

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

29 May 2026

Senior secondary

Number: 029/26

2026 external assessment timetable now available

Purpose

To notify schools and school communities that the 2026 external assessment timetable is now available.

Background

External assessments are held annually in Term 4 for General and General (Extension) subjects. They are:

- common to all schools
- administered under the same conditions, at the same time and on the same day
- developed and marked by the QCAA according to a commonly applied marking guide.

Students' final results for General and General (Extension) subjects are based on their achievement in three internal assessments and their external assessment.

Information

Reminder about syllabus changes

2026 is the first time external assessments will be based on the revised 2025 and 2026 General and General (Extension) syllabuses, including alternative sequence resources (AS).

Schools should ensure all teaching, learning and assessment plans and practices are aligned with the requirements of the 2025 and 2026 syllabuses.

External assessment timetable

The 2026 external assessment timetable for General and General (Extension) subjects is now available at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/assessment/external-assessment/timetable.

It has been designed to:

- minimise clashes for students across the external assessment period. Where there is a clash within a morning or afternoon session, students will be allocated to the alternative session on the same day
- ensure most students sit no more than two external assessments on one day

- provide sufficient breaks between external assessments for popular courses and frequently combined courses
- enable all external assessments to be marked in time for students to receive their final Year 12 results
- show the prescribed texts for English, English as an Additional Language and Literature, and the topics to be assessed for Ancient History and Modern History. Schools registered their choices in April 2026 (see memos [012/26](#) and [013/26](#)).

The timetable will be updated in Term 3 to include Senior External Examinations (SEEs). SEEs are 100% external examinations that are different from the mainstream General subjects.

Finding out more

For questions about the timetable, please email externalassessment@qcaa.qld.edu.au and include the word 'timetable' in the subject line of your email.

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