

How General subject results will be calculated in 2020

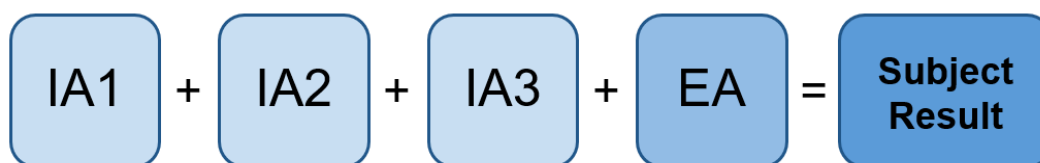
Information for schools, students and parents/carers

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in changes to senior secondary schooling in 2020 that require adjustments to the QCAA's procedures for calculating final subject results in General subjects.

This factsheet explains the revised procedures that the QCAA will use to calculate students' final subject results in General subjects. It also provides an example to illustrate how these procedures will be applied.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, all students were required to complete three internal assessments (IA) and one external assessment (EA) for each General subject. These four results would then be combined to provide a subject score out of 100.

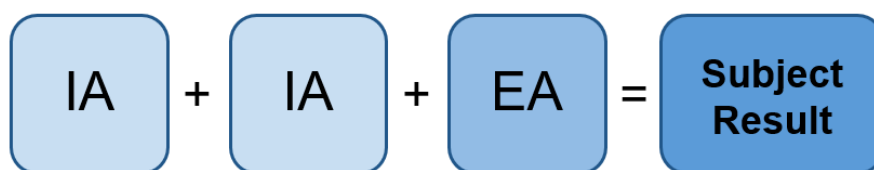


In mathematics and sciences subjects, the internal assessments were designed to contribute 50% to the final subject result and the external assessment to contribute 50%. In all other subjects, internal assessments were to contribute 75% and the external assessment 25%.

What changed in 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to support students, the QCAA made the decision to reduce the internal assessment requirements from three to two.

This means that a subject result in 2020 will now be calculated from two internal assessments and one external assessment.



In Queensland, schools have some flexibility to teach and assess students in the order that best suits their local context. This means that in many subjects, students could complete different combinations of internal assessments.

To ensure fair and equitable assessment outcomes for students, a set of principles was established to guide the development of a solution for calculating subject results in 2020. These principles are available in a previously released factsheet:

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/coronavirus-updates/snr_calc_subject_results_20_factsheet.pdf.

Our solution

Key aspects of the solution

- The QCAA's revised procedures will ensure final subject results accurately reflect student achievement and enable the calculation of tertiary entrance ranks.
- The revised procedures will consider the relative difficulty of different combinations of internal assessments so that no student is unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged by the combination of internal assessments they were asked to complete.
- The revised method will maintain the integrity of the Queensland Certificate of Education system in 2020.
- There will be no change to the way external assessment contributes to final subject results. It will still contribute either 25% or 50%, depending on the subject. It will not be used to scale internal assessment results.
- Internal assessment will still contribute 75% or 50%, depending on the subject.
- The revised method is internationally recognised and has a proven track record in delivering fair and accurate outcomes in national and international assessment programs.

Calculating subject scores this year is not as simple as converting the total of the two completed internal assessments to a score out of 50 or 75, as we need to account for the fact that not all students have done the same combination of assessments. For each combination:

- the number of marks for each internal assessment could vary
- different things could be assessed, using different modes or techniques
- students could find some internal assessments more challenging than others.

As a result, the methodology must consider the different combinations of internal assessments completed by students. This can be done by comparing the results students achieved across the state for each combination of internal assessments in each subject.

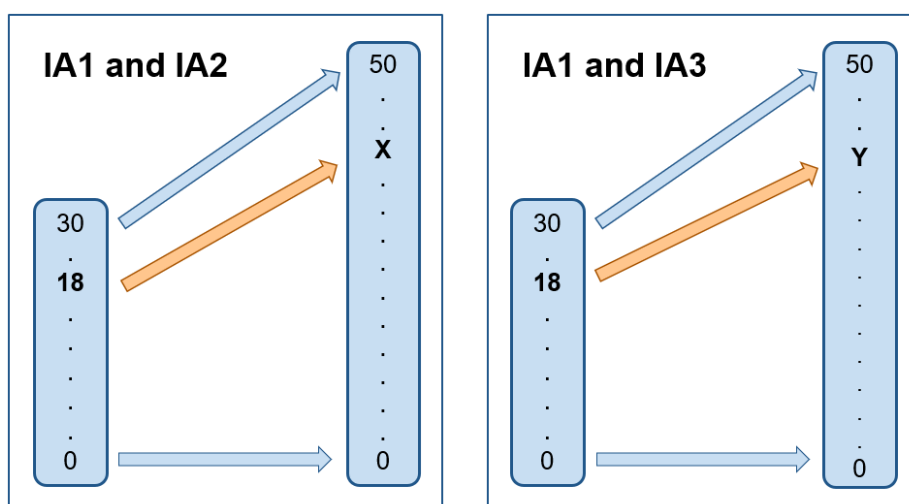
The analysis will be performed in a way that ensures that any student who achieves perfect marks for their two internal assessments, regardless of the combination, will get the highest mark of 50 or 75 for their two internal assessments.

Subject scenario

The following hypothetical scenario shows how different internal assessment (IA) combinations in a sample subject would be converted to a result out of 50. In this scenario, some students have completed IA1 and IA2, and others have completed IA1 and IA3. The revised procedures look at how difficult it was to achieve marks for one of these combinations compared to the other, so that the students' marks out of 30 can be fairly translated to a score out of 50 regardless of which combination they completed.

Statewide analysis of student result data for this subject shows that it was slightly more difficult to achieve a result of 18 out of 30 for the IA1 and IA2 combination than it was for the IA1 and IA3 combination.

To ensure that no student is advantaged or disadvantaged by the combination of internal assessments undertaken by the school, the 18 out of 30 score for the IA1 and IA2 combination will translate to a slightly higher score out of 50 than the IA1 and IA3 combination.



This same process will then be repeated for every General subject, whether the internal assessment contributes 50% or 75%, to ensure comparability between student results.

Final subject results

Once the results for the internal assessments have been translated to a score of 50 or 75 using this method, the rest of the subject result calculation process can proceed as originally planned. The total internal assessment result for each student will be added to their external assessment result to arrive at their final subject result. The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will then use these final subject results for its Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) calculations.

More information

If you would like more information about the changes to senior assessment in 2020, please visit the Coronavirus updates page on the QCAA website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au.

For further information about ATAR calculations, please visit the QTAC website at www.qtac.edu.au.



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