

ATAR Notes

QCE English Units 1&2
Complete Course Notes
2023–2024

Lauren Gleeson

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L1 223 Hawthorn Road
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Phone (03) 9916 7760

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Preface

Welcome to your go-to reference guide for Year 11 English. First of all, congratulations on making it this far in your schooling career! Not to sound like that over-bearing teacher, but you should be proud of your achievements so far. I understand that the last two years of school can be daunting for many, so these Notes are specifically designed to equip you to excel in QCE English. But having gone through the subject myself, I assure you that it's not as bad as it first seems.

The book is divided up into four sections, each pertaining to the assessment types that you will complete throughout Units 1&2. Note that the order of these assessments is up to the discretion of your school.

What topics will I cover and what will my assessments consist of?

Unit	Topic	Internal assessment (IA) type	Possible text types/genres
Unit 1	Perspectives and texts	IA1: literary article	Novel, play, or film
		IA1: persuasive speech	A contentious issue that has recently been debated in the media
Unit 2	Texts and culture	IA3: creative response	Inspired by a prescribed text (with a focus on Australian texts)
		IA4: analytical essay	Novel or film (generally with a foreign cultural context)

Please note that your teacher may choose to assess each topic in a variety of ways, such as with an analytical essay, creative writing task, or spoken presentation. In this book, we'll outline some of the core skills you'll need, regardless of the form of your IA, before going through the most popular assessment form for each topic (e.g. IA1 = literary article). So don't worry if you're doing something different in class! The same marking criteria will be applied and will directly correlate to the QCAA syllabus. All of these writing skills will help you prepare for Units 3&4 and your final assessments!

Particular emphasis will be placed on the analytical essay, as this will mimic the external examination you will sit at the end of Year 12 which is worth 25% of your subject score. Understandably, this is the assessment that causes the most stress for students as it consists of an unseen exam question. However, in my personal opinion, it is one of the most flexible assessments you will complete! Remember, in English there is not necessarily a 'right' or 'wrong' answer, only how well you can utilise evidence and literary techniques to support your response. Don't be afraid to get creative!

I'll also discuss additional advice regarding exams and how to study effectively later on.

While it is important to prioritise your schoolwork, remember to also enjoy your last two years of schooling! It is not the quantity of how much you study that is important, but rather the quality. One hour of deep concentration (i.e. actively writing practice responses) is way more effective than three hours of passive concentration, such as simply reading your notes.

I wish you the best of luck with English this year and in your future studies!

— Lauren Gleeson

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