

Summary of HSC examination specifications for the Vocational Education and Training Frameworks 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 for Automotive, Business Services, Construction, Electrotechnology, Entertainment Industry, Information Technology, Metal and Engineering and Primary Industries are outlined below.

Outline of HSC examination specifications

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

Section/Part	Marks
<i>Section I</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Objective response questions	15
<i>Section II</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Short-answer questions	35
<i>Section III</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">One extended response question with an expected response of around four examination writing booklet pages (approximately 600 words).	15
<i>Section IV</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">One structured extended response question with an expected response of around four examination writing booklet pages (approximately 600 words) in total.	15
	80

Changes from current examination specifications

Currently in Section III, there are three extended response questions, and students answer two of them. The new examination specifications replace one of the extended response questions with a structured extended response question (Section IV) that could take a variety of formats appropriate to the course. The choice of questions is also removed.

In Sections III and IV, the expected length for the extended responses 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.