

Memo

Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority

19 June 2017

Senior secondary

Number: 034/17

2017 QCS Test: Calculators (updated)

Purpose

To provide chief supervisors and teachers with an updated description of the types of calculators that may and may not be used by students sitting the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test.

Background

QCS Test items are developed on the basis that the type of calculator used should not provide an advantage or disadvantage for a student.

Calculators with a computer algebra system (CAS), spellchecker, dictionary, thesaurus or translator function could provide an advantage to students using them, or prohibit the proper testing of some common curriculum elements.

Approved calculators

Calculators to be used by students in the QCS Test must be handheld and solar- or battery-powered. They should be able to perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots and powers.

Calculators **must not** allow access, during the QCS Test sessions, to the following functions:

- CAS
- spellchecker
- dictionary
- thesaurus
- translator.

A calculator that has any of these functions — whether inbuilt or downloaded — **must be in test mode** during the QCS Test sessions. The test mode must prohibit access to the functions. If the calculator cannot be put into test mode, a different calculator that meets the requirements must be used instead.

Other electronic devices

All other electronic devices — such as mobile phones, laptops, tablets and wearable devices — are not permitted in the QCS Test unless permission has been granted under special provision arrangements. If such permission has been granted, students cannot rely on using the calculator function in any of these electronic devices (including mobile phones) during the test.

Student declaration requirement

Before sitting the QCS Test, each student must sign a *Calculator declaration* form to certify that the calculator they will use in the test meets the requirements of an approved calculator. The form will be sent to chief supervisors and published on the QCAA website in mid-July. A copy of the form is attached for reference. Calculators are to be checked before the test.

What you need to do

Please distribute this memo to teachers of Senior Mathematics and to teachers in charge of QCS Test preparation.

Ask them to provide students with this information as soon as possible so that students:

- know well in advance the types of calculators that are approved for use during the test
- have ample time to source and familiarise themselves with an approved calculator before sitting the test
- understand they will need to make a written declaration that the calculator they will use during the QCS Test is an approved calculator.

Finding out more

Please email Maryanne Gurieff at qcs.admin@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone (07) 3864 0338.

Claude Jones
Director, Assessment and Reporting Division

Attachment: *Calculator declaration*

Calculator declaration

2017 Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test

Test centre	Centre code
Instructions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The chief supervisor must sign and date the declaration below, then after the last test session, place this Calculator declaration in the zip wallet and return it in one of the purple cases.All students (including students from other schools) sitting the QCS Test at this test centre must sign the declaration overleaf.	
Calculators for the QCS Test	
Background <p>QCS Test items are developed on the basis that the type of calculator used should not provide an advantage or disadvantage for a student.</p>	
Approved calculators <p>Calculators to be used by students in the QCS Test must be handheld and solar- or battery-powered. They should be able to perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots and powers.</p> <p>Calculators must not allow access, during the QCS Test sessions, to the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">computer algebra system (CAS)spellcheckerdictionarythesaurustranslator. <p>A calculator that has any of these functions — whether inbuilt or downloaded — must be in test mode during the QCS Test sessions. The test mode must prohibit access to the functions. If the calculator cannot be put into test mode, a different calculator that meets the requirements must be used instead.</p>	
Other electronic devices <p>All other electronic devices — such as mobile phones, laptops, tablets and wearable devices — are not permitted in the QCS Test unless permission has been granted under special provision arrangements. If such permission has been granted, students cannot rely on the calculator function in any of these electronic devices (including mobile phones) during the test.</p>	
Chief supervisor declaration	
I certify that:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">the calculator of each student whose name appears on the following sheets has been checked and meets the criteria for an approved calculator listed on this formeach signature is that of the student whose name appears to the left of the signature.	
Full name:	
Signature:	Date: / / 2017

Declaration by each student

Students, read the declaration carefully, then write your name and sign in the space provided. Your calculator will be checked before the test.

- I certify that the calculator I will use in the QCS Test meets the criteria for an approved calculator described on page one of this form.
- I understand that if I use a calculator that is not an approved calculator, I have committed an act of academic misconduct in terms of sitting the QCS Test and as such will not receive a QCS Test result.

Name	Signature

The information you provide on this form will be used for managing the administration of the QCS Test as part of legislative functions described in the *Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014* (s.13). Personal information will be accessed by authorised QCAA staff, and handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*. Your name and signature will be provided to the appointed chief supervisor of the test centre. Information held by the QCAA is subject to the *Right to Information Act 2009*.