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# Context

Note: This document provides generic advice only. It is the responsibility of individual teachers to ensure their students are adequately prepared for the HSC examinations.

The advice is current as at 2 July 2020.

Where you see [language], replace this with the language you are studying, for example Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese or Korean.

The [Language] and Literature syllabus documents are referenced in this advice – you can access the syllabus for your language from the [NESA website](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/stage-6-languages/literature). Familiarise yourself with the syllabus and the course prescriptions for your language.

The [Language] and Literature courses were previously known as the [Language] Background Speakers courses.

## Chinese and Literature

* [Syllabus](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/wcm/connect/b55b66de-90c1-408b-85f5-416bee1cec8d/chinese-and-literature-11-12-syllabus.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=)
* [Course prescriptions 2019-2023](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/stage-6-languages/literature/chinese-and-literature-syllabus/course-prescriptions-2019-2023)

## Indonesian and Literature

* [Syllabus](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/wcm/connect/9f1d22ea-6ca1-4c0b-8c02-77efb6f5bcf1/indonesian-background-speakers-st6-syl-from2010.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=)
* [Course prescriptions 2019-2023](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/stage-6-languages/literature/indonesian-and-literature-syllabus/course-prescriptions-2019-2023)

## Korean and Literature

* [Syllabus](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/wcm/connect/18415f38-1729-4da5-bb7f-c785a80beb04/korean-background-speakers-st6-syl-from2010.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=)
* [Course prescriptions 2019-2023](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/stage-6-learning-areas/stage-6-languages/literature/korean-and-literature-syllabus/course-prescriptions-2019-2023)

# Section I – listening and responding

## Examination specifications

The listening and responding section of the examination is worth 20 marks.

You may use dictionaries in this section of the exam.

It is the first part of the written examination and is designed to assess your knowledge and skills in analysing, evaluating and responding to information from spoken texts.

You will be expected to demonstrate understanding of:

* both the general and specific details of spoken texts
* the ideas and opinions expressed in texts
* language features such as style and register.

There are two parts in this listening and responding exam.

Texts will be drawn from a range of spoken text types, such as discussion, interviews and broadcasts.

### Part A (10 marks)

In **Part A**, you will hear one text in [language] of about 3 minutes in length.

You will be required to answer a number of questions. At least one question will require an extended response. You will be required to respond to information in the spoken text by, for example:

* providing a summary of the main points, ideas, arguments or points of view
* analysing ways in which language is used to convey meaning
* identifying the purpose, context and audience of the text.

Questions are in both [language] and English and you are to answer in English.

You will hear the text twice. Between the first and second readings, you will have 2 minutes to take notes. After the second reading, you will have 12 minutes to complete your answer.

### Part B (10 marks)

In **Part B**, you will hear two texts in [language]. These texts will be related to the same prescribed contemporary issue.

Together, these two texts will be approximately 4 minutes in length. The texts will be heard in sequence, and then repeated.

You will have 2 minutes to take notes after the first reading.

After the second reading of both texts, you will have 20 minutes to complete your response.

You will be required to give one extended response, evaluating the spoken texts by:

* comparing and contrasting the information, opinions and ideas in the texts and
* presenting the information, opinions and ideas in a new form.

The question will be in English and [language]. You are to respond in [language].

The expected length of response will be approximately:

* 150 words in Indonesian and Korean
* 200 characters in Chinese
* 300 *ji* in Japanese.

## Criteria for assessing performance

### Part A

You will be expected to demonstrate your ability to communicate relevant information and ideas in comprehensible English.

### Part B

You are expected to demonstrate your ability to:

* compare and contrast information and ideas
* write text appropriate to context, purpose and audience
* structure and sequence information and ideas in [language].

## Preparing for the examination

The best way to prepare for the exam is to practise. Take every opportunity to listen to [language] in a variety of contexts, for example audio texts which accompany textbooks, past HSC examinations, SBS news, films and so on. Replay a section if you do not understand it. Remember that in the examination you will hear each item twice. Note down new words – if you do not know the meanings, look them up in the dictionary.

Listen actively. Get into the habit of listening for both gist and specific information. Learn to identify the main idea before concentrating on details and learn to recognise how the language is used in different contexts. Practise making notes while listening.

Develop and revise lists of key words and phrases for each contemporary issue.

Learn to recognise the context in which language is used and get the main idea before becoming lost in details.

Take every opportunity to practise answering the questions in both [language] and English. Work through [past HSC examination papers](https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/resources/hsc-exam-papers) for your language. Develop a list of key words and phrases for each topic and revise regularly.

Finally, practise using your dictionary so that you can look up words quickly.

Try to listen for issues that are similar to those you are studying and practise writing the information in [language]. This will help you in Part B of the listening and responding section.

## During the examination

Before each text is spoken, read the question for each item and take notice of any key words to try and predict what might be said.

During the first reading try to understand the overall message.

Take notes in either [language] or English. Use the space on the examination paper for notes.

During the second reading process all the information and write your answer clearly. Include all relevant details required to answer the questions asked. Check that your answers make sense and avoid ambiguity in your answers.

For **Part A**, be guided by the number of lines provided in the answer spaces. This will give you an idea about the amount of information to be included in each answer.

If you have any spare time you can go back to an earlier item but do not dwell on it. It is better to prepare for the coming item rather than lose concentration.

At the end of the examination you can fill in any missing details and make any changes. Do not leave anything out – you cannot be given any marks for blank spaces.

Listen to the two texts in **Part B** very carefully, noting down key points. Answer the question as required with the number of characters stated.

Make sure you write legibly. If you need to make changes, cross out words and rewrite your response – using correction tape or fluid wastes valuable time.

# Section II – reading and responding

## Examination specifications

The reading and responding section of the exam is worth 55 marks.

You may use dictionaries in this section of the exam.

It is the second section of the written exam and is designed to assess your knowledge and skill in exchanging information, opinions and ideas from written texts.

This section is divided into two parts.

Part A is worth 40 marks and Part B is worth 15 marks.

### Part A

There are two questions in **Part A**. Questions will be in [language] and English. You are to write your answers in [language] or English.

The Part A’s first question (Question 3 of the examination) will be based on an extract from a prescribed text. You are required to answer a number of questions, one or more of which will require extended paragraphs. The length of the extract will be:

* up to 500 words in Indonesian and Korean
* up to 600 characters in Chinese
* up to 1000 *ji* in Japanese.

You are required to identify, discuss and analyse features of the text, for example:

* content
* context
* language of the extract.

In Part A’s second question (Question 4 of the examination) you will be required to evaluate features of one or more of the prescribed texts. If the question refers to more than one text, the texts will be from the same prescribed theme.

You are required to make references to the theme from which the prescribed texts have been drawn, and provide and evaluate the textual features of the prescribed text(s) as they relate to the prescribed themes or contemporary issues, in an extended response.

Your response should be from approximately 300 to 400 words in English, or:

* 300 to 400 words in Indonesian and Korean
* 350 to 450 characters in Chinese
* 600 to 800 *ji* in Japanese.

### Part B

In **Part B** you will respond to the opinions, ideas and information in an unseen text, with a stated audience, purpose and context. The text will relate to one of the prescribed contemporary issues and will be approximately:

* 250 words in Indonesian and Korean
* 300 characters in Chinese
* 500 *ji* in Japanese.

This question will be phrased in English and [language] for a response in [language] of approximately:

* 300 words in Indonesian and Korean
* 350 characters in Chinese
* 600 *ji* in Japanese.

## Criteria for assessing performance

In **Part A** Question 3, you will be assessed on your ability to:

* identify and analyse specific information
* analyse the way in which language is used to convey meaning
* communicate information and ideas using relevant textual references in either English or [language].

In **Part A** Question 4, you will be assessed on your ability to:

* analyse the way in which language is used to convey meaning
* analyse the relationship between the prescribed text and a theme or one of the related contemporary issues
* communicate information and ideas using relevant textual references in either English or [language]
* structure and sequence information and ideas.

In **Part B** Question 5, you will be assessed on your ability to:

* exchange information in response to information, opinions and ideas
* communicate information and ideas using relevant textual references to support your answer
* structure and sequence information, opinions and ideas
* demonstrate control of a range of language structures and vocabulary in [language].

## Preparing for the examination

The best way to prepare for this section is to read a wide range of text types from a number of different sources, for example online articles and blogs, course books, newspapers, magazines, brochures and advertisements.

Work through [past HSC examination papers](https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/resources/hsc-exam-papers) for your language, seeking feedback from your teacher.

Familiarise yourself well with all prescribed texts and be prepared to answer all questions related to them. Have lots of practice in class and at home. Get your teacher to help you with your answers.

Practise responding to articles related to contemporary issues listed in the syllabus, giving your opinion.

## During the examination

Read the questions before reading the text. The questions will guide you as you read through the text.

Read the text to gain a general idea of the content, then read the questions a second time and mark the section of the text from where you think the answers come.

For **Part A,** work your way through the questions and write your answers. Answer the questions fully and provide all relevant information.

No two questions should require the same information.

In **Part B**, underline the main points in the text and then answer the question fully, meeting the requirement of the number of characters and demonstrating understanding of the whole text.

Make sure that your writing is legible and that your answers make sense.

# Section III – writing in [language]

## Examination specifications

The writing section of the exam is worth 25 marks.

You may use dictionaries in this section of the exam.

This is the third section of the written exam. It is designed to assess your ability to express ideas through the production of original texts in [language].

You will be required to write an original text in [language], with an approximate length of:

* 350 words in Indonesian and Korean
* 400 characters in Chinese
* 700 *ji* in Japanese.

There will be a choice of two tasks requiring responses in the same text type. Each task will relate to one of the prescribed contemporary issues and will specify a context, purpose and audience.

Questions will be phrased in English and [language].

## Criteria for assessing performance

You will be assessed on your ability to:

* demonstrate understanding of the prescribed contemporary issues
* write text appropriate to context, purpose and audience
* structure and sequence information and ideas
* demonstrate control of a range of language structures and vocabulary in [language].

## Preparing for the examination

To prepare for this section of the exam you should:

* **read widely in [language]** – try to read articles relating to the contemporary issues listed in the syllabus. Note down interesting phrases, new vocabulary and facts that you will later be able to incorporate into your writing. As you read a wide range of texts and text types you will notice the different features of these text types. Make yourself familiar with the features that distinguish a text type.
* **develop a bank of language expressions to use in a range of contexts** – develop your own generic and issues-based lists as you read, view and listen to the language, and consult with your teacher about expressions and idiomatic language related to prescribed themes and contemporary issues.
* **learn from your mistakes** – carefully go over work reviewed by your teacher, reading and reflecting on the feedback. If you do not understand something, clarify with your teacher. Keep all your work in a folder and read over earlier pieces to see how much progress you have made. Check that you are not still making the same mistakes.
* **practise regularly** – write in [language] as much as you can. Get into the habit of always planning your work and putting effort into it. Practise writing under exam conditions by giving yourself a time limit in which to complete a task. Work through [past HSC examination papers](https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/resources/hsc-exam-papers) for your language.
* **practise your dictionary skills** – be selective in your use of the dictionary. It is always better to use a word or phrase which you are familiar with rather than looking up a new one. Practise using your dictionary so that, if you need to, you can look up words quickly. Remember to crosscheck any words/phrases you look up, as words can have more than one meaning.

## During the examination

Read the questions carefully and select the one for which you are best prepared.

Jot down a rough plan of your response. This will help give your writing direction and structure.

Keep your answers accurate and interesting, using language structures and phrases you can express confidently. Respond with your own words – if you do use expressions from texts, you must acknowledge the source.

Respond in depth, ensuring you respond to all aspects of the questions.

Make your cultural references authentic.

Keep to the suggested word/character length. If you exceed the suggested length by a significant number of words you will increase your chances of making mistakes. You will also use time that could be devoted to another section of the paper.

Check through your answer at the end and crosscheck any words/phrases you look up in the dictionary.

Ensure that you have been consistent with register and that your language is appropriate for the context, purpose and audience.