

Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs)

1	Recognising letters, words and other symbols
2	Finding material in an indexed collection
3	Recalling/remembering
4	Interpreting the meaning of words or other symbols
5	Interpreting the meaning of pictures/illustrations
6	Interpreting the meaning of tables or diagrams or maps or graphs
7	Translating from one form to another
9	Using correct spelling, punctuation, grammar
10	Using vocabulary appropriate to a context
11	Summarising/condensing written text
12	Compiling lists/statistics
13	Recording/noting data
14	Compiling results in a tabular form
15	Graphing
16	Calculating with or without calculators
17	Estimating numerical magnitude
18	Approximating a numerical value
19	Substituting in formulae
20	Setting out/presenting/arranging/displaying
21	Structuring/organising extended written text
22	Structuring/organising a mathematical argument
26	Explaining to others
27	Expounding a viewpoint
28	Empathising
29	Comparing, contrasting
30	Classifying
31	Interrelating ideas/themes/issues
32	Reaching a conclusion which is necessarily true provided a given set of assumptions is true
33	Reaching a conclusion which is consistent with a given set of assumptions
34	Inserting an intermediate between members of a series
35	Extrapolating
36	Applying strategies to trial and test ideas and procedures
37	Applying a progression of steps to achieve the required answer
38	Generalising from information
41	Hypothesising
42	Criticising
43	Analysing
44	Synthesising
45	Judging/evaluating
46	Creating/composing/devising
48	Justifying
49	Perceiving patterns
50	Visualising
51	Identifying shapes in two and three dimensions
52	Searching and locating items/information
53	Observing systematically
55	Gesturing
57	Manipulating/operating/using equipment
60	Sketching/drawing

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About the QCS Test

For distribution to Year 11 students and their parents



The Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test is:

- a common statewide test for Queensland Year 12 students
- an achievement test — not an intelligence test nor an aptitude test
- grounded in the Queensland senior curriculum
- accessible to all Year 12 students, regardless of their subject selections.

What does it test?

It tests 49 Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs) of the Queensland senior curriculum.

These 49 elements are listed on the back of this brochure.

The level of sophistication demanded by the test is appropriate to Year 12 students. Particular knowledge of specific senior subjects is not tested. However, the test assumes an elementary level of general knowledge and a knowledge of vocabulary and mathematical operations that could reasonably be expected of a student with a sound general Year 10 education.

What is the purpose of the test?

The QSA uses QCS Test data to provide:

- group results which are used for comparing student achievement across different subjects and different schools as part of the OP and FP calculation processes
- individual results which are used to give a grade on an A to E scale for each student.

What is in the test?

The QCS Test consists of four testpapers:

- one Writing Task (WT)
- one Short Response (SR)
- two Multiple Choice (MC).

When is it held?

The QCS Test takes place over two consecutive days late in Term 3.

For next year's dates, check with your school or the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) website: <www.qsa.qld.edu.au/2319.html>.

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
MORNING	PAPER 1 Writing Task 2 hours	PAPER 3 Short Response 2 hours
AFTERNOON	PAPER 2 Multiple Choice I 1 hour 30 minutes	PAPER 4 Multiple Choice II 1 hour 30 minutes



In the test, you will be expected to respond to various stimulus material such as prose passages, poetry, graphs, tables, maps, mathematical and scientific data, cartoons and reproductions of works of art.

The WT testpaper will ask you to compose an extended piece (about 600 words) of continuous prose in response to the stimulus material provided.

Items on the SR testpaper will ask you to respond in various ways, such as writing a sentence or paragraph, drawing a diagram, performing a calculation or sketching.

For each item on the MC testpapers, four possible responses are presented as options. You will be asked to select the best option.

What preparation is useful?

The CCEs are generic skills that you work with across your subjects, therefore your preparation for the test goes on all the time and in every subject. However, you can also prepare more directly for the test by becoming familiar with the CCEs and how they might be assessed in the test. You could devise strategies that will help you to work with the CCEs.

Practise writing 600-word responses to past WT testpapers. Become aware of how much space 600 words of your writing takes up. Experiment with various forms and styles of writing to see which are your strongest.

Read widely. Develop skills to help you write clearly, simply and economically, whatever your purpose.

Refresh your knowledge of CCEs that are mathematical in nature by reviewing concepts such as percentage, ratio, angle, power of ten notation, and elementary algebraic procedures.

Find out the meanings of the key terms used in the SR testpaper. They will help you understand what type of response to provide. The key terms are listed in the *Student Information Bulletin* (SIB) which is provided to all Year 12 students and is available on our website: <www.qsa.qld.edu.au/2320.html>.

What if you need special provision?

If you have a recognised impairment that could make it difficult for you to sit the test, we may be able to assist. Talk to your teachers or the school guidance officer now if you think you will need some variation in the arrangements. If you would like more information about special provision, visit our website.

What equipment is necessary?

You will need your normal writing equipment (pens, pencils, ruler, eraser). Use a pen, except for recording your responses to the MC testpapers, where a 2B pencil must be used, or when you are told to do otherwise for particular SR items.

The SIB and front covers of past testpapers will tell you the essential and optional equipment for each testpaper.

You may use an approved hand-held, solar or battery-operated, noiseless calculator. An approved calculator is one that does not have a spell checker, dictionary, thesaurus, translator or CAS facility.

You must not take into the test room any unauthorised equipment, including a mobile phone or any other communication device. A supervisor may inspect your equipment at any time during the test.

How are responses to the test marked?

WT and SR responses are marked by trained markers. WT markers mark according to predetermined standards developed for a set of criteria. SR markers are given detailed instructions and a specific marking scheme for each item. Each WT response is marked by at least three different markers and each SR response by at least two different markers. Markers work independently. Referee marking occurs if markers disagree. There is a process for monitoring marker consistency.

The responses for the two MC testpapers are marked electronically. Each correct response scores one mark, and each incorrect response and each unattempted question scores zero.

More information

Other publications on the QCS Test are available from your school and from the QSA. Past testpapers are also available.

For information about prices and availability of publications or for further information about the QCS Test, OPs and FPs, visit the QSA website <www.qsa.qld.edu.au/587.html> or email: office@qsa.qld.edu.au or phone (07) 3864 0299.