## 9.6 Preliminary English (Standard) Course Content

### Area of Study

An Area of Study is the exploration of a concept that affects our perceptions of ourselves and our world.

**Students explore, analyse, question and articulate the ways in which perceptions of this concept are shaped in and through a variety of texts.**

Areas of Study are developed by teachers and require students to explore a concept through:

* close study of one text
* responding to and composing a wide range of related texts
* making connections among texts and the Area of Study
* synthesising aspects of a variety of texts
* presenting coherently integrated interpretations of the concept.

The number and content of Areas of Study are not prescribed in the Preliminary English (Standard) course. Teachers design Areas of Study that will, in length, content and focus, provide an appropriate language learning environment for students.

### Electives

The electives require students to explore the ways particular texts, forms, media, contexts or aspects of language shape meaning.

The electives are developed by teachers to allow for:

* their students’ needs, interests and abilities
* choice of approach
* choice of texts for study
* student–teacher negotiation of content.

## 9.9 HSC English (Standard) Course Content

### Common Content – Area of Study

An Area of Study is the exploration of a concept that affects our perceptions of ourselves and our world. Students explore, analyse, question and articulate the ways in which perceptions of this concept are shaped in and through a variety of texts.

In the Area of Study, students explore and examine relationships between language and text, and interrelationships among texts. They examine closely the individual qualities of texts while considering the texts’ relationships to the wider context of the Area of Study. They synthesise ideas to clarify meaning and develop new meanings. They take into account whether aspects such as context, purpose and register, text structure, stylistic features, grammatical features and vocabulary are appropriate to the particular text.

The Area of Study integrates the range and variety of practices students undertake in their study and use of English. It provides students with opportunities to explore, assess, analyse and experiment with:

* meaning conveyed, shaped, interpreted and reflected in and through texts
* ways texts are responded to and composed
* ways perspective may affect meaning and interpretation
* connections between and among texts
* how texts are influenced by other texts and contexts.

Students’ responses to texts are supported by their own composition of, and experimentation with, imaginative and other texts. They explore ways of representing events, experiences, ideas, values and processes, and consider the ways in which changes of form and language affect meaning.

The Area of Study and the prescribed texts will be subject to periodic evaluation and review.

Prescribed texts are:

* A range of prescribed texts for the Area of Study from which at least one must be selected. This text list will be published in an English Stage 6 support document.

In addition, students will explore texts of their own choosing relevant to the Area of Study. Students draw their chosen texts from a variety of sources, in a range of genres and media.