**SECTION C – Analysis of Language Use**

The final section of the English examination offers students the opportunity of analysing one or more pieces of written and visual material. The essential focus of this section is to demonstrate insightful analysis on the ways in which language and visual features are used to present a point of view.

The most successful responses will be able to contextualise the material and provide a strong overview, while exploring explicitly why particular words, phrases and images have been employed by the writer or speaker.

This requires adeptness at manoeuvring in and out of the material — close analysis and connecting this analysis with its broader purposes. This is best exemplified by considering the vastly different contexts of the pieces offered over recent years. One was in the form of a newsletter persuasively written by a coach to his sporting community, followed by an online journal presenting a point of view and finally a piece for a major newspaper. Thus the contention, construction, development, selection of language and persuasiveness have varied significantly.

Students should also be able to incorporate the analysis of any visual material and explore how visuals add meaning and implication to the material as a whole. Too many students in recent years have regarded visuals separately from the writing.

It is important to acknowledge and explore the intended impact of any visual material and the way in which it contributes to the persuasion of the piece as a whole.

The English examination rewards students who have worked hard throughout the VCE, developing their skills and knowledge. Those who are well prepared for their examination, understand the distinctions among the three pieces of writing, use their time wisely and respond specifically to the topics, prompts and tasks will enjoy success in English.

*Bob Hillman is a senior English teacher at Trinity Grammar School, Kew.*

Source: <http://education.theage.com.au/cmspage.php?intid=154&intversion=102>