



The new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system

Popular Q&As for students and families

Senior schooling in Queensland is changing to help give students the skills for success in work and life in the future. Across senior subjects, students will acquire 21st century skills to support them as lifelong learners, valued employees, innovators and engaged global citizens.

Under the new QCE system, students can still choose from lots of subjects and courses that suit their work and study goals. But assessment will change in Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) subjects.

There will also be a new way to rank students who wish to apply for university after school. The current rank is called the Overall Position (OP). From 2020, it will be the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

How do I plan my senior study?

In Year 10, your school and family will help you plan what to study in Years 11 and 12. You'll discuss what jobs or careers you are interested in and then choose the subjects and courses that will enable you to achieve a QCE and work towards your goals.

What subjects can I choose?

In the new QCE system, you can study a wide variety of subjects:

- QCAA General subjects — currently known as Authority subjects
- QCAA Applied subjects — currently known as Authority-registered subjects
- Vocational education and training (VET) courses
- School-based apprenticeships and traineeships
- University subjects completed while at school
- Workplace learning
- Certificates and awards such as those issued by the Australian Music Examinations Board or Duke of Edinburgh program.

Some current QCAA subjects have been renamed, some combined and there are some new ones.

If you're fascinated by the human mind, you may like to choose Psychology. It's one of the new subjects on offer and is very popular with students in other states.

If you love computers and technology, you might choose Digital Solutions in your subject mix.

If you'd like to get a job straight out of school, there are many VET courses that will give you real-world experience and skills.

How is senior assessment changing?

Assessment will be different in General and Applied subjects in the new QCE system. Four assessments will count towards your final grade in each subject. This is fewer assessments than students currently complete.

General subject results will be based on your achievement in three internal assessments (developed by your school), and one external assessment that is set and marked by the QCAA. In most General subjects your internal assessment results will count for 75% of your overall subject result. In maths and science subjects, your internal assessment results will generally count for 50% of your overall result.

Applied subject results will be based on your achievement in four internal assessments.

Internal assessments might include in-class tests, assignments, essays or some other form. Your work will be marked by your school, and the QCAA will then review samples of student work for every subject in every school to ensure the quality and rigour of assessment and results.

External assessment for each subject will be held on the same day in all schools across the state.

Your final subject result will be made up of your external assessment result, plus your three internal assessment results.

The Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test will not be part of the new system. The last group to sit the test will be in Year 12 in 2019.

Will I still receive a QCE at the end of Year 12?

Yes. Most students should still achieve a QCE by the end of Year 12. If you need a bit longer, you can keep working towards it after you leave school.

How is tertiary entrance changing?

The OP will be issued for the last time to students in Year 12 in 2019.

In 2020, if you're eligible, you'll be ranked for university using the ATAR.

A broad range of courses can contribute to the ATAR:

- Five General subjects; or
- Four General subjects, and one VET qualification at Certificate III or above; or
- Four General subjects, and one Applied subject.

To be eligible, you'll also need to pass an English subject, but your result will only contribute to your ATAR if it's one of your best five subject results.

Your ATAR will be calculated and issued by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre. Visit its website for details: www.qtac.edu.au/for-schools/atar-information.

More information

If you would like more information about the new QCE system, including a list of new and redeveloped syllabuses, please visit the QCAA website www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te.