English-Advanced Understanding paper1- Common Module-Texts and the human experience transcript

(Duration 20 minutes 40 seconds)

(soft music)

Welcome to the HSC hub students support sessions. This resource will introduce you to the layout of the examination for the Common Module Texts and Human Experiences. This is Paper One of your two paper English examination. In this resource, we will look closely at the structure and layout of Paper One, we will utilise the 2019 HSC English Advanced Paper one examination as our case study. At the end of the session, you will then be asked to explore the NESA sample format paper and the NESA sample questions paper both for English Advanced Paper One.

[Slide reads: Using this resource in a classroom setting

In a classroom context teachers may like to:

* use this resource in a workshop setting with a group or allocate sections to individual students to work through on their own​
* pause the recording and ask students to read, reflect and write
* refer to school-based course work, the text and assessments to support completion of the activities.

Using this as an individual student

* If using this resource at home independently students will need to:
* access classwork and assessment tasks
* access the presentation and the student resource booklet
* allocate time to explore the activities suggested here. This resource works best if you follow all instructions and complete the thinking routines and reflection activities.]

On the screen now, you have some advice for teachers and for students. This outline is provided to assist teachers using this resource with their class or students working through this resource and the activities on their own. This is outlined in the resource booklet. Pause the presentation and read the advice provided. Make sure you also read the required materials list that's also outlined in the resource booklet. In this session, we will provide you with a reminder of where you can find the resources within the NESA website, we will explore the layout of Paper One, we will focus particularly on the structure of section one and section two, and then you'll have some activities to apply your new learning. Please note that this resource is designed to run for approximately 20 minutes and this does not include time for activities. Please keep this in mind as you plan your approach for engaging with the material provided. Don't forget to take adequate breaks as you're revising.

Let's get started by firstly taking a look at the examination format and structure. As we've already said, we'll be using the 2019 HSC Paper One examination as our model. But keep in mind the advice from NESA that the exam won't necessarily look the same from year to year. This is important because they do not want the exam to be predictable, and have students utilising pre-prepared responses. We want you to be thinking on your feet and to be demonstrating your deep understanding and knowledge. This will become clearer as we explore the 2018 sample questions paper. Don't forget to make sure you have the resource booklet handy. The cue “pause the presentation and” will indicate when you have an activity to complete. The resource and activity number coincides with the resource booklet.

It's important that you are familiar with the New South Wales Education Standards Authority, or NESA's, website as it contains a wealth of information that can assist your examination preparations. As you can see on the screen, we are looking at the syllabus page for English Advanced. Scrolling down, you will come across a little icon called Glossary. Visit this for official definitions of key terminology. Further down, you'll see an HSC examination advice clip. Make sure you have viewed this. Following this, you'll find sample examination materials. Here we can see we've got the English Advanced 2017 sample examination materials for Paper One, for Paper Two, the sample examination format for Paper One, and the sample examination format for Paper Two. Scrolling a little further, and you can see that there are the English prescriptions documents. Here you can see that there's the annotations of selected texts for the 2019 to 2023 prescriptions. It's important to note that not all texts are present, and those that are excluded means that they have been set for study for the HSC before and there is another document. There is also the annotation of text document for Module C. Scrolling a little further and you will see the HSC exam papers. Select that option, select the English Advanced 2019 HSC exam pack, and the exam pack will open. We will now spend some time exploring the English Advanced HSC exam Paper One from 2019.

Another really important document for you is the glossary of key words. And as you can see on the screen now, this is also housed in the NESA website. Now to find this, you need to select the year 11 and 12 option at the top of the page, and then select HSC. You can see here that the glossary is found within the student guide. There's also information on taking HSC exams. In this session, we will come across questions that require you to explain, analyse and justify. Let's take a moment to read those definitions. Here we have ‘analyse’. Scroll a little further and you have ‘explain’. Scroll a little further and you have ‘justify’. As you can see, this terminology comes from the glossary of key words. It's really important that you are familiar with the terminology and apply your understanding in relation to the knowledge, skills or understanding required of each term. You will see some more than others in relation to English examinations. You might like to create revision questions for short texts, as well as your prescribed texts using this terminology. In relation to the 2019 HSC English Advanced Paper One examination, the three terms that we have already mentioned are particularly important. You are also asked to respond to two questions that begin with, ‘to what extent’. Now, this requires both an explanation and a justification. And you will find that this phrase is in the final question of section one and the personal response question for section two. We hope that this makes it clear why it's important to be familiar with the terminology, but also be nimble in your understanding, because ‘to what extent’ isn't in this list, but what it requires, both a justification and an explanation, most certainly is.

We will now spend some time exploring the 2019 HSC examination paper for English Advanced Paper One Texts and Human Experiences. On your screen now is the front cover of this examination paper. Looking at this will help you ensure that you are familiar with the layout and know where the section one and section two questions will be printed. The link for this paper is provided in your resource booklet. And as we've already shown you, it's also accessible via the English Advanced section of the NESA website. This is a closer look at the front cover. Here, you are advised that you have 10 minutes reading time and one hour and 30 minutes working time. This means that you must allow 45 minutes for each section. You are also advised to write in black pen and you have a stimulus booklet you need to utilise to help you answer the questions for section one. You will not be able to answer the questions for section one without this stimulus booklet. As you know, there is more to read in this section than in Paper Two and this is why you have 10 minutes reading time. Please take note that section one is worth 20 marks and is on pages two to eight, while section two also worth 20 marks is on pages nine to 13. This is really important. Do not allow one section to dominate your time. They are worth the same. Assuming that you will complete the exam in order of section one and then section two, during your reading time, you will open both the question paper and the stimulus booklet and read the text and its respective question. Some students like to read the question first and then the stimulus as they feel the questions help frame their thinking, while others prefer to read the stimulus and then the questions, as they prefer to develop a personal interpretation and appreciation of the texts. But that is entirely up to you. However, it should come as no surprise to you that every question asks you to explore the way composers have presented or explored some aspect of human experience. So keep that in mind as you are examining each text. You may have also noticed that for section one, you must attempt questions one through to five. That means you must attempt all five questions. Whereas in section two, you need to attempt one question from questions six a through six n. This is because in section two, you are only responding to the question that is specific to your prescribed text.

Now I will quickly run through the entire paper. Then we will come back and explore each section and its questions in more detail. Here we have page two, and we have some of the same reminders from the front cover. This is section one, it's worth 20 marks, and you must attempt every question and you should allow 45 minutes for this section. You are told to read the texts in the stimulus booklet carefully and remember that this is what your 10 minutes reading time is there to help you with. Then after this reading time has elapsed, you can begin to write your response. You are told that the spaces provide guidance for expected length of the response. Now we move on to the examination rubric. This is a guide for questions one through five. Onto question one. It's worth three marks, and you are told that the text you need to refer to is the poem. This is page two, and then we're going to move on to page three. Notice that this question is worth five marks. You need to refer to text two and that is the prose fiction extract. You are also given a longer space in which to write. Then we have a blank page and we move on to question three. This is again worth three marks. You need to refer to text three, and this is the prose fiction extract. You're told in the question the name of this extract as well. Once again, you have the expected writing space. Now on to page six. Here you are told you need to respond to text four, which is the feature article. And this is worth four marks. On to page seven, question five. Once again, you are told one text that you must refer to, which is the feature article. But you are then told you must refer to one other text of the other three. Here we have our ‘to what extent’ that we mentioned a little earlier. ‘To what extent is the significance of ordinary experiences explored in the feature article and one other text?’ So you are choosing to talk about text one, text two, or text three, as well as the feature article which is text four. This is worth five marks. And once again, you have the expected length of your response indicated by the lines. This doesn't mean that you can't ask for more paper. You most certainly can if you need it.

Now we will run through Paper One, section two. This is page nine of the examination booklet. And as is outlined, this is worth 20 marks, you must attempt one question and one question only from six a through to six n. And you should allow about 45 minutes for this section. You are again given the examination rubric, and then the questions start. It's really a good idea to read the examination rubric for each of your examination sections. Let's scroll down a little. As we can see here, this is question six, and it's worth 20 marks. The first question refers to the prescribed text ‘All the Light We Cannot See’. Then the second is ‘Vertigo’. The third, ‘Nineteen Eighty-Four’. And you can see that these are all of the prescribed texts that are prose fiction. The final text in the prose fiction list is ‘Past the Shallows’. It's essential that you answer the question for your prescribed text. And that might mean that you take part of your initial reading time to find what page your prescribed text is on. There are five pages of questions and your prescribed text and the question relevant for you will be on one of these five pages. When it comes to the questions for this section, you will notice that each question requires the exploration of a different human experience. ‘Take All the Light We Cannot See’ for example. This connects to the word courage, while ‘Vertigo’ connects to the word resilience. This means it is vital you're responding to the correct question. We'll unpack these in more detail in the resource for exploring Paper One, section two.

As we've already mentioned, this question has 14 parts, ‘a’ through ‘n’. This is because there are many prescribed texts for the Common Module. If the examination is set up like this again, you will need to find the question with your text. In this case, the author is bolded and the name of the text is bolded and italicized, and they are at the start of each item. In the example, the text is Shakespearean drama, William Shakespeare is the playwright, and the play is called ‘The Merchant of Venice’. The question asks, ‘to what extent does the exploration of human experience in ‘The Merchant of Venice’ invite you to reconsider your understanding of deception?’ While there was a different question for each section in 2019, it's important to note that the exams in 2020 and beyond might be different. And the sample questions paper gives you a clear indication of what this might look like. If you haven't already, pause the presentation here and spend some time reading through the 2019 HSC Paper One examination for English Advanced. This will be important for an activity later in this session. And we also acknowledge that it's much easier to read the paper when you have the paper or the file open in front of you.

The paper contains really clear markers that the question continues on the following page. In the 2019 example, the paper ends on page 13. And you are told that this is the end of the paper. The prescribed text ‘Waste Land’ is the final text, and the final question listed in the paper. This is the end of the Paper One question paper. You have the stimulus booklet following this in a separate booklet, and this means that you can look at the question paper and the stimulus paper side by side. This is the stimulus booklet for the 2019 HSC examination for English Advanced Paper One Text and Human Experiences. The first page tells you what the texts are and their page numbers. In 2019, students in Advanced needed to respond to a poem found on page two, prose fiction extract found on pages three and four, a prose fiction extract found on page five, and a feature article found on pages six and seven.

Let's move to page two. This is the poem that the students needed to respond to. This is the prose fiction extract found on page three. Notice at the bottom of this text, there are some little definitions provided to help students with some unusual terminology. Let's move on to text three. This is a shorter text. And once again, there are some definitions found here to help students. Then we have text four which is a feature article. That is the end of the stimulus booklet. And once again, there are a few definitions to help students with some unusual terminology. It's really important that when you are reading the stimulus booklet, that you read all of the text on the page. That includes the name of the author and the name of the original text. Sometimes, this information can give you little extra clues about the text itself.

Now that you have explored the 2019 HSC examination for Paper One Advanced, take a moment and complete activity one in the resource booklet.

Now we would like you to spend some time exploring the question and answer booklet. The one provided is for Advanced Paper One and the link is provided within activity two. As you read this paper, please take particular note of the information in the blue boxes.

How did you go with activity two? Don't forget to pause the presentation and complete the reflection activity within activity three. This allows you to reflect on and identify how this session has enhanced your understanding of the structure of the paper.

(soft music)

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