English Studies- Common Module
Part 2- Expectations for the exam transcript

(Duration 13 minutes 21 seconds)

(gentle music)

Welcome to the HSC hub student support session for English studies. Expectation for the examination. I would like to pay my respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which this meeting takes place, and also pair respect to Elders both past and present. This resource can be used by teachers with their classes or by students revising in their own time.

If using in a classroom context, you may like to view the recording, pause and discuss key ideas with the students during designated times. You may like to add your own ideas, resources, and sample questions to the resource booklet. Or you could allocate sections for students to view as flipped learning, and then co-construct modelled, guided and then independent responses. If using this resource at home independently, you will need a copy of the student resource booklet, either hard copy or digital, and access to the 2019 HSC examination paper, and the specimen paper. All found by searching NESA English Studies on the NESA website.

Within this video, we will unpack the 2019 examination paper. While this resource has a time guide, it does not take into consideration the time required for you to engage deeply with the activities provided. Keep this in mind as you utilise this resource. Let's start with the stimulus booklet. Here we have sample HSC English Studies stimulus booklet. Your stimulus booklet contains the unseen text for your short answer questions and a list of prescribed texts for your Common Module and extended response answer. This will be the first booklet that you look through. This will also be the booklet you will make constant reference to throughout the examination. You could expect to find images, novel extracts, poems, articles, advertisements, lyrics, reviews, or other types of short extract text. You will notice that each text is on a different page to avoid confusion. When a question asks you to refer to text one, this is what it is referring to (waves cursor over the sub heading with text number in paper) As with text two, text three and so on. As you can see, there is plenty of space for you to annotate the text prior to constructing your response.

Finally, you have a list of prescribed texts. What you will do is you will scroll down the list and identify the texts which you studied in your Common Module, Texts and Human Experiences. The text you studied in the module is your prescribed text.

Now let's have a look at what you could expect from the question booklet on the next slide. This section will walk you through the question booklet. Here we have the 2019 HSC question booklet. This is where you'll find all of the questions you need to answer for this part of the examination. The questions that you see in this sample on screen at the moment, will not appear in the 2020 HSC exam. However, the structure and style of questions will remain similar, making this an excellent addition to your preparation or study schedule. As you can see, the paper has been divided into four sections.

Let's have a look at section one. It's important to note how many marks have been allocated to each section as well as how much time you should allow for each section. Essentially, the paper is assisting you with time management to ensure that you're not only giving enough time to a question for an adequate response, but that you don't run out of time at the end. Adhering in to the time guides will minimise or even eliminate your chances of not finishing, or rushing your final answers. Section one will be short answer from your Common Module, which is Texts and Human Experiences. The lines are a general indication of how much you're expected to write for an adequate response. In this section, you will be referring to your stimulus booklet that we went through previously. Please ensure that you read each question carefully to ensure that you fully understand the requirements of the question and which stimulus it is referring to. As you can see here for question one, you will be referring to text one in your stimulus booklet. And for question two, you'll be referring to text two in your stimulus booklet. And as you can see, the pattern is followed through the other sections of this paper. As we move through the exam, we can see that the questions progressively increase in length. They require you to think more critically. They include more reflective writing and comparative style responses. We continue through short answer, noting that each question requires us to respond to a stimulus located in our stimulus booklet.

Moving on to section two. Here, you'll be required to compose an extended response that focuses on your prescribed text. You are to respond to the question in your writing booklet, which I will go through with you on the next slide. You are not required to answer all of these questions, you only need to choose one question. The question that matches your prescribed text. You need to scroll down the list to find the texts that you studied in school. The title and authors are there to assist you. For example, if you studied ‘Billy Elliot’, this is the question that you would answer.

Next you have your elective modules. Again, this will be an extended response question. You should be looking at the marks and the time allocated for this response. This is to be answered in a separate writing booklet. For this question, you must refer to a specific module that you have studied and a specific text within that module. For example, if you studied the ‘Part of a family’ module and your prescribed text was ‘The story of Tom Brennan’, you would ensure that you make close reference to that text in your response. Your aim is to demonstrate your knowledge of the module and demonstrate your understanding of a specific text you studied within that module. They will outline the different modules. So again, just scroll down and choose the one you studied at some point this year.

This takes us to the final page of the examination, 15 marks, 30 minutes. This 30 minutes includes planning and responding time. So I encourage you to make use of the time available to you. This question again, required a separate writing booklet, also making reference to a stimulus. So as you can see, there are lots of booklets that you will need to be accountable for as you complete this examination. Let's talk about those in the next slide.

The final booklet you need to become familiar with is the writing booklet. This section will walk you through the writing booklet. Let's recap. You will have a stimulus booklet, which has all of your unseen texts. You will have a question booklet, which has all of the questions in it, and you will also have writing booklets. Here is an example of a writing booklet. This is a writing booklet that we use at the school I teach at for senior exams. But it's reflective of the writing booklet you will use in your HSC. The only difference will be that there will be no teacher section. You will be required to write your student number, not your name, only your student number and the section you will be answering in that particular booklet. You should expect to have at least four writing booklets, but can ask for more if you need. But remember, it's quality over quantity. So asking for a dozen more writing booklets is not an indication of better performance. If a section comprises of multiple questions, you must make it clear to the maker which question you are answering. For example, question One a, then answer the question. When starting the next question, ensure that you have a line break and then answer the question. For example, question one b, line break, question two, line break, question three, and so on. It is important to note that each section and let's remember, there are four sections for your Studies examination that all need to be written in a separate writing booklet. So you would have a minimum of four separate booklets. HSC markers do not mark papers as a whole, but in sections. Your paper is essentially divided into sections as it makes its way through the intense HSC marking process. So you need to ensure that for each section, you use a separate writing booklet with a section number clearly labelled on the front. Section one, you will answer in the question booklet. Section two, in a separate writing booklet, section three in a separate writing booklet, and section four in a separate writing booklet. So as you can see, all four sections are in separate booklets.

Here are some tips and tricks to demystify the Studies paper. Firstly, you want to make sure that you're prepared. Develop a regular study schedule and stick to it. Secondly, familiarise yourself with your prescribed texts. Make sure that you have a deep understanding of the ideas explored within the text. Make note of important quotes and revise the techniques used to create meaning. Thirdly, you want to respond to each question with a clear structure. Each school has their own structure that they adhere to in order to compose a coherent, well-rounded response. This is for short answer and extended response.

You also want to make sure that you edit your work. Your marker will appreciate corrections on your page. This is in regards to spelling, grammar, and punctuation, and please ensure that you're using paragraphs for extended responses. Understand what the question is asking before you respond. Underline the instructional verb, highlight the key concepts and rephrase the question in your own words, it will help you understand what the question is asking you better.

So what are the key aspects you remember from the examination booklet? How many booklets will you be given? How many writing booklets should you have? Remember, this might seem insignificant, but having a knowledge and confidence with the structure of the paper before the exam, will help when you're feeling overwhelmed.

(gentle music)

End of transcript