This subject guide relates to courses developed from the Home Economics Senior Syllabus 2010.

**Why study Home Economics?**

Home Economics offers students opportunities to discover and further develop critical and creative capabilities that enhance individual and family wellbeing. In turn, these attributes can be used in their personal and professional lives, informing their future decisions and actions.

A central premise of Home Economics is that today’s actions and attitudes determine present and future welfare, security, and happiness of individuals, families and communities. Home economists educate, inform and advise government, industry and the community. Their advice can help individuals make better lifestyle choices. Career opportunities are available in community and education agencies such as health, families, housing, and community services as well as in industries related to design, fashion, food and textiles.

**What is studied?**

Home Economics is concerned with developing deep understandings about the reciprocal impacts that capabilities, choices and priorities — of individuals, families, government and non-government organisations and local and global communities — have on each others' wellbeing through three areas of study:

- Individuals, families and communities
- Nutrition and food
- Textiles and fashion.

Each area of study is underpinned by broad understandings that guide a course of study. These broad understandings are that:

- the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities is explored through various points of view
- purposeful and informed decision making and action as citizens and consumers will help bring desired results
- a range of practical skills is essential for resourceful, creative and innovative design and production.

There will be two substantial units of work — one in Year 11 and one in Year 12. These permit depth and sophistication of understanding and increased complexity across the areas of study.

**How do students learn?**

Home Economics uses an inquiry approach to investigate issues and design challenges that are related to individual and family wellbeing in the context of maintaining healthy and sustainable local and global communities.
Students will develop their reasoning skills through thinking critically and creatively by analysing, synthesising, evaluating and justifying the issue or design challenge relevant to the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.

Using collective points of view such as social/cultural, historical, political/legal, technological, ethical, economic and environmental, students will be able to develop the skills of research and investigation needed for the critical and informed reasoning of a range of issues.

In a design challenge or practical task students will use the processes of planning and managing resources, exploring, using, developing and refining skills to create a product that meets the intended purpose in both food and textile contexts. Reflection in all stages of planning and production will be used to determine and justify the effectiveness of actions.

**How are students assessed?**

Assessment in Home Economics enables students to demonstrate achievement in the three dimensions of knowledge and understanding, reasoning and communicating processes, and practical performance.

To determine a student's level of achievement, schools may select from, and combine in a variety of ways, the following techniques:

- supervised written assessment
- research assessment
- product assessment.

Assessment involves students in:

- applying knowledge and understandings from the three areas of study across a range of situations
- using research techniques such as analytical expositions or research reports to investigate an issue related to an area of study or resolving a design challenge. Students will be required to complete independent research
- producing a product in food and textile contexts involves planning, evaluating and reflecting as well as the performance of a range of practical skills.

**How can parents help?**

Parents and carers can help students by providing a supportive environment in the home and showing an interest in what they do each day.

The following suggestions will help students develop and shape valuable points of view and opinions related to the wellbeing of individuals and families:

- discussing among family members current issues related to individual and family wellbeing in the context of maintaining healthy and sustainable local and global communities
- encouraging their children to read relevant articles in newspapers, magazines and other media about the wellbeing of individuals and families
- providing access, either in the home or through community and school information centres or libraries, to radio programs, documentaries and journals to help students consider various views on practices and issues relevant to Home Economics.
More information

If you would like more information, please email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au. You can also visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au and search for ‘Home Economics’.