

SUBSYSTEMS IN USE

The following table will give you some guidance as to the types of things you can be commenting on and analyzing when asked to refer to subsystems in your assessment.¹

Quick reminder:

Phonetics and Phonology – the study of sounds and sound patterns

Morphology and Lexicology: the study of words. Morphology – study of structure and formation; Lexicology: study of how we define a word, its meaning and etymology

Syntax: The study of phrases, clauses and sentences – how we structure these larger units of meaning.

Discourse Analysis: the study of connected sentences; looking at texts in larger chunks or as a whole

Semantics: the study of meaning; semantics is connected to the other subsystems, i.e. can't really study words (M & L) without including some discussion of meaning

Subsystem	Things to look for/comment on
Phonetics and Phonology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accent—broad, general, cultivated—and their features Pronunciation/prosodic features – stress patterns, intonation, regional or social variations (idiolect, sociolect, ethnolect) AusEng features: HRT, intrusive 'r', non-rhotic 'r', diphthongs Written text – orthographic ways that accents, dialects and varieties are presented
Morphology (structure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural notions: formation of diminutives using y/ie and o/a; infixing 'absobloodylutely', fanfu---ingtastic; formation of plurals 'youse'; blends connected to varieities 'fugly'
Lexicology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lexical choices , including: idiomatic expressions, the inclination to use diminutives arvo, brekky, avo, and contractions G'day Use of neologisms: Google as verb, Facebook as verb,
Syntax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentence types Sentence structure Absences of obligatory elements of clauses and phrases (i.e. not using determiners, not using auxiliary verbs, using uninflected verbs) Syntactic elements of varieties—for example: Teenspeak and use of words as different parts of speech to standard AusEng: e.g. 'random' as a noun, 'outcast' or 'inbox' as a verb

¹ This is not a finite list. There may be other things you come across depending on text type.

Discourse Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When considering the text as a whole; the effect of connected sentences; analyzing the discourse, eg. Commenting on how the text constructs Australian identity, • Analyzing spoken texts (transcripts)—function of features of spoken language such as discourse particles (yeah-no, like,) • Analysing discourse in terms of its lexical content, e.g. what does the use of 'inbox' and 'outcast' as verbs tell us about a speaker
Semantics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lexical choices with regards to meaning, i.e. the different connotations of words and how the words chosen contribute to meaning/function/discourse (eg from Practice SAC: the effect of using 'terrace' versus 'balcony'); slim V's skinny idioms • Changes in meaning, 'gay' etc