

Board Bulletin



BOARD OF STUDIES NSW

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New HSC Syllabuses in Schools

Syllabuses for the new Higher School Certificate will be available to schools throughout NSW by the end of July.

Professor Gordon Stanley, President of the Board of Studies NSW, said the new syllabuses are the result of a major reform process and provide students with greater choice and increased opportunities at university, TAFE and in the workforce.

'The new syllabuses are part of an HSC that will fittingly recognise 13 years of schooling,' Professor Stanley said.



A selection of the new HSC Syllabuses

continued page 3




K-6 Linkages

The Board's Primary Curriculum Committee was provided with a very informative update on the Linkages project at its meeting on May 26. The progress report on the project included information about some additional research abstracts added to the Board's Linkages webpage and featured a presentation from the Broken Bay Diocese, which has Linkages projects operating in some of its primary schools.

Representatives from one of these schools, St Cecilia's Primary School, Balgowlah, provided the Committee with valuable insight into changes that have occurred in the school's approach to curriculum planning, programming, teaching and learning as a result of the Linkages project. The school's Principal, Barbara Matthews, spoke of the approach to professional development taken by the school and the enthusiasm

that the project has generated among staff, students and parents. Anne Jarjoura, a teaching executive at the school, gave a teacher's perspective on the impact of the project, particularly in relation to gaining a better understanding of syllabus documents through a focus on syllabus outcomes and linkages across the curriculum. Michelle Smith, Consultant with the Broken Bay Diocese, outlined how St Cecilia's and other schools involved in the project are developing understandings about syllabus content and assessment practices through Linkages, with a specific emphasis on generic skills.

If you would like further information regarding the Linkages Project, contact Suzanne Ziems, Senior Curriculum Officer, Primary, ph: (02) 9367 8274 or fax: (02) 9367 8476. 

HSC and SC Important Dates

Year 10

- 26–29 Jul** Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider all new course applications
- 4 Aug** Dispatch principals' 'N' determination forms
- 27 Aug** Dispatch applications for special exam provisions for Year 10 students in 2000
Final date for decision letters to schools on Board Endorsed Course applications
- 2–9 Aug** Dispatch SC and HSC Presiding Officers' Handbooks and associated documents to Principals and Presiding Officers
- 24 Sep** Final date for submission of deferred courses to Board of Studies Liaison Officer for final rulings

Year 11

- 26–29 Jul** Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider all new course applications
- 2 Jul** Submit amendments to entry forms
- 4 Aug** Dispatch principals' 'U' determination forms
- 27 Aug** Dispatch applications for special exam provisions for Year 12 students in 2000
Final date for decision letters to schools on Board Endorsed Course applications
- 24 Sep** Final date for submission of deferred courses to Board of Studies Liaison Officer for final rulings

Year 12

- 26–29 Jul** Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider all new course applications
- 19 Jul** Dispatch Illness/Misadventure forms
- 23 Jul** Last date for submission of changes to HSC Music and Drama course options
- 26–29 Jul** Board Endorsement Panel meeting to consider all new course applications
- 2 Jul** Dispatch Preliminary 1999 HSC Examination Timetable
Advice to candidates of venues and times for HSC Oral/Aural examinations in Languages progressively dispatched from this date
- 2 Aug** Progressive notification of individual dates for practical examinations in Drama, Dance, Industry Studies, Industrial Technology
- 4 Aug** Dispatch Principals' 'U' determination forms
- 9 Aug** Progressive notification of individual dates for practical examinations in Design and Technology, Visual Arts and Music (Board)

Contents

New HSC Syllabuses in Schools	1
K–6 Linkages	1
President's Message	3
Primary Matters.....	4
The New Higher School Certificate – Some Key Words	5
On Board Term 2.....	5
<i>Official Notices centre liftout</i>	
The best of OnStage and ENCORE	6
Product News	6
General Order Form	7
NSW school students at the National Schools' Constitutional Convention	8
Music review tunes up HSC marking	8

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.

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President's Message



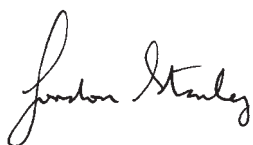
The new HSC syllabuses distributed to schools this month represent the cumulative efforts of hundreds of dedicated teachers, subject specialists and academics who have worked together to produce an outstanding curriculum to prepare students for the needs of the 21st

century. It has been a remarkable achievement and was only possible because of the untiring commitment of so many people ranging from Board staff through to teachers and subject specialists. We are grateful to school principals who have generously released key staff to participate in so many activities associated with the development of the syllabuses.

The production of so many syllabuses will inevitably challenge the capacity of any organisation. The result achieved has only been possible because of an extraordinary effort by all those involved. There has been remarkable attention to detail and willingness to rework until there is agreement that issues raised through the extensive consultation process have been accommodated in a professional manner. While it is a fact of modern life that we never have enough time or resources for all the tasks we confront in education, the fact that so many people have made the new HSC a major priority means that we can be confident of the outcome.

An exercise of such magnitude will always have its critics. Indeed, the very process brings to the surface many issues in disciplines which only get an airing in a prominent way during such a systematic review and reworking of the syllabus. The project teams and Board Curriculum Committees as well as the Board itself have had to navigate a pathway through such issues. The important goal which has kept us all on track is that of attempting to find the best solutions we can to meet the varied needs of students.

The process of developing the new syllabuses has relied on balancing advice from subject specialists and academics with feedback from a wide range of teachers, parents and organisations. The Board's syllabus development process contains an evaluation stage which will enable the periodic revision of syllabuses. In a rapidly changing world we will need to ensure that syllabus documents remain contemporary. The evaluation process will obviate the need for such a major review as that just concluded.



(Professor) Gordon Stanley


New HSC Syllabuses in Schools

continued from page 1

'Each new syllabus has been carefully designed to give students a clear understanding and knowledge of the subject and to provide a flexible structure within which students can prepare for further study and employment.

'An information package has also been distributed to schools. The package includes a booklet containing detailed information about the new HSC, the unit system, pattern of study requirements, types of courses, pathways to work and further study, Vocational Education and Training options, as well as the University Admissions Index and TAFE requirements.

'It also includes a subject-specific booklet with a description for each course, a set of overhead transparencies for use in parent information nights and multiple copies of a parent brochure summarising the new Higher School Certificate.

'The package has been provided on CD-ROM so schools can amend the contents to suit their own needs,' Professor Stanley explained. 



Primary Matters

National Forum on Primary Curriculum Development

Representatives from the curriculum development authorities in each Australian State and Territory recently met in Sydney at the Office of the Board of Studies to discuss issues in primary curriculum development. Participants at the Forum looked at four major areas of interest: the crowded curriculum; values and the primary curriculum; curriculum integration; and learning technologies and the primary curriculum.



Curriculum development representatives discuss current issues at National Forum.

Board Inspector Phil Lambert, who chaired the Forum, said 'The Forum provided for a productive exchange of viewpoints on issues that we all face in developing primary curriculum today for tomorrow. The issues are not unique to NSW nor, indeed, to anywhere else in Australia. We all left the Forum with a better understanding of what is happening across the country and where ground is breaking in each area discussed.'

Human Society and Its Environment K-6

The Human Society and Its Environment K-6 CD-ROM has now been distributed to schools. The CD-ROM includes an electronic copy of the following documents released in hard copy earlier this year:

- *Human Society and Its Environment K-6 Syllabus*
- the support document, *Human Society and Its Environment K-6 Units of Work*
- Principal's Package: *Human Society and Its Environment K-6*

- *Introducing the HSIE K-6 Syllabus to Parents and School Community Members*, and the accompanying flyer 'Human Society and Its Environment K-6 Information for Parents.'




Science and Technology K-6

The revision of the outcomes for the *Science and Technology K-6 Syllabus and Support Document* (1991) is now well underway. A 'checking out' process, involving a sample of teachers, consultants and academics, was used in April and May to ensure that draft outcomes and indicators were derived from the content of the current syllabus. Further redrafting of the outcomes and indicators will occur during June, with broader consultation on the proposed Science and Technology K-6 outcomes and indicators scheduled to take place in July and August. The *Science and Technology K-6 Outcomes and Indicators* addendum is expected to be released to schools in Term 4.

A CD-ROM of Science and Technology K-6 student work samples is also being developed by the Board of Studies. Both the collection and the analysis of work samples have assisted the project team in the revision of the outcomes and the development of Science and Technology indicators. The CD-ROM is scheduled to be released at the same time as the addendum of outcomes and indicators.

Schools interested in providing feedback on the draft Science and Technology K-6 outcomes and indicators should contact the project manager, Mandy Shaw, on ph: (02) 9367 8267 or fax: (02) 9367 8476.

If you would like further information regarding these items or K-6 curriculum matters in general, contact Phil Lambert, Inspector, Primary Education, ph: (02) 9367 8199 or fax: (02) 9367 8476. 

The New Higher School Certificate – Some Key Words

To help develop a consistent understanding of some key words in the New HSC, the following glossary provides the meaning of these words as they generally apply across subject areas.

Word	Definition	Word	Definition
Account	Account for: state reasons for, report on. Give an account of: narrate a series of events or transactions	Distinguish	Recognise or note/indicate as being distinct or different from; to note differences between
Analyse	Identify components and the relationship between them; draw out and relate implications	Evaluate	Make a judgement based on criteria; determine the value of
Apply	Use, utilise, employ in a particular situation	Examine	Inquire into
Appreciate	Make a judgement about the value of	Explain	Relate cause and effect; make the relationships between things evident; provide why and/or how
Assess	Make a judgment of value, quality, outcomes, results or size	Extract	Choose relevant and/or appropriate details
Calculate	Ascertain/determine from given facts, figures or information	Extrapolate	Infer from what is known
Clarify	Make clear or plain	Identify	Recognise and name
Classify	Arrange or include in classes/categories	Interpret	Draw meaning from
Compare	Show how things are similar or different	Investigate	Plan, inquire into and draw conclusions about
Construct	Make; build; put together items or arguments	Justify	Support an argument or conclusion
Contrast	Show how things are different or opposite	Outline	Sketch in general terms; indicate the main features of
Critically (analyse/evaluate)	Add a degree or level of accuracy, depth, knowledge and understanding, logic, questioning, reflection and quality to (analysis/evaluation)	Predict	Suggest what may happen based on available information
Deduce	Draw conclusions	Propose	Put forward (for example a point of view, idea, argument, suggestion) for consideration or action
Define	State meaning and identify essential qualities	Recall	Present remembered ideas, facts or experiences
Demonstrate	Show by example	Recommend	Provide reasons in favour
Describe	Provide characteristics and features	Recount	Retell a series of events
Discuss	Identify issues and provide points for and/or against	Summarise	Express concisely the relevant details
		Synthesise	Putting together various elements to make a whole

On Board Term 2 1999


The Term 2 1999 edition of *On Board* was dispatched in the second week of June. It includes useful information for students, with articles on post-school options, including university, TAFE and apprenticeships, study tips and websites. Students are invited to write in with their comments on the issues raised in all the articles.

The Term 2 edition of *On Board* includes a full list of the new editorial team members, chosen from an impressive field of entrants. Thank you to all the schools who put in so much effort to assist students in their submissions. The *On Board* team is renewed every 12 months, so teachers of English, Media Studies and Visual Arts should be on the lookout for students who might benefit from the unique experience of working on a quarterly paper that is

distributed to all NSW students in Years 10, 11 and 12.

Basketball Competition

This term's competition is a collaboration between the Office of the Board of Studies and the National Basketball League. Students are invited to write to *On Board* saying how they would benefit from a clinic with an NBL member. Two schools will win a prize of two NBL members running two clinics, each running for one hour — giving 120 students at each school the opportunity to participate. Students entering the competition are asked to include permission from their school for the clinics to take place.

For information or feedback about *On Board* please contact Kathy Prokhovnik on (02) 9367 8248. 

The best of OnSTAGE and ENCORE

The highlights of OnSTAGE 98 and ENCORE 98 are now available on video and CD as teaching resources for schools.

OnSTAGE 98 is a selection of the finest performances and an exhibition of set and costume designs, script writing, critical analysis and video production by Higher School Certificate Drama students.

The OnSTAGE 98 video contains a variety of group and individual performances, including a first-time presentation of Writers OnSTAGE and a reading of two exemplary scripts from the Script Writing individual project.

The footage from a range of exhibitors and interviews with the performers and exhibitors will be particularly useful as a resource.


The ENCORE 98 CD is a program of outstanding performances and compositions by students from the

Higher School Certificate Music examinations.

It illustrates the work that students have done to develop their musical understanding and skills and their ability to compose and perform a variety of styles and genres.

Teresa Renneberg, Exhibitions Coordinator for the Board of Studies, said both the OnSTAGE video and the ENCORE CD would be valuable teaching resources for teachers by providing them with a selection of last year's best works.

'These resources provide students with a first-hand account of the work of previous students who have been successful and provide them with a standard to set for their own work,' Ms Renneberg said.

The OnSTAGE video and ENCORE CD will be available in Term 3. The video costs \$50 and the CD is priced at \$20. 



PRODUCT NEWS

Now Available

PDHPE K-6 Teaching Kit titles **\$15 each**

The complete set of titles for all three syllabus strands is now available.

- Safe Living (first series)
 - *Watch Your Step!*
 - *Safety First*
 - *On the Scene*
- Interpersonal Relationships (second series)
 - *Getting Along With Others*
 - *Building My Network*
 - *Playing a Part*
- Growth and Development (third series)
 - *I Am Special*
 - *My Growing Self*
 - *Getting It Together*

HSC CD-ROM: 1995 to 1998 **\$25 each**

This popular resource has been updated with examination papers and selected examination reports from the 1998 HSC. Courses with very small candidatures and those with non-roman scripts are not included. Three copies will be sent to each school. Further copies may be purchased. Please let your students know about this excellent HSC resource.

HSC Examination Reports

Print copies of the HSC examinations reports from 1998 are being dispatched progressively to schools. Additional copies are available for purchase.

Accessing information from the Board of Studies

Take advantage of our website. Many of our syllabus documents, examination reports and exam papers are available to download. Browse through the latest information about the Higher School Certificate and School Certificate. The latest *Board Bulletin* is available on our site. Make use of our e-mail address for a quick reply to your product and services enquiries. The address is below.

Contact information

To place an order or to inquire about products and services, you can contact Client Services by:

Fax: (02) 9262 6270, or

Telephone: (02) 9367 8178, or

Web: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>

e-mail: clientservices@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au or

Write to Client Services at GPO Box 5300 Sydney 2001.

To order materials, please supply an official purchase order or have credit card details available. There is a postage charge of \$4 for one item or \$8 for two or more items.

Enquiries: (02) 9367 8331 Helen Kerr, Leader/Client Services Section. 

NSW school students at the National Schools' Constitutional Convention

Thirty-two Year 12 students from all over NSW discussed the Referendum/Republic Model and Citizenship at the National Schools' Constitutional Convention in Canberra last month.

The students questioned and challenged a range of presenters, including the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency, the Hon Sir William Deane AC, former Premier of NSW, the Hon Neville Wran AC, QC, Chief Justice Hon Murray Gleeson AC and Chairperson, Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, Evelyn Scott.


Other presenters included the ACT Minister for Education, the Hon Bill Stefanik; Executive Director, Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, Kerry Jones;

Chairman, Constitutional Centenary Foundation, Donald McDonald AO; and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Trish Worth, MP.

The convention concluded with the drafting of a communique summarising the views of the student delegates, which will be forwarded to Federal parliamentarians and available to the community later this year.

The NSW regional and state conventions are currently being organised and the program will be repeated in 2000.

For further information contact your area's Liaison Officer (BOSLO) or Sandy

Langford, Office of the Board of Studies on (02) 9367 8356. 



NSW students participate in the National Constitutional Convention

Music review tunes up HSC marking

The Office of the Board of Studies regularly reviews the HSC marking procedures. A review of the marking of Music was completed in 1998.

The review was undertaken by a team containing experienced markers and other experts in Music education with no marking experience. It included representation from the government and independent school systems, the tertiary Music education sector and the Office of the Board of Studies.

The terms of reference for the review included:

- the procedures used in marking the practical components;
- a comparison of the component marks within and across the three courses;
- the procedures used in selecting markers;
- recommendations to increase the accuracy of marking.

The review team's deliberations included observations of the briefing of practical markers, attendance at practical marking sessions in schools, a wide-ranging analysis of the component raw marks awarded at the two previous HSC examinations, and the consideration of formal submissions in response to an open invitation to all Music teachers.

A Report of the Review was presented to the Board of Studies in 1998. It details the planning and conduct of the practical marking, issues for comment and

suggestions for the future.

Significant recommendations included:

- dividing the practical markers into two groups, for Course 1 and 2/3 Unit (Related), enabling markers with specialist expertise and experience to mark each course;
- increased briefing opportunities for Senior Markers and Markers;
- increasing the library of taped performances for benchmarking;
- further involvement of professional musicians in briefing markers, particularly for 'cutting edge' performances;
- providing for itinerant marking teams to mark exclusively in the city or country, opening up marking to a greater number of teachers.

Many of the review team's recommendations, including the above, were implemented during the 1998 HSC marking operation. Further deliberations and negotiations are underway to phase in other recommendations. As part of this consultation, schools will be surveyed to gauge support.

Overall the review has highlighted some areas that need strengthening and at the same time has applauded many of the systems already established and developed over many years for the efficient marking of the HSC Music examinations. 