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09 September 2019

Emily Frawley
VATE President
Victorian Association for the Teaching of English (VATE)
1/134-136 Cambridge Street
COLLINGWOOD 3066

Dear Ms Frawley

Thank you for your letter of 28 August 2019 regarding copyright restrictions on English examinations.

We acknowledge the 2018 English and the English as an Additional Language (EAL) examinations present a problem for teachers as Section C is not available. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) generates the task for this section of the examination, owns the copyright in it, and publishing of the material is normally straightforward. The omission of the material is at the VCAA's discretion.

The VCAA publishes the past exam papers to assist teachers and students to prepare for exams and when omitting content from those published versions we carefully consider any potential impact on teachers and students. In the 2017 English and EAL examination, and in Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) English examinations from the previous Study Design, the material in Section C is available. We do not anticipate a repeat of this problem.

The English Language examination does present a challenge for both the examination setting panel and English Language teachers. Section C of the examination contains three separate essay questions with stimulus material. This stimulus material is selected on the basis of its relevance and connection to current debates and ideas associated with the essay questions. Inevitably, some of the most contemporary and thought-provoking material may be topical or even controversial. As the student is at the centre of what we do, we err on the side of providing rich stimulus material while acknowledging, in some cases, that it may not be published on our website.

The VCAA is committed to making examination material, including an extensive range of past papers and examination reports, available in a timely manner on the website but occasionally legal and other risks will dictate that some elements be omitted from published versions.

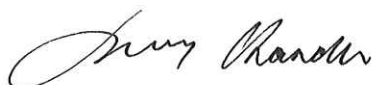
In terms of the examination reports, information, feedback and student samples are provided to assist teachers and students, and are written in good faith. Assessors try to offer advice that is broad and clear, and if confusion arises, we recommend teachers contact the English Curriculum Manager for clarification.

Student samples are selected on the basis of merit. We are aware of examples where students have referenced excised material, but as the samples represent a particular level or skill set, the assessors see their inclusion as beneficial to stakeholders.

Teachers are permitted to photocopy and scan any VCAA resources in accordance with the educational copying allowance which the VCAA provides to all educational institutions. The full policy is available on the VCAA website:
www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Footer/Pages/Copyright.aspx .

Please feel free to contact Annelise Balsamo, English Curriculum Manager, if you have any further questions about the design of the exam section or its alignment to the VCE English curriculum, or the VCAA Legal Services unit, and the VCAA Copyright Manager, for further information about the VCAA's copyright policy.

Yours sincerely



SUZY CHANDLER
Executive Director, Curriculum Division

cc: Claude Sgroi, A/Chief Executive Officer, VCAA