

Board Bulletin



BOARD OF STUDIES NSW December 1998 – Vol 7 No 9/10

Testing time is over

The 1998 Higher School Certificate Examinations and School Certificate Tests are over for another year and it is now time to wait and see how students' hard work has paid off.


This year a record 65 667 students were enrolled for the Higher School Certificate. Approximately 7000 teachers in 20 locations marked the Higher School Certificate examination papers, with marking centres in Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Coffs Harbour and Armidale.

Higher School Certificate students will be able to obtain their results via the Internet for the first time on Saturday 2 January, the same date that the results phone line opens. Results will arrive by mail on Tuesday 5 January.

On 16 and 17 November, 81 838 students sat for the School Certificate Tests.

All School Certificate students sat for the Mathematics and English-literacy tests. Students from participating schools also sat for the Science Trial Test and the

Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship Trial Test.

School Certificate students' results summaries will reach schools in the week starting 7 December. The award certificates will follow in the week beginning 14 December. 



Photograph by Greg White, *The Sydney Morning Herald*.



PDHPE K-6 Update


The final PDHPE K-6 Syllabus, scheduled for release in Term 2 next year, will include minimal change from the draft syllabus released in 1992. New aspects trialled in the Physical Activity for Health and Fitness support document (1997) will be integrated into the final document.

A key change from the draft syllabus is the development of a new set of outcomes that will include outcomes for Early Stage 1. The syllabus project team has drafted a set of 52 knowledge and understandings and skills outcomes covering Early Stage 1 to Stage 3. There are also six values and

attitudes outcomes, which apply across all stages.

The outcomes are currently being trialled by teachers across the educational sectors. Representative groups of teachers have been providing feedback on the draft outcomes since August, with particular reference to the:

- sequencing of outcomes;
- standard described by the outcomes.

Student work samples have been collected this term. A selection of annotated work samples will be included in support material released with the syllabus in 1999. 

HSC and SC Important Dates

Year 10

- 7 Dec Students' individual result sheets to arrive in schools week commencing 7 December
- 14 Dec School Certificate credential documents to arrive in schools week commencing 14 December

Year 12

- 3 Dec Latest date for school conduct of assessment ranking reviews
- 4 Dec Principals' notification to candidates of results of review of appeals against assessment rankings
Latest date for principals' notification to the Board (fax sufficient) of results of review of students' appeals against assessment rankings; submission of related forms
- 7 Dec Latest date for students whose assessment ranking reviews have been unsuccessful to notify principal of their wish to pursue the appeal to the Board of Studies
- 8 Dec Students' appeals to the Board against school reviews of assessment ranking — notification by fax or letter
- 5 Jan HSC results delivered to students and principals

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Board Bulletin

Extra copies available

Schools may request additional copies of the *Board Bulletin* if the standard quantity is not enough.

Secondary schools may request 20 copies instead of the standard 12, and primary schools may request 12 instead of the standard 4 copies.

Principals should complete the coupon and return to the address below.

Please post this coupon to:

Information Services Branch
Office of the Board of Studies
GPO Box 5300
Sydney NSW 2001

or fax to:

Information Services Branch
(02) 9262 6270

Please increase the number of copies of the *Board Bulletin* sent to this school:

Primary school – 12 copies

Secondary school – 20 copies

School number:

School name:

Address:

Principal's name:

Principal's signature:

The *Board Bulletin* is a regular publication by the Board of Studies NSW. Principals are requested to circulate it among teachers and members of the School Council, P & C and parents. One copy should be filed for reference. Schools may only photocopy this publication for use by teachers, students and parents. Contributions or suggestions for articles are welcome.

Print Post No. PP24163100021 Printed on recycled paper.

The *Board Bulletin* is produced by: Media & Public Relations Branch, Office of the Board of Studies NSW, 117 Clarence St, Sydney NSW 2000, phone (02) 9367 8111.

Editorial enquiries: Phone (02) 9367 8220.

Distribution enquiries: Fax (02) 9262 6270.

Internet address: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>

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ISSN 1038-5053

President's Message



As the year draws to a close it is clear that 1998 has been a year of considerable change and activity for us all. The Board has made significant progress in the implementation of its project management approach to


curriculum development. This would not have been possible without the cooperation and involvement of a wide range of people from across the education community in this State.

One of the most extensive and comprehensive reviews of post-compulsory school curriculum ever undertaken has been completed and forms the background to the curriculum changes now being finalised. The evaluation reports on the Board's website have been accessed frequently by local, interstate and overseas teachers and educationalists, who see them as a valuable resource in their own right. The responses and considered comments at each stage of the curriculum review and development process are vital in shaping the final product, and we have been encouraged by the constructive feedback we have received.

In recent weeks I have had the pleasure of addressing a large number of teachers at meetings across the State. These meetings have been well attended and it has been important to hear teachers' comments first hand. I have been grateful to those who have made considerable effort to attend these meetings. Their thoughtful questions have given me a useful guide to issues as they emerge during this busy period of reworking of the Stage 6 curriculum.

Board officers, as well as the many members of the education community who are active in our extensive committee and working group activities, have been working through responses to draft writing briefs. The final writing briefs will be considered at the Board meetings in December and will be modified in response to the feedback received. Other groups are working on the new approaches to assessment while ensuring that our timetable for production of the new syllabuses is on schedule. The logistics of this exercise are impressive and represent a significant step as we look to the future in NSW education.

May I wish you all the best for the festive season. I look forward to working with you as we meet the challenges of 1999.



(Professor) Gordon Stanley

History and Geography Stages 4–5 Syllabus Development

Consultation on the draft History and Geography Stages 4–5 Syllabuses, which were forwarded to schools between September and October, is now complete.

The consultation process included teacher consultation meetings in a number of locations throughout the State, and a survey which was sent to all secondary schools and to a number of tertiary specialists, teacher unions, professional associations and parent and community organisations.

It also involved extensive consultation with key groups, including the relevant teachers' associations, school authorities and academics.

Preparing the Final History Syllabus

During the History consultation stage, a total of 209 survey responses were received, the majority being from teachers and school History faculties.

Other responses from key groups included written submissions from individuals and groups such as the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, the NSW Teachers Federation and the Anglican Education Commission.

The History Teachers Association was closely involved at this stage, with representatives participating in discussions and workshops with teachers throughout the consultation process.

After the consultation period, two workshops were held with teachers to discuss the concerns raised during the consultation process and to develop ideas about how to improve the draft syllabus.

Amendments to the History Syllabus

The recommendations from the report resulted in a rearranging of Stage 4 topics to enable more flexible programming, to avoid overlapping with K–6 and to include an optional *Introducing History* topic.

In Stage 5 the topics were reduced and refined. Inquiry questions to help teachers define the scope and nature of each topic were also included.

Other recommendations were to provide a consistent approach to the language and layout of the syllabus and to reinforce the notion of the inquiry process.

Amendments were made in line with advice provided by the Board Curriculum Committee, which then endorsed the syllabus for recommendation to the Board of Studies.

Preparing the Final Geography Syllabus

The Geography Project Team developed the draft syllabus in August after the Board endorsed the final writing brief.

continued page 6

New version of Motorised Markbook due for release

Many years ago, back in the days of the Apple IIe computer, Bruce McAndrew wrote an easy-to-use piece of assessment and statistical software designed especially for teachers. Motorised Markbook changed the lives of many teachers.


It allowed teachers to store, rank and print class lists and tests and made the calculation of student assessment marks easier by letting them simply select and apply common statistical functions. There were no complicated formulae to enter; you just entered the names and marks and let Motorised Markbook do the rest.

Since those days, Motorised Markbook has migrated from Apple IIe computers to the Macintosh, and has been upgraded several times. During the last 12 months, Bruce McAndrew has produced a new version for the Macintosh, with many new features, and Martin Fitzgibbons has written a completely new companion version for Windows 3.1/95/98.

The Office of the Board of Studies would like to thank the many teachers who volunteered to test the various developmental versions of the new Motorised Markbook. Testing is now finished, and both the Macintosh and Windows versions are ready for production. They are being released on a CD-ROM with a manual, which is in the final stages of editing. The CD-ROM contains two versions — one for Windows 3.1, 95/98 and NT, and the other for Apple Macintosh (all models, including PowerMacs). Markbooks can be exchanged between the two programs.

The final product is called Motorised Markbook Version 6. The Office of the Board of Studies Technical Help Line will only give technical assistance for Version 6, not for the beta version 5.1 that has been available free to allow testing and debugging.

Version 6 of Motorised Markbook will soon be for sale for \$200 and will include the CD-ROM with both versions, the manual and a free school-wide multiuser and network licence.

For purchase details, contact Client Services Section: phone (02) 9367 8178, fax (02) 9262 6270, or e-mail clientservices@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au 

BROTHER JOHN TAYLOR MEMORIAL AWARD

Nominations are being sought from schools for the 1998 recipient of the Brother John Taylor Memorial Award.

This award, which acknowledges outstanding success in the Higher School Certificate by students who have overcome significant disadvantage or disability, will be presented at the Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Higher School Certificate in February next year.


The award was established by the Board of Studies NSW in acknowledgment of the outstanding contribution made by Brother Taylor to education in NSW in general, and as a member of the Board in particular. Brother Taylor was vitally concerned with all aspects of education and was a valued member of the Board from 1978 until his death in 1993. The Memorial Award is administered by a number of trustees representing the Board of Studies NSW and Catholic Education.

Schools have recently been sent information about the award. Supporting documentation from teachers, the school principal and, if appropriate, community members, should accompany the nominations.

The closing date for applications is Friday 18 December 1998.



Electronic collection of HSC entries

Information on the electronic collection of HSC entries appeared in the previous issue of the *Board Bulletin* (Vol 7 No 8). The accompanying form is repeated on the next page to ensure that all schools have the opportunity of benefiting from this program. Enquiries should be directed to John Bennett, Director, Information Services, e-mail: jbennett@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au, phone: (02) 9367 8201 or fax: (02) 9367 8481. 

Office of the Board of Studies Electronic Collection of HSC Entries Program

Fax to: The Office of the Board of Studies

Fax no: (02) 9367 8481

Attention: Director, Information Services

School Name: _____

Principal's Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone No: _____ **Fax No:** _____

Details of hardware available and location:

Details of Internet access:

Support personnel:

Computer management _____

Year 12 records/support _____

Ten-character 'word' _____

Principal's signature: _____ Date: _____



Five brand new English K–6 Teaching Kit titles

We are pleased to announce five new exciting titles in our series of English K–6 Teaching Kit resources, still at a low \$10 each. Look for our coloured brochure/order form sent to your school.

Fables: Stage 1

Fables uses narratives from ancient and modern cultures to introduce students in Stage 1 to the structure, features and moral purpose of fables.

Procedures: Stage 1

Students explore different sorts of procedural texts using recipes, instructions and directions as the basis for activities.

Poetry: Stage 2

The activities in *Poetry* encourage Stage 2 students to enjoy poetry by exploring the themes of selected poems and responding to them through movement, visual arts, recitation, drama, discussion and writing.

Endangered Animals: Stage 2

Animal rights and animals in danger of extinction are the subject of texts used in this unit. The suggested activities will help them to learn about and use information, exposition and literary text types.

Traditional Tales: Stage 2

Focusing on the traditional literature of the world's people — their culture, beliefs, traditions and heroes — this unit introduces students to the connections between literature and art and the ways that a culture is embedded in its literature.

School Certificate Specimen Geography Broadsheets

Ten copies of the broadsheet from the 1998 Specimen School Certificate Test, together with a copy of the specimen examination paper — all available at a remarkably low price of \$20 per set.

History and Geography Stages 4–5 Syllabus Development *continued from page 3*

Consultation on this draft was conducted during September and October. A survey invited responses from all Geography teachers and the wider community.

The consultation process gave particular attention to the content of mandatory and elective courses and a new focus on the spatial and ecological dimensions of Geography.

Amendments to the Geography Syllabus

The draft syllabus for Geography was modified by the Project Team to take feedback into account before the Board Curriculum Committee approved it in November.

New CD-ROM

Elemental — Exploring the Australian Minerals Industry

A three CD-ROM multimedia package to assist students and teachers in Geography, Geology, Sciences, Design and Technology, Economics and Business Studies. Disc 1 explores Australia's minerals industry with a site visit to Northparkes. Disc 2 studies Australia's mineral resources. Disc 3 is a Video Theatre containing over one hour of full-screen documentary videos to play on your computer, allowing you to see and hear about minerals, mining and processing. Three discs, installation guide and free School Network Licence — for just \$80 [plus \$4 postage].


CD-ROM sampler coming soon

To assist you in ordering Board products, we will be providing a free CD-ROM containing our resource catalogue and other information about our range of print and electronic publications and products. It includes an order form and 'samples' from various products. Copies will be sent to schools as soon as available.

Contact information


The fax number is (02) 9262 6270. To place an order, simply fax it to this number, quoting an official purchase order number. We are happy to take credit card orders over the phone on (02) 9367 8178. Orders may also be posted to us if you would like to pay by cheque. The address for postal orders is GPO Box 5300, Sydney 2001. There is a postage charge of \$4 for one item or \$8 for two or more items. Inquiries about Board products can be made by phone on (02) 9367 8178. Our e-mail address is clientservices@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au Enquiries: (02) 9367 8331 (Helen Griffin, Leader – Client Services Section).

This is our final Product News feature for 1998

The Client Services team would like to thank you for your support during the year. Our officers have enjoyed bringing you the latest news and information about resources produced by the Office of the Board. Our best wishes for an enjoyable holiday. 

The final syllabus is a revision of the 1992 Geography Years 7–10 Syllabus and reflects several new developments in curriculum writing, particularly the provision of an explicit focus on civics and citizenship education, and the development of key competencies and literacy in the study of Geography.

Civics and citizenship education is not a separate entity within the syllabus but flows from the study of features of Australia's physical and human geography.

Students will have opportunities to demonstrate active citizenship throughout the mandatory course. For example, fieldwork tasks enable students to investigate the spatial and ecological impacts of a chosen issue and formulate a plan of action. 

ATTENTION: *all Design and Technology teachers*

DesignTech 98 student seminars at the Powerhouse Museum

What is DesignTech 98?

An exhibition of outstanding Major Design Projects from 1998 HSC Design and Technology students.

Who are the seminars for?

Design and Technology seminars will be presented separately to students in Year 11 and students in Year 12 and their teachers.

What is involved?

The seminar program, which is presented by markers of Design and Technology, focuses on the Major Design Project. Activities include developing a project proposal and a simulated marking session, as well as information about project management techniques. Seminars for the 3 Unit course will also be held.

When?

Schools are asked to select a preferred date and time. The dates are:

Year 12: Tuesday 9, Wednesday 10 or Thursday 11 March 1999.

Year 11: Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17 or Thursday 18 March 1999.

The times for both seminars are either 9 am–12 pm or 12.30–3.30 pm.

How much will it cost?

Student seminars at the Powerhouse will cost \$15 per person. The cost includes entry to the museum, the three-hour seminar program and program notes. It does not include meals, travel or other publications.

If you wish to view other exhibitions at the museum, the cost is \$2 per student and you must book your school in through Powerhouse school bookings (telephone (02) 9217 0222).

How do I book for the student seminars?

Please complete the booking form and return it with a cheque made payable to the Office of the Board of Studies by Wednesday 9 December 1998.

For further details, contact Julie Eather, Exhibitions Coordinator, on (02) 9367 8309 or 017 103 662

**Booking Form
DesignTech 98
Student Seminars
at the Powerhouse
Office of the Board of Studies
GPO Box 5300
Sydney NSW 2001**

School _____
Address _____
_____ Postcode _____
Contact Teacher _____
Number of Students: Yr 11 = ____ Yr 12 = ____ Total = ____ @ \$15 = \$ ____
Number of Teachers: _____ @ \$15 = \$ _____
Total Cost \$ _____
(Please indicate number of 3 Unit students attending _____)

Preferred Date (please tick box):

Year 12 Seminars

Tuesday 9 March 1999:

9 am–12 pm 12.30 pm–3.30 pm

Wednesday 10 March 1999:

9 am–12 pm 12.30 pm–3.30 pm

Thursday 11 March 1999:

9 am–12 pm 12.30 pm–3.30 pm

Year 11 Seminars

Tuesday 16 March 1999:

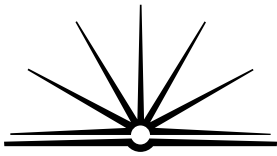
9 am–12 pm 12.30 pm–3.30 pm

Wednesday 17 March 1999:

9 am–12 pm 12.30 pm–3.30 pm

Thursday 18 March 1999:

9 am–12 pm 12.30 pm–3.30 pm



Higher School Certificate Principal's Analysis Package

The Office of the Board of Studies has released the Principal's Analysis Package and the 1998 HSC data to coincide with the release of the 1998 Higher School Certificate results.

Principals who have already purchased this package and who require their 1998 results data on disc will only be required to order the 1998 data at a cost of \$50.

Principals who have not purchased this package and who require their results data on disc will need to order the program disc at a cost of \$190 plus \$50 for each year's data.

Hardware requirements: IBM or compatible 486 PC (or better) with at least 4MB of memory (8MB recommended) with Microsoft Windows 3.1 or higher, a VGA monitor and a printer.

Enquiries can be made by contacting Client Services on (02) 9367 8331.

Principal's Analysis Package Order Form

I would like to order the Principal's Analysis Package Program and/or School Data Disc for

_____ (Full name of school or institution)

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

as follows:

Data Discs:

- 1991 HSC Results \$50
- 1992 HSC Results \$50
- 1993 HSC Results \$50
- 1994 HSC Results \$50
- 1995 HSC Results \$50
- 1996 HSC Results \$50
- 1997 HSC Results \$50
- 1998 HSC Results \$50

Program Discs:

- Version 3 – first purchase \$190
- Version 3 – upgrade from V1 or V2 \$50

Total value for this order \$ _____

Please note: This material will be provided only to the principal or his/her nominated officer

Name: _____

Position: _____

Delivery Address: _____

P/code: _____ Telephone: _____

Principal's signature

Please mail this form together with your cheque (made payable to the Office of the Board of Studies) to:

Client Services
Office of the Board of Studies NSW
GPO Box 5300
Sydney NSW 2001 **or**

If you have an account with the Office of the Board of Studies, tick this box.

Mail or fax this order on (02) 9262 6270 and the Office of the Board of Studies will invoice you.