



The NSW Higher School Certificate

Information for
Year 10
Students and Parents

The NSW HSC

- The Higher School Certificate (HSC) is the highest educational award you can gain in New South Wales schools.
- The HSC:
 - is an internationally recognised credential
 - provides a strong foundation for the future
 - is standards-based. Students receive HSC marks that indicate the standard they have achieved.

Board Developed Course (BDC) and Board Endorsed Course (BEC)

Board Developed Course

- HSC exam
- counts towards HSC
- may count towards the ATAR*
- includes some VET** courses
- includes Life Skills courses

* Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

** Vocational Education and Training

Board Endorsed Course

- no HSC exam – school-based assessment used
- counts towards HSC
- cannot contribute to the ATAR
- includes some VET courses

HSC Course Structure

- All courses in the HSC have a unit value
- Most courses are 2 units
- 2 units = 4 hours of instruction per week
120 hours per year
= 100 marks
- 1 unit = 60 hours per year
= 50 marks
- All 2-unit HSC courses have equal status

Requirements for the HSC

- Preliminary Course
 - minimum of 12 units
 - students must satisfactorily complete the Preliminary course before commencing the corresponding HSC course
- HSC Course
 - minimum of 10 units

Requirements for the HSC

Both the Preliminary and HSC Courses must include:

- At least 6 units of Board Developed Courses, including at least 2 units of English
- At least 3 courses of 2 units value or greater
- At least 4 subjects (including English)
- At most, 6 units of courses in Science can count towards HSC eligibility

English Choices

- English Advanced
 - Preliminary Extension English
 - HSC Extension 1
 - HSC Extension 2
- English Standard
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Fundamentals of English
- English Studies – Content Endorsed Course (Pilot)

Mathematics Choices

- Mathematics
 - Preliminary Mathematics Extension 1
 - HSC Mathematics Extension 1
 - HSC Mathematics Extension 2
- Mathematics General
- Preliminary Mathematics General – Content Endorsed Course
- HSC Mathematics General 1
- HSC Mathematics General 2

Languages

- Different courses:
 - Beginners
 - Continuers
 - Heritage (Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean)
 - Background Speakers (Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean)
- Eligibility criteria apply to all Beginners courses, all Heritage courses and Continuers courses in Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean

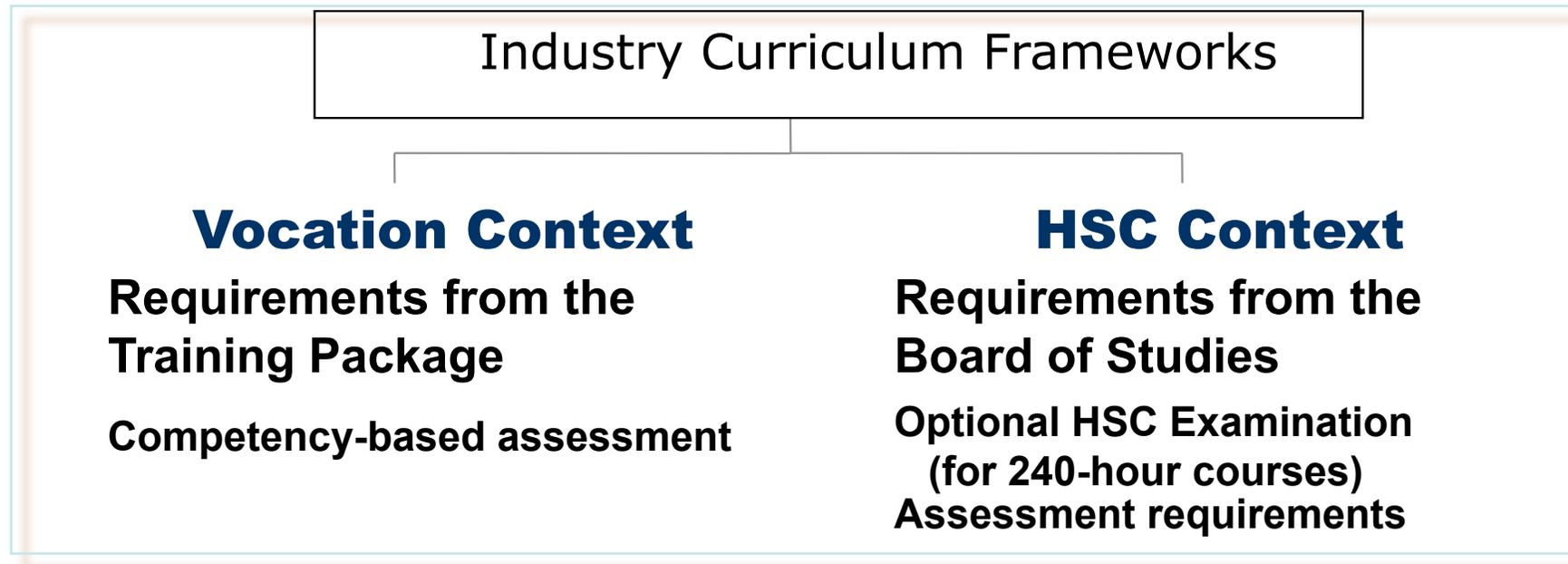
Extension Courses

- Preliminary Extension Courses:
 - English
 - Mathematics
- HSC Extension Courses:
 - English 1 and 2
 - Mathematics 1 and 2
 - History
 - Music
 - Some Languages
 - Some Vocational Education & Training (VET) courses

Life Skills Courses

- Designed for a small percentage of students with special education needs
- Student's curriculum options determined through collaborative curriculum planning process
- Have Board Developed status
- Can count towards HSC
- Cannot contribute to ATAR

VET in the HSC



- VET courses let you complete a workplace credential while still at school
- Qualifications are recognised Australia-wide (AQF – Australian Qualifications Framework)

VET Industry Curriculum Frameworks Board Developed Courses

- Automotive
- Business Services
- Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Entertainment Industry
- Financial Services
- Hospitality
- Human Services
- Information and Digital Technology
- Metal and Engineering
- Primary Industries
- Retail Services
- Tourism and Events

Students must complete 35 hours of mandatory work placement per 120 hours of coursework.

HSC: All My Own Work

- is a program designed to help HSC students follow the principles and practices of good scholarship
- includes understanding and valuing of ethical practices when locating and using information as part of HSC studies

Students must complete *HSC: All My Own Work* or its equivalent before they can be entered for any Preliminary or HSC course.

Satisfactory Completion of a Course

- Students must:
 - follow the course developed or endorsed by the Board
 - apply themselves with diligence and sustained effort
 - achieve some or all of the course outcomes
 - complete work placement for VET Board Developed Courses
 - make a genuine attempt at assessment tasks that total more than 50% of the available school assessment marks for HSC courses only.

Reporting – HSC

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

2009 Course Report

BOARD OF STUDIES
NEW SOUTH WALES

Biology
Sample Student

Examination Mark: 73
State Distribution

Assessment Mark: 77

The typical performance in this band:

100 Demonstrates extensive and detailed knowledge and superior understanding of biological concepts, including those based on context and prescribed focus areas. Applies knowledge and understanding to unfamiliar situations and designs original solutions to biological problems. Communicates rationally, logically and sequentially using a variety of scientific formats, including diagrams, graphs, tables, flowcharts and equations relating to biology. Analyses and evaluates data effectively, identifies biological relationships, quantifies explanations and descriptions, and synthesises information to draw conclusions. Uses precise biological terms accurately and correctly in a wide range of contexts. Designs valid experimental processes involving appropriate technology and incorporating thorough knowledge of scientific methodology to solve problems.

90 Demonstrates thorough knowledge and understanding of most biological concepts, including those based on context and prescribed focus areas. Applies a broad range of biological concepts to unfamiliar situations. Communicates effectively in a variety of scientific formats including diagrams, graphs, tables, flowcharts and equations. Explains qualitative and quantitative biological relationships and also coherently and identifies patterns in data by their conclusions. Uses precise biological terms frequently and correctly in a range of contexts. Identifies the correct application of scientific experimental methodology to solve problems.

80 Demonstrates sound knowledge and clear understanding of some biological concepts. Demonstrates a sound understanding of the prescribed focus areas and contextual applications. Communicates using clear written expression and incorporating diagrams of biological structures. Provides qualitative and quantitative descriptions of biological phenomena and explains straightforward biological relationships. Uses general biological terms frequently and correctly in a range of contexts. Identifies correct components of experimental scientific methodology in biology.

70 Recalls basic knowledge and understanding of some biological concepts. Demonstrates a basic understanding of some prescribed focus areas and some contextual applications. Uses fundamental written communication with some use of simple scientific diagrams relating to biology. Provides qualitative descriptions of fundamental biological phenomena and explains some straightforward biological relationships. Uses some general biological terms correctly in a limited range of contexts. Recalls some aspects of experimental scientific methodology in biology.

60 Recalls limited knowledge and has elementary understanding of some straightforward biological concepts. Demonstrates a limited understanding of the prescribed focus areas and contexts relating to biology. Uses fundamental written communication relating to biology. Provides simple qualitative descriptions of biological phenomena. Uses general biological terms occasionally.

50 A mark in this band indicates that the student has achieved below the minimum standard expected.

The candidate of this course was 15,310.

Student Number: 99999999
Dated at Sydney on 8th January 2010
Issued by the Board of Studies without alteration or erasure.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Record of Achievement

BOARD OF STUDIES
NEW SOUTH WALES

This is to certify that **Sample Student of Sample** has satisfactorily completed the courses listed.

2009 Board Developed Courses	Examination Mark
2 unit Biology	73/100
2 unit Chemistry	75/100
2 unit English as a Second Language	82/100
2 unit Mathematics	91/100
2 unit Indonesian Background Speakers	69/100

2008 Board Developed Courses (Preliminary)

2 unit Biology	
2 unit Chemistry	
2 unit English as a Second Language	
2 unit Fundamentals of English	
2 unit Mathematics	
2 unit Indonesian Background Speakers	

ELIGIBLE FOR HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Student Number: 99999999

Dated at Sydney on 8th January 2010
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HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

BOARD OF STUDIES
NEW SOUTH WALES

This is to certify that

Sample Student

who attended

Sample High School

has met the requirements for the award of a Higher School Certificate

Student Number: 99999999

Dated at Sydney on 8th January 2010
Issued by the Board of Studies without alteration or erasure.

The Higher School Certificate is accredited by the Board of Studies NSW and is recognised as a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education within the Australian Qualifications Framework.
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The Record of Achievement

All HSC courses listed with Assessment Mark, Examination Mark, HSC Mark and Performance Band

All Preliminary courses listed

All years listed, with the most recent year first

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Record of Achievement



This is to certify that Sample Student of Sample High School has satisfactorily completed courses listed below:

Course	Examination Mark	Assessment Mark	HSC Mark	Performance Band
2010 Board Developed Courses				
2 unit Community and Family Studies	68/100	67/100	68	3
2 unit English (Standard)	58/100	62/100	60	3
2 unit General Mathematics	63/100	67/100	65	3
2 unit Visual Arts	63/100	69/100	66	3
2 unit Information Technology	Refer to Vocational Documentation			
Information Technology Examination	76/100	N/A	76	4
2009 Board Developed Courses (Preliminary)				
2 unit Chemistry	Result E			
2 unit Community and Family Studies	Result B			
2 unit English (Standard)	Result D			
2 unit General Mathematics	Result C			
2 unit Visual Arts	Result C			
2 unit Information Technology	Refer to Vocational Documentation			

ELIGIBLE FOR HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE



2660181

Student Number: 123456789

Dated at Sydney on 11 January 2015
Issued by the Board of Studies without alteration or erasure.



President

How is the HSC Mark Determined?

Internal assessment	50%
External HSC exam	50%
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HSC mark	100%
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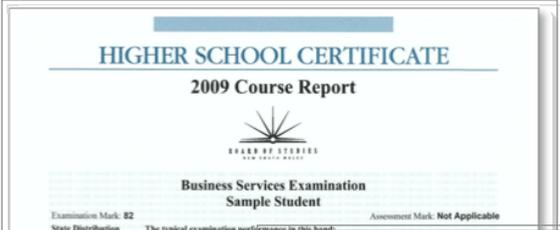
School-Based Assessment

- Why is it important?
 - Contributes 50% of HSC mark (and ATAR if student is eligible)
 - Is a course completion requirement
 - Is used to calculate an HSC mark in the case of a successful Illness/Misadventure appeal

HSC Examinations

- Contribute 50% of HSC mark
- VET exams are optional
- Some courses have practical examinations and/or submitted works or projects in addition to the written HSC examination
- Written examinations are held in October and November each year

VET Credentials



HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
2009 Course Report

Business Services Examination
Sample Student

Examination Mark: 82
State Distribution: ...
Assessment Mark: Not Applicable



HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
Record of Achievement

This is to certify that **Sample Student of Sample High School** has satisfactorily completed the courses in:

2009 Board Developed Courses	Examination Mark
2 unit Biology	68/100
2 unit English (Standard)	60/100
2 unit General Mathematics	76/100
2 unit Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	77/100
2 unit Business Services Examination	82/100

Board Endorsed Courses (Preliminary)

2 unit Sport and Recreation / Community Recreation	Refer to TA
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2008 Board Developed Courses (Preliminary)

2 unit Biology	
2 unit English (Standard)	
2 unit General Mathematics	
2 unit Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	
2 unit Business Services	

Board Endorsed Courses (Preliminary)

2 unit Sport and Recreation / Community Recreation	
2 unit Outdoor Recreation	

ELIGIBLE FOR HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Student Number: 99999999
Dated at Sydney on 8th January 2010
Issued by the Board of Studies without alteration or erasure.



HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
Transcript of Competencies Achieved

Sample Student
Student Number: 99999999

has been assessed as having achieved the following units of competency in accordance with the requirements of: Business Services (BSB01)

Year Code	Name
2008 BSBADM200A	Create and use databases
2008 BSBM201A	Work effectively in a business environment
2008 BSBM202A	Organise and complete daily work activities
2008 BSBM203A	Communicate in the workplace
2009 BSBM204A	Work effectively with others
2009 BSBM205A	Use business technology
2009 BSBM206A	Process and maintain workplace information
2009 BSBM207A	Prepare and process financial/business documents
2009 BSBM208A	Provide information to clients
2008 BSBM212A	Handle mail
2009 BSBM213A	Produce simple word-processed documents
2009 BSBM214A	Create and use simple spreadsheets
2009 BSBM207A	Maintain business resources
2008 BSBM211A	Participate in workplace safety procedures

Full completion of Certificate II in Business (BSB2101).

Registered Training Organisation - Department of Education and Training - New England Region 90073

Michael Coatts-Trotter
Director-General
Department of Education and Training

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Phone: 02 67 555 934
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Date of issue 8th January 2010
Issued on behalf of the Department of Education and Training - New England Region by the Board of Studies, NSW without alteration or erasure.
Certificate Number 32591812



HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that **Sample Student** who attended **Sample High School** has met the requirements for the award of a Higher School Certificate

Dated at Sydney on 8th January 2010

The Higher School Certificate is accredited by the Board of Studies NSW and is recognised as a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education within the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Issued by the Board of Studies without alteration or erasure.

VET Assessment

- Assessment is competency based
- Assessment of relevant tasks counts towards AQF VET qualification component



What is the
difference between
the HSC and the ATAR?

The HSC and the ATAR

HSC

- is for all students
- reports student achievement in terms of a standard achieved in individual courses
- presents a profile of student achievement across a broad range of subjects

ATAR

- is for students wishing to gain a place at a university
- is a rank NOT a mark
- provides information about how students perform overall in relation to other students
- provides the discrimination required by universities for the selection process

ATAR Eligibility Requirements

- Satisfactory completion of:
 - at least 10 units of Board Developed Courses including 2 units of English
 - at least 4 Board Developed Courses
 - at least 8 units of Category A courses
 - no more than 2 units of Category B courses

Calculating the ATAR

Board of Studies NSW

Raw Exam + Moderated Assessment Marks

Universities Admissions Centre

The scaled mark for each course is based on the quality of the candidates in that course in that year

Scaled

2 units of English + next best 8 units

ATAR

Key Considerations for Course Selection

- Abilities
- Interests/Motivation
- Career aspirations and needs

Practical Considerations

- Syllabus requirements
- Practical/Major work components
- Subject combinations

Consider:

- What do I want for my future?
- What 'pathway' best suits me?
- Ask for advice from:
 - teachers
 - parents
 - year adviser
 - careers adviser
 - students in Years 11 and 12
 - publications + website

Note: Universities, TAFE, employer groups, School, Board of Studies, UAC