

CHANGES TO STAGE 6 ASSESSMENT FROM 2018



Assessment is an essential component of the teaching and learning cycle. The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) continues to promote a standards-referenced approach to assessing and reporting student achievement. Assessment for, assessment as and assessment of learning are approaches that enable teachers to gather evidence and make judgements about student achievement. These are not necessarily discrete approaches and may be used individually or together and formally or informally.

School-based assessment requirements for all Stage 6 Board Developed Courses (excluding VET, Life Skills and Content Endorsed Courses) are changing for Year 11 in 2018 and Year 12 in 2019.

Why is assessment changing?

The *Stronger HSC Standards* reforms provide new directions for assessment practices in all Stage 6 courses to:

- rebalance the emphasis on assessment to allow more time for teaching and learning
- maintain rigorous standards
- provide opportunities to assess students' depth of knowledge and their conceptual, analytical and problem-solving skills.

NESA provides a consistent approach to Stage 6 school-based assessment requirements for all Board Developed Courses.

How are school-based assessment requirements changing?

Changes to each course include:

- mandated components and weightings for Year 11 and Year 12
- capping the number of school-based assessment tasks to three in Year 11 and four in Year 12
- specified minimum and maximum weightings for formal tasks
- a variety of tasks to assess student knowledge, understanding and skills.

Students will continue to be provided with details about course assessment schedules and advice about formal assessment tasks including weightings, timing and marking criteria.

Students will continue to undertake:

- course-specific formal school-based assessment programs
- a range of assessment task types such as tests, written assignments, oral presentations, digital submission, practical activities, fieldwork and projects
- course-specific external assessment, such as the HSC examinations or submitted works.

How does school-based assessment cater for all students?

NSW Stage 6 syllabuses are inclusive of the learning needs of all students. Assessment principles accommodate teaching approaches that support student diversity, including students with special education needs, gifted and talented students and students learning English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D). Students with special education needs may have their assessment program or tasks adjusted to accommodate their needs.

How does school-based assessment cater for students undertaking Life Skills courses?

Students undertaking Life Skills courses will study selected outcomes and content informed by a collaborative curriculum planning process. Assessment should provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to a range of situations or environments. Students undertaking Life Skills courses are not required to complete formal assessment tasks. Teachers are best able to determine the progress of the student.

Students may demonstrate achievement in relation to Life Skills outcomes independently, with adjustments or with support. The type of adjustments and support will vary according to the particular needs of the student and the requirements of the activity.

What materials will be provided to support implementation?

Many existing resources will continue to be useful and relevant. Teaching units will need modification to meet the requirements of the new syllabus.

Throughout 2017, assessment support materials will be released to assist teachers with familiarisation and planning for the implementation of new assessment requirements.

In Term 1, 2017, new Stage 6 syllabuses for English, Mathematics, Science and History were released.

Initial materials released with the new English, Mathematics, Science and History syllabuses include:

- syllabus guides
- school-based assessment requirements
- assessment advice
- a parent guide to new syllabuses and assessment.

Additional assessment materials to be released will include:

- sample assessment schedules
- sample assessment tasks
- advice on making adjustments for students with special education needs
- HSC Examination Specifications (released in Term 3, 2017).

School-based assessment requirements and support materials for all other Board Developed Courses will be released on the NESA website in July 2017.

The NSW Department of Education, the Catholic Education Commission NSW, the Association of Independent Schools of NSW and other school systems and professional teacher associations will continue to assist and support the implementation of new assessment requirements.

How can I access the new school-based assessment requirements?

The school-based assessment requirements for English, Mathematics, Science and History courses are available on the NESA website.

School-based assessment requirements for all other Board Developed Courses will be released on the NESA website in July 2017.

What is the plan for implementation?

2017	2018		2019
	Term 1	Term 4	
Familiarisation and planning	<p>Start teaching new Year 11 courses for English, Mathematics, Science and History</p> <p>Start implementing new Year 11 school-based assessment requirements for all Board Developed Courses (excluding VET, Life Skills and Content Endorsed Courses)</p>	<p>Start teaching new Year 12 courses for English, Mathematics, Science and History</p> <p>Start implementing new Year 12 school-based assessment requirements for all Board Developed Courses (excluding VET, Life Skills and Content Endorsed Courses)</p> <p>Start implementing new HSC examination specifications</p>	<p>First HSC examinations for new English, Mathematics, Science and History courses</p>