



Subjects offered for study in Year 11 and 12 at Boonah State High School fall into three categories – General, Applied and Vocational Education and Training (VET) Qualifications.

General syllabuses course overview

General syllabuses are developmental four-unit courses of study.

Units 1 and 2 provide foundational learning, allowing students to experience all syllabus objectives and begin engaging with the course subject matter. It is intended that Units 1 and 2 are studied as a pair. Assessment in Units 1 and 2 provides students with feedback on their progress in a course of study and contributes to the award of a QCE.

Students should complete Units 1 and 2 before starting Units 3 and 4.

Units 3 and 4 consolidate student learning. Assessment in Units 3 and 4 is summative and student results contribute to the award of a QCE and to ATAR calculations.

Assessment

Units 1 and 2 assessments

Schools decide the sequence, scope and scale of assessments for Units 1 and 2. These assessments should reflect the local context. Teachers determine the assessment program, tasks and marking guides that are used to assess student performance for Units 1 and 2.

Units 1 and 2 assessment outcomes provide feedback to students on their progress in the course of study. Schools should develop at least *two* but no more than *four* assessments for Units 1 and 2. At least *one* assessment must be completed for *each* unit.

Schools report satisfactory completion of Units 1 and 2 to the QCAA, and may choose to report levels of achievement to students and parents/carers using grades, descriptive statements or other indicators.

Units 3 and 4 assessments

Students complete a total of *four* summative assessments — three internal and one external — that count towards the overall subject result in each General subject.

Schools develop *three* internal assessments for each senior subject to reflect the requirements described in Units 3 and 4 of each General syllabus.

The three summative internal assessments need to be endorsed by the QCAA before they are used in schools. Students' results in these assessments are externally confirmed by QCAA assessors. These confirmed results from internal assessment are combined with a single result from an external assessment, which is developed and marked by the QCAA. The external assessment result for a subject contributes to a determined percentage of a students' overall subject result. For most subjects this is 25%; for Mathematics and Science subjects it is 50%.

Instrument-specific marking guides

Each syllabus provides instrument-specific marking guides (ISMGs) for summative internal assessments.

The ISMGs describe the characteristics evident in student responses and align with the identified assessment objectives. Assessment objectives are drawn from the unit objectives and are contextualised for the requirements of the assessment instrument.

Schools cannot change or modify an ISMG for use with summative internal assessment.

As part of quality teaching and learning, schools should discuss ISMGs with students to help them understand the requirements of an assessment task.

External assessment

External assessment is summative and adds valuable evidence of achievement to a student's profile. External assessment is:

- common to all schools
- administered under the same conditions at the same time and on the same day
- developed and marked by the QCAA according to a commonly applied marking scheme.

The external assessment contributes a determined percentage (see specific subject guides — assessment) to the student's overall subject result and is not privileged over summative internal assessment.

Applied syllabuses course overview

Applied syllabuses are developmental four-unit courses of study.

Units 1 and 2 of the course are designed to allow students to begin their engagement with the course content, i.e. the knowledge, understanding and skills of the subject. Course content, learning experiences and assessment increase in complexity across the four units as students develop greater independence as learners.

Units 3 and 4 consolidate student learning. Results from assessment in Applied subjects contribute to the award of a QCE and results from Units 3 and 4 may contribute as a single input to ATAR calculation.

A course of study for Applied syllabuses includes core topics and elective areas for study.

Assessment

Applied syllabuses use *four* summative internal assessments from Units 3 and 4 to determine a student's exit result. Schools should develop at least *two* but no more than *four* internal assessments for Units 1 and 2 and these assessments should provide students with opportunities to become familiar with the summative internal assessment techniques to be used for Units 3 and 4.

Applied syllabuses do not use external assessment.

Instrument-specific standards matrixes

For each assessment instrument, schools develop an instrument-specific standards matrix by selecting the syllabus standards descriptors relevant to the task and the dimension/s being assessed. The matrix is shared with students and used as a tool for making judgments about the quality of students' responses to the instrument. Schools develop assessments to allow students to demonstrate the range of standards.

Essential English and Essential Mathematics — Common internal assessment

Students complete a total of *four* summative internal assessments in Units 3 and 4 that count toward their overall subject result. Schools develop *three* of the summative internal assessments for each senior subject and the other summative assessment is a common internal assessment (CIA) developed by the QCAA.

The CIA for Essential English and Essential Mathematics is based on the learning described in Unit 3 of the respective syllabus. The CIA is:

- developed by the QCAA
- common to all schools
- delivered to schools by the QCAA
- administered flexibly in Unit 3
- administered under supervised conditions
- marked by the school according to a common marking scheme developed by the QCAA.

The CIA is not privileged over the other summative internal assessment.

Summative internal assessment — instrument-specific standards

The Essential English and Essential Mathematics syllabuses provide instrument-specific standards for the three summative internal assessments in Units 3 and 4.

The instrument-specific standards describe the characteristics evident in student responses and align with the identified assessment objectives. Assessment objectives are drawn from the unit objectives and are contextualised for the requirements of the assessment instrument.

Senior External Examinations

Senior External Examinations course overview

A Senior External Examination syllabus sets out the aims, objectives, learning experiences and assessment requirements for each of these subjects.

Results are based solely on students' demonstrated achievement in examinations. Work undertaken before an examination is not assessed.

The Senior External Examination is for:

- low candidature subjects not otherwise offered as a General subject in Queensland
- students in their final year of senior schooling who are unable to access particular subjects at their school
- adult students (people of any age not enrolled at a Queensland secondary school) to meet tertiary entrance or employment requirements
- for personal interest.

Senior External Examination results may contribute credit to the award of a QCE and contribute to ATAR calculations. For more information about the Senior External Examination, see: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/see

Assessment

The Senior External Examination consists of individual subject examinations that are held once each year in Term 4. Important dates and the examination timetable are published in the Senior Education Profile (SEP) calendar, available at: <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/sep-calendar>.

Results are based solely on students' demonstrated achievement in the examinations. Work undertaken before an examination is not assessed. Results are reported as a mark and grade of A–E. For more information about results, see the QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook, Section 10.