



DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING 8 APRIL 2008

1. Report from the Office of the Board of Studies on 2007 Higher School Certificate

The Board noted the report on the 2007 HSC program and the procedures and enhancements for the 2008 HSC program detailed in the report.

2. Report on 2007 HSC Consultative Committee operation

The Board agreed that:

- (i) the Office develop a process where scripts at various cut-offs are collected from year to year and used in the training of judges along with the standards packages.
- (ii) the Office continue efforts to ensure all examinations are set and marked so as to provide appropriate discrimination across the whole candidature.
- (iii) the Office further investigate the procedures related to the judging of practical aspects of examinations.
- (iv) the Accounting Course, which is currently under review, go to the Board as a priority and that some form of moderation of assessment marks be incorporated.

3. Report on Preliminary and HSC Entries for 2008 (as at Term 1)

The Board noted the report.

4. HSC Student Survey

The Board noted the report.

5. HSC Assessment and Examination Action Plan

The Board approved:

- (i) the development of revised HSC examination specifications based on the refinements listed in Appendix 1, and consultation with relevant parties on these changes with a view to these changes being implemented for the 2009 and 2010 HSC examinations.
- (ii) the development of advice to teachers and students on the importance of:
 - a. carefully planning and structuring responses to free-response questions;
 - b. providing a response within the space provided or within the required word limit;

- c. addressing the question asked and not including irrelevant or extraneous material in their response
- (iii) amendments to marking guidelines (where necessary) to ensure students are rewarded for the quality of the structure, organisation of the argument, supporting material and ideas, and the relevance of the points made to the question asked.
- (iv) the development of revised HSC assessment requirements so that:
 - a. for each 2 unit course there will be no more than 4 assessment tasks, including an HSC trial or other examination;
 - b. for each 1 unit course there will be no more than 3 assessment tasks, including an HSC trial or other examination;
 - c. across all HSC courses from 2010:
 - i. assessment components are based on objectives or groupings of outcomes;
 - ii. there must be at least two components, but generally not more than four;
 - iii. weightings for aspects other than the components will not be specified;
 - iv. the mandatory inclusion of a particular type or types of task will only be specified if it is an essential aspect of the course.
- (v) the development of at least one example of an assessment program and associated tasks that would meet the new requirements to be published on the Assessment Resource Centre.

6. Systematic evaluation of syllabuses – English Key Learning Area

The Board noted the report.

7. Advice from the Technical Advisory Group in relation to English Extension 2 course

The Board noted the report and recommended that a paper outlining the issues be prepared by the Office and presented to the Board.

8. Strengthening Australian Literature in NSW English Curriculum

The Board agreed to recommend to the Minister that it consult with teachers and key education groups on the following proposals:

- (i) That the *English K-6 Syllabus* be amended to include a substantial experience of Australian literature in each stage of learning.
- (ii) That the *English Years 7-10 Syllabus* be amended in accordance with the changes shown in Appendices D and E to further ensure the study of Australian literature in Stages 4 and 5.
- (iii) That a substantial Australian literature module be included in the Preliminary English Extension course.

- (iv) That, should proposal (i) be formally endorsed, the Office would publish on the Board's website a list of reputable, authoritative websites providing the titles of quality Australian literature.

9. Extension of Stage 6 Dance and Drama Course Prescriptions

The Board approved the extension of Stage 6 Dance and Stage 6 Drama Course Prescriptions for the 2009 HSC.

10. Islamic Scholars in Stage 6 Studies of Religion

The Board of Studies noted the report and requested that the Office of the Board of Studies:

- (i) continue to monitor the implementation of the syllabus and student responses to questions in the examination, particularly in relation to the influence of the scholars.
- (ii) further develop support materials for the Stage 6 Studies of Religion syllabus to provide advice about teaching the area of 'Significant People and Ideas' for each religious tradition, and for Islam, clarify approaches to teaching and learning about Sayyid Qutb and Sayyid Maududi.

11. Stage 6 Modern Languages Continuer Syllabus Amendments

The Board approved the syllabus amendments for Stage 6 Modern Languages Continuers courses for implementation in Preliminary courses in 2008 and HSC courses and examinations in 2009.

12. Stage 6 Modern Languages Extension Syllabus Amendments

The Board approved the syllabus amendments for Stage 6 Modern Languages Extension courses for implementation in HSC courses and examinations in 2009.

13. Amendments to Stage 6 Background Speakers syllabuses in Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean

The Board approved the syllabus amendments for Stage 6 Background Speakers courses in Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean for implementation in HSC courses and examinations in 2009.

14. Stage 6 Course Prescriptions Asian Languages Background Speakers 2009-2013

The Board noted the report and endorsed the changes to the course prescriptions for Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese and Korean Background Speakers.

15. Malay Background Speakers Course – Prescribed Themes

The Board endorsed the rotation of the prescribed themes in Stage 6 Malay Background Speakers Syllabus.

16. VET Board Endorsed Courses

The Board approved the proposals for the development of VET Content Endorsed Courses (CECs).

17. Review of Stage 6 Life Skills

- (i) The Board noted the work to be undertaken by the Office with relation to a revised syllabus structure and the associated credentialling issues for the Stage 6 Creative Arts, TAS and Citizenship and Society Life Skills syllabuses.
- (ii) The Board recommended that the Office investigate options for maintaining languages for students undertaking Life Skills courses.

18. Report on the Non-government Schools Registration Program 2007

The Board noted the report.

19. Agenda Items 3.11-3.12

The Board agreed to defer decision on the above items to its next meeting.