



# The New QCE

for students completing Year 12 from  
2020

BLACKWATER STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
INFORMATION SESSION

# What we are covering tonight:

- ▶ The introduction of the new senior system in Queensland
- ▶ Why the system is being changed
- ▶ What this means for your student/s
- ▶ What Blackwater State High School is doing to prepare for these changes
- ▶ How we are supporting your student
- ▶ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3\\_e5FKWcrc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3_e5FKWcrc)



# Introducing the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system

The QCAA says:

Senior schooling in Queensland is changing to help give students the skills for success in work and life in the future. Across senior subjects, students will acquire 21st century skills to support them as lifelong learners, valued employees, innovators and engaged global citizens.

Under the new QCE system, students can still choose from lots of subjects and courses that suit their work and study goals. But assessment will change in Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) subjects.

There will also be a new way to rank students who wish to apply for university after school. The current rank is called the Overall Position (OP). From 2020, it will be the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

QCAA: Introduction to the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Cf4yTI5ams](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Cf4yTI5ams)

21<sup>st</sup> century skills – Lucas Patchett and Nicholas Marchesi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ka6U76CD0LQ>





# In summary, senior schooling is changing because:

- ▶ For success in work and life, young Queenslanders in the 21st century need to be innovators, entrepreneurs, lifelong learners, valued employees and responsible global citizens
- ▶ To keep pace with a transforming society and economy
- ▶ To strengthen our current system and enhance its fairness and reliability, the QCAA responded to the advice of education experts to develop a new world class curriculum and assessment system for all Queensland schools, starting with Year 11 students in 2019.

# Summary of Changes

- ▶ Syllabus redesign – new subjects  
new syllabuses

Syllabuses will now be referred to as:

- ▶ General Syllabuses: (more academic subjects)
- ▶ Applied Syllabuses : (more practical subjects)



# ACRONYMS



Some Terminology stays the same:

QCE – Queensland Certificate of Education

VET – Vocational Education Training

SETP – Senior Education and Training Plan

Some Terminology changes:

- ATAR – Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (no more OP)
- alternative sequence rather than Composite classes
- Semesters = Units

# Summary of Changes



HOW students are assessed changes:

- ▶ School-based and external assessment is combined to derive final subject results
- ▶ Four assessments (3 school-based + 1 external) per subject
- ▶ School-based assessment will generally contribute 75% to a student's final subject result; 50% in maths and science
- ▶ QCAA will endorse and confirm school-based assessments; and ratify subject results
- ▶ Students will receive a numerical and A – E final subject result



# Summary of Changes

## Tertiary Entrance

- ▶ OP – ATAR (ATARs are comparable across states)

To be eligible for an ATAR:

- ▶ 5 General OR
- ▶ 4 General + 1 Applied/Completed Cert III
- ▶ No mandated subjects “an English” (= C)
- ▶ Only 1 General or Applied (English OR Maths)



# What is the difference between the ATAR AND OP?

- ▶ The ATAR is a finer grained rank order of students than the OP
- ▶ It is a number between 0.00 and 99.5 with increments of 0.05, whereas the OP consists of 25 bands
- ▶ The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will be responsible for calculating students' ATARs.

ATARs will be based on either:

- ▶ A student's best five General (currently Authority) subject results OR  
A student's best results in a combination of four General subjects,  
plus an applied learning subject result

# Benefits for students:

- ▶ Fair results of subjects
- ▶ Reduced assessment items (40 → 24)
- ▶ Consistency across subjects
- ▶ New offerings
- ▶ Focus on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills (employability)



# Benefits for parents/caregivers:

- ▶ Confidence in comparability across schools
- ▶ Easy to understand results (A-E, #/100)
- ▶ Reduced load on students





# The QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education)

- ▶ Blackwater State High School remain committed to 100% QCE attainment
- ▶ As with the old system, students need to accrue 20 credit points
- ▶ The flexibility of the QCE means that students can choose from a wide range of learning options to suit their interests and career goals
- ▶ Students need to achieve the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements

# How we are supporting your student:



- ▶ We are committed to 'Success for every Student'
- ▶ Students will plan their QCE pathway in Year 10 in conjunction with parents and key staff to ensure appropriate pathway chosen
- ▶ To facilitate this, SETP interviews with parents and students will be held in Term 3 to choose the senior course of study
- ▶ A career expo is being held in Term 3

# Why subject selection is so important:

QCE

- ▶ CORE – Units 1 & 2 – one credit each (undertaken in Year 11)  
Units 3 & 4 – two credits for the PAIR (undertaken in Year 12)
- ▶ This means that students cannot change subjects in Year 12
- ▶ Given 25% of a student's overall grade in most general subjects and 50% in Maths and Science is gained in an unseen external exam it's imperative students choose are given every opportunity to succeed

# VET (Vocational education and training)



We also support students by offering:

- ▶ a range of Certificate courses which are nationally recognised

Contribution to QCE:

- ▶ A Certificate I contributes two points towards the QCE – (only one can be calculated in end result)
- ▶ A Certificate II contributes four points towards the QCE



# Implementations to date to ensure smooth introduction of new system:

- ▶ Extensive collaboration with Regional Office
- ▶ Collaboration with other schools in cluster
- ▶ Sharing of resources
- ▶ Teachers attending professional development across region in subject areas

# Implementations to date to support students:

Our Year 10 cohort will be the first to go through the new system

- ▶ Year 10 students have been surveyed to see what subjects they are interested in pursuing for their senior years of study
- ▶ To become 'test ready', Year 10 students are sitting exams in the exam block
- ▶ Year 10 students will be sitting an unseen external exam in Term 3

# Implementations to date support students:

- ▶ The cognitive verbs in current Year 10 syllabi have been identified and mapped out
- ▶ Explicit teaching of cognitive verbs (the SKILL needed to be successful, i.e, analyse; evaluate ...) is being embedded into each unit in English

NB: this is not to say these skills are not being taught; they are just being made explicit to students

# Implementations planned to support students:

- ▶ Introduction of study skills into timetable from beginning of next year
- ▶ Incorporating well-being
- ▶ Explicit teaching of cognitive verbs in all subjects
- ▶ Students responding to unseen questions in various subject areas
- ▶ Will be trialling external exams (exams unseen to teacher based on AC requirements)



# Wrap up:

These staff members are available to answer any questions you may have:

- ▶ Frank Brunetto (Principal)
- ▶ Rebecca Godfrey (Deputy Principal)
- ▶ Pam Henderson (Head of Senior Schooling)
- ▶ Kate Pryor (Senior English teacher)
- ▶ Ashleigh Trace (Maths teacher)

