

Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Media Manual

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Enquiries

All media enquiries about Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) events should be directed to:

Justin Shortal

Manager Public Affairs, VCAA

Phone (03) 9651 4646

Mobile 0437 002 945

Email shortal.justin.p@edumail.vic.gov.au

General information

Web www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

Media access to examinations

In the interests of Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) students, members of the media wishing to access schools to obtain television footage, photographs or student interviews during the end-of-year examination period are requested to observe the following procedures:

- The VCAA requires that there be no media on school premises prior to the commencement of a VCE examination.
- The VCAA requires that there be no media on school premises during a VCE examination.
- Media seeking access to a government school are required to contact the Media Relations Branch of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) on (03) 9637 2871 at least 24 hours in advance.
- Media seeking access to a non-government school should contact the school principal directly.
- All media should notify the school principal on arrival at school premises.

VCE Examination Timetable 2009

LOTE oral examinations	Monday 5 – Thursday 29 October
Performance examinations Dance, Drama, Music Performance (Group & Solo), Theatre Studies, VCE VET Dance, VCE VET Music	Monday 5 October – Sunday 1 November
Written examinations	Friday 30 October – written examinations commence with English Thursday 19 November – written examinations finish



Friday 30 October	9:00am – 12.15pm	3:00 pm – 4:15 pm
	English English (ESL)	Specialist Mathematics Exam 1

Monday 2 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 1:30 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Biology Music Performance: Group	Further Mathematics Exam 1	Specialist Mathematics Exam 2

Tuesday 3 November	Public Holiday No Examinations		
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Wednesday 4 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 1:30 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Agricultural and Horticultural Studies VET: Sport & Recreation Theatre Studies	Further Mathematics Exam 2	History: Renaissance Italy English Language Sociology

Thursday 5 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 1:30 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Psychology VET: Electro-technology	Accounting	Literature

Friday 6 November	9:00 am – 10:15 am	11:45 am – 2:00 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Mathematical Methods Exam 1 Mathematical Methods (CAS) Exam 1	Health and Human Development	Economics VET: Multimedia*

Monday 9 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 2:00 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Design and Technology VET: Equine Industry VET: Financial Services	Mathematical Methods Exam 2 Mathematical Methods (CAS) Exam 2	Physical Education

Tuesday 10 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 1:30 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	VET: Hospitality (F & B) VET: Hospitality (CC)	Visual Communication and Design	Classical Societies and Cultures Australian History IT: IT Applications

Wednesday 11 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 1:30 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Studio Arts	Music Performance; Solo Dance Physics VET: Business Administration VET: Community Services	Legal Studies

Thursday 12 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 2:00 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Chemistry VET: Furnishing VET: Music Industry	History: Revolutions	IT: Software Development National Politics Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Friday 13 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 2:00 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Art Systems Engineering	Geography	Business Management

Monday 16 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 2:00 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	VET: Information Technology Drama	LOTE: • Latin • Spanish • Vietnamese Media	LOTE: • Japanese FL • Japanese SL Philosophy

Tuesday 17 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 2:00 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Food and Technology	LOTE: • Greek • Indigenous Languages of Victoria • Italian	LOTE: • German Religion and Society Texts and Traditions

Wednesday 18 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 2:00 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	VET: Engineering	LOTE: French Industry and Enterprise	International Studies Music Styles

Thursday 19 November	9:00 am – 10:45 am	11:45 am – 2:00 pm	3:00 pm – 5:15 pm
	Environmental Science VET: Laboratory Skills	LOTE: • Chinese FL • Chinese SL • Chinese SL Advanced	LOTE: • Indonesian FL • Indonesian SL

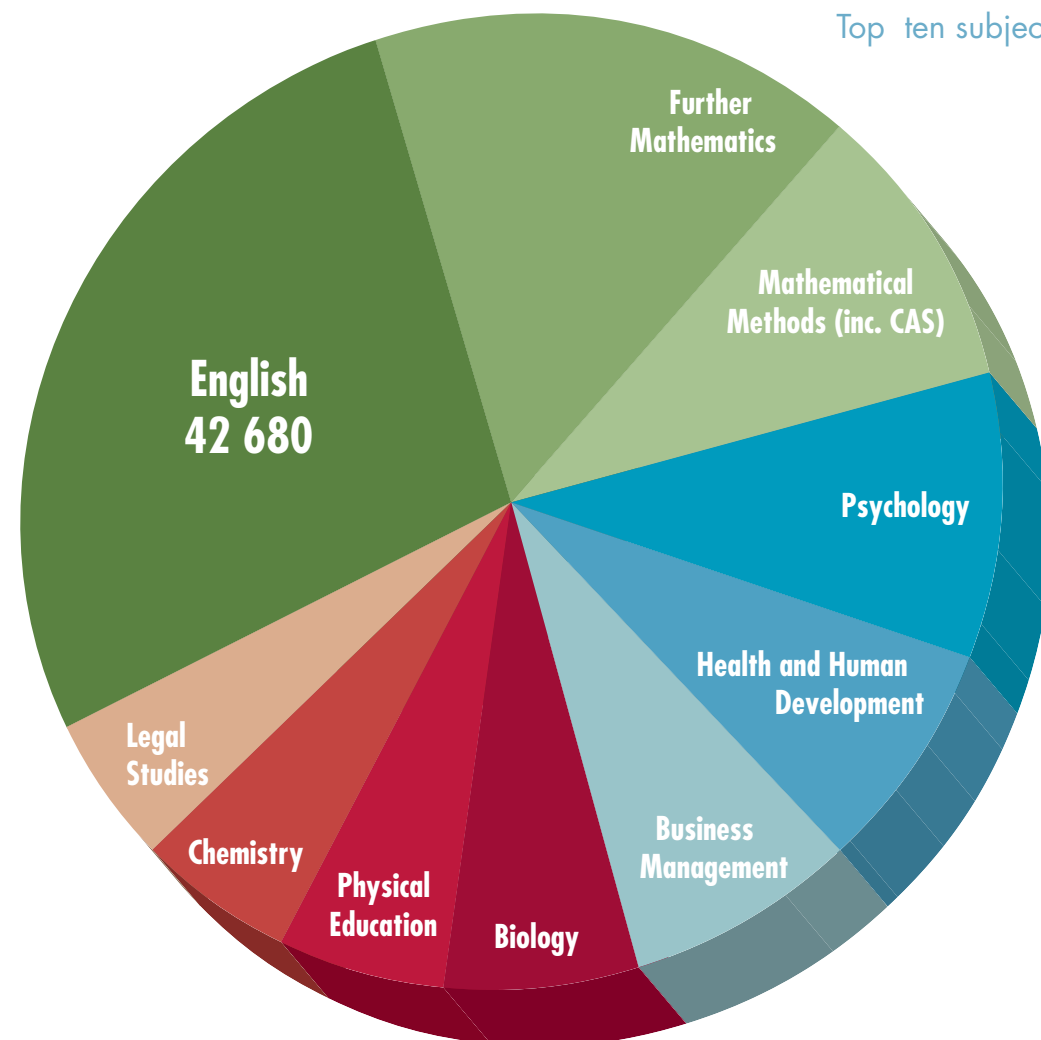


VCE graduates

Number of students eligible to graduate with the VCE in 2009	49 925
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Top ten subjects in 2009

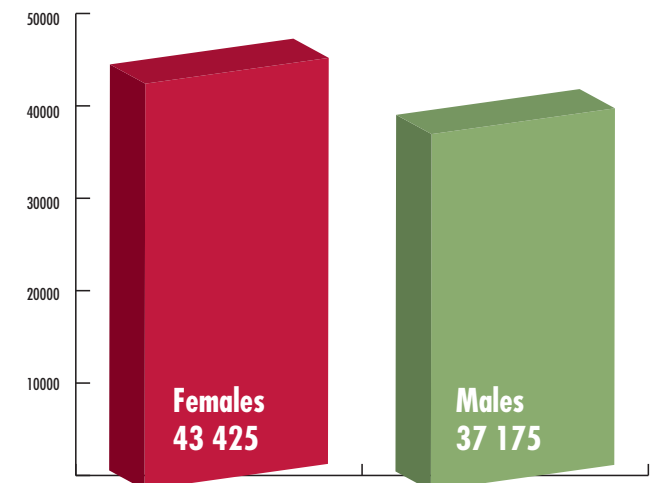
English	42 680
Further Mathematics	28 060
Mathematical Methods (including CAS)	16 085
Psychology	15 988
Health and Human Development	13 167
Business Management	12 604
Biology	10 903
Physical Education	9 588
Chemistry	8 873
Legal Studies	8 505



Facts and figures about VCE written examinations 2009

Students sitting at least one exam	80 600
Females sitting at least one exam	43 425
Males sitting at least one exam	37 175
Students sitting the English exam on Friday 30 October	42 638
Students sitting the ESL (English as a Second Language) exam on 30 October	3 668
VCE subjects with a written exam in November	116
Examination centres operating in schools across the state	492
Largest examination centre and number of students sitting exams	Bendigo Senior Secondary College 1 102
Smallest examination centre and number of students sitting exams	Lavers Hill P – 12 College 2
Number of LOTE (Languages Other than English) being examined	42
Mature age students being examined	1 058
Assessors employed by VCAA to mark written exams	2 395

Students sitting at least one exam





VCAL enrolments 2008–09

In 2008, there were 15 641 certificate enrolments in Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). They were enrolled in 423 providers of which 66.2% were government schools. Of the students enrolled in VCAL 60.8% were male and 39.2% were female.

There are three levels of certificate in VCAL – Foundation, Intermediate and Senior. Of the total 2008 enrolments, 28.5% students were enrolled in Foundation, 48.0% in Intermediate and 23.5% in Senior and Senior Extension.

VCAL enrolment figures for 2009 are not confirmed until mid-January of the following year.

VCE VET enrolments 2008–09

In 2008, 43 489 students were enrolled in 57 989 VET certificates.

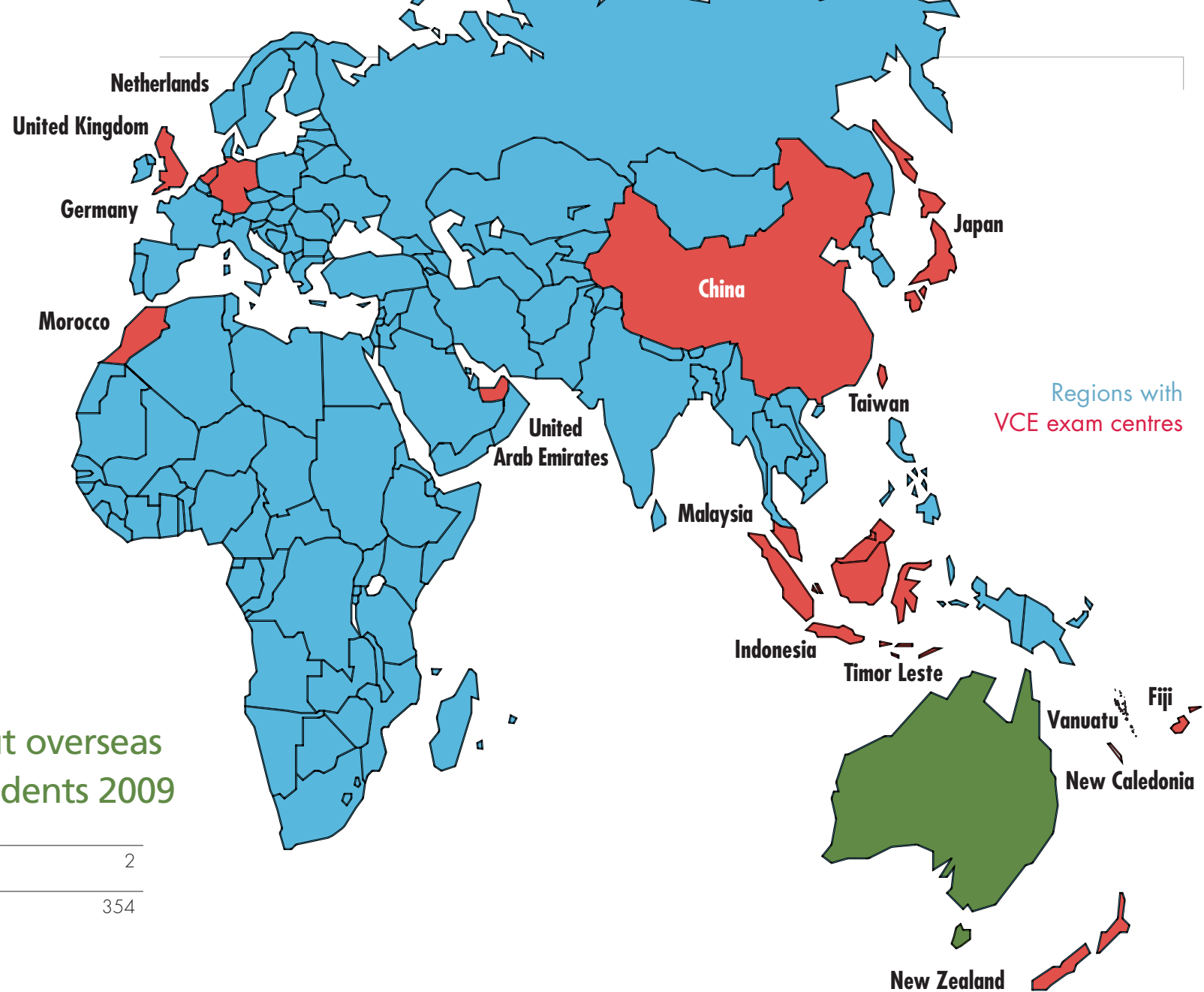
Approximately 7 313 of these students were undertaking a School Based Apprenticeship. In order to become an apprentice or trainee, students must be in paid work and have signed a contract of training which is registered with Skills Victoria.

VCE VET enrolment figures for 2009 are not confirmed until mid-January of the following year.



Facts and figures about VCE performance and LOTE oral examinations 2009

VCE subjects with a performance exam (Dance, Dance (VCE VET), Drama, Music Solo performance, Music Group performance, Music (VCE VET), Theatre Studies)	7
Students doing a performance exam in October	6 036
Students doing Drama (which has the highest enrolment for a performance exam)	1 533
Assessors employed by the VCAA to mark the performance exams	354
Exam centres used for performance exams	83
VCE LOTE subjects with an oral exam	40
Students doing a LOTE oral exam in October	10 851
Students doing Chinese First Language (which has the highest enrolment for a LOTE exam)	2 157
Assessors employed by the VCAA to mark the oral exams	664
Exam centres used for oral exams	17



Facts and figures about overseas and interstate VCE Students 2009

Students sitting VCE exams interstate 2

Students sitting VCE exams overseas 354

China (313), Fiji (1), Germany (2), Indonesia (1),
 Japan (10), Malaysia (1), Morocco (1), Netherlands (1),
 New Caledonia (1), New Zealand (1), Taiwan (1),
 Timor Leste (1), United Arab Emirates (8),
 United Kingdom (1), Vanuatu (11)



VCE and VCAL results

Examination results available to students

Monday 14 December

Results start to arrive at students' homes by mail

Tuesday 15 December

Post Results Enquiry Service

Phone (metro) (03) 9651 4640

Phone (regional) 1800 653 080

Email pres.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au

Monday 14 – Thursday 17 December

VTAC ENTER

The Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank (ENTER) is available to students via Internet, Phone and SMS

Monday 14 December

Students receive their ENTER in the mail from

Tuesday 15 December

VTAC ENTER Enquiries

Phone 1300 364 133

Website www.vtac.edu.au

Accessing VCE and VCAL results

VCE and VCAL students have the following options for accessing their results:

Phone

Phone service available from

7.00 am Monday 14 December until 5.00 pm Thursday 17 December

Be.Interactive costs \$1.93 per minute incl. GST

Phone number 1900 957 888

Internet

Free Internet service available 24 hours a day from

7.00 am Monday 14 December until 12 noon Monday 21 December

Web address results.vcaa.vic.edu.au

SMS

Pre-registration from

9.00 am Monday 16 November until midnight Sunday 13 December

Results arrive in mailbox 7.00 am Monday 14 December

SMS to 19 787 888

Be.Interactive costs \$1.10 max incl. GST

Mail

Results arrive in the mail from Tuesday 15 December



VCE examination rules

Students who breach the VCE examination rules may be called before a Review Committee in December. Should the committee find the breach upheld, an appropriate penalty, in accordance with the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, will apply. Penalties may range from a reprimand to cancellation of their VCE.

Examples of rules

- A student must not cheat or assist another student to cheat.
- A student must not take any action that gives or attempts to give that student or another student an unfair advantage in an examination.
- A student must not possess in an examination room mobile phones and electronic devices such as recorded music and video players, organisers, dictionaries and computerised watches, which are capable of storing, receiving or transmitting information or electronic signals.
- A student detected with a mobile phone or electronic devices such as, recorded music and video player, organiser, dictionary or computerised watch or as defined in the above guidelines, must, upon direction of the supervisor, surrender that device for inspection and to be retained pending any investigation into an alleged breach of VCAA rules.



VCE examination security

In May 2009 the VCAA conducted training sessions throughout metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas for all newly appointed Chief Supervisors of VCE examination centres and all newly appointed school examination centre coordinators who have responsibility for the operation of the VCE examinations in each school. In August 2009 refresher training sessions were held throughout metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas for all experienced Chief Supervisors. These sessions are held every two years.

There are 492 schools across metropolitan and regional Victoria which operate as examination centres. All schools which run as examination centres are visited at least once every three years by the VCAA to audit VCE examination security and the conduct of examinations.



Senior secondary education

Post-compulsory students in Victoria (post-Year 10) can choose from two senior secondary qualifications:

- VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education)
- VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning).

Within both of these certificates students can undertake a School Based Apprenticeship.

VCE

The VCE is the senior secondary qualification undertaken by most students in Years 11 and 12. The VCE provides pathways to tertiary education, advanced certificate courses and the workforce. Students are able to choose from over 100 VCE studies (including 46 languages other than English – LOTE – studies) and over 30 VCE VET programs.

VCE students are assessed on their coursework and on their external examination results. These are moderated on a state-wide basis to ensure results are comparable. Of those students eligible to complete the VCE in 2008, 96.9% graduated with their VCE.

VET programs can be included, contributing towards satisfactory completion of the VCE and providing a nationally recognised vocational qualification.

VTAC uses VCE study scores and scaled VCE VET scores calculated by the VCAA to calculate ENTER for students wishing to apply for tertiary entrance.

VCAL

The VCAL is available for students in Years 11 and 12. It gives them practical work related experience, literacy and numeracy skills and the opportunity to build important personal skills for life and work. This can include recognition of learning in structured work placements, community projects and local and youth development programs.

The VCAL has four strands:

- Literacy and Numeracy Skills
- Work Related Skills
- Industry Specific Skills
- Personal Development Skills.

VCE and VET modules are often included in a VCAL program. Students who start VCAL and then decide they would like to complete their VCE are able to transfer between certificates. Any VCE studies completed as part of the VCAL program will count towards the VCE.



Most popular VCE studies 2004–09

Unit Name	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Enrolments	Rank	Enrolments	Rank	Enrolments	Rank	Enrolments	Rank	Enrolments	Rank	Enrolments	Rank
English*	44 208	1	43 394	1	43 897	1	42 314	1	43 961	1	42 680	1
Further Mathematics	22 516	2	23 090	2	24 259	2	25 417	2	27 668	2	28 060	2
Mathematical Methods (including (CAS)	18 289	3	17 490	3	17 073	3	15 688	3	16 532	3	16 085	3
Psychology	14 727	4	14 439	4	14 924	4	14 862	4	16 024	4	15 988	4
Health and Human Development	10 429	7	10 421	7	11 547	6	12 238	5	13 099	5	13 167	5
Business Management	11 393	6	11 614	6	12 228	5	12 041	6	12 470	6	12 604	6
Biology	11 499	5	11 648	5	11 465	7	10 564	7	10 968	7	10 903	7
Physical Education	7 639	11	8 279	10	8 598	9	8 934	9	9 658	8	9 588	8
Chemistry	8 770	8	9 083	8	9 125	8	9 058	8	9 089	9	8 873	9
Legal Studies	8 639	9	8 393	9	8 126	10	8 048	10	8 332	10	8 505	10
Physics	6 970	12	6 978	11	6 812	11	6 619	11	6 987	11	7 012	11
Accounting	6 435	14	6 464	14	6 702	12	6 399	13	6 699	12	6 622	12
Visual Communication and Design	6 706	13	6 449	15	6 458	13	6 354	14	6 627	13	6 370	13
Studio Arts	6 352	15	6 624	12	6 314	14	6 487	12	6 458	14	6 294	14
Literature	5 686	17	5 832	16	5 444	15	5 597	15	5 935	15	5 892	15
History: Revolutions	4 222	20	4 459	19	4 832	18	4 792	17	5 124	16	5 492	16
Specialist Mathematics	6 276	16	5 712	17	5 311	17	4 872	16	5 007	17	4 784	17
Media	4 384	18	4 557	18	4 744	19	4 627	19	4 707	18	4 629	18
IT Applications	7 856	10	6 583	13	5 361	16	4 749	18	4 214	19	4 333	19
Design and Technology	4 266	19	4 148	20	4 349	20	4 097	20	3 882	20	3 877	20

* Does not include English as a Second Language (ESL)



Who we are

The VCAA is an independent statutory body directly responsible to the Victorian Minister for Education, serving both government and non-government schools.

What we do

The mission of the VCAA is to provide high quality curriculum, assessment and reporting that promotes individual lifelong learning.

At the senior secondary level the VCAA manages the Victorian VCE, VCE VET and the VCAL.

The VCAA is also responsible for providing the curriculum and assessment used in years Prep–10 in Victorian schools which includes the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

In 2009 the VCAA is responsible for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing in Victoria which measures students' literacy and numeracy at Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The VCAA in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) is developing and implementing the Early Childhood and Development Framework 0–8.

For more information on the functions of the VCAA visit our website: www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

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