



YEAR 12 UNIT 3 ENGLISH

SAC 1: Analysing Argument and Persuasive Language

Start time: 1:50 pm

Finish time: 3:40 pm

Total time: 110 minutes (includes reading, planning and writing)

MATERIALS:

Task Paper.

Answer booklet.

Your dictionary. You are not permitted to borrow another student's dictionary.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. You have a total of 110 minutes to complete the task.
2. Complete the task in the answer booklet provided.
3. Organise your time to read, annotate, plan and write your analysis.
4. Allow yourself sufficient time to revise, edit and proof-read your work. Use the checklist on the back page to help you.
5. Finished writing must be written in ink, not pencil. Legible and neatly edited writing is expected.
6. In addition to the details you provide in the box below, make sure you write your name at the top of page 1 in your answer booklet.
7. Submit your finished analysis inside this task paper.
8. Note: The texts appear in order of publication and not importance!

REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERTAKING THE SAC:

9. Students are warned against attempts to bring into the SAC slips of paper inserted into their dictionary, text, blazer, pencil case, etc.
10. Students are advised to avoid placing themselves in a situation where any doubt may arise as to the authenticity of their work.

Any student found cheating either during or after the SAC will forfeit his marks.

TASK:

In a coherently constructed piece of prose, analyse and compare how the use of argument and persuasive language attempt to position readers in particular ways in the print and visual media texts that present a point of view on the issue presented in the media regarding the Federal government's stimulus package.

Approximate length: 800 – 1000 words.

Student's Name: **Class: 12 EN**

Teacher's Name:

It's now about trust as much as it is about stimulus. Why the federal government must reset

By Bernard Keane

The government must do more than unveil a stimulus package — it must show investors, voters and business that it can be trusted to deal with a crisis.

Australia is now in the grip of an economic panic and we have the least trusted government in our history trying desperately to respond. Something bigger than a stimulus package is needed — the government needs to reset its entire focus in order to restore calm and convince consumers, investors and workers that it is capable of leading the country.

Stock markets aren't the real economy, by any stretch, but when the unmistakeable smell of panic starts wafting from them, it alerts citizens in the real world that something frightening is happening, something beyond a couple of dopes fighting in a supermarket over toilet paper.

The fact that the government's mates and donors in big fossil fuel companies are among the most prominent victims of the ASX panic should drive home to the government that its efforts to instil a sense of calm and control so far have come to nought.

That's partly because Morrison has used the crisis to score political points off Labor. He falsely accused Anthony Albanese of refusing briefings from the Chief Medical Officer because he wanted "selfies with sports stars". And the government was keener to distance itself from Labor's financial crisis response — during which, we were reminded, the government sent cheques to dead people — than crafting a sensible package.

This ended up creating a trap for the government itself — notice the way the backgrounding on the stimulus package has shifted. It was going to be "modest". Then "measured". The talk was of \$4-5 billion, which even then was woefully inadequate. It was going to be all directed at business and it certainly wasn't going to Newstart recipients. Today the government's media mates are saying that the package will target pensioners and Newstart recipients.

But the government is in no position to ask voters to have confidence in it after various scandals revealed outright corruption — rorted grants programs, the forged document scandal, dodgy water deals — on top of failures like the lack of bushfire recovery funds.

Will any of the money announced as part of the coronavirus stimulus package actually reach the intended recipients, or will it be siphoned off for the government's own partisan interests and to its donors?

That's why the government's response not merely needs to build confidence in the economy on the part of consumers, investors and businesses, but build confidence in itself to give the economic dimension a chance of working. In other words, it needs a fundamental reset, under the cover of the coronavirus crisis.

What would a reset look like? It could have two components — an immediate stimulus package, then an early budget.

An immediate package, which should be announced this week, should focus on bolstering spending and encouraging businesses to retain workers. The willingness of employers to hold onto workers in 2008 and 2009 was important in preventing our unemployment rate from getting too far above 6%.

A permanent, rather than temporary, lift in Newstart will ensure recipients spend all of it, bolstering demand; an accelerated depreciation tax break would also drive spending by small businesses.

That package should act as a circuit-breaker until an early budget in mid-April. That could lay out a series of broader measures that would help to bolster the economy and confidence in the government — and government itself. These could include:

- allowing unemployed people, or those in the gig economy without work, to access their superannuation;
- announce a major bond issue — in the tens of billions — to take advantage of extraordinarily low bond rates and the demand for government bonds to fund the stimulus package and establish a treasure chest for further measures, if needed;
- announce the establishment and funding of a proper federal integrity and anti-corruption body based on the NSW ICAC model, which doesn't exempt ministers or staffers from its remit and includes corrupt conduct rather than just criminal offences, and conducts hearings in public;
- announce curbs on political donations (in all forms) to a small level — say \$1000 — with political parties able to access an increased amount of public funding;
- increase funding for the Australian National Audit Office from its current level of around \$70 million a year to around \$100 million a year, to enable it to audit a much wider range of programs and expand its "effectiveness audit" function that assesses whether programs actually achieve what politicians say they're supposed to achieve;
- announce a 2050 net zero carbon target and a significantly expanded 2030 Renewable Energy Target, along with an overhaul of the sclerotic Australian Energy Market Operator, to remove major impediments to the one industry where we know business is desperate to invest — renewable energy.

That would send a strong message to voters that the government understands it has a serious integrity problem and is willing to put aside partisan self-interest in order to maximise the chances of its stimulus efforts keeping Australians in jobs.

Anything less risks letting panic continue to run rampant on stockmarkets and supermarket aisles alike.

EDITORIAL

Stimulus package to be applauded

The federal government's \$17.5 billion stimulus package in response to the economic slump caused by the coronavirus outbreak is important and welcome. This is one of the rare occasions when throwing money at a problem is the right approach. The package will deliver a \$750 windfall to pensioners and benefit recipients, as well as offering tax breaks for businesses. The measures should help carry the economy through the unfolding collapse of the tourism and education sectors, as well as the slump in the business confidence.

With \$11 billion to be spent in the next three months, the slim surplus forecast for the 2019–20 budget will be wiped out. A recession can't be ruled out either. Those "back in black" coffee mugs – prematurely paraded and promoted by the Liberal Party – will haunt Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg for some time but the Coalition also deserves credit for maintaining budget discipline in recent years amid regular and persistent calls for stimulus measures. Giving up on the promise of a surplus is the right thing to do. Thanks to this stimulus, there is a chance Australia can avoid a painful downturn and a rise in unemployment.

The Morrison government has wisely adopted many of the policies used by the Rudd government in 2008 and 2009, including direct payments to individuals. Its stimulus package is skewed more towards tax breaks for business than the Rudd model, which put more into infrastructure projects such as the insulation batts scheme and the "school halls" building program.

Mr Morrison's approach avoids a repeat of the problems associated with those projects, but it remains to be seen whether it will be as effective in stimulating the economy. It is now up to business to come to the party and actually use the tax breaks to hire more staff and invest, rather than simply pocketing the windfall. Importantly, the government says the package is scalable, which presumably means it will spend more if required.

While the dollar numbers are not as big as the economic stimulus, *The Age* is just as happy about the \$2 billion health package Mr Morrison announced on Wednesday. This money must get to the coalface of the health system within weeks, not only to save lives but also, in the medium term, to save jobs. The best way to support the economy in the medium term will be to slow the spread of the disease. Yet there is a contradiction: federal and state governments may yet have to take unpopular measures that will cost jobs in the short term in order to put Australia ahead of the curve in fighting the disease. If medical experts want something, they must get it, even if it offends powerful interests.

The government may well have to extend its travel bans to more countries-including the United States. The fact US actor Tom Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson, now in the Gold Coast, have the virus is a worrying sign, although it is not clear how they contracted it. Like fans in Europe, Australia's football fans might have to accept they will not have a normal season this year. Many students may have to stay home for long periods.

All of these measures can seem like panic before the virus spreads, but, once it does, people will be angry they were not in place sooner. There were times during the global financial crisis in 2008 when the world seemed on the brink but brave decisions avoided the worst. Mr Morrison took one of those decisions yesterday but there will be many more he needs to take in the months ahead.

Cartoonist: Spooner

