

Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs)

The 49 CCEs are listed below with their respective number references.

For more information about CCEs visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/qcs-test.

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

About the QCS Test



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What is the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test?

The QCS Test is:

- a common statewide test for Queensland Year 12 students
- an achievement test — not an intelligence or aptitude test
- grounded in the Queensland senior curriculum
- accessible to all Year 12 students, regardless of their subject selections
- compulsory for OP-eligible students.

What is the purpose of the test?

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) 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 Overall Position (OP) and Field Position (FP) calculation processes
- individual results on an A to E scale.

What does it test?

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

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 a knowledge of mathematical operations and concepts that could reasonably be expected of a student with a sound Year 10 education. It also assumes a reasonable level of general knowledge and vocabulary.

What is the format of the QCS Test?

The QCS Test consists of:

- a Writing Task testpaper
- two Multiple Choice testpapers
- a Short Response testpaper.

Four testpapers, one test

Students are expected to respond to various stimulus materials such as prose passages, poetry, graphs, tables, maps, mathematical and scientific data, cartoons and reproductions of works of art.

For the Writing Task, students are asked to compose an extended piece (about 600 words) of continuous prose in response to an overall concept and related stimulus material.

Items on the Short Response testpaper ask students 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 Multiple Choice testpapers, four possible responses are presented as options. Students are asked to select the best option.

When is it held?

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

	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)

* A student who is absent from one or more subtests cannot be awarded a result for the QCS Test.

For dates, check with your school or visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/qcs-test.

What preparation is useful?

The CCEs are generic skills that students develop across their subjects, so they are preparing for the test all the time and in every subject. Students might also consider these preparation tips.

Students can:

- become familiar with the CCEs and how achievement in them might be assessed
- experiment with various forms or genres of writing to see which are their strongest
- develop skills in writing clearly, simply and economically
- become aware of how much space 600 words of their handwriting takes up
- review concepts such as percentage, ratio, angle, power of ten notation, and elementary algebraic procedures
- practise using an approved calculator
- find out the meanings of the key terms used in the testpapers, to help understand the most effective type of response to provide. Key terms are listed in the *Student Information Bulletin*, which is provided to all Year 12 students and is available on the QCAA website.

What if a student needs special provision?

If a student has a recognised condition that could make it difficult or impossible to sit the test, the QCAA may be able to assist. Students should talk to their teachers or guidance officer if they think they will need some variation in the arrangements.

For more information about special provision, visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/qcs-test.

What equipment is required?

Students require writing equipment such as pens, pencils, a ruler and an eraser. A pen is required for the Writing Task and Short Response testpapers, except as instructed otherwise, and a 2B pencil for Multiple Choice responses.

Students may use an approved hand-held, solar- or battery-powered calculator. An approved calculator is one that does not have the following functions, whether inbuilt or downloaded: computer algebra system (CAS), spellchecker, dictionary, thesaurus, translator.

Students must not take into the test room equipment that is not permitted, such as a mobile phone or smart watch. Supervisors may inspect a student's equipment at any time during the test. The *Student Information Bulletin* lists equipment that is permitted and not permitted.

More information

Visit the QCAA website at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/qcs-test for QCS Test information including available publications.

For inquiries email qcs.admin@qcaa.qld.edu.au or telephone (07) 3864 0299.

For information about tertiary entrance, OPs and FPs, visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/tertiary-entrance.

