

Minimise Study Time
Maximise Scores



Study Tip # 33: VCE Exam Advice – Unit 3 & 4 English

Exam Preparation Checklist

1. Design a realistic study timetable now.
2. Build in regular short breaks and down-time.
3. Go over Assessment Criteria for each section of the paper.
4. Practise writing full responses, introductions, body paragraphs and conclusions.
5. Listen to the audio of your books.
6. Reread/view texts and focus on key passages/scenes.
7. Memorise several short text quotes a week.
8. Write theme and character profiles.
9. Write practice responses under timed conditions.
10. Make an editorial checklist.
11. Create a personal list of spelling demons.
12. Create a list of transition words and phrases.
13. Read articles and opinion pieces in newspapers to prepare yourself for the Language Analysis section of the examination.

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Section A: Text Response

1. You need to understand the key aspects of literary texts; theme, character, plot, setting and style and how they work together to create meaning in a text.
2. You must identify all the elements presented in the question and address them all.
3. Make sure that you understand the genre and form of your text and its conventions, and that you can use the appropriate metalanguage to describe how this is relevant to the question.
4. Your response should demonstrate that you are familiar with the entire text and not just the most obvious scenes or episodes.
5. Avoid including long quotations but weave in numerous shorter quotations that support your points.
6. Remember to structure your paragraphs logically. For example, you might choose the TEEL approach – topic sentence, elaboration, evidence and link back to the topic/prompt.
7. Your introduction needs to include your opinion (stance) in response to the question. Don't be afraid to 'resist' the wording of the question. You don't have to agree or disagree outright. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers in text: only strong or weak cases!
8. Make sure that you use formal language and a formal structure: introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion.
9. Clarify for yourself key aspects of your text's construction. This will add sophistication to your response. What view is the author/playwright/poet/director trying to express, and by what means is this achieved? What are their key messages or ideas?
10. Conclusions should contain no new evidence; they should tie the threads of your arguments together; and they should link back to the introduction.

Section B: Comparative Analysis of Texts

1. You need to know both texts in an insightful way.
2. You must be able to compare and contrast the ideas and issues in a coherent analysis.
3. You need to use textual evidence to support your arguments.
4. You must respond to the question and use relevant evidence.
5. Your essay must be fluent and show that you can effectively use language.
6. Make sure that you embed your quotes in your sentences.
7. Only use a quote and evidence once.
8. Aim to integrate both texts in your paragraphs.
9. Know how to plan before you begin writing your essay.
10. You should complete analytical readings about both your texts.

Section C: Argument and Persuasive Language

1. You should avoid creating a list of persuasive techniques.
2. You will need to use the background information to give the task material context.
3. You should stereotype the intended audience(s) and use this information to develop your analytical sentences.
4. Present how the organization of arguments and points of view help the persuasiveness of the task material.
5. In a meaningful way, explain how the language positions the intended audience to feel and react.
6. Efficiently plan your response to keep your writing on track.
7. Organise your writing and aim to use language fluently and efficiently.
8. Identify the shifts in tone and how they influence the argument.
9. Know at least 15 different types of persuasive techniques.
10. Shown an ability to cross reference the task material.
11. Analyse how the visual text works to build an argument with the written text.

More subject specific advice will be issued to students at our “Essentials – Final Exam Revision Lectures”.

Good luck with your exam preparations!
TSFX

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Dates: Saturday 22nd September – Sunday 21st October 2018

Venue: The University of Melbourne

