English Studies – unpacking the HSC examination Section IV – part 5

HSC hub student support session – writing skills

## Resource booklet

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## Advice to the teacher supporting students

If using in a classroom context you may like to:

* use this resource in a workshop setting with a group, whole class or an individual student to work through on their own
* pause the recording and ask students to read, reflect and write
* refer to school-based course work, text pairing and assessments to do the activities.

## Advice to the independent student

If using this resource at home independently you will need:

* a black pen and lined paper
* access to your school-based coursework for all modules
* a copy of the student booklet either hard copy or digital
* access to the 2019 HSC marker feedback, the 2019 HSC examination and the sample examination materials for English Studies, all available within the [NESA English Studies webpage.](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/resource-finder/hsc-exam-papers/2019/english-studies-2019-hsc-exam-pack)

You can use this resource to refine your understanding of the different styles of writing and expand your writing skills. This will help you in your preparation for Section IV writing skills.

# Part 5 – exploring sample questions for Section IV of the examination

## Resource 1 – definitions of key terms

### Audience

The intended group of readers, listeners or viewers that the writer, designer, filmmaker or speaker is addressing.

### Purpose

The purpose of a text, in very broad terms, is to entertain, to inform or to persuade different audiences in different contexts. Composers use a number of ways to achieve these purposes: persuading through emotive language, analysis or factual recount; entertaining through description, imaginative writing or humour, and so on.

### Context

The range of personal, social, historical, cultural and workplace conditions in which a text is responded to and composed.

## Activity 1 – success criteria for Section IV, 2019 English Studies examination

Examine the success criteria for Section IV of the 2019 HSC English Studies examination.

|  |
| --- |
| Success Criteria |
| Your answer will be assessed on how well you – |
| * Organise, develop and sustain your ideas |
| * Control language appropriate to audience, purpose and context. |

After listening to the video explain in your own words what:

‘Organise, develop and sustain your ideas’ may look like in your response.

‘Control language appropriate to audience, purpose and context’ may look like in your response.

## Resource 2 – example A

**Example A (15 marks) ​**

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world – Nelson Mandela​

Present an argument in response to this quotation. You many write in any form.

NESA [English Studies Sample Examination Materials](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/wcm/connect/845b27d9-92de-43c1-b825-b77b0bac8eff/sample-questions-new-hsc-english-studies-exam-2019.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2017.

### Activity 2 – your turn

Circle the key words in the question above that highlight the purpose of this piece of writing.

## Resource 3 – sample introduction for example A

Weapons can be destructive in our society when we think about guns or knives. We only think about violence. But education as a weapon can be destroy but not in violent way it destroys old stereotypes and values and uplifts its people to better ways of life. For a society to grow its people need to be educated. As Mandela states it is this powerful weapon that can change the world.

### Activity 3 – understanding language

Read through the introductory paragraph in Resource 3 and:

* Circle any words or phrases that help show the writer’s purpose
* Underline any words or phrases that appeal to and engage the writer’s audience.

### Activity 4 – your turn

Write a body paragraph that follows on from the introduction you read in Resource 2. Your body paragraph should follow one of the two ideas in the introduction – that education can destroy old stereotypes and values or that it can lift people to better ways of life.

As your body paragraph forms part of a larger piece that is arguing for the positive impact of education, you may wish to include some of the following features:

* Use of ‘data’ or ‘statistics’
* Use of persuasive devices
* High modality words such as ‘must’ and ‘definitely’

Remember to use the paragraph structure you have learned at school. This could include a topic sentence, a sentence to explain your ideas, supporting examples or information and a concluding sentence that tries to persuade your audience.

Spend approximately 10 minutes on this activity.

Write your response here.

## Resource 4 – example B

**Example B (15 marks)**

2018 is the International Year of Reading. Your local council has asked the community to suggest how people could be encouraged to use the local community library and read more. Write an email to the council explaining how the library could be more useful for all the people in your local community.

In your response, included specific examples of collections and services that should be offered by the library.

### Activity 5 – understanding purpose, audience and context

Re-read Resource 4 and, in different colours, highlight the words and phrases that tell you the:

* Purpose of the text
* Audience of the text
* Context of the text

## Resource 5 – sample introduction for example B

Good morning Mr Sample,

The Greenhouse local library has been my hideout for years. The library has wonderful online and hardcopy texts that you can escape into these magical worlds.

However, the library really needs more opportunities for all members of our wonderful Greenhouse community.

There are many examples I could list but I have come up with 4 that I believe the council could easily apply into our already wonderful library to expand its use to all community members.

## Resource 6 – body paragraph for example B

The library could expand the use of their space to include children's story time for families of young children, they could have a senior citizens reading day with interactive group reading activities specifically on that day for our elderly community giving them an opportunity to gather and meet with others, not only will this share and extend their love of reading but give them their own community to feel safe with and less isolated.

### Activity 6 – your turn

Re-read Resources 5 and 6 and then complete the rest of the email to the council. You will need to:

* Write one more body paragraph in which you explain your idea for making the local library more useful for the people in the community
* A concluding paragraph in which you summarise your main ideas
* A sign off such as ‘yours sincerely’ or ‘yours faithfully’
* Your name.

Write your response here.