

VCE  
Subject





## English Language Units 1 - 4

English Language explores the ways in which language is used by individuals and groups and how it reflects our thinking and values. By learning about how we shape and can be shaped by our use of language, we can develop deeper understandings about ourselves, those who surround us and the society in which we live. These understandings enhance the skills for effective communication in all contexts.

English Language explores how we use spoken and written English to communicate, to think and innovate, to construct and reveal identities, to build and interrogate attitudes and assumptions, and to create and disrupt social cohesion.

### Structure

This study is made up of four units. Units 3 & 4 must be taken as a sequence. It is strongly recommended that Units 1 & 2 are completed before commencing Units 3 & 4.

- Unit 1 Language and communication
- Unit 2 Language change
- Unit 3 Language variation and purpose
- Unit 4 Language variation and identity

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1 & 2. It is **strongly recommended** that students have completed Units 1 & 2 prior to commencing Units 3 & 4.

Students are **strongly encouraged** to only enrol in English Language through CHES if they are completing another English subject (English or Literature) in their base school. Students will only be permitted to enrol in English Language at CHES with the full support of their base school.

### Course content

#### Unit 1: Language and communication

This unit focuses on the nature of language as a system of signs and conventions. Students will learn to identify and describe primary aspects of the nature and functions of human language and investigate types of language acquisition in the context of linguistic theories.

#### Unit 2: Language change

This unit focuses on exploring texts and considers how language changes affects the subsystems of language. Students will learn to identify and describe the effects of language change on the English language and explain the effects of the global spread of English through spoken and written texts.

#### Unit 3: Language variation and purpose

Students will learn to identify, describe and analyse features of formal and informal language in written and spoken texts.

#### Unit 4: Language variation and identity

Students will learn to identify, describe and analyse varieties of English in Australian society, attitudes towards them and the identities they reflect. They will also study variation in language, linguistic repertoires and language choice and how this reflects and conveys people's identities.

### Assessment

#### Units 1 & 2:

Assessment tasks will be set and marked by the teacher. Overall unit outcomes (S/N) are reported to the VCAA.

#### Unit 3 & 4:

Unit 3 School Assessed Coursework	25%
Unit 4 School Assessed Coursework	25%
November Exam	50%

### Pathways

The study supports language-related fields such as psychology, the study of other languages, speech and reading therapy, journalism and philosophy. It also supports study and employment in other communication-related fields, including designing information and communications technology solutions or programs.