

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

15 January 2018

Senior secondary

Number: 002/18

Online courses for Accreditation (assessment literacy) released

Purpose

To notify senior secondary principals, school leaders and teachers that the online assessment literacy courses, which constitute the first stage of the Accreditation program, are now available on the QCAA Portal.

Background

To support school planning for 2018, QCAA Memo 059/17 (available under the 2017 link at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/secure_site/memos.act) outlined the Accreditation program of professional learning and training.

The Accreditation program includes two stages of online professional learning:

- Stage One courses are designed to support and strengthen quality assurance processes for summative internal and external assessment in the senior phase of learning.
- Stage Two of this program, currently in development, will focus on the role-specific knowledge teachers will need to become a QCAA Assessor in the new QCE system.

Teachers completing the courses will have the opportunity to strengthen and develop their own assessment practices. Additionally, they should gain an understanding of how to support internal and external quality assurance processes in the new QCE system.

Information

About the courses

The Stage One online courses focus on the aspects of assessment literacy relevant to the new General Senior Syllabuses, as well the Essential English and Essential Mathematics Applied Senior Syllabuses.

Course 1: Attributes of quality assessment introduces the attributes of quality assessment (validity, accessibility and reliability), and the concepts and processes of assessment in the new QCE system.

Course 2: Assessment item and instrument construction explores the development and writing of assessment items and instruments for the new QCE system, and how they will be endorsed by QCAA Assessors.

Course 3: Understanding and using marking guides explains how teachers will use the instrument-specific marking guides (ISMGs), as well as how to identify and mitigate risks to reliable marking.

Who should undertake the courses

QCAA encourages all senior teachers to complete these three assessment literacy courses as a professional development opportunity to help them develop a strong conceptual and operational understanding of the assessment processes for the new QCE system.

Teachers interested in becoming QCAA Assessors in the new QCE system will need to complete Course 1 and either Course 2 (for Endorsement and/or External assessment writing) or Course 3 (for Confirmation and/or External assessment marking) and the relevant assessment.

How to access the online courses

The Stage One Accreditation courses (assessment literacy) are now available through the QCAA Portal (www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/portal).

Teachers who do not yet have QCAA Portal access will need to register for an account by following the instructions on the QCAA Portal landing page.

Completing the online courses

Each course is comprised of two parts — a course module and an assessment module.

Completion of the course module for Course 1 is a prerequisite for access to Courses 2 and 3.

Completion of the assessment module for Course 1 is a prerequisite for access to the assessment modules for Courses 2 and 3.

Teachers may attempt the assessment for each course a maximum of three times. After two unsuccessful attempts, they will need to wait seven days before completing a third and final attempt.

Next steps

Principals and senior leaders

- Consider using the Stage One Accreditation courses (assessment literacy) as part of professional learning for the new QCE system.
- Ensure that all relevant staff members are aware of, and have access to, the Stage One courses.
- Ensure all teachers seeking to work as a QCAA Assessor understand that they will need to successfully complete the relevant training and assessment.

Teachers

- Complete the Stage One Accreditation courses as part of your 2018 professional learning. These courses are eligible for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit under the Queensland College of Teachers CPD Framework. (QCAA will provide teachers with evidence of participation.)
- Consider becoming a QCAA Assessor and successfully complete the relevant assessment.

Finding out more

For more information about Stage One Accreditation (assessment literacy) courses and becoming a QCAA Assessor visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te/qcaa-assessors.

Alternatively, please email Terry McPherson at assessoraccreditation@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone (07) 3864 0272.

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