

## How is the New HSC stronger and fairer?

The New standards-based HSC combines a more contemporary curriculum with new-style HSC examinations that give students a clear understanding of what they need to do in order to receive high marks. The syllabuses challenge students to reach high standards and prepare them for further study and employment opportunities.

The New HSC examinations will allow all students to demonstrate their level of achievement and to receive a mark that clearly represents the standard they have reached. Students for the first time will receive an HSC Course Report for each course that will describe their level of achievement as well as the standards reached by other students in the course.

## How will students know the standard they have reached?

Each HSC Course Report will show a student's mark in relation to six descriptive performance bands. The performance bands clearly describe what students at each level of achievement typically know and can do in the course.

A 'minimum standard expected' has been set for each course. Students will be awarded a mark of 50 or more out of 100 if they reach or exceed the minimum standard.

## How will students know what the standards are?

The New HSC syllabuses make it clear to everyone just what students are expected to learn and be able to do in each course by the end of Year 12.

The New HSC specimen examination papers and marking guidelines help students to prepare for their HSC examinations and give them a good indication of what to expect when they enter the examination room.

The descriptive Course Performance Bands, together with the syllabuses, specimen examination papers and marking guidelines, assist students to set goals and understand the level of achievement expected.

## How will the New HSC examinations help students to perform at their best?

New standards-based examinations allow all students to demonstrate their level of knowledge and skills in relation to the standards. In all New HSC examinations:

- instructions and questions will be clearer;
- students will know the number of marks allocated to each question;
- the demands of the questions will be explicit;
- students will have a clearer sense of what they need to show in their answers in order to earn high marks;
- different question types will allow students to show what they know and can do.

### A sample Personal Development, Health and Physical Education specimen examination paper question illustrating what students can expect:

#### Section I – Part B

In your answers you will be assessed on how well you:

- demonstrate an understanding of health and physical activity concepts
- apply the skills of critical thinking and analysis
- illustrate your answer with relevant examples
- present ideas in a clear and logical way

#### Question 22 – Factors Affecting Performance (20 marks)

- | (a) | Explain how FOUR of the principles of training can be used to develop aerobic fitness.   | Marks |
|-----|--|-------|
|     |  | 4     |
| (b) | It is often stated that the difference between success and failure at the elite level of sport is psychological preparation. Discuss how psychological factors may affect performance.           | 8     |
| (c) | Learners progress through various stages of skill acquisition. Compare the use of feedback when developing movement skills at the cognitive level and the autonomous level of skill acquisition. | 8     |

## How will students be awarded marks?

Marking guidelines for each specimen examination paper show teachers and their students the levels of achievement that students will need to demonstrate to receive high marks. Higher standards are rewarded with higher marks.

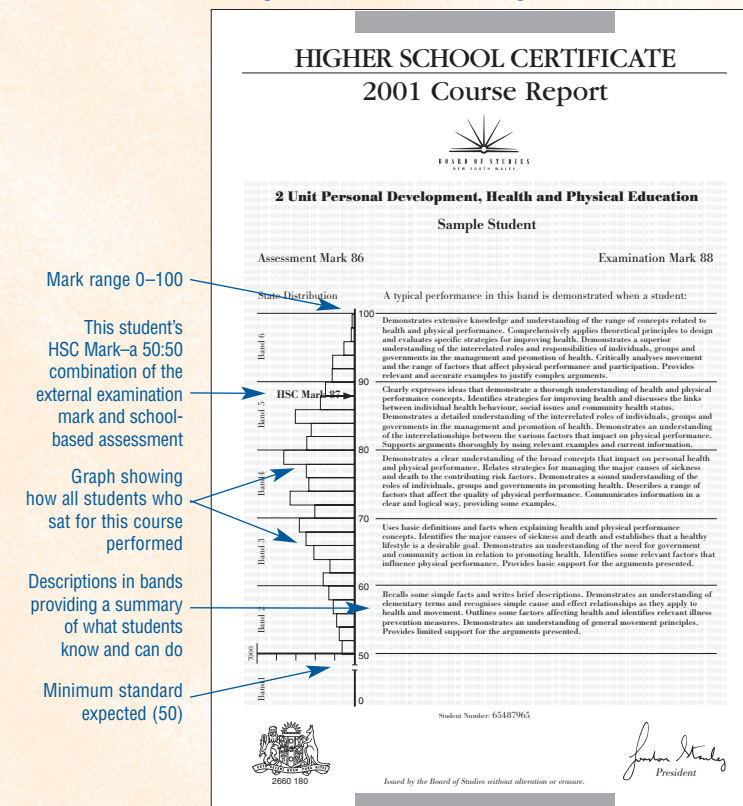
### Sample Marking Guidelines

Criteria	Marks
Clearly and logically communicates a thorough understanding of ways in which a range of psychological factors may affect performance and how the suitability of different psychological strategies varies with context	7-8
Discussion considers both positive and negative psychological effects	
Discussion supported by relevant examples	
Demonstrates a thorough understanding of ways in which a range of psychological factors may affect performance	5-6
Both positive and negative effects are considered	
Provides a general description of a range of psychological factors and how they affect performance	3-4
Presents a simple description of a psychological factor and the way it affects performance	1-2

## What will the New HSC Course Reports show?

Each HSC Course Report will describe what a student's HSC Mark typically means in terms of the standards set for the course. It will also show the student's statewide position in the course.

### Sample HSC Course Report



The performance scale is a continuum of achievement.

## Will HSC examination marks be scaled?

Students will receive a mark based on their own performance, instead of being scaled against other students in the course. There will be no pre-determined number of students in each mark range and no limit placed on the number of students who can reach top marks.

## Is school-based assessment important?

Yes! Assessment marks earned by students at school during the HSC year will form 50% of their final HSC Mark for each course.

**The higher the standard, the higher the mark, the higher the band ~ it's as simple as that!**

## What are the benefits for students?

- Diverse contemporary curriculum
- Knowing the standard expected
- Students can set goals and chart progress
- Individual course reports
- Industry-recognised VET qualifications
- Most New HSC courses have credit transfer to TAFE courses
- Ready for work and further education.

## What are the benefits for employers?

- Clear comprehensive reporting
- Course Reports that describe what students know and can do
- Explicit statewide standards
- Credentials assist comparisons between prospective employees.

## How can students raise their level of performance?

- discuss progress with teachers
- set goals and chart progress
- use feedback from marked school assessment tasks
- check out the syllabus outcomes and content
- have a go at the specimen examination papers
- review the criteria in the marking guidelines
- look at the course performance bands.

The New HSC will give students and their future employers a better understanding of what is to be learned, how it is measured, what has been achieved and what reported marks mean.

## Can I see the Syllabuses, Specimen HSC Examination Papers, Sample Marking Guidelines and Course Performance Bands?

Yes! Get them from the Board of Studies website [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au) They are designed to help teachers and their students prepare for the New HSC.

## Contacts

Students, parents and employers may obtain further information regarding the New standards-based Higher School Certificate by contacting their school, by going to the Board's website or by contacting the local Board Officer:

- Sydney Tel. (02) 9367 8356
- Randwick Tel. (02) 9314 7987
- Parramatta Tel. (02) 9806 1549
- Newcastle Tel. (02) 4924 9976
- Wollongong Tel. (02) 4226 8607
- Coffs Harbour Tel. (02) 6659 3274
- Tamworth Tel. (02) 6755 5043
- Bathurst Tel. (02) 6334 8048
- Wagga Wagga Tel. (02) 6937 3889

# the New. Higher School Certificate

## The HSC Portfolio

Each student will receive a portfolio containing the HSC testamur, the Record of Achievement and individual course reports detailing examination and assessment performance.



## The New Standards-Based Higher School Certificate

Benefiting students and their future employers