

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

22 August 2016

Senior secondary

Number: 057/16

Stage 1 senior syllabuses: Draft 2 released for consultation

Purpose

To notify schools and teachers that Draft 2 of Stage 1 (the first 35) senior syllabuses being redeveloped by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) are available for review and feedback through completion of an online survey.

Background

The Queensland Government has announced that a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system will be introduced for students entering Year 11 in 2018.

The changes are to include:

- a new senior assessment model that combines school-based assessment developed and marked by teachers with external assessment developed and marked by the QCAA
- new processes to strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- a move from the existing Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

To support the introduction of the new system in 2018, the QCAA has commenced the process of redeveloping senior syllabuses.

Drafts of the redeveloped syllabuses will be made available for public comment on three occasions throughout 2016 and feedback sought through completion of an online survey.

Expert writing teams comprised of practising teachers with subject discipline expertise and academics received feedback on Draft 1 and have now completed Draft 2 of Stage 1 (the first 35) senior syllabuses.

Second drafts of the Stage 1 syllabuses are now available online and QCAA invites feedback from stakeholders via the survey instrument.

Senior subject syllabus redevelopment

The new assessment model includes both school-based assessment and external assessment. Syllabuses will include more defined assessment, greater detail in relation to subject matter, and have greater alignment across the suite of subjects. Teachers will still have the flexibility to develop learning experiences and assessments to suit their school contexts.

Syllabuses will be redeveloped as four-unit courses, allowing structural alignment with other Australian jurisdictions, and to reflect the senior secondary Australian Curriculum. QCAA's legislation requires it to use the senior secondary Australian Curriculum as the basis for redeveloping a comparable Queensland syllabus.

Draft 2 of the redeveloped senior syllabuses includes:

- a rationale outlining the particular qualities of a subject and what the students will learn
- when relevant, the valued pedagogies and/or conceptual frameworks particular to a subject
- syllabus objectives and explanations for each
- a course of study consisting of 4 units of work (Units 1 and 2 will be formative, Units 3 and 4 will be summative). Each unit will have a unit title and description, unit objectives and detail of subject matter
- a glossary of cognitive language that will be consistent across syllabuses
- assessment for Units 3 and 4
- instrument-specific marking guides.

The table below summarises the properties of the three syllabus drafts on which stakeholders will have opportunity to comment.

Draft 1	Draft 2	Draft 3
Rationale Objectives Units of work (x4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unit description • objectives • subject matter Glossary of terms	Refined Draft 1 Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 internal, school-based assessments + 1 external assessment for Units 3 and 4 • instrument-specific marking guides for the 3 internal assessments Glossary of terms	Refined Draft 2 Any further resources

Senior subject syllabuses

Subjects		
Accounting	Essential English	Mathematics Methods
Ancient History	Literature	Mathematics Specialist
Biology	Film, Television & New Media	Modern History
Chemistry	French	Music
Chinese	Geography	Music Extension
Dance	German	Philosophy & Reason
Drama	Health	Physical Education
Earth & Environmental Science	Italian	Physics
Economics	Japanese	Spanish
English	Legal Studies	Study of Religion
English & Literature Extension	Mathematics Essential	Visual Art
English as an Additional Language	Mathematics General	

What you need to do

- Click on the link below to take you to the Stage 1 syllabuses: Draft 2 for consultation page.
- <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te/redev-snr-syll/draft-2-consultation>
- Select the relevant learning area, and then the relevant syllabus document.
- The online survey statements have been provided in PDF format for your perusal.
- To complete the survey, follow the link for the syllabus on which you are providing feedback.
You will be able to view the syllabus and complete the survey in separate windows. The survey should take approximately 20 minutes.
- Please make your teachers, students and school community aware of the survey and encourage their participation.

The survey is available from 22 August to 14 September 2016.

Finding out more

For more information, please visit the QCAA website 'Preparing for new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems' at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te.

Alternatively, please email Jeff.Thompson@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone (07) 3864 0260.

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