



Year 8, English

Task 2: Semester One Examination

Due Date: Week 5 Wednesday 20th of May

(During the Junior Semester One Exam period)

Task Distributed: Tuesday 5th of May 2026

Unit: 'Public Voice and Belonging' & 'Imagined Worlds'

Task Type: Examination

Task Weighting: 20%

Outcomes:

EN4-RVL-01: uses a range of personal, creative and critical strategies to read texts that are complex in their ideas and construction

EN4-URA-01: analyses how meaning is created through the use of and response to language forms, features and structures

EN4-ECA-01: creates personal, creative and critical texts for a range of audiences by using linguistic and stylistic conventions of language to express ideas

Task Description

The Semester One Exam (60 minutes + 5 minutes reading time) will provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate the depth of their knowledge and understanding of the first two topics; *Public Voices and Belonging* and *Imagined Worlds*.

The Semester One Exam will require students to demonstrate their understanding of the key concepts explored in these two topics, as well as their comprehension skills and use of figurative language in imaginative writing.

There are two sections in this examination:

- Section 1 will examine the *Public Voices and Belonging* unit studied in Term 1 of 2026. It will consist of a selection of unseen texts with short answer questions. **This section of the exam should take students approximately 30 minutes.**
- Section 2 will examine the *Imagined Worlds (Fantasy)* unit and will require students to compose a piece of creative writing in response to a stimulus. Students should focus on creating an Orientation and Rising Action which uses descriptive and figurative language to establish a clear fantasy setting and protagonist. **This section of the exam should take students approximately 30 minutes.**

For this section of the exam students will be given ONE of the following stimulus prompts on the day of the exam:

“Magic doesn’t change who you are, it reveals who you’ve always been.”

OR

“Every legend begins with a place no one believes exists.”

NESA Glossary of Key Words

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

- **Identify:** recognise and name
- **Define:** State meaning and identify essential qualities
- **Explain:** Relate cause and effect; provide why and/or how
- **Compose:** Write or create

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 exam will be completed during the Junior Semester One Examination block in the hall. Students are expected to arrive on time and complete the examination under timed-conditions. The examination consists of two sections. **Students will be given 5 minutes reading time and 60 minutes writing time.**

Teacher Feedback and Student Self-Reflection

- The task will typically be returned to students within TWO school weeks of the due date.
- At this time feedback including information on how to improve will be provided through the marking rubric and general marker's feedback.
- Students can clarify or seek further feedback by speaking with their teacher or the assessment marker.
- Students may also receive feedback on your literacy performance based on the criteria in the school's literacy marking rubric. The marks achieved for literacy will account for between 10% – 20% of the maximum task value.

Upon return of the task, students will be asked to reflect on their performance in class. This will be a Google Form that will include several short answer questions. This will be done on the day that their Semester Two Examinations are returned.

How does this link to my learning?

- Completing the Semester One Exam will allow students to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts studied in the first two terms of Year 8.
- The results of the exam will enable students to identify areas for improvement and to set new learning goals that they wish to strive towards for Semester 2.
- Completing tasks under timed conditions is a key life skill required for school, further education and the workplace.
- Familiarising oneself with exam procedures and expectations will support students' completion of exams throughout high school.

This task also relates to the following reporting outcomes:

- *Describes and begins to analyse language forms and features and embeds textual evidence within sentences to support their articulation of the ideas.*
- *Makes effective language choices to compose an imaginative text, adhering to the conventions of the fantasy genre.*

Assessment Procedures

All students should be fully aware of the School Assessment Procedures for their year group. These were provided at the beginning of the school year and are available off the school website under the Learning Tab for each year group.