Queensland’s new systems of senior assessment and tertiary entrance
Information for parents and students
Introduction

• The Queensland Government will introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems with Year 11 students in 2019.

• Key changes:
  – introduce common external assessment
  – strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
  – replace the Overall Position (OP) with the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

• $69.4 million allocated to prepare for the new systems.
Benefits of the new systems

• The changes will help to:
  – strengthen the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)
  – equip school leavers with the 21st century skills they need to succeed in work and life
  – ensure school leavers are innovators, entrepreneurs, valued employees, life-long learners, and responsible global citizens.
Why the new systems are being introduced

• Queensland’s current senior assessment system began in the early 1980s. The OP system was introduced in 1992.
• In a 2014 report, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) said these arrangements were fair and reliable, but would not be sustainable in the long term.
• ACER recommended changes to achieve greater rigour and simplicity.
Queensland Government’s final position

- The Queensland Government’s final position on the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems can be viewed at: www.det.qld.gov.au
Final position — senior assessment

• Combine school-based and external assessment to derive final subject results.
• Four assessments (3 school-based + 1 external) per subject.
• School-based assessment will generally contribute 75% to a student’s final subject result; 50% in maths and science.
• QCAA will endorse and confirm school-based assessments; and ratify subject results.
• Students will receive a numerical and A–E final subject result (A–E only for applied subjects).
Final position — tertiary entrance

- QTAC responsible for tertiary entrance from 2020
- ATAR will replace the OP
- Students must satisfactorily complete an English subject (Sound Achievement) to be ATAR-eligible
- English will only count if it is one of a student’s best five subject results
- ATARs to be calculated from a student’s best 5 subject results, one of which may be:
  - a VET Cert III or above, or
  - an applied subject result
- QTAC’s ATAR-ineligible and VET schedules will cease.
Implementation timeframe

• In October 2016, the Queensland Government revised the implementation timeframe to ensure teachers can become completely familiar with new system.

• It will now start with students entering Year 11 in 2019 instead of 2018.

• The first students to receive an ATAR instead of an OP will graduate from Year 12 in 2020.
# Implementation timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First cohort in new system</td>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>New syllabuses and teacher professional development</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-based assessment</td>
<td>Trial and develop new school-based assessment processes and procedures</td>
<td></td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External assessment</td>
<td>Trial and develop new external assessment processes and procedures</td>
<td>‘Mock’ assessments available for schools</td>
<td>Implementation with Year 12 students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification</td>
<td>Develop new policies and procedures for Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)</td>
<td>QCEs issued to Year 12 graduates</td>
<td>QCEs issued to Year 12 graduates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary entrance</td>
<td>QTAC develops new procedures for calculating ATARs</td>
<td>Final OPs issued to Year 12 graduates</td>
<td>QTAC Guide for Year 12 students</td>
<td>First ATARs issued to Year 12 graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Tertiary Prerequisites 2020 released</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transition activities to date

- QCAA is redeveloping more than 70 senior syllabuses
- Three rounds of public consultation held on draft syllabuses
- New processes developed and trialled to strengthen school-based assessment
- External assessments trialled in seven subjects with more than 20,000 students
- Methodology to calculate ATARs in development
- Thousands of teachers and other education partners engaged in the change process.
Redevelopment of senior syllabuses

• The QCAA is reviewing all senior syllabuses to ensure they reflect the knowledge and skill set required for further study and employment in the 21st Century.

• Some subjects will be renamed, others combined, and new ones developed.

• New syllabuses will have greater detail on what students should know and be able to do. They will also contain common requirements for the development of school-based assessments and common marking guides to support teachers.
What’s next?

- Professional development for teachers delivered from July 2017.
- Further external assessment trials in Semester 1, 2017.
- QCAA and QTAC continue to develop new processes and procedures.
More information

- Senior assessment: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au
- Tertiary entrance: www.qtac.edu.au