QCE & Subject Selection Handbook 2026 - 2027

OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS COLLEGE

VISION STATEMENT

To guide the young people entrusted to us through their journey in faith and knowledge so that they may know the value of their own lives and contribute positively to the community and world in which they live.

OUR MISSION

Our Lady of the Southern Cross will strive to:

- Establish and promote an ethos of teaching and learning excellence where all strive to continually develop the individual's spiritual, academic, social, cultural and physical potential;
- Provide opportunities for parents and caregivers, as the primary educators of our young people, to work in partnership with our College;
- Develop a shared understanding of Christian faith and life in the Catholic tradition by living Christ's values;
- Encourage self-discipline with a caring and positive attitude;
- Promote a sense of respect, inclusiveness and compassion for others;
- Promote responsible stewardship of our College environment and resources; and
- Foster unity and trust between our College, Catholic parish, other faiths and wider community with integrity, acceptance and goodwill.
- Promote Catholic Social Teachings which are embedded in all subject areas of Human Dignity, Stewardship of Creation, Community and the Common Good, Subsidiarity, Solidarity.

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

In this handbook you will find specific information about various subjects, facilitating students in making well-informed decisions regarding their senior years of education.

Entering Years 11 and 12 signifies an important time in a student's educational journey at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College. This phase offers students an exhilarating opportunity to chart their own course, selecting pathways and courses of study that align with their interests and abilities, all while considering future academic and career pursuits. Within this handbook lies foundational information that empowers students and parents to delve into intricate details of course content and grasp the diverse pathways available for students entering Years 11 and 12.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College is a place where students choose a post-compulsory course of study, commit themselves to put their full effort in, take pride in themselves and the College, accept responsibility for their decisions and actions, and continue to grow as people. This requires independent approaches to motivation and learning, and a commitment to being a responsible and positively involved member of our College community.

These years should not be treated as just another two years of schooling, but more of a two-year course enabling the young adult to mature and gain specific knowledge and skills to lead to further education and/or employment.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SENIOR YEARS

As you journey through secondary school and progress into Years 11 and 12, you'll encounter greater demands and heightened expectations. During this phase, students assume responsibility for their studies and the outcomes they achieve. While parents/guardians and teachers offer valuable guidance and support, the ultimate determinant of success rests on the student's ability to wholeheartedly engage in their studies, cultivate effective study habits, set and pursue goals consistently, and demonstrate perseverance in the face of challenges.

Achieving success in all aspects of life requires students to not only excel in their academic endeavours but also actively participate and engage in their classes at the College.

Teachers, our Careers Development Practitioner, members of the College Leadership Team and I are very happy to answer questions and provide further information to support you to make well-informed decisions about subject selections.

At Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, we are dedicated to offering a diverse and enriching curriculum that caters to our student's needs and aligns with their chosen pathways.

Consider this handbook a stepping stone. Our teachers are available to provide any information you may require regarding each of the subjects. Course and careers information may be obtained from various sources, including tertiary institutions and our Careers Development Practitioner. Please feel free to contact myself for information and assistance. Please also note that we will endeavour to offer all subjects, however, the timetable and subject offerings will be dependent on the combination of student numbers and resourcing.

Rodney Spain
Assistant Principal Senior Years

2026 KEY SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO SENIOR YEARS STUDENTS

Dean Garside
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Peter Cuskelly
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Please note: Appointments can be made with all the above staff members via the College Office. Simply contact the office by phone or in person, let them know your name and contact details, as well as the purpose of the appointment and who will be in attendance.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS – SENIOR YEARS

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA)
QCAA issues the Senior Statement showing a student's subject results, and a Tertiary Entrance Statement.

Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)
The QCE will be awarded to all students completing the requirements. The QCE is Queensland's senior schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and offers flexibility in what is learnt, as well as where and when learning occurs.

ATAR
The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is the primary criterion for entry into most undergraduate entry university programs in Australia. It was gradually introduced during 2009 and 2010 to replace the Universities Admission Index, Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank and Tertiary Entrance Rank.

Learning Account
A QCAA Learning Account is opened for each student and records all learning achievements earned by the student during their Senior Phase of Learning. The achievements of students at school will be recorded by the school in their Learning Account. Achievements by students through other learning providers such as TAFE or accredited groups will be recorded directly by those providers into the student's Learning Account with QCAA.

Learners Unique Identifier (LUI)
The Learners Unique Identifier (LUI) is the Learning Account registration number and password which identifies each student in the Senior Phase of Learning with the QCAA. Students can use their LUI to access their own Learning Account with the QCAA as well as access a range of helpful websites relevant to their learning and their future study and career paths.

Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC)
QTAC handles tertiary- entrance applications on behalf of tertiary institutions. If a student wants to apply for a tertiary course, they will need to do so through QTAC for most courses. QTAC also provides students with their ATAR.

Other additional terms can be located on the QCAA website - Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) | Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (qcaa.qld.edu.au)

To gain a better understanding of the QCE system, please read Senior secondary schooling in Queensland: a guide for parents and carers.

OLSCC PATHWAYS - SELECTING A SUITABLE PATHWAY

The selection of subjects for senior studies must take cognisance of several factors, including the student's interests and capabilities, the requirements for entry into tertiary study and employment, the requirements of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority for the issue of the Queensland Certificate of Education, and the College's assessment policy. The suite of subjects a student selects should also represent the kind of education they want to acquire, whether this involves a concentration of subjects in a specialist area or a more diverse selection. We continue to work hard to ensure the best possible academic outcome for each of our students.

There are four pathways that students can select from:

Newman Scholar - suitable for students who are high academic achievers (always As and Bs) who are wanting to go into a university course with a high ATAR entry requirement. This pathway involves completing 6 General subjects. Students on this pathway are aiming for an ATAR of 92+ and must be committed to the personal investment in considerable study which attains greatest results.

ATAR Pathway - suitable for students who are wanting to go to university and are aiming for an ATAR of 75+. Five – six General subjects including any prerequisite subjects must be completed on this pathway. Students selecting this pathway must be committed to studying at home for at least 15 hours each week.

Pathway Plus - suitable for students who are typically successful in their subjects (averaging B across a variety of subjects) and are wanting to go to university. This pathway also provides an opportunity to gain a VET qualification. Students are to complete four General Subjects, including university prerequisites subjects, as well as one applied subject and/or one SBAT of a Certificate III or higher. Students selecting this pathway must be committed to studying at home for at least 15 hours each week, as well as the hours required for the completion of the SBAT / Certificate course.

Prerequisite, Applied and Vet Pathway – For students who are uncertain about pursuing university education or considering their best options after school, this path offers valuable choices. It enables students to engage with their studies in subjects that serve as prerequisites for tertiary courses, while also providing opportunities for VET (Vocational Education and Training) or SBAT (School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships). As they progress through the two-year QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education), students can progressively fine-tune their desired career pathway. Students may also opt for more Applied Subjects, in contrast to General subjects that are tailored for tertiary education. Students will also select the mathematics subject that aligns with their proficiency level.
It's important to note that students opting for this pathway should be dedicated to dedicating at least 8 hours per week to self-study.

A table is listed below with possible subject choices for these pathways, based on scaling at the 75th percentile from the ATAR Report 2024 by QTAC. This table is intended as a guide, and subjects may be chosen across pathways according to individual need, work ethic and capability.

Pathway	English Line	Maths Line	Religion Line	Elective Line 1	Elective Line 2	Elective Line 3
Newman Scholar	English (>85/100)	Math Methods	Study of Religion (>85/100)	Physics	Business/Literature/ Aerospace	Specialist Maths
ATAR Pathway	English	Math Methods	Study of Religion	Biology/Visual Art	Business/Modern History	Legal Studies/Design/Food & Nutrition
Pathway Plus	English or Essential English	General Maths	Study of Religion	Biology/Visual Art	Business/Sport and Recreation	Legal Studies/Design/Food & Nutrition
Prerequisite, Applied and VET Pathways	English or Essential English	General Maths or Essential Maths	Religion & Ethics	Industrial Technology Skills, Science in Practice	Sport and Rec	Agricultural Practices, SBT/SBA

CHOOSING SENIOR SUBJECTS

It is important to choose your subjects carefully as your decisions may affect your future success at school and the tertiary courses and types of occupations you can choose in the future.

As an overall plan, we suggest you choose subjects:

- that ensure you are eligible for the senior qualification you desire and the tertiary courses you are interested in
- that you enjoy spending time engaging in outside of class time
- in which you have previously received good results
- which reflect your interests and abilities
- which match your career and employment goals
- which develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes that will be useful in your life
- which allow you to ensure a balance with school and outside commitments

It is wise to find out more about the subjects that you are considering for your senior studies. Take these steps to ensure you make an informed decision;

- Read the subject descriptions and course outlines provided in this handbook carefully to gain an understanding of each
- Visit the QTAC website and search the tertiary courses you have an interest in, noting the pre-requisite subjects that they require
- Talk to teachers of the senior subjects you are interested in taking
- Look at the books and course materials used in the subject
- Talk to students who are already studying the subject.
- Attend University Open Days to get a better understanding of the tertiary education courses you might be interested in.

SUBJECT SELECTION RULES

Additional to the eligibility rules for being awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education and an ATAR, the College also mandates the following requirements:

- All students must choose 6 subjects
- All students must choose 1 English subject – English or Essential English
- All students must choose 1 Maths subject – Methods, General or Essential
- All students must choose 1 Religion subject –Study of Religion or Religion & Ethics
- To study Specialist Maths, students must also choose Maths Methods
- Students may include VET studies, School-based Apprenticeships, School-based Traineeships in place of 1 Elective Subject
- Students may consider Headstart options in Year 11.

SUBJECT OFFERINGS

Our subject offerings for 2026 are:

Required Subjects:

English	Mathematical Methods	Study of Religion
Essential English*	General Mathematics	Religion and Ethics*
	Essential Mathematics*	

Elective Subjects:

Line 1	Line 2	Line 3
Biology	Business	Specialist Maths
Industrial Technology Skills*	Modern History	Design
Science In Practice*	Sport and Recreation*	Food and Nutrition
Visual Art	Aerospace	Legal Studies
Visual Art in Practice	Chemistry	Agricultural Practices*
Physics	Literature	Cert III Rural Operations
	FLA	FLA

* Applied Subject (ATAR students can only commit to 1 non-general subject).

Online - Hybrid Subjects will be grouped together, though the teacher is based in either TCS or another TCS school.

Online – FLA is provided by external providers, Riverside Christian College or FisherOne.

Online and On-Campus at UQ Gatton

Please note:

- **Biology** will have a compulsory paid camp associated with this subject
- **Certificate III Rural Operations** students will be required to source own transport for days required on UQ Campus in 2026.
- In exceptional circumstances, students may need to study a subject to support their pathway through external providers. This option is considered under negotiation with the College.
- Not all subjects will necessarily be offered in 2026. If numbers are not sufficient to make a class economically feasible, a decision may be made to suspend that subject for a period.
- Our College offers a wide variety of subjects. This creates a great opportunity for our students, however, classes with low enrolment numbers will not be timetabled. Students who select subjects that do not run will be contacted individually.

ONLINE SUBJECTS

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College values the diversity of pathways and the importance of providing broad subject offerings to support all students. For this reason, the College, through partnerships with Secondary College's within Toowoomba Catholic Schools, TAFE Queensland, and the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, are able to offer additional subjects to support students with their pathways. These subjects are known as Online Subjects.

To successfully complete an online subject, students need to demonstrate high levels of the College Learning Dispositions, especially motivation, independence, and perseverance. Students completing an online subject will be timetabled to a class where they will access their learning resources through the relevant learning management system. There will be a

requirement to join a tutorial with the online subject teacher before, during *or* after school once per week.

In completing an online subject, students will be responsible for:

- Fully participating in online live lessons, online coursework and discussions
- Watching all recordings created by the teacher
- Contacting the subject teacher with any questions or difficulties
- Completing all set homework and assessment
- Attend tutorials and classes that may fall during break times

Students undertaking these online subjects will have their progress be reviewed at the conclusion on Unit 1 to gauge their success in continuing further in the subject.

Subjects offered as online subjects in 2026 include:

Modern History (Online – Hybrid)
Literature (Online – Hybrid)
Chemistry (Online – FLA)
Physics (Online – Hybrid)
Specialist Maths (Online - Hybrid)
Aerospace (Online - Hybrid)

Subject information has been included in this booklet.

There may be some flexibility in the lines that some of these subjects are delivered, a discussion with the Assistant Principal Senior Years would need to occur before any selections outside of locked lines could be made.

For further information regarding online subjects, please speak to the Assistant Principal Senior Years.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College is associated with several Registered Training Organisation (RTOs). Many of these RTOs run their VET courses externally and liaise with each student and their parents directly.

We continue to work with UQ Skills and TAFE Qld to provide further opportunities.

Our College, through the support of Toowoomba Catholic Schools, offers opportunities for students to undertake school-based apprenticeships or traineeships.

Please speak to the Assistant Principal Senior Years or Careers Development Practitioner if you are interested in undertaking a VET course, School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship. Students who undertake workdays will need to discuss either Wednesday or Fridays as the College supported workdays with their employer.

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES FOR GENERAL SUBJECTS 2026

Some subjects require substantial prior knowledge to enable success. Without this knowledge, students are likely to achieve poorly and waste valuable time. Where students do not have the recommended prior knowledge, it is advisable not to select the subject as a next step but instead to pursue another option in Years 11-12 and if needs be, do a tertiary preparation course in the more difficult subject after finishing Year 12.

Students must **select wisely** in Year 10 and work hard on their Senior subjects from the very beginning of Year 11. Students attempt to choose subjects that do not align with their pathways, or work ethic, and fail multiple units, again leading to a senior education that is neither fruitful or rewarding. Subject changes are not as flexible as they have been in the past. The units are NOT semester based so can conclude and be assessed at different times depending on the unit of work. Unit 3 will commence in Term 4 of Year 11 for many subjects so the window available for subject changes is very small.

The table below provides advice on the prerequisite studies and standards required for entry into Senior subjects. Where a subject is not listed, there is no prerequisite

Discipline	Subject	Recommended prior achievement in Year 10
Mathematics	General Mathematics	B in Mathematics
	Mathematical Methods	A in General Mathematics or B in Mathematical Methods
	Specialist Mathematics	A in Mathematical Methods
English	English	B in English
	Literature	B in English
Religion	Study of Religion	B in English and B in Religious Education
Sciences	Physics	B in Science & Mathematics
	Biology	B in Science & Mathematics
	Chemistry	B in Science & Mathematics
Health & Physical Education	Sport and Recreation	C in Health & Physical Education & Science
The Arts	Visual Art	C in English & Visual Art
Technologies	Design	C in General Mathematics
	Food & Nutrition	C in English & C Food, Nutrition & Textiles
Humanities & Social Sciences	Legal Studies	C in English & Business Studies or HASS
	Modern History	B in English & C HASS
	Business	B in General Mathematics and Business Studies

Students who do not achieve a B or higher in English or General Mathematics in Year 10 are encouraged to study Essential English & Essential Mathematics in Years 11/12.

Students not intending on following a pathway straight from school to university should be selecting subjects that align to the applied pathway.

Students who are unable to study more than 10 hours every week outside of school time should not engage in an ATAR pathway. Students who find it difficult to meet year 10 timelines for assessment should seriously consider entering the workforce once their phase of compulsory education is complete.

Applied subjects require a C in English and experience in that subject area in Years 9 and 10.

QUEENSLAND CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION (QCE) INFOMATION

All students, except those with a QCIA, should be eligible for a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of their senior schooling. Students who do not meet the QCE requirements can continue to work towards the certificate post-secondary schooling. The QCAA awards a QCE in the following July or December once a student becomes eligible. Learning accounts are closed after nine years; however, a student may apply to the QCAA to have the account reopened and all credit continued.

QUEENSLAND CERTIFICATE OF INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT (QCIA)

The Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) reports the learning achievements of eligible students who complete an individual learning program. At the end of the senior phase of learning, eligible students achieve a QCIA. These students have the option of continuing to work towards a QCE post-secondary schooling.

AUSTRALIAN TERTIARY ADMISSION RANK (ATAR) ELIGIBILITY

The calculation of an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will be based on a student's:

- best five General subject results or
- best results in a combination of four General subject results plus an Applied subject result or a Certificate III or higher VET qualification.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) has responsibility for ATAR calculations.

ENGLISH REQUIREMENT FOR ATAR

Eligibility for an ATAR will require satisfactory completion of a QCAA English subject.
Satisfactory completion will require students to attain a result that is equivalent to a Sound Level of Achievement in one of five subjects — English, Essential English, Literature, English and Literature Extension or English as an Additional Language.
While students must meet this standard to be eligible to receive an ATAR, it is not mandatory for a student's English result to be included in the calculation of their ATAR.

SENIOR SUBJECTS

The QCAA develops four types of senior subject syllabuses — General, Applied, Senior External Examinations and Short Courses. Results in General and Applied subjects contribute to the award of a QCE and may contribute to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) calculation, although no more than one result in an Applied subject or VET course can be used in the calculation of a student's ATAR.

Extension subjects are extensions of the related General subjects and are studied either concurrently with, or after, Units 3 and 4 of the General course.

Typically, it is expected that most students will complete these courses across Years 11 and 12. All subjects build on the P–10 Australian Curriculum.

GENERAL SYLLABUSES

General subjects are suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead primarily to tertiary studies and to pathways for vocational education and training and work. General subjects include Extension subjects.

APPLIED SYLLABUSES

Applied subjects are suited to students who are primarily interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to a QCE, vocational education and training or work.

SENIOR EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

The Senior External Examinations consist of individual subject examinations provided across Queensland in October and November each year by the QCAA.

SHORT COURSES

Short Courses are developed to meet a specific curriculum need and are suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to vocational education and training and establish a basis for further education and employment. They are informed by, and articulate closely with, the requirements of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF). A grade of C in Short Courses aligns with the requirements for ACSF Level 3.

At this point in time, Our Lady of the Southern Cross College will only offer General and Applied syllabuses.

SYLLABUS UNDERPINNING FACTORS

All senior syllabuses are underpinned by:

- literacy — the set of knowledge and skills about language and texts essential for understanding and conveying content
- numeracy — the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that students need to use mathematics in a wide range of situations, to recognise and understand the role of mathematics in the world, and to develop the dispositions and capacities to use mathematical knowledge and skills purposefully.

GENERAL SYLLABUSES
In addition to literacy and numeracy, General syllabuses are underpinned by:

- 21st century skills — the attributes and skills students need to prepare them for higher education, work and engagement in a complex and rapidly changing world. These include critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and teamwork, personal and social skills, and information & communication technologies (ICT) skills.

APPLIED SYLLABUSES
In addition to literacy and numeracy, Applied syllabuses are underpinned by:

- applied learning — the acquisition and application of knowledge, understanding and skills in real-world or lifelike contexts
- community connections — the awareness and understanding of life beyond school through authentic, real-world interactions by connecting classroom experience with the world outside the classroom
- core skills for work — the set of knowledge, understanding and non-technical skills that underpin successful participation in work.

GENERAL SYLLABUSES

The syllabus structure consists of a course overview and assessment.

GENERAL SYLLABUSES COURSE OVERVIEW

General syllabuses are developmental four-unit courses of study.

Units 1 and 2 provide foundational learning, allowing students to experience all syllabus objectives and begin engaging with the course subject matter. It is intended that Units 1 and 2 are studied as a pair. Assessment in Units 1 and 2 provides students with feedback on their progress in a course of study and contributes to the award of a QCE.

Students should complete Units 1 and 2 before starting Units 3 and 4.

Units 3 and 4 consolidate student learning. Assessment in Units 3 and 4 is summative and student results contribute to the award of a QCE and to ATAR calculations.

GENERAL SYLLABUSES COURSE ASSESSMENT

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College decides the sequence, scope and scale of assessments for Units 1 and 2. These assessments reflect the local context.

Units 1 and 2 assessment outcomes provide feedback to students on their progress in the course of study. Students will complete four assessments that mirror those that will be completed in Units 3 & 4.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College reports satisfactory completion of Units 1 and 2 to the QCAA. Additionally, the College reports levels of achievement to students and parents/carers using grades based on the report standards of each syllabus.

Students complete a total of four summative assessments — three internal and one external — that count towards the overall subject result in each General subject.
Schools develop three internal assessments for each senior subject to reflect the requirements described in Units 3 and 4 of each General syllabus.

The three summative internal assessments need to be endorsed by the QCAA before they are used in schools. Students' results in these assessments are externally confirmed by QCAA

assessors. These confirmed results from internal assessment are combined with a single result from an external assessment, which is developed and marked by the QCAA. The external assessment result for a subject contributes to a determined percentage of a students' overall subject result. For most subjects this is 25%; for Mathematics and Science subjects it is 50%.

GENERAL SYLLABUSES INSTRUMENT SPECIFIC MARKING GUIDES

Each syllabus provides instrument-specific marking guides (ISMGs) for summative internal assessments.

The ISMGs 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.
Schools cannot change or modify an ISMG for use with summative internal assessment.
As part of quality teaching and learning, schools should discuss ISMGs with students to help them understand the requirements of an assessment task.

GENERAL SYLLABUSES EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

External assessment is summative and adds valuable evidence of achievement to a student's profile. External assessment is:

- common to all schools
- administered under the same conditions at the same time and on the same day
- developed and marked by the QCAA according to a commonly applied marking scheme.

The external assessment contributes a determined percentage (see specific subject guides — assessment) to the student's overall subject result and is not privileged over summative internal assessment.

APPLIED SYLLABUSES

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.

APPLIED SYLLABUSES COURSE ASSESSMENT

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

Students complete an assessment program in Units 1 and 2 that mirrors the program in Units 3 and 4.

Applied syllabuses do not use external assessment.

APPLIED SYLLABUSES INSTRUMENT SPECIFIC STANDARD 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 & 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.

CONCURRENT CLASSES
To keep the breadth of curriculum offering in the senior years at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, a majority of subjects will be conducted in a concurrent classroom.

Students studying the same subject in their second last and last year of senior schooling complete different learning objectives, study different content and complete similar assessment tasks in the same room. The content structure will follow the syllabus order – Units 1 & 3 at the same time – Units 2 & 4 at the same time.

QCAA – ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS AND REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS
The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) has developed a statewide process called Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments (AARA) in order to support students with a diagnosed disability and provide them with the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.
Should you wish to have an AARA put in place to support your child with their external examinations and senior assessment items, a medical report is completed by a medical practitioner as soon as possible and returned to the Learning Support Team. This will enable the school to submit the necessary documentation to the QCAA on your child's behalf. If you

have concerns around information that you wish to remain confidential, we can arrange for you to meet with the Assistant Principal: Senior Years to maximise confidentiality.
Possible reasons for an AARA application include, but are not limited to:

- Cognitive (Dyslexia, ASD, ADHD, Dysgraphia)
- Physical (Diabetes, epilepsy, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, broken bones or misadventure)
- Sensory (hearing, speech or vision impairments); and
- Social/emotional (anxiety, PTSD or depression).

Common adjustments that can be made include, but are not limited to:

- Extra time (five minutes per half hour) for exams;
- Varied seating arrangements;
- Additional rest breaks;
- The ability to bring food or additional assistive equipment into an exam; and
- Extensions on assessment items.

Information about AARA in included below.

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

AARAs are provided to minimise, as much as possible, barriers for a student whose disability, impairment and/or medical condition may affect their ability to demonstrate their learning, knowledge, and skill in assessment.

QCAA stipulate:

- Year 11 AARA are **school-based decisions** made in line with guidelines
- Year 12 AARA applications are **submitted to QCAA**

AARA implemented for Applied, Applied (Essential) and General subjects in Unit 1 and 2 (Year 11) are aligned with those available for summative assessment in Units 3 and 4 (Year 12). Please note that the provision of AARA for assessment in Units 1 and 2 by a school is not a guarantee that the same access or adjustments for assessment will be provided in Units 3 and 4.

Eligibility
Eligibility for AARA falls within the following categories:

- long-term and chronic conditions
- mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression
- short-term conditions,
- illness and misadventure

Ineligibility

1. Unfamiliarity with the English language
2. Teacher absence or other teacher-related difficulties
3. Matters that the student could have avoided, e.g. misreading an examination timetable, misreading instructions in examinations
4. Timetable clashes
5. Matters of the student's or parents'/carers' own choosing, e.g. family holidays or sporting events

6. Matters that the school could have avoided, e.g. incorrect enrolment in a subject.

Necessary supporting documentation

- School statement
- Student statement (optional)
- Medical report
    - diagnosis of disability and/or medical condition
    - date of diagnosis
    - date of occurrence or onset of the disability and/or medical condition
    - symptoms, treatment, or course of action related to the disability and/or medical condition
    - information about how the diagnosed disability, impairment and/or medical condition affects the student participating in assessment, particularly timed assessment when considering external assessment
    - professional recommendations regarding AARA.

Adjustments (AARA) Year 11 and 12
AARAs are provided to minimise, as much as possible, barriers for a student whose disability, impairment and/or medical condition may affect their ability to demonstrate their learning, knowledge, and skill in assessment.

QCAA stipulate:
- Year 11 AARA are **school-based decisions** made in line with guidelines
- Year 12 AARA applications are **submitted to QCAA**

AARA implemented for Applied, Applied (Essential) and General subjects in Unit 1 and 2 (Year 11) are aligned with those available for summative assessment in Units 3 and 4 (Year 12). Please note that the provision of AARA for assessment in Units 1 and 2 by a school is not a guarantee that the same access or adjustments for assessment will be provided in Units 3 and 4.

Eligibility
Eligibility for AARA falls within the following categories:
- long-term and chronic conditions
- mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression
- short-term conditions,
- illness and misadventure

Ineligibility
7. Unfamiliarity with the English language
8. Teacher absence or other teacher-related difficulties
9. Matters that the student could have avoided, e.g. misreading an examination timetable, misreading instructions in examinations
10. Timetable clashes
11. Matters of the student's or parents'/carers' own choosing, e.g. family holidays or sporting events
12. Matters that the school could have avoided, e.g. incorrect enrolment in a subject.

Necessary supporting documentation

- School statement
- Student statement (optional)
- Medical report *or* Evidence of verified disability (EAP)
    - diagnosis of disability and/or medical condition
    - date of diagnosis
    - date of occurrence or onset of the disability and/or medical condition
    - symptoms, treatment, or course of action related to the disability and/or medical condition
    - information about how the diagnosed disability, impairment and/or medical condition affects the student participating in assessment, particularly timed assessment when considering external assessment
    - professional recommendations regarding AARA.

SENIOR SUBJECT GUIDE

Essential English

Applied senior subject

Applied

Essential English develops and refines students' understanding of language, literature and literacy to enable them to interact confidently and effectively with others in everyday, community and social contexts. Students recognise language and texts as relevant in their lives now and in the future and learn to understand, accept or challenge the values and attitudes in these texts.

Students engage with language and texts to foster skills to communicate confidently and effectively in Standard Australian English in a variety of contemporary contexts and social situations, including everyday, social, community, further education and work-related contexts. They choose generic structures, language, language features and technologies to best convey meaning. They develop skills to read for meaning and purpose, and to use, critique and appreciate a range of contemporary literary and non-literary texts.

Students use language effectively to produce texts for a variety of purposes and audiences and engage creative and imaginative thinking to explore their own world and the worlds of others. They actively and critically interact with a range of texts, developing an awareness of how the language they engage with positions them and others.

Pathways

A course of study in Essential English promotes open-mindedness, imagination, critical awareness and intellectual flexibility — skills that prepare students for local and global citizenship, and for lifelong learning across a wide range of contexts.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- use patterns and conventions of genres to achieve particular purposes in cultural contexts and social situations
- use appropriate roles and relationships with audiences
- construct and explain representations of identities, places, events and concepts
- make use of and explain the ways cultural assumptions, attitudes, values and beliefs underpin texts and influence meaning
- explain how language features and text structures shape meaning and invite particular responses
- select and use subject matter to support perspectives
- sequence subject matter and use mode-appropriate cohesive devices to construct coherent texts
- make mode-appropriate language choices according to register informed by purpose, audience and context
- use language features to achieve particular purposes across modes.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Language that works • Responding to a variety of texts used in and developed for a work context • Creating multimodal and written texts	**Texts and human experiences** • Responding to reflective and nonfiction texts that explore human experiences • Creating spoken and written texts	**Language that influences** • Creating and shaping perspectives on community, local and global issues in texts • Responding to texts that seek to influence audiences	**Representations and popular culture texts** • Responding to popular culture texts • Creating representations of Australian identifies, places, events and concepts

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. Schools develop three summative internal assessments and the common internal assessment (CIA) is developed by the QCAA.

Summative assessments

Unit 3	Unit 4
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Extended response — spoken/signed response	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Extended response — Multimodal response
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Common internal assessment (CIA) — short response examination	Summative internal assessment (IA4): • Extended response — Written response

English

General senior subject

General

English focuses on the study of both literary texts and non-literary texts, developing students as independent, innovative and creative learners and thinkers who appreciate the aesthetic use of language, analyse perspectives and evidence, and challenge ideas and interpretations through the analysis and creation of varied texts.

Students are offered opportunities to interpret and create texts for personal, cultural, social and aesthetic purposes. They learn how language varies according to context, purpose and audience, content, modes and mediums, and how to use it appropriately and effectively for a variety of purposes. Students have opportunities to engage with diverse texts to help them develop a sense of themselves, their world and their place in it.

Students communicate effectively in Standard Australian English for the purposes of responding to and creating texts. They make choices about generic structures, language, textual features and technologies for participating actively in literary analysis and the creation of texts in a range of modes, mediums and forms, for a variety of purposes and audiences. They explore how literary and non-literary texts shape perceptions of the world, and consider ways in which texts may reflect or challenge social and cultural ways of thinking and influence audiences.

Pathways

A course of study in English promotes open-mindedness, imagination, critical awareness and intellectual flexibility — skills that prepare students for local and global citizenship, and for lifelong learning across a wide range of contexts.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- use patterns and conventions of genres to achieve particular purposes in cultural contexts and social situations
- establish and maintain roles of the writer/speaker/signer/designer and relationships with audiences
- create and analyse perspectives and representations of concepts, identities, times and places
- make use of and analyse the ways cultural assumptions, attitudes, values and beliefs underpin texts and invite audiences to take up positions
- use aesthetic features and stylistic devices to achieve purposes and analyse their effects in texts
- select and synthesise subject matter to support perspectives
- organise and sequence subject matter to achieve particular purposes
- use cohesive devices to emphasise ideas and connect parts of texts
- make language choices for particular purposes and contexts
- use grammar and language structures for particular purposes
- use mode-appropriate features to achieve particular purposes.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Perspectives and texts • Examining and creating perspectives in texts • Responding to a variety of non-literary and literary texts • Creating responses for public audiences and persuasive texts	**Texts and culture** • Examining and shaping representations of culture in texts • Responding to literary and non-literary texts, including a focus on Australian texts • Creating imaginative and analytical texts	**Textual connections** • Exploring connections between texts • Examining different perspectives of the same issue in texts and shaping own perspectives • Creating responses for public audiences and persuasive texts	**Close study of literary texts** • Engaging with literary texts from diverse times and places • Responding to literary texts creatively and critically • Creating imaginative and analytical texts

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Extended response — written response for a public audience	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Examination — imaginative written response	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Extended response — persuasive spoken response	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — analytical written response	25%

Literature

General senior subject

General

Literature focuses on the study of literary texts, developing students as independent, innovative and creative learners and thinkers who appreciate the aesthetic use of language, analyse perspectives and evidence, and challenge ideas and interpretations through the analysis and creation of varied literary texts. Students engage with language and texts through a range of teaching and learning experiences to foster the skills to communicate effectively. They make choices about generic structures, language, textual features and technologies to participate actively in the dialogue and detail of literary analysis and the creation of imaginative and analytical texts in a range of modes, mediums and forms.

Students explore how literary texts shape perceptions of the world and enable us to enter the worlds of others. They explore ways in which literary texts may reflect or challenge social and cultural ways of thinking and influence audiences.

Pathways

A course of study in Literature promotes open-mindedness, imagination, critical awareness and intellectual flexibility — skills that prepare students for local and global citizenship, and for lifelong learning across a wide range of contexts.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- use patterns and conventions of genres to achieve particular purposes in cultural contexts and social situations
- establish and maintain roles of the writer/speaker/signer/designer and relationships with audiences
- create and analyse perspectives and representations of concepts, identities, times and places
- make use of and analyse the ways cultural assumptions, attitudes, values and beliefs underpin texts and invite audiences to take up positions
- use aesthetic features and stylistic devices to achieve purposes and analyse their effects in texts
- select and synthesise subject matter to support perspectives
- organise and sequence subject matter to achieve particular purposes
- use cohesive devices to emphasise ideas and connect parts of texts
- make language choices for particular purposes and contexts
- use grammar and language structures for particular purposes
- use mode-appropriate features to achieve particular purposes.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Introduction to literary studies • Ways literary texts are received and responded to • How textual choices affect readers • Creating analytical and imaginative texts	**Texts and culture** • Ways literary texts connect with each other — genre, concepts and contexts • Ways literary texts connect with each other — style and structure • Creating analytical and imaginative texts	**Literature and identity** • Relationship between language, culture and identity in literary texts • Power of language to represent ideas, events and people • Creating analytical and imaginative texts	**Independent explorations** • Dynamic nature of literary interpretation • Close examination of style, structure and subject matter • Creating analytical and imaginative texts

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete four summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — analytical written response	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Extended response — imaginative written response	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Extended response — imaginative spoken/multimodal response	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — analytical written response	25%

Sport & Recreation

Applied senior subject

Applied

Sport and recreation activities are a part of the fabric of Australian life and are an intrinsic part of Australian culture. These activities can encompass social and competitive sport, aquatic and community recreation, fitness and outdoor recreation. For many people, sport and recreation activities form a substantial component of their leisure time. Participation in sport and recreation can make positive contributions to a person's wellbeing.

Sport and recreation activities also represent growth industries in Australia, providing many employment opportunities, many of which will be directly or indirectly associated with hosting Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The skills developed in Sport & Recreation may be oriented toward work, personal fitness or general health and wellbeing. Students will be involved in learning experiences that allow them to develop their interpersonal abilities and encourage them to appreciate and value active involvement in sport and recreational activities, contributing to ongoing personal and community development throughout their lives.

Sport is defined as activities requiring physical exertion, personal challenge and skills as the primary focus, along with elements of competition. Within these activities, rules and patterns of behaviour governing the activity exist formally through organisations.

Recreation activities are defined as active pastimes engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health and wellbeing and/or enjoyment and are recognised as having socially worthwhile qualities. Active recreation requires physical exertion and human activity. Physical activities that meet these classifications can include active play and minor games, challenge and adventure activities, games and sports, lifelong physical activities, and rhythmic and expressive movement activities.

Active participation in sport and recreation activities is central to the learning in Sport & Recreation. Sport & Recreation enables students to engage in sport and recreation activities to experience and learn about the role of sport and recreation in their lives, the lives of others and the community. Engagement in these activities provides a unique and powerful opportunity for students to experience the challenge and fun of physical activity while developing vocational, life and physical skills.

Each unit requires that students engage in sport and/or recreation activities. They investigate, plan, perform and evaluate procedures and strategies and communicate appropriately to particular audiences for particular purposes.

Pathways

A course of study in Sport & Recreation can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of fitness, outdoor recreation and education, sports administration, community health and recreation and sport performance.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students should:

- Investigate activities and strategies to enhance outcomes
- plan activities and strategies to enhance outcomes
- perform activities and strategies to enhance outcomes

  evaluate activities and strategies to enhance outcomes.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Sport & Recreation is a four-unit course of study. This syllabus contains 12 QCAA-developed units as options for schools to select from to develop their course of study.

Unit option	Unit title
Unit option A	Aquatic recreation
Unit option B	Athlete development and wellbeing
Unit option C	Challenge in the outdoors
Unit option D	Coaching and officiating
Unit option E	Community recreation
Unit option F	Emerging trends in sport, fitness and recreation
Unit option G	Event management
Unit option H	Fitness for sport and recreation
Unit option I	Marketing and communication in sport and recreation
Unit option J	Optimising performance
Unit option K	Outdoor leadership
Unit option L	Sustainable outdoor recreation

Religion & Ethics

Applied senior subject

Applied

A sense of purpose and personal integrity are essential for participative and contributing members of society. Religion & Ethics allows students to explore values and life choices and the ways in which these are related to beliefs and practices as they learn about religion, spirituality and ethics. In addition, it enables students to learn about and reflect on the richness of religious, spiritual and ethical worldviews.

In this syllabus, religion is understood as a faith tradition based on a common understanding of beliefs and practices. In a religious sense, beliefs are tenets, creeds or faiths; religious belief is belief in a power or powers that influence human behaviours. Ethics refers to a system of moral principles; the rules of conduct or approaches to making decisions for the good of the individual and society. Both religion and ethics prompt questions about values, the determination of a moral course of action, and what personal and community decisions can be considered when confronted with situations requiring significant decisions.

Religion & Ethics enhances students' understanding of how personal beliefs, values, spiritual and moral identity are shaped and influenced by factors such as family, culture, gender and social issues. It allows for flexible courses of study that recognise the varied needs and interests of students through exploring topics such as the meaning of life, purpose and destiny, life choices, moral and ethical issues and social justice.

Religion & Ethics focuses on the personal, relational and spiritual perspectives of human experience. It enables students to investigate and critically reflect on the role and function of religion and ethics in society and to communicate principles and ideas relevant to their lives and the world.

Learning experiences should be practical and experiential in emphasis and access the benefits of networking within the community. Schools may consider involvement with religious communities, charities, welfare and service groups and organisations. The syllabus enables students to interact with the ideas and perspectives of members of the wider community who may express beliefs and values different from their own.

Students develop effective decision-making skills and learn how to plan, implement and evaluate inquiry processes and outcomes, resulting in improved 21st century, literacy and numeracy skills. They examine religion and ethics information and apply their understanding and skills related to community contexts. The knowledge and skills developed in Religion & Ethics provide students with the ability to participate effectively in the changing world around them as active and engaged citizens dealing with religious, spiritual and ethical issues.

Pathways

A course of study in Religion & Ethics can establish a basis for further education and employment in any field. Students gain skills and attitudes that contribute to lifelong learning and the basis for engaging with others in diverse settings.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students should:

- explain religions, spiritual and ethical principles and practices
- examine religions, spiritual and ethical information
- apply religious, spiritual and ethical knowledge
- communicate responses
- evaluate projects.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Religion & Ethics is a four-unit course of study. This syllabus contains six QCAA-developed units as options for schools to select from to develop their course of study.

Unit option	Unit title
Unit option A	Australian identity
Unit option B	Social justice
Unit option C	Meaning, purpose and expression
Unit option D	World religions and spiritualities
Unit option E	Peace
Unit option F	Sacred stories

Assessment

Students complete two assessment tasks for each unit. The assessment techniques used in Religion & Ethics are:

Technique	Description	Response requirements
Project	Students provide a view on a scenario.	**Product/Plan/Campaign** One of the following: • Multimodal (at least two modes delivered at the same time): up to 5 minutes, or 8 A4 pages, or equivalent digital media • Spoken: up to 4 minutes, or signed equivalent • Written: up to 800 words **Evaluation** One of the following: • Multimodal (at least two modes delivered at the same time): up to 5 minutes, or 8 A4 pages, or equivalent digital media • Spoken: up to 4 minutes, or signed equivalent • Written: up to 600 words
Investigation	Students investigate a question, opportunity or issue to develop a response.	One of the following: • Multimodal (at least two modes delivered at the same time): up to 7 minutes, or 10 A4 pages, or equivalent digital media • Spoken: up to 7 minutes, or signed equivalent • Written: up to 1000 words
Extended response	Students respond to stimulus related to a scenario.	One of the following: • Multimodal (at least two modes delivered at the same time): up to 7 minutes, or 10 A4 pages, or equivalent digital media • Spoken: up to 7 minutes, or signed equivalent • Written: up to 1000 words

Business

General senior subject

General

Business provides opportunities for students to develop business knowledge and skills to contribute meaningfully to society, the workforce and the marketplace and prepares them as potential employees, employers, leaders, managers and entrepreneurs.

Students investigate the business life cycle, develop skills in examining business data and information and learn business concepts, theories, processes and strategies relevant to leadership, management and entrepreneurship. They investigate the influence of, and implications for, strategic development in the functional areas of finance, human resources, marketing and operations.

Students use a variety of technological, communication and analytical tools to comprehend, analyse, interpret and synthesise business data and information. They engage with the dynamic business world (in both national and global contexts), the changing workforce and emerging digital technologies.

Pathways

A course of study in Business can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of business management, business development, entrepreneurship, business analytics, economics, business law, accounting and finance, international business, marketing, human resources management and business information systems.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- describe business environments and situations
- explain business concepts, strategies and processes
- select and analyse business data and information
- interpret business relationships, patterns and trends to draw conclusions
- evaluate business practices and strategies to make decisions and propose recommendations
- create responses that communicate meaning to suit purpose and audience.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Business creation • Fundamentals of business • Creation of business ideas	**Business growth** • Establishment of a business • Entering markets	**Business diversification** • Competitive markets • Strategic development	**Business evolution** • Repositioning a business • Transformation of a business

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — combination response	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Extended response — feasibility report	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Investigation — business report	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — combination response	25%

Legal Studies

General senior subject

General

Legal Studies focuses on the interaction between society and the discipline of law and explores the role and development of law in response to current issues. Students study the legal system and how it regulates activities and aims to protect the rights of individuals, while balancing these with obligations and responsibilities.

Students study the foundations of law, the criminal justice process and the civil justice system. They critically examine issues of governance, explore contemporary issues of law reform and change, and consider Australian and international human rights issues.

Students develop skills of inquiry, critical thinking, problem-solving and reasoning to make informed and ethical decisions and recommendations. They identify and describe legal issues, explore information and data, analyse, evaluate to make decisions or propose recommendations, and create responses that convey legal meaning. They question, explore and discuss tensions between changing social values, justice and equitable outcomes.

Pathways

A course of study in Legal Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of law, law enforcement, criminology, justice studies and politics. The knowledge, skills and attitudes students gain are transferable to all discipline areas and post-schooling tertiary pathways. The research and analytical skills this course develops are universally valued in business, health, science and engineering industries.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- comprehend legal concepts, principles and processes
- select legal information from sources
- analyse legal issues
- evaluate legal situations
- create responses that communicate meaning.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Beyond reasonable doubt • Legal foundations • Criminal investigation process • Criminal trial process • Punishment and sentencing	**Balance of probabilities** • Civil law foundations • Contractual obligations • Negligence and the duty of care	**Law, governance and change** • Governance in Australia • Law reform within a dynamic society	**Human rights in legal contexts** • Human rights • The effectiveness of international law • Human rights in Australian contexts

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — combination response	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Investigation — argumentative essay	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Investigation — inquiry report	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — combination response	25%

Modern History

General senior subject

General

Modern History provides opportunities for students to gain historical knowledge and understanding about some of the main forces that have contributed to the development of the Modern World and to think historically and form a historical consciousness in relation to these same forces.

Modern History enables students to empathise with others and make meaningful connections between the past, present and possible futures.

Students learn that the past is contestable and tentative. Through inquiry into ideas, movements, national experiences and international experiences they discover how the past consists of various perspectives and interpretations.

Students gain a range of transferable skills that will help them become empathetic and critically-literate citizens who are equipped to embrace a multicultural, pluralistic, inclusive, democratic, compassionate and sustainable future.

Pathways

A course of study in Modern History can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of history, education, psychology, sociology, law, business, economics, politics, journalism, the media, writing, academia and strategic analysis.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- comprehend terms, concepts and issues
- devise historical questions and conduct research
- analyse evidence from historical sources to show understanding
- synthesise evidence from historical sources to form a historical argument
- evaluate evidence from historical sources to make judgments
- create responses that communicate meaning to suit purpose.

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Ideas in the modern world • Australian Frontier Wars, 1788–1930s • Age of Enlightenment, 1750s–1789 • Industrial Revolution, 1760s–1890s • American Revolution, 1763–1783 • French Revolution, 1789–1799 • Age of Imperialism, 1848–1914 • Meiji Restoration, 1868–1912	**Movements in the modern world** • Australian Indigenous rights movement since 1967 • Independence movement in India, 1857–1947 • Workers' movement since the 1860s • Women's movement since 1893 • May Fourth Movement in China, 1919 • Independence movement in Algeria, 1945–1962	**National experiences in the modern world** • Australia, 1914–1949 • England, 1756–1837 • France, 1799–1815 • New Zealand, 1841–1934 • Germany,1914–1945 • United States of America, 1917–1945 • Soviet Union, 1920s–1945 • Japan, 1931–1967 • China, 1931–1976 • Indonesia, 1942–1975 • India, 1947–1974 • Israel, 1948–1993	**International experiences in the modern world** • Australian engagement with Asia since 1945 • Search for collective peace and security since 1815 • Trade and commerce between nations since 1833 • Mass migrations since 1848 • Information Age since 1936 • Genocides and ethnic cleansings since the 1930s • Nuclear Age since 1945 • Cold War, 1945–1991

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
• Boxer Rebellion, 1900–1901 • Russian Revolution, 1905–1920s • Xinhai Revolution, 1911–1912 • Iranian Revolution, 1977–1979 • Arab Spring since 2010 • Alternative topic for Unit 1	• Independence movement in Vietnam, 1945–1975 • Anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, 1948–1991 • African-American civil rights movement, 1954–1968 • Environmental movement since the 1960s • LGBTIQ civil rights movement since 1969 • Pro-democracy movement in Myanmar (Burma) since 1988 • Alternative topic for Unit 2	• South Korea, 1948–1972	• Struggle for peace in the Middle East since 1948 • Cultural globalisation since 1956 • Space exploration since 1957 • Rights and recognition of First Peoples since 1982 • Terrorism, anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism since 1984

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — essay in response to historical sources	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Investigation — historical essay based on research	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Investigation — independent source investigation	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — short responses to historical sources	25%

Study of Religion

General senior subject

General

Study of Religion investigates religious traditions and how religion has influenced, and continues to influence, people's lives. Students become aware of their own religious beliefs, the religious beliefs of others, and how people holding such beliefs are able to co-exist in a pluralist society.

Students study the five major world religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism; and Australian Aboriginal spiritualities and Torres Strait Islander religion and their influence on people, society and culture. These are explored through sacred texts and religious writings that offer insights into life, and through the rituals that mark significant moments and events in the religion itself and the lives of adherents.

Students develop a logical and critical approach to understanding the influence of religion, with judgments supported through valid and reasoned argument. They develop critical thinking skills, including those of analysis, reasoning and evaluation, as well as communication skills that support further study and post-school participation in a wide range of fields.

Pathways

A course of study in Study of Religion can establish a basis for further education and employment in such fields as anthropology, the arts, education, journalism, politics, psychology, religious studies, sociology and social work.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- describe the characteristics of religion and religious traditions
- demonstrate an understanding of religious traditions
- differentiate between religious traditions
- analyse perspectives about religious expressions within traditions
- consider and organise information about religion
- evaluate and draw conclusions about the significance of religion for individuals and its influence on people, society and culture
- create responses that communicate meaning to suit purpose.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Sacred texts and religious writings • Sacred texts • Abrahamic traditions	**Religion and ritual** • Lifecycle rituals • Calendrical rituals	**Religious ethics** • Social ethics • Ethical relationships	**Religion, rights and the nation-state** • Religion and the nation–state • Religion and human rights

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — extended response	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Investigation — inquiry response	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Investigation — inquiry response	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — short response	25%

Essential Mathematics

Applied senior subject

Applied

Essential Mathematics' major domains are Number, Data, Location and time, Measurement and Finance.

Essential Mathematics benefits students because they develop skills that go beyond the traditional ideas of numeracy.

Students develop their conceptual understanding when they undertake tasks that require them to connect mathematical concepts, operations and relations. They learn to recognise definitions, rules and facts from everyday mathematics and data, and to calculate using appropriate mathematical processes.

Students interpret and use mathematics to make informed predictions and decisions about personal and financial priorities. This is achieved through an emphasis on estimation, problem-solving and reasoning, which develops students into thinking citizens.

Pathways

A course of study in Essential Mathematics can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of trade, industry, business and community services. Students learn within a practical context related to general employment and successful participation in society, drawing on the mathematics used by various professional and industry groups.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- select, recall and use facts, rules, definitions and procedures drawn from Number, Data, Location and time, Measurement and Finance
- comprehend mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Number, Data, Location and time, Measurement and Finance
- communicate using mathematical, statistical and everyday language and conventions
- evaluate the reasonableness of solutions
- justify procedures and decisions by explaining mathematical reasoning
- solve problems by applying mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Number, Data, Location and time, Measurement and Finance.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Number, data and graphs • Fundamental topic: Calculations • Number • Representing data • Graphs	**Money, travel and data** • Fundamental topic: Calculations • Managing money • Time and motion • Data collection	**Measurement, scales and data** • Fundamental topic: Calculations • Measurement • Scales, plans and models • Summarising and comparing data	**Graphs, chance and loans** • Fundamental topic: Calculations • Bivariate graphs • Probability and relative frequencies • Loans and compound interest

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. Schools develop three summative internal assessments and the common internal assessment (CIA) is developed by the QCAA.

Summative assessments

Unit 3	Unit 4
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Problem-solving and modelling task	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Problem-solving and modelling task
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Common internal assessment (CIA)	Summative internal assessment (IA4): • Examination

General Mathematics

General senior subject

General

General Mathematics' major domains are Number and algebra, Measurement and geometry, Statistics, and Networks and matrices, building on the content of the P–10 Australian Curriculum.

General Mathematics is designed for students who want to extend their mathematical skills beyond Year 10 but whose future studies or employment pathways do not require calculus.

Students build on and develop key mathematical ideas, including rates and percentages, concepts from financial mathematics, linear and non-linear expressions, sequences, the use of matrices and networks to model and solve authentic problems, the use of trigonometry to find solutions to practical problems, and the exploration of real-world phenomena in statistics.

Students engage in a practical approach that equips learners for their needs as future citizens. They learn to ask appropriate questions, map out pathways, reason about complex solutions, set up models and communicate in different forms. They experience the relevance of mathematics to their daily lives, communities and cultural backgrounds. They develop the ability to understand, analyse and take action regarding social issues in their world.

Pathways

A course of study in General Mathematics can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of business, commerce, education, finance, IT, social science and the arts.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- select, recall and use facts, rules, definitions and procedures drawn from Number and algebra, Measurement and geometry, Statistics, and Networks and matrices
- comprehend mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Number and algebra, Measurement and geometry, Statistics, and Networks and matrices
- communicate using mathematical, statistical and everyday language and conventions
- evaluate the reasonableness of solutions
- justify procedures and decisions by explaining mathematical reasoning
- solve problems by applying mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Number and algebra, Measurement and geometry, Statistics, and Networks and matrices.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Money, measurement and relations • Consumer arithmetic • Shape and measurement • Linear equations and their graphs	**Applied trigonometry, algebra, matrices and univariate data** • Applications of trigonometry • Algebra and matrices • Univariate data analysis	**Bivariate data, sequences and change, and Earth geometry** • Bivariate data analysis • Time series analysis • Growth and decay in sequences • Earth geometry and time zones	**Investing and networking** • Loans, investments and annuities • Graphs and networks • Networks and decision mathematics

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Unit 3</th><th colspan="2">Unit 4</th></tr>
<tr><td>Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1):
• Problem-solving and modelling task</td><td>20%</td><td rowspan="2">Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3):
• Examination</td><td rowspan="2">15%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2):
• Examination</td><td>15%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Summative external assessment (EA): 50%
• Examination</td></tr>
</table>

Mathematical Methods

General senior subject

General

Mathematical Methods' major domains are Algebra, Functions, relations and their graphs, Calculus and Statistics.

Mathematical Methods enables students to see the connections between mathematics and other areas of the curriculum and apply their mathematical skills to real-world problems, becoming critical thinkers, innovators and problem-solvers.

Students learn topics that are developed systematically, with increasing levels of sophistication, complexity and connection, and build on algebra, functions and their graphs, and probability from the P–10 Australian Curriculum. Calculus is essential for developing an understanding of the physical world. The domain Statistics is used to describe and analyse phenomena involving uncertainty and variation. Both are the basis for developing effective models of the world and solving complex and abstract mathematical problems.

Students develop the ability to translate written, numerical, algebraic, symbolic and graphical information from one representation to another. They make complex use of factual knowledge to successfully formulate, represent and solve mathematical problems.

Pathways

A course of study in Mathematical Methods can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of natural and physical sciences (especially physics and chemistry), mathematics and science education, medical and health sciences (including human biology, biomedical science, nanoscience and forensics), engineering (including chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, avionics, communications and mining), computer science (including electronics and software design), psychology and business.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- select, recall and use facts, rules, definitions and procedures drawn from Algebra, Functions, relations and their graphs, Calculus and Statistics
- comprehend mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Algebra, Functions, relations and their graphs, Calculus and Statistics
- communicate using mathematical, statistical and everyday language and conventions
- evaluate the reasonableness of solutions
- justify procedures and decisions by explaining mathematical reasoning
- solve problems by applying mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Algebra, Functions, relations and their graphs, Calculus and Statistics.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Algebra, statistics and functions • Arithmetic and geometric sequences and series 1 • Functions and graphs • Counting and probability • Exponential functions 1 • Arithmetic and geometric sequences	**Calculus and further functions** • Exponential functions 2 • The logarithmic function 1 • Trigonometric functions 1 • Introduction to differential calculus • Further differentiation and applications 1 • Discrete random variables 1	**Further calculus** • The logarithmic function 2 • Further differentiation and applications 2 • Integrals	**Further functions and statistics** • Further differentiation and applications 3 • Trigonometric functions 2 • Discrete random variables 2 • Continuous random variables and the normal distribution • Interval estimates for proportions

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Problem-solving and modelling task	20%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Examination	15%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Examination	15%		
Summative external assessment (EA): 50% • Examination			

Specialist Mathematics

General senior subject

General

Specialist Mathematics' major domains are Vectors and matrices, Real and complex numbers, Trigonometry, Statistics and Calculus.

Specialist Mathematics is designed for students who develop confidence in their mathematical knowledge and ability, and gain a positive view of themselves as mathematics learners. They will gain an appreciation of the true nature of mathematics, its beauty and its power.

Students learn topics that are developed systematically, with increasing levels of sophistication, complexity and connection, building on functions, calculus, statistics from Mathematical Methods, while vectors, complex numbers and matrices are introduced. Functions and calculus are essential for creating models of the physical world. Statistics are used to describe and analyse phenomena involving probability, uncertainty and variation. Matrices, complex numbers and vectors are essential tools for explaining abstract or complex relationships that occur in scientific and technological endeavours.

Student learning experiences range from practising essential mathematical routines to developing procedural fluency, through to investigating scenarios, modelling the real world, solving problems and explaining reasoning.

Pathways

A course of study in Specialist Mathematics can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of science, all branches of mathematics and statistics, computer science, medicine, engineering, finance and economics.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- select, recall and use facts, rules, definitions and procedures drawn from Vectors and matrices, Real and complex numbers, Trigonometry, Statistics and Calculus
- comprehend mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Vectors and matrices, Real and complex numbers, Trigonometry, Statistics and Calculus
- communicate using mathematical, statistical and everyday language and conventions
- evaluate the reasonableness of solutions
- justify procedures and decisions by explaining mathematical reasoning
- solve problems by applying mathematical concepts and techniques drawn from Vectors and matrices, Real and complex numbers, Trigonometry, Statistics and Calculus.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Specialist Mathematics is to be undertaken in conjunction with, or on completion of, Mathematical Methods.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Combinatorics, vectors and proof • Combinatorics • Vectors in the plane • Introduction to proof	**Complex numbers, trigonometry, functions and matrices** • Complex numbers 1 • Trigonometry and functions • Matrices	**Mathematical induction, and further vectors, matrices and complex numbers** • Proof by mathematical induction • Vectors and matrices • Complex numbers 2	**Further statistical and calculus inference** • Integration and applications of integration • Rates of change and differential equations • Statistical inference

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

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• Examination</td></tr>
</table>

Science in Practice

Applied senior subject

Applied

Science in Practice provides opportunities for students to explore, experience and learn concepts and practical skills valued in multidisciplinary science, workplaces and other settings. Learning in Science in Practice involves creative and critical thinking; systematically accessing, capturing and analysing information, including primary and secondary data; and using digital technologies to undertake research, evaluate information and present data.

Science in Practice students apply scientific knowledge and skills in situations to produce practical outcomes. Students build their understanding of expectations for work in scientific settings and develop an understanding of career pathways, jobs and other opportunities available for participating in and contributing to scientific activities.

Projects and investigations are key features of Science in Practice. Projects require the application of a range of cognitive, technical and reasoning skills and practical-based theory to produce real-world outcomes. Investigations follow scientific inquiry methods to develop a deeper understanding of a particular topic or context and the link between theory and practice in real-world and/or lifelike scientific contexts.

By studying Science in Practice, students develop an awareness and understanding of life beyond school through authentic, real-world interactions to become responsible and informed citizens. They develop a strong personal, socially oriented, ethical outlook that assists with managing context, conflict and uncertainty. Students gain the ability to work effectively and respectfully with diverse teams to maximise understanding of concepts, while exercising flexibility, cultural awareness and a willingness to make necessary compromises to accomplish common goals. They learn to communicate effectively and efficiently by manipulating appropriate language, terminology, symbols and diagrams associated with scientific communication.

The objectives of the course ensure that students apply what they understand to explain and execute procedures, plan and implement projects and investigations, analyse and interpret information, and evaluate procedures, conclusions and outcomes.

Workplace health and safety practices are embedded across all units and focus on building knowledge and skills in working safely, effectively and efficiently in practical scientific situations.

Pathways

A course of study in Science in Practice is inclusive and caters for a wide range of students with a variety of backgrounds, interests and career aspirations. It can establish a basis for further education and employment in many fields, e.g. animal welfare, food technology, forensics, health and medicine, the pharmaceutical industry, recreation and tourism, research, and the resources sector.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study students should:

- describe ideas and phenomena
- execute procedures
- analyse information
- interpret information
- evaluate conclusions and outcomes
- plan investigations and projects.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Science in Practice is a four-unit course of study. This syllabus contains six QCAA-developed units as options for schools to select from to develop their course of study.

Unit option	Unit title
Unit option A	Consumer science
Unit option B	Ecology
Unit option C	Forensic science
Unit option D	Disease
Unit option E	Sustainability
Unit option F	Transport

Assessment

Students complete two assessment tasks for each unit. The assessment techniques used in Science in Practice are:

Technique	Description	Response requirements
Applied investigation	Students investigate a research question by collecting, analysing and interpreting primary or secondary information.	One of the following: • Multimodal (at least two modes delivered at the same time): up to 7 minutes, 10 A4 pages, or equivalent digital media • Written: up to 1000 words
Practical project	Students use practical skills to complete a project in response to a scenario.	**Completed project** One of the following: • Product: 1 • Performance: up to 4 minutes **Documented process** Multimodal (at least two modes delivered at the same time): up to 5 minutes, 8 A4 pages, or equivalent digital media

Biology

General senior subject

General

Biology provides opportunities for students to engage with living systems.

Students develop their understanding of cells and multicellular organisms. They engage with the concept of maintaining the internal environment. They study biodiversity and the interconnectedness of life. This knowledge is linked with the concepts of heredity and the continuity of life.

Students learn and apply aspects of the knowledge and skills of the discipline (thinking, experimentation, problem-solving and research skills), understand how it works and how it may impact society. They develop their sense of wonder and curiosity about life; respect for all living things and the environment; understanding of biological systems, concepts, theories and models; appreciation of how biological knowledge has developed over time and continues to develop; a sense of how biological knowledge influences society.

Students plan and carry out fieldwork, laboratory and other research investigations; interpret evidence; use sound, evidence-based arguments creatively and analytically when evaluating claims and applying biological knowledge; and communicate biological understanding, findings, arguments and conclusions using appropriate representations, modes and genres.

Pathways

A course of study in Biology can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of medicine, forensics, veterinary, food and marine sciences, agriculture, biotechnology, environmental rehabilitation, biosecurity, quarantine, conservation and sustainability.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- describe and explain scientific concepts, theories, models and systems and their limitations
- apply understanding of scientific concepts, theories, models and systems within their limitations
- analyse evidence
- interpret evidence
- investigate phenomena
- evaluate processes, claims and conclusions
- communicate understandings, findings, arguments and conclusions.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Cells and multicellular organisms • Cells as the basis of life • Multicellular organisms	**Maintaining the internal environment** • Homeostasis • Infectious diseases	**Biodiversity and the interconnectedness of life** • Describing biodiversity • Ecosystem dynamics	**Heredity and continuity of life** • DNA, genes and the continuity of life • Continuity of life on Earth

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

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• Student experiment</td><td>20%</td></tr>
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• Examination</td></tr>
</table>

Chemistry

General senior subject

General

Chemistry is the study of materials and their properties and structure.

Students study atomic theory, chemical bonding, and the structure and properties of elements and compounds. They explore intermolecular forces, gases, aqueous solutions, acidity and rates of reaction. They study equilibrium processes and redox reactions. They explore organic chemistry, synthesis and design to examine the characteristic chemical properties and chemical reactions displayed by different classes of organic compounds.

Students develop their appreciation of chemistry and its usefulness; understanding of chemical theories, models and chemical systems; expertise in conducting scientific investigations. They critically evaluate and debate scientific arguments and claims in order to solve problems and generate informed, responsible and ethical conclusions, and communicate chemical understanding and findings through the use of appropriate representations, language and nomenclature.

Students learn and apply aspects of the knowledge and skills of the discipline (thinking, experimentation, problem-solving and research skills), understand how it works and how it may impact society.

Pathways

A course of study in Chemistry can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of forensic science, environmental science, engineering, medicine, pharmacy and sports science.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- describe and explain scientific concepts, theories, models and systems and their limitations
- apply understanding of scientific concepts, theories, models and systems within their limitations
- analyse evidence
- interpret evidence
- investigate phenomena
- evaluate processes, claims and conclusions
- communicate understandings, findings, arguments and conclusions.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Chemical fundamentals — structure, properties and reactions • Properties and structure of atoms • Properties and structure of materials • Chemical reactions — reactants, products and energy change	**Molecular interactions and reactions** • Intermolecular forces and gases • Aqueous solutions and acidity • Rates of chemical reactions	**Equilibrium, acids and redox reactions** • Chemical equilibrium systems • Oxidation and reduction	**Structure, synthesis and design** • Properties and structure of organic materials • Chemical synthesis and design

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

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• Student experiment</td><td>20%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Summative external assessment (EA): 50%
• Examination</td></tr>
</table>

Physics

General senior subject

General

Physics provides opportunities for students to engage with classical and modern understandings of the universe.

Students learn about the fundamental concepts of thermodynamics, electricity and nuclear processes; and about the concepts and theories that predict and describe the linear motion of objects. Further, they explore how scientists explain some phenomena using an understanding of waves. They engage with the concept of gravitational and electromagnetic fields and the relevant forces associated with them. They study modern physics theories and models that, despite being counterintuitive, are fundamental to our understanding of many common observable phenomena.

Students develop appreciation of the contribution physics makes to society: understanding that diverse natural phenomena may be explained, analysed and predicted using concepts, models and theories that provide a reliable basis for action; and that matter and energy interact in physical systems across a range of scales. They understand how models and theories are refined, and new ones developed in physics; investigate phenomena and solve problems; collect and analyse data; and interpret evidence. Students use accurate and precise measurement, valid and reliable evidence, and scepticism and intellectual rigour to evaluate claims; and communicate physics understanding, findings, arguments and conclusions using appropriate representations, modes and genres.

Students learn and apply aspects of the knowledge and skills of the discipline (thinking, experimentation, problem-solving and research skills), understand how it works and how it may impact society.

Pathways

A course of study in Physics can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of science, engineering, medicine and technology.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- describe and explain scientific concepts, theories, models and systems and their limitations
- apply understanding of scientific concepts, theories, models and systems within their limitations
- analyse evidence
- interpret evidence
- investigate phenomena
- evaluate processes, claims and conclusions
- communicate understandings, findings, arguments and conclusions.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Thermal, nuclear and electrical physics • Heating processes • Ionising radiation and nuclear reactions • Electrical circuits	**Linear motion and waves** • Linear motion and force • Waves	**Gravity and electromagnetism** • Gravity and motion • Electromagnetism	**Revolutions in modern physics** • Special relativity • Quantum theory • The Standard Model

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Data test	10%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Research investigation	20%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Student experiment	20%		
Summative external assessment (EA): 50% • Examination			

Aerospace Systems

General senior subject

General

Aerospace Systems provides opportunities for students to learn about the fundamentals, history and future of the aerospace industry. They gain knowledge of aeronautics, aerospace operations, human factors, safety management and systems thinking that enable them to solve real-world aerospace problems using the problem-solving process in Aerospace Systems.

Students learn to understand and interpret the relationships between and within connected systems and their component parts. They identify patterns in problematic aerospace systems situations and propose solutions. Students develop and use skills that include analysis, decision-making, justification, recognition, comprehension and evaluation to develop solutions to aerospace problem situations. Students become self-directed learners and develop beneficial collaboration and management skills as they solve aerospace systems problems.

Pathways

A course of study in Aerospace Systems can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of aviation management, flying streams, engineering and aerospace technical disciplines. The study of Aerospace Systems will also benefit students wishing to pursue post-school pathways in diploma and advanced diploma courses in the technical and paraprofessional areas of customer relationship management, workplace health and safety, engineering, human resource management, systems analysis and technology-related areas.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- recognise and describe aerospace systems problems, knowledge, concepts and principles
- symbolise and explain ideas, solutions and relationships
- analyse problems and information
- determine solution success criteria for aerospace problems
- synthesise information and ideas to propose possible solutions
- generate solutions to provide data to assess the feasibility of proposals
- evaluate and refine ideas and solutions to make justified recommendations
- make decisions about and use mode-appropriate features, language and conventions for particular purposes and contexts.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Introduction to aerospace systems and structures • Solving aerospace problems • The evolving aerospace industry • Introduction to aerodynamics • Introduction to aircraft systems • Introduction to aviation weather systems	**Emerging aerospace technologies** • Operational assets • Operational environments • Operational control systems • Future applications	**Aerospace operational systems** • International and national operational and safety systems • Airspace management • Safety management systems • Operational accident and incident investigation processes • Airport and airline operation systems	**Aircraft performance systems and human factors** • Aircraft performance • Aircraft navigation • Advanced navigation and radio communication technologies • Human performance and limitations

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Project — folio	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Project — folio	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Examination	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination	25%

Design

General senior subject

General

Design focuses on the application of design thinking to envisage creative products, services and environments in response to human needs, wants and opportunities. Designing is a complex and sophisticated form of problem-solving that uses divergent and convergent thinking strategies that can be practised and improved. Designers are separated from the constraints of production processes to allow them to appreciate and exploit new innovative ideas.

Students learn how design has influenced the economic, social and cultural environment in which they live. They understand the agency of humans in conceiving and imagining possible futures through design. Collaboration, teamwork and communication are crucial skills needed to work in design teams and liaise with stakeholders. They learn the value of creativity and build resilience as they experience iterative design processes, where the best ideas may be the result of trial and error and a willingness to take risks and experiment with alternatives.

Students learn about and experience design through exploring needs, wants and opportunities; developing ideas and design concepts; using drawing and low-fidelity prototyping skills; and evaluating ideas and design concepts. They communicate design proposals to suit different audiences.

Pathways

A course of study in Design can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of architecture, digital media design, fashion design, graphic design, industrial design, interior design and landscape architecture.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- describe design problems and design criteria
- represent ideas, design concepts and design information using drawing and low-fidelity prototyping
- analyse needs, wants and opportunities using data
- devise ideas in response to design problems
- synthesise ideas and design information to propose design concepts
- evaluate ideas and design concepts to make refinements
- make decisions about and use mode-appropriate features, language and conventions for particular purposes and contexts.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Design in practice • Experiencing design • Design process • Design styles	**Commercial design** • Explore — client needs and wants • Develop — collaborative design	**Human-centred design** • Designing with empathy	**Sustainable design** • Explore — sustainable design opportunities • Develop — redesign

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination — design challenge	15%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Project	25%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Project	35%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination — design challenge	25%

Food & Nutrition

General senior subject

General

Food & Nutrition is the study of food in the context of food science, nutrition and food technologies, in conjunction with study of the food system.

Students explore the chemical and functional properties of nutrients to create food solutions that maintain the beneficial nutritive values. This knowledge is fundamental for continued development of a safe and sustainable food system that can produce high quality, nutritious solutions with an extended shelf life. Their studies of the food system include the sectors of production, processing, distribution, consumption, research and development and the overarching principles of waste management, sustainability and food protection that have an impact on all sectors of the food system.

Students actively engage in a food and nutrition problem-solving process to create food solutions that contribute positively to preferred personal, social, ethical, economic, environmental, legal, sustainable and technological futures.

Using a problem-based learning approach, students learn to apply their food science, nutrition and technologies knowledge to solve real-world food and nutrition problems. Students will integrate and use new and existing knowledge to make decisions and solve problems through investigation, experimentation and analysis.

Food & Nutrition is inclusive of students' needs, interests and aspirations. It challenges students to think about, respond to, and create solutions for contemporary problems in food and nutrition.

Pathways

A course of study in Food & Nutrition can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of science, technology, engineering and health.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- recognise and describe food and nutrition facts and principles
- explain food and nutrition ideas and problems
- analyse problems, information and data
- determine solution requirements and criteria
- synthesise information and data
- generate solutions to provide data to determine the feasibility of the solution
- evaluate and refine ideas and solutions to make justified recommendations for enhancement
- make decisions about and use mode-appropriate features, language and conventions for particular purposes and contexts.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Food science of vitamins, minerals and protein • Introduction to the food system • Vitamins and minerals • Protein • Developing food solutions	**Food drivers and emerging trends** • Consumer food drivers • Sensory profiling • Labelling and food safety • Food formulation for consumer markets	**Food science of carbohydrate and fat** • The food system • Carbohydrate • Fat • Developing food solutions	**Food solution development for nutrition consumer markets** • Formulation and reformulation for nutrition consumer markets • Food development process

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1): • Examination	20%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3): • Project — folio	30%
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2): • Project — folio	25%	Summative external assessment (EA): • Examination	25%

Visual Arts in Practice

Applied senior subject

Applied

The arts are woven into the fabric of community. They have the capacity to engage and inspire students, enriching their lives, stimulating curiosity and imagination, and encouraging them to reach their creative and expressive potential. Arts subjects provide opportunities for students to learn problem-solving processes, design and create art, and use multiple literacies to communicate intention with diverse audiences.

In Visual Arts in Practice, students respond to authentic, real-world stimulus (e.g. problems, events, stories, places, objects, the work of artists or artisans), seeing or making new links between art-making purposes and contexts. They explore visual language in combination with media, technologies and skills to make artworks. Throughout the course, students are exposed to two or more art-making modes, selecting from 2D, 3D, digital (static) and time-based and using these in isolation or combination, as well as innovating new ways of working.

When responding, students use analytical processes to identify problems and develop plans or designs for artworks. They use reasoning and decision-making to justify their choices, reflecting and evaluating on the success of their own and others' art-making.

When making, students demonstrate knowledge and understanding of visual features to communicate artistic intention. They develop competency with and independent selection of media, technologies and skills as they make experimental and resolved artworks, synthesising ideas developed throughout the responding phase.

Learning is connected to relevant industry practice and opportunities, promoting future employment and preparing students as agile, competent, innovative and safe workers who can work collaboratively to solve problems and complete project-based work in various contexts.

Pathways

A course of study in Visual Arts in Practice can establish a basis for further education and employment in a range of fields, including design, styling, decorating, illustrating, drafting, visual merchandising, make-up artistry, advertising, game design, photography, animation or ceramics.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students should:

- use visual arts practices
- plan artworks
- communicate ideas
- evaluate artworks.

Version 1
(3 September 2025)

Structure

Visual Arts in Practice is a four-unit course of study. This syllabus contains four QCAA-developed units as options for schools to combine in any order to develop their course of study.

Unit option	Unit title
Unit option A	Looking inwards (self)
Unit option B	Looking outwards (others)
Unit option C	Clients
Unit option D	Transform & extend

Assessment

Students complete two assessment tasks for each unit. The assessment techniques used in Visual Arts in Practice are:

Technique	Description	Response requirements
Project	Students make artwork, design proposals and stylistic experiments. They evaluate artworks, art style and/or practices that explore the focus of the unit. Students plan resolved artworks.	**Experimental folio** Up to 8 experimental artworks: 2D, 3D, digital (static) and/or time-based (up to 30 seconds) OR **Prototype artwork** One of the following: • 2D, 3D, digital (static): up to 4 artwork/s • Time-based: up to 3 minutes OR **Design proposal** Multimodal (at least two modes delivered at the same time): up to 5 minutes, 8 A4 pages, or equivalent digital media, including up to 4 prototype artwork/s — 2D, 3D, digital (static) and/or time-based (up to 30 seconds each) OR **Folio of stylistic experiments** Up to 8 experimental artworks: 2D, 3D, digital (static) and/or time-based (up to 30 seconds) AND **Planning and evaluations** One of the following: • Multimodal (at least two modes delivered at the same time): up to 5 minutes, 8 A4 pages, or equivalent digital media • Written: up to 600 words • Spoken: up to 4 minutes, or signed equivalent
Resolved artwork	Students make a resolved artwork that communicates and/or addresses the focus of the unit.	**Resolved artwork** One of the following: • 2D, 3D, digital (static): up to 4 artwork/s • Time-based: up to 3 minutes

Visual Art

General senior subject

General

Visual Art provides students with opportunities to understand and appreciate the role of visual art in past and present traditions and cultures, as well as the contributions of contemporary visual artists and their aesthetic, historical and cultural influences. Students interact with artists, artworks, institutions and communities to enrich their experiences and understandings of their own and others' art practices.

Students have opportunities to construct knowledge and communicate personal interpretations by working as both artist and audience. They use their imagination and creativity to innovatively solve problems and experiment with visual language and expression.
Through an inquiry learning model, students develop critical and creative thinking skills. They create individualised responses and meaning by applying diverse materials, techniques, technologies and art processes. In responding to artworks, students employ essential literacy skills to investigate artistic expression and critically analyse artworks in diverse contexts. They consider meaning, purposes and theoretical approaches when ascribing aesthetic value and challenging ideas.

Pathways

A course of study in Visual Art can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of arts practice, design, craft, and information technologies; broader areas in creative industries and cultural institutions; and diverse fields that use skills inherent in the subject, including advertising, arts administration and management, communication, design, education, galleries and museums, film and television, public relations, and science and technology.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:

- implement ideas and representations
- apply literacy skills
- analyse and interpret visual language, expression and meaning in artworks and practices
- evaluate art practices, traditions, cultures and theories
- justify viewpoints
- experiment in response to stimulus
- create meaning through the knowledge and understanding of materials, techniques, technologies and art processes
- realise responses to communicate meaning.

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Structure

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Art as lens Through inquiry learning, the following are explored: • Concept: lenses to explore the material world • Contexts: personal and contemporary • Focus: People, place, objects • Media: 2D, 3D, and time-based	**Art as code** Through inquiry learning, the following are explored: • Concept: art as a coded visual language • Contexts: formal and cultural • Focus: Codes, symbols, signs and art conventions • Media: 2D, 3D, and time-based	**Art as knowledge** Through inquiry learning, the following are explored: • Concept: constructing knowledge as artist and audience • Contexts: contemporary, personal, cultural and/or formal • Focus: student-directed • Media: student-directed	**Art as alternate** Through inquiry learning, the following are explored: • Concept: evolving alternate representations and meaning • Contexts: contemporary and personal, cultural and/or formal • Focus: continued exploration of Unit 3 student-directed focus • Media: student-directed

Assessment

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.
In Units 3 and 4 students complete *four* summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Unit 3</th><th colspan="2">Unit 4</th></tr>
<tr><td>Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1):
• Investigation — inquiry phase 1</td><td>15%</td><td rowspan="2">Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3):
• Project — inquiry phase 3</td><td rowspan="2">35%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2):
• Project — inquiry phase 2</td><td>25%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Summative external assessment (EA): 25%
• Examination</td></tr>
</table>

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