

VCE English, Unit 3: Introduction to Term 2 and distance learning

Welcome students!

So, this is going to be a bit different, but also wholly manageable!

Some students might find they thrive at this kind of learning. Others may find it more challenging; for those that do – talk to me, work with me, let me know how you're going, email me any time with questions, I will answer as soon as I can.

Also, I will be available each day from 12-2pm to answer calls or communicate directly with you guys either through emails or chat-based platforms. **However, there are strict duty-of-care issues that may restrict to what extent I can communicate with you via phone or video. It may be that we will need to have one of your parents in the room; or, it may be okay as I have another teacher in the house/room who can act as a witness (Zoe). I will enquire further.**

Please use this email: jkirov@lyss.vic.edu.au and please use your own school email - it is important to use school emails given our working situation. If for any reason there are issues with our emails, only then may I direct us to use different forms of communication.

As the term progresses I will try to add more functions to the website, such as a chatroom. But for now, I'm doing just what I can do get the website working by the start of term. Please – as you study by distance, if you have any ideas of how it could be made any more efficient – please let me know – you are the users, and so you will have the most relevant experiential data (i.e. you'll probably be able to help me much more than I can help myself!).

So please, be patient, and helpful where you can.

How lessons will run: I will post work in .pdf format, you must be able to access/read them.

Sometimes I will post a daily lesson's worth of work (with a bit extra for homework).

Other times I might post a few lessons/days, or even a week's worth of work at a time.

By the end of each week, your work for that week will be due. I will mark it all off on Friday afternoon. Anything completed after that day will be considered late (unless I give you work on the Thursday or Friday to complete over the weekend. But I will try not to give you too much weekend homework. Of course, if your weekly work isn't completed then it will become weekend homework for you.

I will also (try) to have an excel spreadsheet on the webpage with all of the coursework tasks (like my homework table in my diary).

How to submit work: please go to the page 'submission of work' (or something similar) that can be found from the English page on your Class 12 website. Click the upload button that corresponds to the type of file you are uploading (*sorry couldn't just have one button, the website-builder didn't have that option*).

Where possible, feel free to type your work and send it to me as a document file; or to scan your handwritten work; or to take a picture and send me (pictures are my least favourite, especially for long written work like essays).

If there are any issues with uploading your work you can email it to me jkirov@lyss.vic.edu.au if that doesn't work, I will let you know a third way if it comes to it.

Feedback: one thing we miss in this form of learning is the group feedback – being able to talk through the homework so you can see if you are on the right track. To this end, I will look at the work you submit, and will identify if certain questions are not answered fully, or if you or most of the class are not understanding something, then I will (sometimes) give you individual feedback, or (more often) post my answers to certain questions and tasks at the beginning of each following week (which is why it is important you get your homework completed by the end of the week so I have time over the weekend to read it and write some feedback and responses for you guys).

How you can help with feedback:

I highly recommend that you guys use facebook or something similar to setup a group chat, or a different group for each subject, where you can 'talk through' the work set, and work together wherever you can. If anyone isn't sure about a question, or wants to check their answer, etc. then be active in the group – post away – and help each other out.

Otherwise – keep in communication with me – let me know how it's going – what's working – what needs work – etc.

Assessment: The essay for *In Cold Blood* will be pushed back to Week 3 – maybe the Wednesday or Thursday of that week (TBC – *to be confirmed*).

One positive of this learning is that you can (and will have to) finish a SAC in one day – meaning we/you have more time to prepare, but also, after the SAC – I will give you some days off without any work (rather than taking a whole week of lessons to finish a SAC).

How this will work: You will be given your essay topic on the day of the SAC, and upon receiving the email with the topic (or it being posted online) you will have 3-3.5 hours to write the SAC (I think I will exercise the option to give you an extra 10% writing time so you have time for a break or to stretch, etc.).

I will give you more information – but I am thinking at the moment, that it will work like this: **you send me your three preferred essay topics – and on the day of the SAC – I will let you know which essay topic you will have to write on** (this is how it will work for exam students, I may make changes for non-exam students however – TBC).

You will then need to upload your SAC (see the page "Submission of Work" on the website) within the time-frame (likely to be 210 minutes).

You will also need to sign an "Authentication" form (not sure yet how that will work, it may become a digital form) in order to vow that all of the work is yours and solely yours.

Next Outcome: if we are still in isolation after ICB – then the following outcome (argument and persuasive language) will work well from home – as most of the work we can do can be found in your Insight Book – and most of the other work I already have typed up and ready to go.

Final Note:

Not sure about you guys, but I'm kinda looking forward to something a bit different this term! Everything *will* go back to normal – so learn as much as you can about the world, and yourself, in these unique circumstances, while you can. I know I am (trying to!).

And... If I've missed something, or you have any questions, shoot me through an email: jkirov@lyss.vic.edu.au

Look forward to hearing from you all =)

Jake.