

Senior assessment and tertiary entrance in Queensland

A comparison of the new and previous systems



Curriculum

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

Assessment in Years 11 and 12

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



Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test

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

Queensland Certificate of Education

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

Tertiary entrance requirements

New requirements starting with Year 12 students in 2020	Previous requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The QCAA no longer issues Tertiary Entrance Statements. • The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) has replaced 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) calculates ATARs from students' results using a process of inter-subject scaling. • An ATAR is 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 contributes to their ATAR if it is one of their five best subject results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OP-eligible students received a Tertiary Entrance Statement that showed their OP and Field Positions (FPs). The OP was a rank from 1 to 25, calculated by the QCAA. • The calculation of OPs and FPs used 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 did not contribute to a student's OP.

Tertiary entrance processes

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

More information

If you would like more information, please visit the QCAA website <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au> where you will find FAQs, videos, and factsheets.