

Official Notices

September 2003 – Vol 12 No 5

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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Amendment to Studies of Religion Stage 6 **BOS** **Syllabus HSC Examination Specifications** **43/03**

The Board of Studies advises the following amendments to the HSC examination specifications for Studies of Religion I and Studies of Religion II:

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HSC Examination Specifications

Studies of Religion I

Section II – Cross-Religion Studies (20 marks)

replace

- There will be SIX structured extended response questions
- The questions will consist of THREE parts

with

- There will be SIX extended response questions

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HSC Examination Specifications

Studies of Religion II

Section II – Cross-Religion Studies (60 marks)

replace

- There will be SIX structured extended response questions
- The questions will consist of THREE parts

with

- There will be SIX extended response questions

The purpose of this change is to simplify Section II of the HSC examination. The change will also simplify current requirements for Studies of Religion II candidates who will now be required to answer three questions rather than the existing structure of nine question parts.

A specimen paper for Studies of Religion I and II, reflecting the revised examination specifications, will be available on the Board's website during Term 4.

Effective: **2004 Higher School Certificate examination**

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Tickets for OnSTAGE 2004

**BOS
44/03**

Tickets for OnSTAGE 2004 will be allocated to schools using Office of the Board of Studies booking forms. The forms will be available on the Board's website from Monday October 13, 2003. Schools may submit one booking form only.

The OnSTAGE season will run from 31 January to 7 February 2004 at the Seymour Theatre Centre, Sydney. In 2004 there will be additional shows of Writers OnSTAGE/OnSCREEN and preview performances of OnSTAGE. Details about all performances will be available on the Board's website.

Please note that the Seymour Theatre Centre box office does not take reservations by telephone for OnSTAGE. However, schools requiring an ABN to finalise payments for tickets should contact the Seymour Centre directly.

Ph: (02) 9351 7940

Fax: (02) 9351 7931.

Contact: Jody Ziesel
Exhibitions Coordinator
Ph: (02) 9367 8309
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Students Undertaking a Special Program of Study for the School Certificate: Amendments to ACE Manual (2002) Sections 5.2.1 and 9.3

**BOS
45/03**

Students with special education needs can meet the requirements for the School Certificate using a combination of Board Developed Courses and/or Board Endorsed Courses and/or Life Skills courses. However, these students must also fulfil certain key learning area requirements.

In order to clarify these requirements please amend the ACE Manual (2002) as follows:

Section 5.2.1 (p 37) – at the end of the paragraph commencing 'The above core curriculum...' add:

Note: Students following a Special Program of Study in Stage 5 must undertake study within each KLA over Years 7–10 but are not required to complete the indicative hours specified for other students. Students whose program of study includes the Board Developed course(s) in English and/or Mathematics and/or Science and/or Australian History and Australian Geography will be required to sit for the School Certificate test(s) in English-literacy and/or Mathematics and/or Science and/or Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship. Students who undertake a Stage 5 Life Skills course in any of these key learning areas will not be required to sit for the test(s).

Section 9.3 (p 94) – at the end of the section add:

Note: Students following a Special Program of Study in Stage 5 must undertake study within each KLA over Years 7–10 but are not required to complete the indicative hours specified for other students.

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Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize

**BOS
46/03**

Nominations are being sought for the 2003 Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize, which will be presented at the Premier's Awards for Excellence at the Higher School Certificate early in 2004. The award was established as a memorial to the late Brother John Taylor, a distinguished educationist and member of the Board of Studies.

The Trust Deed governing the prize stipulates that the Trust Fund be applied 'to provide an annual prize to a student or students who have overcome significant disadvantage to achieve academic excellence in the New South Wales Higher School Certificate'.

There is no set form of nomination. However, it is important to note that the prime requirements are to 'overcome significant disadvantage' and 'achieve academic excellence'. Both factors carry equal weight, and the trustees can only make their decision based on the material submitted.

'Significant disadvantage' may be circumstances such as a medical condition, disrupted home life or ongoing disability. Nominations must be fully documented and supported by relevant evidence from independent professionals, such as doctors, counsellors or other appropriate sources.

The factor of 'academic excellence' is assessed from school and Office of the Board of Studies records. The performance of nominees during the school years should be highlighted and supported by relevant school reports or other appropriate evidence.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that the trustees can only make their decision based on the written material submitted, and this should be fully self-explanatory.

The closing date for nominations is Wednesday 10 December 2003.

Nominations should be sent to:

Brother John Taylor Memorial Prize Nominations
Examinations Branch
Board of Studies
GPO Box 5300
Sydney NSW 2001



Furnishing Board Endorsed Courses

**BOS
47/03**

Schools were advised by fax on 20 June 2003 that accreditation for the current Furnishing Content Endorsed Course will expire in December 2003. As a result of this, schools and colleges of TAFE will not be able to deliver the course to Year 11 students in 2004.

The Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) has recently endorsed a Furnishing Industry Training Package (LMF02) for immediate implementation. Teachers nominated by each school authority have been involved in an investigation to provide advice on course structures and the feasibility of such courses. It has been determined that these courses will be available as Board Endorsed Courses based on the Furnishing Industry Training Package.

Board Endorsed Courses in Furniture Making and Soft Furnishing will be available for students from 2004. These courses will replace the current Furnishing Content Endorsed Course. Each school authority has agreed to be responsible for processing applications from schools to deliver these courses. School authorities will also be responsible for forwarding Board Endorsed

Course applications to the Board of Studies for endorsement.

For further information regarding the Furnishing Board Endorsed Courses for 2004 please contact your relevant school authority consultant.

Consultant details are as follows:

- Department of Education and Training – District Vocational Education Consultant
- Catholic Education Commission – Registered Training Organisation Manager
- Association of Independent Schools of NSW – Vocational Education Programs Manager

**Contact: Caraline Cloke
Curriculum Officer, Vocational
Education and Training
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