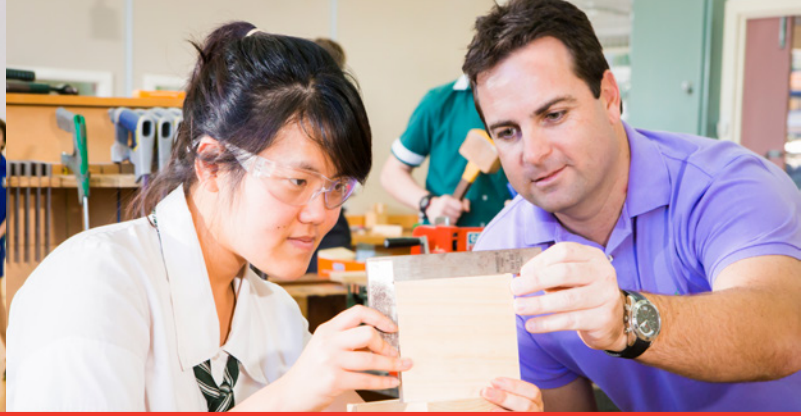


# Senior secondary schooling in Queensland

A guide for parents and carers





## Planning for learning in Years 11 and 12

Senior schooling is an exciting time for Queensland students and an important step in preparing for their future.

Schools work with Year 10 students and their families to help them plan their education, training and career goals and map their pathway to a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

## The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

The QCE is Queensland's senior schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and a sign of academic and personal success.

The QCE allows students to design a pathway that's right for them – whether their goals after Year 10 are to:

- study at university
- find skilled work
- attend TAFE or other training.

Students can choose from a wide range of subjects and courses, including Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) subjects, vocational education and training (VET), school-based apprenticeships and traineeships or other recognised courses.

## How does the QCE work?

To achieve a QCE, students need to complete a set amount of learning at a set standard, in the set pattern, and meet literacy and numeracy requirements:

### Set amount

20 credits from contributing courses of study, including:

- QCAA-developed subjects or courses
- vocational education and training qualifications
- non-Queensland studies
- recognised studies.

### Set standard

Satisfactory completion, grade of C or better, competency or qualification completion, pass or equivalent.

### Set pattern

12 credits from completed Core courses of study and 8 credits from any combination of:

- Core
- Preparatory (maximum 4)
- Complementary (maximum 8).

### Literacy & numeracy

Students must meet literacy and numeracy requirements through one of the available learning options.



## Subjects and courses

A wide range of subjects and courses can contribute credits to a QCE.

Most students will study six subjects/courses in Years 11 and 12. Many choose to include VET courses as part of their QCE pathway and some choose to extend their learning with university subjects or other recognised courses.

The flexibility of the QCE means that students can choose a pathway to suit their goals.

Within the set pattern requirement, there are three categories of learning – Core, Preparatory and Complementary. When the set standard is met, credit will accrue in a student's learning account.

### ● **QCAA General subjects – Core category of learning**

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General subjects prepare students for tertiary study, further education and training and work. They contribute **up to four credits per subject** to a QCE and also contribute to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). Examples include English, General Mathematics, Ancient History, Biology and Music Extension.

### ● **QCAA Applied subjects – Core category of learning**

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Applied subjects focus on practical skills and prepare students for further education and training and work. They may contribute **up to four credits per subject** to a QCE, and one Applied subject may also contribute to an ATAR when combined with four General subjects. Examples include Essential English, Essential Mathematics, Business Studies, Industrial Technology Skills and Tourism.

### ● **QCAA Short Courses – Preparatory or Complementary category of learning, depending on course**

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Short Courses are suited to students interested in pathways to vocational education and training or further education and employment. They may contribute **one credit to a QCE**, but do not contribute to an ATAR. Examples include Short Course in Literacy, Short Course in Numeracy and Short Course in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Languages.

### ● **Vocational education and training (VET) – Core, Preparatory or Complementary category of learning, depending on course**

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VET prepares students for work through practical learning and is an important part of senior schooling for many students. Approximately 60% of Queensland senior students achieve VET qualifications. In recent years the most popular courses have been in business, information & communication technology (ICT), hospitality, construction, fitness, and sport and recreation.

VET can also lead to further education and training and may contribute **up to eight credits per course** to a QCE. The amount of credit will vary, depending on the type of qualification. One VET qualification at Certificate III or above may also contribute to an ATAR.

### ● **Other courses – Core, Preparatory or Complementary category of learning, depending on course**

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Other courses allow students to study a particular area of interest, through recognised certificates and awards, or university subjects studied while at school. QCE credit and ATAR eligibility will vary, depending on the course. Non-Queensland studies such as the International Baccalaureate or courses completed interstate are also included in this category.



## Assessment

How students are assessed in Years 11 and 12 depends on what they study.

### ● **QCAA General subjects**

General subjects have three internal assessments (set and marked by schools) and one external assessment (set and marked by the QCAA). In most subjects, the external assessment contributes 25% to the final subject result. In Mathematics and Science subjects, the external assessment contributes 50%. Students in each subject will sit the external assessments at the same time in schools across Queensland.

### ● **QCAA Applied subjects**

Applied subjects have four internal assessments (set and marked by schools). In Essential English and Essential Mathematics, one of the assessments is a common internal assessment (set by the QCAA and marked by schools).

### ● **QCAA Short Courses**

Short Courses have two internal assessments (set and marked by schools).

### ● **VET**

VET assessment will vary, depending on the type of course. It may include observation, written assessment, questioning, work samples or third-party feedback.

### ● **Other courses**

Assessment in other courses will vary, depending on the course.

## Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA) are for students who may have disability, impairment and/or medical conditions or experience circumstances that may be a barrier to their performance in assessment. If you think your child may need AARA to complete assessments, please talk to their school.

## Tertiary entrance

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will be used to select school leavers for tertiary entrance from 2020. The ATAR is used nationally and indicates a student's position relative to other ATAR-eligible students. Queensland ATARs will be based on a student's:

- best five General subject results, or
- best results in four General subjects, plus one Applied subject, or
- best results in four General subjects, plus one VET qualification at Certificate III or above.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will calculate and issue ATARs for Year 12 students. You will find more information on its website: [www.qtac.edu.au](http://www.qtac.edu.au).

## Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)

The QCIA recognises and reports the achievements of students whose learning is part of an individual learning program. To be eligible, students must have an impairment or difficulty in learning that is not primarily due to socioeconomic, cultural or linguistic factors.

## Results and reporting

A student's final subject results and QCE can be accessed in the Student Portal via the myQCE website in December – at the end of Year 12.

## More information

[myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au](http://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au)

The myQCE website (for students completing Year 12 from 2020) provides information about subjects and courses, assessment and results, study tips and more. Talk to your school about the subjects and courses it offers.

[qcaa.qld.edu.au](http://qcaa.qld.edu.au)

More information about senior secondary curriculum and assessment, including syllabuses for QCAA subjects, is available on the QCAA website.