DESCRIPTION OF ELECTIVE: Exploring Transitions
In this elective, students explore and analyse a variety of texts that portray the ways in which individuals experience transitions into new phases of life and social contexts. These transitions may be challenging, confronting, exciting or transformative and may result in growth, change and a range of consequences for the individual and others. Through exploring their prescribed text and other related texts of their own choosing, students consider how transitions can result in new knowledge and ideas, shifts in attitudes and beliefs, and a deepened understanding of the self and others. Students respond to and compose a range of texts that expand our understanding of the experience of venturing into new worlds.

TEXT: EDUCATING RITA (DRAMA) by Willy Russell

RELATED TEXTS: Own choosing

TRANSITIONS (What do you know?)
Respond to the following questions. (You will need to have read Educating Rita).

What is a transition?

How will you relate your definition to your study of texts in this module?

List 5 synonyms that could be used in place of the word transition?

Read the above elective description. What do you assume will be the focus of your study of texts which explore transitions?

Write 3 paragraphs to explain the subject matter of the play Educating Rita? Don't retell the story, simply explain how the play explores transitions. Below, is an modelled response you could use to assist you.

- Shafana and Aunt Sarrinah tells the story of two Afghan Australian Muslim women from different generations and the tension that arises between them over Shafana’s decision to wear the headscarf.
- The play presents a poignant and at times humorous portrait of the relationship between a young woman and her favourite aunt. Both are articulate, clever, highly educated, motivated and devout; each in her own way is searching for security and reassurance and attempting to assert a sense of personal, cultural and spiritual identity.
- The play challenges negative attitudes towards Islam that are presented in the media and reinforced in the public imagination, particularly the stereotyped characterisation of Muslim women as voiceless, repressed and submissive.
In what ways are the characters Frank & Rita, experiencing transitions from one stage of life to another? Provide 2 examples for each character.

Are the transitions experienced by the protagonists transformative?

Which of the two characters experiences the most growth? Support your answer with examples from the text.