

Proposed changes to Agriculture HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements

These pages should be considered in the context of the Background Paper (available on the Board's website at http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/exam-proposals/).

The proposed HSC examination specifications and assessment requirements for Agriculture are outlined below. You are encouraged to comment via the feedback link at the end of this document. Comments should be sent no later than 28 October 2008.

Outline of proposed HSC examination specifications

A written examination of three hours including 10 minutes reading and planning time.

Section/Part	Marks
<i>Section I – Plant/Animal Production and Farm/Product Study</i>	
Part A	20
• Objective response questions	
Part B	50
• Short-answer questions	
<i>Section II – Electives</i>	
Part A	10
• Short-answer questions common to all electives	
Part B	
• Six questions	10
• Students answer the two questions on the electives they have studied, each with an expected length of response of around three examination writing booklet pages (approximately 400 words).	10
	100

Changes from current examination specifications

The time allowed for the examination includes 10 minutes for reading and planning.

The option of completing an externally marked project has been removed. All students will study two electives. Paper 1 and Paper 2 have been combined into one three-hour examination paper.

There are two sections: Section I contains questions related to core topics and Section II contains questions related to the electives.

Section I Part A contains objective response questions to the value of 20 marks, and Part B contains short-answer questions to the value of 50 marks.

Section II contains two parts: Part A contains compulsory short-answer questions common to all electives, based on research methodologies and/or innovation and ethics. Part B contains one question on each elective, worth 10 marks. The expected length for the 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.

Outline of proposed internal assessment requirements

There will be four assessment tasks comprising the following components and weightings.

Component	Weighting
Knowledge and understanding of factors that interact in agriculture production systems and the impact of innovation, ethics and current issues on Australian agriculture systems	40
Knowledge and understanding and skills required to manage agriculture production systems, and knowledge of, and skills in, decision-making and the evaluation of technology and management techniques used in sustainable agricultural production and marketing	40
Skills in effective research, experimentation and communication	20
	100

A feedback form is available on the Board's website at http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_hsc/exam-proposals/feedback-form.doc