

Senior Curriculum Landscape

The current situation

The Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) develops and maintains a range of syllabuses and supports a range of learning options to support schools in providing differentiated and specialised course offerings for Queensland students in the senior phase of learning.

The range of learning opportunities is reflected in the senior qualification, the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and includes senior school subjects, vocational education and training (VET), workplace and community learning, as well as university subjects undertaken while at school.

The senior syllabuses developed and maintained by the QSA are categorised as:

- Authority syllabuses which contribute to the calculation of Overall Positions (OPs) and Field Positions (FPs). The QSA currently provides 84 Authority subjects including 7 Extension subjects and 21 External subjects.
- Study Area Specifications (SASs) that are used to develop Authority-registered subjects. Results in these subjects are not used in the calculation of OPs and FPs. The QSA currently provides 17 SASs. Since 2009, the SASs no longer contain VET qualifications. In 2011, 53.7 per cent of all senior students undertake at least one SAS.
- Short course senior syllabuses are used to develop one-semester courses to meet a specific curriculum need. There are three short course senior syllabuses: Career Development, Literacy and Numeracy. Results in these subjects are not used in the calculation of OPs and FPs. Short courses each contribute one credit towards a QCE.
- Two syllabuses developed by the QSA do not contribute to the QCE: Functional English and Functional Mathematics.

In addition to these courses, QSA also supports VET courses under delegation and recognises subjects developed by schools and organisations (e.g. Australian Music Examinations Board) and individual projects undertaken by students.

The Australian Curriculum

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has the responsibility to develop senior courses in specified subjects. Courses are developed in learning areas. The term “course” is used in the same way as “subject” is used by QSA.

Currently ACARA is developing Phase 1 senior courses which includes English (4 courses), Mathematics (4 courses), Science (4 courses) and History (2 courses).

It has been proposed that Phase 2 courses will include: The Arts (5 courses), Geography (1 course) and Languages (2 courses initially – Mandarin and Italian).

Phase 3 courses are likely to include at least one course for all other subjects specified in the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* (Melbourne Declaration).

The QSA has put on hold the revision of some syllabuses that are expected to have significant alignment with Australian Curriculum courses. The Australian Curriculum is not developing extension courses.

The future

Many of the Australian Curriculum courses being developed by ACARA match current QSA syllabuses. These syllabuses will cease to be offered when the Australian Curriculum courses are introduced.

The QSA will continue to be responsible for the implementation of the senior secondary curriculum, including assessment, certification, tertiary entrance and the associated quality assurance mechanisms. The QSA will provide specifications and advice to schools to meet local assessment and certification requirements.

The QSA organises courses in nine learning areas aligned to the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (2008). The following tables list the current suite of QSA subjects and course offerings within each learning area, identify the proposed Australian Curriculum courses and note specific issues in relation to each learning area.

Alignment between learning areas and Australian Curriculum in the senior years

The following tables show:

- alignment between senior QSA-developed and supported curriculum
- the subjects that contribute to the QCE
- the subjects that contribute to OP calculations
- considerations regarding the curriculum offerings and the Australian Curriculum.


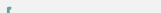

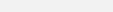

Note:

Solid arrows indicate direct alignment where the Australian Curriculum course will replace the existing QSA subject.

Dotted arrows indicate anticipated/possible alignment with the Australian Curriculum course.

Fine arrows demonstrate the relationship of an extension subject to a QSA parent subject.

English Learning Area

Queensland Certificate of Education		QSA-developed subjects	Australian Curriculum courses
Contribute to OP calculations	Authority English (2010)  English (Phase 1)  Extension English Extension (2010)  Literature (Phase 1)	English for ESL Learners Trial (2007)  English as an additional language or dialect (EALD) (Phase 1)	
	External English		
Do not contribute to OP calculations	Authority-registered (SAS) English Communication (2004)  Essential English (Phase 1)	Essential English (Phase 1)	
	Other Literacy short course (2010)		
	Courses recognised by QSA including: Recognised studies University courses		
	Functional English (2006)		
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Australian Curriculum courses English, EALD and Essential English replace the QSA subjects, English, English for ESL learners and English Communication, Australian Curriculum courses will accommodate approximately 98% of students. • If Essential English (ACARA) does not replace the QSA subject English Communication, Australian Curriculum courses will accommodate approximately 71% of students. • Approximately 27% of students who undertake English subjects study English Communication. • The existence and purpose of Functional English need to be examined, as it is a course developed by the QSA that does not contribute to the QCE. 		

Mathematics Learning Area

Queensland Certificate of Education	Contribute to OP calculations	QSA-developed subjects	Australian Curriculum courses
		Authority Mathematics A (2008)▶ Mathematics B (2008)▶ Mathematics C (2008)▶ External Mathematics A Mathematics B	General Mathematics (Phase 1) Mathematical Methods (Phase 1) Specialist Mathematics (Phase 1)
	Do not contribute to OP calculations	Authority-registered (SAS) Prevocational Mathematics (2006)▶ Other Numeracy short course (2010)	Essential Mathematics (Phase 1)
		Courses recognised by QSA including: Recognised studies University courses	
		Functional Mathematics (2006)	
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Australian Curriculum courses General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics and Essential Mathematics replace QSA subjects, Mathematics A, B and C and Prevocational Mathematics, Australian Curriculum courses will accommodate approximately 99% of students. At this stage the degree of direct alignment to the Australian Curriculum courses is unclear. Approximately 19% of all students who undertake Mathematics subjects are currently enrolled in Prevocational Mathematics. The existence and purpose of Functional Mathematics need to be examined, as it is a course developed by the QSA that does not contribute to the QCE. 		

Science Learning Area

Queensland Certificate of Education		QSA-developed subjects	Australian Curriculum courses
Contribute to OP calculations	<p>Authority</p> <p>Biology (2006) </p> <p>Chemistry (2007) </p> <p>Physics (2007) </p> <p>Earth Science (2001) </p> <p>Agricultural Science (2007)</p> <p>Marine Studies (2004)</p> <p>Multi-Strand Science (1998) <i>(final year 2011)</i></p> <p>Science 21 (2010)</p> <p>Science 21 (2007 pilot) <i>(final year 2011)</i></p> <p>External</p> <p>Biology</p> <p>Chemistry</p> <p>Physics</p>	<p>Biology (Phase 1)</p> <p>Chemistry (Phase 1)</p> <p>Physics (Phase 1)</p> <p>Earth and Environmental Science (Phase 1)</p>	
Do not contribute to OP calculations	<p>Authority-registered (SAS)</p> <p>Agriculture and Horticulture (2004)</p> <p>Marine and Aquatic Practices (2007)</p> <p>Science Trial (2008)</p> <p>Courses recognised by QSA including:</p> <p>QSA-supported VET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTE10103 Certificate I in Rural Operations • RTE20703 Certificate II in Rural Operations • MSL20109 Certificate II in Sampling and Measuring <p>Recognised Studies</p> <p>University courses</p>		
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the Australian Curriculum courses Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Earth and Environmental Science replace the similar QSA subjects, approximately 78% of students who undertake Science studies will be accommodated by the Australian Curriculum. 		

Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Area

Queensland Certificate of Education	Contribute to OP calculations	<p>QSA-developed subjects</p> <p>Authority Ancient History (2004) → Ancient History (Phase 1) Modern History (2004) → Modern History (Phase 1) Geography (2007) → Geography (Phase 2) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (2009) Futures (1998 pre-pilot) (<i>final year 2011</i>) Philosophy and Reason (2004) Political Studies (1994 pre-pilot) (<i>final year 2011</i>) Study of Religion (2008) Study of Society (2001)</p> <p>External Ancient History Modern History Philosophy and Reason Geography</p>	Australian Curriculum courses
	Do not contribute to OP calculations	<p>Authority-registered (SAS) Religion and Ethics (2004) Social and Community Studies (2007)</p> <p>Courses recognised by QSA including: Recognised studies University courses</p>	
	Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the Australian Curriculum courses Modern History, Ancient History and Geography replace the QSA subjects of the same names, Australian Curriculum courses will accommodate approximately 53% of students. 	

Arts Learning Area

		QSA-developed subjects	Australian Curriculum courses
		Queensland Certificate of Education	Contribute to OP calculations
Do not contribute to OP calculations	<p>Authority-registered (SAS) Creative Arts (2004) updated 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance Studies • Drama Studies • Multimedia Studies • Multi-Arts Studies • Music Studies • Performance Studies • Photo-imaging Studies • Visual Art Studies <p>Courses recognised by QSA including: QSA-supported VET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CUE20103 Certificate II Live Production, Theatre and Events • CUF10107 Certificate I Creative Industries • CUF20107 Certificate II Creative Industries (Media) • CUS20109 Certificate II in Music • CUV10103 Certificate I Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft • CUV20103 Certificate II Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft • CUV10203 Certificate I Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts • CUV20203 Certificate II Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts <p>Recognised studies University courses</p>		

Languages Learning Area

Queensland Certificate of Education	Contribute to OP calculations	QSA-developed subjects	Australian Curriculum courses
		<p>Authority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages (2011 trial)></p> <p>Chinese (2008) —————></p> <p> ┌—————> Chinese Extension (2010 trial)</p> <p>Indonesian (2008) —————></p> <p> ┌—————> Indonesian Extension (2009)</p> <p>Japanese (2008) —————></p> <p>Korean (2008) —————></p> <p>Vietnamese (2008) —————></p> <p>Latin (2008)</p> <p>French (2008) —————></p> <p> ┌—————> French Extension (2009)</p> <p>German (2008) —————></p> <p> ┌—————> German Extension (2009)</p> <p>Italian (2008) —————></p> <p>Modern Greek (2008)</p> <p>Spanish (2008) —————></p> <p>External</p> <p>Arabic —————></p> <p>Chinese</p> <p>Korean</p> <p>Modern Greek —————></p> <p>Polish</p> <p>Russian</p> <p>Spanish</p> <p>Vietnamese</p>	<p>Australian Languages (Phase 2: Stage 1)</p> <p>Chinese (Phase 2: Stage 1)</p> <p>Indonesian (Phase 2: Stage 2)</p> <p>Japanese (Phase 2: Stage 2)</p> <p>Korean (Phase 2: Stage 2)</p> <p>Vietnamese (Phase 2: Stage 3)</p> <p>French (Phase 2: Stage 2)</p> <p>German (Phase 2: Stage 2)</p> <p>Italian (Phase 2: Stage 1)</p> <p>Spanish (Phase 2: Stage 2)</p> <p>Arabic (Phase 2: Stage 3)</p> <p>Modern Greek (Phase 2: Stage 3)</p>
Considerations	<p>The Australian Curriculum: Languages proposes three course types to address the needs of different language learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L2 or second language learners who are introduced to a language at school (referred to in Queensland as continuers) • HL or home language learners who learn the language at home (referred to in Queensland as Heritage learners) • L1 or first language learners who have undertaken primary socialisation and initial literacy in that language (referred to in Queensland as background speakers). 		

Health and Physical Education Learning Area

Queensland Certificate of Education	Contribute to OP calculations	QSA-developed subjects	Australian Curriculum courses
	Do not contribute to OP calculations	Authority Health Education (2010) Home Economics (2010) Hospitality Studies (2009) Physical Education (2010)	Unknown (Phase 3)
		Authority-registered (SAS) Early Childhood (2007) Hospitality (2006) updated 2010 Recreation (2004) updated 2008	
Courses recognised by QSA including: QSA-supported VET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIT10207 Certificate I in Hospitality • Hospitality (2009) syllabus • SIT10207 Certificate I in Hospitality • SRC10206 Certificate I in Community Recreation • SRO20206 Certificate II in Community Recreation Recognised studies University courses			

Business and Economics Learning Area

Queensland Certificate of Education		QSA-developed subjects	Australian Curriculum courses
Contribute to OP calculations	<p>Authority Economics (2010)→ Business Communication and Technologies (2008)→ Business Organisation and Management (2007)→ Accounting (2010) Legal Studies (2007) Tourism (2008 pilot) (<i>final year 2011</i>)</p> <p>External Accounting Legal Studies</p>	Economics (Phase 3) Business (Phase 3) Civic and citizenship (Phase 3)	
Do not contribute to OP calculations	<p>Authority-registered (SAS) Business (2006) Tourism (2006) updated 2010</p> <p>Courses recognised by QSA including: QSA-supported VET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSB10107 Certificate I in Business • BSB20107 Certificate II in Business • Business Communication and Technologies (2008) syllabus • SIT20107 Certificate II in Tourism <p>Recognised studies University courses</p>		

Information and Communication Technology and Design and Technology Area

Queensland Certificate of Education	Contribute to OP calculations	QSA-developed subjects	Australian Curriculum courses
	Do not contribute to OP calculations	<p>Authority Aerospace Studies (2008 pilot) Engineering Technology (2010) Graphics (2007)→ Technology Studies (2007)→ Information Processing & Technology (2010)→ Information Technology Systems (2006).....→</p> <p>Authority-registered (SAS) Information & Communications Technology (2004) updated 2009 Manufacturing (2006) updated 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aeroskills Studies • Automotive Studies • Building & Construction Studies • Engineering Studies • Furnishing Studies • Industrial Graphics • Plastics Studies • Industrial Technology Studies <p>Courses recognised by QSA including: QSA supported VET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICA10105 Certificate I in Information Technology • ICA20105 Certificate II in Information Technology • CPC10108 Certificate I in Construction • LMF10108 Certificate I in Furnishing • MEM10105 Certificate I in Manufacturing (Pathways) • MSA20208 Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology 	<p>Possible courses</p> <p>Design and Technology (Phase 3)</p> <p>Information and Communications Technologies (Phase 3)</p>