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2008 SCHOOL CERTIFICATE RESULTS

More than 88,000 students will today receive their results from the 2008 School Certificate.

The NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, said this year's performance in School Certificate builds on the strong performance in 2007.

"From the 10th to the 14th of November, Year 10 students sat tests in English-literacy, Mathematics, Science, Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Computing Skills," Ms Firth added.

"Students will be able to collect their results and certificates from their school today."

The results from the 2008 School Certificate:

- English-literacy – more than one in three students (39 per cent) achieved a mark in the top two performance bands (80 or higher), which was about five percentage points higher than in 2007.
- Mathematics – 50 per cent of the students achieved a mark in the top three performance bands (70 or more) – up about four percentage points on last year.
- Science – 32 percent of students are in the top two bands – an increase of almost five percentage points on 2007.

The results for the Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Computing Skills tests are stable compared with 2007.

"It is pleasing to see that Year 10 students have strong foundations in the key areas of literacy and numeracy," said Ms Firth.

"The strong literacy and numeracy results complement the inaugural National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy this year.

"NSW students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 were above the national average in every subject and at every year level tested."

Ms Firth said the School Certificate prepared students for the next phase of their lives.

"The NSW School Certificate is the gold standard with its comprehensive testing of the country's most detailed and rigorous syllabuses for every Year 10 student in the state," she added.

"Whether students are going on to Years 11 and 12, TAFE and other vocational training courses, or straight into the workforce, their School Certificate study has provided them with a solid grounding and equipped them with important skills in the fundamental areas."

The 2008 School Certificate class is made up of 44,919 male students and 43,098 female students. Students in the metropolitan regions make up more than 54% of the candidates (47,156).

The largest region of candidates, with 13,398 students, is the metropolitan south west which includes Bankstown, Liverpool, Campbelltown and Picton. The largest region outside Sydney is the Hunter with 10,999 Year 10 students.

Higher School Certificate results will be released by phone, internet and SMS on Wednesday 17 December at 6am.

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