



DECISION OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES' MEETING 9 DECEMBER 2008

Changes to HSC Examinations and Assessment

The Board agreed that:

- (i) the duration of each examination be retained at its current length
- (ii) advice be prepared on the importance of students allocating time to planning their responses and strategies for doing this
- (iii) rubrics and marking guidelines be amended (where necessary) to ensure that due emphasis is placed on the structure and organisation of responses, the quality of the arguments and explanations, and the relevance of the content to the question asked
- (iv) the descriptions of what is expected in examinable Major Works, Projects and Performances be revised to ensure students are not required to spend an excessive amount of time producing works in order to demonstrate their achievement levels. Where necessary, marking guidelines will be amended to reflect this
- (v) the introduction of objective items, or the increase in the number of objective items currently used in a particular examination, proposed for each course be accepted
- (vi) the Board will provide further guidance on answers to various types of questions, including an indicative number of pages, or similar advice, for all examination questions requiring an extended written response
- (vii) the components used as part of the Assessment Requirements will be based on a manageable set of objectives or groupings of outcomes
- (viii) advice be prepared to support the implementation of revised assessment procedures
- (ix) the Board will retain the specified limits on the proportion of a school's assessment mark that can come from tests and examinations for courses that use this method
- (x) where a particular type of task is essential to the valid assessment of a course and that such a task can be conducted in a reliable and efficient manner, that task will be included in the Assessment Requirements for the course
- (xi) schools be reminded that they must offer an appropriate range of types of suitable assessment tasks
- (xii) the changes apply to the 2010 HSC program
- (xiii) it be noted that the proposed changes are based on evidence that has been collected over time

- (xiv) no course-specific changes be made to the examinations for the courses outlined in Group 1*
- (xv) the proposed changes to the courses listed in Group 2* be approved
- (xvi) the proposed changes to the courses listed in Group 3* be approved
- (xvii) the advice concerning courses with proposed syllabus changes or subject to a different timeline in Group 4* be noted
- (xviii) the Board further consult on the proposals for English (Standard), English (Advanced), English as a Second Language and Aboriginal Studies.

* For the purposes of these decisions, courses have been grouped as follows:

Group 1	Business Studies, CCAFL Background Speakers languages, Drama, Economics, Engineering Studies, Information Processes and Technology, Music 2, Music Extension, Software Design and Development, Textiles and Design
Group 2	CCAFL Continuers, Community and Family Studies, Design and Technology, Food Technology, Geography, PD/H/PE, Sciences, Studies of Religion I and II, VET examinations
Group 3	Ancient History, Modern History, Classical Languages, Dance, English Extension 1, History Extension, Languages, Languages Extension, Music 1, Society and Culture, Visual Arts
Group 4	Agriculture, Industrial Technology, Mathematics, Legal Studies, English Extension 2