

Media Release



for immediate release: 11 November 2011

156 000 students...and counting!

By 5.00pm on Friday November 11, an estimated *156 000 students will have sat written and practical exams for the 2011 New South Wales Higher School Certificate and School Certificate.

HSC and SC practical and written exams were held in more than 820 venues – schools, colleges, universities, even hospital wards and embassies – across New South Wales and around the world in international schools in Asia and in locations as far afield as Pakistan, Qatar and The Netherlands.

Final HSC exams began at 9.00am on Tuesday August 2 with oral language exams in Vietnamese and will end at 2.15pm on Friday November 11 with the written Design and Technology exam.

More than 33 000 HSC students undertook practical exams between August 2 and September 17. These exams included oral language skills, performances in dance, drama, and music, and the submission of major projects for courses such as Industrial Technology, Visual Arts, Society and Culture, and English Extension.

More than 70 000 HSC students will have sat for 117 different written exam papers over 18 days between October 17 and November 11. Since its introduction in 1967, English has remained the only compulsory HSC course while Mathematics remains the most popular elective.

2011 sees the last School Certificate tests. The SC was first issued in 1965. This year more than 86 000 students will sit for five compulsory SC tests over three days between Monday November 7 and Friday November 11.

Throughout the exam period the Board employs up to 10 000 additional staff. They include more than 820 exam centre managers, more than 7000 markers and more than 1000 support staff.

Students read from more than 14 million exam pages printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified paper. They submit more than 6 million writing booklets and answer sheets. These days millions of these pages are scanned to facilitate onscreen marking in 15 centres throughout NSW.

To produce exam results for both the HSC and SC, the Board's computer system processes approximately 45 million marks.

"Running HSC and School Certificate exams is a phenomenal undertaking," chief executive of the Board of Studies NSW, Carol Taylor, said.

"We wish to congratulate and thank everyone who participates: students, teachers, and exam supervisors as well as people across the community – especially parents and other caregivers – who support their children and their schools, year in and year out," Ms Taylor said.

HSC assessment rankings are available from 4.00pm today. All HSC results will be released on Wednesday December 14.

SC results will be available to schools from Monday December 5.

* As of 1 September 2011, there were a total of 162 882 students enrolled in at least one HSC or SC course; 72 391 HSC students and 90 491 SC students. Not all HSC courses have exams and not all HSC or SC students are in years 12 or 10.

[HSC media guide](#) | [School Certificate media guide](#)