
VCE UNITS INFORMATION

VCE English Language Units 3 and 4

CONTENT

Unit 3

The focus of this unit is texts in their contexts. Language is always encountered as text and it is in the large range of texts that much of the meaning of a culture, its values, its knowledge and its ideologies, is constructed. This unit provides a framework for the study of texts by looking at texts from the perspective of their style, bringing together several dimensions: the grammatical and discourse structure of language; the choice and meaning of words within texts; how words are combined to convey a message; the purpose in conveying a message; and the particular context in which a message is conveyed. The aim is to describe the interrelationship between words, sentences and text to discover how they construct their message.

Unit 4

The focus of this unit is language in its social setting, as it reflects society. Through language we communicate information, ideas, attitudes, prejudices and ideological stances. Language varies according to both the user and its occasion of use. There is a range of attitudes within society to the different varieties of language we use. Language is a means of societal interaction. It is indicative of power structures both through the choice of a particular variety of language, and through the way in which that language variety is used in processes of inclusion and exclusion. Language is a means of identifying and defining individual and group membership. Through it we indicate where we have been and how we want others to perceive us. Language marks group boundaries, as it is used to distinguish between ‘us’ and ‘them’.

OUTCOMES

Unit 3

- Students should be able to identify and analyse distinctive features of informal language in written and spoken texts
- Students should be able to identify and analyse distinctive features of formal language in written and spoken texts

Unit 4

- Students should be able to investigate and analyse varieties of Australian English and attitudes towards them
- Students should be able to analyse how people’s choice of language reflects and constructs their identities

ASSESSMENT

School Assessed Coursework and an end of year examination, which will contribute 50% to the final assessment, will determine the student's level of achievement for Units 3 and 4.