



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training

14 October 2010

Embargoed 5am **HSC EXAMS START TODAY**

HSC exams start today for more than 17,000 NSW students.

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, said students of Business Studies and Classical Greek will pick up their pens at 9:25am this morning.

“I wish these students the very best of luck,” Ms Firth said.

“A record 71,000 NSW students will sit HSC exams in the coming weeks.

“We’ve come a long way since 1967 when just 17,000 students sat for the HSC.

“The HSC now offers students the choice of over 100 subjects including vocational courses.

“This has made staying at school until the end of Year 12 a more attractive option for many students.

“Around 67,000 HSC students will sit the first English exam tomorrow.

“I encourage students to take advantage of the support services that are available to them in their final exam preparation.

“The NSW Board of Studies website and HSC Advice Line are incredibly valuable resources.

“In the days before exams it’s normal that students have some questions and for them to experience some nerves.

“The HSC Advice Line is a telephone support service for students. Students can call 13 11 12 from anywhere in NSW and talk to teachers experienced in the 20 largest HSC courses.

“The Board of Studies website includes past exam papers, study tips and advice about what students might expect in their exams.

“More than 47,000 HSC students have already accessed the website.

“The HSC is a world class credential that can open many doors, but students should keep their HSC experience in perspective - remember there are many pathways to university, training or work.”

Media contact: Dan Doran 0407 412 269

Interesting 2010 HSC facts and figures

- There are a record 71 310 HSC enrolments this year.
- Students in at least six countries will sit this year's HSC exams.
- Three out of four Year 12 students (more than 53 600) have chosen to take Mathematics, making it by far the most popular elective subject.
- Business Studies is the third most popular subject (16 061), but has a new competitor for third place with Biology now at 16 060, up from 15 502 in 2009
- Every HSC science course grew this year. About 45 per cent of all HSC students study at least one science course.
- While still a small course, enrolments for Earth and Environmental Science (1471) have increased by 29 per cent since 2005, up from 1141. This increase might be associated with a growing ecological awareness among students.
- There are 9692 student artwork entries in the 2010 HSC Visual Arts course. Approximately 60% of the artworks are brought to Sydney to be marked, while the other 40% are marked in schools by markers travelling around NSW.
- Almost one third (31 per cent) of HSC candidates are enrolled in at least one technology course. Textiles and Design enrolments (2283) have risen by 35 per cent in the past 5 years, while student numbers for Engineering Studies (1841) have grown by 30 per cent in the same period.
- One in every three HSC students will leave school with a dual qualification – their HSC credential and a nationally recognised vocational education and training certificate.
- About 10 per cent of HSC candidates are enrolled in one or more Language courses.
- Some of the fastest growing language courses over the past five years are Vietnamese Continuers (75 per cent), French Beginners (43 per cent), Chinese Beginners (40 per cent), Spanish Beginners (35 per cent) and Japanese Beginners (22 per cent).
- Online resources include *Students Online*, <http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/> which offers quick links to HSC syllabuses, past exam papers and answers to frequently asked questions.
- *How Your HSC Works*, <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/yourhsc/> explains what goes on behind the scenes of the HSC.
- *HSC Online*, <http://hsc.csu.edu.au/> includes study strategies, advice on exam techniques and information on a number of HSC subjects.
- The HSC Advice Line can be accessed by calling 13 11 12: Monday – Thursday 4 pm – 10 pm, Saturday 10 am – 6 pm, and Sunday 10 am – 10 pm.