

what about the QCS test?

*For distribution
to Year 11 students
and their parents*

The QCS Test is:

a common statewide test for Queensland Year 12 students

an achievement test, not an intelligence test, not an aptitude test

grounded in the Queensland senior curriculum

accessible to all Year 12 students regardless of individual differences in subject patterns.

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What is the QCS Test?

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- accessible to all Year 12 students regardless of individual differences in subject patterns.

What does it test?

It tests the 49 common elements that are the threads of the Queensland senior curriculum. These elements are called **Common Curriculum Elements**.

The 49 elements are listed on the back of this pamphlet.

While the level of sophistication demanded by the test is appropriate to Year 12 students, particular knowledge of specific Year 12 subjects is not tested.

However, the test assumes basic levels of general knowledge and vocabulary and a Year 10 knowledge of mathematical operations.

What is the purpose of the Test?

The QCS Test provides:

- individual results reported on a five-point scale
- group results for calculating Overall Positions (OPs) which are independent of subjects studied or school attended
- group results for calculating Field Positions (FPs), up to five per student, depending on subject choice.

When is the QCS Test held?

The QCS Test takes place over two consecutive days late in the third term. For this year's dates, check with your school or the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA).

How are the elements assessed?

The QCS Test consists of four papers — the Writing Task (WT), Short-response (SR), and two Multiple-choice (MC) papers.

There are three modes of assessment — extended writing, multiple-choice and short-response.

	Tuesday	Wednesday
morning	paper 1 Writing Task WT 2.0 hours	paper 3 Short-response SR 2.0 hours
afternoon	paper 2 Multiple-choice MC I 1.5 hours	paper 4 Multiple-choice MC II 1.5 hours

Candidates are expected to respond to a variety of stimulus material, such as prose passages, poetry, graphs, tables, maps, mathematical and scientific data, cartoons and reproductions of works of art.

For each item on the MC papers there are four alternative answers (options).

Candidates are asked to select the best answer.

The SR paper requires candidates to respond to a command or to answer a question by writing a sentence or paragraph, drawing a diagram, performing a calculation, etc.

The WT tests candidates' command of the written English language. It tests expressive and productive skills, requiring the composition of an extended piece (about 600 words) of continuous prose.

What equipment is allowed?

The equipment allowed is not the same for every paper.

paper	essential equipment	optional equipment
MC (both papers)	2B pencils sharpener eraser (white gum) calculator ruler	fluorescent marker
SR	pens (black ink) pencil protractor drawing compass eraser coloured pencils ruler calculator (transparent container for equipment)	set square correcting fluid template pencil sharpener other approved items
WT	pens (black ink)	pencil sharpener eraser correcting fluid

Who sits for the Test?

Students who are eligible for an OP **must** sit for the QCS Test.

Students who are not eligible for an OP **may** sit for the QCS Test.

Results of students in the latter category will not contribute to the calculation of OPs.

Students otherwise eligible for an OP who are absent from the QCS Test without valid reasons and documented evidence will not be assigned OPs.

Please note: Private entry is available to non-school-based applicants, i.e. those who are not Year 12 students of a Queensland secondary school. Persons who have previously completed Year 12 or who are at least 18 years of age in the year in which the test is taken may apply to sit for the test as private-entry candidates.

How is the QCS Test marked?

The response sheets for the two MC papers are marked by computer. Each correct answer scores one mark, each incorrect answer scores zero, and each unattempted question scores zero.

The SR paper is marked by trained and accredited markers who are given detailed instructions and a specific marking scheme for each test item. Each candidate response is marked at least twice. A referee marking occurs when markers disagree.

The WT is marked by trained and accredited markers who each give one grading to the piece of writing according to predetermined standards developed around a set of criteria. Each candidate script is marked at least three times by different markers working independently. There is a process for monitoring marker consistency during the marking operation.

Common curriculum elements

Recognising letters, words and other symbols
 Finding material in an indexed collection
 Recalling/remembering
 Interpreting the meaning of words or other symbols
 Interpreting the meaning of pictures/illustrations
 Interpreting the meaning of tables or diagrams or maps or graphs
 Translating from one form to another
 Using correct spelling, punctuation, grammar
 Using vocabulary appropriate to a context
 Summarising/condensing written text
 Compiling lists/statistics
 Recording/noting data
 Compiling results in a tabular form
 Graphing
 Calculating with or without calculator
 Estimating numerical magnitude
 Approximating a numerical value
 Substituting in formulae
 Setting out/presenting/arranging/displaying
 Structuring/organising extended written text
 Structuring/organising a mathematical argument
 Explaining to others
 Expounding a viewpoint
 Empathising
 Comparing, contrasting
 Classifying
 Interrelating ideas/themes/issues
 Reaching a conclusion which is necessarily true provided a given set of assumptions is true
 Reaching a conclusion which is consistent with a given set of assumptions
 Inserting an intermediate between members of a series
 Extrapolating
 Applying strategies to trial and test ideas and procedures
 Applying a progression of steps to achieve the required answer
 Generalising from information
 Hypothesising
 Criticising
 Analysing
 Synthesising

Judging/evaluating
 Creating/composing/devising
 Justifying
 Perceiving patterns
 Visualising
 Identifying shapes in two and three dimensions
 Searching and locating items/information
 Observing systematically
 Gesturing
 Manipulating/operating/using equipment
 Sketching/drawing

Who can provide further information?

For information on **admissions procedures or conversion of previous results for tertiary entrance**, please contact the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC), PO Box 1331, Milton Qld 4064 Telephone (07) 3368 1166

For information regarding **particular university and TAFE courses**, please contact the relevant university or TAFE institute.

Please contact teachers, guidance officers, or student advisers to expand on the information provided in this pamphlet.

Other publications on the QCS Test are available from your school and also from the QSA. Past QCS Test papers are also available. Please contact the QSA for information regarding prices and availability of publications.

For further information on the QCS Test, and OPs and FPs, contact:

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