



## Preparing students for success in senior secondary

### Year 10 in the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) system

The [State Schools Improvement Strategy 2020–2024](#) underpins planning for teaching, learning and assessment, ensuring that students are purposefully engaged in learning and experience success.

During junior secondary, students engage in learning that extends them, moving them from concrete to abstract thinking and developing more sophisticated higher order thinking skills. This is developmental and continues into senior secondary.

Year 10 provides students with the foundation to make the best possible choices about their transition to senior studies. During Year 10 schools help students to recognise and build on their strengths and interests, and to identify areas where more support may be needed. Importantly, Year 10 is a time for making informed decisions about future pathways.

### Commencement of delivery of senior studies

Senior syllabuses are developmental and are generally completed over two years with Units 1 and 2 (Year 11) studied prior to Units 3 and 4 (Year 12).

For most students, the study of Unit 1 of senior studies commence on Day 1, Term 1 of Year 11.

### Continuity and coherence of learning

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) senior syllabuses build on the expectations of the Prep to Year 10 [Australian Curriculum](#). The syllabuses are grouped in the eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum to highlight this continuity.

The best preparation for success in the new QCE system is to teach, assess and report on the Prep to Year 10 Australian Curriculum prior to the commencement of senior studies. Success in senior secondary is dependent on the academic, social and personal learning undertaken in junior secondary.

The [P–12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework](#) specifies the requirements for each Queensland state school in delivering the curriculum. The supporting document, [Providing the Australian Curriculum in Prep to Year 10 in Queensland state schools from 2017](#) explains how to deliver the Australian Curriculum in Years 7 to 10.

Teaching the Years 7 to 10 Australian Curriculum in each learning area supports continuity and coherence of learning and a seamless transition between Year 10 and senior studies by providing:

- appropriate time for students to develop the depth of knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for success in senior studies
- a clear line-of-sight for the development of students' cognitive skills across year levels
- the best possible foundation in the general capabilities which reflect the senior syllabus skills, behaviours and dispositions that prepare students to live and work successfully in the 21st century
- equitable access to the curriculum for all students at all state schools
- common parameters for delivery of the curriculum across schools.



## Transitioning to senior studies

As Year 10 is the culmination of students' learning in the P–10 Australian Curriculum it supports them to transition to senior studies. Schools should employ strategies to support students to transition and these may include:

- providing electives in Years 9 and 10 based on the Australian Curriculum to ensure a firm foundation for students' studies in senior syllabuses
- structuring the Year 10 Australian Curriculum content in a way that highlights the links and continuities into senior studies
- packaging Year 10 content as an introduction to a specific senior secondary subject<sup>1</sup>
- providing opportunities to experience assessment techniques from the corresponding senior syllabus, where applicable, and adjusting assessment conditions to be appropriate to the stage of learning

- differentiating teaching and learning to accommodate the needs of groups and individuals
- reporting student achievement against the relevant Australian Curriculum achievement standards.

## Supporting informed student decisions about future pathways

Schools ensure every Year 10 student completes a [Senior Education and Training \(SET\) plan](#) to assist them to structure their learning in Years 11 and 12. A SET plan is based on students' abilities, interests and ambitions so they can work towards achieving their learning goals in Years 11 and 12, and beyond.

The SET plan is a key component of a school's career education program, and maps out a plan of action to put students on track for success in senior secondary, post-school education and work. The plan is developed in partnership with parents/carers and revised during Years 11 and 12.

<sup>1</sup> For example, a school could package the Physical Sciences strand of the Australian Curriculum: Science as an 'Introduction to Physics' unit within their Year 10 Science course.

