

Official Notices

December 2001 – Vol 10 No 6

IMPORTANT

The information below is the Board's official advice to schools of the decisions it has taken, and should be acted upon as such. Please ensure the *Official Notices* are circulated to all teaching staff.

Topics covered by Official Notices in this issue



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**Eligibility rules for Stage 6
Languages Continuers/Background
Speakers Courses** **BOS
75/01**

The Board wishes to advise that the eligibility rule for entry to some Stage 6 Languages courses has been revised. The revision applies to those Continuers courses where a Background Speakers course also exists in that language.

Continuers and Background Speakers courses currently co-exist in Chinese, Indonesian/Malay, Japanese, and Korean.

The intent of the eligibility rule is to distinguish between those for whom the language is learnt as a foreign language and those who have some background in the language.

Principals are advised that:

— All students wishing to study a language for the HSC, where there is a Background Speakers course, are to be enrolled in the Background Speakers course unless they can clearly demonstrate:

- that their knowledge of that language derives solely from the study of the language as a second (or subsequent) language in an education system in which the language was not the medium of instruction;
- or
- that their knowledge of the language is derived from no more than one year's formal education (up to Year 1 or equivalent) in the language, in a country where the language is the medium of instruction.

Students who fall into either of these categories are eligible to enrol in the Continuers course.

Note that:

- Background Speakers of Cantonese and other Chinese dialects are considered to be Background Speakers of Chinese.
- Background Speakers of Indonesian and Malay are deemed to be equivalent.

Within these guidelines, the Board delegates to the school principal the authority to determine a student's eligibility for a course. For students who wish to enrol in a language course at either the Open High School (OHS) or the Saturday School of Community Languages (SSCL), the eligibility determination will be made by the principal of the OHS or the SSCL.

Documentary evidence must be available to support the principal's decision and must be retained by the school for the Board's monitoring purposes. This should include such documents as school reports, birth certificate, and evidence of years of residency in Australia and/or overseas.

In all cases where principals are in any doubt as to an individual student's eligibility for the Continuers course, they should notify the Board to this effect. Notification

to the Board should include detailed information, supported by documentary evidence, of the student's language background.

Such notification should occur by the end of October in the year preceding the Preliminary course, or, for late enrolments, by the end of February in the year in which the Preliminary course begins. Notification should be addressed to the Inspector, Languages. The Board will subsequently notify schools of its determination.

Failure to adhere to the eligibility rule could jeopardise the student's award of a Higher School Certificate.

The revised rule supersedes the Official Notice BOS 91/94.

Effective: Preliminary course 2002, HSC 2003.

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**New Business Services Curriculum
Framework** **BOS
76/01**

Following advice to schools in July 2001 the Board wishes to confirm that the Business Services Curriculum Framework 2001 replaces the Business Services (Administration) Curriculum Framework 1999 from Year 11, 2002.

The optional Business Services HSC examination will be based on the new Business Services Curriculum Framework from 2003 onwards. The 2002 optional Business Services – Office Administration HSC examination will be the final examination based on the Business Services (Office Administration) Curriculum Framework.

Effective: Year 11, 2002.

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**2002 School Certificate Test in
Australian History, Geography,
Civics and Citizenship**BOS
77/01

In 2002, the Board of Studies will be conducting the first compulsory School Certificate Test in Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship. All Year 10 students will sit for this test, and will receive their results as part of their School Certificate credential. The test is based on the History Stages 4-5 Syllabus (1998) and the Geography Stages 4-5 Syllabus (1998). Trial tests which have been held since 1998 have informed the development of the 2002 test. A specimen paper for the 2002 test will be sent to schools early in Term 1 2002. Support documents (Support Material Parts A and B) have been developed to support teachers in the implementation of the History and Geography syllabuses. These documents include further information about the School Certificate Test, and are currently available on the Board's website, together with copies of past trial School Certificate Tests in Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship.

As notified in Board Bulletin Vol 9 No 5, in Section 1 (History), the nominated topics for part A are:

Topic 1: Australian Social and Political Life to 1914

Topic 5: Post-War Australia to the 1970s

Part B will be drawn from the five focus issues based on a broad coverage of the Stage 5 History Syllabus content.

Section 2 (Geography) will be based on geographic tools and skills, and the four focus areas of the Stage 5 Geography Syllabus.

Both Sections 1 and 2 of the test will incorporate key Civics and Citizenship concepts embedded in both the History and Geography syllabuses.

The specimen paper to be made available to schools early in the 2002 school year will include a School Certificate Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship Scope Statement, Test Specifications, Performance Bands, Sample Marking Guidelines and Specimen Paper Mapping Grid.

The Board advises that information pertaining to the test is available in past Board Bulletin Notices BOS 8/00 (Vol 9 No. 1), BOS 33/00 (Vol 9 No. 5), BOS 29/01 (Vol 10 No. 1) and a brief article in Board Bulletin Vol 10 No. 2.

Further information about the School Certificate Tests will appear in the first Board Bulletin in 2002.

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**English Stage 6 Prescriptions:
Area of Study, Electives and Texts
for the Higher School Certificate
2001 – 2003 Amendments and Advice**BOS
78/01

The Board advises that the *English Stage 6 Prescriptions: Area of Study, Electives and Texts for the Higher School Certificate 2001–2003* requires amendment. Details are provided below.

Poetry

p 11 and p 38

The prescribed text, *Gwen Harwood: Selected Poems*, Angus & Robertson, 1995 has been withdrawn from sale.

Gwen Harwood Selected Poems: A new edition, Halcyon Press, 2001 and *Gwen Harwood: Selected Poems* Penguin, 2001 are suitable replacement editions.

Prose Fiction

p 12 and p 39

Henry Lawson: Selected Stories, Rigby, 1971 does not contain the prescribed story 'The Loaded Dog' and has been removed from the prescribed list.

The Penguin Henry Lawson Short Stories, Penguin, 1986 remains the prescribed text.

Given the commercial nature of film and media texts teachers should confirm the availability of intended texts prior to committing to a program of study.

Schools should note that the website version of *English Stage 6 Prescriptions: Area of Study, Electives and Texts for Higher School Certificate 2001–2003* is the correct version.

Effective: Immediately

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**Erratum Stage 6 Primary
Industries Curriculum Framework**

**BOS
79/01**

The Board of Studies wishes to advise teachers of the Stage 6 Primary Industries Curriculum Framework of the following correction to Part B of the syllabus.

In Unit AG2009CH A *Apply chemicals and biological agents* replace 'minimum residue' with 'maximum residue' in the HSC Requirements and in the key terms and concepts on page 3 of 5.

Effective: 2002 Preliminary and HSC courses

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**Erratum Stage 6 Metal and
Engineering Curriculum
Framework**

**BOS
80/01**

The Board of Studies wishes to advise teachers of the Stage 6 Metal and Engineering Curriculum Framework of the following correction to Part A of the syllabus.

The industry points on pages 16, 20, 24, 27, 30, 39, 47 and 49 for the Unit of Competency MEM 12.1AA *Use comparison and basic measuring devices* should be 1 rather than 2.

Effective: Immediately

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**Stage 6 Extension courses in
Chinese, French, Indonesian,
Italian, Japanese, Spanish**

**BOS
81/01**

**Proposed changes to extracts prescribed
for intensive study**

The Board wishes to advise that proposed changes to the extracts set for intensive study for Extension Courses for HSC 2003 in Chinese, French, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Spanish have been posted on the Board's website at www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au. The Office would welcome feedback on the proposed changes by 1st February 2002.

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**2002 School Certificate Tests /
Higher School Certificate
Examination Furniture and
Accommodation Review**

**BOS
82/01**

The 2002 School Certificate Tests/Higher School Certificate Examination Furniture and Accommodation Review survey will be dispatched to all Secondary Schools in the week beginning 2 December 2001.

Where possible, schools are encouraged to complete the survey via the Office of the Board of Studies website (www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au) at "eBOS schools online". Alternatively the survey forms should be completed and returned to the Office of the Board of Studies. All surveys should reach the Office no later than 22 February 2002.

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**Assessors for 2002 HSC
Examinations and SC Tests –
call for Expressions of Interest**

**BOS
83/01**

The Board invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified teachers wishing to serve as assessors for the 2002 Higher School Certificate Examinations and School Certificate Tests.

The assessor is an important part of the quality control processes used by the Board in developing HSC examinations and SC tests. Assessors must be experienced teachers who are well qualified in the relevant subject area.

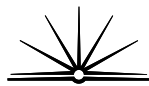
Application forms, as well as further information about the role of the assessor and criteria for selection, have been sent to all NSW secondary schools and Institutes of TAFE. They are also available from the Board's website, or by contacting Rhondda Lidgard, Assessment Branch, Office of the Board of Studies.

The closing date for submitting expressions of interest is Friday, 14 December 2001.

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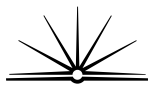


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