



Queensland's new systems of senior assessment and tertiary entrance

Information for parents and students

Introduction

- The Queensland Government will introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems with Year 11 students in 2019.
 - Key changes:
 - introduce common external assessment
 - strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
 - replace the Overall Position (OP) with the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).
 - \$69.4 million allocated to prepare for the new systems.
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Benefits of the new systems

- The changes will help to:
 - strengthen the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)
 - equip school leavers with the 21st century skills they need to succeed in work and life
 - ensure school leavers are innovators, entrepreneurs, valued employees, life-long learners, and responsible global citizens.
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Why the new systems are being introduced

- Queensland's current senior assessment system began in the early 1980s. The OP system was introduced in 1992.
 - In a 2014 report, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) said these arrangements were fair and reliable, but would not be sustainable in the long term.
 - ACER recommended changes to achieve greater rigour and simplicity.
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Queensland Government's final position

- The Queensland Government's final position on the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems can be viewed at: [**www.det.qld.gov.au**](http://www.det.qld.gov.au)
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Final position — senior assessment

- Combine school-based and external assessment to derive final subject results.
 - Four assessments (3 school-based + 1 external) per subject.
 - School-based assessment will generally contribute 75% to a student's final subject result; 50% in maths and science.
 - QCAA will endorse and confirm school-based assessments; and ratify subject results.
 - Students will receive a numerical and A–E final subject result (A–E only for applied subjects).
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Final position — tertiary entrance

- QTAC responsible for tertiary entrance from 2020
 - ATAR will replace the OP
 - Students must satisfactorily complete an English subject (Sound Achievement) to be ATAR-eligible
 - English will only count if it is one of a student's best five subject results
 - ATARs to be calculated from a student's best 5 subject results, one of which may be:
 - a VET Cert III or above, or
 - an applied subject result
 - QTAC's ATAR-ineligible and VET schedules will cease.
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Implementation timeframe

- In October 2016, the Queensland Government revised the implementation timeframe to ensure teachers can become completely familiar with new system.
 - It will now start with students entering Year 11 in 2019 instead of 2018.
 - The first students to receive an ATAR instead of an OP will graduate from Year 12 in 2020.
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Implementation timeline

	2017	2018	2019	2020	
First cohort in new system	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	
Curriculum	New syllabuses and teacher professional development		Implementation		
School-based assessment	Trial and develop new school-based assessment processes and procedures		Implementation		
External assessment	Trial and develop new external assessment processes and procedures		'Mock' assessments available for schools		Implementation with Year 12 students
Certification	Develop new policies and procedures for Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)		QCEs issued to Year 12 graduates		QCEs issued to Year 12 graduates
Tertiary entrance	QTAC develops new procedures for calculating ATARs <i>Tertiary Prerequisites 2020</i> released		Final OPs issued to Year 12 graduates	QTAC <i>Guide</i> for Year 12 students	First ATARs issued to Year 12 graduates

Transition activities to date

- QCAA is redeveloping more than 70 senior syllabuses
 - Three rounds of public consultation held on draft syllabuses
 - New processes developed and trialled to strengthen school-based assessment
 - External assessments trialled in seven subjects with more than 20,000 students
 - Methodology to calculate ATARs in development
 - Thousands of teachers and other education partners engaged in the change process.
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Redevelopment of senior syllabuses

- The QCAA is reviewing all senior syllabuses to ensure they reflect the knowledge and skill set required for further study and employment in the 21st Century.
 - Some subjects will be renamed, others combined, and new ones developed.
 - New syllabuses will have greater detail on what students should know and be able to do. They will also contain common requirements for the development of school-based assessments and common marking guides to support teachers.
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What's next?

- New syllabuses in 2017 for use with Year 11 students in 2019.
 - Professional development for teachers delivered from July 2017.
 - Further external assessment trials in Semester 1, 2017.
 - QCAA and QTAC continue to develop new processes and procedures.
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More information

- Senior assessment: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au
 - Tertiary entrance: www.qtac.edu.au
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