



Key information for the English Life Skills 11–12 (2024) syllabus

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. [The English Life Skills 11–12 \(2024\) syllabus](#) is tailored for students with intellectual disability who cannot access the other senior English courses with or without adjustments. This course is designed to support the development of their communication, language and literacy skills and enhance their participation in post-school life.
- The new English Life Skills 11–12 (2024) syllabus is digital and formatted in this manner for all reform syllabuses. The digital format is interactive and allows for easy navigation. You can filter, search for specific topics, and explore resources directly. Categories include overview; rationale; aim; outcomes; content; assessment; glossary and teaching and learning support.
- Unlike the other senior English courses, English Life Skills 11–12 does not contain course requirements. Its course structure allows ‘teachers the flexibility to select, group and sequence outcomes and content’ (NESA 2024) to meet the needs of individual students.
- Decisions about accessing Stage 6 Life Skills courses are made through the [collaborative curriculum planning](#) process. This involves the individual student (where appropriate), their parents/carers and their teachers. For further information, including information on eligibility for Life Skills courses refer to the [ACE Rules](#).
- There are no prescribed texts for English Life Skills 11–12. Teaching and learning opportunities should ‘draw from a diverse range of texts to assist students to broaden and develop their own language skills’. (NESA 2024)
- English Life Skills 11–12 Syllabus (2024) introduces aligned content and focus area statements to support integrated delivery with English Studies and English Standard. This approach supports flexible, integrated programming to meet the needs of students accessing different courses in the same class.

Life Skills eligibility

- Stage 6 Life Skills courses are designed for students with an intellectual disability or imputed intellectual disability who cannot access related general education courses. Principals decide on course access through the [collaborative curriculum planning](#) process with the student, their parents/carers and teachers, considering individual needs for each subject. These courses are not suitable for students who could engage with general course outcomes through appropriate adjustments and support.

Assessment

- Students are required to demonstrate achievement of one or more Life Skills outcomes. Students may access or demonstrate learning in a range of ways, including using aspects of their home languages and dialects, or using their preferred communication form(s).
- Assessments can be flexible, using various options (e.g., written, spoken, visual, assistive technologies) and may be implemented in different learning environments.
- Formal assessment of Life Skills outcomes is not required. More information about assessment can be found at [Assessment](#).
- Stage 6 Life Skills courses do not have external examinations.



Support materials

The English curriculum 7–12 team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the delivery of the English Life Skills 11–12 (2024) syllabus and can be located on the [English Life Skills](#) webpage. Here you will find planning templates, sample documents, sample programs and resources as well as links to professional learning.

- Resources can also be found on the [English Life Skills 7–12 \(staff only\)](#) channel of the [English statewide staffroom \(staff only\)](#).
- NESA also has a range of support materials that can be located under the [Teaching and learning support](#) tab of the syllabus.

Professional learning

There are a range of ‘on demand’ professional learning resources to support the implementation of the English Life Skills (2024) syllabus including:

- [English 11–12 microlearning](#)
- [English curriculum 11–12 professional learning SharePoint \(staff only\)](#)

We also offer a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. To view any upcoming events go to the [Professional learning English K–12](#) calendar.

General HSC information

- [The NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) oversees the Higher School Certificate (HSC).
- The [NESA Life Skills](#) webpage provides further information about Life Skills eligibility, course options, planning and programming, assessment and reporting and credentials.
- The [ACE rules](#) outline important information related to Life Skills including eligibility, assessment, HSC requirements, course completion and credentialling.



Contact us

To contact us, you can email us via English.curriculum@det.nsw.edu.au or reach out to our team via the [English statewide staffroom \(staff only\)](#).