

Official Notices

May 2000 — Vol 9 No 3

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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**Use of Calculators in the
2001 Higher School Certificate
Examinations**

**BOS
19/00**

The Board wishes to advise schools about the use of calculators in the 2001 HSC examinations.

Board-approved calculators may be used in the following HSC written examinations:

- Agriculture
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Economics
- Engineering Studies
- General Mathematics
- Geography
- Industrial Technology
- Mathematics
- Mathematics Extension 1
- Mathematics Extension 2
- Physics
- Senior Science
- Vocational Education and Training courses:
 - Business Services – Office Administration
 - Construction
 - Hospitality Operations
 - Information Technology
 - Metal and Engineering
 - Primary Industries
 - Retail Operations
 - Tourism – Sales/Office Operations

Candidates attempting these 2001 HSC examinations, with the exception of General Mathematics, may only use calculators appearing on the Board's list of approved scientific calculators. This list is revised from year to year and published in the Official Notices section of the Board Bulletin. The list is also available on the Board's website: (<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>). Calculators to be used by candidates must have been switched off for entry into the examination centre.

Candidates attempting the General Mathematics HSC examination will be permitted to use calculators, including graphics calculators, that are silent, hand-held, and either battery or solar powered. Calculators that are capable of communicating or exchanging data are not to be used for this purpose in the examination. A calculating device that incorporates a set of keys whose primary function is to represent the alphabetic characters (eg a QWERTY keyboard) is not deemed to be a calculator for the purpose of this examination, and will not be allowed. Calculators to be used by candidates in the General Mathematics HSC examination must have been switched off and have had all storage facilities cleared for entry into the examination centre.

No list of calculators will be created for the General Mathematics HSC examination.

**Contact: Chris Thompson
(02) 9367 8233**



**2000 Higher School Certificate
Final Date for Receipt at the
Office of the Board of Studies for
Changes to Music and Drama Options**

**BOS
20/00**

Changes to Higher School Certificate Drama and Music Options must be submitted to the Office of the Board of Studies in writing by the school or student and countersigned by the principal. Changes to Drama and Music options will not be accepted after June 30 2000. All changes must be in writing and may be faxed to the Office of the Board of Studies on (02) 9367 8482.

**Contact: Christos Panayi (Music)
(02) 9367 8259
Simone McDonald (Drama)
(02) 9367 8292**



Stage 6 Syllabus Errata

**BOS
21/00**

The Board advises that the new Chinese Continuers Stage 6 Syllabus distributed to schools during July 1999 requires a minor correction. Details are provided below.

Copies of syllabuses held by schools should be corrected in accordance with this advice.

Schools should also note that the website version of this and other syllabuses will be regularly reviewed and maintained and is the correct version.

Section III: Specifications for Writing in Chinese

p 34, paragraph 3, line 1

*replace '250–375 characters'
with '130–180 characters'*

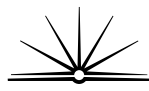


**The Application of School
Certificate Course Performance
Descriptors in Stage 5**

**BOS
22/00**

Each year the Board monitors the School Certificate grades awarded to Year 10 students in all Stage 5 courses. The following advice is provided to assist schools in meeting the Board's requirements for allocating School Certificate grades.

The School Certificate Grading System is concerned with describing student achievement at the completion of a Stage 5 course. The grades A, B, C, D and E summarise levels of achievement ranging from Excellent (grade A) to Elementary (grade E). By applying the Course Performance Descriptor statements to the available evidence of student achievement, teachers are able to make a global judgement of the grade deserved by a student at the end a course.



Teachers are reminded that they are to apply the same set of Course Performance Descriptors to both 100-hour and 200-hour courses when determining grades. This relates to courses studied across Years 9 and 10, and to courses studied exclusively in either Year 9 or Year 10.

The choice of a particular grade should be made on the basis that it provides the best overall description of the student's achievement of the Stage 5 syllabus outcomes. This applies regardless of whether the student has studied a 100-hour or 200-hour course.

Advice on allocating grades to students who transfer before completing a 200-hour course or who discontinue a 200-hour course after completing 100 hours of study is provided in Sections 5.2.6 and 6.2 of the ACE Manual.

Contact: Assessment Branch
(02) 9367 8300



2000 School Certificate
English-literacy Test

BOS
23/00

The Board advises that following the evaluation of the 1999 School Certificate English-literacy Test, there will be a change to the mark allocation for Part E – Short Section 1: Reading/Viewing, Part E. This part will now be marked out of a total of 15 marks. Most questions in this part of Section 1 will not have sub-parts. This will result in questions with fewer parts.

Section 1: Reading/Viewing will now be worth a total of 60 marks.

Section 2: Writing will be worth a total of 30 marks.

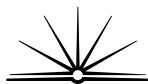
The Test will be marked out of a total of 90 marks. Candidates' marks will then be converted to a mark out of 100 on the performance scale.

This change to the mark allocation of Section 1: Reading/Viewing was not included in the Board's document, *Guide to the 2000 School Certificate Rules and Procedures for Students*, which was distributed to schools in March 2000.

Teachers are advised to amend their copies of this document on Page 14 (Paragraph 3) to read, 'Section 1 (60 marks)', and (Paragraph 6) 'Section 2 (30 marks)'. Teachers are requested to notify Year 10 candidates of the changed mark allocation as soon as possible.

This change will apply to the School Certificate English-literacy Test for the year 2000 and subsequent years.

Contact: Gregg Levy
Senior Assessment Officer, English
(02) 9367 8110



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