

Sample external assessments

Information for parents and students

The introduction of subject-specific external assessment is one of the key features of the new QCE system.

Starting in 2020, students completing General subjects will sit external assessments developed and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA). Students in each subject will sit external assessment at the same time in schools across Queensland. Most students will complete external assessment when they are in Year 12.

External assessment will contribute 25% to a student's final subject result in most subjects. In mathematics and science subjects it will generally contribute 50%.

The first external assessments will run from Monday 26 October to Tuesday 17 November 2020. The timetable will be released early in Term 1, 2020.

Senior syllabuses

Schools will prepare students for external assessment by teaching the subject matter in the syllabus. Depending on the subject, external assessment will assess subject matter from either Unit 4 or Units 3 and 4 of the syllabus.

Sample papers

To help schools prepare students for external assessment, the QCAA has developed sample papers for more than 50 subjects. The papers:

- allow schools and their communities to understand how syllabus objectives and subject matter will be assessed
- ensure students and parents have an opportunity to see a sample external assessment prior to students sitting external assessment in 2020
- give schools the opportunity to administer some, or all, of the sample assessments as practice tests in 2020, after students have completed the relevant subject matter.

Schools can use the sample papers to:

- revise and test subject knowledge
- familiarise students with the language of external assessment, the types of questions that might be asked, and the expected length of responses
- enable students to experience external assessment conditions and practise relevant skills
- build students' confidence in understanding the requirements of an external assessment.

Marking guides and solutions for sample external assessments are available in the QCAA Portal for teachers to use with students.

More information

For more information about external assessment for each subject, see the syllabuses at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/senior-subjects.