

External assessment equipment list

BSHS External assessment 2026

Supervisors will check equipment before students enter the assessment room.

Approved equipment for all assessments

Students are permitted to take the following items to assessments:

- black or blue pens
- 2B pencils, sharpener and eraser
Note: 2B pencils are only required for multiple choice questions and drawing graphs or diagrams. Black or blue non-erasable pens must be used for all other written responses
- highlighters — students should not highlight their responses but may highlight stimulus or questions when permitted by the supervisor
- a clear plastic ruler
- water in a clear unlabelled bottle
- asthma inhaler.

Students may use a clear plastic container or ziplock bag to carry equipment if needed.

QCAA-approved calculators

Only calculators approved for use in assessments are permitted. Calculators must be handheld and solar- or battery-powered. Scientific and graphics calculators must:

- meet the requirements set out in the [Scientific calculator list](#) and [Graphics calculator list](#)
- be cleared of memory before entering the assessment room.

For subjects that permit the use of a non-programmable calculator during assessment (Accounting, Economics, Geography, Legal Studies), calculators should be able to perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots and powers. They must not allow access to a computer algebra system (CAS), spellchecker, dictionary, thesaurus or translator.

For Aerospace Systems assessments, a QCAA-approved flight calculator is required.

Student devices

A student device is a battery-powered laptop or tablet. For assessments that require the use of a student device, students will bring their own device or one will be provided by their school. Schools should advise students of the arrangements that apply to devices for their assessments.

Students should have:

- individual access to a device on which they can listen to and/or view digital stimulus as many times as they need to throughout the assessment session
- the latest version of a media player that plays MP3 and MP4 files installed on the device
- wired earphones/headphones consistent with the guidelines for academic integrity (Bluetooth-enabled earphones/headphones are not permitted).

Students, supervisors and relevant teachers should be confident using the device and media player.

Subject-specific equipment

Subject	Additional approved subject-specific equipment
Ancient History AS	• nil
Biology	• QCAA-approved calculator permitted; must meet the requirements set out in the Scientific calculator list or the Graphics calculator list
Business	• nil
Chemistry	• QCAA-approved calculator permitted; must meet the requirements set out in the Scientific calculator list or the Graphics calculator list
Dance	• suitable wired earphones/headphones (cannot be Bluetooth) • student device
Engineering	• QCAA-approved scientific calculator • protractor • ruler
English	• nil
Film, Television & New Media	• suitable wired earphones/headphones (cannot be Bluetooth) • student device
General Mathematics	• QCAA-approved scientific calculator
Health	• nil
Japanese	• suitable wired earphones/headphones (cannot be Bluetooth) • student device
Legal Studies	• non-programmable calculator
Literature	• nil
Mathematical Methods — Paper 2 (Technology-active) Note: Paper 1 is Technology-free; no calculator or technology of any type is permitted.	• QCAA-approved graphics calculator • QCAA-approved scientific calculator (permitted)
Modern History AS	• nil

Music	• suitable wired earphones/headphones (cannot be Bluetooth) • student device
Music Extension	• suitable wired earphones/headphones (cannot be Bluetooth) • student device
Physical Education	• nil
Physics	• QCAA-approved calculator permitted; must meet the requirements set out in the Scientific calculator list or the Graphics calculator list
Psychology	• QCAA-approved calculator permitted; must meet the requirements set out in the Scientific calculator list or the Graphics calculator list
Specialist Mathematics — Paper 2 Note: Paper 1 is Technology-free; no calculator or technology of any type is permitted.	• QCAA-approved graphics calculator • QCAA-approved scientific calculator (permitted)
Visual Art	• nil

Prohibited materials

The items below are prohibited in any assessment room, except if specifically approved as access arrangements and reasonable adjustments (AARA), or listed as approved subject-specific equipment for an assessment, e.g. for a subject that requires students to use a device or permits the use of a dictionary.

- mobile phones
- smart watches and fitness trackers
- any other electronic device that stores, retrieves, displays or communicates digital information
- correction fluid or correction tape
- dictionaries
- erasable pens
- blank paper, notes, any printed/written material
- tissues brought by students. (**Note:** The assessment room must have tissues available for student use.)



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