

The VCE Literature Study Design has been updated for 2023

Here's what you need to know

2023 will see the introduction of numerous changes to the VCE curriculum, including significant structural changes to the VCE Literature Study Design. Don't worry— we're here to guide you through the ins and outs of the updated Study Design, so you can get the best out of your VCE studies in 2023.

As recently published by VCAA, the [VCE Literature Study Design \(2023-2027\)](#) is set to implement 2 new areas of study. Offering a broader introduction to the subject, Unit 1 now features a 2nd Outcome; *Exploring literary movements and genres*. This additional unit builds upon the foundations of Outcome 1- *Reading Practices*, which will be continued with no substantial changes from the 2016-2022 Study Design.

Exploring literary movements and genres asks teachers to select a literary movement like modernism or tragedy, or a more mainstream genre such as romance or science fiction. Students will learn to identify and explore the conventions of the given genre or movement by drawing upon common authorial choices in “language, settings, narrative structures and characterisation”. Students will dissect the prominent ideas, concerns, assumptions and representations of the genre, and produce analytical or creative responses to the set texts for assessment.

The next addition to the curriculum is Unit 2, Area of Study 1- *Voices of Country*. As the most significant content change to the 2023 Study Design, this new area of study seeks to acknowledge [“the voices, perspectives and knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors and creators”](#) as part of a diverse understanding of Australian Literature. Students will develop the skills to engage with Indigenous perspectives through literature, reflecting on representations and narratives that challenge the colonial viewpoint. Key knowledge for this Outcome includes:

- The interconnection of place and identity in Indigenous narratives
- Formats of Indigenous storytelling and language
- Indigenous perspectives on colonisation and its ongoing consequences.

The subsequent Area of Study, *Text in its context*, consolidates these skills by considering the interplay between the historical, social and cultural contexts of a text, and the representations it provides.

Voices of Country is reflected in the updated Unit 1 & 2 text selections, which previously required the study of one text by an Australian author, now requiring two— one of which must be by an Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander author. Accordingly, the [2023 VCE Literature Text List](#) has an increased proportion of texts by Indigenous Authors, such as *Winch* by Tara June (2019), and *Throat* by Ellen van Neerven (2020). This update brings depth and diversity to the traditionally Eurocentric text selections of the VCE Literature curriculum.

In the interest of continuity, Units 3 & 4 are more familiar to the 2016-2022 Study Design, with some minor changes to structure and content. Unit 3, Area of Study 1- *Adaptations and transformations* has been transitioned to the 2023 Study Design with adjustments to the assessment component of the Outcome. The marks will now be split between a close analysis task, and a piece comparing a text with an adaptation.

The 2016-2022 Study Design's Area of Study- *Creative responses to texts* has now been shifted from Unit 3 to Unit 4. In its place is *Developing interpretations*, which prompts students to consider how ["ideas, views and values are presented in a text"](#), and how they may be ["endorsed, challenged and/or marginalised through literary forms"](#). A notable change within this Outcome is the shift away from resistant reading, a technique that calls the student to resist a dominant reading by engaging with works that contrast the set text's perspective. The 2023 Study Design instead endorses supplementary reading, which builds a more nuanced understanding by consulting alternative works that enhance, reflect upon or contest the set text.

Worried about how these changes could affect your studies? At [Climb](#), our high quality and thoroughly vetted tutors are here to mentor you through every step of the 2023 VCE Literature curriculum- including up-to-date guidance on every unit of the latest Study Design. Our [process](#) pairs you with the perfect tutor for your learning style, and an evidence-based, tailored learning plan to match.

