

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

4 May 2016

Senior secondary

Number: 042/16

Draft 1 of senior syllabuses released for consultation

Purpose

To notify schools and teachers that Draft 1 of the first group of senior syllabuses being redeveloped by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) are available for review and feedback through completion of an online survey.

Background

The Queensland Government has announced that a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system will be introduced for students entering Year 11 in 2018.

Features of the new system include:

- a new senior assessment model that combines school-based assessment developed and marked by teachers with external assessment developed and marked by the QCAA
- new processes to strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- a move from the existing Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

The announcement was made following the recommendations of the Review of Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance, conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research, and the results of public and stakeholder consultation.

Senior subject syllabus redevelopment

To support the introduction of a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system, the QCAA has commenced the redevelopment of senior syllabuses. Syllabus constructs have been modified to reflect the new assessment system and will include greater detail in relation to subject matter and assessment requirements. Teachers will continue to have the flexibility to develop learning experiences and assessments to suit their school contexts.

All syllabuses will be redeveloped as four unit courses, to reflect the senior Australian Curriculum subjects and allow structural alignment with other Australian educational jurisdictions. Syllabuses are being developed iteratively and will be released for public comment on three occasions throughout 2016. Feedback will be sought through completion of an online survey following each draft release.

The table below summarises the properties of the three syllabus drafts on which stakeholders will have opportunity to comment.

Draft 1	Draft 2	Draft 3
Rationale Objectives Units of work (x4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> unit description objectives subject matter Glossary of terms	Refined Draft 1 Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 school-based + 1 external techniques instrument-specific marking guides Glossary of terms	Refined Draft 2 Any further resources

Expert writing teams comprised of practicing teachers with subject discipline expertise and academics have completed Draft 1 of the first group of senior syllabuses.

Draft 1 of the redeveloped senior syllabuses includes:

- a rationale outlining the particular qualities of a subject and what the students will learn
- where relevant, the valued pedagogies and/or conceptual frameworks particular to a subject
- syllabus objectives and explanations for each
- a course of study consisting of 4 units of work (Units 1 and 2 are formative, Units 3 and 4 are summative). Each unit has a unit title and description, unit objectives and detail of subject matter
- a glossary of cognitive language that is consistent across syllabuses.

Senior subject syllabuses now available (Group 1)

Subjects		
Accounting	Essential English	Mathematical Methods
Ancient History	Essential Mathematics	Modern History
Biology	Film, Television and New Media	Music
Chemistry	French	Music Extension
Chinese	General Mathematics	Philosophy and Reason
Dance	Geography	Physics
Drama	German	Physical Education
Earth and Environmental Science	Health	Spanish
Economics	Italian	Specialist Mathematics
English	Japanese	Study of Religion
English Extension	Legal Studies	Visual Arts
English as an Additional Language	Literature	

Further releases of syllabuses will follow in Semester 2.

What you need to do

1. Bring this memo to the attention of your school community and encourage participation in the feedback survey.
2. Click on the link below to take you to the syllabus redevelopment page.

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te/redev-snr-syll/draft-1-consultation

3. Select the relevant syllabus on which you are providing feedback.

Please note: Draft 1 syllabuses are pre-publishing drafts and as such have not been edited.

4. In another window or tab, click the following link to open the survey. Please note: Although the survey will open in many browsers, there have been compatibility issues with opening ancillary documents within the survey. For this reason, we recommend you use Internet Explorer.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZPKTPBP

You will be able to view the syllabus and complete the survey in separate windows. The survey should take approximately 30 minutes.

The survey is available from 4 May to 25 May 2016.

Finding out more

For more information, please visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au and search for 'senior review'.

Alternatively, please email Jeff.Thompson@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone (07) 3864 0260.

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