

# BOARD BULLETIN

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**DIGEST** NO 3 2009

## Take nine steps and see how your HSC works

The NSW Higher School Certificate is a huge operation with many people, papers and processes all leading to the final results.

Each year at this time, as the start of Year 12 in Term 4 draws close, many Year 11 students and their parents send us questions about how parts of the HSC work. For example, what is moderation? How do you check your assessment ranking? Who sets the exams?

To help students understand how all these parts come together, we've put together a new web-based description of *How Your HSC Works* available at [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/yourhsc](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/yourhsc)

Breaking the process up into nine big steps, *How Your HSC Works* will walk students through from Step 1, being eligible to start the HSC in Term 4, to the final Step 9 where results are delivered before Christmas the following year.

In between, the steps describe such things as where exam papers come from and where they go, and how the Board knows exactly what each student's marks are at any time.

And just as some people only want to know how to drive a car while others also want to understand the fuel injection system, there are different levels of information in each of the nine steps.

The most important summaries are on each main step page, but many links are included to take you deeper into the more technical or comprehensive descriptions you might want to read.

And if you like factoids, we have those too. Where else would you find out that a gathering of all the HSC students, markers, supervisors and support staff would fill the Sydney Olympic Stadium? Or that in the Class of 2009, Nguyen is the second most common surname and Daniel Brown is the most common first and last name combination?



Designed with Year 11 students in mind, *How Your HSC Works* will also be useful for other readers with an interest in the checks and balances in place to guarantee the quality of the final results.

We're planning to build on this bank of information for students, parents and teachers in a range of ways, so please send your comments and ideas to us at [information@bos.nsw.edu.au](mailto:information@bos.nsw.edu.au)

### How Your HSC Works

- Step 1 – Getting ready
- Step 2 – We're ready for you
- Step 3 – The people, the papers, the processes
- Step 4 – Your school assessment marks
- Step 5 – The exams
- Step 6 – Marking
- Step 7 – Moderating assessment marks
- Step 8 – Judges apply the standards
- Step 9 – Finally: your results

## News items published between 26 June 2009 and 22 September 2009

Items on <a href="http://news.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au">http://news.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au</a>	Posted
<b>New tester helps schools plan for 2009 Computing Skills Test</b> The Board of Studies new CST Bandwidth Tester application is now available.	30/06/09
<b>Changes to the HSC Course Descriptions</b>	01/07/09
<b>Board Bulletin Digest No. 2 available now</b>	01/07/09
<b>Updated HSC VET Course Descriptions</b>	09/07/09
<b>Test yourself now! New multiple-choice questions for HSC and School Certificate students</b> 5000 multiple questions now available online.	13/07/09
<b>Teachers, parents take note – new student work samples now on ARC</b> The latest Board of Studies NSW Assessment Resource Centre (ARC) upload sent 102 new graded work samples for English and Mathematics online.	14/07/09
<b>Guidelines to access VET Courses in Stage 5 in 2010</b>	30/07/09
<b>Amendments to the Business Services Curriculum Framework</b>	04/08/09
<b>Heritage Languages Project: Call for Expressions of Interest</b> Curriculum Writers for Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, Indonesian and Korean Syllabus Development.	04/08/09
<b>VET Board Endorsed Courses for 2010</b> Course descriptions for Stage 6 VET Board Endorsed Courses endorsed for 2010 are now available on the Board's website.	05/08/09
<b>VET Content Endorsed Courses in Aged Care, Community Services and Property Services</b> New VET Content Endorsed Courses in Aged Care, Community Services and Property Services endorsed for delivery from 2010 are now available on the Board's website.	09/08/09
<b>Call for Expressions of Interest for Members of Examination Committees and Assessors</b>	13/08/09
<b>Updated VET Content Endorsed Courses in Furnishing and Hairdressing for 2010</b> Updated VET Content Endorsed Courses in Furnishing and Hairdressing endorsed for delivery from 2010 are now available.	14/08/09
<b>BOSLO HSC and SC presentations available now</b> School staff can now download their own copies of the very popular Board of Studies Liaison Officer (BOSLO) PowerPoint presentations.	17/08/09
<b>Studying for the HSC – Information Booklet for Year 10 Students 2009</b> The booklet is for Year 10 students who are planning their Year 11 and 12 studies.	17/08/09
<b>2009 Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize</b> The 2009 nomination form and closing date are now available.	18/08/09
<b>Gallery Guide online now for Grafton ARTEXPRESS</b>	18/08/09
<b>Stage 5 School Certificate VET Courses for 2010</b> The course descriptions for School Certificate VET Board Endorsed Courses endorsed for 2010 are now available.	24/08/09
<b>Take nine steps and see how your HSC works</b> To help you understand how the HSC comes together, the Board has put together a new web-based description.	04/09/09

## News items published between 26 June 2009 and 22 September 2009 (cont)

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### Determining students' eligibility for language courses

The Office of the Board of Studies will continue its languages eligibility monitoring program in 2010. 07/09/09

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### HSC Showcase selection update

10/09/09

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### New teaching materials for applied maths courses

16/09/09

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### School Certificate and Higher School Certificate key dates for media

22/09/09

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## Official Notices

BOS 20/09 – Reviewed Stage 6 Creative Arts Life Skills Syllabus

BOS 21/09 – English Stage 6 Prescriptions 2009–2012 Update on Prescribed Editions

BOS 22/09 – Updated Entertainment Industry Curriculum Framework for implementation in 2010

BOS 23/09 – Amendments to the Business Services Curriculum Framework

BOS 24/09 – Spelling in the Khmer Continuers Stage 6 Course

BOS 26/09 – Approved Scientific Calculators for the 2009 Higher School Certificate examinations

BOS 27/09 – Minor amendments to Science Years 7–10 Syllabus

BOS 28/09 – School Certificate Computing Skills Testing Online Test Mandatory from 2010

BOS 29/09 – Student writing booklets and multiple-choice answer sheets for the 2009 HSC examinations

BOS 30/09 – Stimulus booklet in English-literacy School Certificate test

BOS 31/09 – Minor amendments to 2010 Senior Science Stage 6 Syllabus

BOS 32/09 – Minor amendments to 2010 Earth and Environmental Science Stage 6 Syllabus

BOS 33/09 – Minor amendments to 2010 Biology Stage 6 Syllabus

BOS 34/09 – Minor amendments to 2010 Chemistry Stage 6 Syllabus

BOS 35/09 – Minor amendments to 2010 Physics Stage 6 Syllabus

## Positions vacant since 26 June 2009

### Examination Committee members and assessors for the 2010 HSC examinations and SC tests

Applications for committee member must be submitted no later than Friday 4 September 2009 and for assessor no later than Friday 30 October.

Further details on these positions are available in the Job Vacancies site on the Board's website.

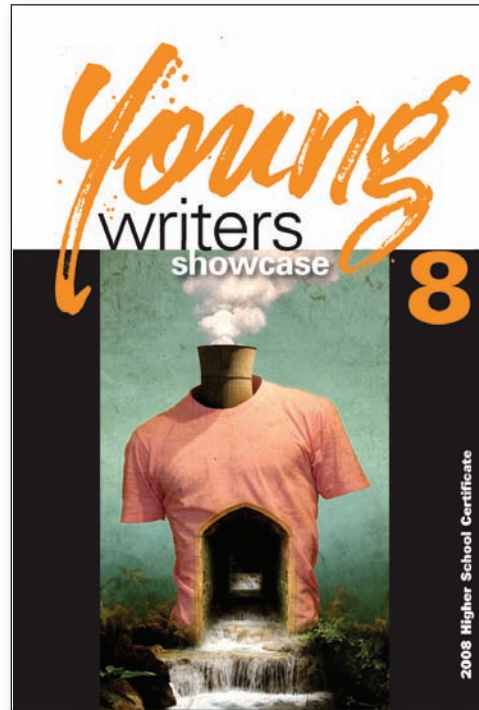
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Applications for the following positions have now closed but if you would like to hear about future job opportunities please subscribe to our Board News and Official Notices.

Program Coordinator, Marker Support, Examinations Branch, Clerk Grade 7/8, Temporary full-time, (up to 1 year while substantive officer on maternity leave) closing date 10 July.

# Young Writers Showcase 2008

The eighth Young Writers Showcase is now available through eBOS Shop Online at



<https://bosho.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/links/shoponline.html>

The book is an anthology of major works by English Extension 2 students in the 2008 HSC, which requires

students to work independently to plan and complete an extended composition in their choice of print, sound, film or multimedia formats. This anthology contains a selection of short stories, poetry and critiques presented by students in 2008. It also contains the authors' notes on their influences and research, and on how they developed their compositions. The works in this anthology show the standard that must be achieved to gain the highest marks in English Extension 2. ■