

Proposed changes to English (Advanced) HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements

These pages should be considered in the context of the Background Paper (available on the Board's website at http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/exam-proposals/).

The proposed HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements for English (Advanced) are outlined below. You are encouraged to comment via the feedback link at the end of this document. Comments should be sent no later than 28 October 2008.

Outline of proposed HSC examination specifications

A written examination of three hours including 10 minutes reading and planning time. The examination paper will consist of three sections. Sections I and II will be common to the Standard and Advanced courses.

Three options have been developed for consultation.

Consultation Option 1

Section/Part	Marks
<i>Section I – Area of Study</i>	
• Objective response questions related to unseen texts.	10
• Short-answer questions related to unseen texts.	10
<i>Section II – Area of Study</i>	
• One sustained response, based on the Area of Study and prescribed texts, with an expected length of response of around six examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 words).	20
<i>Section III – Modules</i>	
• Three sustained response questions. Students select one question on their chosen elective in each module, each with an expected length of response of around six examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 words).	20 20 20
	100

Consultation Option 2

Section/Part	Marks
<i>Section I – Area of Study</i>	
• Short-answer questions related to unseen texts.	20
<i>Section II – Area of Study</i>	
• One sustained response, based on the Area of Study and prescribed texts, with an expected length of response of around six examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 words).	20
<i>Section III – Modules</i>	
• Three sustained response questions. Students select one question on their chosen elective in each module, each with an expected length of response of around six examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 words).	20 20 20
	100

Consultation Option 3

Section/Part	Marks
<i>Section I – Area of Study</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Short-answer questions related to unseen texts.	20
<i>Section II – Area of Study</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">One sustained response, based on the Area of Study and prescribed texts, with an expected length of response of around six examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 words).	20
<i>Section III – Modules</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sustained response questions on two of Modules A, B and C. Students select one question on their chosen elective in each module, each with an expected length of response of around six to eight examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 to 1000 words).	25 25
	90

Changes from current examination specifications

There is one three-hour examination, which includes 10 minutes for reading and planning.

The Area of Study is examined via 20 marks of questions related to unseen texts in Section I and, in Section II, a question related to prescribed texts requiring a sustained response.

In Section III, questions may not always require students to refer to ‘a variety of texts of their own choosing’. Specific questions may direct students to refer only to the prescribed text in their response.

The expected length for the sustained responses is included as a guide. It is presented as the approximate number of examination writing booklet pages (based on average-sized handwriting), and/or an approximate number of words. Students will not be penalised for responses of excess length: they may write less than or more than what is expected, and their responses will be marked on their merits.

Consultation Option 1

In Section I, Option 1 includes 10 objective response items, and short response items totalling 10 marks. Section III of this option is essentially the same as the current Paper 2.

Consultation Option 2

In Section I, there are short response items totalling 20 marks. This option is the same as Option 1 in all other respects.

Consultation Option 3

In Section I, there are short response items totalling 20 marks, as in Option 2.

In Section III, this option requires students to answer questions on only two of the three Modules they have studied. The Modules examined would vary from year to year. The Modules to be examined in a particular year would remain confidential.

Under this option, the examination would be marked out of 90, and the resulting mark converted to a mark out of 100.

Outline of proposed internal assessment requirements

There will be four assessment tasks comprising the following components and weightings.

Component	Weighting
Knowledge and understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the ways in which language forms and features and structures of texts shape meaning• relationships between composers, responders, texts, contexts and meaning	40
Skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• responding to and composing a range of complex texts• effective communication across a range of language modes• independent investigation• imaginative, critical and reflective thinking about meaning	60
	100

A feedback form is available on the Board's website at

http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/exam-proposals/feedback-form.doc