# Government of South Australia LogoSACE Board Logo2023 Essential English Subject Assessment Advice

Overview

Subject assessment advice, based on the 2023 assessment cycle, gives an overview of how students performed in their school and external assessments in relation to the learning requirements, assessment design criteria, and performance standards set out in the relevant subject outline. They provide information and advice regarding the assessment types, the application of the performance standards in school and external assessments, and the quality of student performance.

Teachers should refer to the subject outline for specifications on content and learning requirements, and to the subject operational information for operational matters and key dates.

Across the Assessment Types for this subject, students can present their responses in oral or multimodal form, where 5 minutes is the equivalent of 800 words. Students should not speed-up the recording of their videos excessively in an attempt to condense more content into the maximum time limit.

From 2023, if a video is flagged by markers/moderators as impacted by speed, schools will be requested to provide a transcript and markers/moderators will be advised to mark/moderate based on the evidence in the transcript, only considering evidence up to the maximum word limit.

If the speed of the recording makes the speech incomprehensible, it affects the accuracy of transcriptions and it also impacts the ability of markers/moderators to find evidence of student achievement against the performance standards.

2023 subject adjustments need to be clearly documented on the Learning Assessment Plan.

# School Assessment

Teachers can improve the moderation process and the online process by:

* thoroughly checking that all grades entered in school online are correct
* ensuring the uploaded tasks are legible, all facing up (and all the same way), and remove blank pages, student notes and formula pages
* ensuring the uploaded responses have pages the same size and in colour so that any teacher marking and comments are clear
* ensuring LAP, tasks and variations to moderation materials are uploaded and completed
* ensuring the LAP meets the subject outline requirements
* ensuring multimodal/PowerPoint presentations are uploaded with sound and not as pdf packages.

Assessment Type 1: Responding to Texts

Students produce three responses to texts. At least one of the responses must be produced in written form, and at least one response in oral or multimodal form. For this assessment type, students provide evidence of their learning primarily in relation to the following assessment design criteria:

* Communication
* Comprehension
* Analysis.

The 2023 subject adjustments states that “*at least one of the responses must be in written form, and at least one response must be in oral or multimodal form*.”

Teachers can elicit more successful responses by:

* explicitly teaching how social, cultural and/or technical language is used to support effective communication within the texts analysed
* structuring responding to text tasks that allow students to analyse the text studied rather than describe or retell elements of the text
* considering the most appropriate performance standards to assess against within each task
* structuring explicit questions that allow students to respond to the texts studied
* using the SACE glossary in the subject outline to understand key terminology.

*The more successful responses commonly:*

* were in response to texts that were appropriate for the student’s level of ability
* included a strong discussion of specific techniques and conventions supported by appropriate examples
* were in response to texts that provided opportunities for rich analysis of the ways in which creators conveyed information, ideas, and perspectives (An1)
* incorporated evidence purposefully
* analysed specific passages or scenes but made considered links to the text as a whole, rather than make generalisations
* specifically explored the elements of cultural, social and/or technical language (An2)
* allowed students to demonstrate achievement against a targeted number of selected performance standards
* utilised texts such as videos, songs, or articles that allowed the student to highlight a contemporary issue which could be discussed from their local or community perspective.

*The less successful responses commonly:*

* were in response to guiding questions that elicited a recount of the text rather than analysis or thorough comprehension
* lacked structure and cohesion in the development of their ideas
* did not include enough supporting evidence from the texts analysed
* did not provide evidence of ‘speaking’ (C1)
* recounted, described or summarised the text being analysed
* focused on a plot summary at the expense of considered analysis
* examined ideas or techniques without making connections between these elements
* were assessed against too many performance standards which limited depth
* were in some circumstances assessed against the Application standards which are more appropriately assessed in Creating Texts than Responding to Texts
* did not provide sufficient evidence of An2 within the assessment type
* included responses where students struggled to identify and understand language and stylistic features.

General Comments

The Communication assessment design criteria explicitly refers to ‘coherent writing and speaking’. Student responses that omitted oral elements did not provide moderators sufficient evidence of C1 to support assessment decisions.

Assessment Type 2: Creating Texts

Students create written, oral, and multimodal texts for procedural, imaginative, analytical, persuasive, and/or interpretive purposes.

Students create:

* one advocacy text
* two additional texts.

At least one of the responses must be produced in written form, and at least one in oral or multimodal form.

For this assessment type, students provide evidence of their learning primarily in relation to the following assessment design criteria:

* Communication
* Application.

The 2023 subject adjustments states that “*one advocacy text and one or two additional texts. At least one of the responses must be written form, and at least one must be in oral or multimodal form*.”

Teachers can elicit more successful responses by:

* explicit teaching of genre and language features for created texts
* using the SACE glossary in the subject outline to understand key terminology
* connecting student texts to a real or imagined audience
* enabling students to produce their own spoken/multimodal texts outside of the classroom
* ensuring genre diversity within the LAP allowing students to show a range of different text types.

The more successful responses commonly:

* had a clear audience and purpose which provided a structure for the text
* allowed students to create three distinct text types with varied purposes, audiences and conventions which enabled them to demonstrate a wide range of language and stylistic features appropriate to the genre
* were advocacy texts that focused on a local context that with which students could connect
* clearly advocated for change instead of just being information about a topic
* included oral and multimodal presentations that played to student strengths (e.g. cooking and make-up tutorials)
* encouraged skills or areas that were of personal interest to the student
* demonstrated appropriate textual conventions
* had been scaffolded to develop student understanding of their target audience and the purpose of the text.

The less successful responses commonly:

* included a writer’s statement which did not allow students to demonstrate the creative components within the Application criteria. Students analysing their own work used up too much of the word count and generally did not meet the Application performance standards
* presented as a group of responses that were all similar in their approach (e.g. all informal or all with a similar/same audience) thus only demonstrating application of a narrow range of conventions
* discussed points of view rather than advocate for a specific change
* were assessed against too many performance standards for individual tasks
* used explicit/inappropriate language that did not suit the audience or purpose of the text
* did not develop stylistic elements appropriate to the intended purpose and audience
* were multimodal or oral presentations that did not provide sufficient evidence of the student’s communicative ability
* created tasks where students were interviewing or asking others very simple questions that did not provide evidence of the individual student’s communicative ability

General Comments

* Teachers are asked to please ensure LAPs and task sheets are uploaded in teacher materials and are signed by the Principal or SACE Delegate.
* The Communication assessment design criteria explicitly refers to ‘coherent writing and speaking’. Student responses that did not include oral elements did not provide moderators sufficient evidence of C1 to support decisions. Scripts or notes are not adequate evidence and do not meet the requirements of the subject outline.
* Closer consideration should be given to the context for filming or recording of audio. Filming from a distance can affect audio quality/clarity.
* Teachers are encouraged to provide students with ample opportunity to meet the Analysis and Comprehension criteria in Responding to Texts tasks. Designing creative tasks that assessed Analysis and/or Comprehension did not allow students to successfully demonstrate against either criteria.

# External Assessment

Assessment Type 3: Language Study

The Language Study requires students to select a context in which language is used for a purpose with a particular audience. Students focus the study with a question or hypothesis. Students use at least two different language resources as the focus of the study. Students are required to analyse how the language used in the resources can answer the question or prove or disprove the hypothesis.

Students are required to communicate in clear and coherent writing or speaking. They should:

* use the textual conventions of the style of study they complete
* choose a format which is appropriate for the context and purpose of their study
* demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which language features are used in a variety of texts for a specific purpose
* analyse ways in which the creators of texts convey information, ideas and perspectives
* analyse the use of cultural, social or technical language in the given context
* select and use a range of language and stylistic features in the study to convey the information that answers the question.

Successful questions included (please also look at the 2022, 2021 and 2020 reports for a variety of question types):

* how did advertisements for the FIFA World Cup, encourage people to support their national team?
* how do members of a cricket club communicate during practises and a game?
* how is language (oral, written and visual) used in advertising to discourage drink driving in Australia?
* how do airlines use language and stylistic features to appeal to their target audience?
* how are specific language techniques used in selected Steve Irwin and David Attenborough documentaries to inform, entertain and engage the audience?
* how is language used by two politicians to promote a new initiative to the public?

*The more successful responses commonly:*

* demonstrated a clear understanding of purpose and audience for the context chosen
* used a specific, detailed, and explicit focus question with a clear reference to language
* used two language resources and identified them in the question or in the introduction
* used meaningful language resources which enabled them to analyse at the highest level
* provided textual evidence in the form of quotations, visual imagery, or specific examples
* used relevant metalanguage to inform their analysis for example: colloquial, metaphor, jargon
* exhibited control over grammar, spelling, and punctuation conventions
* had a clear structure, planned, drafted and edited their work and adhered to word count or time restrictions
* explored a context of personal interest
* explicitly analysed the use of social, cultural, or technical elements of language
* understood and named the context of their study and showed throughout their language study an understanding of how the language appealed to specific audiences
* considered examples and evidence which best revealed the conventions and explained the use of stylistic and language features for their intended audience
* showed how the crafting of the texts through stylistic conventions reinforced the ideas presented
* structured the study by adhering to the textual conventions of the study format chosen whether report style, multimodal or oral response
* used appropriate software to structure the study, if using PowerPoint doing so with skilful application to all required aspects
* completed an oral response which communicated with the audience using clear and coherent speaking rather than just reading to them
* were able to clearly identify the technique, provide a concise example, and explain the intended impact on the audience
* explored a range of written, spoken and non-verbal techniques

The less successful responses commonly:

* provided a recount of what the student did without analysing language use
* described an event or place rather than analysing the language used at it
* discussed the language of animals and/or inanimate objects
* provided a plot recount of texts
* described the language use rather than analysed it
* provided lists or tables of terms without analysis of their use in context
* posed a question which did not support language analysis
* did not refer to the social, cultural or technical uses of language (An2)
* used lengthy and/or irrelevant quotes or analysed the text as a whole without specific examples
* did not use the metalanguage of the text type
* compiled a literature review of a particular type of language use without personal analysis of language
* reviewed the success of the text type rather than analyse the language used
* conducted an unnecessary survey or interview
* focused on what was perceived as missing from texts, rather than what was included
* researched a topic rather than analysing texts.