

Proposed changes to Aboriginal Studies HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements

In December 2008, the Board of Studies approved changes to the examination specifications and assessment requirements for a number of courses. Details of the Board's decisions are available on the [Board's website](#). The Board decided that it would consult further on the proposed changes for Aboriginal Studies. The proposed HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements for Aboriginal Studies are summarised below.

You are encouraged to comment via the survey form provided at the end of this document. Please print the survey and fax your completed form to 9367 8486 no later than Monday 11 May.

Outline of proposed HSC examination specifications for consultation

A written examination of three hours plus 5 minutes reading time.

Section/Part	Marks
<p><i>Section I – Social Justice and Human Rights Issues</i></p> <p>Part A: A Global Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective response and short-answer questions to the value of 25 marks, including from 5 to 10 objective response questions Questions may be based on stimulus. <p>Part B: A Comparative Investigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six structured extended response questions, each from a different elective relating to the comparative investigation Students answer two questions, on the electives they have studied, each with an expected length of response of around four examination writing booklet pages (approximately 600 words). 	<p>25</p> <p>30</p>
<p><i>Section II</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One stimulus-based question with an expected length of response of around three examination writing booklet pages (approximately 400 words). One extended response question with an expected length of response of around six examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 words). 	<p>10</p> <p>20</p>
<p><i>Section III – Research and Inquiry Methods</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One question in parts with an expected length of response of around four examination writing booklet pages (approximately 600 words) in total. 	<p>15</p>
	100

Changes from current examination specifications

In Section I, objective response questions have been introduced to the value of between 5 and 10 marks. Section I has been reduced by 5 marks. Section II remains unchanged. Section III has been increased by 5 marks. Section III has been broadened in scope to include a wider range of syllabus knowledge and skills outcomes related to research and inquiry methods, rather than just questions about the Major Project.

The expected lengths of the responses in Section I Part B, Section II and Section III are included as a guide. They are presented as the approximate number of examination writing booklet pages (based on average-size handwriting), and an approximate number of words. Students will not be penalised for responses of excess length: they may write less than or more than what is expected, and their responses will be marked on their merits.

Outline of proposed internal assessment requirements for consultation

There will be three to five assessment tasks comprising the following components and weightings.

Component	Weighting
Knowledge and understanding of course content	40
Investigation, analysis, synthesis and evaluation of information from a variety of sources and perspectives	15
Research and inquiry methods, including aspects of the Major Project	30
Communication of information, ideas and issues in appropriate forms	15
	100

The Major Project will constitute 40% of internal assessment. Assessment tasks related to the project may include a number of assessment components.

**Invitation to respond to proposed changes
to HSC examination specifications and
assessment requirements
in Aboriginal Studies**

The Office of the Board of Studies welcomes your comments on the proposed changes. You are invited to:

- read and consider the proposed changes
- download the survey form and use it to respond to the proposed changes
- fax your completed survey form to 9367 8486.

Teachers in metropolitan schools are invited to attend a consultation meeting at the Office of the Board of Studies, 117 Clarence Street Sydney, on Thursday 7 May from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm. If you are planning to attend this meeting please contact Kate Cameron by Friday 1 May.

To ensure that teachers of Aboriginal Studies are informed about the proposed changes and have the opportunity to respond, the consultation period has been extended until Monday 11 May 2009.

If adopted by the Board, the proposed changes would apply no earlier than Year 12 of 2010. Support materials to assist schools in the implementation of these changes would be provided.

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