Hope is the thing with feathers</i> • <i>I felt a funeral in my brain</i> • <i>This world is not conclusion</i> | Short story |

EA2 Section 2

| Analytical written response | |
|--|--------------------|
| Prescribed text list | Genre for response |
| <p>Candidates to conduct a close study of one of the following texts prescribed for the English and English as an Additional Language external assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>All The Light We Cannot See</i> — Anthony Doerr• <i>Burial Rites</i> — Hannah Kent• <i>Macbeth</i> — William Shakespeare• <i>Never Let Me Go</i> — Kazuo Ishiguro• <i>Othello</i> — William Shakespeare• <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> — Jane Austen• <i>The Dry</i> — Jane Harper• <i>The Yield</i> — Tara June Winch | Analytical essay |

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