



SELECTIONS FROM VCE SEASON OF EXCELLENCE

Principal Curriculum Coordinator PD Coordinator AIM Coordinator P-10 Teacher

P-10 Supplement

Information about Prep to Year 10 education in Victorian schools

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CEO's report

As the end of the school year quickly approaches this is the last edition of the P-10 Supplement for 2005. The VCAA has had a very full year with the announcement of the introduction of the Year 9 AIM tests in 2006 and the validation of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. I would like to personally thank schools and the education community for embracing the challenges of 2005.

With the validation year for the Victorian Essential Learning Standards in its final phase, schools should continue to familiarise themselves with the Standards during Term 4 in preparation for their implementation from 2006. Feedback on the Standards has now been collated and analysed to inform revisions to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

While there will be reviews to improve clarity and internal consistency and to make the Standards more easily understood, there will be no changes to the structure of the Standards. Schools can proceed with planning for 2006 with confidence using the current version while the revised one is published.

In addition to the revised Standards, more support materials for schools have been developed. These materials include sample units of work, sample assessment tasks and annotated student work. They will become progressively available during Term 4 at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

During 2005 the Minister for Education and Training announced a series of new security measures to enhance the administration of the AIM tests and prevent future irregularities. This Supplement provides information on the new measures

to be implemented in 2006, which includes the VCAA auditing the security of schools' storage facilities for AIM test materials.

The On Demand Assessment professional development workshops have proved a great success for teachers and curriculum leaders during Term 4. So much so that additional sessions are being offered late this term and in 2006. The VCAA assessment team has also been busy with a series of AIM Data Service professional development workshops for teachers and curriculum leaders involved in the 2006 program. This has also attracted increased interest from secondary schools preparing for the pilot Year 9 AIM tests in 2006.

I would like to thank schools for their cooperation and support throughout 2005 and wish you all the best for the holiday season.

John Firth
Acting Chief Executive Officer



AIM Data Service professional development

The AIM Data Service series of professional development workshops for 2005 is now well underway and a number of interesting observations can already be reported. First, it has been interesting to see the high level of interest in the service from secondary schools who will be involved in the Year 9 AIM testing next year. Schools are excited about being able to see the growth in learning they have offered their students when they are able to compare their 2006 Year 9 results with the results the students achieved in the 2004 Year 7 AIM tests.

As was the case last year, the Internet delivery of schools' data has been very well received. Schools are particularly impressed with the ease with which graphs and data now can

be easily exported to Microsoft Word documents for inclusion in annual reports, triennial reviews or school development plans. Schools have also been impressed with the way they can copy their students' results to Microsoft Excel for further analysis, particularly to explore relationships such as the impact of absenteeism on student results and the impact of integration students on their school average.

Schools continue to be pleasantly surprised with the depth of understanding that can be gained about the strengths and weaknesses of their own school's Literacy and Numeracy program through a thorough analysis of their school's AIM data. The eleven reports provided in the Data Service

give a comprehensive picture of Years 3, 5 and 7 English and Mathematics test results.

Lastly, the level of interest in the workshops has been extremely strong this year with many sessions being over subscribed. Those still interested in attending one of the workshops will need to register quickly before the remaining sessions fill.

The AIM Data Service series of professional development workshops will continue until 2 December. Those interested in attending one of the workshops can register online at www.sreams.com.au or by visiting the 'Information for principals and teachers' section of the VCAA's AIM web page at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

AIM information for parents available in translation

A parent report pamphlet, Information for Parents, has been developed for the 2005 Years 3, 5 and 7 AIM tests. An electronic copy of the pamphlet can be found on the VCAA website at <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/prep10/aim/parents/parentsreport/index.html>

This has also been translated in to 14 different languages. The languages are:

Arabic	Samoan
Bosnian	Serbian
Cambodian	Sinhalese
Chinese/Mandarin	Somali
Filipino	Spanish
Hindi	Turkish
Persian	Vietnamese

Year 9 AIM markers required

There has been a strong response to the VCAA's invitation to schools to take part in the Year 9 AIM tests that will be held in English and Mathematics on 4 and 5 April 2006. Over 40 000 students will participate in this new assessment program and the VCAA is seeking applications from school teachers interested in taking part in the marking project scheduled for April 2006. Experienced secondary school teachers are strongly encouraged to apply. AIM test marking provides:

- intensive training in the marking of short-answer and extended response questions
- experience in applying current curriculum standards criteria to student responses
- an opportunity for retired teachers and those temporarily not in schools to participate
- insights into the varied approaches applied by students in English and Mathematics tasks and topics.

All marking is completed online and non-metropolitan teachers are encouraged to apply. AIM markers may elect to mark at a metropolitan marking centre or from home provided they have a PC with broadband access. An application can be registered and further details are available on the VCAA Internet site at <https://www.ssms.vic.edu.au>

More On Demand Testing professional development in 2005–2006

The On Demand Testing professional development sessions for schools commenced on the 18 October.

Twenty-four sessions were originally planned but due to the overwhelming interest in the sessions, extra sessions have been organised for the Eastern, Northern and Southern Metropolitan Regions and Geelong. These extra sessions will run between the 23 November and 9 December. Preference for these sessions will be given to schools that missed out on the earlier sessions. Schools that missed out were contacted directly by email in October with new dates and times for the sessions. More sessions are being planned for early 2006, so keep an eye out for details in the P-10 Supplement and on the VCAA website next year.

Responses to the sessions

The On Demand professional development sessions have been met with a very positive response by teachers. Teachers are excited about the potential of the tests, and the data gained from the reports that are made available on the release of the test results.

The sessions are being run as two-hour sessions that commence with a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the On Demand Testing program and the VCAA Assessment Online system. The presentation covers the different types of tests available – linear tests versus adaptive tests, the uses for the tests and how the system works in schools. This presentation is

followed by hands-on activities that teachers participate in on computers. The activities may include accessing and downloading the On Demand tests, scheduling and delivering tests to students, sitting tests and generating reports on the results of the tests.

Teachers are provided with a training package containing the PowerPoint slides, a list of tests available on the system, a Quick User Guide and another copy of the User Manual. In addition, an Upgrade CD will be supplied to enable schools to install the latest version of the school server component of the application. Further copies of the On Demand testing pamphlet are available for teachers to take back and circulate to other staff members in their schools.

Enhanced security for 2006 AIM tests

Following reports of security breaches and irregularities in AIM test administration during the 2005 AIM tests, the Minister for Education and Training announced a series of new security measures to be implemented in the conduct of AIM tests in 2006. The new security measures include:

- The English and Mathematics tests to be printed as two separate booklets.
- The Year 7 Extended Mathematics Task to also be printed as a separate booklet and this change is to be applied to Year 9 Mathematics as well.
- To ensure the security of the Writing Task topic, a separate booklet which includes the prompt and scaffolding is to be printed for each student.

- Teachers are to be allowed access to the test booklets only on the morning of the tests being conducted.
- Schools will be asked to nominate up to three people with responsibility for signing off on receipt and despatch of test packages.
- A DVD will be developed to support schools with information regarding correct procedures for test administration and security.

The VCAA will be conducting a security audit of schools' storage facilities for the AIM test materials during 2006. At all times prior to being administered, the test materials are to be kept in a double-secure area. The security storage should meet one of the following criteria:

- A locked file cabinet which is in a locked storeroom/office

which is unable to be accessed by unauthorised persons.

- A locked safe which is in a locked storeroom/office which is unable to be accessed by unauthorised persons.
- A locked, sealed container which is in a locked storeroom/office which is unable to be accessed by unauthorised persons.

While the test materials are held in the school prior to the testing period, any direct access to them within the secure area is to be recorded in an access register. The access register may also be subject to security audit by the VCAA. In addition, there will be increased auditing of test administration procedures during the testing periods.

Important dates for 2006

AIM state-wide testing program

Year 9	
10 March 2006	Final date for schools to request a variation to the testing dates.
10 March 2006	Final date for schools to request large print and Braille materials.
Week beginning 27 March 2006	Schools to receive and check contents of the AIM test packages.
Week beginning 27 March 2006	Requests for extra test materials.
4 April 2006	Mathematics AIM test.
5 April 2006	English AIM test.
6 April 2006	Test Booklets and Participation Records packed and ready for collection.
13 April 2006	Final date to return Test Booklets for catch-up assessments.
Week beginning 29 May 2006	Reporting packages delivered to schools.

Years 3, 5 and 7	
23 June 2006	Final date for schools to request a variation to the testing dates.
23 June 2006	Final date for schools to request large print and Braille materials.
Week beginning 10 July 2006	Schools to receive and check contents of the AIM test packages. (Years 3 and 5)
Week beginning 10 July 2006	Requests for extra test materials. (Years 3 and 5)
17–28 July 2006	Conduct and mark the Teacher Assessed Tasks. (Years 3 and 5)
Week beginning 24 July 2006	Schools to receive and check contents of the AIM test packages. (Year 7)
Week beginning 24 July 2006	Requests for extra test materials. (Year 7)
1 August 2006	Mathematics AIM test. (Years 3, 5 and 7)
2 August 2006	English AIM test. (Years 3, 5 and 7)
3 August 2006	Test Booklets packed and ready for collection.
11 August 2006	Final date to return Test Booklets for catch-up assessments.
Week beginning 2 October 2006	Reporting packages delivered to schools.

This P-10 Supplement is an adjunct of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) Bulletin. The VCAA BULLETIN is a monthly publication (excluding January) carrying information and administrative advice about the Victorian Certificate of Education and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning.

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