



To Strive is to Grow

Boonah State High School

Senior Schooling Considerations

Choosing subjects for Years 11 and 12 is very important and requires you to give full consideration in order to adequately prepare you for your future. The choices you make now will guide you towards what options are available to you at the end of Year 12.

You may choose to go straight to University or TAFE or you may choose to enter the workforce with the option of undertaking further study or training later. There are many Vocational Educational pathways including traineeships and apprenticeships open to students in their senior years of education.

It is important to choose senior subjects carefully as your decisions may affect your success at school, your feelings about school, and also your level of preparedness or eligibility for particular training or tertiary study after school. Even though there are many factors to consider, choosing your program of study can be made easier if you go about the task logically, and follow a set of planned steps.

OVERALL PLAN

As an overall plan, it is suggested that you choose subjects:

- you enjoy
- you have achieved in or feel confident of achieving good results
- that reflect your interests and abilities
- that help you reach your career and employment goals
- that will develop skills, knowledge and attitudes useful throughout your life

FIND OUT ABOUT JOB PATHWAYS

It is helpful if you have a few career ideas in mind before choosing subjects. If you are uncertain about this at present, then select subjects that will keep several career options open to you. Your Guidance Officer will be able to help you get started.

You also need to find out about the various pathways you can take to obtain qualifications you need to get a job in the areas in which you are interested. Once you know about the different pathways, you can select the most appropriate one for you.

The following resources are available online or at school and give you information about occupations and the subjects and courses needed to gain entry to these occupations:

- Australia's national career information service, called mypath: <http://www.qtac.edu.au/atar-my-path/my-path>
- The Job Guide: <http://www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au/Study-work-and-career-support/State-Info/QLD>
- Brochures from industry groups provide information on the various pathways to jobs within these industries – start with the Industry Skill Councils: <http://www.isc.org.au/>
- Queensland Government Employment & Jobs website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/jobs/>
- The Queensland Studies Authority Jobs and Careers page: <https://studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au/careers.html>
- The QTAC Guide available from your Guidance Officer, is useful for information on tertiary courses offered through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC).

- The Tertiary prerequisites book, provided by QTAC to all Year 10 students, provides information on subjects required for entry to tertiary courses offered through QTAC in the year they will begin study.
- The Queensland TAFE Handbook is available at <http://www.tafe.qld.gov.au/>

Students should remember that success in any form of study requires a high degree of commitment and hard work. Learning is a lifelong process.

FIND OUT ABOUT and INVESTIGATE EACH SUBJECT OFFERED AT SCHOOL

- Read subject descriptions and course outlines provided by your school in the subject selection handbook.
- Attend the school Subject Expo.
- Talk to Heads of Department & teachers of each subject.
- Look at books & materials used in the subject.
- Listen carefully at subject selection talks.
- Talk to students already studying the subject.

TRAPS TO AVOID

- Do not select subjects simply because someone told you that they “will help you get a better ATAR”.
- Consider other people’s opinions of the subjects but do not make your decision on these only. Check the subjects out for yourself.

Reviewing your choices

During Year 11, it is worthwhile reviewing how you are going to assess whether the choices made in Year 10 have been the right ones for you. To do this you need to consider your attitude and results. It is worth looking again at the course you have chosen. Remember, you may be able to make some subject changes at the end of each semester if needed.

There is no point in continuing on with a course of study if it is obvious that it has been incorrect or inappropriate.

For most students it is to their advantage to continue on and complete the courses they started in Year 11. For those who decide that their initial choices were incorrect, they need to consider other options. The best means of making sound alternate choices is to consult with our **Guidance Officer**.