

Study of Preliminary and HSC courses

ACE 8063

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Satisfactory completion of the Preliminary course or its equivalent is a prerequisite for entry into an HSC course. (Exception: HSC Mathematics Extension 1)

For HSC examining purposes, **the Preliminary course** is regarded as assumed knowledge that has been covered by all candidates. Examination specifications ensure that the major focus of the examination will be on HSC course content.

The HSC course is defined in terms of course content (ie knowledge, skills and understanding outcomes) achievable following completion of the Preliminary course or its equivalent.

Commencement of study of prescribed texts

The study of prescribed texts (in any medium) for the Higher School Certificate must not commence until the relevant Preliminary course has been completed. 'Study' of texts or other set works does not apply to attending performances during the Preliminary course study of plays prescribed as HSC texts, nor to taking part in the production of them.

Commencement of HSC projects

Some HSC courses have a project as part of the HSC examination. Work on the following HSC projects must not commence until the relevant Preliminary course has been completed:

- Dance Core Performance, Composition, Appreciation or Major Studies – Performance, Composition, Appreciation, Dance and Technology;
- Design and Technology Major Design Project
- Drama Group Performance or Individual Projects
- English Extension 2 Major Work
- Industrial Technology Major Project
- Music Performances, Core and Elective Compositions, Elective Musicology essays or viva voces
- Society and Culture Personal Interest Project
- Textiles and Design Major Textiles Project
- Visual Arts Body of Work.

School-based assessment of courses for the HSC

For school-based assessment requirements, refer to the course *Assessment and Reporting* document located on the syllabus webpage.

Study of Preliminary and HSC courses: units of study and indicative time

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A **unit of study** comprises 60 hours indicative time in each of the Preliminary and HSC courses.

Indicative time is the time expected for a typical student to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the course. The indicative time for a course is therefore directly related to that course's objectives and outcomes.

Preliminary and HSC Extension courses

A Preliminary 2-unit course and Preliminary Extension course (in English and Mathematics) may be studied concurrently. For all HSC Extension courses except HSC Mathematics Extension 2, an HSC Extension course may only be studied concurrently with, or after completing, the HSC 2-unit course in the subject.

Studies of Religion I

Studies of Religion I consists of a 1-unit Preliminary course and a 1-unit HSC course (120 hours) and students must satisfactorily complete the Preliminary course before commencing the HSC course. Students may be credentialled for satisfactory completion of Studies of Religion I Preliminary course (60 hours).

Study of Board Developed and Board Endorsed VET courses: units of study and indicative time

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VET courses are described in terms of their HSC indicative hours rather than their HSC unit value. One HSC unit of study comprises 60 indicative hours.

HSC VET courses are stand alone courses and are not specified as Preliminary or HSC courses. An HSC VET course may be delivered in one year or over more than one year.

Flexibility of delivery

To facilitate flexibility of VET in the HSC, courses may be delivered as Preliminary units, as HSC units or as a combination of Preliminary and HSC units.

The HSC unit credit counts towards the student's overall HSC pattern of study. The unit credit is initially accredited to the Preliminary or HSC pattern of study according to the year in which the student is undertaking the course, but it is automatically reallocated if required for the student to be eligible for their Higher School Certificate. *For example*, a 240-hour VET course is worth four units of credit towards the HSC. The HSC unit credit may be counted as:

- one Preliminary plus three HSC units; or
- two Preliminary plus two HSC units; or
- three Preliminary plus one HSC unit; or
- four Preliminary units; or
- four HSC units

regardless of whether the course has been completed in one or two calendar years.

A **Specialisation Study or Extension course** in a VET Industry Curriculum Framework may be undertaken by a student who is enrolled in, or has completed, the corresponding 240-hour course. The student must complete the 240-hour course before the Specialisation Study or Extension course will be reported on the Record of School Achievement or the Record of Achievement and count towards the requisite number of units for the Preliminary and/or HSC patterns of study.

Students must complete a minimum of two units (120 hours) of any VET course before the course can be accredited to their Preliminary or HSC program of study (except in the case of 60-hour Specialisation Study and Extension courses).

Study of Preliminary and HSC Board Endorsed Courses: units of study and indicative time

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With the exception of VET courses and the English Studies CEC, Board Endorsed Courses, including CECs, can be either 1-unit or 2-unit courses and can be either Preliminary or HSC courses, or both.

All courses are of 60 indicative hours per unit per year.

Unless otherwise specified in a School Developed Board Endorsed Course Decision Notification, one-year courses may be studied as either Preliminary or HSC courses.

Board Endorsed Courses, including CECs, do not have an external Higher School Certificate examination.

University Developed Board Endorsed Courses are either 1-unit or 2-unit courses, as specified in the course application and endorsement notification. They are not externally examined, and are reported on the Record of School Achievement and the Record of Achievement with the notation Refer to University Documentation.