

Queensland Core Skills Test (QCS) Preparation

*Some introductory comments for
Parents*



The QCS Journey



The QCS journey ?



Which ending do you want?



What is it?

- *Achievement Test – not an intelligence or aptitude test*
- *Tests your achievement in 49 common curriculum elements that are found in the QLD Senior curriculum*
 - *sketching, explaining, analysing, expounding, graphing, ...*
- *A common statewide scaling test for Queensland Year 12 students.*

Who?

- *Accessible to all Year 12 students, regardless of individual subjects studied,*
- *All you need is a basic level of general knowledge , vocabulary and yr 10 maths.*
- *If you are **OP eligible** you **MUST** sit the QCS.*
- *If you are not eligible, you can still sit the test*

What is involved?

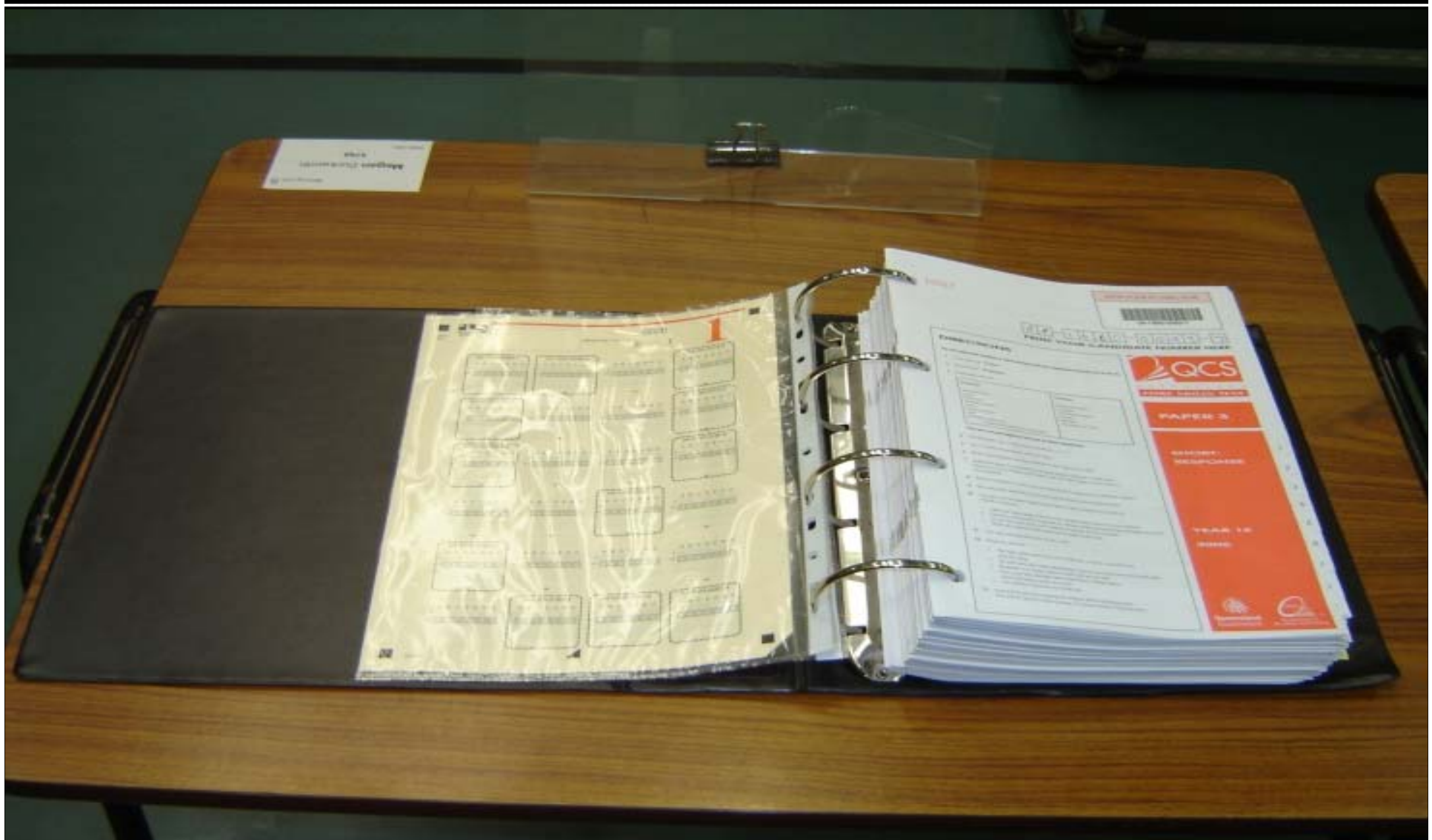
- *Four papers over two days*
- ***First Tuesday in September (end of August)***
Writing Task & Multiple Choice
- ***First Wednesday in September***
Short Response and Multiple Choice
- *7 hours of testing*
- *Very strict conditions of implementation, community representatives*

What is in the test?

- *Writing Task **WT** Paper (2 hours)*
- *Multiple Choice **MC** Paper # 1 (90 mins)*
- *Short Response **SR** Paper (2 hours)*
- *Multiple Choice **MC** Paper # 2 (90 mins)*
- *Perusal for all papers 10 minutes*
- M.C. marked by computer
- Short Response and Writing Tasks marked by up to 3 independent trained assessors in a strictly supervised environment



QCS Marking - Folder



QCS Marking - Trolleys



What is in the test?

- ***Writing Task***

600 words, specify genre, respond to 1 piece of stimulus, engaging and creative.

- ***Short Response***

Sentence or paragraph, sketch, graph, mathematical problems.

- ***Multiple Choice***

4 answers, select the most correct answer based on stimulus.

The Purposes of Q.C.S. Test

1. For OP eligible students:

- *Standardising tool for equitable calculation of OPs.*
- *Provides group results for calculating Field Positions*
- *Used to scale (shift up or down) groups of students in*
 - *different subjects at the same school and*
 - *in different schools*

2. For Selection Rank students:

- *it (along with your grades) determines your Rank score*



The Purposes of Q.C.S. Test

- *For ALL students:*

*Provides individuals results
reported on a 5 point scale
A - E*

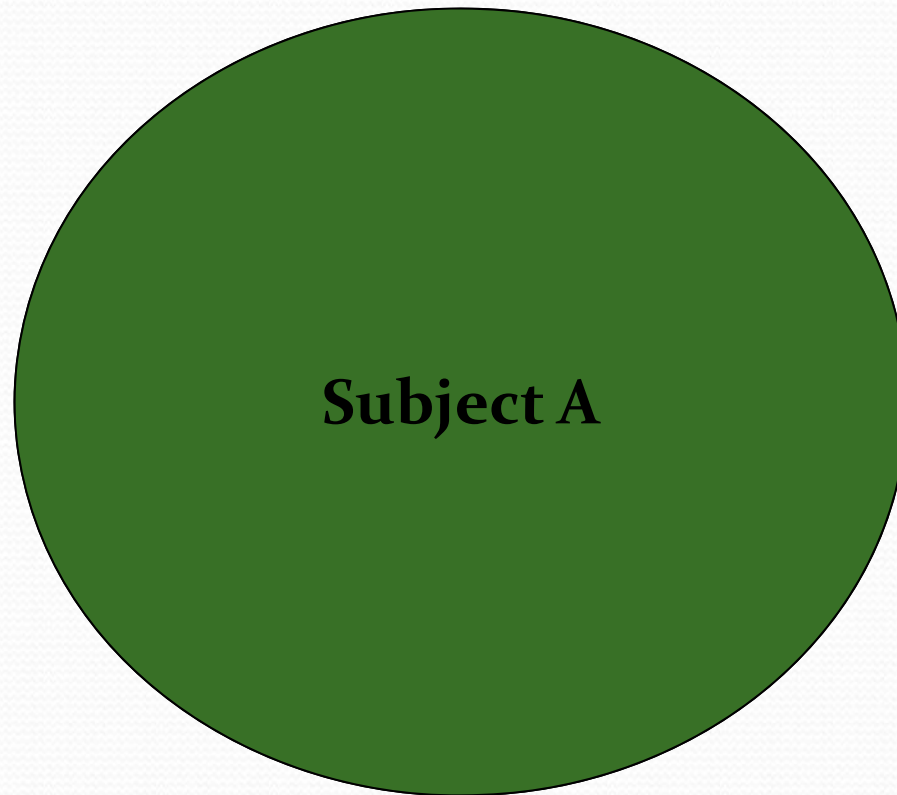
The Purposes of Q.C.S. Test

Consider the subject 'pie'



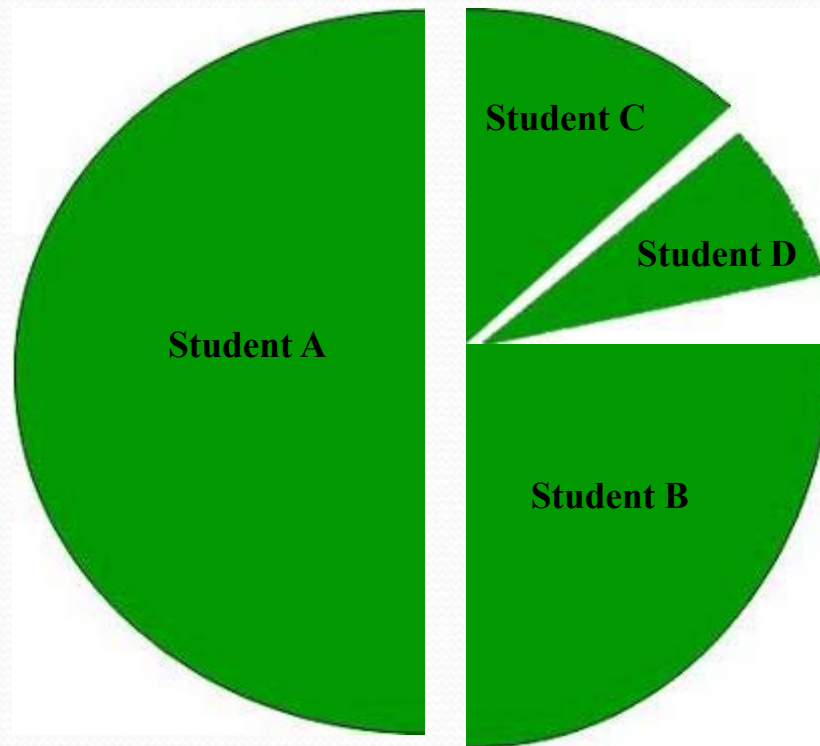
The Purposes of Q.C.S. Test

Consider the subject 'pie'



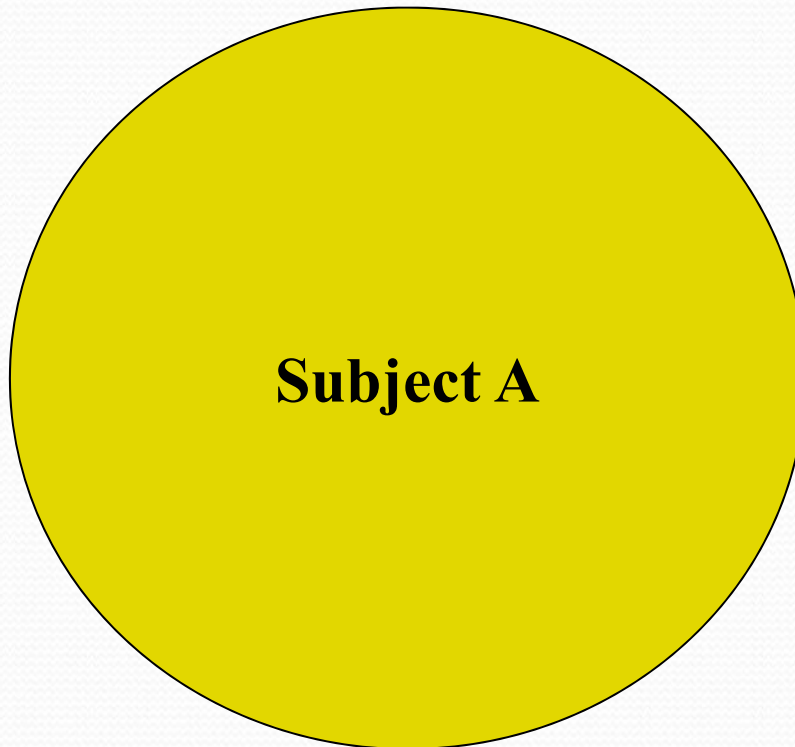
The Purposes of Q.C.S. Test

The 'rank orders' and 'SAIs' determine the slices of the pie each student finally receives

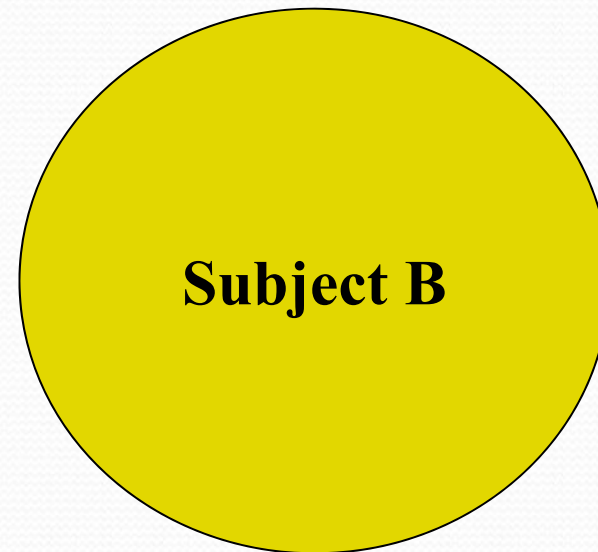


The Purposes of Q.C.S. Test

The QCS Test results determine the 'size' of each subject pie



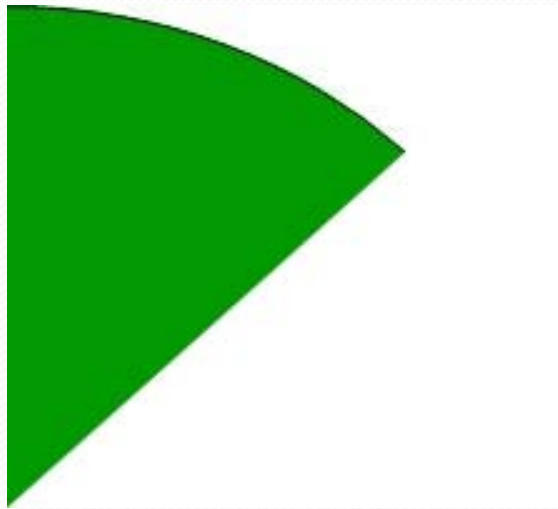
High QCS Mean



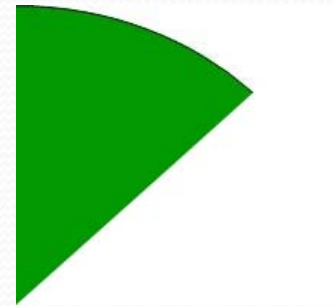
Lower QCS Mean

The Purposes of Q.C.S. Test

The QCS Test results determine the 'size' of each subject pie and hence the size of each student's slice of pie



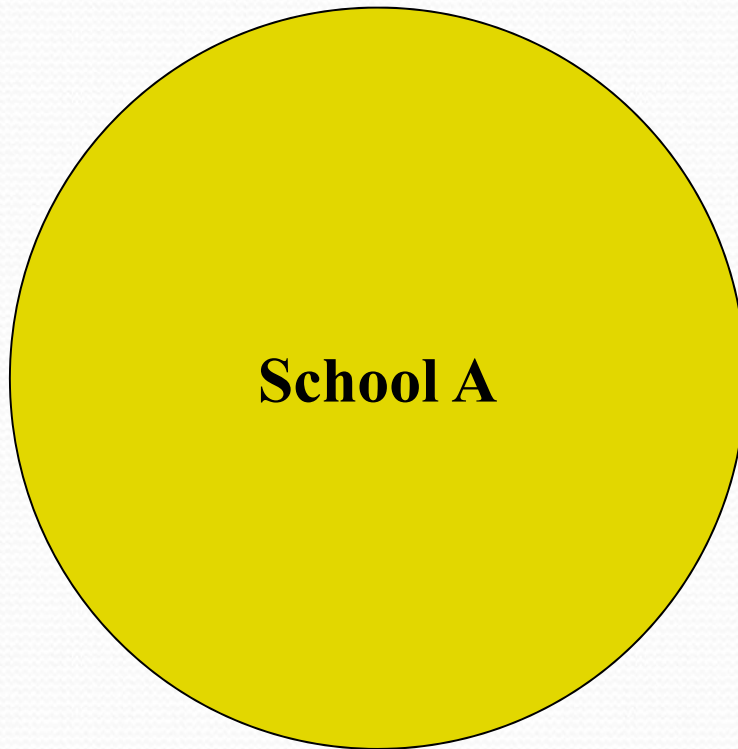
High QCS Mean



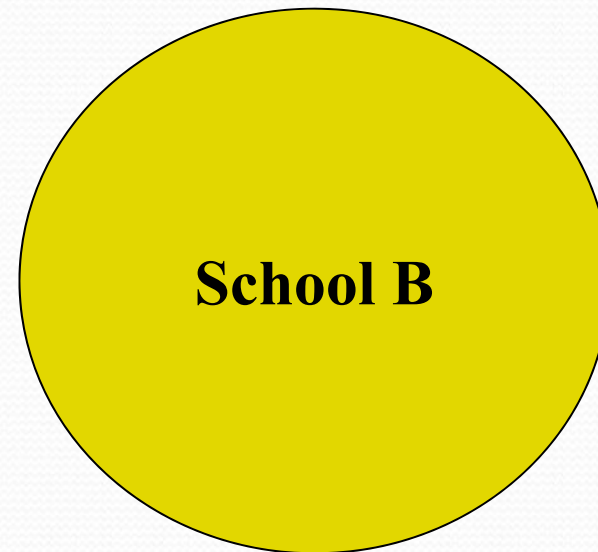
Lower QCS Mean

The Purposes of Q.C.S. Test

The QCS Test results determine the 'size' of each school pie as well



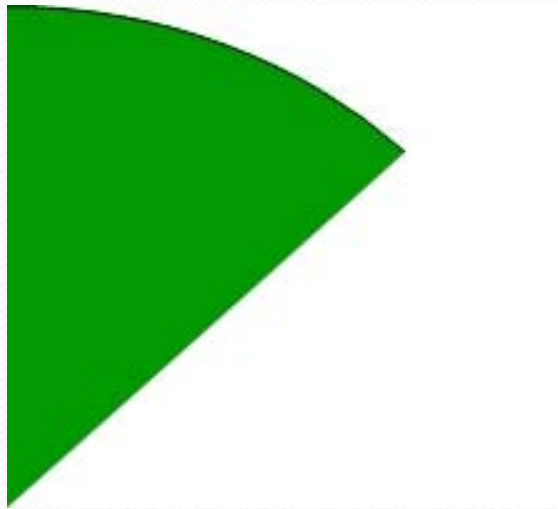
High QCS Mean



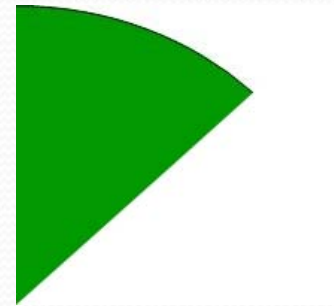
Lower QCS Mean

The Purposes of Q.C.S. Test

The QCS Test results determine the 'size' of each school pie and hence the size of each student's slice of pie



High QCS Mean



Lower QCS Mean

Preparing for the Q.C.S.

- *Work in class over the last 4 years*
- *Committing to great results in ALL subject areas.*
- *Specific ‘test – wise strategies’ that will be part of the preparation process*

How can you prepare yourself?

- *Become familiar with the CCEs*
- *Year 10 Maths concepts – percentage, ratio, angle, algebra*
- *Read widely*
- *Develop writing skills – grammar, spelling, write clearly*
- *Find out the meanings of key terms*
- *Learn to manage your time*
- *HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE*

Common Curriculum Elements by Basket

α Comprehend and Collect

1. Recognising letters, words and other symbols
3. Recalling/remembering
4. Interpreting the meaning of words and other symbols
5. Interpreting the meaning of pictures/illustrations
6. Interpreting the meaning of tables or diagrams or maps or graphs
28. Empathising
51. Identifying shapes in two and three dimensions
55. Gesturing
7. Translating from one form to another
2. Finding material in an indexed collection
52. Search and locating items /information
12. Compiling lists/statistics
53. Observing systematically
13. Recording/noting data
57. Manipulating/ operating/ using equipment

β Structure and Sequence

21. Structuring/organising extended written text
22. Structuring/organising a mathematical argument
29. Comparing/contrasting
30. Classifying
31. Interrelating ideas/ themes/issues
38. Generalising from information
49. Perceiving patterns
50. Visualising
36. Applying strategies to trial and test ideas and procedures

θ Analyse, Assess and Conclude

32. Reaching a conclusion which is necessarily true provided a given set of assumptions is true (Deducing)
33. Reaching a conclusion which is consistent with a given set of assumptions (Inferring)
34. Inserting an intermediate between members of a series (Interpolating)
35. Extrapolating
41. Hypothesising
42. Criticising
43. Analysing
44. Synthesising
45. Judging/evaluating
48. Justifying

π Create and Present

9. Using correct spelling, punctuation, grammar
10. Using vocabulary appropriate to a context
11. Summarising/ condensing written text
26. Explaining to others
27. Expounding a viewpoint
14. Compiling results in a tabular form
15. Graphing
20. Setting out/ presenting/ arranging/ displaying
46. Creating/composing/ devising
60. Sketching/drawing

Φ Apply Techniques and Procedures

16. Calculating with or without calculators
17. Estimating numerical magnitude
18. Approximating a numerical value
19. Substituting in a formulae
37. Applying a progression of steps to achieve the required answer

Organisation

- *Good habits – be prepared – when and where is your class, what do you need to bring?*
- *Q.C.S. Notices*
- *Responsibility*

Essential Equipment

- *File/folders*
- *Note taking*
- *Basic equipment includes:*
 - *Pens*
 - *Pencils*
 - *Highlighter*
 - *Eraser*
 - *Correcting tape/fluid*

Equipment for each test is very specific.

QCS Practice Schedule

- *2014 Term 4 : Weekly Preparation Lessons*
- *By the end of term 4 you will have completed a full set of papers*



What is your individual Role in the Q.C.S?

- *By doing well individually you will raise the average for the school a little;*
- *By doing well as a group you will raise the average a lot;*
- *Tackle every problem even if it looks too difficult;*
- *Be confident and positive – leads to a more successful result overall.*



Special Provision

- *Closes in mid May each year.*
- *Applications granted on the grounds of a physical condition.*
- *Applications must be accompanied by supporting documentation.*



Absence from the Test

- *Must be supported by documentation
E.g. Medical certificate*

QCE – Queensland Certificate of Education

A qualification which replaces the Senior Certificate





QCE –

Queensland Certificate of Education

- About 75% of students only will receive a QCE in Queensland – *a qualification*.
- *At IPC, the percentage is around 92% each year.*
- All students will receive a Senior Statement (list of results similar to old SC).

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 (English, Religion and Ethics, PV Maths)
- Certificate 1 subjects are 2 points, except **Engineering** and **Construction** (3 each)
- Certificate 2 subjects are 4 points
- You have to have 3 “4” point subjects unchanged since start of Year 11 to get a QCE

QCE

- 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
- <https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>
- Access this site soon!

<https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>

Student Connect [Queensland Studies Authority] - Windows Internet Explorer

<https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au/>

★ Favorites | ★ Suggested Sites | Web Slice Gallery

Student Connect [Queensland Studies Authority]

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Queensland Government | Queensland Studies Authority

Queensland Studies Authority STUDENT CONNECT

My learning account | Years 11 and 12 | Further education and training | Jobs and careers | Deadly pathways

WELCOME TO STUDENT CONNECT
Student Connect gives you access to your learning account and results, as well as information and links to help you explore your future education, training and career pathways.

LEARNING ACCOUNT LOGIN

Username:

Password:

[Need help logging in?](#)

LATEST NEWS

Student Connect magazine
Check out the latest issue of *Student Connect* magazine for Year 12 students.

NOTICE: On 9 June 2011, the passwords for all Year 10-12 students were reset to day and month of birth (in ddmm format). This means, the first time you log in to your learning account after 9 June 2011, you will need to use your day and month of birth as your password. For example, if you

Internet | Protected Mode: Off | 100%

4:06 PM
15/02/2012

Amount of learning at a set standard



CORE	COURSE	SET STANDARD	CREDIT
	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	2
		On-the-job component: completed	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 VET 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Note: The Functional English subject does not meet literacy requirements.	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Note: The Functional Maths subject does not meet numeracy requirements.
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.

Questions

