Queensland Certificate of Education

An overview of Queensland’s senior schooling qualification for parents and students

1st March 2016
Queensland’s senior school qualification is:

- internationally recognised
- achievement based
- flexible — letting you choose what, where and when you study.
To gain a **QCE** students need an **AMOUNT** of **LEARNING** 20 credits **at a SET STANDARD** Sound Achievement, Pass or equivalent **in a SET PATTERN** at least 12 credits from completed Core courses of study and an additional 8 credits from a combination of any courses of study meet literacy and numeracy requirements.

### Working towards a QCE

**About the QCE**

- The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland’s senior schooling qualification.
- The QCE is awarded to eligible students — usually at the end of Year 12.
- Students can still work towards a QCE after Year 12 or if they leave school.
- Learning options are grouped into four categories (see opposite).
- The QCE offers flexibility in what, where and when learning occurs.

**How the QCE works**

To achieve a QCE a student needs 20 credits in a set pattern.

- At least 12 credits must come from completed Core courses.
- Additional 8 credits can come from a combination of any courses.
- Students must achieve a Sound, Pass or equivalent to receive QCE credits.
- Literacy and numeracy requirements must be met (see opposite).

**Planning a QCE pathway**

QCE planning usually starts in Year 10.

- A Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan is developed to map a student’s future education and/or employment goals and their QCE pathway.
- Learning options include senior school subjects, vocational education and training, apprenticeships and traineeships, university subjects completed while at school, recognised workplace learning, certificates and awards.
- Students choose their own QCE pathway — there are hundreds of possible course combinations.
- Students can plan their QCE pathway and track their progress towards a QCE in their learning account on the Student Connect website at www.studentconnect.qne.qld.edu.au

### Learning options and credit values

**COURSE**

**CORE** (QCE subjects usually undertaken by students in the senior phase of learning)

- Authority or Authority-registered subjects
- Subjects assessed by a senior external examination
- VET Certificate II is, in most qualifications (includes school-based traineeships)
- School-based apprenticeships that incorporate on the job training
- Recognised International learning programs

**PREPARATORY** (PREP, generally used as stepping stones to further study)

- VET Certificate I qualifications
- Employment skills development programs approved under the VET ACT 2000
- Re-engagement programs
- Recognised certificates and awards
- Short course in literacy or short course in numeracy developed by the QCAA

**ENRICHMENT** (add value or complement Core courses of study)

- Recognised certificates and awards
- Recognised structured workplace or community-based learning programs
- Authority-registered subjects, such as English extension
- Career development: Short course senior subject
- School-based subjects

**ADVANCED**

- Advanced courses: Go beyond senior secondary schooling
- recognised credits and awards
- recognised structured workplace or community-based learning programs
- recognised certificates and awards
- recognised structured workplace or community-based learning programs
- recognised structured workplace or community-based learning programs
- recognised structured workplace or community-based learning programs

- at least 12 credits are needed, at least 2 credits (understand while enrolled at school)
- path grade in a literacy and numeracy course recognised by the QCAA
- at least A on the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test
- at least 4 for an International Baccalaureate examination in English and Mathematics
- completion of VET courses in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
- completion of a VET course in Core Skills for Employment and Training — Communication, i.e. 3928QLOD (Certificate I) or 3928QLOD (Certificate II)
- completion of a VET course in Core Skills for Employment and Training — Numeracy, i.e. 3928QLOD (Certificate I) or 3928QLOD (Certificate II)

### Literacy and numeracy requirements

The QCE offers students a range of options to satisfy the literacy and numeracy requirements, including:

- at least a Sound Achievement in one semester of a QCA-recognized English and Mathematics subject
- at least a Sound Achievement in QCA-recognized short courses in literacy and numeracy
- a path grade in a literacy and numeracy course recognised by the QCAA
- at least A on the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test
- at least 4 for an International Baccalaureate examination in English and Mathematics
- completion of VET courses in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
- completion of a VET course in Core Skills for Employment and Training — Communication, i.e. 3928QLOD (Certificate I) or 3928QLOD (Certificate II)
- completion of a VET course in Core Skills for Employment and Training — Numeracy, i.e. 3928QLOD (Certificate I) or 3928QLOD (Certificate II)

For all Queensland schools

Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority
What is a Queensland Certificate of Education?

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland’s senior schooling qualification:

• Awarded to eligible students – usually end of year 12
• You can still work towards QCE after year 12 or if you leave school
• Learning options grouped into four categories
• Offers flexibility in what, where and when learning occurs

Refer to The Pathways Document
You need

20 credits

at a set standard

Sound Level of Achievement, Pass or equivalent

in a set pattern

at least 12 credits from completed Core courses of study

plus

an additional 8 credits from a combination of any courses of study

but a maximum of 6 credits from Preparatory courses of study

and meet literacy and numeracy requirements

To gain a QCE
Literacy and numeracy requirements

The QCE offers students a range of options to satisfy the literacy and numeracy requirements, including:

- at least a Sound Achievement in one semester of a QCAA-developed English and Mathematics subject
- at least a Sound Achievement in QCAA-developed short courses in literacy and numeracy
- a Pass grade in a literacy and numeracy course recognised by the QCAA
- at least a C on the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test
- at least a 4 for an International Baccalaureate examination in English and Mathematics
- completion of FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways
- completion of a VET course in Core Skills for Employment and Training – Communication, i.e. 39282QLD (Certificate I) or 39283QLD (Certificate II)
- completion of a VET course in Core Skills for Employment and Training – Numeracy, i.e. 39288QLD (Certificate I) or 39289QLD (Certificate II).
Types of learning

- Core
- Preparatory
- Enrichment
- Advanced
## Core Courses of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CORE courses</strong>: usually undertaken by students in the senior phase</td>
<td>At least 12 credits are needed. At least 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>of learning</td>
<td>credit undertaken while enrolled at a school.</td>
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<td>Authority or Authority-registered subjects</td>
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<td>Subjects assessed by a Senior External Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>VET Certificate II, III or IV qualifications (includes school-based</td>
<td>Certificate II 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>traineeships)</td>
<td>Certificate III &amp; IV 5, 6, 7 or 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-based apprenticeships that incorporate on-the-job training</td>
<td>Certificate III competencies Up to 2 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognised international learning programs</td>
<td>On-the-job component 4</td>
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<td>Per course 4</td>
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Preparatory Courses of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparatory Courses: generally used as stepping stones to further study</th>
<th>A maximum of 6 credits can contribute.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VET Certificate I qualifications</td>
<td>(Max. of 2 qualifications can count) 2 or 3</td>
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<td>Employment skills development programs approved under the VETE Act 2000</td>
<td>(Max. of 1 program can count) 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-engagement programs</td>
<td>(Max. of 1 program can count) 2</td>
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<td>Recognised certificates and awards</td>
<td>As accredited by QCAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short course in literacy or short course in numeracy developed by the QCAA</td>
<td>Per course 1</td>
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Enrichment Courses of Study

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<th>ENRICHMENT COURSES: add value or complement Core courses of study</th>
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<tr>
<td>Recognised structured workplace or community-based learning programs</td>
<td>As accredited by QCAA</td>
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<td>Learning projects — workplace, community, self-directed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authority extension subjects, such as English Extension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career development: A short course senior syllabus</td>
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<td>School-based subjects</td>
<td>As accredited by QCAA</td>
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## Advanced Courses of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advanced Courses: go beyond senior secondary schooling</th>
<th>A maximum of 8 credits can contribute.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One or two-semester university subjects completed while enrolled at a school</td>
<td>One-semester subject 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Units of Competency contributing to VET diplomas or advanced diplomas while enrolled at a school</td>
<td>Two-semester subject 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognised certificates and awards</td>
<td>Up to 8 credits (1 credit per competency)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>As accredited by QCAA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Time available to achieve the QCE

Credits can accumulate for up to nine years. After this time, earlier credits will expire and the student will begin accumulating credit again for a period of a further nine years, and so on.
Eligible for the QCE on early school exit

A QCE can be issued to an early school leaver if .... at least 1 credit is from Core studies completed whilst enrolled at school.
REMAINING QCE ELIGIBLE
Factors to Consider

• Choice of Senior program
• Changing subjects
• Partial completion of courses
• Conceded semesters
• 12 credits of completed core learning
• Monitoring students’ progress
Choice of Senior Program

• Senior program should align with individual strengths, interests and SET Plan goals.

• More options available
  → School subjects
  → VET Qualifications
  → School based Apprenticeships & Traineeships
  → University subjects

• Do you also need to consider OP eligibility?
Subject Changes

• Factors to consider
  - reason/s for results
  - SET Plan goals
  - maintaining QCE and/or OP eligibility
  - options available

• Process
  - pink subject change form
  - important to follow sequence of steps
  - closing date for changes
Partial Completion of Courses

- **Authority subjects and Authority-registered subjects**: based on semesters studied before *exiting*. The exit level of achievement (determined by Head of Department) must be Sound or higher.

- **VET Certificate qualifications**: based on 25%, 50% or 75% of the competencies attained. (NB no credit for partial completion of Certificate I qualifications).
Semesters conceded to the awarding of a QCE

Up to 2 semesters of incomplete Authority and Authority-registered subjects at Limited Level of Achievement can be conceded towards the award of a QCE, if needed, providing the student has exited the subject(s) before commencing year 12.
12 Credits from completed Core

- 12 credits must be from core
- Combinations of English & English Communication; Maths B, Maths A & Prevocational Maths *may* be considered completed core, provided:
  - the subject change occurred in year 11
  - an LOA of Limited or higher in 1st subject
  - an LOA of Sound or higher in final subject
12 Completed Core

• PLEASE NOTE:

Relaxation of completed Core requirements for QLD students:

Mathematics B to Mathematic A
Mathematics A to Prevocational Mathematics
Mathematics B to Prevocational Mathematics
English to English communication
Monitoring Students’ Progress

• Registration
  - all year 10, 11 & 12 students are registered for banking credits

• Learning Accounts
  - go to https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au/
  - Log in - use LUI (on student ID cards) and DOB
Tracking your progress

Track your progress towards a QCE in your learning account on the Student Connect website.

www.studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au
Summary page

Shows your personal details, intended learning options and QCE and OP-eligibility status.
Enrolments and Results page

Your enrolments are grouped by learning provider. Check your details carefully. If something is missing or incorrect, tell your school.
QCE Planner page

Shows your current enrolments. On this page you can track your progress towards a QCE, and find out how changes to your enrolments will affect your QCE eligibility.
Monitoring Students’ Progress

• Interim reports & Parent Interviews
  - check progress (early warning signs)
  - action plan to maintain or improve results

• End Semester reports & Parent interviews
  - critical time
  - review and take action
Support Available

• In School
  - wave lessons
  - interviews with at risk students (interim & end semester)
  - tutorials
  - guidance appointment
  - flexible pathways
  - subject change process

• Out of School
  - QSA Website http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au
  - external Tutor
Find out more....

Student Connect

www.studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au
# Student A

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For all Queensland schools
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Questions ?