



QCS – Queensland Core Skills
**QCE – Queensland Certificate of
Education**

Brendan Stewart
AP Studies
February 2008

Subjects, 3 types

- Authority (OP) subjects eg. English, Physics
 - Authority-registered (non-OP) eg. English Communication, Physical Recreation
 - Certificate (non-OP) eg. Cert 1 Construction, Cert 2 Workplace Practices
-

2 pathways in Year 11/12

- OP (5 or more Authority subjects, cannot do Work Education)
 - VET (less than 5 Authority subjects, must do Work Education and 1 certificate subject)
-

What is QCS?

- **Stands for Queensland Core Skills (QCS)**
 - **A Qld test designed for Qld students**
 - **Tests 49 CCE's (Common Curriculum Elements) learned in years 11 and 12 by all year 12 OP students in Authority subject classes (*eg. analysing, classifying, graphing*)**
 - **Assists in calculating OP's – subject results still more important**
-

QCS - Who?

- In year 12, to be eligible for OP (Overall Position), you must sit QCS test
- Not eligible for OP, you may still sit test, get a result – this result does not count towards other eligible OP scores
- Students must also complete 5 Authority subjects, 3 of these for the full 2 years of senior

If you are not seriously interested in going to Uni, you should not be getting an OP

What is an OP (Overall Position)

- **An OP is the main pathway to a place at University in Queensland (1 – 25).**
 - **In year 12, to be eligible for OP (Overall Position), you must sit QCS test, have 5 OP (Authority) subjects, 3 of those being unchanged for 2 years.**
 - **Not eligible for OP, you may still sit test, get a result for the QCS – this result does not count towards other eligible OP scores**
-

QTAC Rank

- If you are in Year 12 and not eligible for an OP, you can still apply to University and receive a QTAC rank.
 - This is a different ranking system from the OP system, but we believe it is an effective system for students wanting to go to JCU after having completed some VET courses in Senior.
 - 2 students from 2007 received places at JCU this year with this system
-

CCE's and Criteria

- 49 CCE's are grouped into **5** criteria (each question on QCS covers one of these 5)
 - A: Comprehend and Collect
 - B: Structure and Sequence
 - C: Analyse, Assess and Conclude
 - D: Create and Present (mainly Writing Task)
 - E: Apply Techniques and Procedures
 - Traditionally, IPC are **above** average at A, B and E, and average at C and D
 - Our QCS practice targets C and D.
-

Other QCS initiatives

- Students will be broken into groups this year, sometimes depending on student performances from Year 11 (number A's)
 - 3 practices will be marked EXTERNALLY (company trained on Gold Coast)
 - Provisional SAI's available during Term 2
 - Predicted OP's (within a band) Term 2
-

Multiple Choice (MC – Mr Jones)

- **MC – 1 hour 30 minutes + 10 minutes perusal**
 - **Similar to most MC tests, except more stimulus information**
 - **50 questions – there is time pressure**
 - **2 MC tests (Tues PM, Wed PM)**
 - **Pg. 27 booklet**
-

Short Response Item (SRI – Mr Stewart)

- **2 hours (+ 10 minutes perusal)**
 - **Students have to give a range of responses**
 - **Eg. Number, mathematical expression, paragraph, sketch**
 - **Very challenging, simply because it tests a wide range of skills, reading ability**
 - **Pg. 44 booklet**
-

Writing Task (WT – Ms Timbs)

- **2 hours (+ 10 minutes perusal)**
 - **Response to a piece of stimulus**
 - **Approx. 600 words**
 - **Any genre (style) allowed except poetry**
 - **An area we are continually trying to improve**
 - **Pg. 24 booklet foldout**
-

Marking

- **QCS test has a very rigorous marking system.**
 - **Teachers mark WT and SRI, MC's are scored/scanned by computer**
 - **All teachers are intensively trained, all WT/SRI papers are marked *at least 3* times.**
 - **Divergent marking results are removed.**
-

Preparation

- **Most Tuesdays (1.15 – 3pm) between now and 3 September, we will be doing some type of QCS practice**
 - **The key to an above average OP is to perform well in normal subject assessment (exams and assignments)**
-

Calculating OP's

1. An OP is calculated from a combination of 5 best subject results, and group QCS results (OP 1 – 25)
2. QCS is used as a SCALING measure (Mean, Standard Deviation) to assist in ranking students
3. Good performances in *strong* class groups give you a very good OP (eg. perform well in Maths B, C, Physics, Chemistry, IPT).
4. If students are in *weaker* class groups, students must perform “better than the bulk of students” to help their OP.
5. “B” grade is the average result for an OP student across all subjects (OP 13 average)

More details? Please see Mr Stewart later...

Special Consideration

- **Exemption (very rare)**
 - **Long-term physical condition**
 - **Representing State or Country in sport**
 - **Variations to conditions**
 - **Colour blindness**
 - **Visual/Hearing Impairment**
 - **Diabetes**
 - **Brain damage due to accidents etc.**
 - **Contact me if application required**
-

What other opportunities do we offer?

- ❑ **Homework Program**
 - **Mon/Wed/Fri: 3.15 – 4.15pm**
 - ❑ **Maths A, English tutoring**
 - **Wed nights from about 6.30pm**
 - ❑ **Many other staff offer tutoring outside of school hours also**
-

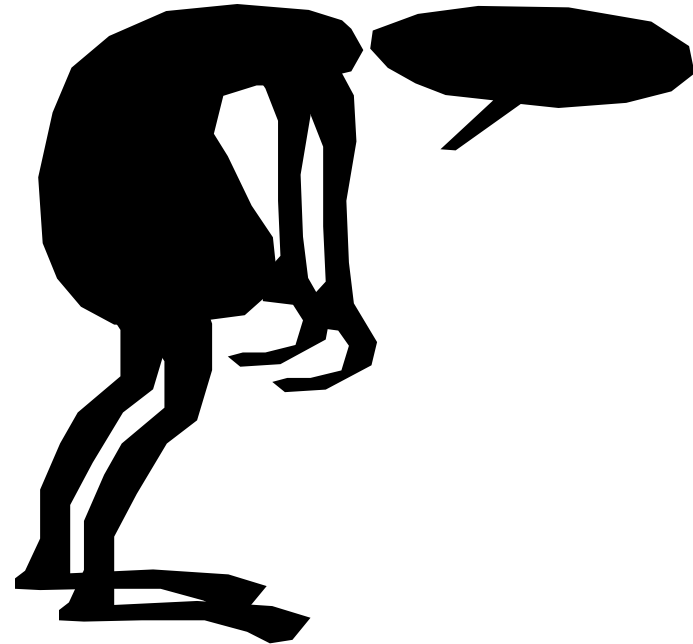
Questions???

- Any questions about QCS?



QCE – Queensland Certificate of Education

A new qualification to replace the Senior Certificate



QCE –

Queensland Certificate of Education

- The new name for a Senior Certificate (SC no longer exists)
 - About 60 – 70% of students only will receive a QCE – *a qualification*
 - All students will receive a Senior Statement (list of results similar to current SC)
 - **2008 year 12's will be the first students working towards a QCE**
-

In a nutshell...

- 20 credit points with Sound Achievement in both English and Maths subjects will gain a QCE
 - All Authority and Authority-registered subjects are 4 points each
 - Certificate 1 subjects are 2 points
 - Certificate 2 subjects are 4 points
 - Other learning may be “pointworthy”! (eg. Grade 6 Saxophone prac – 1 point)
 - 1 million other rules associated with QCE! Eg. If no SA in English or Maths, a C on the QCS test will cover the Literacy and Numeracy component of QCE
-

Career Information Service

- QSA now provides Career Information Service so you can keep track of progress towards the QCE
 - It links to your QCE information as well as other information about careers
 - www.cis.qsa.qld.edu.au
 - Access this site soon!
-

Amount of learning at a set standard



COURSE	SET STANDARD	CREDIT
CORE		
CORE courses of study are the types of courses usually undertaken by young people in the senior phase of learning. A minimum of 12 credits from completed Core courses of study. At least 1 credit must come from Core studies undertaken at school.		
Authority or Authority-registered subjects*	At least a Sound Level of Achievement	4
Subjects assessed by a Senior External Examination	At least a Sound Level of Achievement	4
VET Certificate II, III or IV qualifications (includes school-based traineeships that incorporate on-the-job training)	Certificate awarded	Certificate II: 4 Certificate III & 6 Certificate IV: 5, 6, 7, or 8
School-based apprenticeships	Certificate III: competencies demonstrated On-the-job component: completed	2 4
Tailored training programs	Completed	4
Recognised international learning programs	At least a pass grade (as defined by the course)	4 for each course
PREPARATORY		
PREPARATORY courses of study are generally used as "stepping stones" to further study. A maximum of 4 credits		
VET Certificate I vocational qualifications	Certificate awarded	2
Employment skills development programs approved under the VETE Act 2000	Requirements met	2 Max. of one program can count
Re-engagement programs	Requirements met	2 Max. of one program can count
Recognised certificates and awards	Awarded	As recognised by the QSA
Short course in literacy developed by the QSA or short course in numeracy developed by the QSA	At least a Sound Achievement	1 per course
ENRICHMENT		
ENRICHMENT courses of study are generally offered by organisations other than those offering CORE or PREPARATORY courses of study. Up to 8 credits		
Recognised certificates and awards	Awarded	As recognised by the QSA
Recognised structured workplace or community-based learning programs	Agreed standard	As recognised by the QSA
Learning Projects — Workplace, Community, Self-directed	Satisfactory	1
Authority extension subjects such as English Extension	At least a Sound Level of Achievement	2
School-based subjects	A pass grade (as defined by the recognised course)	As recognised by the QSA
ADVANCED		
ADVANCED courses of study go beyond the scope and depth of what is considered senior secondary schooling. Up to 8 credits		
One- or two-semester university subjects completed by a person while enrolled at a school	A pass grade	2 or 4 credits, respectively
Competencies contributing to VET diplomas or advanced diplomas	Competencies demonstrated	Up to 8 credits (on the basis of 1 credit per completed competency)
Recognised certificates and awards	Awarded	As recognised by the QSA

Literacy and numeracy requirements

To be awarded a QCE, students must meet literacy and numeracy requirements. These requirements are satisfied by any of the following options:

Literacy	Numeracy
At least a Sound Achievement in one semester of one of these subjects: English, English Extension, English Communication or English for ESL Learners A student may: • exit the course after four semesters with a Sound Level of Achievement or higher • exit the subject after one, two or three semesters with a Sound Level of Achievement • exit the subject with a Limited Level of Achievement, having achieved a notional Sound in a single semester.	At least a Sound Achievement in one semester in one of these subjects: Mathematics A, Mathematics B or Mathematics C Pre-vocational Mathematics A student may: • exit the course after four semesters with a Sound Level of Achievement or higher • exit the subject after one, two or three semesters with a Sound Level of Achievement • exit the subject with a Limited Level of Achievement, having achieved a notional Sound in a single semester.
<i>Note: The Functional English subject does not meet literacy requirements.</i>	<i>Note: The Functional Maths subject does not meet numeracy requirements.</i>
OR	OR
At least a Sound Achievement in the short course in literacy developed by the QSA	At least a Sound Achievement in the short course in numeracy developed by the QSA
OR	OR
Competence in VET modules 39153 QLD, Course in Vocational Literacy 3	Competence in VET modules 39163 QLD Course in Vocational Numeracy 3
OR	OR
A pass grade in a literacy course recognised by the QSA (NRS Level 3 or above)	A pass grade in a numeracy course recognised by the QSA (NRS Level 3 or above)
OR	OR
At least a C on the Queensland Core Skills Test	At least a C on the Queensland Core Skills Test

See www.qsa.qld.edu.au for further information on:

- Credit for partial completion of courses
- Credit transfer for intrastate, interstate and overseas transfers
- Conceded credits for subjects exited at a Limited Level of Achievement
- Relaxation of completed core requirements
- Notional Sound in a subject for meeting literacy or numeracy requirements
- Recognised studies

* Functional English and Functional Maths (SAS) do not contribute credit towards the QCE.