
VCE UNITS INFORMATION

VCE English Language Units 1 and 2

CONTENT

In Units 1 and 2, students explore the ways in which language is used by individuals and groups and reflects our thinking and values.

Unit 1

In this unit, students consider the way language is organised so that its users have the means to make sense of their experiences and to interact with others and explore the various functions of language and the nature of language as an elaborate system of signs. They study the relationship between speech and writing as the dominant modes of language and the impact of situational and cultural contexts on language choices are also considered. Students also investigate children's ability to acquire language and the stages of language acquisition across a range of subsystems.

Unit 2

In this unit, students focus on language change. They consider factors contributing to change over time in the English language and factors contributing to the spread of English. Exploring texts from the past and from the present, students consider how all subsystems of the language system are affected – phonetics and phonology, morphology and lexicology, syntax, discourse and semantics. In addition to developing an understanding of how English has been transformed over the centuries, they explore the various possibilities for the future of English. Students consider how the global spread of English has led to a diversification of the language and to English now being used by more people as an additional or a foreign language than as a first language. They also consider the cultural repercussions of the spread of English.

OUTCOMES

Unit 1

- Students should be able to identify and describe primary aspects of the nature and functions of human language
- Students should be able to describe what children learn when they acquire language and discuss a range of perspectives on how language is acquired

Unit 2

- Students should be able to describe language change as represented in a range of texts and analyse a range of attitudes to language change
- Students should be able to describe and explain the effects of the global spread of English in terms of both conformity and diversity, through a range of spoken and written texts

ASSESSMENT

Students will be required to achieve the above outcomes through a selection of tasks. These task may include some of the following: a folio, a written or oral report, at test, a selection of short answer questions, a written analytical response, a poster, a visual performance, a case study, and/or data show.