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# P-10 Supplement

Information about Prep to Year 10 education in Victorian schools

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## CEO's report

Welcome to the second edition of the P-10 Supplement for 2005. This supplement contains important information about many aspects of the new directions for P-10 education in Victoria.

### The Victorian Essential Learning Standards

The Minister for Education and Training, Lynne Kosky MP launched the *Victorian Essential Learning Standards* on March 3 2005. This is exciting news for us at the VCAA and for all in the education community. While the school year for 2005 was getting underway, the VCAA has been busy with the second stage in the process of delivering a new curriculum for Victoria – the finalisation and publication of new Prep to Year 10 curriculum standards.

It has been less than 18 months since the Minister

asked the VCAA to develop a framework of essential learning and standards at key points of schooling. What has been achieved in that time is a curriculum that allows schools the flexibility to develop innovative teaching and learning programs at the same time as it provides rigorous state-wide standards to monitor student performance and progress.

Over the past year, we have worked closely with schools in developing and refining the new standards, and allowing for understandable concerns and anxieties about the changes, schools have been overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic in their responses to the Standards.

If you have not yet had the chance to explore the new curriculum, I urge you to access the website where you will find full details of the new curriculum and answers to many of the questions you may want to ask.

The following pages of the supplement provide information about sample units and the website.

### Developments in AIM

Now in its fifth year, the AIM project is steadily growing in support from teachers and parents throughout Victoria. Important information about the AIM in this supplement includes key dates for 2005, more news on the innovative On Demand testing project, AIM professional development opportunities and an overview of the new requirements for student details.



Michael White, CEO



# Launch of Victorian Essential Learning Standards

On 3 March the Minister for Education and Training, Lynne Kosky, officially launched the new *Victorian Essential Learning Standards* developed by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) as part of the Victorian Government's *Blueprint for Government Schools*.

The structure and rationale for the Standards were available through print and electronic introductory materials in December last year and now you can view the Standards online at <<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>>. The Standards are available in html and can be downloaded and printed in portable document format (PDF) from the website.

The Standards have been developed in recognition that our world is complex, rapidly changing and rich in information and technology. 'This rapid growth of knowledge means that students need to be flexible, adaptable and creative. Teaching and learning needs to reflect these changes', said Minister Kosky.

Students will continue to learn about subjects like Physical Education, Science, Mathematics, Technology and English in the Standards, which now also recognise the personal, social and problem-solving skills which the community expects will be part of a young person's education.

'Students will focus on the basics of English, Maths, Physical and Personal Skills and the Arts in the earliest years and the full range of standards will be introduced as schooling progresses,' said Michael White, Chief Executive Officer VCAA.

Minister Kosky emphasised that these standards will apply to all schools. 'All schools in Victoria will now have a clear set of standards to use in assessing students. All schools will be expected to report to parents against these standards and the rigor of the new standards will ensure that parents receive clear and meaningful reports,' she said.

During the year 2005 schools will validate the Standards by auditing existing programs and preparing a plan for 2006 and beyond.

This year the VCAA will be working with the Department of Education and Training (DE&T) through its Office of Learning and Teaching and the Catholic Education Commission to develop units of work to support teachers as they develop their curriculum based on the new Standards.

Part of this work will be the development of assessment and reporting tools to support all schools will reporting to parents against these



Victorian Essential Learning Standards  
Overview

standards, which are rigorous enough to ensure that parents receive clear and meaningful reports.

Minister Kosky congratulated all staff who have been involved in developing the new Standards and confirmed that this is part of a major reform in the Blueprint strategy to improve student learning.

For more information visit the website at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>

## Development of AIM pencil-and-paper tests

All questions used in the AIM pencil-and-paper tests are extensively reviewed and trialled before they are presented to Victorian students. Most questions are written by teachers after intensive training by VCAA personnel at workshops. Item developers are always mindful of the need for authenticity and curriculum soundness in all questions. After questions are written, they are internally reviewed by VCAA staff, outside agencies and curriculum experts. Once this process is completed, an AIM Review Group is formed with colleagues from government schools, Regional Offices, the Catholic and Independent sectors and centrally based Department of

Education and Training (DE&T) staff being invited to attend. During AIM Review, questions are evaluated in terms of their suitability for ESL and Koorie students and their appropriateness in terms of gender.

After the AIM Review Group has made its recommendations, questions are compiled into trial tests and completed by students in another state. The sample of students chosen for trialling is as similar to the cohort of Victorian students as is possible.

Once trial tests are returned they are marked and the results forwarded to the VCAA Educational Measurement Unit for statistical analysis, to ensure that questions are

measuring student ability in a valid way. These results form the basis for selection of material to be included in AIM tests.

After the tests have been built by VCAA Test Developers they are forwarded to design staff for layout and production and then finally sent to print.

Strict quality assurance procedures form an integral part of all aspects of the AIM production process and the VCAA constantly strives to produce the highest quality assessment material possible.

## Standard conditions for administration of the 2005 AIM tests

AIM reports provide schools and parents with a range of valuable information showing how their children's achievements compare with a range of measures, including state-wide norms, year level expectations and national benchmarks. The reliability of the information depends on the test being administered under the same standard conditions in all schools.

It is important that staff implement the AIM tests under standard test conditions. By adhering to standard conditions, schools can ensure that the information that they use, and provide to parents, is accurate and valid.

The Centrally Assessed Tasks are to be administered under the following standard test conditions:

- strict adherence to times for each test
- private individual work only

- calculators or dictionaries must not be used by students
- teacher assistance only within the guidelines provided in the *AIM 2005 Schools' Guide – Implementation*.

Standard conditions for the conduct of the tests, adherence to time limits and level of teacher assistance, will give all students across Victoria an equal opportunity to demonstrate their individual level of achievement.

## AIM Online state-wide testing

The Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) is an assessment, reporting and learning improvement program for Victorian schools conducted in August each year. AIM Online is a computer-based system which delivers the AIM program to students' computers via a school's Local Area Network (LAN). It is a valuable tool for schools, enabling them to:

- conduct assessment in a reliable and standardised manner
- assess academic progress against statewide standards.

AIM Online provides:

- psychometrically validated assessment
- a user-friendly assessment medium
- efficient assessment through flexible session scheduling, online marking, online marking guides, automated marking and prompt reporting.

Integrity of the system is strongly protected by powerful security.

### Year 7 AIM Online state-wide testing program 2005

In 2005, secondary schools can choose to undertake their Year 7 AIM state-wide tests on either computers or as pencil and paper tests. The Year 7 AIM Online statewide testing program is scheduled over the first three weeks of August, providing schools with greater flexibility in the scheduling of test sessions. Writing tasks are scheduled on 5 days within that period. AIM Online uses computer adaptive tests that are designed to adapt to the ability level of students.

*Note:* Schools that participated in 2003 and 2004 will be assumed to be continuing with the program in 2005 and need not reapply. Confirmation of this will be sought at a later date.

### Years 3 and 5 AIM Online pilot testing program 2005

The VCAA conducted a pilot program in 2004 with a number of primary schools that participated in the AIM Online testing pilot program for Years 3 and 5. These schools also undertook the AIM state-wide pencil-and-paper tests as well as the online tests. It is required that both tests are undertaken so the VCAA can gather data on the comparability of both forms of testing at the primary school levels.

In 2005, the VCAA will expand the pilot program for Years 3 and 5 AIM Online. Schools are invited to participate in the usual way and successful applicants will be notified in May.

*Note:* Schools that participated in 2004 will be given first preference in the 2005 program but will need to reapply.

### How do schools access AIM Online?

For Victorian Government schools, the AIM Online program can be accessed via the CASES/CASES21 Server. The latest version of the VCAA Assessment Online software is rolled out to Victorian Government schools with the CASES/CASES21 Servers Upgrades.

A copy of the Software Installer and Instructions are provided on the upgraded CD-ROM that is distributed to schools in June and December each year. If the software has not already been installed at your school, please see your CASES administrator for a copy of the installation CD-ROM. Schools should ensure that the latest version of the software has been installed on the CASES/CASES21 server. Existing AIM Online schools should contact the VCAA with any queries on 1800 623 681.

Non-government schools need a server that meets the specifications stated in the VCAA website on [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/aimonline/techreq.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/aimonline/techreq.html)

The VCAA may not be able to accept all schools applying for the program in 2005. Successful applicants will be notified in May.

### Interested? How do I sign up?

To register your school's interest in participating in the Year 7 AIM Online state-wide program or the Years 3 and 5 AIM Online pilot in 2005, please download and complete the Expression of Interest form which is available at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/teachers/](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/teachers/) and fax it back to the VCAA on (03) 9651 4612 by **29 April 2005**. For non-government schools, the form requests details of your school's technical infrastructure for the VCAA to gauge suitability to run the system at your school.

## Request to vary AIM 2005 test dates

Requests by principals for variation to the dates to the AIM centrally assessed tests will only be approved in exceptional circumstances which have been organized well in advance.

Activities such as professional development events, curriculum development days, excursions, school concerts, parent teacher interviews, school photographs and sports days should not be planned around Tuesday 2 August and Wednesday 3 August 2005.

All government and Catholic schools require approval from the appropriate sector authority before applying to the VCAA for a variation.

The sector authority for government schools is the Department of Education & Training, Regional Director or Assistant Regional Director.

The sector authority for Catholic schools is the Director of Catholic Education, Catholic Education Office.

**Fax this form to the VCAA on (03) 9651 4612 on or before 24 June 2005.**

If you require further information regarding the request to vary testing dates, please do not hesitate to contact the AIM Help Desk on freecall (03) 1800 648 637 or email [vcaa.aim.help@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:vcaa.aim.help@edumail.vic.gov.au)

The Request to Vary Dates Form for AIM Years 3, 5 and 7 testing 2005 can also be accessed through the VCAA website at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/teachers/](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/teachers/)

## VCAA On Demand testing project update

A series of 13 half-day 'hands-on' professional development sessions introducing the On Demand testing project to schools, was held between 29 November and 13 December 2004 in nine regions across Victoria.

As most sessions were over-subscribed further On Demand professional development opportunities are currently being planned for 2005 and will be advertised in due course.

Teachers who attended provided very favourable feedback on the potential of the assessment tool and many schools have registered to participate in the On Demand testing project since the commencement of the 2005 school year.

The single page registration form, which can be used to express interest in joining the AIM Online and the

VCE Online projects can be downloaded from the VCAA internet site at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/teachers](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/teachers)



Teachers observe an online student report at the On Demand professional development session held at Moe in 2004.

# AIM student personal details data file transfer

For the first time in 2005, all Victorian schools conducting AIM statewide tests will be required to provide electronic data files containing personal details for students enrolled to complete these tests. This data file is required for two reasons:

- AIM pre-enrolment
- Collection of student background information for national reporting.

All students enrolled in Years 3, 5 and 7 (or those students defined as being in those year levels, e.g. students in a special setting defined as such by the principal) should be included in the school's student data file. This includes students completing:

- AIM pencil-and-paper state-wide tests
- AIM Online state-wide tests.

Students undertaking VCAA Online On Demand tests do not have to be included in the student details data file.

## AIM pre-enrolment and the collection of student background information

### AIM pre-enrolment

Students sitting the AIM tests in 2005 will be pre-enrolled using data provided to the VCAA by schools. Pre-enrolment will allow individual student details to be printed on the front cover of the test booklets prior to their delivery to schools. This change will result in significant time savings in the administration of the tests, as there will no longer be a need to write these details in before students complete their test. Additionally, if schools provide homegroup details in their student details data file, test booklets will be printed and packed in homegroup order.

The AIM pre-enrolment system was trialed in approximately 50 schools in 2004, and was found to greatly enhance the efficiency of the delivery of the tests within schools.

The personal details that will be required for each student are:

- names
- salutation
- date of birth
- gender
- year level
- indigenous status
- LBOTE status
- homegroup (optional).

### Collection of student background information for national reporting

From 2005 schools across Australia will be required to collect background characteristic information for all students participating in state-wide testing. This information will be used to monitor the effect student background characteristics have on student outcomes to ensure the 'National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-First Century' are met.

The VCAA will be responsible, on behalf of the Department of Education and Training, for:

- the collection of this information from schools
- its transfer to the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA).

The information that will be required for each student is:

- parental school education (mother and father as applicable)
- parental non-school education (mother and father as applicable)
- main language spoken at home (student)
- main language spoken at home (mother and father as applicable)
- parental occupation

**No individual student or school will be identifiable in the information released to MCEETYA.**

## Submission of student details data file

### Timeline

Schools will be required to submit a student details data file:

- by Friday 29 April 2005. This data file will be used to pre-enrol students for AIM testing, and must include the student details required for AIM pre-enrolment as outlined above. It should be noted that, if data required for national reporting has been entered into the administrative system at a school, it will also be included in the data file. However, **it is not** a requirement to submit the data required for national reporting at this time.
- by Friday 16 September 2005. This data file will be used to collect student background characteristic information, as outlined above. In order to achieve this, the data for all eligible students must have been entered onto the administrative system of a school by this date.

### How schools will submit their student details data file

The submission of the student details data file is dependant on the school sector, as outlined below.

**Catholic schools:** The Catholic Education Office (CEO) will collect student data from all Catholic schools and forward the data to the VCAA. For further information contact the Catholic Education Victoria Network (CEVN) Helpdesk on (03) 9267 0422.

**Victorian Government schools:** The CASES21 administration system in government schools has been modified to allow for the capture

of student background information as per MCEETYA requirements, and to provide an extract of AIM student details. The extract function must be used to generate the student details data file, which must then be emailed to the VCAA, following these instructions:

1. access the CASES21 system
2. proceed to menu option **Student/Export Import Data/VASS/Export AIM Student Details**
3. generate a file for each year level participating in AIM testing in 2005
4. name the file/s according to the following convention: <<school name>><<year level>>, e.g. *VICTORIA COLLEGE YR3*
5. email the files to <aim.student.data@edumail.vic.gov.au>, with the subject heading <<school name>>, e.g. *VICTORIA COLLEGE*.

**Independent schools:** Individual

Independent schools will be responsible for supplying their student data to the VCAA. Most administration software packages used by these schools have been modified to allow for the capture of student background information as per MCEETYA requirements, and have an extract function that will create the student details data file to send to the VCAA. For further information, schools should contact their administration software package supplier or the Association of Independent Schools of Victoria (AISV) on (03) 9825 7200.

Schools must generate the student details data file, which must then be emailed to the VCAA, following these instructions:

1. access the school's administrative package

2. generate a student details data file for each year level participating in AIM testing in 2005
3. name the file/s according to the following convention: <<school name>><<year level>>, e.g. *VICTORIA COLLEGE YR3*
4. email the files to <aim.student.data@edumail.vic.gov.au>, with the subject heading <<school name>>, e.g. *VICTORIA COLLEGE*.

It should be noted that those schools not using an administration software package, should forward an Excel spreadsheet to the VCAA.

## After the student details data file is submitted

### Reporting to schools

Immediately after a government or independent school submits a student details data file, they will receive an email message from the VCAA confirming receipt of the email containing the file.

For all schools, once the VCAA has receipted and processed the student details data file, a further email will be sent to the school. This email will include:

- a summary of all student details received from the school. This will enable the school to check these details for accuracy
- a list of errors in the data so that they can be corrected.

If these reports indicate that student details need to be modified, schools must follow the procedures below in order to achieve this.

### Modifications to student details

The VCAA acknowledges that changes may need to be made to student details submitted in a school's student details file, for the following reasons:

- an error has been identified in the data, either by the school or by the VCAA
- a student enrolls at the school after the student details file has been submitted
- a student leaves the school after the student details file has been submitted.

In each of these cases, an email should be sent to <aim.student.data@edumail.vic.gov.au>, outlining the student and the details that must be changed. This can be done at any time up until Tuesday 30 November 2005.

## Assistance and information

For general enquiries about AIM pre-enrolment and reporting student background characteristics, please contact the VCAA on (03) 9651 4472.

For technical enquiries regarding the creation and submission of student details data files:

- Victorian Government schools contact the VCAA on (03) 9651 4472
- independent schools contact either:
  - Andrew Smith, Director Strategy and Operations, AISV, on (03) 9825 7212 or
  - the VCAA on (03) 9651 4472
- Catholic schools contact the CEVN Helpdesk on (03) 9267 0422.

## 2005 AIM data service professional development program

During October and November 2004 approximately 1300 teachers, principals and AIM coordinators attended 60 AIM data reporting professional development workshops across Victoria. The workshops were facilitated by Philip Holmes-Smith, Director of School Research, Evaluation and Measurement Services, who was contracted by the VCAA to deliver the program. Philip is an experienced educational measurement researcher and feedback to the VCAA indicates that participants appreciated his in-depth knowledge and style of delivery.

The results of the evaluation survey show that most participants considered that the Internet delivery system, the AIM Data Service, was preferred to the CD-ROM delivery system. While it was acknowledged that there were a few initial issues regarding the speed of the Internet-based system and printing problems, attendees on the whole commented

on how easy it was to access their school's data via the Internet and how intuitive the Internet-based delivery system was.

The 2004 AIM data reports continue to provide schools with useful information regarding the level of achievement of individual students and cohort and whole-school groups. The AIM program assists teachers to identify students' strengths and weaknesses in English and Mathematics. By analysing results which show a pattern or which add to information from teacher judgments, teachers can adjust teaching strategies to provide appropriate support.

Teachers were complimentary about the Student Responses Report (Report 2), and were impressed with the appendix which showed the skills being assessed. The listing of poorly handled questions was also appreciated.

The aggregation of student results from the AIM tests provides

the school with an overview of current achievement for groups of students and contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of their performance. Many teachers and principals participating in the workshops were looking for even more help in using their own school data in greater depth to reflect on their own school programs.

The workshop presenter demonstrated how the web-based tables in the reports could be copied and pasted directly into Excel for further analysis by the school. The ability to carry out this further analysis was considered to be vital to schools.

Those participating in the workshops made a number of suggestions for improvement to the AIM data service reports. This feedback will be taken into account when decisions about the content and structure of the 2005 AIM data service reports are being considered.

## AIM 2005 Expression of Interest: Marker

### Information for applicants

AIM test marking provides:

- intensive training in the marking of short-answer and extended-response questions
- experience in applying current curriculum standards criteria to students' responses
- insight into the varied approaches applied by students to English and Mathematics tasks and topics.

Applicants are advised that in 2005 all English writing tasks and Mathematics test will be marked

online. In 2005, markers may elect to mark from home, the minimum requirement being either broadband access or an ISP connection of 56K or above. (See Addendum page 9.)

- **Persons interested in becoming a marker must complete the AIM 2005: Expression of Interest form available on the VCAA internet site at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/career/ssms.html](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/career/ssms.html)**
- **Only electronic applications will be processed.**
- **Persons interested in becoming a Leading Marker should indicate this on the electronic application form.**

- **Closing date for applications is Tuesday 19 April 2005.**
- **Selected markers will receive initial notice of appointment by Friday 6 May 2005.**
- **All markers accepting an appointment must return a completed, signed and witnessed AIM Conditions of Appointment form prior to 17 June 2005.**
- **Training is compulsory. Tentative training dates in 2005 are Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 August. The Training Days will be held at Nunawading and Camberwell, Melbourne.**

- **A full-day CRT payment will be provided for the Training Day. No travel reimbursements will be provided.**
- Applicants should have teaching experience in Victorian primary or secondary schools. **Persons in non-metropolitan regions are encouraged to apply.**
- If an applicant is not appointed in the first selection round, it is assumed the applicant is prepared to be appointed as an Emergency Marker if required.
- Tests may be marked at the VCAA Assessment Centre, Camberwell and at the Assessment Centre in Nunawading, or from the marker's home. It is not appropriate to mark in a public venue.
- Where relevant, applicants should seek approval from their employer if participation in the marking program could coincide with normal employment duties. In particular, teachers should make their principals aware of potential VCAA expectations if they are appointed.
- There is no payment for release from schools during teaching hours to undertake marking; expenses such as travel or any other costs incurred are not reimbursed.
- Any change to the personal details provided on the Expression of Interest form should be communicated to the VCAA as quickly as possible. From time to time the VCAA will contact markers by email to check the information.
- Markers who have not previously worked for the VCAA will be required to provide the necessary banking and tax details before payments can be processed. These are provided on appointment.
- Delays in processing applications, appointments and payments can occur if the required documentation is not completed correctly (e.g. Expression of Interest, Conditions of Appointment, banking and tax forms).
- Applicants who have not previously marked AIM for the VCAA may be required to attend a preliminary training session as part of the marker selection process. The tentative date for New Marker Training is Sunday 24 July. The venue will be the VCAA Assessment Centre at Camberwell.
- Markers may not work concurrently on other large-scale marking projects during the AIM marking period.
- You are ineligible to be a marker if you have taken a Victorian Government Departure Package (VDP) in the last three years.

## Selection criteria

The appointment of markers will be based on relevant qualifications and experience such as current teaching background, past performance where appropriate (marking accuracy and the ability to meet administrative requirements including deadlines), the number of applications received relative to the number of markers required in each of English and Mathematics, availability for the duration of the marking period.

### Schedule for AIM online marking

Test	Level	Role	Main period of appointments	Main period of work	Payment
English	Year 3, 5 and 7	Leading Markers	May	July/August	Payment generally occurs in the month following the main period of work
		Markers (approx. 150)	June	6–26 August	
Mathematics	Year 7	Leading Markers	May	July/August	
		Markers (approx. 40)	June	6–14 August	

Please note this schedule is general advice only.

### Addendum – System and user requirements

The following are the minimum equipment specifications for online marking from home:

	Minimum	Recommended
Processor	Intel Celeron/AMD Duron 700MHz	Intel P III/AMD Athlon 700MHz
RAM	128MB (Win98 Only) 256MB (all other versions)	256MB or higher All windows versions
Operating System	Windows 98 Second Edition	Windows 2000/XP
Internet Explorer	Internet Explorer 5.5	Internet Explorer 6 or later
Hard Drive Space Installation	500MB	500MB
Hard Drive Space Operation	300MB	300MB
Monitor	15" Monitor SVGA 1024x768	17" Monitor SVGA 1024x768
CD/DVD ROM	8 speed CD/DVD drive	32 speed CD/DVD drive
Internet Connection	56k (markers only)	ADSL/Cable (Broadband)
Mouse	Mouse or compatible pointing device	Mouse or compatible pointing device
Graphics	4MB SVGA Graphics	8MB SVGA Graphics or higher

Applicants can also refer to the AIM section of the VCAA website: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

## Important dates for 2005 – AIM state-wide testing program

2005	Pencil-and-Paper Tests
29 April	Final date for schools to submit students' details data file for pre-enrolment pre-printing of AIM test booklets.
24 June	Final date for schools to request a variation to the testing dates.
24 June	Final date for schools to request large print and Braille materials.
Week of 11 July	Schools to receive and check contents of the AIM test packages. (Years 3 and 5)
Week of 11 July	Requests for extra test materials. (Years 3 and 5)
18–29 July	Conduct and mark the Teacher Assessed Tasks. (Years 3 and 5)
Week of 25 July	Schools to receive and check contents of the AIM test packages. (Year 7)
Week of 25 July	Requests for extra test materials. (Year 7)
<b>2 August</b>	Mathematics AIM test.
<b>3 August</b>	English AIM test.
4 August	Test Booklets packed and ready for collection.
12 August	Final date to return Test Booklets for catch-up assessments.
Week of 3 October	Reporting packages delivered to schools.

2005	AIM Online Tests
29 April	Final date for receipt of Expressions of Interest for Year 3, Year 5 and Year 7 AIM Online state-wide testing.
1–5 August	AIM Online English Writing Task (Years 3, 5 and 7).
1–19 August	AIM Online English tests (Years 3, 5 and 7).
1–19 August	AIM Online Mathematics tests (Years 3, 5 and 7).
12 August	Deadline to upload Writing Tasks.
26 August	Deadline to upload Mathematics and English tests.
Week of 3 October	Reporting packages delivered to schools.

## AIM Help Desk contact details

### AIM Pencil and Paper Testing

freecall 1800 648 637  
 fax (03) 9651 4612  
 email [vcaa.aim.help@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:vcaa.aim.help@edumail.vic.gov.au)  
 website [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

### AIM Online Testing

freecall 1800 623 681  
 fax (03) 9651 4612  
 email [aim.support@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:aim.support@edumail.vic.gov.au)  
 website [www.aimonline.vic.edu.au](http://www.aimonline.vic.edu.au)

# Victorian Essential Learning Standards sample units

To coincide with the release of the *Victorian Essential Learning Standards*, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) has developed sample units that illustrate different ways schools can implement a multi-domain approach to teaching and learning and assessment. The sample units are designed to demonstrate ways of incorporating the new teaching and learning activities and illustrate appropriate assessment in relation to specific standards over Levels 1 to 6.

These units reflect the integrated learning approach central to the Standards, in particular the need for student-centred activities that weave the three strands of essential learning into teaching and learning programs.

The sample units illustrate and exemplify the inherent and dynamic relationships between learning domains and show how this interrelatedness supports deeper understanding, and meaningful and engaging contexts for learning.

## How to use the sample units

The sample units can be used in many ways, for example:

- as references in whole school teaching and learning program planning sessions
- to illustrate ways in which students demonstrate learning in relation to the standards
- to help interpret aspects of the standards
- to provide ideas for units of work in school programs
- to provide templates for new unit designs.

## Features of the sample units

These units demonstrate ways in which the new curriculum approach can enrich the learning experience, by incorporating and integrating learning domains through contextual or project-oriented learning activities.

The sample units are easy to access and navigate online and contain:

- brief overviews of each unit
- summaries of the learning focus for each unit
- references to relevant standards
- descriptions of teaching and learning activities
- a section on assessment and assessment tasks
- unit resources including websites, and downloadable support materials
- links to resource documents: *Teaching and Learning* and *Assessment*.

The sample units of work are published online and have a slightly different navigation system than the rest of the website. A right hand menu is used to navigate through the sections. All units are available in html and Portable Document Format (PDF) with Microsoft Word worksheets.



A sample unit with right hand navigation menu

## Progressive publication of sample units

The six sample units published online early March 2005 will be complemented by a further six units later in Term 1. The first six units focus on integrated learning – based largely in project-type contexts. Further units will exemplify ways in which Discipline-based Learning is enriched through application of approaches to teaching and learning based on the Standards.

During 2005, the VCAA will work with the Department of Education and Training and the independent sector and schools to develop further exemplary units for publication later in 2005.

## Starting at the Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games curriculum material, *Starting Blocks*, was sent to all schools in February 2005 as part of the 'Getting Schools Involved' kit. The CD-ROM and user guide are the first of five innovative resources for students from Prep to Year 12 to be released before the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

*Starting Blocks* is suitable for teachers and students at all year levels and includes exciting teaching and learning activities inspired by Melbourne's hosting of the XVIII Commonwealth Games. Activities include an introduction, objectives, curriculum links, activity descriptions, teaching notes and resources, and they are available in both PDF and Microsoft Word.

The Games will be held in Melbourne from 15–26 March 2006. Between now and March 2006 the following resources will also be sent to all schools:

- Term 1 2005 – Post-compulsory resource: for VCE/VET in Schools/VCAL
- Term 2 2005 – Middle years resources
- Term 3 2005 – Integrated units: for Prep to Year 10
- Term 1 2006 – CommPASS: passport program for primary schools.

For further information visit the Education Program at [www.melbourne2006.com.au/education](http://www.melbourne2006.com.au/education)



*Starting Blocks* – now available in schools as part of the 'Getting Schools Involved' kit.

## Victorian Essential Learning Standards website

The *Victorian Essential Learning Standards* website <<http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>> will provide regular updates and information on the Standards. Released in December 2004, the website has recently been enhanced as a result of feedback from teachers involved in usability testing.

The new look website provides users with two important features on the homepage:

- a 'What's New' section which provides direct links to current publications
- an 'Important Information' section which presents highlights, updates and information during the validation process.

Also newly available on the website are the learning focus statements for each domain at each level, standards for each learning domain, and support materials to assist schools in their planning and understanding of the Standards.



Website homepage

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The VCAA BULLETIN and Supplements are also available online at: [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au)

Victorian schools only may photocopy this publication for use by teachers and students.

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