



Year 11 English Standard

Task 1: Half-Yearly Exam

Due Date: Half Yearly Exam Period, Wednesday 22nd April 2026
(Please check the examination timetable to confirm the time of the exam)

Task Distributed: Tuesday 17th of March, 2026.

Unit: Focus Area- Reading to Write

Task Type: Examination

Task Weighting: 30%

Outcomes:

EST-11-01 analyses the ways an author's choice of language, form and structure shape meaning in texts of different modes and mediums

EST-11-04 composes texts, using language forms and features in new and different contexts

EST-11-05 composes critical and creative texts for a range of audiences and purposes

EST-11-06 explains own compositional processes and the ways choices of language, form and structure can shape meaning

Task Description

There is ONE PAPER in your English Standard Half-Yearly Examination. It will comprise TWO sections. **Students will have 1 hour and 30 mins + 10 mins reading time to complete this examination.**

Section 1: 20 marks

Focus Area: Reading to Write - Short Answer

This section will ask students to read a variety of unseen texts (eg: cartoons, poems, articles, short stories, etc.) and answer a series of **short answer questions** relating to the language used by the composers of these texts. Some questions may be common between the Advanced and Standard examination.

Students should read the questions carefully, as they require textual analysis with references made to the texts. They will need to relate their understanding back to the Common Module.

Students should allow 45 minutes for this section of the examination.

Section 2: 20 marks:

Focus Area: Reading to Write - Imaginative/Discursive Writing

There will be one question which will require you to compose an **imaginative** or **discursive** response. The question may contain stimulus or a quote and may ask you to draw inspiration from the ideas and language used in the texts you have studied. This section may contain up to two parts where you may be asked to **reflect on and explain your creative choices**.

The prescribed texts for this unit are:

- *Fish Cheeks* by Amy Tan
- *All Summer in a Day* by Ray Bradbury
- *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost
- *Dear Kath* by Trent Dalton
- *How to Live Before You Die* by Steve Jobs

Students should allow 45 minutes for this section of the examination.

NESA Glossary of Key Words

Understand the verbs associated with the task. These verbs will provide an understanding of the detail needed to successfully answer the question.

- **ANALYSE** – Identify components and the relationship between them; draw out and relate implications
- **ASSESS** – Make a judgement of value, quality, outcomes, results or size
- **EXPLAIN** - Relate cause and effect; make the relationships between things evident; provide why and/or how

Check the NESA Glossary of Key Words for further guidance

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-student-guide/glossary-keywords>

Details of Submission

This task will be completed under exam conditions during the Year 11 HY Examination Period in Week 1 Term 2 2026. Please consult your examination timetable to confirm the date of the exam.

Students must bring their own required equipment for the examination, which is a black pen. The examination and writing paper will be provided. Students are NOT to bring study notes into the examination room.

Teacher Feedback and Student Self-Reflection

- The task is to be returned to students TWO SCHOOL WEEKS after the exam.
- At the end of the examination period and upon return to class, students will also be expected to complete a self- reflection on their exam performance. Self-reflection is an important part of the learning process as it provides an opportunity to reflect on the strength of your performance, as well as areas that have been identified as requiring strengthening for the future. This is an imperative task as we prepare for Year 12.

How does this link to my learning?

This task relates to the following Half Yearly Reporting Outcomes:

- Section 1: Understands and analyses the forms and features of language, and the structures of different texts, in shaping meaning
- Section 2: Understands the forms and features of language through the creation of an imaginative or discursive text.

This task has also been modelled off the structure of the HSC English examination. Completion of this task will give students valuable practice of completing an HSC style examination and provide valuable feedback on their skills and knowledge as they continue with their senior studies.

Assessment Procedures

All students should be fully aware of the School Assessment Procedures. Students who are absent from the examination, or have a legitimate reason for missing the task, must notify the school before the exam commences. To avoid a zero mark being awarded, any absence must be supported by valid misadventure/illness documentation as outlined in the Year 11 Assessment Guide. Students should access this guide for more information.