



ATAR POWER HOUR



QTAC

1. Setting the Scene
2. What is ATAR?
3. Eligibility for an ATAR
4. What's Changing?
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What is QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre)?

- A not-for-profit organisation operating since 1975
- Owned by seven Queensland universities

What do we do?

- Assess approximately 75, 000 applications a year
- Make offers in 1,700 undergraduate courses on behalf of 16 institutions

What is QCAA? (Qld Curriculum and Assessment Authority)

- Established in 2014, formerly Queensland Studies Authority (QSA)
- Statutory body – reports to Minister of Education

What does it do?

- Responsible for kindergarten to year 12 syllabus development
- Provides testing, assessment, moderation and certification services to Queensland's education community

OP to ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank)

- OP has been used in Queensland since 1992
- A new system of assessment and tertiary entrance is being introduced
- It will start with students starting Year 11 in 2019
- There will be a new curriculum including new subjects
- ATAR will be used for commencement in 2021

What is ATAR?

**Primary mechanism used nationally for tertiary admissions
ATAR is not a grade, it is a rank**

Indicates a student's position relative to other students

**2,000 point scale from 99.95 down to 0.00
ATARs less than 30.00 will be expressed as *“30 and below”***

OP

ATAR

Calculated by QCAA

Calculated by QTAC

Measure of a student's overall position compared to other students

Measure of a student's overall position compared to other students

5 subjects (20 semester units)

5 subjects

Subject scaling applied

Subject scaling applied

Common test (QCS)

No common test

English subject not mandatory

English subject mandatory

25 point scale

2,000 point scale

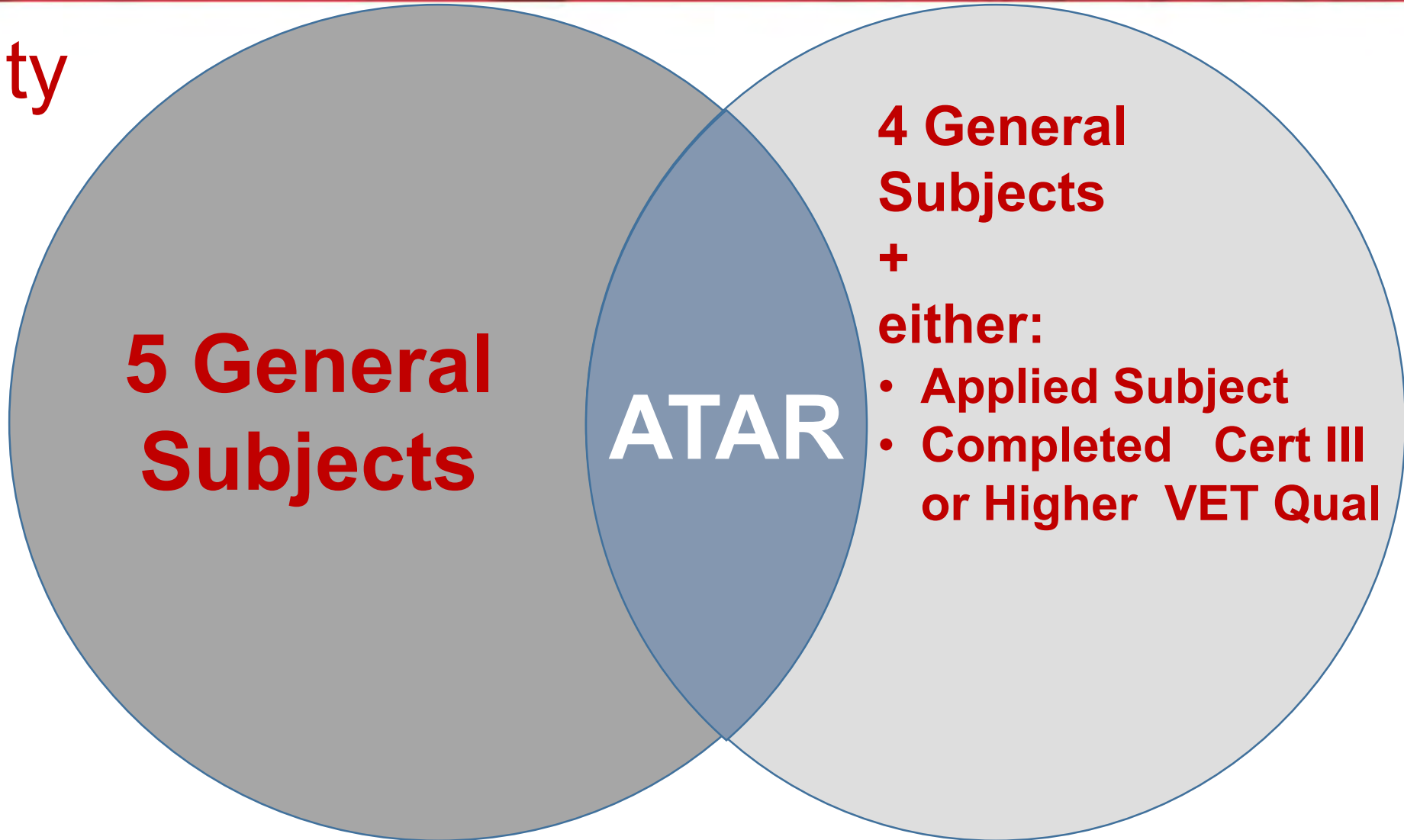
OP ineligible schedule

No ATAR ineligible schedule.

Only used in Queensland

Used across Australia

Eligibility



English – Compulsory Subject

Students must successfully complete one of the following:

- English
- English as an Additional Language
- English & Literature Extension
- Literature
- Essential English



Name Change Example

**Prevocational
Maths**



Essential Maths

Maths A



General Maths

Maths B



Mathematical Methods

Maths C



Specialist Maths

Examples of Study Patterns for ATAR



- English
- Mathematical Methods
- Specialist Mathematics
- Physics
- Chemistry

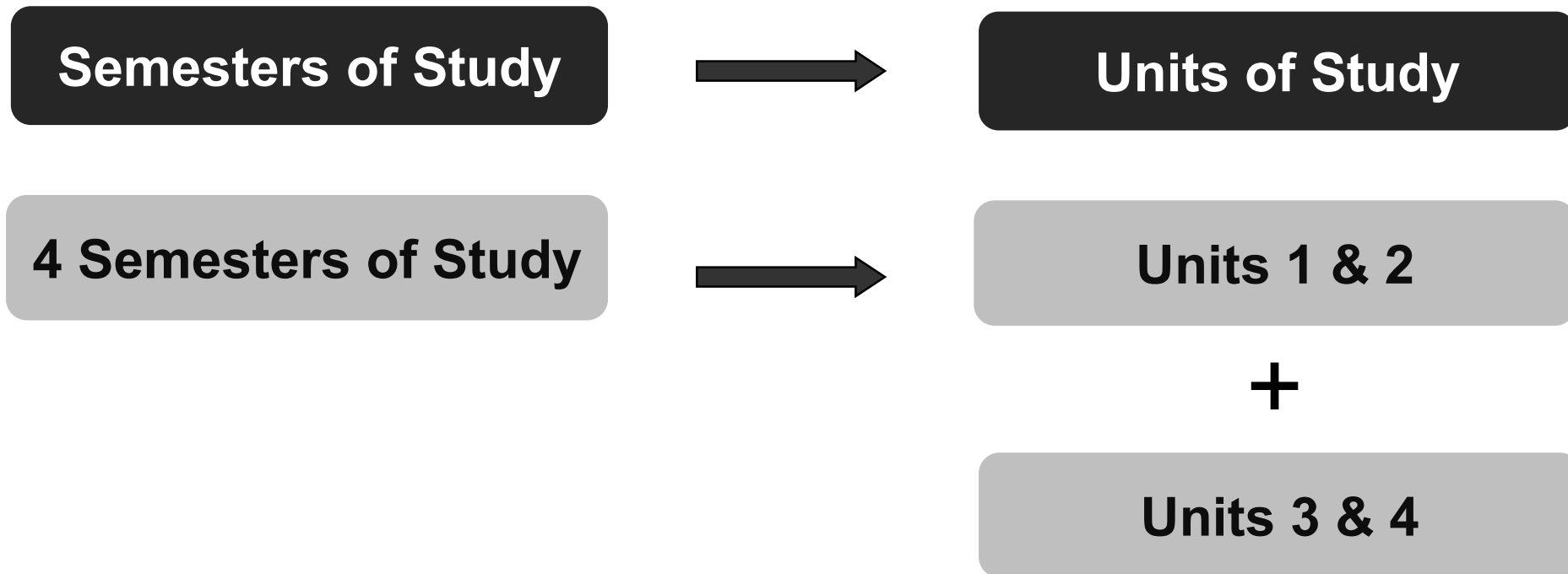


- Essential English
- Accounting
- Modern History
- Japanese
- Music

- English
- Dance
- Visual Art
- Study of Religion
- AQF Certificate III in Business



Other Important Subject Changes



Units 1 & 2

- Formative units
- Provide feedback to students on their progress
- Between 2 and 4 assessments

Units 3 & 4

- Summative units
- Result to be based on
 - 3 Internal Assessments
+
 - 1 External Assessment

External Assessment

- Common to all schools
- Same time, same day
- Developed and marked by QCAA
- Conducted in term 4
- Assessing subject matter from units 3 and 4 only

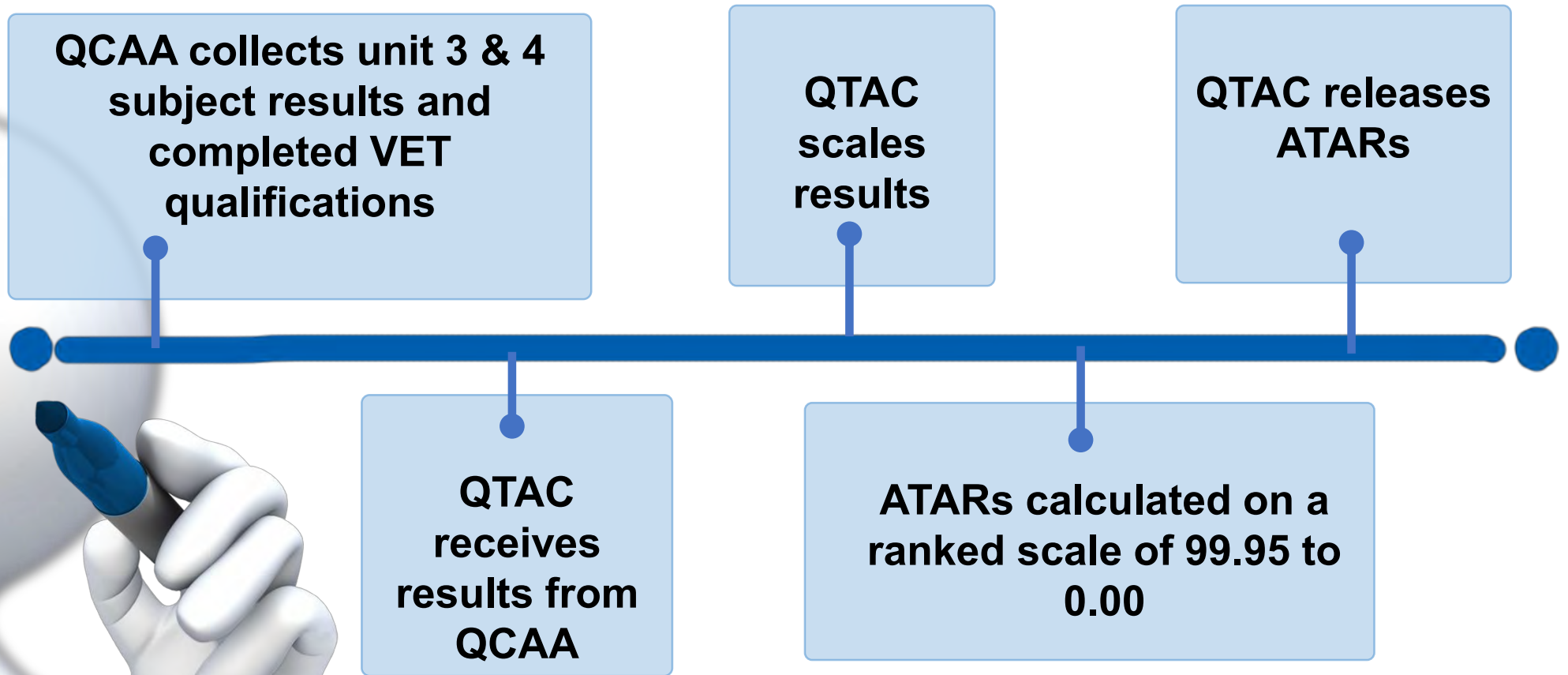


External Assessment

- Mathematics and Science subjects will have 50% external assessment
- All other General subjects, will have 25% external assessment
- Marking done by accredited QCAA markers around Queensland



Sequence of Events



Subject Scaling

What is subject scaling?

Important

Students should continue to choose subjects

- they enjoy,
- that they are good at, and
- that are prerequisites for the courses they want to apply for

Historically, STEM and challenging general subjects scale higher



VET for tertiary entrance

Completed Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses will still be used for tertiary entrance in two ways:

1. VET incorporation into ATAR; and/or
2. VET as the basis of admission



How will VET be included in the ATAR?

Each VET qualification level will have a single scaled score that can be included in the student's ATAR

Cert III in Hospitality and Cert III in Lab Skills will have the same scaled score, regardless of duration or content

A scaled score for a VET Diploma will be higher than a Certificate IV, which in turn will be higher than a Certificate III

Bonus Schemes

Bonuses (EAS, subject, etc) will continue to be applied after the ATAR is calculated

QTAC will continue to administer bonus schemes which have been determined by individual institutions



Mythbusting

Can certain subjects like Physics increase a student's ATAR?

NO. A student can only maximise their ATAR by performing well in their subjects

What pattern of subjects will guarantee an ATAR of 99.95?

No pattern will. However, it is expected that very high ATARs like 99.95 may only be possible from ATARs based on 5 General Subjects

Mythbusting

Does it matter what school the student attends or what postcode they live in?

NO. These will not feature in the ATAR calculation

Will QTAC have an ATAR calculator for students or schools to use?

NO. QTAC will only release the actual ATARs

Mythbusting

Will QTAC be giving predictive subject scaling information before 2020?

NO. Until the 2020 student results are obtained, QTAC will not be scaling any subjects

Will QTAC be releasing the actual scaled subject information?

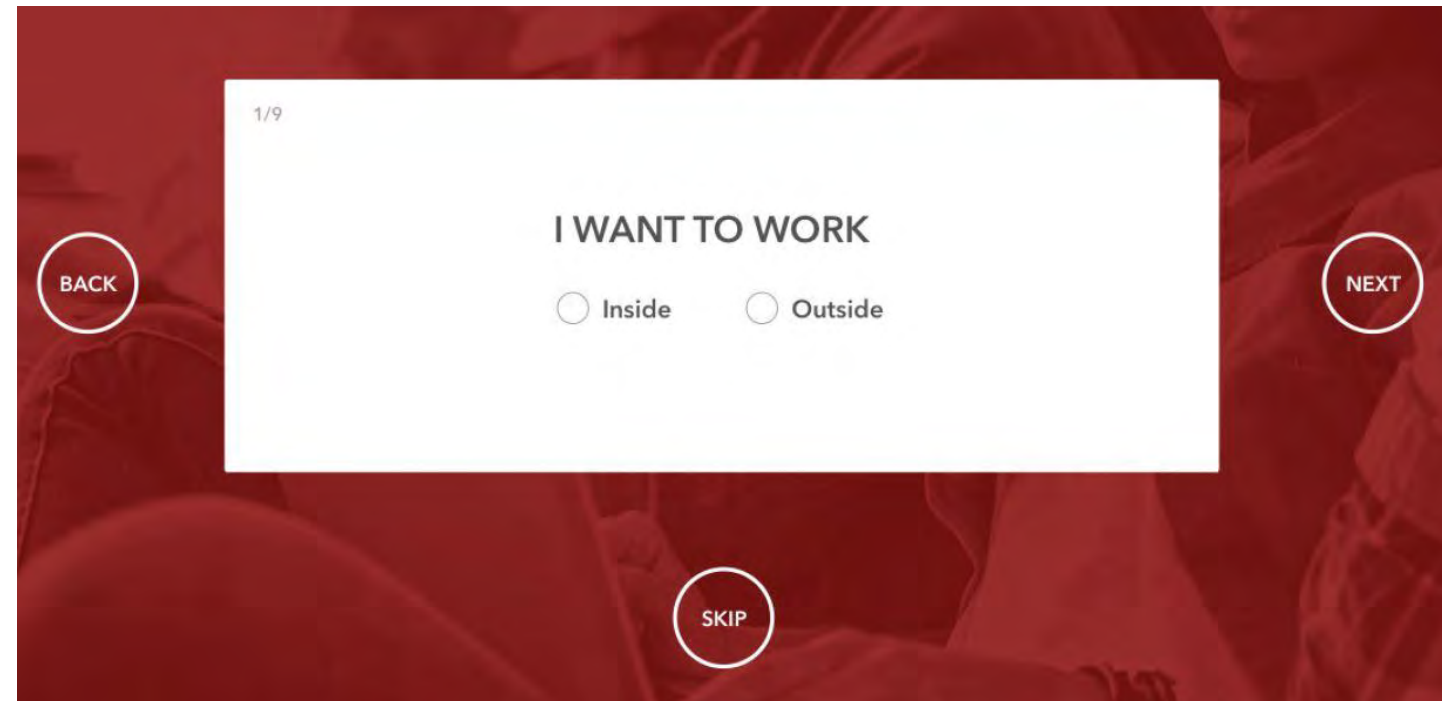
YES! It will be released as soon as possible in December 2020 and then annually

MYPATH

QTAC | MYPATH

In early 2018, QTAC will launch MYPATH, a free online planning tool to help Year 10 students map senior learning pathways

Can be customised to enable each school to populate subjects on offer



MYPATH

QTAC | MYPATH

MYPATH will step students through reflective tools aimed at effective career planning

A series of questions will promote drill down into a range of study pathways

1/9

I WANT TO WORK

Inside Outside

BACK

NEXT

SKIP



Senior secondary

New Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and tertiary entrance systems

- [Resources and support for school communities](#)
- [New and redeveloped syllabuses](#)
- [School-based assessment](#)
- [External assessment](#)
- [New tertiary entrance rank](#)
- [Training and professional learning for the new QCE](#)
- [Trained assessors](#)
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New Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and tertiary entrance systems

About the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems

New senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems begin in Queensland with students entering Year 11 in 2019.

The new systems include:

- a model that uses school-based assessment and external assessment
- processes that strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment.
- introducing the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

QCAA leading the change

QCAA leads the change by delivering information, guidance, training and resources that provide school communities with a conceptual and operational understanding of the new senior curriculum and assessment processes. QCAA values of trust, partnership, service and innovation underpin the transition process.

What's new?

- [Latest draft syllabuses released for consultation](#)
- [New video looks at why the Queensland senior system is changing](#)
- [Sign up for senior assessment system updates](#)



School-based assessment

New processes and resources are being developed to strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment.



External assessment

Common external assessment set and marked by the QCAA will increase public confidence in the comparability of student results.



New and redeveloped syllabuses

New syllabuses will ensure school leavers have the 21st century skills they require to be lifelong learners, valued employees, innovators, entrepreneurs, and responsible global citizens.



Training and professional learning for the new QCE

QCAA is offering a range of online and in-person opportunities for teachers and curriculum leaders to prepare for the new QCE system.



VET and the new systems

For information about the role of VET in the new systems visit the [VET page](#).



Tertiary entrance

The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) will replace the [QCE](#) rank from 2020.



Office hours

8.30am – 4.30pm
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