

# Media Release

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## Written English HSC exams start tomorrow for immediate release: 17 October 2011

Written exams for the only compulsory Higher School Certificate course, English, begin at 9.20am on Tuesday, October 18.

"HSC English aims to help students develop skills to evaluate and appreciate contemporary works, including film and television, as well as the classics such as Shakespeare," chief executive of the Board of Studies NSW, Carol Taylor said.

"Australian writers such as Peter Carey, Judith Wright, and Tim Winton feature strongly.

"Of course, a high level of literacy is required to undertake an HSC English course," Ms Taylor said.

A total of 67 880 students are enrolled in at least one HSC English course this year.

English Standard has the largest HSC course enrolment with 34 929 students and English Advanced the third, with 27 289 students. General Mathematics has the second largest enrolment of HSC courses with 32 104 students.

Not all English courses have external HSC exams.

The four that do are English Standard, English Advanced, English as a Second Language – all of which have their first papers on Tuesday and their second the following day, Wednesday October 19 – and English Extension 1 which is examined on October 31.

Students studying English Standard and Advanced sit for the same paper on Tuesday and different papers on Wednesday.

Tuesday's two-hour paper for English Standard and Advanced has three parts: short answer questions about unseen texts, a composition on or adaption of a studied text, and an essay based on the area of study, *Belonging*. The English as a Second Language or ESL exam, which goes for 90 minutes, has two parts. They are short answers based on unseen texts and an essay.

On Wednesday students enrolled in English Standard complete three essays in two hours, one each on *Experience through language*, *Close study of a text*, and *Texts and society*. English Advanced students also write three essays in two hours. They are based on *Comparative study of texts and content*, *Critical study of texts*, *Representation and Text*. ESL students do two essays based on *Experience through language* and *Texts and Society* in one hour and then answer questions based on an audio recording for 30 minutes.

The HSC is the highest educational achievement in secondary education in NSW. In 2011 there are 72 391 students enrolled in at least one HSC course. Most, but not all students are in Year 12, and not all HSC courses have external written examinations.

2011 HSC online media guide: <http://bit.ly/r9lq8K>  
Figures based on enrolments as of 1 September 2011.