



# **English as an Additional Language or Dialect ATAR course Practical (oral) examination requirements for Western Australian candidates**

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**2021**

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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## English as an Additional Language or Dialect ATAR course Practical (oral) examination

This document provides general advice to teachers, candidates and parents about the English as an Additional Language or Dialect ATAR course Practical (oral) examination.

Where the Year 12 ATAR course has both written and practical examinations, students are required to sit for both of these examinations. Students who do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course will not have the grades for the pair of units completed in that year contribute to the calculation of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

The practical (oral) examination for the English as an Additional Language or Dialect ATAR course for Western Australian candidates will be held during the period from **Saturday, 9 October to Sunday, 17 October 2021** (weekends included) at metropolitan locations. Candidates must be available to complete their practical (oral) examination during this time. A *Personalised practical examination timetable* (Appendix 1) for each candidate will be made available from **Thursday, 9 September 2021** for schools/providers to download via SIRS and for students to download via the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's (the Authority's) [student portal](https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/) (<https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/>). Country candidates are expected to sit their practical (oral) examination via telephone or may choose to travel to the examination centre at their own cost.

For the English as an Additional Language or Dialect ATAR course examination, the weightings are:

- Written examination 75%
- Practical (oral) examination 25%

### 1. Reporting achievement

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the practical (oral) examination requirements are met and making sure candidates are adequately prepared. Teachers must ensure they are using the current syllabus. Any further advice on matters related to the syllabus or assessment will be published in the [11to12 Circular](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circular-ecircular/11to12-circulars) (<https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circular-ecircular/11to12-circulars>) on the Authority website.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the [WACE Manual](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual) (<https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual>) on the Authority website.

For all ATAR courses with a practical examination, for the pair of units, schools are required to submit to the Authority a:

- course mark out of 100 (weighted for each component)
- mark out of 100 for the written component
- mark out of 100 for the practical component
- grade for the completed pair of units.

## 2. Provisions for sickness/misadventure

Consideration may be given to candidates (except non-school candidates) who believe their performance in a practical examination may have been affected by an unexpected sickness, or unforeseen event beyond their control, close to or during the examination. Such candidates may apply for sickness/misadventure consideration. Candidates may make an application for sickness/misadventure by **4.00 pm Tuesday, 23 November 2021** using the form available in schools or from the [Applications and Order Forms page \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website.

## 3. Principles of external assessment

The marking process preserves the anonymity of candidates and their school. This requires that candidates are identified only by their Western Australian student number (WASN).

Markers apply a consistent standard to assess the candidate's performance. This requires:

- a marking key for the practical (oral) examination
- attendance at a marker training meeting prior to the commencement of marking
- trial marking of sample oral recordings to ensure a common understanding of the marking key
- the practical (oral) examination to be marked independently by two markers who then reconcile any differences between them
- the Chief Marker to ensure consistency throughout the marking by monitoring the marking process and reconciling significant differences where necessary.

## 4. Criteria for marking

Practical (oral) performance is assessed on what a candidate is able to demonstrate through each part of the interview. The *Practical (oral) marking key 2021*, published on the Authority website, identifies the assessment criteria suited to each part of the interview task and describes levels of candidate performance for each criterion. Therefore, students are advised to familiarise themselves with the marking key as preparation for their performance in the examination. For Part C of the interview, candidates are strongly advised to participate in a conversation with the marker, rather than attempt to recite a prepared response that resembles a monologue. In the interest of the candidate, such monologues will be interrupted by the marker at an appropriate point.

A numerical scale is used to assess candidate performance in the practical (oral) examination. All candidates are examined against the following criteria:

- interaction on familiar topics
- fluency and clarity (pronunciation, intonation, stress)
- linguistic resources (accuracy, appropriacy and range of grammar and lexis)
- register
- content (prepared response to visual stimulus item and focus questions)
- interaction on unseen question
- content (issue/topic discussion related to the focus and content of Unit 3)
- content (issue/topic discussion related to the focus and content of Unit 4).

## 5. Marking procedure

Each candidate's practical (oral) examination is marked independently by two markers. One marker conducts the interview while the second marker sits in the background and makes notes on the candidate's performance. An audio recording of each candidate's performance is made. The audio recordings are used to ensure comparability between markers.

## 6. Examination procedure

On the day of the practical (oral) examination, the candidate **must** bring a signed hard copy of their *Personalised practical examination timetable* to the examination/s as proof of enrolment, together with a form of photographic ID for proof of identity. An image of their *Personalised practical examination timetable* on their mobile phone will not be accepted as proof of enrolment.

If the candidate wishes to refer to a dictionary during the preparation time of the examination, they are required to provide their own. The dictionary must be an English language print dictionary. An electronic dictionary or a thesaurus is not permitted. The candidate must not refer to a dictionary during the examination interview. Notes or annotations are not permitted in the dictionary.

If a candidate is found with any unauthorised materials during the examination, they will be referred to the Breach of Examinations Rules Committee.

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies them, their school, club or achievements. Failure to do so will result in a breach of examination rules. The candidate is responsible for their personal belongings at all times.

The candidate is required to report to a supervisor at the examination centre at the scheduled reporting time. This reporting time is 20 minutes before the scheduled examination time. The scheduled examination time is the time at which the candidate begins their preparation. The practical (oral) examination includes both the preparation time and interview.

A candidate who has not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination and the examination cannot be rescheduled.

At the scheduled reporting time, the candidate reports to the registration desk with their *Personalised practical examination timetable*. The supervisor takes the candidate to a preparation room. There may be more than one candidate being supervised in the preparation room.

At the commencement of the scheduled examination time, a supervisor gives the candidate a preparation booklet and a card showing a visual stimulus item and focus questions. During the preparation time, the candidate prepares for the interview by making notes in their preparation booklet and, if they wish, by referring to their dictionary. Following the preparation time, the candidate, along with their preparation booklet and dictionary, is taken to an interview room. The visual stimulus item remains in the preparation room.

The candidate must leave the examination area once they have completed their examination, and must not have contact with candidates waiting to be examined, or teachers, or other parties who are

seeking feedback from the examination until all the examinations have concluded. Failure to do so may result in a breach of examination rules.

## 7. Breach of examination rules

An alleged breach of examination rules will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. Further information related to examination breaches can be found on the [Rules of conduct for Year 12 ATAR course examinations page \(https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations\)](https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations) on the Authority website and in Part II of the *Year 12 Information Handbook*, published in July.

A breach of one of these rules can result in cancellation of part or all of the practical raw examination mark.

## 8. Structure of the practical (oral) examination

Examination	Duration
Preparation	15 minutes
Interview	total of 10–12 minutes
Part A: Introductory discussion	approximately 2 minutes
Part B: Visual stimulus item/focus questions	approximately 3–4 minutes
Part C: Course issues/topics discussion	approximately 5–6 minutes

## 9. Conduct of the practical (oral) examination

At the commencement of the examination, the supervisor gives the candidate a preparation booklet and a card showing a colour visual stimulus item (an image and focus questions). The stimulus item and focus questions are based on generally accessible topics and issues. The candidate prepares responses for Part B (stimulus item and focus questions), by making notes in the preparation booklet provided. The candidate should not read from their notes, but use them for reference only, or as a memory prompt for the next point.

Dictionaries may be used during the preparation time, but not during the interview of the practical (oral) examination.

Following the 15 minute preparation time, the candidate is taken to the allocated interview room. The candidate leaves their stimulus item in the preparation room and takes their preparation booklet with them for use in Part B of the interview. A copy of the stimulus item is provided in the interview room.

The candidate also takes all their belongings, including dictionaries, with them to the interview room and is instructed where to place them for the duration of the interview.

At the end of Part B of the interview, the candidate must hand in the preparation booklet and the copy of the stimulus item to the marker.



## 10. Interview

### Part A: Introductory discussion (approximately 2 minutes)

After the candidate enters the interview room, the marker asks the candidate to state their WASN. The candidate reads out their WASN.

The marker begins the interview by greeting the candidate and it is expected that the candidate will respond, for example:

Marker: Hello, I am your interviewer for the EAL/D Practical (oral) examination today. Can you read me your WA student number please?

Candidate: Hello, my number is ...

Marker: Thank you. How are you?

Candidate: I'm well thanks, but a little nervous.

The marker continues the introductory discussion with questions on familiar topics related to the candidate's everyday environment, for example:

Marker: Where are you from? Which area are you from?

Marker: How long have you been studying English? How many languages do you speak? What are they? Explain when you use them.

Marker: What subjects are you studying? What is it you like learning about the most? Why?

Marker: Do you have much free time? What do you do?

The number of questions is not predetermined. The questions are aimed at settling the candidate and developing a rapport between the interviewing marker and the candidate. The candidate should interact with the marker in a conversational manner. The candidate should be aware that this is a formal situation so informal language/slang is not appropriate.

### Part B: Visual stimulus item/focus questions (approximately 3–4 minutes)

The candidate uses the stimulus item and focus questions on which they have made notes in their preparation booklet to speak for approximately three minutes. The candidate is required to provide a brief description of the stimulus item and then present their ideas related to the focus questions in a sustained utterance. The candidate can look at their notes in the preparation booklet, but must not read from them. During the remaining time of this part of the interview, the candidate responds to an unseen question related to the stimulus item and focus questions.

The marker starts Part B of the interview as follows:

Marker: You have been given an image and some focus questions to consider in your preparation time. What image number do you have?

Candidate: My image number is X.

Marker: Thank you. I'd like you to talk about these now. Start by briefly describing the image and then continue with your ideas related to the focus questions. You should try to speak for about three minutes.

Candidate: This image shows ...

If the candidate stops speaking after describing the image, the marker may prompt candidate comments on the focus questions in the following way:

Marker: Now I'd like to hear your ideas related to the focus questions.

The candidate should aim to speak for approximately three minutes. The candidate should also aim to display a flexible use of a range of linguistic structures and vocabulary during this time. The stimulus item description is not intended as a visual analysis task, and candidates are required to refer to the main features only.

The candidate is able to choose which of the focus questions they speak about; however, the candidate should attempt to address the more conceptually demanding questions.

If the candidate is unable to reach three minutes in a sustained utterance, the marker will assist them to do so by asking further questions related to the focus questions. In the remaining time, the interviewing marker asks the candidate an unseen question related to the stimulus item and focus questions.

Marker: Thank you. Now here is your unseen question ...

The candidate should respond to this in a clear and relevant manner.

The candidate may ask for the question to be repeated if necessary and it will be asked a second time. The interviewing marker will break down the level of difficulty of the question to assist candidate comprehension if necessary, but this will result in some loss of marks.

At the end of Part B, the marker thanks the candidate, takes the preparation booklet and copy of the stimulus item from the candidate, then introduces Part C.

### **Part C: Course issues/topics discussion** (approximately 5–6 minutes)

In Part C of the interview, the candidate engages in an interactive discussion with the marker.

A candidate who launches into a monologue or who recites rote-learned material will be stopped by the marker, thanked politely and asked another question to redirect the discussion and to elicit spontaneous conversation. The candidate should understand that in doing this, the marker is assisting them to maximise their performance.

The candidate is invited to nominate issues/topics specifically related to the focus and content of Unit 3 and Unit 4 for discussion. The candidate uses their responses to demonstrate their oral English language communication skills and understandings of the focus and content of each of the units. The candidate outlines and analyses specific examples from texts clearly linked to each unit focus to illustrate their skills and understandings.

Questions asked by the marker are generally open-ended and provide the candidate with the opportunity to express ideas and opinions and to give precise examples to support these from texts related to the unit focus they have studied in their course work. The candidate is advised to prepare their texts, issues and topics thoroughly to allow them to demonstrate flexibility and precision in their oral communication skills.

The marker introduces Part C of the interview as follows:

Marker: We are going to talk about your course work now. This year, you have studied various issues and topics in class that relate to the two units of the course. Please tell me about one issue or topic that you studied in one of these units and explain it to me. Why did this issue or topic interest you so much?

The marker prompts the candidate to discuss what they learned about an issue from a text or texts they have studied in one of the course units in the following way:

Marker: What texts did you read or view that explored this issue/topic?

The marker then initiates discussion of an issue or topic studied in the other unit of the course in the following way:

Marker: Thank you. Now let's move on to an issue or topic that you studied in the other unit of the course.

Candidate: Well, in our other unit on (unit focus), I learned a lot about (issue/topic). This was really interesting because (reason ...)

Marker: What texts did you read or view that explored this issue/topic?

At the end of the interview the marker concludes with the words:

Marker: Thank you, this is the end of the interview.

## 11. Key dates

Thursday, 22 July 2021	Last date for withdrawal of enrolment from ATAR courses with a practical examination component
Thursday, 9 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personalised examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS</li><li>• Students can access their personalised examination timetables via the student portal</li></ul>
Saturday, 9 October to Sunday, 17 October 2021	English as an Additional Language or Dialect Practical (oral) examination (Western Australian schools)

## Appendix 1: Personalised practical examination timetable



Government of **Western Australia**  
 School Curriculum and Standards Authority



**Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable 2021**  
**English as an Additional Language or Dialect**

WA student number: 

X	X
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X	X	X
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X	X	X
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Candidate: Sample candidate

School name: Sample school School code: XXXX

**Examination details**

Course: English as an Additional Language or Dialect

Date: Day, Date Month Year

Reporting time: 9:00 am

Examination time: 9:20 am

Venue: Sample venue  
**(Re-check on the day prior to the examination)**

Reporting location: Sample location  
 Refer to the map on the following page

**These examination details are final and no changes can be made.**

The examination will be administered observing COVID-19 safe practices.

Candidates **must not** present at the venue with COVID-19 symptoms.

Students who are unwell must complete and submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application Form*, with supporting evidence, to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority).

Candidates who have not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination. The examination cannot be rescheduled.

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies either them, their school, club or achievements. Failure to do so will result in a breach of examination rules.

Candidates are required to sign this timetable prior to the examination. This signed timetable must be shown to the supervisor, with photographic ID, when registering at the examination venue for the practical (oral) examination. Digital copies of your timetable, e.g. on a mobile telephone, are **not** permitted.

Candidates **must not** contact the venue about the examination arrangements. Any queries must be directed to the Authority on 9273 6377.

Signature .....Date .....

**Emergency contact for candidates: Phone 0434 734 248**