

# External assessment

## English subjects

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### Transcript of video

This video is available from <https://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au/ea-video-english.html>

## Preparing for external assessment in English subjects

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### Insights from 2020

I can share some of that feedback from 2020.

Students did really well who knew their text backwards and forwards for the subjects of English, English as an additional language (EAL) and Literature.

That's really important for those, that students do have that really deep understanding of and engagement with their text.

In English & Literature Extension where students engaged with three stimulus for the examination, the students did really well who took time to read the three stimulus carefully and decide which one was the best one for them to respond to, in terms of being able to apply their readings to that text.

### Tips for success

Firstly, I would reassure all students that external assessment is just testing what they know and can do, there aren't any tricks in external assessment.

So students should go to the external assessment space confident that they have control over the space and the decisions they can make.

In terms of English, EAL and Literature, there are two questions for every text, so students do get to choose which question best suits their purposes.

That's firstly really important — students in those subjects choose the question that is really the best one for you to answer.

In English & Literature Extension there's those three stimulus that students need to read.

Read them carefully in your planning time and choose which one provides you with the best opportunity.

There are other things though that students need to think about in the external examination space.

Firstly, is to actually look at what the question is asking you.

What is really important is that students when they write their response are responding to the words of the question that they chose, that they're not creating some sort of hybrid of their own.

So it's really important that they take the time to pull the question apart, see what understanding and knowledge they have that they can bring to that question.

### **Managing your time**

Students should go into the external assessment space with a really clear idea about how they'd like to manage their time.

As a student, you do have control over the situation and the setting — plan for that, and make sure you strategise in the exam space for the best possible outcome for you.

### **Using past papers and marking guides**

Another really important thing for students to do is to look at last year's papers and the external assessment marking guides, or EAMGs your teachers may have said, that go with them.

They will show you the pattern of a paper and that's really important for your confidence and your understanding.

So look at the questions that were asked last year for English, for EAL, for Literature. Look at the stimulus that were in the paper last year for English & Literature Extension and the question that went with them.

But really importantly, get that EAMG out.

You'll notice in the English learning area, that students are assessed under the same criteria for internal assessment and external assessment.

But the marking guides, the EAMGs, will show you how marks are allocated within those criteria.

And that should give you again some really good procedural knowledge as a student to help you in terms of strategising and planning the essay that you're going to write in one of our learning area subjects.

And as a student of English, which regardless of which English subject you're enrolled in, it's really important to understand that there are many ways to write an essay, but the EAMG will show you what is valued inside that essay response.

### **Finding out more**

There are three places that students can go to find out more information about external assessment.

First of all on our website we have our syllabuses.

The syllabus is the point of truth for each subject and it has a section which is explicitly devoted to external assessment.

So please do make sure you've read that prior to the examination.

Secondly, there are resources that will sit with that syllabus that will be very valuable to you — you will be able to see firstly, last year's papers and secondly, the subject report from 2020.

And that will give you some really clear guidance around things that you may wish to concentrate on, consider, reflect on prior to your examination.

The third place that you can go is to the myQCE site where we will have documents also sitting there for external assessment. In particular, we will have the Student Guide for 2021 which will give you information around the external assessment for this year.



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