

Australian Curriculum: Standards elaborations

Transcript of video

Transcript of video 1 of 4

This video is available from www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/31525.html

Using the standards elaborations to assist in developing an assessment program

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A planned assessment program will:

- guide and support targeted teaching and learning
- ensure students have opportunities to demonstrate the depth and breadth of their learning in all aspects of the achievement standard
- provide regular feedback to students about how they can improve their learning
- clarify future teaching and learning needs
- ensure teachers have sufficient evidence of learning to make defensible, on balance judgments about the quality of students' work against the standard.

Claire Reynish

Somerville House

So in this Year 3 assessment program, all the assessments over the year are aligned to what is taught and the achievement standard. So what we need to do is look at the standard elaborations and use them to develop an assessment program.

Sally Brunello

Somerville House

Alright, so there's two ways we can do this. We could look vertically, up and down, against the — and check their understandings and skills against the descriptors, or we can look horizontally across the rows, just to ensure that the students are given an opportunity to demonstrate a full range of performance.

Claire Reynish

Somerville House

Okay, so looking at the assessment. Assessment one is a formative test which just allows us to see what current knowledge they have, so we can move forward from there. It covers all the science understanding valued features and the first science as a human endeavour statement, so that's just shown down here. It also covers all of the science enquiry skills, besides questioning and predicting.

Sally Brunello

Somerville House

Great. What about assessment two?

Claire Reynish

Somerville House

Assessment two is more of a summative assessment, it's a collection of work with some science journal entries, predictions, observations, things like that, and that allows us to cover science understanding, processing and analysing data and information, and also parts of communicating.

Sally Brunello Somerville House	Fantastic
Claire Reynish Somerville House	Finally, in Term 4 we've got our investigation and written report, as well as a supervised assessment which will really give us an idea of their scientific understandings.
Sally Brunello Somerville House	So looking over here at the highlighting that we've got, there's an excellent coverage of the valued features, there's multiple opportunities for the students to show us their knowledge, what they can do and their skills.
Sally Brunello Somerville House	The first item is a collection of work?
Claire Reynish Somerville House	That's right. So with that, it certainly allows for the opportunity for students to demonstrate the full range of qualities in their work. For example, in questioning and researching, from the obvious question at the E through to logical and interrelated questions at the A.
Sally Brunello Somerville House	The second item is a research response, so as well as addressing knowledge and understanding, we're looking at questioning and researching, analysing and interpreting and communicating.
Claire Reynish Somerville House	Great. I think this will allow us to see their achievement all the way up to the A level.
Sally Brunello Somerville House	Absolutely.
Claire Reynish Somerville House	The other aspect of the assessment program that's important, is to ensure that there's a range and balance of assessment categories.
Sally Brunello Somerville House	There aren't any mandated types of assessment, but I can see on QSA website some Queensland advice and guidelines about assessment techniques, formats, categories and conditions.
Claire Reynish Somerville House	Looking at these assessment plans, it's clear that we've got a good range of balance of assessments.
Sally Brunello Somerville House	We've got a range of research tasks, collection of work and supervised assessment as well, and it's seen in science and in the history.
Claire Reynish Somerville House	Yeah, I think it's great that we have the common assessment techniques happening. I'm very confident in saying that these assessment programs ensure that students have opportunities to demonstrate the depth and the breadth of their learning in all aspects of the achievement standard.
Sally Brunello Somerville House	I also think that teachers have sufficient evidence of learning to make a defensible and on-balance judgment of the quality of the student's work against the standards.

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An assessment program needs to be aligned to what is taught. Teachers identify the content and aspects of the achievement standard that will be the focus of the assessment. They identify the targeted valued features of the learning area to be assessed. The Queensland standard elaborations can be used for this. The standards elaborations can be used to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate how well they have achieved.