



The NSW Higher School Certificate

Information for
Year 10
Students and Parents

The NSW HSC

- The Higher School Certificate (HSC) is the highest educational award you can gain in New South Wales schools.
- The HSC:
 - is an internationally recognised credential
 - provides a strong foundation for the future
 - is standards-based. Students receive HSC marks that indicate the standard they have achieved.

Board Developed Course (BDC) and Board Endorsed Course (BEC)

Board Developed Course

- HSC exam
- counts towards HSC
- may count towards the ATAR*
- includes some VET** courses
- includes Life Skills courses

* Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

** Vocational Education and Training

Board Endorsed Course

- no HSC exam – school-based assessment used
- counts towards HSC
- cannot contribute to the ATAR
- includes some VET courses

HSC Course Structure

- All courses in the HSC have a unit value
- Most courses are 2 units
- 2 units = 4 hours of instruction per week
120 hours per year
= 100 marks
- 1 unit = 60 hours per year
= 50 marks
- All 2-unit HSC courses have equal status

Requirements for the HSC

- Preliminary Course
 - minimum of 12 units
 - students must satisfactorily complete the Preliminary course before commencing the corresponding HSC course
- HSC Course
 - minimum of 10 units

Requirements for the HSC

Both the Preliminary and HSC Courses must include:

- At least 6 units of Board Developed Courses, including at least 2 units of English
- At least 3 courses of 2 units value or greater
- At least 4 subjects (including English)
- At most, 6 units of courses in Science can count towards HSC eligibility

English Choices

- English Advanced
 - Preliminary Extension English
 - HSC Extension 1
 - HSC Extension 2
- English Standard
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Fundamentals of English
- English Studies – Content Endorsed Course (Pilot)

Mathematics Choices

- Mathematics
 - Preliminary Mathematics Extension 1
 - HSC Mathematics Extension 1
 - HSC Mathematics Extension 2
- Mathematics General
- Preliminary Mathematics General – Content Endorsed Course
- HSC Mathematics General 1
- HSC Mathematics General 2

Languages

- Different courses:
 - Beginners
 - Continuers
 - Heritage (Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean)
 - Background Speakers (Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean)
- Eligibility criteria apply to all Beginners courses, all Heritage courses and Continuers courses in Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean

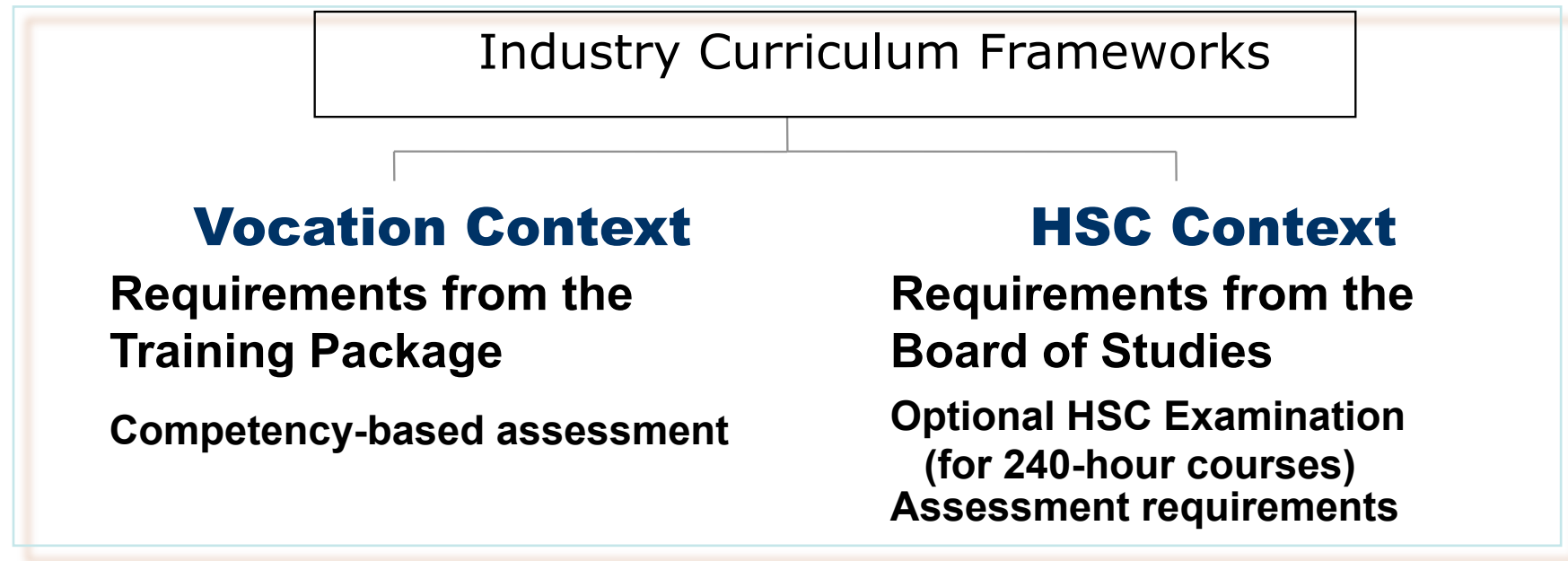
Extension Courses

- Preliminary Extension Courses:
 - English
 - Mathematics
- HSC Extension Courses:
 - English 1 and 2
 - Mathematics 1 and 2
 - History
 - Music
 - Some Languages
 - Some Vocational Education & Training (VET) courses

Life Skills Courses

- Designed for a small percentage of students with special education needs
- Student's curriculum options determined through collaborative curriculum planning process
- Have Board Developed status
- Can count towards HSC
- Cannot contribute to ATAR

VET in the HSC



- VET courses let you complete a workplace credential while still at school
- Qualifications are recognised Australia-wide (AQF – Australian Qualifications Framework)

VET Industry Curriculum Frameworks

Board Developed Courses

- Automotive
- Business Services
- Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Entertainment Industry
- Financial Services
- Hospitality
- Human Services
- Information and Digital Technology
- Metal and Engineering
- Primary Industries
- Retail Services
- Tourism and Events

Students must complete 35 hours of mandatory work placement per 120 hours of coursework.

HSC: All My Own Work

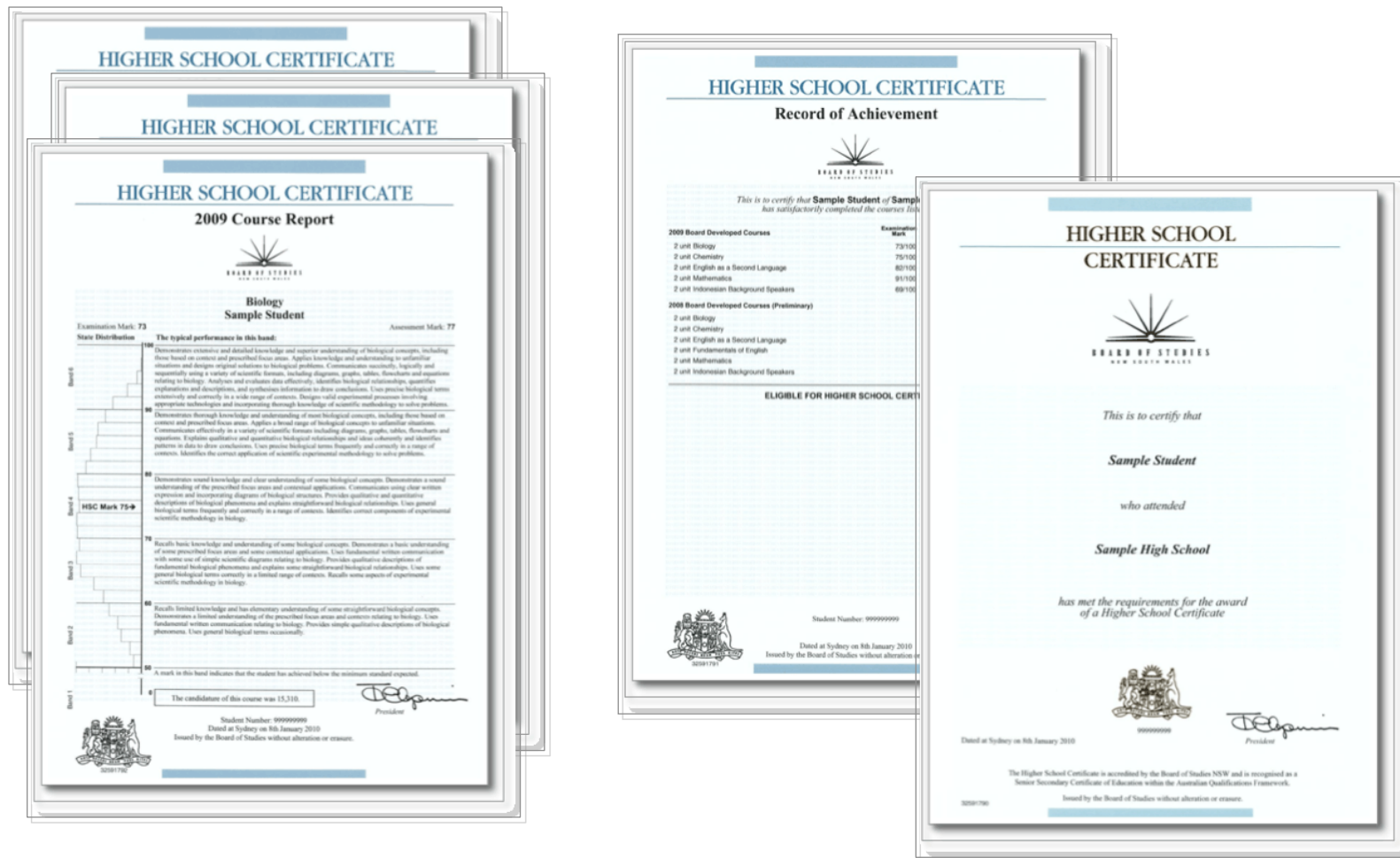
- is a program designed to help HSC students follow the principles and practices of good scholarship
- includes understanding and valuing of ethical practices when locating and using information as part of HSC studies

Students must complete *HSC: All My Own Work* or its equivalent before they can be entered for any Preliminary or HSC course.

Satisfactory Completion of a Course

- Students must:
 - follow the course developed or endorsed by the Board
 - apply themselves with diligence and sustained effort
 - achieve some or all of the course outcomes
 - complete work placement for VET Board Developed Courses
 - make a genuine attempt at assessment tasks that total more than 50% of the available school assessment marks for HSC courses only.

Reporting – HSC





The Record of Achievement

All HSC courses listed with Assessment Mark, Examination Mark, HSC Mark and Performance Band

All Preliminary courses listed

All years listed, with the most recent year first

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE				
Record of Achievement				
				
This is to certify that Sample Student of Sample High School has satisfactorily completed courses listed below:				
Course	Examination Mark	Assessment Mark	HSC Mark	Performance Band
2010 Board Developed Courses				
2 unit Community and Family Studies	68/100	67/100	68	3
2 unit English (Standard)	58/100	62/100	60	3
2 unit General Mathematics	63/100	67/100	65	3
2 unit Visual Arts	63/100	69/100	66	3
2 unit Information Technology	Refer to Vocational Documentation			
Information Technology Examination	76/100	N/A	76	4
2009 Board Developed Courses (Preliminary)				
2 unit Chemistry	Result			E
2 unit Community and Family Studies	Result			B
2 unit English (Standard)	Result			D
2 unit General Mathematics	Result			C
2 unit Visual Arts	Result			C
2 unit Information Technology	Refer to Vocational Documentation			
ELIGIBLE FOR HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE				
Student Number: 123456789				
Dated at Sydney on 11 January 2015 Issued by the Board of Studies without alteration or erasure.				
 President				

How is the HSC Mark Determined?

Internal assessment	50%
External HSC exam	50%
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HSC mark	100%
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School-Based Assessment

- Why is it important?
 - Contributes 50% of HSC mark (and ATAR if student is eligible)
 - Is a course completion requirement
 - Is used to calculate an HSC mark in the case of a successful Illness/Misadventure appeal

HSC Examinations

- Contribute 50% of HSC mark
- VET exams are optional
- Some courses have practical examinations and/or submitted works or projects in addition to the written HSC examination
- Written examinations are held in October and November each year

VET Credentials






This is to certify that

Sample Student

Student Number: 000000000

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

2009 Course Report



Business Services Examination
Sample Student

Examination Mark: 82 State Distribution: Assessment Mark: Not Applicable

The typical examination performance for this result:

Consistently, accurately and appropriately demonstrate thorough understanding. Applies in-depth knowledge and skills with understanding of relevant legislative requirements to manage a range of procedures and policies and their implications. Demonstrates skills in the use of appropriate technologies. Data synthesis and evaluation of relevant information. Communicates appropriately using in-depth knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation. Demonstrates comprehensive management of a range of complex tasks. Exhibits their understanding of the business environment. Demonstrates comprehensive understanding of a variety of sources.

Communications using appropriate technology application of the performance required to specific tasks. Demonstrates skills in problem solving. Exhibits general understanding of the business environment. Demonstrates skills in the use of appropriate technologies.


Communications using basic industry performance required in a limited range of work relevant to specific competencies. Exhibits skills in problem solving to manage a range of procedures and policies. Demonstrates skills in the use of appropriate technologies.

Communications using non-industry performance required in a limited range of work relevant to specific competencies. Exhibits skills in problem solving to manage a range of procedures and policies. Demonstrates skills in the use of appropriate technologies.

A mark in this band indicates that the candidate of this course has satisfactorily completed the course.

Student Number: 999999999
Dated at Sydney on 8th January 2010
Issued by the Board of Studies

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE




This is to certify that

Sample Student

who attended

Sample High School

has met the requirements for the award of a Higher School Certificate



999999999

Dated at Sydney on 8th January 2010

The Higher School Certificate is accredited by the Board of Studies NSW and is recognised as a Senior Secondary Certificate of Education within the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Issued by the Board of Studies without alteration or erasure.

32591804

Transcript of Competencies Achieved

Sample Student
Student Number: 999999999

has been assessed as having achieved the following units of competency in accordance with the requirements of: Business Services (BSB01)

Year	Code	Name
2008	BSSBADM200A	Create and use databases
2008	BSSBADM201A	Work effectively in a business environment
2008	BSSBADM202A	Organise and complete daily work activities
2008	BSSBADM203A	Communicate in the workplace
2008	BSSBADM204A	Work effectively with others
2009	BSSBADM205A	Use business technology
2009	BSSBADM206A	Process and maintain workplace information
2009	BSSBADM207A	Prepare and process financial/business documents
2009	BSSBADM208A	Provide information to clients
2008	BSSBADM212A	Handle mail
2009	BSSBADM213A	Produce simple word-processed documents
2009	BSSBADM214A	Create and use simple spreadsheets
2009	BSSBADM207A	Maintain business resources
2008	BSSBADM211A	Participate in workplace safety procedures


Full completion of Certificate II in Business (BSB20101).

Registered Training Organisation - Department of Education and Training - New England Region 90073

Michael Coultas-Trotter
Director-General
Department of Education and Training

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Date of issue 8th January 2010
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Certificate Number 32591812



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HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Record of Achievement



This is to certify that **Sample Student of Sample High School** has satisfactorily completed the courses in:

2009 Board Developed Courses	Examination Mark
2 unit Biology	68/100
2 unit English (Standard)	66/100
2 unit General Mathematics	76/100
2 unit Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	77/100
2 unit Business Services Examination	82/100

Business Services Examination

Board Endorsed Courses

2 unit Sport and Recreation / Community Recreation	Refer to T4
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2008 Board Developed Courses (Preliminary)

2 unit Biology	
2 unit English (Standard)	
2 unit General Mathematics	
2 unit Personal Development, Health and Physical Education	
2 unit Business Services	


Board Endorsed Courses (Preliminary)

2 unit Sport and Recreation / Community Recreation	
2 unit Outdoor Recreation	

ELIGIBLE FOR HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Student Number: 999999999


Dated at Sydney on 8th January 2010
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VET Assessment

- Assessment is competency based
- Assessment of relevant tasks counts towards AQF VET qualification component



What is the
difference between
the HSC and the ATAR?

The HSC and the ATAR

HSC

- is for all students
- reports student achievement in terms of a standard achieved in individual courses
- presents a profile of student achievement across a broad range of subjects

ATAR

- is for students wishing to gain a place at a university
- is a rank NOT a mark
- provides information about how students perform overall in relation to other students
- provides the discrimination required by universities for the selection process

ATAR Eligibility Requirements

- Satisfactory completion of:
 - at least 10 units of Board Developed Courses including 2 units of English
 - at least 4 Board Developed Courses
 - at least 8 units of Category A courses
 - no more than 2 units of Category B courses

Calculating the ATAR

Board of Studies NSW

**Raw
Exam**

+

**Moderated
Assessment Marks**

Universities Admissions Centre

The scaled mark
for each course is
based on the quality
of the candidates in that
course in that year

Scaled

**2 units of English +
next best 8 units**

ATAR

Key Considerations for Course Selection

- Abilities
- Interests/Motivation
- Career aspirations and needs

Practical Considerations

- Syllabus requirements
- Practical/Major work components
- Subject combinations

Consider:

- What do I want for my future?
- What 'pathway' best suits me?
- Ask for advice from:
 - teachers
 - parents
 - year adviser
 - careers adviser
 - students in Years 11 and 12
 - publications + website

Note: Universities, TAFE, employer groups, School, Board of Studies, UAC