

Calculating General subject results in 2020

Information for schools, students and parents/carers

On 26 March 2020, the QCAA decided to reduce the number of internal assessments from three to two to relieve the pressure on senior students during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the procedures for calculating final subject results in General subjects for 2020 need to be revised.

The QCAA Board has finalised a robust approach that will ensure fair assessment outcomes for students undertaking General subjects. Its work was guided by the following underpinning principles:

- a student should not be advantaged or disadvantaged by the combination of internal assessments they completed
- the selected method will be internationally recognised, with a proven track record in delivering fair and accurate outcomes in national and international assessment programs
- final subject results will accurately reflect the achievements of students and enable the calculation of tertiary entrance ranks
- the intent of the new system and syllabus construct will be maintained, in particular the contribution of internal and external assessment results will remain the same for each General subject, with no scaling of internal assessment results by the external assessment
- the combination of internal assessments completed by students should not prevent them from obtaining the highest possible final internal assessment score
- the fairness of the procedure will take a higher priority than simplicity of the procedure where such a decision must be made
- the procedure will be transparent to maintain credibility with students and their parents, schools and stakeholders
- the process is designed for these exceptional circumstances in 2020.

Key messages

- QCAA's revised procedures will ensure final subject results accurately reflect student achievement and enable the impartial calculation of tertiary entrance ranks.
- For General mathematics and science subjects
 - the two internal assessments will still contribute 50% to the final subject result
 - the external assessment will still contribute 50% to the final subject result.
- For all other General subjects
 - the two internal assessments will still contribute 75% to the final subject result
 - the external assessment will still contribute 25% to the final subject result.
- The total internal assessment result for each student will be added to their external assessment result to arrive at their final subject result.
- All students will receive a fair subject result regardless of the combination of internal assessments they have completed.

Updated FAQs can be accessed via the QCAA website. Additional resources will be available early next term to further explain the subject result calculation method for 2020.