

Official Notices

November 1995 — Vol 4 No 9

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.

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**1996 School Certificate
Reference Tests**

**BOS
111/95**

The Board advises that the 1996 School Certificate Reference Tests will be held on Wednesday 31 July and Thursday 1 August 1996.

The School Certificate Reference Test details of test times are as follows:

English	9.15 am – 11.15 am Wednesday 31 July 1996
Science	12.45 pm – 2.15 pm Wednesday 31 July 1996
Mathematics	9.15 am – 10.45 am Thursday 1 August 1996

Effective: Immediately
Contact no: (02) 9925 8271



**1996 Higher School
Certificate Examinations**

**BOS
112/95**

The Board advises that the 1996 Higher School Certificate written examinations will commence on Monday 28 October 1996.

The date of the final examination and dates for individual courses will not be available until all Higher School Certificate entries have been confirmed. It is anticipated that schools and colleges will receive notification of these dates in August 1996.

Effective: Immediately
Contact no: (02) 9925 8270



**Drama Prescribed Texts
1996 Reminder**

**BOS
113/95**

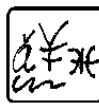
Drama teachers are reminded that amendments to *1996 HSC Examinations Prescribed Texts, Topics, Projects and Works* were published in *Board Bulletin, Vol 4 No 1, 1995*. Note in particular that:

page 42, **Alma de Groen**, 'Recommended Texts' should read 'Set Text';

page 43, **Greek Tragedy**, in addition to Sophocles' *Antigone*, the Euripides play is *The Bacchae*, not *The Women of Troy*.

Please refer to the original notice (BOS 03/95) for further detail.

Contact no: (02) 9925 8135



**Eligibility for LOTE Courses
for Background Speakers —
Appeals Against
Classification**

**BOS
114/95**

In 1994 the Board promulgated revised rules for the study of senior courses in Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian and Korean. These stated that, where separate courses for background speakers exist, 'all students are to be enrolled in these courses unless they can clearly demonstrate that their knowledge of the language derives solely from the study of the language as a second or subsequent language in an education system in which it was not the medium of instruction'.

Appeals have been made on behalf of students for whom strict application of the rules was felt by the school or student to result in an inappropriate classification. An Application for Exemption form has been devised, which indicates the common and consistent criteria that will be taken into account for all appeals, eg schools attended, language of instruction there, language spoken at home, etc.

A panel will then adjudicate on such appeals on the basis of this standardised range of factors.

Students who wish to appeal against their classification as background speakers are invited to fill in the Application for Exemption form which is available from the Board.

Contact: Graham Sims (02) 9925 8152
Winifred Sarre (02) 9925 8280
Mina Silvestre (02) 9925 8180



**Latin 3 Unit Prescribed
Texts 1996**

**BOS
115/95**

The Board advises that, for the 1996 Higher School Certificate Examination, because of the reduction of time for the 3 Unit paper to one (1) hour, the prescription for 3 Unit, Catullus' *Carmina*, has been amended to read as follows:

Catullus: *Carmina* Nos 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 22, 31, 36, 39, 42, 45, 46, 49, 51, 70, 72, 75, 76, 77, 83, 84, 85, 86, 92, 96, 101, 109.

That is, Nos 17, 26, 43, 87 and 115 have been deleted from the prescription previously published.

Effective: Immediately
Contact no: (02) 9925 8266
(02) 9925 8280



Latin 2/3 Unit and 3 Unit Examination Specifications **BOS 116/95**

The Board advises that the following changes have been made to the examination specifications for the 2/3 Unit and 3 Unit Latin examinations:

2/3 UNIT EXAMINATION (3 hours, 100 marks)

Section I (30 marks)

Extracts from the prose author presented for study, with questions for translation and/or literary study and/or contextual comment, some of which will be based on the prescribed themes and topics of the text.

Section II (30 marks)

Extracts from the verse author prescribed for study, with questions for translation and/or literary study and/or contextual comment (including scansion), some of which will be based on the prescribed themes and topics of the text.

Section III – Accidence and Syntax/Prose Composition (15 marks)

There will be two questions, of which candidates must choose ONE.

EITHER

A question with a number of parts on accidence and syntax based on a passage or passages from the prescribed texts.

OR

A translation into Latin of a passage of continuous English prose using the vocabulary of the prescribed text.

Section IV – Unseen Translation (25 marks)

Unseen translation into English of ONE passage of Latin verse and ONE passage of Latin prose.

Meanings of less common words that do not occur in prescribed texts will be given.

3 UNIT EXAMINATION (1 hour and a half, 50 marks)

Section I (30 marks)

Translation/comment/appraisal based on extract(s)/poem(s) from the prescribed author, relating to context, theme, subject matter or literary qualities.

Section II – Unseen Translation (20 marks)

Unseen translation into English of a passage of either Latin verse or prose.

Meanings of less common words that do not occur in prescribed texts will be given.

The Higher School Certificate assessment components and weightings are as follows:

2/3 UNIT (COMMON)

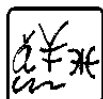
Component	Weight
Texts	60
Skills of translation, literary and contextual comment, and knowledge of topics and themes germane to the texts.	
Accidence and Syntax or Prose Composition	15
Knowledge of the accidence and syntax of the texts	
or	
Ability to translate unseen verse and prose passages.	
Unseen Translation	25
Ability to translate unseen verse and prose passages.	
Marks	100

3 UNIT

Component	Weight
Texts	30
Skills of translation and comment/appraisal based on extract(s)/poem(s) from the additional prescribed author related to content, theme, subject matter or literary qualities.	
Unseen Translation or Prose Composition	20
Ability to translate unseen passages of prose and verse	
or	
Ability to translate continuous English prose into Latin.	
Marks	50

Sample questions for the 2/3 Unit examination are available from the Board on request.

Fax: (02) 9956 5205
Effective: 1996 HSC Examination
Contact no: (02) 9925 8238
 (02) 9925 8280



Arabic 3 Unit Examination Specifications

BOS
117/95

The Board advises that the following changes have been made to the examination specifications for the Arabic 3 Unit aural and written examinations:

Listening Skills Examination

The mark allocation for this component is 15 marks. The examination format is unchanged.

Written Examination (1 hour, 35 marks)

Section I – Writing Skills (15 marks)

There will be two questions, of which candidates must choose ONE.

EITHER

A composition of 100–150 words in Modern Standard Arabic on one topic related to the theme ‘Contemporary Social and Political Issues’. A choice of three topics will be given.

OR

A translation of an unseen passage from English into Modern Standard Arabic of approximately 100–150 words.

Section II – Literature (20 marks)

Comprehension and appreciation questions based on the prescribed literary text(s). Answers may be in either Arabic or English.

The Higher School Certificate assessment components and weightings remain unchanged.

Effective: 1996 HSC Examination

Contact no: (02) 9925 8238

(02) 9925 8280



French 2 Unit Z, 2 Unit (General) and 2/3 Unit Listening Skills Examinations

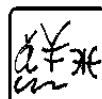
BOS
118/95

The Board advises that, as from the 1996 HSC examinations, there will be separate Listening Skills examinations for the French 2 Unit Z, 2 Unit (General) and 2/3 Unit courses. There may be some common items in the 2 Unit Z and the 2 Unit (General) examinations, and in the 2 Unit (General) and the 2/3 Unit examinations.

Effective: 1996 HSC Examination

Contact no: (02) 9925 8238

(02) 9925 8280



Italian 2 Unit Z and 2/3 Unit Examination Specifications

BOS
119/95

The Board advises that **Reading Aloud** has been deleted from both the Italian 2/3 Unit and 2 Unit Z oral examinations. The examination specifications for these courses now read:

2/3 UNIT

Oral/Aural Examination

Listening Skills

The examination specifications are unchanged.

Speaking Skills (20 marks)

Preparation Time: 15 minutes

Section I – Situations (10 marks)

There will be up to FIVE situations outlined in English, requiring responses in Italian.

Candidates are **not** permitted to make written notes.

Section II – Conversation (10 marks)

This will immediately follow the Situations. A series of questions will be posed to the candidate by an examiner. The candidate is expected to respond offering comments and opinions.

Questions will be printed on the Teacher/Examiner copy only.

Topics of conversation may include:

- candidate’s study/choice of Italian
- future plans
- family and society at large
- leisure time
- topics of current interest.

Questions will be numbered consecutively from the Situations.

Written Examination (2 hours)

Section I: Reading Skills (20 marks)

This consists of ONE or TWO passages in Italian. Questions will be in English and may be multiple-choice, open-ended or sentence completion.

Answers are to be in English.

Section II: Writing Skills (20 marks)

Part A (10 marks)

This consists of TWO short writing tasks such as formal/informal cards, postcards, messages, notes. Approximately 50 words each, in Italian.

Part B (10 marks)

This consists of ONE extended writing task (150–200 words in Italian) to be chosen from: an informal letter or diary entry or descriptive article/report/interview or composition.

Section III: Options (20 marks)

The examination specifications are unchanged.

2 UNIT Z

Speaking Skills (25 marks)

Preparation Time: 15 minutes

Section I – Situations (15 marks)

There will be up to FIVE ‘Traveller Abroad’ situations outlined in English, requiring responses in Italian.

Candidates are **not** permitted to make written notes.

Section II – Conversation (10 marks)

The candidate is required to answer in Italian a series of questions posed by an examiner relating to areas of general interest. Questions will be printed on the Teacher/Examiner copy only.

Topics of conversation may include:

- the study of Italian and languages in general
- future plans and aspirations
- family
- leisure time
- social issues.

Questions will be numbered consecutively from the Situations.

Examination specifications for all other sections of this course are unchanged.

The Higher School Certificate assessment components and weightings in all courses are unchanged.

Effective: **1996 HSC Examination**
Contact no: **(02) 9925 8238**
 (02) 9925 8280



Spanish 3 Unit Examination **BOS**
Specifications **120/95**

The Board advises that the following changes have been made to the examination specifications for the Spanish 3 Unit Written examination:

Written Examination (1 hour, 35 marks)

Section I – Writing Skills (15 marks)

There will be TWO questions, of which candidates must choose ONE.

EITHER

A translation from English to Spanish of approximately 200 words.

OR

A formal letter in Spanish of approximately 200 words.

Section II – Literature (20 marks)

An essay on the prescribed text, to be written in either Spanish or English.

The Listening Skills Examination remains unchanged. The Higher School Certificate assessment components and weightings also remain unchanged.

Effective: **1996 HSC Examination**
Contact no: **(02) 9925 8238**
 (02) 9925 8280



Assessors of HSC **BOS**
Examination Papers — **121/95**
Expression of Interest

The Office of the Board of Studies is seeking expressions of interest from experienced teachers to assess the draft versions of the 1996 HSC examination papers. Please note that this is NOT an application for HSC marking.

Assessors play an important role in the development of the HSC examination papers each year. The assessor’s task, as an experienced teacher of the course, is to ‘work’ the final draft of the paper, and to evaluate and comment on the paper.

The assessor is concerned principally with the correctness of the content of the paper, and whether it will effectively assess students’ achievements of syllabus objectives and outcomes. The HSC Examination Committees finalise the papers after considering the assessors’ comments.

Assessors are paid an honorarium to assess all the materials prepared for a course, as well as an allowance to cover incidental expenses for each occasion their attendance at the Board is required. In addition, where necessary, relief is paid to government and non-government schools.

Assessors are required to meet the following criteria*:

- i) have relevant tertiary qualifications in the nominated course;
- ii) be a practising teacher with recent experience in teaching the course to Year 12 in a NSW secondary school(s);
- iii) not be teaching/tutoring the course to Year 12 in the year of the examination;
- iv) not have a near relative presenting for the HSC in the nominated course.

Note: While assessors may be from outside the metropolitan area, the travel allowance paid to assessors does not cover non-metropolitan travel. Non-metropolitan assessors must be available at times suitable to the Office of the Board of Studies (usually during normal business hours) and be prepared to meet any additional travel costs.

An application form may be photocopied from the master provided in these Official Notices (see following page). Expressions of interest should be returned by Friday 15 DECEMBER 1995.

* Teachers who do not meet all the criteria are still invited to apply, as their circumstances may change, and/or they may be considered for other tasks (eg assessing specimen papers for new syllabuses).

Attention: **Experienced teachers of HSC courses**

Contact no: **(02) 9956 8255**

Office of the Board of Studies, Test Development Section

1996 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

ASSESSOR—EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Name

Current position and school

Tertiary qualifications

Number of years' teaching experience in NSW secondary schools

Work Address	Home Address
Phone	Phone
Fax	Fax

I have the expertise to assess examination papers in the following courses:

Subject	Course	Year in which COURSE was last taught to Year 12	No of years' experience teaching COURSE to Year 12
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

I expect to be teaching the following course(s) to Year 12 in 1996.

.....

Applicant's signature Date: / / 19.....

PRINCIPAL'S ENDORSEMENT

Employment as an Assessor is RECOMMENDED/NOT RECOMMENDED (please circle one).

Comments

Principal's signature Date: / / 19.....

Please return to: Mr Robert Burke
Test Development Section
Office of the Board of Studies
PO Box 460
North Sydney NSW 2059

Telephone: (02) 9956 8255
Facsimile: (02) 9922 7791

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