



Senior Schooling: Information for Parents

General vs Applied Subjects

Bundaberg State High School offers a range of subjects to accommodate student interests and pathways. These syllabuses can be identified as **Applied**, **Applied (Essential)** or **General**. This is in addition to the range of Certificate courses and Short courses on offer.

What is the difference between Applied, Applied (Essential) and General subjects?

Applied and Applied (Essential) subjects

These subjects are suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond school that lead primarily to vocational education and training or directly to work.

Essential English and Essential Mathematics follow a 4-unit course involving both school-based internal assessment and a Common Internal assessment (CIA) task developed by QCAA. Other Applied subjects deliver 4 units of study with some flexibility regarding unit options that are offered as part of our school's program. All assessment for Applied subjects is school-based internal assessment and may include such things as projects, product development, examinations, written assignments or presentations.

In Applied and Applied (Essential) subjects, students are awarded an A-E result for each assessment task and will receive an overall A-E grade for Units 3 and 4.

General Subjects

General subjects are suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond school that lead primarily to tertiary studies or to other further studies. General subjects are organised into 4 units across Years 11 and 12.

Students enrolled in these subjects will complete a series of internally-developed assessment tasks with Unit 3 and 4 tasks endorsed by QCAA. This may include a range of assessment types such as examinations, written assignments and presentations. In addition, all General subjects involve **External Examinations**, developed by QCAA and administered in an exam block scheduled by QCAA for completion in Term 4 of Year 12. Maths and Science subjects each involve two exams while all others require only one to be completed.

In General subjects, students are awarded numerical results for each assessment task with the total of Units 3 and 4 allowing for a maximum of 100 marks. Each syllabus allocates these marks across tasks in different ways. Most External Exams constitute 25% of the available marks while General subjects in Maths and Science syllabuses involve exams totalling 50% of a student's grade.

Can students enrol in a combination of these subjects?

Students can choose to enrol in a combination of Applied and General subjects at Bundaberg State High School. However, consideration must be given to student pathways, individual circumstances and capabilities and ATAR-eligibility requirements (see: What is an ATAR?).