

Media Units 3 & 4

Contents

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

Attribution: Classbasics Pty Ltd, vwx.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content has been excluded as accuracy cannot be guaranteed, and it is better to be respectful than cover the entire curriculum inaccurately.

Significant effort has been made to ensure this content is legal. Please send any areas of concern to admin@vwx.au with appropriate document/legal references so errors can be verified and changes be made.

Series contents

This series covers the complete VCE Media Units 3 & 4 course as set out in the *VCE Media Study Design*, accredited from 2024, across its five areas of study — **Narratives and their contexts**; **Research, development and experimentation**; **Pre-production planning** (Unit 3); **Media production**; and **Agency and control in the media** (Unit 4). It comprises **eight content chapters**, **three cumulative topic tests** — folded into the back of Chapters 3, 6 and 8, one for each of the course’s three graded topics — and a **practice-examination booklet of six full papers**. Each content chapter follows the same structure: concise theory in precise media language, scaffolded and unscaffolded worked examples, graded practice questions, a compact answer key, and fully-worked model responses. Because the production areas of study are examined in writing, the planning, experimentation and post-production chapters are written as examinable knowledge, not only as studio practice.

The VCE Media end-of-year examination is a single written paper of **80 marks**, sat with 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time, contributing 40 per cent of the study score. **Section A (50 marks)** presents short- and extended-written questions under three area-of-study banner headings, in fixed order — *Narratives and their contexts*, *Media production*, and *Agency and control in the media*. **Section B (30 marks)** presents two 15-mark extended responses, drawn from Unit 3 Area of Study 1 and Unit 4 Area of Study 2. Question numbering restarts in each section, several questions require the student’s own studied media narrative or own production experience, and there are **no multiple-choice questions and no formula or data sheet**. Every test and practice examination in this series is built to that architecture.

Source: Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, VCE Media Study Design (accreditation period from 2024) — <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce-curriculum/vce-study-designs/media/media>. Accurate as at July 2026.

Source: Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, VCE Media examination specifications (Version 2, March 2025), past examinations and external assessment reports — <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce/examination-specifications-past-examinations-and-examination-reports/media>. Accurate as at July 2026.

Unit 3 Area of Study 1 — Narratives and their contexts

Chapter 1 — Media narratives and media language (52 pp)

1A Story, plot and the media narrative · 1B Media codes · 1C Media conventions: form, genre and narrative conventions · 1D Constructing narratives across media forms

Chapter 2 — Audiences: engagement, consumption and reading (39 pp)

2A Audience engagement · 2B Consumption and reception · 2C Reading media narratives

Chapter 3 — Narratives in context: representations, views and values (63 pp)

3A Contexts of production · 3B Representations, views and values · 3C Audiences from different contexts · 3D Close analysis of a media narrative

Topic 1 Test — Narratives and their contexts (50 marks, 75 minutes), cumulative over Chapters 1–3 and mirroring the examination’s Section A banner and one 15-mark extended response, with fully-worked solutions, is included at the end of Chapter 3.

Unit 3 Area of Study 2 — Research, development and experimentation

Chapter 4 — Research, development and experimentation (41 pp)

4A Developing and researching production ideas · 4B Researching codes, conventions and audience engagement · 4C Experimentation and documentation

Unit 3 Area of Study 3 — Pre-production planning

Chapter 5 — Pre-production planning (59 pp)

5A Intention and audience · 5B Documenting the narrative · 5C Visual planning documents · 5D Roles, tasks and timelines

Unit 4 Area of Study 1 — Media production

Chapter 6 — Production, post-production and distribution (51 pp)

6A Production: realising the plan · 6B Post-production: refining and resolving · 6C Feedback, reflection, resolution and distribution

Topic 2 Test — Media production (50 marks, 75 minutes), cumulative over Chapters 4–6, with fully-worked solutions, is included at the end of Chapter 6. It is built entirely from Section-A-style items, because the examination's Section B is never drawn from the production areas of study.

Unit 4 Area of Study 2 — Agency and control in the media

Chapter 7 — Media influence and audience agency (90 pp)

7A The changing relationship between media and audiences · 7B Arguments and evidence about media influence · 7C Audience agency and participatory media · 7D How media is used: institutions, governments and individuals

Chapter 8 — Regulation, ethics and the law (73 pp)

8A Regulating media and audiences in Australia · 8B Issues and challenges of regulation and control · 8C Ethical and legal issues in the media

Topic 3 Test — Agency and control in the media (50 marks, 75 minutes), cumulative over Chapters 7–8 and mirroring the examination's Section A banner and one 15-mark extended response, with fully-worked solutions, is included at the end of Chapter 8.

Practice examinations

Chapter 9 — Practice Examinations (91 pp)

Six full practice examinations with fully-worked solutions, cumulative over the whole course. Each mirrors the end-of-year examination exactly: **Section A** — short- and extended-written questions totalling 50 marks under the three area-of-study banner headings; **Section B** — two 15-mark extended responses (30 marks). Total 80 marks; 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time; no multiple-choice questions and no formula or data sheet. The six papers are graded across three levels of difficulty (Examinations 1–2 introductory, 3–4 standard, 5–6 challenging), so students can build from consolidation to full examination demand. Every paper carries the live examination's furniture, including the media-narrative declaration and shared-stimulus banners, so that nothing on the day is unfamiliar.

The complete series runs to ≈ 562 pages.