

The new QCE system

Design and development strategy



The new QCE system: Design and development strategy
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A strong foundation for a changing world

The introduction of the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system is the most significant change to senior curriculum and assessment in Queensland since the early 1970s. The new system responds to the recommendations of the Queensland Review of Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance, conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), and reflects the Queensland Government position on senior curriculum and assessment.

The QCAA is developing a robust set of integrated resources, processes and procedures that enable valid and reliable assessment. The broader purpose is to prepare young people for the exciting work, training and further learning opportunities emerging in the 21st century. The system is underpinned by:

- new and redeveloped syllabuses
- processes that strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- external assessment in General subjects.

This document highlights how QCAA is leading the change and working hand in hand with our education partners to ensure they are an integral part of the change process. Our values of trust, partnership, service and innovation underpin these partnerships. We share a common goal: to design, develop and implement a world class curriculum, learning and assessment system.

What is the QCE?

The QCE is an internationally recognised senior schooling qualification. For a Queensland Year 12 graduate, receiving a QCE signifies academic and personal achievement. To be awarded a QCE, a student must complete a significant amount of learning, to a set standard and in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements.

The new QCE system will continue to offer students flexibility in what they learn, and when and where learning occurs. Students will have a wide range of learning options including General and Applied subjects, vocational education and training, workplace and community learning, as well as university subjects undertaken while at school.

Key terms

School-based assessment

School-based assessment encompasses formative and summative assessment designed by teachers and undertaken by students in the classroom.

Internal assessment

Summative assessment prescribed in the syllabus and designed and implemented by teachers in the classroom.

External assessment

Summative assessment designed and marked by the QCAA. External assessment will be the same for all students in schools within each subject.

Endorsement

A process of quality assurance managed by the QCAA to ensure an internal assessment instrument is valid and fair prior to implementation by a school.

Confirmation

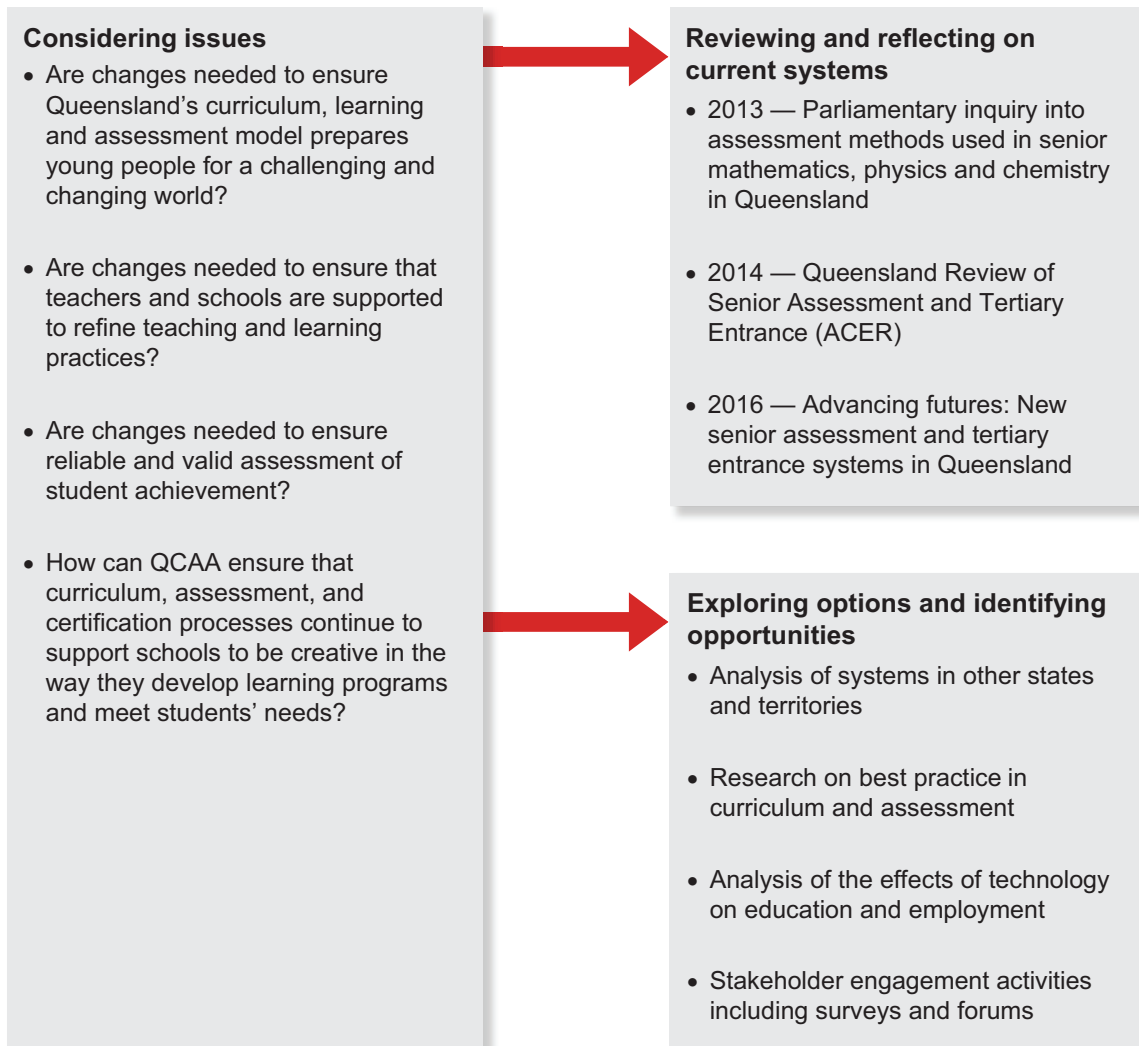
QCAA trained assessors quality assure school judgments on student marks for each internal assessment instrument.

Ratification

A process of combining student results in internal and external assessments to determine a final subject result.

A strategic approach to change

The diagram below shows that conceptualising and delivering the new QCE system is a staged process that involves identifying objectives, designing strategies and completing actions prior to implementation. The stages are notionally chronological.



Advancing futures

The Queensland Government's Advancing futures position paper describes a new senior assessment system that:

- builds on the strengths of Queensland's current school-based assessment approach
- supports and promotes high-quality assessment practices
- reduces the number of summative assessments to create more time for teaching and learning
- culminates in certification that is internationally recognised as providing an excellent preparation for life and study beyond school.

Defining new processes and procedures

- Identify stakeholders and their needs, and anticipate the effect of changes
- Engage stakeholders in the development and change process
- Define the objectives and short, medium and long term goals
- Define QCAA role and responsibilities
- Define the type and scope of changes

Designing and developing the new QCE system

- QCAA works in partnership with stakeholders
- Schools and other stakeholders contribute to design and development processes
- Engagement activities including school leader forums and curriculum leader events
- Consultation on syllabus development
- Trials and tests of new processes including external assessment, endorsement, confirmation and accreditation
- Schooling sectors prepare their schools for change.

Completing the new QCE system: 2017–18

The QCAA will finalise the designing and developing stage in 2017 and 2018 to ensure that the integrated processes and procedures of the new QCE system are in place prior to implementation. The focus will be on delivery and implementation in 2019 and 2020.

Our objectives

- To lead and support schools to prepare for the new QCE system
- To develop the human and technological resources to support and operate the new QCE system

How will these objectives be achieved?

- Providing school communities with opportunities to develop a strong conceptual and operational understanding of the new QCE system
- Supporting principals and schooling sectors to lead change
- Preparing curriculum and assessment leaders to use syllabuses and design quality assessment instruments
- Integrating and aligning QCAA operations to promote innovation and accountability
- Building on the assessment knowledge, experience and skills of district and state review panellists

What resources and training will support these activities?

- new and redeveloped syllabuses
- syllabus orientation modules
- statewide professional development workshops for syllabuses
- syllabus guides and information sheets
- policy and procedures handbook
- forums, conferences and other events
- webpages, newsletters and face-to-face briefings
- online training materials to enhance assessment literacy
- online application to facilitate Endorsement of assessment instruments
- online application to support Confirmation of student marks
- guides and resources to support quality assurance
- recruitment and training strategy for QCAA assessors
- training and professional development for QCAA employees, contractors and assessors
- implementation timelines and schedules

Measuring success

By the start of 2019:

- teachers will have a strong conceptual and operational understanding of senior curriculum and assessment processes, and improved capacity to design high quality assessment
- school sectors, principals and school leaders will be supported to lead change
- schools will use curriculum and assessment resources to design teaching and learning that addresses the needs of young people
- QCAA — through data, resources and information — will support schools to meet the requirements of the new QCE system.

After the new QCE system is implemented in schools:

- students will have access to flexible learning pathways that respond to the dynamic world of work and learning
- schooling sectors will be confident their schools can meet senior assessment and certification requirements
- families will be confident that their children have the skills and knowledge for work and life.

After the new QCE system is established and operating:

- students will graduate with the skills to succeed in a range of post-school pathways
- tertiary institutions will agree that school leavers are prepared for tertiary study
- employers will agree that school leavers are prepared for the workplace
- the wider community will agree that Queensland has a world-class curriculum, learning and assessment system that culminates in the award of an internationally recognised credential.

Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)

The QCIA is for students with disability or impairments. It recognises and reports on the achievements of students whose learning is part of an individual learning program. The QCAA will ensure that the QCIA continues to meet the needs of students with impairments or difficulties in learning that are not primarily due to socioeconomic, cultural and/or linguistic factors.

Delivering the vision

A system founded on partnership

The new QCE system will succeed because of the strong relationship between the QCAA and schools.

QCAA sets the parameters for the system, providing authoritative and accountable leadership and support for schools and schooling sectors.

Schools respond by delivering effective teaching and learning that incorporates high quality and relevant assessments to meaningfully evaluate student achievement.

Our shared vision is for the new QCE system to represent world-class curriculum, learning and assessment.

