



Advancing futures

New senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems in Queensland

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A guide for current Year 8 and Year 9 students

The Queensland Government is introducing new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems from 2019.

This will include:

- a new senior assessment model that combines school-based assessment developed and marked by classroom teachers, with external assessment set and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA); and
- a move from the current Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), as used by other Australian states and territories.

The reforms are the biggest change to senior education in more than 40 years.

I'm a current (2016) Year 8 student. What do the changes mean for me?

The reforms will start when you enter Year 11 in 2019. This means you will be the first group to complete Year 12 under the new systems.

You will need to be aware of the changes as you begin to plan your senior subjects and pathways.

Senior assessment

Year 12 students typically complete up to seven final assessments in each Authority subject. Under the new system, students will complete four assessments, leaving more time for teaching and learning.

If you choose senior Authority subjects, you will do three school-based assessments and one external assessment for each subject.

School-based assessments will be developed and marked by classroom teachers (like assessment is now).

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External assessments are designed to give an extra layer of information about what students have learnt and can do in a subject. They will be set and marked centrally by the QCAA, and undertaken by all students in a subject, under the same conditions.

External assessments will generally contribute 25% towards a student's final result in most subjects. In mathematics and science subjects, they will generally contribute 50%. You will have the opportunity to undertake practice external assessments to prepare you for when they count in Year 12.

Tertiary entrance

In 2020 – when you are in Year 12 – you will be eligible to receive an ATAR – rather than an OP.

A broader range of learning will be able to contribute to the ATAR than the OP. Specifically, ATARs will be based on five subjects, which can be:

- five Authority subjects; or
- four Authority subjects, plus one vocational education and training qualification at Certificate III or above; or
- four Authority subjects, plus one Subject Area Syllabus subject.

To be eligible for an ATAR you will have to satisfactorily complete an English subject, but your English result will not have to be included in the calculation of your ATAR.

You will not have to sit the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) test.

As under the current system, you will be able to apply for tertiary courses through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC).

I'm a current (2016) Year 9 student. What do the changes mean for me?

You will complete Year 11 and Year 12 under the existing senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems.

You will undertake school-based assessments developed and marked by classroom teachers. You will not sit subject-based external assessments.

Existing tertiary entrance arrangements will continue. You will be the last students to be eligible for an OP. You will be eligible for an OP if you complete five Authority subjects and sit the QCS test.

You will be able to apply for tertiary courses through QTAC.

What happens to the QCE?

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) will remain as Queensland's senior school qualification. All eligible Year 12 graduates will be awarded a QCE now and into the future.

More information

For further information on the implementation of the new systems of senior assessment and tertiary entrance, visit the QCAA website:

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au