

Directions for students

External assessment

This document outlines the directions for students completing external assessment in 2026.



You must observe these directions as well as your school's policies and those of any other external assessment venue you attend.

Read the directions carefully.

If you breach any of the following directions, your external assessment (EA) result may be withheld.

General directions

- Do not attempt to gain access to or receive information about any 2026 external assessment.
- Do not allow someone else to sit an external assessment on your behalf.
- Follow all directions given by supervisors.

Before the assessment

- Arrive at least 30 minutes before your scheduled assessment. Contact the EA coordinator at your school/assessment venue immediately if you will arrive late for your assessment.
- Place all prohibited materials in your bag or locker before entering the assessment room. Bags must be stored outside the room.
- Bring your own [approved equipment](#). You may use a clear plastic container or clear plastic bag to carry it in.
- Line up in an orderly manner outside the assessment room and follow directions regarding behaviour and equipment checks.
- Do not enter the room until instructed.
- Do not bring food into the assessment room unless you have access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA) approval.

During the assessment

- Sit at the desk identified by your place card.
- Remove your watch and place it in clear view on your desk. (**Note:** Smart watches, fitness trackers, or any device that stores, displays or communicates digital information are prohibited). Approved equipment may be removed from a clear plastic container or clear plastic bag and placed on your desk.
- If you have a water bottle, place it on the floor next to your desk when not in use.
- When instructed, attach a barcode from your place card to the response book in the space provided on the front cover. Then write your name, learner unique identifier (LUI), school name and school code in the spaces provided.
- During perusal time, do not pick up any writing equipment or touch a calculator.

- During planning time, do not write in the response book or touch a calculator.
- Carefully follow the instructions written on all your assessment materials.
- Do not write or draw any offensive content on your assessment materials.
- Do not ask anyone to explain or interpret an assessment item.
- Keep your response books intact. Do not remove any pages or parts of pages.
- Do not speak to anyone except a supervisor. If you need to speak to them, raise your hand and wait quietly.
- Do not ask to borrow equipment from other students. If you need additional assessment materials, raise your hand and wait quietly.
- If you need to leave the room, raise your hand and wait quietly.

Note: You will not be able to leave the assessment room in the first 40 minutes after the scheduled start time, or in the last 10 minutes of the assessment session except for illness, toilet/rest breaks or emergencies. You may leave after 9:40 am for a morning session and after 1:10 pm for an afternoon session.

- Do not cheat or help others to cheat. Do not look at or copy another student's work. All work submitted must be your own.

At the end of the assessment

- Stop writing immediately when instructed to do so by a supervisor.
- Remain seated and silent at the end of the assessment session while assessment materials are collected and checked.
- Do not leave the assessment room until instructed by a supervisor.
- Do not take any assessment materials with you when you leave the room, including place cards, planning paper, stimulus books and question books.



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QCAA external assessment timetable 2026

About the timetable

The QCAA external assessment timetable 2026 includes the external assessments for General and General (Extension) subjects.

The timetable has been updated to include language and non-language Senior External Examinations (SEEs). SEEs are 100% external examinations and are different from the mainstream General subjects.

The timetable has been designed to:

- minimise clashes for students across the examination period. Where there is a clash within a morning or afternoon session, students will be allocated to the alternative session on the same day
- ensure most students sit no more than two external assessments on one day
- provide sufficient breaks between external assessments for popular courses and frequently combined courses
- enable all external assessments to be marked in time for students to receive their final Year 12 results.

English and Literature prescribed text lists and Ancient and Modern History topics 2026

Schools have nominated topic/text selections as required for the following external assessments:

- English
- English as an Additional Language
- Literature
- Ancient History
- Modern History.

Note:

- From 2026, Drama no longer requires a text selection.
- Topic/text confirmations for your school are available in the [QCAA Portal](#) and [QCAA Student Portal](#).
- Information about topics/texts is available in the [QCAA memos](#) with the [senior syllabuses](#).



English and Literature prescribed text lists and Ancient and Modern History topics 2026

The prescribed text list options for English subjects and topic options for History subjects are listed below. Your school has selected the text or topic you will study for the external assessment at the end of this year. Topic/text confirmations for your school are available on the QCAA Student Portal and QCAA School Portal.

English and Literature prescribed text lists

English and English as an Additional Language	Literature
• <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> by Anthony Doerr • <i>Never Let Me Go</i> by Kazuo Ishiguro • <i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare • <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen • <i>The Dry</i> by Jane Harper • <i>The Namesake</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri • <i>The Yield</i> by Tara June Winch • <i>Twelfth Night</i> by William Shakespeare	• <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> by William Shakespeare • <i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison • <i>Catch-22</i> by Joseph Heller • <i>Hamlet</i> by William Shakespeare • <i>Stasiland</i> by Anna Funder • <i>Terra Nullius</i> by Claire G Coleman • <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> by Oscar Wilde • <i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Brontë

History topics

Ancient History	Modern History
• Julius Caesar • Cleopatra VII	• Cold War and its aftermath, 1945–2014 (Yalta Conference begins — Russo-Ukrainian War begins) • Mass migrations since 1848 (California Gold Rush begins)

QCAA external assessment timetable for General and General (Extension) subjects 2026

Session		Monday 26 October		Tuesday 27 October		Wednesday 28 October		Thursday 29 October		Friday 30 October	
Week 1	AM	Economics	2hrs + 15mins	English	2hrs + 15mins	Chinese	2hrs + 5mins	Literature	2hrs + 15mins	Chemistry (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins
				English as an Additional Language	2hrs + 15mins	Philosophy & Reason	2hrs + 15mins				
						Physical Education	2hrs + 5mins				
	PM	Aerospace Systems	2hrs + 5mins	Ancient History	2hrs + 15mins	Spanish	2hrs + 5mins	Legal Studies	2hrs + 15mins	Chemistry (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins
		Health	2hrs + 15mins			Visual Art	2hrs + 20mins				
		Music	2hrs + 20mins								

Session		Monday 2 November		Tuesday 3 November		Wednesday 4 November		Thursday 5 November		Friday 6 November	
Week 2	AM	Biology (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies	2hrs + 15mins	Film, Television & New Media	2hrs + 20mins	Modern History	2hrs + 15mins	General Mathematics (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins
				German	2hrs + 5mins	Chinese Extension French Extension German Extension	2hrs + 20mins			Specialist Mathematics (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins
				Study of Religion	2hrs + 15mins						
	PM	Biology (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins	Business	2hrs + 15mins	Accounting	2hrs + 15mins	General Mathematics (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Design	2hrs + 15mins
				Music Extension	2hrs + 20mins	Drama	2hrs + 20mins	Specialist Mathematics (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins		
						Italian	2hrs + 5mins				

QCAA external assessment timetable for General and General (Extension) subjects 2026

Session		Monday 9 November		Tuesday 10 November		Wednesday 11 November		Thursday 12 November		Friday 13 November	
Week 3	AM	Physics (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Dance	2hrs + 20mins	Psychology (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins	Earth & Environmental Science (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins	Mathematical Methods (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins
				Digital Solutions	2hrs + 5mins			Geography	2hrs + 15mins		
				English & Literature Extension	2hrs + 30mins						
	PM	Physics (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins	Psychology (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Earth & Environmental Science (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	French	2hrs + 5mins	Mathematical Methods (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins
						Engineering	2hrs + 5mins	Japanese	2hrs + 5mins		
						Food & Nutrition	2hrs + 5mins				

Session		Monday 16 November		Tuesday 17 November		Wednesday 18 November		Thursday 19 November		Friday 20 November	
Week 4	AM	Marine Science (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Agricultural Science (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins						
	PM	Marine Science (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins	Agricultural Science (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins						

Senior External Examination (SEE) timetable 2026

The Senior External Examination (SEE) is a program of individual subject examinations offered to adult learners and eligible Year 12 students.

SEEs are 100% external examination subjects and are assessed differently to the mainstream General subjects.

Students must attend all components of the examination to receive a result in a SEE subject. If a student is absent from either the written or oral component of a language examination, no result is issued. No alternative arrangements can be made if a student does not attend a scheduled written examination.

Languages examinations oral component

Dates	Subjects	Conditions	Details
Tuesday 6 October to Monday 26 October	- Arabic SEE - Modern Greek SEE - Punjabi SEE - Russian SEE - Sinhala SEE - Tamil SEE	Conversation (approximately 7 minutes) plus Discussion (approximately 8 minutes)	The date and time of the oral component for each student will be provided at the end of Term 3. The oral component will be completed online at the student's school.
Monday 12 October to Thursday 22 October	- Chinese SEE - Indonesian SEE - Korean SEE - Vietnamese SEE	Extended response multimodal (8–10 minutes) plus Extended response spoken (7–8 minutes)	
Tuesday 13 October to Thursday 29 October	Polish SEE	Conversation (approximately 7 minutes) plus Discussion (approximately 8 minutes)	

Senior External Examination (SEE) timetable 2026

Written examinations

Session		Monday 12 October		Tuesday 13 October		Wednesday 14 October		Thursday 15 October		Friday 16 October	
Week A	AM										
	PM							Polish SEE (written component) Punjabi SEE (written component) Russian SEE (written component) Sinhala SEE (written component) Tamil SEE (written component)	2hrs + 10mins		

Session		Monday 19 October		Tuesday 20 October		Wednesday 21 October		Thursday 22 October		Friday 23 October	
Week B	AM			Latin SEE	3hrs + 5mins					English SEE (SEE 1 Section 1 and Section 2) Chinese SEE (written component) Indonesian SEE (written component) Korean SEE (written component) Vietnamese SEE (written component)	3hrs + 25mins 2hrs + 5mins 2hrs + 5mins 2hrs + 5mins 2hrs + 5mins
	PM										

Senior External Examination (SEE) timetable 2026

Session		Monday 26 October		Tuesday 27 October		Wednesday 28 October		Thursday 29 October		Friday 30 October	
Week 1	AM			English SEE (SEE 2 Paper 1 and Paper 2)	3hrs + 25mins						
	PM										

Session		Monday 2 November		Tuesday 3 November		Wednesday 4 November		Thursday 5 November		Friday 6 November	
Week 2	AM			General Mathematics SEE (SEE 1 PSMT exam)	3hrs + 15mins					General Mathematics SEE (SEE 2 Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins
	PM							General Mathematics SEE (SEE 2 Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Arabic SEE (written component)	2hrs + 15mins

Session		Monday 9 November		Tuesday 10 November		Wednesday 11 November		Thursday 12 November		Friday 13 November	
Week 3	AM										
	PM			Modern Greek SEE (written component)	2hrs + 15mins						

Session		Monday 16 November		Tuesday 17 November		Wednesday 18 November		Thursday 19 November		Friday 20 November	
Week 4	AM										
	PM										

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