

**2001 Higher School Certificate Examinations
and School Certificate Tests
Information for Prospective Assessors**

2001 Higher School Certificate Examinations and School Certificate Tests Information for Prospective Assessors

The Board of Studies is seeking expressions of interest from experienced teachers to be part of a team of assessors for the 2001 Higher School Certificate Examinations and School Certificate Tests.

The role of an assessor is to provide an independent assessment of the examination/test paper by evaluating and commenting on it as a subject expert and as an experienced teacher. The assessor is concerned with the correctness of the paper and whether it effectively assesses a range of syllabus outcomes.

The task of assessing the external examination papers is a rewarding and challenging experience that provides a positive contribution to a teacher's professional development and assists the setting process of the HSC and SC papers.

About Assessing

- Each HSC examination and SC test is assessed by practising teachers.
- Appointments are made on an annual basis.
- Assessing for oral/aural languages papers is scheduled during Term 4, 2000. Assessing for all other papers in the HSC and SC is scheduled between February and April 2001. If you are anticipating taking extended periods of leave which would make you unavailable, you should not apply.
- It usually takes from one half day to a full day to assess a paper.
- The Board reimburses schools to cover the cost of employing casual staff to relieve teachers who are attending the Board to assess papers. In most cases, one day's relief is available.
- Assessors receive a fee of about \$128 per course. A travel allowance of \$30 is also paid irrespective of actual travel expenses incurred.
- **As an assessor, you must maintain complete confidentiality in relation to all papers and discussions and must sign a Statutory Declaration to this effect.**

Essential Criterion

You must meet the essential criterion to be considered for appointment as an assessor.

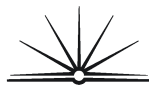
This criterion applies to each subject in which you will be assessing papers.

- You must be an experienced Year 12/Year 10 teacher (whichever is applicable to your application), with the necessary experience to assess the examination papers. In general, a minimum of five years recent experience teaching Year 12/Year 10 is considered sufficient.

Conditions of Employment

- In 2001, you cannot be teaching or tutoring the course to HSC/SC students (whichever is applicable to your application). At this stage, you may not know your teaching commitments in 2001. We will confirm this criterion with potential assessors closer to the assessing date.
- If you have a close relative sitting the relevant HSC/SC course (whichever is applicable to your application) you will not be appointed. A close relative includes a spouse, child or sibling.
- You cannot set papers for Year 12/10 (whichever is applicable to your application) for other school systems or commercial organisations, eg Catholic/TAFE/Regional Trials, test writing organisations, on-line organisations.
- You cannot lecture at meetings or study days for Year 12/10 (whichever is applicable to your application) students and teachers, or speak at any meetings on the content or interpretation of the syllabus or examination specifications.

Applications are due by 25 August 2000



Board Bulletin

2001 Higher School Certificate Examinations and School Certificate Tests Expression of Interest for Assessors

Please tick the appropriate box(es).

I would like to be an assessor for the 2001:

Higher School Certificate School Certificate.

Surname:..... Given names:..... Title:.....

Tertiary qualifications & major study areas:.....

I have taught in NSW secondary schools/TAFE for years.

(please delete where necessary)

Work address	Home address
.....
.....
.....
Phone: ().....	Phone: ().....
Fax: ().....	Fax: ().....
Email:	Mobile:
Preferred address for correspondence: <input type="checkbox"/> Work <input type="checkbox"/> Home	

Please complete the table below to show the subjects you wish to assess.

HSC	HSC Subject* eg Economics, Chemistry, Visual Arts	Years teaching subject to Yr 12 HSC students in NSW	Year in which subject last taught to Yr 12 HSC students
SC	SC Subject eg Mathematics, English-literacy	Years teaching subject to SC students in NSW	Year in which subject last taught to SC students

Note: **For HSC Mathematics and English, in the subject column, specify the courses, eg ESL, General Mathematics*

For the subject(s) you have nominated, list your expertise in course options/strands/areas of study.

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For the subject(s) you have nominated, list those courses you expect to teach to students sitting the 2001 examination/test.

- None
- List of Courses:

Please tick the appropriate box(es) to provide additional information about your experience.

- setting Catholic/TAFE/Independent/Regional Trial examinations.
 - HSC/SC marking within past 5 years.
 - member of Syllabus Advisory Committee or Board Consultative Committee within past 5 years.
 - member of relevant professional association.
 - other
-
-

For the applicant to complete:

I have the expertise to assess examination papers in the subjects I have nominated.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Applicant

For the Principal's endorsement:

I recommend/do not recommend the applicant as an assessor.
(please delete where necessary)

Comments:

.....

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____
Principal

Please return this form to the address below by 25 August 2000.

Ms Helen Bristow
Office of the Board of Studies
GPO Box 5300
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Ph (02) 9367 8095 Fax (02) 9367 8474

Distinction Courses 2001
Expressions of Interest

DISTINCTION COURSES 2001

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

In response to the Government's White Paper on reforms for the Higher School Certificate, the Board of Studies is continuing its planning for university courses that may be taken by high ability students while still at school.

The White Paper indicated that Distinction Courses would continue to be offered as an interim measure until new arrangements with universities were established. Accordingly, the Distinction Courses Program will be offered in 2001. Appropriate students should be encouraged to consider the study of Distinction Courses. They will continue to merit a significant place in a student's CV.

Distinction Courses are challenging high-level HSC courses for gifted and talented HSC accelerants. They consist of 2 units of study, additional to the required 10 units of study for the 2001 HSC. A student who has accelerated may be doing 6 or 7 units of HSC courses in the final year, having already completed 3 or 4 units a year in advance. This allows for a 2 Unit Distinction Course to be included in the student's program. As a general rule a student may only undertake one Distinction Course. Results in Distinction Courses will be counted towards the calculation of the Universities Admission Index (UAI) if they are within the student's 10 best units and all other requirements for the UAI have been met.

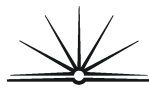
Distinction Courses are delivered by universities through distance education, including compulsory residential schools. They provide an opportunity for a type of study that HSC students may otherwise not gain. They are offered in areas outside the range of existing HSC courses, thus providing a broader curriculum perspective and preparation for future university study. In 2001, the University of New England will deliver the Philosophy Distinction Course while Charles Sturt University will deliver the courses in Cosmology and Comparative Literature.

A pattern of high student achievement has continued since the Distinction Courses were introduced. In 1999, 90 percent of Distinction Course students were awarded Distinction or High Distinction assessments by the universities teaching their courses.

The criteria for selection of students for study of an HSC Distinction Course in 2001 are:

- *Completion of one (or more) HSC course(s) at the highest course level a year ahead of the student's Year cohort.*
- *Presentation for the HSC examination in the accelerated course the year prior to the year in which the Distinction Course is to be taken.*
- *Outstanding achievement in the accelerated course at the HSC examination.*
- *Evidence of a pattern of high achievement in all courses undertaken in 2000. Copies of the student's academic reports in all subjects will be required with the final application in November.*
- *A report from the student's school which clearly indicates the suitability of the student for Distinction Course study and which might include comments on the student's specific academic strengths; other strengths including creativity; ability as a self-motivated independent learner; research skills; communication skills; personal initiative and leadership skills; relevant achievements within the school community; relevant achievements in the wider community.*
- *A supportive recommendation from the principal indicating the student's potential for undertaking the chosen Distinction Course.*

There may be cases where a student does not appear to meet the selection criteria yet possesses personal qualities, abilities and aspirations and is demonstrating a level of performance and achievement which, taken together, suggest that the student is especially gifted and talented. In such cases a submission may be made through the school principal to the Board of Studies requesting special consideration for acceptance as an applicant for the Distinction Courses Program. It should be noted that there are no specific pre-requisites for Philosophy, Comparative Literature or Cosmology.



Board Bulletin

Formal application for entry to a Distinction Course follows the submission of an Expression of Interest and subsequent attendance at a Distinction Courses Information Day for prospective students, which is to be held at the University of Sydney on Friday, 17 November 2000, following the completion of all Higher School Certificate examinations. The receipt of an Expression of Interest will serve as a preliminary indication of interest in attending the Information Day.

It would be appreciated if principals would arrange for discussions to be held with students who may be eligible for Distinction Course study in 2001, invite them to complete an Expression of Interest on the form provided, and submit the form to reach the Office of the Board no later than Monday, 28 August 2000.

Detailed information about Distinction Courses can be obtained from the Board's publication, *Higher School Certificate Distinction Courses: An Information Book*, which can be found on the Board's website at http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/docs/general/hsc99_distinctioncourses.pdf

Contact No: **Phone** **(02) 9367 8106**
 Fax **(02) 9367 8478**
 e-mail : harrison@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Distinction Courses 2001
Expression of Interest

Following discussions with my school principal about the requirements for entry to an HSC Distinction Course, I wish to register my expression of interest in undertaking a Distinction Course in 2001.

(Students should print all information in block letters)

Preferred Course	*	Philosophy
(delete two to indicate your tentative choice)	*	Comparative Literature
	*	Cosmology

Personal Details			
SURNAME.....			
GIVEN NAMES			
HOME ADDRESS		POSTCODE	
DATE OF BIRTH	GENDER M / F	TEL NO	
STUDENT NUMBER.....		FAX NO.....	

School Details			
NAME OF PRINCIPAL.....			
NAME OF SCHOOL			
ADDRESS.....		POSTCODE	
TEL NO		FAX NO.....	

Study Details 2000 Courses		
Title of Course	Level of Study	Prelim or HSC
Proposed 2001 Courses		
Title of Course	Level of Study	Prelim or HSC

I understand that this response also registers my interest in attending a Distinction Courses Information Day to be held in Sydney on 17 November 2000 following the completion of the HSC examination program.

Signed

Principal's Comment	
Signed:	Date:

Please return by 28 August 2000 to Trevor Harrison, Senior Project Officer, Planning and Development Branch, Office of the Board of Studies, GPO Box 5300, Sydney, NSW 2001. (Fax (02) 9367 8478)