

Official Notices

31 August 2005 – Vol 14 No 4

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.

The decision or advice contained in each notice is effective immediately (that is, on and from the date of publication of this edition of *Official Notices*) unless another date is specified in the notice, in which case the effective date is the date so specified.

Topics covered by Official Notices in this issue



Higher School Certificate

Distinction Courses 2006	BOS 30/05
English Stage 6 Prescriptions – difficult-to-obtain editions.....	BOS 31/05
Approved Scientific Calculators for the 2005 Higher School Certificate examinations.....	BOS 32/05



Registration and Accreditation of Non-government Schools

Rules of the Board: Amendments to the <i>Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual</i> and the <i>Registration Systems and Member Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual</i>	BOS 33/05
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Distinction Courses 2006

BOS
30/05

Distinction Courses will be offered for study in 2006. Distinction Courses are challenging university-level HSC courses especially designed for high-ability HSC accelerants. The courses consist of 2 units of study that are **additional to the 10 units required for the HSC study pattern**. As eligible students will have already completed some units of HSC courses, the inclusion of a 2 Unit Distinction Course in a student's HSC study program is more feasible in terms of time commitment and workload. As a general rule a student may only undertake one Distinction Course.

Results in Distinction Courses can be counted towards the calculation of the Universities Admission Index (UAI) if they are among the student's best ten units in Board Developed HSC Courses.

Distinction Courses are delivered by universities through distance education, including compulsory residential schools and the internet. They provide an opportunity for a type of study that HSC students may otherwise not gain. They are offered in areas outside the range of other HSC courses, thus providing a broader perspective across curriculum areas and preparation for future university study.

As in past years Distinction Courses will be offered in Philosophy, Cosmology and Comparative Literature. It is anticipated that the University of New England will continue to deliver the Philosophy Distinction Course and Charles Sturt University the courses in Cosmology and Comparative Literature.

To be eligible for consideration for a place in a Distinction Course a student must complete one HSC course at the highest course level a year ahead of the student's Year cohort. Other selection criteria also apply.

Student selection criteria, course content, distance education processes and student assessment will follow the same pattern as in previous years.

Full details about the Distinction Courses Program are available on the Board's website at www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au (see 'Manuals and Guides' for *Higher School Certificate Distinction Courses: An Information Booklet*).

An Expression of Interest to undertake a Distinction Course in 2006 can be registered by an eligible student completing and returning the accompanying form through the school principal to the Office of the Board of Studies no later than Friday 23 September 2005. The form is printed opposite and can also be obtained from the Board's website at www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/archives/pdf_doc/distinction_courses_05.pdf

The receipt of an Expression of Interest will serve as a preliminary indication of interest in attending the Distinction Courses Information Day that is planned to be held in Sydney on Friday 11 November 2005.

Contact:

Fran Trefry
Senior Project Officer,
Policy and Development
(02) 9367 8102

trefry@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Distinction Courses 2006: Expression of Interest

Following discussions with my school principal about the requirements for entry to an HSC Distinction Course, I wish to register my expression of interest in undertaking a Distinction Course in 2006.

(Students should print all information in BLOCK LETTERS)

Preferred Course Philosophy Comparative Literature Cosmology

(Please tick the box for your tentative choice)

Personal Details

Surname

Given names

Name of School

Study Details Accelerated Course/s

Title of Course	Level of Study
.....
.....
.....

I understand that this response also registers my interest in attending a Distinction Courses Information Day to be held in Sydney probably on Friday 11 November 2005.

Signed Date

Principal's Comment

.....

Signed Date

Please return this form by 23 September 2005 to Policy and Development Branch, Office of the Board of Studies, GPO Box 5300, Sydney, NSW 2001 (Fax (02) 9367 8375)



English Stage 6 Prescriptions – difficult-to-obtain editions

BOS
31/05

Some prescribed texts included in *English Stage 6 Prescriptions: Area of Study, Electives and Texts, Higher School Certificate 2004–2007* have become difficult to obtain. As stated on the English prescriptions poster, schools may use any suitable edition of a prescribed text if the specified edition is unavailable or difficult to obtain.

The prescribed text listed below may be difficult to obtain and details of suitable alternative editions are provided. Please note that where a text is quoted in an HSC examination question, the quotation will be from the prescribed edition.

Course Module, Elective	Prescribed text	Other suitable editions	Notes
English Standard Module C, Elective 3	Herrick, Steven, <i>The Simple Gift</i> , University of Queensland Press, 2000, ISBN 0702231339	Herrick, Steven, <i>The Simple Gift</i> , University of Queensland Press, 2003, ISBN 0702231339	Schools may use any edition of <i>The Simple Gift</i> as listed in this notice.
English (ESL) Module A, Elective 1	Queensland Press, 2000, ISBN 0702231339	Queensland Press, 2003, ISBN 0702231339 Herrick, Steven, <i>The Simple Gift</i> , University of Queensland Press, 2004, ISBN 0702231339 (two editions)	The 2003 edition includes some textual changes throughout. The 2004 edition maintains the text of the prescribed edition.

Schools are reminded that study of texts should be undertaken within the context of the relevant modules and electives as outlined in the *English Stage 6 Syllabus* and the *English Stage 6 Prescriptions: Area of Study, Electives and Texts, Higher School Certificate 2004–2007*. Both of these documents are available on the Board’s website at www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc

Effective: Immediately
Contact: Don Carter
Inspector, English
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carter@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au



Approved Scientific Calculators for the 2005 Higher School Certificate examinations

BOS
32/05

The list of approved scientific calculators for use in the 2005 Higher School Certificate Examinations has been updated, and the final list can be found on the Board’s website at: www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/manuals/calculators_hsc05.html

The examinations in which scientific calculators are permitted are listed in the equipment checklist that can also be found on the Board’s website at: www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/manuals/equipment_list.html

Effective: Immediately
Contact: Chris Thompson
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Mathematics
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**Rules of the Board:
Amendments to the 'Registered
and Accredited Individual Non-
government Schools (NSW) Manual' and the
'Registration Systems and Member Non-
government Schools (NSW) Manual'**

BOS
33/05

Under Section 131 of the *Education Act 1990*, the *Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual* and the *Registration Systems and Member Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual* (the manuals) constitute the rules set out by the Board in relation to registration and accreditation.

Registration requirements and evidence of compliance in relation to teaching staff are described in Section 3.2 of the *Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual* and Section 5.2 of the *Registration Systems and Member Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual*.

The requirements in relation to teaching staff set out in the manuals were intended to serve as transitional arrangements until the professional standards and teacher accreditation process arising from the *Institute of Teachers Act 2004* were operational. The *Institute of Teachers Act 2004* was assented to in July 2004 and the teacher accreditation process was operational from 1 January 2005. The manuals have been amended to ensure that the relevant sections in relation to teaching staff meet the legislative requirements of the *Institute of Teachers Act 2004*.

Section 3.10 of the *Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual* and Section 4.6 of the *Registration Systems and Member Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual* require that a return be provided to the Board if, following an investigation by a relevant agency or authority, a registered school, member school or approved authority is formally notified in writing by that agency or authority of a breach of specified legislation. The manuals have been amended to include the *Institute of Teachers Act 2004* in the list of specified legislation.

The amended manuals are available on the Board's website at www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Effective: These rules, as constituted in the manuals, take effect immediately.

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Acting Inspector,
Registration and Accreditation
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Cumulative list of all Official Notices to date for 2005

Higher School Certificate

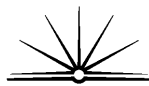
Practical Marking Guidelines for Music	BOS 01/05 Vol 14 No 1
Classical Hebrew Continuers texts prescribed for the 2005 HSC examination	BOS 02/05 Vol 14 No 1
Errata – Stage 6 Construction Curriculum Framework	BOS 03/05 Vol 14 No 1
Malay Background Speakers Prescribed Themes from 2005 until further notice	BOS 04/05 Vol 14 No 1
Languages HSC Prescriptions: Arabic, Chinese, French, German Extension, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Modern Greek and Spanish Extension courses, and Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian and Russian Background Speakers courses	BOS 05/05 Vol 14 No 1
English Stage 6 Prescriptions: Area of Study, Electives and Texts for the Higher School Certificate 2007	BOS 06/05 Vol 14 No 1
Latin Continuers Prose Prescription for 2006 and 2007.....	BOS 07/05 Vol 14 No 1
School Developed Board Endorsed Courses.....	BOS 08/05 Vol 14 No 1
Change to the format of HSC Italian and Spanish Extension Examination Papers from 2005	BOS 09/05 Vol 14 No 1
2004 HSC Notes from the Marking Centre.....	BOS 10/05 Vol 14 No 1
Approved scientific calculators for the 2005 HSC examinations.....	BOS 15/05 Vol 14 No 2
2005 HSC Listening Skills examinations	BOS 16/05 Vol 14 No 2
Health and safety issues in the development and selection of student projects, major works, bodies of work, exhibitions and performances.....	BOS 17/05 Vol 14 No 2
Amendments – Stage 6 Construction Curriculum Framework.....	BOS 18/05 Vol 14 No 2
Board Endorsed VET courses for 2006.....	BOS 19/05 Vol 14 No 2
<i>Economics Stage 6 Syllabus</i> – amendment.....	BOS 20/05 Vol 14 No 2
English Stage 6 Prescriptions – difficult-to-obtain editions.....	BOS 21/05 Vol 14 No 2
HSC Chemistry and Physics examinations – amendments to the periodic table	BOS 22/05 Vol 14 No 2
2005 HSC – Final date for receipt at the Office of the Board of Studies of changes to Music and Drama options	BOS 25/05 Vol 14 No 3
Mandatory work placement component of industry curriculum frameworks and ‘N’ determinations	BOS 26/05 Vol 14 No 3
Distinction Courses 2006	BOS 30/05 Vol 14 No 4
English Stage 6 Prescriptions – difficult-to-obtain editions.....	BOS 31/05 Vol 14 No 4
Approved Scientific Calculators for the 2005 Higher School Certificate examinations.....	BOS 32/05 Vol 14 No 4

School Certificate

2005 School Certificate Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship test	BOS 11/05 Vol 14 No 1
School Certificate 2006: Course combinations in the new Industrial Technology Years 7–10 elective syllabus.....	BOS 23/05 Vol 14 No 2
Minister’s Young Designers Awards: Teachers of Technology (mandatory) entry details	BOS 27/05 Vol 14 No 3
School Certificate Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship test, from 2006	BOS 28/05 Vol 14 No 3

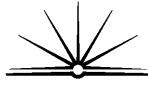
Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest for the positions of 2005 and 2006 School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Supervisors of Marking	BOS 12/05 Vol 14 No 1
Expressions of interest for Chief Examiners, Members of Examination Committees and Assessors for 2006 Higher School Certificate and School Certificate	BOS 24/05 Vol 14 No 2



Registration and Accreditation of Non-government Schools

Registration Systems NSW	BOS 13/05 Vol 14 No 1
Deadline for application for New or Renewal of Registration and Accreditation	BOS 14/05 Vol 14 No 1
Annual Reports from Non-government Schools.....	BOS 29/05 Vol 14 No 3
Rules of the Board: Amendments to the <i>Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual</i> and the <i>Registration Systems and Member Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual</i>	BOS 33/05 Vol 14 No 4



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