

# External assessment

External assessment in the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system



## About external assessment

In the new system, the assessment program for all General subjects will include 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.

External assessment will be conducted annually in term 4. The external assessment result will form part of the final subject result for students in conjunction with their three internal assessment results. The external assessment result will not be used to scale the internal assessment result.

In General Mathematics and Science subjects, the external assessment component will contribute 50% to a student's final subject result. In all other General subjects it will contribute 25%.

The external assessment for General Mathematics, Science, Arts, Language and Music Extension subjects will assess subject matter from Units 3 and 4. For all other General subjects it will assess subject matter from Unit 4. Schools will be able to prepare their students for the assessment by teaching the subject matter specified in the syllabus.

## External assessment process

The QCAA will engage teams of assessment writers with expert curriculum knowledge to develop external assessment instruments. Each external assessment will be subject to rigorous quality assurance from panels of Queensland teachers, academics and subject experts. Teachers will be encouraged to complete the required training and to apply for roles as assessment writers or scrutiny panel members.

It is important that students are given every opportunity to perform at their best in the external assessments. Mock, or practice, assessments for each subject will be released well in advance of the first external assessments. Students and teachers will be able to use these as resources to prepare for the external assessment. Mock assessments will be developed using the same rigorous processes as actual external assessments. In the future, students and teachers will be able to access past papers to assist in the preparation for external assessment.

Marking of external assessment will be undertaken by teachers from around Queensland who have successfully completed the marker accreditation process and comprehensive training specific to each instrument. Marking of external assessment will be subject to extensive checking and cross-marking to ensure consistency and reliability.

The assessment schedule will be released in the year prior to external assessment sittings. QCAA will aim to minimise the chance of multiple sittings occurring on the same day; however students may be required to sit two external assessments in one day. Rescheduling will not be possible for avoidable issues, or because a student is not happy with their schedule.



Special provisions will enable equal access to assessment for all students with disability or those who experience misadventure. No student will be disadvantaged or advantaged through the use of special provisions. The QCAA is currently working with stakeholders and educational, legal and medical professionals to develop special provision policy and procedures prior to implementation.

## **Benefits for schools and teachers**

Schools will be confident that external assessment processes:

- meet subject-specific syllabus requirements
- are part of a balanced assessment program
- collect valid evidence
- follow accepted assessment conventions
- are accessible to all learners
- are consistently and reliably marked.

## **QCAA support for schools**

QCAA will support schools by:

- providing information, guidance and resources for students and teachers, including mock assessments
- establishing an external assessment schedule that minimises the chance of multiple sittings on one day and allows schools sufficient time to plan their annual calendar
- developing processes and procedures for special provision
- recruiting and training a temporary workforce of assessment writers and markers to support the external assessment processes.

For the most up to date information on the new QCE system, visit the QCAA website:

[www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te)