



VCE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

INFORMATION GUIDE



120
CELEBRATING 120 YEARS
1904 2024

Kilbreda College

VCE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

RATIONALE

The study of English Language enables students to further develop and refine their skills in reading, writing, listening to and speaking English. Students learn about personal and public discourses in workplaces, fields of study, trades and social groups. In this study students read widely to develop their analytical skills and understanding of linguistics. Students are expected to study a range of texts, including publications and public commentary about language in print and multimodal form. Students also observe and discuss contemporary language in use, as well as consider a range of written and spoken texts.

UNIT 1

Area of Study 1

The nature and functions of language

In this area of study students explore the nature of language and the various functions that language performs in a range of Australian and other contexts. They consider the properties that distinguish human communication as unique, the differences between the modes of spoken and written language, and the relationship between meaning and conventions that govern language use. Students are introduced to the theory that language is a system of signs and conventions, and that while the relationship between words and meanings may be arbitrary, our use of language is governed by conventions and informed by accepted systems.

Area of Study 2

Language acquisition

This area of study focuses on the developmental stages of language acquisition, both first- and additional-language learning. Students explore how, in addition to words and their meanings, people learn to use the phonological and grammatical conventions of the language, as well as the appropriate use of these conventions in different situational contexts.

UNIT 2

Area of Study 1

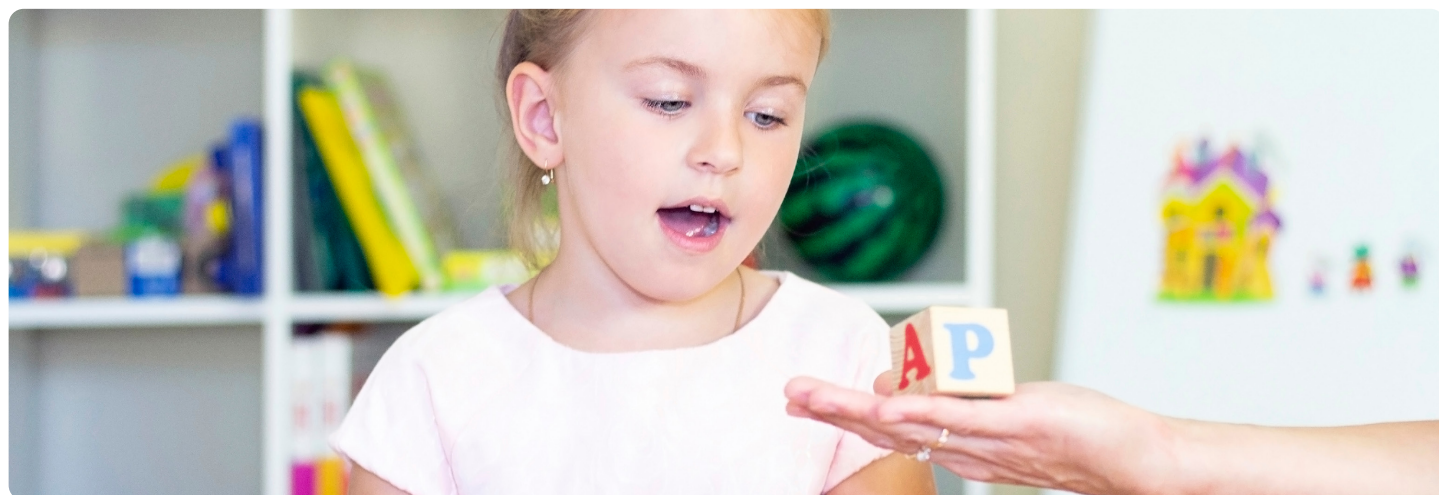
English across time

This area of study examines the changes that have occurred in English over time. Students investigate the factors that bring about language change, including those that come from contact with other languages, from social and technological transformation, and from within the language itself. They explore language change across some subsystems of language as represented in texts.

Area of Study 2

Englishes in contact

In this area of study students consider the effects of the global spread of English by learning about both the development and decline of languages as a result of English contact, the elevation of English as a global lingua franca and the cultural consequences of language contact. Students explore the many ways English is used as an expression of identity and culture in written and spoken texts.



CAREER OPTIONS

- Curator
- Editor
- Education Officer
- Journalist
- Librarian
- Researcher
- Speech Therapist
- Teacher
- Television Presenter

UNIT 3

Area of Study 1

Informality

In this area of study students consider the way speakers and writers choose from a repertoire of language to vary the style of their language to suit particular purposes. They identify the function and consider and analyse the features of informal language in written, spoken and electronic interactions, understanding that the situational and cultural contexts of an exchange influence the language used.

Area of Study 2

Formality

In this area of study students consider the way speakers and writers choose from a repertoire of language to suit particular purposes. As with informal language, the situational and cultural contexts determine whether people use formal language and in which language mode they choose to communicate.

UNIT 4

Area of Study 1

Language variation in Australian society

This area of study enables students to examine the range of language varieties that exist in contemporary Australian society and the role of those varieties in contributing to an increasingly contested national identity. Standard Australian English has much in common with Englishes from other continents, but the language has also developed features across all subsystems of language that distinguish it from other Englishes.

Area of Study 2

Individual and group identities

In this area of study students focus on the role of language in reflecting, imposing, negotiating and conveying individual and group identities. They examine how language users play different roles within speech communities and are able to construct their identities through subconscious and conscious language variation. In this work, students engage with social variables including age, gender, sexuality, occupation, interests, aspiration and education. While individual identity can be derived from the character traits that make us unique, our social identities are drawn from our membership of particular groups. Students investigate how, as individuals, we make language choices that draw on our understanding of social expectations and community attitudes.



To find out more information
about VCE English Language
at Kilbreda College, please contact:

Nicola O'Shea

Learning Leader: English

nicola.oshea@kilbreda.vic.edu.au

Kilbreda College

118 Mentone Parade, Mentone VIC 3194

(03) 9581 7766

kilbreda.vic.edu.au



This flyer is correct as of July 2024, however may be subject to change.

