

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

10 August 2026

Senior secondary

Number: 039/26

Rehearsing use of digital stimulus in external assessment

Purpose

To advise schools to rehearse external assessment processes between **10 August** and **18 September 2026** for QCAA subjects requiring digital stimulus.

Subjects requiring digital stimulus

The following subjects have digital stimulus that need to be accessed during the relevant external assessment.

	General and Alternative Sequence (AS)	Senior External Examination (SEE)
Languages (General and SEE only)	• Chinese • French • German • Italian • Japanese • Spanish	• Chinese SEE • Indonesian SEE • Korean SEE • Vietnamese SEE
		CCAFL SEE • Arabic SEE • Modern Greek SEE • Polish SEE • Punjabi SEE • Russian SEE • Sinhala SEE • Tamil SEE
The Arts	• Dance • Drama • Drama AS • Film, Television & New Media • Music • Music AS • Music Extension	

The rehearsal provides staff and students with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with processes to maintain the security of stimulus files and other processes (including contingency processes) that support the use of digital stimulus in external assessment. The rehearsal is a critical opportunity for schools to resolve any logistical or technical issues that may arise.

The QCAA provides two methods of accessing the digital stimulus in these subjects:

- downloading the encrypted stimulus file from the fileShare application (app) in the QCAA Portal
- decrypting the encrypted stimulus file on a USB flash drive sent with the external assessment documents.

Schools determine the most appropriate method to use for their students to access the digital stimulus. They do not need to notify the QCAA of their choice.

The method and device students use in the digital rehearsal session should be the same as the ones they use in the external assessment session.

It is recommended that external assessment coordinators (EA coordinators) familiarise themselves with both methods so they can support students if a backup method is needed.

Depending on the subject, stimulus may include audio (MP3) and audiovisual (MP4) files. Students should be given the opportunity to rehearse with the file types relevant to the subjects they are undertaking.

For students studying SEE Language syllabuses from other jurisdictions, the provided stimulus will be made available from the fileShare app as MP3 files. Therefore, it is important that schools offering these subjects engage in the rehearsal process to familiarise themselves with the processes that support the use of digital stimulus in external assessment.

Rehearsal file availability

The QCAA provides digital rehearsal files for schools to prepare for assessments with digital stimulus. Files will be available from **7 August 2026** and are accessible from the following locations:

- QCAA Portal Noticeboard: rehearsal information for USB and fileShare
- fileShare app: rehearsal files for subject-specific digital stimulus.

What you need to do

For Languages and The Arts, EA coordinators must:

- access the QCAA Portal Noticeboard to download the *Digital stimulus handbook (USB)* and/or *Digital stimulus handbook (fileShare)* documents
- access the QCAA fileShare app to download the subject-specific digital stimulus rehearsal file
- conduct a rehearsal between **10 August** and **18 September 2026** to
 - plan the logistics of the use of digital stimulus in external assessment, including allocating supervisors to assessment sessions
 - practise the school's procedures for distributing assessment-related files in external assessment, including backup processes
 - familiarise students and staff with the process of decrypting and accessing files
 - ensure that school and student devices are compatible for use in external assessment
- evaluate the rehearsal and resolve any issues that arise.

Finding out more

For subject-specific information about Languages, email EnglishandLanguages@qcaa.qld.edu.au.

For subject-specific information about The Arts, email TheArts@qcaa.qld.edu.au.

For logistical information, email externalassessment@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone 1300 239 227.

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