



FREE STUDENT RESOURCE

VCE EXAM RESET PACK

Units 3 & 4 English | 2026

STUDY SMARTER. STRESS LESS.

YOUR EXAM DATE

Tuesday 27 October 2026 | 9:00 am - 12:15 pm

The published time includes the 15-minute reading period. Check your individual timetable and current VCAA examination rules.

USE THIS PACK TO

Turn English revision into clear, manageable actions across Section A, Section B and Section C; build evidence and idea banks; practise planning; track mistakes; and prepare for full exam conditions without trying to rewrite every note you own.

Designed for visual learners and students who benefit from clear, low-overwhelm study structures.

Mind for Learning™ is independent and is not affiliated with or endorsed by VCAA.



START HERE: THE 20-MINUTE ENGLISH RESET

THE RULE

When English revision feels too big, shrink the task - not the standard. One focused 20-minute cycle is better than spending an hour deciding whether to revise your text, Framework or argument analysis.

TIME	DO THIS
5 MIN	RECALL - one idea, argument or writing move from memory
5 MIN	CHECK - compare with notes/text and correct what is vague
5 MIN	APPLY - plan one paragraph or one Section C argument move
5 MIN	MARK - confidence + choose the next weak point

My first study target

☐ One section I need to work on:

☐ One exact task I will complete:

☐ One thing I will STOP doing today:

Quick reset checklist

- ☐ Phone out of reach / Do Not Disturb
- ☐ Only the materials for this task open
- ☐ Timer set
- ☐ Clear finish point chosen
- ☐ I know what 'done' looks like



KNOW THE EXAM BEFORE YOU REVISE

CURRENT EXAM STRUCTURE

Reading time: 15 minutes | Writing time: 3 hours | Total: 60 marks | Section A: 20 | Section B: 20 | Section C: 20.

SECTION	WHAT YOU DO	REVISION PRIORITY	SELF-CHECK
A - Analytical response	Write on ONE topic for your selected text.	ideas + evidence + authorial choices + exact topic control	☐
B - Creating a text	Create one text using a Framework of Ideas, title and stimulus.	ideas + purpose + voice + structure + stimulus integration	☐
C - Argument analysis	Analyse arguments, language and visuals for audience/purpose.	argument sequence + language + visuals + audience effect	☐

TIME CONTROL

A useful practice target is about 60 minutes per section. In revision, practise finishing to time rather than polishing one response while the other two disappear.

My traffic light

Section A: ☐ GREEN - ready ☐ AMBER - inconsistent ☐ RED - avoiding it

Section B: ☐ GREEN - ready ☐ AMBER - inconsistent ☐ RED - avoiding it

Section C: ☐ GREEN - ready ☐ AMBER - inconsistent ☐ RED - avoiding it



SECTION A RESET: KNOW YOUR TEXT, THEN ANSWER THE TOPIC

THE RULE

Do not revise by memorising one perfect essay. Build flexible knowledge: ideas, moments, patterns, authorial choices and evidence that can be shaped to the exact topic.

BIG IDEA / TENSION	TEXT MOMENT	AUTHORIAL CHOICE	WHAT IT SHOWS / COMPLICATES
--------------------	-------------	------------------	-----------------------------

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--

Prompt decoder

1. Underline the key idea.
2. Circle the limiting word: how / to what extent / more than / despite / because / rather than.
3. Rewrite the topic as a question your essay must answer.
4. Choose evidence because it answers that question - not because you memorised it.

My current Section A weakness:



SECTION A EVIDENCE BANK

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY
A smaller bank of well-understood evidence is more useful than a page of quotations you cannot connect to an argument. Include moments, patterns, structural choices and short quotations only where they help.

EVIDENCE / MOMENT	IDEA	AUTHORIAL CHOICE	POSSIBLE TOPICS	WHY IT MATTERS

Retrieval test: close your notes and rebuild three rows from memory tomorrow.

SECTION B RESET: TITLE + STIMULUS + PURPOSE

THE RULE

A polished pre-prepared piece is not enough if it only touches the title or stimulus at the edges. Build a flexible bank of ideas, voices and structures that can genuinely respond to the task.

DECISION

MY REVISION BANK

Framework of Ideas

3 concepts I can explore

Possible purposes: explain / express / reflect / argue

2 voices I can write convincingly

2 forms / structures I can control

Images / motifs / memories / scenarios I can adapt

60-second task check

- ☐ exact title copied
- ☐ title shapes the central idea
- ☐ at least one stimulus used meaningfully
- ☐ purpose is clear
- ☐ voice suits purpose + audience
- ☐ structure helps the idea develop



SECTION C RESET: ARGUMENT FIRST, TECHNIQUES SECOND

THE RULE

Strong analysis follows the argument and explains how language and visuals help that argument persuade a particular audience. Do not turn the response into a list of persuasive techniques.

ARGUMENT MOVE	EVIDENCE	LANGUAGE / VISUAL	AUDIENCE EFFECT	WHY HERE?
---------------	----------	-------------------	-----------------	-----------

Analytical verbs bank

positions • frames • legitimises • reassures • challenges • contrasts • reinforces • invites • narrows • amplifies • concedes • reframes

Replace vague 'makes the audience feel...' sentences with a more precise explanation of what the audience is being encouraged to accept, reject, value, fear or question.



ACTIVE RECALL: THREE 10-MINUTE DRILLS

DO THESE WITHOUT NOTES FIRST

The gap between what feels familiar and what you can actually produce is where revision should happen.

SECTION A - 10 MIN

Write a contention for one unseen topic. Add three paragraph claims and one piece of evidence for each.

SECTION B - 10 MIN

Take a random title. Decide purpose, audience, voice, structure and how one stimulus could shape the central idea.

SECTION C - 10 MIN

Take one persuasive article/speech. Write the contention, map three argument moves and analyse one language or visual choice for each.



MY ENGLISH ERROR LOG

MISTAKES ARE USEFUL DATA

A practice score is not a prediction. Use each weak paragraph, unfinished response or vague analysis to decide the next revision action.

DATE / SECTION	WHAT WENT WRONG	WHY	WHAT A STRONGER RESPONSE NEEDED	NEXT ACTION
----------------	-----------------	-----	---------------------------------	-------------

Common reasons marks disappear

- ☐ I answered a memorised theme instead of the exact Section A topic
- ☐ I retold the text instead of analysing it
- ☐ I used quotations without explaining authorial choices
- ☐ My Section B piece did not really use the title
- ☐ My Section B stimulus link was superficial
- ☐ I listed techniques in Section C instead of following the argument
- ☐ I used vague audience-effect language
- ☐ I ran out of time / over-wrote one section



PRACTICE RESPONSE TRACKER

PRACTICE IS REVISION

Do not wait until you feel ready. Plan, write, check, identify the gap, review it, then try again.

DATE	SECTION	TASK	TIME	SCORE / FEEDBACK	ONE FIX
------	---------	------	------	------------------	---------

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

AFTER EVERY RESPONSE: What is the ONE repeatable change that would make the next response stronger?



WEEKLY ENGLISH STUDY PLANNER

PLAN TASKS, NOT VAGUE HOURS

Write exactly what 'done' looks like. 'Plan one Section A essay and correct one Section C paragraph' is better than 'study English for two hours'.

DAY	ONE MUST-DO TASK	20-MIN SPRINT	CHECK / CORRECT
Monday		☐	☐
Tuesday		☐	☐
Wednesday		☐	☐
Thursday		☐	☐
Friday		☐	☐
Saturday		☐	☐
Sunday		☐	☐

This week I will protect...

- ☐ a realistic sleep / finish time
- ☐ one evening or block with no English revision
- ☐ food, water and movement
- ☐ time to correct work - not just complete it



PRACTICE EXAM PLANNER

BUILD UP TO EXAM CONDITIONS

A full English practice exam helps you practise switching between three very different writing tasks and managing three hours. Start with single sections if needed, then combine them.

DATE	PAPER / SOURCE	CONDITIONS	RESULT / FEEDBACK	TOP 2 FIXES
------	----------------	------------	-------------------	-------------

Use the most relevant material first

VCAA identifies the 2024 and 2025 English examinations as relating to the current study design. Use the current examination specifications, sample materials and your school's advice when practising exact conditions.

CURRENT EXAM PREPARATION

For 2026, the VCE English examination is scheduled for Tuesday 27 October, 9:00 am - 12:15 pm. The published time includes the 15-minute reading period. Always check your individual VCAA timetable.

FINAL-WEEK CHECKLIST

DO NOT TRY TO RELEARN THE ENTIRE SUBJECT

Use the final week to retrieve, practise and correct. Protect sleep and exam stamina. Focus on repeatable weaknesses rather than creating new piles of notes.

SECTION A

- ☐ 5-7 flexible evidence points ready
- ☐ can explain major ideas/tensions without notes
- ☐ practised at least two unseen topics
- ☐ know how to discuss authorial choices

SECTION B

- ☐ Framework concepts are flexible
- ☐ practised responding to unfamiliar titles
- ☐ can adapt purpose / voice / structure
- ☐ stimulus use is meaningful, not pasted on

SECTION C

- ☐ can identify contention quickly
- ☐ can map argument sequence
- ☐ can integrate visuals
- ☐ audience effects are precise

EXAM CONTROL

- ☐ practised 60-minute section timing
- ☐ know what I will do in reading time
- ☐ dictionary ready if I use one
- ☐ sleep / travel / arrival plan sorted