

THE NEW SENIOR SYSTEM

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's school-based senior schooling qualification awarded to eligible young people at the completion of the senior phase of learning, usually at the end of Year 12. The QCE records achievement of a significant amount of learning, at a set standard and pattern in contributing studies, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements.

A wide range of learning can contribute towards the QCE, including:

- ◆ senior school subjects
- ◆ vocational education and training (VET)
- ◆ workplace learning recognised by the QCAA
- ◆ university subjects undertaken while at school.

Different types of learning attract different credit values. A credit is the minimum amount of learning at the set standard that can contribute towards the QCE.

Planning for a QCE.

The Senior Education and Training Plan (SET Plan) helps each student plan and structure their senior learning around their abilities, interests and ambitions. The SET Plan is a map of what, where and how a student will study during their senior phase of learning completed in Year 10 and is agreed between the student, their parents or carers and the school.

Monitoring progress.

When a student is registered with the QCAA, an individual learning account is opened for them. The learning account records:

- ◆ all eligible learning undertaken during the senior phase of learning
- ◆ where and when learning takes place, and
- ◆ results achieved upon completion.

On the web

QCAA legislation can be viewed on the QCAA's Legislation webpage: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/14596.html

Students can use their learning account to track their progress towards a QCE, vocational certificate or Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) through the Student Connect website: <https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au>

The Queensland Government will introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems with Year 11 students in 2019. Your children will be the first to experience the changes.

Some Key changes include:

- ◆ An introduction of common external assessment.
- ◆ Strengthening the quality and comparability of school-based assessment.
- ◆ Replacing the Overall Position (OP) with the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

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.

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.

Final position — A new senior assessment process.

This system comprises of:

- ◆ Combining 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).

Final position — tertiary entrance.

If students are intending on undertaking further study:

- ◆ QTAC is 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 are 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.

**The first students to receive an ATAR instead of an OP
will graduate from Year 12 in 2020.**