

Official Notices

Vol 9 No 6

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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Agriculture 2001 HSC Specimen Paper – Minor Amendment

**BOS
39/00**

The Board wishes to advise the following change to the Agriculture 2001 HSC Specimen Paper.

Question 5(b), in Section II of Agriculture Paper 1, has been changed to:

“(b) Explain how market specifications have changed a characteristic in a breeding program for a plant OR animal production system you have studied.”

The Agriculture 2001 HSC Specimen Paper on the Board’s website has been amended as above.

**Contact: Chris Thompson
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Chinese Background Speakers Syllabus Amendment

**BOS
40/00**

As a result of community consultation, the implementation of the use of simplified characters only in texts, questions and tasks in the Chinese Background Speakers HSC external examination will be delayed for a period of 4 years, up to and including the 2004 HSC examination. In the interim, the Board wishes to notify teachers of the following amendment to the Chinese Background Speakers Stage 6 Syllabus.

In section 2.1 ‘The Language’ on page 6, the second paragraph should read:

‘For the purpose of this syllabus, modern standard Chinese is taken to be putonghua in the spoken form. In the written form, texts, questions and tasks for the external examination will be provided in simplified characters and full-form (complex) characters, and responses can be presented in either simplified characters or full-form (complex) characters. The romanised form of the character text is Hanyu Pinyin.’

In section 11.6 ‘HSC External Examination Specifications’ on page 34 the fourth paragraph should read:

‘In the external examination, texts, questions and tasks will be provided in simplified characters and full-form (complex) characters, and responses can be presented in either simplified characters or full-form (complex) characters.’

Effective: 2001 Higher School Certificate
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Distinction Courses 2001: Information Day

**BOS
41/00**

The Distinction Courses Program will be available to eligible students in 2001. The University of New England has agreed to deliver the Philosophy Course and Charles Sturt University the courses in Cosmology and Comparative Literature.

As in previous years the basic criterion for selection will be acceleration in at least one HSC course at the highest course level, a year ahead of the student’s year cohort.

From information provided by its database of HSC accelerants, the Office of the Board of Studies has identified prospective students for the 2001 program. Letters have been sent to schools where there are students who would appear to meet the acceleration criteria, inviting expressions of interest in studying a Distinction Course in 2001. Other interested students have been invited to respond to an official notice in Board Bulletin Vol 9 No 5.

The selection process will include attendance at an Information Day, the submission of a formal application for entry to the Distinction Courses Program 2001 and the final selection of students by an expert panel informed by 2000 HSC results and school reports.

This notice is to confirm arrangements for the Distinction Courses Information Day for prospective students for 2001 :

- **Date:** Friday, 17 November 2000
- **Place:** University of Sydney, Veterinary Science Conference Centre
- **Time:** 10 am to 4.30 pm

The Information Day program will include a presentation of certificates to Distinction Course students who successfully complete a course in 2000, and meetings of the Distinction Courses Alumni Association.

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