

Senior assessment and tertiary entrance in Queensland

A comparison of the current and new systems



Curriculum

Current Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system	New QCE system starting with Year 11 students in 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These subjects and programs count towards the QCE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Authority subjects – Authority Extension subjects – Authority-registered subjects – Short courses – Recognised studies – Vocational education and training (VET) courses. • Students typically undertake the equivalent of six subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These subjects and programs will count towards the QCE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – General subjects – General extension subjects – Applied subjects – Short courses – Recognised studies – VET courses • Students will typically undertake the equivalent of six subjects.

Assessment in Years 11 and 12

Current QCE system	New QCE system starting with Year 11 students in 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject results are based on student achievement in internal (school-developed) assessments. • Students typically complete 5–7 summative assessments in Year 12. • Assessment programs are developed by schools for each subject. The QCAA approves these programs. Schools set the assessment and grade the student work in line with approved work programs. • QCAA’s system of external moderation includes processes for monitoring standards of assessment and verifying students’ proposed levels of achievement before certification results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject results in General subjects will be based on student achievement in four summative assessments — three internal assessments and one external assessment that QCAA sets and marks. Subject results in Applied subjects will be based on student achievement in four internal assessments. • For most General subjects, the internal assessment will contribute 75% to the final subject result, except in mathematics and science subjects, where it will contribute 50%. • External assessment will be in all General subjects, but it will not be used to scale a student’s internal assessment result. Instead, the external assessment result will be added to the internal assessment result to arrive at a final subject result. • QCAA will endorse internal assessment instruments before they can be used for summative purposes in schools. • QCAA will confirm the grades schools award by reviewing a selected sample of student work for every subject in every school. • A network of trained assessors will ensure the quality and rigour of assessment and students’ results.



Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test

Current QCE system	New QCE system starting with Year 12 students in 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All OP-eligible students sit the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test in Year 12. Group results from the QCS Test are used to help calculate Overall Positions (OPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The QCS Test will no longer exist. The final QCS Test will be held in 2019.

Queensland Certificate of Education

Current QCE system	New QCE system applicable to Year 12 students in 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students who complete Year 12 receive a Senior Statement, which is a transcript of their results. Eligible students also receive a QCE. Students are awarded a level of achievement in Authority and Authority-registered subjects from Very High Achievement (VHA) to Very Limited Achievement (VLA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students who complete Year 12 will receive a Senior Statement, which is a transcript of their results. Eligible students will also receive a QCE. Students will be awarded an overall numerical score and a level of achievement (A–E) for each General subject. Applied subjects will be reported using a level of achievement only.

Tertiary entrance requirements

Current requirements	New requirements starting with Year 12 students in 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OP-eligible students receive a Tertiary Entrance Statement that shows their OP and Field Positions (FPs). The OP is a rank from 1 to 25, calculated by the QCAA. The calculation of OPs and FPs uses students' achievements in 20 semester units of Authority subjects (the equivalent of five subjects), including at least three subjects studied for four semesters, each scaled against group QCS Test results. Authority-registered subjects do not contribute to a student's OP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The QCAA will no longer issue Tertiary Entrance Statements. The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will replace the OP. An ATAR is a number between 0.00 and 99.95. ATARs increase in increments of 0.05. The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will calculate ATARs from students' results using a process of inter-subject scaling. An ATAR will be calculated from an eligible student's best five subject results, one of which may be an Applied subject or a competency-based VET certificate at a level III or above. Students must satisfactorily complete a QCAA English subject (C or better) to be eligible for an ATAR. However, a student's result in English will only contribute to their ATAR if it is one of their five best subject results.

Tertiary entrance processes

Current processes	New processes starting with Year 12 students in 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The QCAA calculates OPs. QTAC manages entrance to most tertiary institutions in Queensland. For OP-eligible school leavers, the OP is used for tertiary entrance in Queensland. For OP-ineligible students, QTAC calculates a tertiary selection rank using schedules that consider results in the best 20 semester units of Authority, Authority-registered subjects and/or VET modules recorded on the Senior Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QTAC will be responsible for tertiary entrance in Queensland. The ATAR, calculated by QTAC, will be the primary mechanism used for school leavers seeking entrance to tertiary study in Queensland. QTAC will no longer operate schedules for ranking students who are ineligible for an ATAR.

More information

If you would like more information, please visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te where you will find FAQs, videos, and factsheets.