

Summary of Society and Culture HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements from 2010

In December 2008, the Board of Studies approved changes to the examination specifications and assessment requirements for a number of courses. These changes will be implemented for the 2010 HSC cohort. Details of the Board's decisions are available on the Board's website at <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

The HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements for Society and Culture are outlined below.

Outline of HSC examination specifications

Written examination (60 marks)

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

Section/Part	Marks
<i>Section I – Core</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Objective response questionsShort-answer questions (2-3 items)	8 12
<i>Section II</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Four questions in parts, one for each Depth StudyStudents answer one question with an expected length of response of around six examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 words) in total.	20
<i>Section III</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Four extended response questions, one for each Depth StudyStudents answer one question, on a different Depth Study from that chosen in Section II, with an expected length of response of around six examination writing booklet pages (approximately 800 words).	20
	60

Personal Interest Project (40 marks)

Changes from current examination specifications

The value of the Personal Interest Project has been increased from 30% to 40%. The value of the written examination has been decreased from 70% to 60%.

In Section I, objective response questions to the value of 8 marks have been introduced.

The Depth Study questions are offered in two forms, short-answer questions worth 20 marks in Section II and extended response questions worth 20 marks in Section III. Students answer one question from Section II and one from Section III, each from a different Depth Study.

The expected length for the responses in Section II and Section III is included as a guide. It is presented as the approximate number of examination writing booklet pages (based on average-sized handwriting), and/or 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 internal assessment requirements

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

Component	Weighting
Knowledge and understanding of course content	50
Application and evaluation of social and cultural research methodologies	30
Communication of information, ideas and issues in appropriate forms	20
	100