



AOTE A COLLEGE NCEA Course Outline 2026



Course title:	Senior English Proficiency Studies (EPS)
NCEA level(s):	Level 3 - English Language (EL)
Course Code:	EPS300
Prerequisites	N/A

Course Overview

This Senior English Proficiency Studies (EPS) course provides targeted literacy support for students in Years 11, 12, and 13 who will benefit from additional support to strengthen their English proficiency. The course is designed primarily for migrant English Language Learners (ELLs), while also welcoming local students from all backgrounds who require further development and enrichment in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Students develop the academic literacy skills required for success in senior secondary learning and assessment. Through engaging, real-world and curriculum-linked themes, students build vocabulary depth, grammatical accuracy, text comprehension, and oral communication skills, with a strong focus on clear expression, coherence, and confidence in both written and spoken English.

The course provides structured literacy practice and supports students to prepare for the NCEA Literacy Co-requisite, while also offering assessment opportunities through NCEA English Language Unit Standards.

Assessment

Appeal

Students have the right to appeal their internal assessment grade. First, discuss the grade you received with your teacher. If you still want to appeal after that, fill out the [appeal form](#) and send it to Whaea Rowan. You have seven days from when you get your grade to appeal. Students can't change anything in their assessment during those seven days. If you do, the original grade will stay the same.

Course Endorsement

Course endorsement with **Achieved, Merit or Excellence** is not possible.

Learning Partnerships

This course includes the college's partnership with an external institution.

Resubmissions:

Resubmission may ONLY be offered to students who have gained a Not Achieved and have minor errors to correct. If successful in resubmission, students will only be able to gain a maximum grade of Achieved.

Course Outline

Module (Theme & Literacy Focus)	Content (Teaching & Learning)	Learning Tasks	Teaching Time
<p>Module 1: Journeys & Resilience – Narrative, Creative Non-Fiction & Podcast Storytelling</p>	<p>Students explore personal, fictional, and real-life journeys of change and resilience to develop narrative, descriptive, and creative non-fiction writing skills.</p> <p>Reading and discussion of journey and resilience-based texts support comprehension, critical thinking, and idea development, while oral sharing builds confidence and clarity of expression.</p> <p>Teaching focuses on narrative structure, sequencing, paragraphing, sensory detail, grammatical accuracy, spelling, and punctuation, alongside personal voice, tone, reflective writing, and narrative techniques in non-fiction.</p> <p>Students learn to research ethically and/or interview people they know, shaping real-life stories into coherent written scripts.</p> <p>Oral language skills are embedded through script rehearsal, podcast recording, and reflection, supporting clarity, confidence, and audience awareness.</p>	<p>Reading and comparative analysis of journey narratives from different cultural perspectives;</p> <p>Narrative recount of a journey (real or imagined);</p> <p>Descriptive writing focusing on sensory detail;</p> <p>Analysis of resilience-based texts (personal essays, interviews, memoir excerpts, short videos);</p> <p>Research and/or interview a person they know about a challenge they have faced;</p> <p>Planning and writing a podcast script;</p> <p>Peer feedback and editing;</p> <p>Podcast recording and submission;</p>	<p>Term 1 – Weeks 1–4</p>

Module (Theme & Literacy Focus)	Content (Teaching & Learning)	Learning Tasks	Teaching Time
<p>Module 2: Global Issues & Human Rights – Stories That Inspire Change</p>	<p>Students examine global issues, human rights, and social change through biographies and informational texts.</p> <p>Teaching focuses on summarising, comparing perspectives, recognising bias, cause-and-effect relationships, and persuasive language.</p> <p>Structured discussions support critical thinking and oral justification of ideas.</p>	<p>Biography reading and summary of an activist;</p> <p>Cause-and-effect diagram of a social movement;</p> <p>Class debate on a human rights issue;</p> <p>Persuasive essay</p>	<p>Term 1 – Weeks 5–8</p> <p>Week 9 1st Assessment Week</p>
<p>Module 3: Foundations of Literacy – Reading Strategies in Action</p>	<p>Students strengthen core academic reading strategies using real-world texts.</p> <p>Teaching focuses on skimming, scanning, inference, summarising, questioning, vocabulary development, and recognising text structures.</p> <p>Emphasis is placed on comprehension accuracy and exam-style reading tasks.</p>	<p>Article analysis (e.g. <i>The Science of Habits</i>);</p> <p>Vocabulary-building exercises;</p> <p>Timed reading comprehension tasks;</p> <p>Use of graphic organisers</p>	<p>Term 2 – Weeks 1–4</p>

Module (Theme & Literacy Focus)	Content (Teaching & Learning)	Learning Tasks	Teaching Time
Module 4: Critical Reading – Media Influence & Hidden Messages	<p>Students critically analyse visual, written, and multimedia texts, focusing on persuasive techniques, stereotypes, implied messages, credibility, and bias.</p> <p>Teaching integrates reading, viewing, discussion, and structured writing, supporting students to justify interpretations clearly.</p>	<p>Advertisement analysis;</p> <p>Comparison of film trailers;</p> <p>Analysis of social media or music video influence;</p> <p>Group discussion on media impact;</p> <p>Written critical review of a media text</p>	<p>Term 2 – Week 5 - 8</p> <p>Week 9 2nd Assessment Week</p>
Module 5: Cultural Awareness – Festivals of Light Around the World	<p>Students explore any two global cultural celebrations of light such as Diwali (India and South Asia), Hanukkah (Jewish communities worldwide), Christmas (Christian traditions), Lantern Festival / Yuanxiao Festival (China), Matariki (Aotearoa New Zealand), Ramadan and Eid (Islamic cultures)</p> <p>Teaching focuses on cultural comparison, descriptive and academic writing, oral storytelling, and research skills, while building respect for diverse perspectives.</p>	<p>Research and oral presentation on a Festival of Light;</p> <p>Storytelling circle;</p> <p>Comparative essay between two cultural celebrations;</p> <p>Creative or digital presentation</p>	<p>Term 2 – Week 10–11</p> <p>Term 3 – Week 1–2</p>

Module (Theme & Literacy Focus)	Content (Teaching & Learning)	Learning Tasks	Teaching Time
Module 6: Persuasive Writing – Campaign for Change	<p>Students develop persuasive writing and speaking skills by creating campaigns around local or global issues</p> <p>Teaching focuses on argument structure, tone, audience awareness, research skills, and supporting evidence.</p>	<p>Analysis of real advocacy campaigns;</p> <p>Persuasive letter or email writing;</p> <p>Creation of a poster or social media post;</p> <p>Group pitch presentation</p>	<p>Term 3 – Weeks 3–6</p> <p>Week 7 3rd Assessment Week</p>
Module 7: Workplace Communication – Skills for Success	<p>Students prepare for real-world workplace communication, focusing on functional and formal English.</p> <p>Teaching includes CV and cover letter writing, form completion, workplace vocabulary, and interview skills, with extensive oral practice.</p>	<p>Drafting and revising CVs;</p> <p>Completing application forms;</p> <p>Mock job interviews with feedback;</p> <p>Workplace role-play scenarios</p>	<p>Term 3 – Week 8</p> <p>Term 4 Weeks 1–2</p> <p>Weeks 3–4 4th Assessment Week</p>

Internal Assessment Timeline 2026

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Week 1	Mon 02 Feb Module 1: Journeys & Resilience – Narrative, Creative Non-Fiction & Podcast Storytelling <i>Waitangi observed 06/02</i>	Mon 20 Apr Module 3: Foundations of Literacy – Reading Strategies in Action	Mon 20 Jul	Mon 12 Oct
Week 2	Mon 9 Feb	Mon 27 Apr <i>Anzac Day Observed</i>	Mon 27 Jul	Mon 19 Oct
Week 3	Mon 16 Feb	Mon 04 May	Mon 03 Aug Module 6: Persuasive Writing – Campaign for Change	Mon 26 Oct 4th Assessment Week <i>26/10 - Labour Weekend</i>
Week 4	Mon 23 Feb <i>Sports Day 27/02</i>	Mon 11 May	Mon 10 Aug	Mon 02 Nov <i>Last day for seniors 4/11</i>
Week 5	Mon 02 Mar Module 2: Global Issues & Human Rights – Stories That Inspire Change	Mon 18 May Module 4: Critical Reading – Media Influence & Hidden Messages	Mon 17 Aug <i>21/08/2026 TOD</i>	Mon 09 Nov <i>10/11 NCEA exams begin</i>

Week 6	Mon 09 Mar	Mon 25 May 29/05 Teacher Only Day	Mon 24 Aug	Mon 16 Nov
Week 7	Mon 16 Mar	Mon 01 Jun Mon 01/06 King's Birthday	Mon 31 Aug 3rd Assessment Week Winter Tournament Week	Mon 23 Nov
Week 8	Mon 23 Mar Summer Tournament Week	Mon 08 Jun	Mon 07 Sep Module 7: Workplace Communication – Skills for Success	Mon 30 Nov NCEA Exams Finish 04/12
Week 9	Mon 30 Mar 1st Assessment Week 03/04 Good Friday	Mon 15 Jun 2nd Assessment Week	Mon 14 Sep Co-requisites 17/09 and 18/09	Mon 07 Dec
Week 10		Mon 22 Jun Module 5: Cultural Awareness – Festivals of Light Around the World	Mon 21 Sep Derived Grade Exams	Mon 14 Dec
Week11		Mon 29 Jun		