

National English Forum

440 Collins Street Melbourne

Friday 17 October 2008

Questions for discussion: English paper

Workshop 1: 11.00 am – 12.30 pm

1. Organisational structure

The paper describes three elements as a basis for structuring English. To what extent do you agree with each of the elements? What are the implications of this proposed structure? Could curriculum writers work productively with this structure?

2. Balance

How should the different elements be balanced?

3. The big debates

How can the national English curriculum move on from and be informed by the big debates about English?

Workshop 2: 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

4. Emphases

Building on the advice in the paper what should the emphases be for the national English curriculum across the stages of schooling?

- early years
- primary
- junior secondary
- senior secondary

Consider at what points in schooling that differentiation could occur: for example, the number and nature of courses in senior secondary.

5. Literature

How should literature be studied in subject English across the stages of schooling?

6. New technologies

How should new technologies, especially digital and online settings, be accommodated in subject English across the stages of schooling?

7. Cross-curriculum learnings

What cross-curriculum knowledge and skill areas should be taught explicitly in English?