

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

11 August 2026

Senior secondary

Number: 040/26

2026 external assessment marking opportunities

Purpose

- To notify teachers, schools and other eligible applicants (OEAs) that the QCAA is recruiting markers, lead markers and chief markers for the 2026 external assessment marking operation.
- To remind 2025 markers, lead markers and chief markers about the process for reapplying, as marker roles are annual appointments.
- To inform principals about changes to the authorisation process for QCAA assessors.

Background

The 2026 external assessment timetable has been released on the QCAA website:

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/assessment/external-assessment/timetable.

The QCAA employs and trains practising Queensland teachers and OEAs (e.g. retired teachers, academics, teachers from other jurisdictions) to mark external assessment for General, General (Extension) and General (Senior External Examination (SEE)) syllabuses using an online marking platform.

The three QCAA assessor (external assessment marking) roles are:

- marker
- lead marker
- chief marker.

These roles provide opportunities for markers to:

- gain practical insight into assessment in the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system
- increase understanding of good assessment design and making judgments about student work
- gain CPD points for Queensland College of Teachers registration renewal
- network with other professionals
- share expertise with their school and colleagues
- earn extra income.

Marking roles are annual appointments, and past markers must reapply.

Information

The appointment process for markers, lead markers and chief markers is changing. This year, there will be two mechanisms for applications:

- invitation for 2025 returning markers
- vacancy for past markers or new markers.

Invitation for 2025 returning markers

In early July, returning markers from the 2025 external assessment marking operation were sent an invitation to apply for the 2026 external assessment marking operation.

The initial invitation was sent via the Assessor Jobs application (app). The QCAA also emailed 2025 markers with instructions for completing their application.

The invitation streamlines the application process but does not guarantee an appointment to a role.

2025 markers can apply through the vacancy process if they miss the three-week invitation window.

Vacancy for past markers or new markers

New markers and markers from previous years will use the vacancy to apply.

The vacancy opened in late July and can be accessed via the Assessor Jobs app.

Vacancy applications will close in late August.

Principal authorisation process

The QCAA is changing the principal authorisation process for assessors.

Authorisation will now be ongoing and linked to an assessor's school employment, meaning principals no longer need to authorise assessors for each event.

When 2025 markers respond to the invitation to apply for the 2026 external assessment marking operation, the new principal authorisation process will be triggered. After this, authorisation will not be required until a change is made to your school employment details.

Principals can change their authorisation at any time via the Assessor Jobs app.

Details about the new process were emailed to principals on 11 June 2026.

What you need to do

- Encourage teachers and past markers to apply via the vacancy.
- Note the changes to the principal authorisation process in the Assessor Jobs app.

Finding out more

For more information, visit the [Marking external assessment](#) page on the QCAA website.

Alternatively, email externalassessment@qcaa.qld.edu.au.

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