



HSC English Extension Course 1 Requirements 2012

In the HSC English Extension Course 1, students explore ideas of value and consider how cultural values and systems of valuation arise.

Students undertaking HSC English Extension Course 1 must complete ONE elective chosen from ONE of the HSC Modules A, B or C.

Module A: Genre

This module requires students to explore and evaluate notions of genre. It develops their understanding of the conventions and values associated with generic forms.

Each elective in this module involves the study of at least two print texts of a particular genre, to be selected from a prescribed text list. In addition, students explore, analyse and critically evaluate a range of other examples of this genre from different contexts and media.

Students consider the ways in which genres are adapted to different times and cultures and the attitudes and values reflected by these adaptations. They examine why genres arise at particular times and the social and cultural conditions that are conducive to their endurance or recurrence in popularity. Students consider the reasons for and validity of generic distinctions.

Students develop a range of imaginative, interpretive and analytical compositions, including some that explore the possibilities of the genre for a range of audiences. These compositions may be realised in various forms, modes and media. Students investigate topics and ideas, engage in independent learning activities and develop skills in extended composition.

Module B: Texts and Ways of Thinking

This module requires students to explore and evaluate a selection of texts relating to a particular historical period. It develops their understanding of the ways in which scientific, religious, philosophical or economic paradigms have shaped and are reflected in literature and other texts.

Each elective in this module involves the study of at least two print texts, relating to a particular historical period, that demonstrate the influence of particular ways of thinking on literary and other texts. In addition, students explore, analyse and critically evaluate a range of other texts that reflect these ideas.

Students explore the ways that values are inscribed in particular texts and how they are reflected by texts. They consider whether and why texts are valued in their own time. They also consider why and by whom those texts are valued today.

Students develop a range of imaginative, interpretive and analytical compositions, including some which explore the effects of particular paradigms for a range of audiences. These compositions may be realised in various forms, modes and media. Students investigate topics and ideas, engage in independent learning activities and develop skills in extended composition.

Prescriptions: HSC 2006-2008

Electives and Texts for the English Extension Course 1

Electives in the English Extension Course 1 must be considered in the context of the module descriptions, course objectives, content and outcomes. (Reread *English Stage 6 Syllabus*, pp 89-91.)

Module A: Genre

This module requires students to explore and evaluate notions of genre. It develops their understanding of the conventions and values associated with generic forms. (Reread *English State 6 Syllabus*, p 89.)

Elective 1: Revenge Tragedy

Revenge tragedy usually concerns an individual faced with the duty of revenge in a society where the law is unreliable and within the control of the powerful and protected.

In this elective students are required to study at least **three of the prescribed texts** as well as other texts of their own choosing. In their responding and composing they explore, analyse, experiment with and critically evaluate their prescribed texts and a range of other examples of this genre, which may include texts that extend or challenge the traditional conventions of revenge tragedy. Texts should be drawn from a range of contexts and media.

Drama

- Euripides, 'Medea' in *Medea and Other Plays*, Penguin Classics, 1986, ISBN 0140441298
- Tourneur, Cyril, 'The Revenger's Tragedy' in *Three Jacobean Tragedies*, Penguin Classics, 1986, ISBN 0140430067
- Corneille, Pierre, *The Cid*, Penguin Classics, 1986, ISBN 0140443126

Film

- Zinnemann, Fred, *High Noon*, United Artists, 1952

Elective 2: Crime Fiction

The genre of crime fiction has mystery as its key element. The mystery and its solution by rationality and the careful accretion of evidence may be the primary focus of the text. This invites the responders' active involvement in the deduction of the solution to the crime. The mystery may also be the vehicle for other focuses.

In this elective students are required to study at least **three of the prescribed texts** as well as other texts of their own choosing. In their responding and composing they explore, analyse, experiment with and critically evaluate their prescribed texts and a range of other examples of this genre. They explore the variety of the crime fiction genre in a range of contexts and media.

Prose Fiction

- James, P D, *The Skull Beneath the Skin*, Faber and Faber, 2001, ISBN 0571204600
- Ondaatje, Michael, *Anil's Ghost*, Picador, 2000, ISBN 0330480774

Drama

- Stoppard, Tom, 'The Real Inspector Hound' in *Tom Stoppard: Plays 1*, Faber and Faber, 1996, ISBN 0571177654

Film

- Hawks, Howard, *The Big Sleep – Director's Cut*, Warner, 1945

Module B: Texts and Ways of Thinking

This module requires students to explore and evaluate a selection of texts relating to a particular historical period. It develops their understanding of the ways in which scientific, religious, philosophical or economic paradigms have shaped and are reflected in literature and other texts. (Reread *English Stage 6 Syllabus*, p 89.)

Elective 2: Postmodernism

Postmodernism has arisen within the context of questioning certainties about time and space. It involves the playful challenge of fundamental principles and assumptions about the nature of texts. By highlighting the conventions and clichés of the forms and functions of texts, accepted notions of originality, authorship and the nature of representation are challenged.

In this elective students are required to study at least **three of the prescribed texts** as well as other texts of their own choosing. In their responding and composing they explore, analyse, experiment with and critically evaluate their prescribed texts and a range of other examples relating to this elective. Texts should be drawn from a range of contexts and media and may support, question or challenge the precepts of postmodernism.

Prose Fiction

- Byatt, A S, *Possession*, Vintage, 1991, ISBN 0099800403
- Calvino, Italo, *If on a winter's night a traveller*, Vintage, 1992, ISBN 0749399236
- Fowles, John, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, Vintage, 1997, ISBN 0099737612

Drama

- Williamson, David, *Dead White Males*, Currency Press, 1995, ISBN 0868194433

Film

- Potter, Sally, *Orlando*, 21st Century, 1993 (Educational distributor: Ronin Films)