

Applied syllabuses

Structure

The syllabus structure consists of a course overview and assessment.

Applied syllabuses course overview

Applied syllabuses are developmental four-unit courses of study.

Units 1 and 2 of the course are designed to allow students to begin their engagement with the course content, i.e. the knowledge, understanding and skills of the subject. Course content, learning experiences and assessment increase in complexity across the four units as students develop greater independence as learners.

Units 3 and 4 consolidate student learning. Results from assessment in Applied subjects contribute to the award of a QCE and results from Units 3 and 4 may contribute as a single input to ATAR calculation.

A course of study for Applied syllabuses includes core topics and elective areas for study.

Assessment

Applied syllabuses use *four* summative internal assessments from Units 3 and 4 to determine a student's exit result.

Schools should develop at least *two* but no more than *four* internal assessments for Units 1 and 2 and these assessments should provide students with opportunities to become familiar with the summative internal assessment techniques to be used for Units 3 and 4.

Applied syllabuses do not use external assessment.

Instrument-specific standards matrixes

For each assessment instrument, schools develop an instrument-specific standards matrix by selecting the syllabus standards descriptors relevant to the task and the dimension/s being assessed. The matrix is shared with students and used as a tool for making judgments about the quality of students' responses to the instrument. Schools develop assessments to allow students to demonstrate the range of standards.

Essential English and Essential Mathematics — Common internal assessment

Students complete a total of *four* summative internal assessments in Units 3 and 4 that count toward their overall subject result. Schools develop *three* of the summative internal assessments for each senior subject and the other summative assessment is a common internal assessment (CIA) developed by the QCAA.

The CIA for Essential English and Essential Mathematics is based on the learning described in Unit 3 of the respective syllabus. The CIA is:

- developed by the QCAA
- common to all schools
- delivered to schools by the QCAA
- administered flexibly in Unit 3
- administered under supervised conditions
- marked by the school according to a common marking scheme developed by the QCAA.

The CIA is not privileged over the other summative internal assessment.

Summative internal assessment — instrument-specific standards

The Essential English and Essential Mathematics syllabuses provide instrument-specific standards for the three summative internal assessments in Units 3 and 4.

The instrument-specific standards describe the characteristics evident in student responses and align with the identified assessment objectives. Assessment objectives are drawn from the unit objectives and are contextualised for the requirements of the assessment instrument.

Senior External Examinations

Senior External Examinations course overview

A Senior External Examination syllabus sets out the aims, objectives, learning experiences and assessment requirements for each of these subjects.

Results are based solely on students' demonstrated achievement in examinations. Work undertaken before an examination is not assessed.

The Senior External Examination is for:

- low candidature subjects not otherwise offered as a General subject in Queensland
- students in their final year of senior schooling who are unable to access particular subjects at their school
- adult students (people of any age not enrolled at a Queensland secondary school)
 - to meet tertiary entrance or employment requirements
 - for personal interest.

Senior External Examination results may contribute credit to the award of a QCE and contribute to ATAR calculations.

For more information about the Senior External Examination, see: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/see.

Assessment

The Senior External Examination consists of individual subject examinations that are held once each year in Term 4. Important dates and the examination timetable are published in the Senior Education Profile (SEP) calendar, available at: <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/sep-calendar>.

Results are based solely on students' demonstrated achievement in the examinations. Work undertaken before an examination is not assessed. Results are reported as a mark and grade of A–E. For more information about results, see the QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook, Section 10.