



Key information for the English Studies Stage 6 (2017) syllabus

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [English Studies Stage 6 Syllabus \(2017\)](#) provides students with the opportunity to become confident and engaged communicators as they consolidate their language, literacy and literature skills through responding to and composing a wide variety of oral, written and multimodal texts, including literary, digital and media texts.
- Schools must follow the HSC English Studies text requirements outlined in the [English prescriptions \(2019–2026\)](#), including selecting a prescribed text for the Common module: Texts and Human Experiences.
- For school-based assessment specifications refer to NESA's [Assessment and reporting in English Studies](#) webpage.
- The English Studies Stage 6 Syllabus (2017) will be taught in all NSW high schools until 2026. The [English Studies 11-12 Syllabus \(2024\)](#) will be taught to Year 11 in 2026.
- At the conclusion of the Year 12 English Studies course schools are required to submit a school-based assessment grade for each Year 12 candidate, with formal assessment tasks reflecting syllabus outcomes and content. The submitted mark represents a summation of each student's achievement measured at multiple points throughout the course.

HSC examinations

- There is not a compulsory HSC external examination in English Studies. Students may choose to sit for an optional HSC examination. Students who do not sit for the English Studies HSC examination are not eligible for an ATAR.
- The HSC English Studies examination specifications can be found at [Assessment and reporting in English Studies](#).
- Past HSC exam packs by NESA are useful resources to help students become familiar with the marking guidelines and criteria. Access this information for 2019–2024 via [HSC exam papers](#)
- The [English Studies HSC standards materials](#) by NESA, provide examples of student responses to HSC exam questions that show achievement at different performance band levels.

Support materials

The English curriculum 7–12 team provides resources to support NSW Department of Education teachers through [English K–12](#).

Support materials include:

- [Leading English 7–12](#) – this page contains advice and resources to support you in planning, organising and communicating the requirements of the English Studies course.
- [English Studies](#) – this page contains sample teaching and learning and assessment material to support you in planning, programming and assessing the English Studies course.

The English curriculum 7–12 team provides a wide range of resources through the [English Statewide Staffroom \(staff only\)](#) to support NSW Department of Education teachers. Join the English statewide staffroom to access these valuable resources and support.

In the [English Studies \(staff only\)](#) channel you will find:

- [English Studies SharePoint \(staff only\)](#) – this SharePoint contains planning, teaching and learning, and assessment materials you can use when planning, implementing and assessing the English Studies course.



- [HSC Hub – English Studies \(staff only\)](#) – this SharePoint page contains recordings of examination and common module related student support sessions with accompanying workbooks
- [English Studies OneNote \(staff only\)](#) – this OneNote is a central location to access a wide range of resources shared by colleagues across NSW and advice from NESA and the NSW Department of Education.

NESA also has a range of [Teaching and learning support](#) to support the planning for and delivery and assessment of English Studies.

Professional learning

The English curriculum 7–12 team provides professional learning materials through the [English Statewide Staffroom \(staff only\)](#). Join the English statewide staffroom to access these valuable resources and support. The recordings and resources are housed in the [Professional learning channel \(staff only\)](#).

The team also offers 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), offering resources for students on exam preparation, course selection, and academic integrity.
- The [NESA HSC glossary](#) provides teachers with guidance on how to use key terms consistently, ensuring students understand their meanings and apply them appropriately across various subjects for effective exam preparation.
- The NESA [HSC assessment moderation](#) process ensures fairness by adjusting school assessment marks based on exam results, making them comparable across schools.
- The [ACE rules](#) outline HSC school-based assessment integrity, task development, marking, appeals, and record-keeping. They cover malpractice policies, illness/misadventure procedures, task notifications, ranking, and restrictions on reporting final marks, ensuring compliance with NESA's assessment standards.
- HSC monitoring advice, Section 1.6 outlines HSC record-keeping requirements, including teaching programs, assessment documentation, interventions and work samples. Visit [Stage 6 – monitoring implementation and support](#) for more information.
- School-based assessment for the HSC contributes to a student's final mark and is designed to evaluate students' understanding and skills based on syllabus outcomes.

Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email the English 7–12 curriculum team: English.curriculum@det.nsw.edu.au or reach out to the team via the [7–12 English Statewide Staffroom](#).

