

# Memo

Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority

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14 July 2014

Senior secondary

Number: 047/14

## Publication of Subject Area Syllabuses to replace Study Area Specifications

### Purpose

To notify schools about:

- the publication of the new Subject Area Syllabuses (SASs)
- the resources and professional development available to support the implementation of the SASs
- the requirements for the development of study plans for SASs.

### Background

Subject Area Syllabuses will replace Study Area Specifications for Authority-registered subjects.

The revision of Study Area Specifications as Subject Area Syllabuses has removed the embedded Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificates and competencies included in Approaches A and C. Subject Area Syllabuses have been modelled on and developed from Approach B of Study Area Specifications.

Authority-registered subjects contribute four credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) when successfully completed. Results in these subjects are not used in the calculation of Overall Positions (OPs) and Field Positions (FPs).

The development of the Subject Area Syllabuses has involved consultation with focus groups of teachers, school administrators and networks of critical friends, including academics. Subject Area Syllabuses have been written with teams of practicing teachers, and where appropriate academics and specialists in the fields covered by the subject.

Schools were previously advised about the development of Subject Area Syllabuses in Memo 066/13 [Senior secondary: Revision of Study Area Specifications \(SASs\)](#), 11 November, 2013.

### Information

New Subject Area Syllabuses will replace current courses of study in Authority registered subjects.

The suite of 23 Subject Area Syllabuses has been organised into two groups and the first 10 Subject Area Syllabuses are now available on the QCAA website.

## Subject Area Syllabuses

For implementation with Year 11 students in 2015	For implementation with Year 11 students in 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agricultural Practices</li><li>• Aquatic Practices</li><li>• Business Studies</li><li>• Early Childhood Studies</li><li>• Fashion</li><li>• Hospitality Practices</li><li>• Information and Communication Technology</li><li>• Recreation</li><li>• Religion and Ethics</li><li>• Social and Community Studies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building and Construction Skills</li><li>• Engineering Skills</li><li>• Furnishing Skills</li><li>• Industrial Graphics Skills</li><li>• Industrial Technology Skills</li><li>• Dance in Practice</li><li>• Drama in Practice</li><li>• Media Arts in Practice</li><li>• Multi-disciplinary Arts in Practice</li><li>• Music in Practice</li><li>• Visual Arts in Practice</li><li>• Tourism</li><li>• Science in Practice</li></ul>

The Subject Area Syllabuses:

- aligns with the structure of other QCAA syllabuses
- uses a common framework to improve the consistency across all SASs
- describes the core and elective knowledge, understanding and skills
- provides clear requirements for assessment techniques and conditions
- specifies assessment requirements for exit folios.

### Resources

Each Subject Area Syllabus will be supported by online resources including:

- a study guide
- resources including sample units of work and assessment
- study plan requirements and a study plan checklist
- a study plan template
- sample study plans
- highlighted standards.

### Professional development

The professional development to support the implementation of Subject Area Syllabuses will include:

- a series of four online videos that introduce the Subject Area Syllabus framework and the components of the syllabuses. These videos are available at: <http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/31337.html>
- a series of face-to-face workshops in QCAA districts. The schedule for workshops is available at: <http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/6776.html>.

### Study plans

Schools may begin to develop study plans from the relevant Subject Area Syllabus in all of the first group of ten subjects listed.

Schools submit study plans through the school moderator using the QCAA WPOne database.

## Subject Area Syllabuses and VET certificates and competencies

Schools may continue to offer VET certificates and competencies separate to Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) Syllabuses.

Approaches A and C as described in Study Area Specifications are no longer options for schools when Subject Area Syllabuses are introduced as Subject Area Syllabuses do not include embedded Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificates and competencies.

## What you need to do

Please:

- provide a copy of this memo to teachers of current study area specifications / new Subject Area Syllabuses (SASs) in your school.
- access the new SASs and resources on the QCAA website
- arrange for teachers who will implement the new SASs in 2015 to participate in the professional development activities available to support implementation
- submit study plans by end of Term 4, 2014.

## Finding out more

For inquiries about Subject Area Syllabuses or professional development please email [seniorcurriculum@qcaa.qld.edu.au](mailto:seniorcurriculum@qcaa.qld.edu.au) or phone Jeff Thompson on 3864 0260.

For inquiries about study plan development please email [qau@qcaa.qld.edu.au](mailto:qau@qcaa.qld.edu.au) or phone 3864 0375 and for study plan submission, please email [scu@qcaa.qld.edu.au](mailto:scu@qcaa.qld.edu.au) or phone 3864 0491.

Kathryn Tully, Acting Director, Curriculum Services