

# Publication of the new Cognitive verb framework

## Purpose

To announce the publication of the new Cognitive verb framework for use with the:

- 2024 Applied syllabuses
- 2025 General, Applied (Essential), and Short Course syllabuses
- 2026 General Extension syllabuses.

## Background

The new Cognitive verb framework strengthens the relationship between cognitive verbs (found within syllabuses) and the mental operations they represent.

Understanding the relationship between the cognitive verb and the mental operation it represents helps:

- teachers to plan and assess
- students to consciously identify and use the subject-specific techniques or processes related to the cognitive verb
- students understand how to respond to tasks.

The Cognitive verb framework strengthens this relationship by providing a framework, rather than a definition, for each cognitive verb.

The framework focuses on stating the purpose of the mental operation represented by the cognitive verb. In this way, the framework supports teachers and students to intentionally and explicitly identify the:

- reasons for, or purposes or outcomes of, performing the mental operations
- subject-specific techniques or processes used to perform each mental operation.

The new Cognitive verb framework improves on the 2018 Glossary of cognitive verbs. It does this by focusing on the educational value of applying cognitive verbs within the context of a syllabus. The 2018 Glossary of cognitive verbs focused on providing standard English dictionary definitions. From 31 December 2025, teachers and students are encouraged to use the new Cognitive verb framework instead of the 2018 Glossary of cognitive verbs.

# Information

The Cognitive verb framework can be accessed:

- on the [QCAA website](#)
- by following the hyperlink provided in the Glossary section of each syllabus.

A Cognitive verb framework factsheet is also available on the [QCAA website](#).

## What you need to do

Familiarise yourself with the new Cognitive verb framework and the information provided in the associated factsheet.

Please communicate the content of this memo to all relevant staff and students.

## Finding out more

For general information about the Cognitive verb framework, please email the Senior Curriculum Unit at [scu@qcaa.qld.edu.au](mailto:scu@qcaa.qld.edu.au).

For subject-specific information about the use of cognitive verbs within a syllabus, please email the relevant [Learning Area unit](#).

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