

Hello English Literary Studies students!



Did you know you are trailblazers in the future direction of senior secondary education? That's because, in 2018, SACE Stage 2 English Literary Studies was the first subject in Australia to transition from a paper-based end-of-year exam to an online exam.

From the 2018 results, we've been able to capture some notable trends – and now that it's your turn, we have a few suggestions we want to emphasise to you for this year's electronic exam. That's mainly because being able to type your responses rather than handwrite changes things up a bit!



New features of the electronic exam system

Spellchecker is being introduced for the first time this year, in addition to the online dictionary already available. We get that using a spellchecker is an everyday part of word processing and it's how you have worked throughout the year.

A **word count range** will be specified for each question (rather than the number of paragraphs as in past exams), to provide a guide on how much to write, for example, 'approximately 400 – 600 words'.

Ultimately, you have 100 minutes to complete the exam and you can write as much as or as little as you want in this time. But because most of us can type faster than we can write, students in last year's exam often wrote at great length, providing multiple examples when one or two fully-explored and discerning arguments would have sufficed. This led to markers noting that the length of some responses was excessive last year – and that this didn't necessarily lead to a better mark.

tips

1. Markers are looking for the "use of accurate, clear, and fluent expression appropriate for purpose and audience" in your responses. For some of you, this might be done in 400 words, and others in 600 words.
2. While we suggest you stay true to your preferred writing style (be it expansive or economical), as this will bring out the best in you – keep in mind, with time saved through typing, you have a great opportunity to spend more time on planning and editing your responses.
3. Use cut and paste, drag and drop, and other editing techniques to transform your response from an unrefined draft to a more polished piece – we have also added a new **word count guide** that counts up from zero as you type to help you manage how much you've written in your response.

The next step...

Chat with your teacher to discuss how you can best prepare for the exam and refer to the SACE website for **familiarisation activities** and broader information about the electronic exam system.

www.sace.sa.edu.au/electronic-exams



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