Approved access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA)

2022–2025

The QCAA recognises that a student's participation in assessment may be adversely affected by disability, medical conditions, or other circumstances outside of their control. Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA) are designed to assist these students.

This document outlines the approved AARA 2022–2025.

Types of AARA

Schools report or apply for AARA as needed for Applied, Applied (Essential), General, General (Extension), General (Senior External Examination) subjects and Short Courses.

Principal-reported AARA are authorised by a school principal (or their delegate) for an eligible student.

QCAA-approved AARA are granted following consideration of a school's AARA application and supporting documentation submitted via the QCAA Portal.

See the QCAA website for more information about the types of AARA.

Internal and external assessment

In the QCE system, students' results for General and General (Extension) subjects are based on their achievement in three internal assessments and one external assessment that is:

- 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 scheme.

When AARA are used

See Section 6.1 of the QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook for information about principles that inform AARA decisions.

Eligibility

See Section 6.2 of the QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook for information about AARA eligibility.

AARA for external assessment tasks 2022–2025

1. QCAA-approved AARA for external assessment tasks include extra time, rest breaks, alternative format papers, assistance, assistive technology, use of a computer, reader and/or scribe.

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of students in the academic year with QCAA-approved AARA for external assessment tasks (examinations)	3,600	4,107	4,607	5,056
Percentage of students in the academic year with QCAA-approved AARA for external assessment tasks	9%	10%	11%	12%

2. Schools submit applications for QCAA-approved AARA, with supporting documentation.

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Schools with AARA applications for external assessment tasks in the academic year	385	385	401	407
Schools with students enrolled in subjects with external assessment in the academic year	457	455	464	469
Percentage of schools in the academic year with students enrolled in subjects with external assessment that submitted AARA applications	84%	85%	86%	87%

3. Breakdown of students in the academic year with QCAA-approved AARA for external assessment tasks by arrangement type. Individual students may have multiple arrangements approved.

QCAA-approved arrangements	Number of students			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Alternative format papers	86	126	181	163
Assistance	347	438	561	530
Assistive technology, including use of a computer	1,256	1,437	1,748	1,864
Extra time	3,294	3,816	4,288	4,781
Reader	190	206	250	262
Rest breaks	1,616	1,977	2,313	2,513
Scribe	115	119	143	180

4. Extra time and rest breaks are approved as a fixed time, e.g. 5 minutes per half hour. Some students with additional demonstrated functional need, such as braille use, may be granted additional time at a higher rate. The percentage of approved time (minutes) in the academic year that were used, as reported by schools, is shown below.

Extra time and rest breaks		2022	2023	2024	2025
Extra time	Percentage of approved minutes that were used	40%	39%	38%	40%
Rest breaks	Percentage of approved minutes that were used	11%	10%	10%	9%

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