

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

19 August 2015

Senior secondary

Number: 041/15

New Subject Area Syllabuses (SASs)

Purpose

To notify schools about the:

- publication of 13 new Subject Area Syllabuses (SASs)
- resources and professional development to support their implementation.

Background

Subject Area Syllabuses replace Study Area Specifications for Authority-registered subjects.

Authority-registered subjects contribute four credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) when successfully completed. Results in these subjects are not used in the calculation of Overall Positions (OPs) and Field Positions (FPs).

Previous advices about SAS redevelopments include:

- publication of Group A Subject Area Syllabuses, in [Memo 047/14](#), 14 July, 2014
- revision of Study Area Specifications, in [Memo 063/13](#), 11 November, 2013.

Development of the new SASs

The revision of Study Area Specifications as Subject Area Syllabuses has removed the embedded Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificates and competencies included in Approaches A and C. Subject Area Syllabuses have been modelled on and developed from Approach B of Study Area Specifications.

The development of the SASs has involved consultation with focus groups of teachers, school administrators and networks of critical friends, including academics. They have been written with teams of practicing teachers, and where appropriate academics and specialists in the fields covered by the subject.

VET certificates and competencies

Schools may continue to offer VET certificates and competencies separate to QCAA syllabuses.

Approaches A and C as described in Study Area Specifications are no longer options for schools when Subject Area Syllabuses are introduced, as Subject Area Syllabuses do not include embedded Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificates and competencies.

Implementation

The new Subject Area Syllabuses were redeveloped in two stages:

- 10 Group A subject area syllabuses were available for general implementation in 2015
- 13 Group B subject area syllabuses are available for general implementation in 2016.

Group B Subject Area Syllabuses	Study Area Specification replaced
Manufacturing SASs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building and Construction Skills 2015• Engineering Skills 2015• Furnishing Skills 2015• Industrial Graphics Skills 2015• Industrial Skills 2015	Manufacturing 2006
Science in Practice 2015	Science in Practice 2011
The Arts SASs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arts in Practice 2015• Dance in Practice 2015• Drama in Practice 2015• Media Arts in Practice 2015• Music in Practice 2015• Visual Arts in Practice 2015	Creative Arts 2004
Tourism 2015	Tourism 2006

Syllabus consistency

All 23 Subject Area Syllabuses:

- have a consistent structure which mirrors senior syllabuses for Authority subjects
- use a common framework to improve the consistency across all SASs
- describe the core and elective knowledge, understanding and skills
- provide clear requirements for assessment techniques and conditions
- specify assessment requirements for exit folios.

These syllabus constructs make learning in Subject Area Syllabuses distinctive from Authority subjects and VET offerings.

Resources

Each Subject Area Syllabus will be supported by online resources including:

- a subject guide
- sample units of work and assessment
- study plan requirements
- sample study plans
- highlighted standards.

Professional development

Professional development to support the implementation of the SASs includes:

- a series of four videos that introduce the SAS framework and the components of the syllabuses: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/31337.html
- two online modules which introduce key syllabus concepts and messages, to be completed before attending subject-specific workshops (attendees will receive a link after booking a workshop)
- subject-specific workshops, which can be booked through: <https://events.qcaa.qld.edu.au>. Using the online study plan builder will be a key focus of the workshops.

Online study plans

The QCAA is developing a new online study plan builder for schools to submit study plans, and plan to launch the system for use with Group B Subject Area Syllabuses.

The new system will be available beginning Term 4, 2015. Schools will receive further updates via memo, and through the QCAA *news for schools* newsletter: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/645.html.

What you need to do

- Make this memo available to teachers of current Study Area Specifications and new Subject Area Syllabuses in your school.
- Access the new SASs and resources on the QCAA website.
- Arrange for teachers who will implement the new SASs in 2016 to participate in professional development activities.
- Watch for updates on the new online study plan builder system.

Finding out more

For inquiries about:

- Subject Area Syllabuses or professional development, please email seniorcurriculum@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone Theo Clark on 07 3864 0335
- study plan development, please email qau@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone 07 3864 0375.

Kathryn Tully
Acting Director
Curriculum Services Division