Victorian Curriculum F–10 Language Assessments

To support teachers implementing the Victorian Curriculum F–10 Languages, the VCAA offers access to a suite of online Language Assessments, developed and hosted by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). The assessments can be used on demand by teachers, and provide snapshots of students’ listening and reading skills, which can be used to better target students’ learning needs.

Suitable for Levels 5–6 to Levels 9–10, the Language Assessments offer separate online, multiple-choice format tests in listening and reading, in increasing levels of difficulty, across eight languages:

- Chinese
- French
- German
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Modern Greek
- Spanish.

They are available at no cost to Victorian schools and community languages providers.

Communities affected by novel coronavirus and bushfires

We are aware of the impact of novel coronavirus and bushfires on many in our community. Affected schools and education providers with questions and concerns regarding the delivery of their learning programs should contact us on (03) 9032 1700. Students and parents, carers and guardians are advised to contact their school in the first instance. Please also check our website for further advice.
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Sharyn Donald</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excellence and awards</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE Season of Excellence 2020 begins</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Years</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch of new VCAA resource: Supporting Bilingualism, Multilingualism and Language Learning in the Early Years</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundation–10</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making Aboriginal perspectives visible in the curriculum</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops to support implementation of the Capabilities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do I assess in Health and Physical Education?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New resources</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bushfire education</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPLAN 2020 updates</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPLAN 2020 test dates</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPLAN Online</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPLAN principals’ package</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPLAN 2020 Writing test information</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New NAPLAN Online test timetable for Years 7 and 9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The NAPLAN Test Administration website</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student registration for NAPLAN 2020</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility and ordering alternative NAPLAN paper test formats</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring excellence in Critical and Creative Thinking and The Arts</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Victorian Certificate of Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation periods for VCE studies: Effective 1 January 2020</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE study design wall chart</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaccredited study designs for implementation in 2020</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaccredited study designs for implementation in 2021</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation support program briefings for reaccredited VCE studies</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amendments to VCE study designs</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 VCAA Consultation Register now open</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch of School-based Assessment Audit</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-based Assessment resources</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE prescribed lists</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education Studies in the VCE program</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable: Applications for authorisation to deliver</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 VCE examination periods</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019–2020 VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable examination periods</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE examination specifications now available</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revised assessment criteria for VCE English and VCE English as an Additional Language examinations</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCAL Briefing webinar 2020</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 VCAL Quality Assurance arrangements and webinar</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vocational Education and Training</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE VET programs for 2020</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE VET coursework audit 2019</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material to support VCE VET scored assessment</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE VET State Reviewer positions</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE VET Sport and Recreation program advice</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of VET Creative Arts and Culture training package</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-level qualifications enrolments and credit</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structured workplace learning recognition</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘VE3-2018’ suffix qualifications removed from VASS</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCAA to showcase new VCE VET programs for VCE Season of Excellence 2021</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updated Get VET resources</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative advice</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New collection notice to be provided to VCE and VCAL students enrolled on VASS</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professional development</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysing your school’s VCE results: Training sessions</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional learning sessions for VCE studies: Regional Victoria</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE School-based Assessment professional learning</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE Extended Investigation professional learning day</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE VET scored assessment workshops 2020</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE Physical Education: Unit 2 webinar series</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bulletin board</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching young people resilience during disaster</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Teachers’ Association of Victoria VCE conferences</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity for students to actively experience parliament</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE History conference and examination reports</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming and water safety resources</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Editorial and subscription enquiries: (03) 9032 1634 or vcaa.bulletin@edumail.vic.gov.au

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To access the Language Assessments, Victorian schools need to register through ACER's Online Assessment and Reporting System. Once registered, schools will receive a confirmation email and further instructions from ACER on how to proceed.

More resources have been made available to support teachers implementing or using the Language Assessments. Additionally, the VCAA and ACER are conducting a series of online professional learning sessions to support teachers using the assessments. Webinar sessions have been scheduled for Wednesday 4 March, Wednesday 11 March and Tuesday 24 March. All sessions run from 3.45pm to 4.45pm. For more information about the sessions, refer to the F–10 Professional Learning webpage.

For further information, contact Maria Dikaiou, Victorian Curriculum F–10 Unit: vcaa.f10.curriculum@edumail.vic.gov.au or (03) 9032 1746.

Welcome Sharyn Donald

We are pleased to welcome Sharyn Donald as the Chief Executive Officer of the VCAA.

Sharyn has over 20 years’ experience as a teacher and principal. Her deep knowledge and understanding of the education sector, combined with her passion for curriculum and improved school performance will be an asset in her new role.

Before joining the VCAA, Sharyn was the Assistant Deputy Secretary, Schools, in the Department of Education and Training. In this role she oversaw critical work covering school reform-related program development, student pathways and priority cohorts. Her responsibilities also included teaching and learning and advancing the internationalisation of school education in Victoria.

Excellence and awards

VCE Season of Excellence 2020 begins

The VCE Season of Excellence opens on Friday 14 February 2020 with Top Talks, celebrating the outstanding research projects of VCE Extended Investigation students from the 2019 cohort. This year, Top Talks will take place in the state-of-the-art Conversation Quarter, which opened in December 2019 as part of State Library Victoria’s Vision 2020 redevelopment project. The event is booked out but you can join the waitlist.

Hosted by Maxine McKew, Top Talks will be presented by the VCAA in partnership with State Library Victoria. Four students will each share their independent research in talks of approximately 10 minutes. Afterwards, there will be a Q&A session for the audience to quiz the students about their research.

As part of the education program, there will be a Library Highlights tour in the morning (open to all Top Talks attendees), as well as a new Research Skills Seminar in the afternoon (for students).

Top Talks is part of the VCE Season of Excellence, which also includes Top Designs, Top Class, Top Arts, Top Screen and Top Acts. The VCE Season of Excellence 2020 showcases exemplary works by VCE and VCE VET students from 2019 in the performing arts, technology, design, visual arts and research studies. More information about the program, including events, dates and ticketing, is available on the VCE Season of Excellence webpage.
Launch of new VCAA resource: Supporting Bilingualism, Multilingualism and Language Learning in the Early Years

The first Early Years Twilight Seminar for 2020 will launch the new VCAA resource, Supporting Bilingualism, Multilingualism and Language Learning in the Early Years on Thursday 12 March 2020.

The launch will include a panel discussion featuring researcher and writer Carolina Cabezas-Benalcázar, and Melodie Davies, CEO, fka Children’s Services, both of whom were involved in developing this new resource.

About the resource

This new practice guide is a professional learning resource for early childhood educators to support children’s rights to maintain their family and/or heritage languages, while acquiring English as an additional language.

Supporting Bilingualism, Multilingualism and Language Learning in the Early Years contextualises linguistic diversity as a defining feature of Victoria, and foregrounds the significance of Victorian Aboriginal Languages, and the history of colonial and immigrant languages.

It sets out theoretical perspectives of bilingualism, multilingualism and language learning, including the cognitive advantages of bilingualism, and the importance of children’s rights in maintaining their family or heritage languages.

Learning activities include scenarios that provide an opportunity for educators to reflect on and engage with the theory of supporting children and families in bilingual and multilingual contexts, linked to the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) Practice Principles.

This practice guide builds on the research of Dr Priscilla Clarke OAM, who was commissioned in 2011 by the VCAA to write a discussion paper, Supporting Children Learning English as an Additional Language in the Early Years (Birth to Six Years), and information booklet, Learning English as an Additional Language in the Early Years (Birth to Six Years), as resources for implementing the VEYLDF.

The resource will be available on the VCAA website from Friday 13 March 2020. Printed copies can be ordered from the VCAA's Early Years Unit: veyldf@edumail.vic.gov.au.

About the seminar

This free seminar will be broadcast from the Bastow Institute of Educational Leadership in North Melbourne to regional and metropolitan network sites from 5.30pm to 7pm. A recording will also be available through Bastow’s YouTube channel after the seminar.

Participants at Bastow and network sites will receive a printed copy of the resource at the end of the seminar. Visit the VCAA website for full details and to register.

Subscribe to the Early Years Alert to keep up to date with the latest news for professionals working with children in the birth-to-eight-years period.
Curriculum

Making Aboriginal perspectives visible in the curriculum

The VCAA will hold a series of face-to-face and online workshops during Term 1 and Term 2 to support schools to incorporate Aboriginal perspectives across the curriculum. Participants will build on their understanding of cultural protocols and explore ways to engage with local Aboriginal communities. Participants will undertake a series of activities to increase their confidence and apply practical ways of planning units of work that embed the perspectives of Aboriginal culture and history across the learning areas. These workshops are suitable for school curriculum leaders, including principal class, leading teachers and classroom teachers.

Online workshop

- Thursday 5 March 2020, 3.45–4.45pm

Face-to-face workshops (all 4–5.45pm)

- Wednesday 11 March 2020, Coburg
- Monday 16 March 2020, Frankston

See the F–10 Professional Learning webpage for registration details. Additional professional learning sessions for Term 2 will be advertised in the next VCAA Bulletin.

Workshops to support implementation of the Capabilities

The VCAA is holding a series of face-to-face workshops during Term 2 to support schools’ implementation of the Capabilities. Participants will undertake a series of activities to better understand the enablers for effective curriculum implementation, paying particular attention to whole-school planning and how to support teachers to teach and assess the Capabilities through the learning areas. These workshops are suitable for school curriculum leaders, including principal class, leading teachers and heads of faculty.

Face-to-face workshops (all 4–6pm)

- Wednesday 22 April 2020, Bendigo
- Tuesday 28 April 2020, Sunshine
- Tuesday 12 May 2020, Melbourne
- Wednesday 27 May 2020, Traralgon

See the F–10 Professional Learning webpage for registration details. An additional session for the South Western region will be advertised in the next VCAA Bulletin.

What do I assess in Health and Physical Education?

These webinars will assist teachers in understanding the alignment of the content descriptions and achievement standards in Health and Physical Education, with a specific focus on the Movement and Physical Activity strand of the curriculum to answer the question, What am I assessing in physical education?

Webinars (all 3.45–4.45pm)

- Foundation–Level 6, Wednesday 18 March 2020
- Levels 7–10, Wednesday 13 May 2020

See the F–10 Professional Learning webpage for registration details.
New resources

The VCAA provides a range of websites to support the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F–10. Teachers can now access this printable Quick Guide to assist them to find the right resource at the right time. The quick guide explains what's available from the Victorian Curriculum F–10 website, the VCAA website’s resource section for F–10 and the Curriculum Planning website.

The following resources have been published to support the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F–10:

- **Economics and Business** – two sample activities:
  - Consumer Fads Levels 5 and 6
  - Smart Consumers Levels 7 and 8
- **Media Arts** – five sample units of work, Levels 1–6
- **Visual Arts** – six sample units of work, Foundation–Level 6
- **Design and Technologies** – eight sample teaching planners, Foundation–Level 6, Levels 7–10
- **Intercultural Capability** – unpacking the content descriptions, Levels 5–10.

Bushfire education

Many schools and school communities will have students who have been affected by the recent bushfires. Teachers are to be mindful of the possible impact of the bushfires on students in their classrooms. Teachers may wish to use the VCAAs Bushfire Education website. This site offers a series of sequenced lesson plans under the themes of ‘Learning about bushfires’, ‘Preparing for bushfires’, ‘Responding to bushfires’ and ‘Recovering from bushfires’. Each lesson plan has a specific learning intention and links to relevant curriculum areas and additional resources.

Assessment

NAPLAN 2020 updates

Important information on NAPLAN 2020, including key dates is now available. Refer to Notice to Schools 14/2020.

NAPLAN 2020 test dates

NAPLAN paper testing will take place from Tuesday 12 May to Thursday 14 May 2020. Schools participating in NAPLAN Online will have from Tuesday 12 May to Friday 22 May 2020 to conduct the online assessments.

The tests must be administered in the order, on the dates and within the times specified in the timetables provided in the NAPLAN 2020 Handbook for Principals. Under no circumstances may a test be conducted before the official test date or time. The test security period has been extended in line with the NAPLAN Online test window and all tests must remain secure until Friday 29 May 2020.

NAPLAN Online

As part of the continuing transition to NAPLAN Online testing, some schools will undertake NAPLAN Online tests in May 2020. Refresher training for NAPLAN Online will be held in February and March this year. NAPLAN coordinators and other staff from schools who are participating in NAPLAN Online are strongly encouraged to attend.

All schools are expected to transition to NAPLAN Online in 2021. For more information regarding NAPLAN Online, including test design and technical requirements, see the National Assessment Program website.
NAPLAN principals’ package

The NAPLAN 2020 principals’ packages were delivered to schools from Tuesday 28 January 2020. If you have not received the principals’ package by Wednesday 5 February, contact the NAPLAN Helpdesk on 1800 648 637.

The package includes the NAPLAN 2020 Handbook for Principals.

Part A of the handbook contains the National Protocols for Test Administration (the Protocols) and provides detailed information on all aspects for the administration of the tests. In addition, to ensure that the tests are administered fairly to all students, a NAPLAN Code of Conduct, providing a summary of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours by principals and test administrators, is also included in this section. Principals should ensure that all staff members involved in NAPLAN have read the Protocols carefully.

Part B of the handbook provides information specifically related to implementing the NAPLAN 2020 in Victoria.

To ensure that all Australian students complete the tests under similar conditions, principals should make sure that all relevant personnel have read and understood both sections of the handbook and that, where applicable, a copy is also provided to the NAPLAN coordinator(s).

The NAPLAN 2020 principals’ package also includes an important information sheet for NAPLAN 2020 and login details to the Test Administration website.

NAPLAN 2020 Writing test information

As in previous years, there will be two writing prompts: one prompt for Years 3 and 5 and a different prompt for Years 7 and 9. The genre for the NAPLAN 2020 Writing test will be either narrative or persuasive, and it will be the same genre for all year levels. The genre for the Writing test will not be disclosed before the test day and students will not be able to choose the genre in which they write their response.

The Year 3 Writing test will be conducted using paper tests for all schools, including those schools completing NAPLAN Online in 2020.

Further information on the Writing test is available on the VCAA website.

New NAPLAN Online test timetable for Years 7 and 9

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has introduced a change to the delivery sequence of NAPLAN Online tests in 2020 for Years 7 and 9.

In 2020, NAPLAN Writing tests must be completed over a two-day test period during the nine-day test window. Years 7 and 9 students must complete the Writing test on Day 2 and/or Day 3 of the test window.

To ensure schools participating in NAPLAN Online are able to complete NAPLAN tests within the nine-day test window, testing for Years 7 and 9 students can commence with the Reading test on Day 1. Schools are required to complete the tests in the following order, with the requirement to commence the Writing test on either Day 2 or Day 3 of the test window:

1. Reading
2. Conventions of Language

There is no change to the test delivery schedule for Years 3 and 5.

Refer to the NAPLAN Online 2020 Handbook for Principals for more information.
The NAPLAN Test Administration website

The VCAA provides schools with the NAPLAN Test Administration website to enable a range of administrative tasks to be completed online.

The website is currently available for the enrolment phase. During this phase all schools are asked to complete the following tasks by Friday 21 February 2020:

- Statement of Compliance
- Registration of authorised staff
- Review of school contact and address details
- Order of alternative format test books (large print, black and white, braille and electronic).

Schools participating in NAPLAN Online are asked to complete the following additional tasks via the NAPLAN Test Administration website:

- Technical Readiness Check
- NAPLAN test schedule.

Independent schools are also required to pre-enrol students by uploading data to the website by Friday 14 February 2020.

The NAPLAN Test Administration website is secure and requires a user ID and password to log in. The login details are provided to principals in the letter accompanying the NAPLAN 2020 principals’ package.

Detailed instructions to assist schools with completing tasks during the enrolment phase are available on the VCAA website.

Student registration for NAPLAN 2020

Students undertaking the NAPLAN 2020 tests will be registered via a pre-enrolment process before the tests. Pre-enrolment allows individual student details to be printed on test books and provides significant efficiencies in the administration of the tests at the school level and in the processing of test results.

As in previous years, the following processes apply for NAPLAN test pre-enrolment for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students.

**Government schools**

Through an agreement between the Department of Education and Training and the VCAA, all students at government schools will be pre-enrolled in the NAPLAN tests based on their enrolment status on the CASES21 system, as of the February 2020 school census day. This means that government schools do not have to manually upload their enrolment data.

**Catholic schools**

The Catholic Education Office Melbourne will collect and provide student registration information to the VCAA on behalf of all Catholic schools, as part of their February 2020 school census process.

**Independent schools**

Independent schools are required to upload data files via the NAPLAN Test Administration website directly to the VCAA. This process must be completed by Friday 14 February 2020.
Accessibility and ordering alternative NAPLAN paper test formats

Every student has different needs, and disability adjustments for NAPLAN paper and online tests must be determined on a case-by-case basis. For NAPLAN Online, a student with disability should be encouraged to undertake the demonstration tests at their school, using their preferred device, to determine whether they can access NAPLAN Online. Where a student with disability cannot access NAPLAN Online, alternative format paper tests can be provided.

All NAPLAN tests will be available in braille, large print and black-and-white formats. In addition, for schools completing NAPLAN on paper, an electronic test format is available for students who are unable to access the test through any other available adjustments. All alternative test formats need to be ordered online through the NAPLAN Test Administration website by Friday 21 February 2020.

Measuring excellence in Critical and Creative Thinking and The Arts

In 2020, the VCAA will conduct sample assessment programs in Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT) and The Arts with a sample of schools across Victoria. This is an exciting opportunity for schools who are invited to be involved in the collection of statewide data in CCT and The Arts. The assessments support the Education State Targets and have been conducted since 2016. The participation of students from sampled schools will play a significant role in the tracking of these important targets.

The timing of the 2020 assessment periods are as follows:

**The Arts**
- Monday 25 May – Friday 26 June 2020
- Monday 13 July – Friday 14 August 2020

**CCT**
- Monday 20 July – Friday 7 August 2020

If your school is selected to participate, your principal will receive an email invitation in Term 1 with additional details about the assessment programs.
## Accreditation periods for VCE studies: Effective 1 January 2020

The following table provides a summary of the accreditation periods for VCE studies as approved by the VCAA Board and accredited by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accreditation period expires</th>
<th>Biology*</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Languages: Chinese First Language, Classical Greek, Classical Hebrew, Indonesian First Language, Japanese First Language, Korean First Language, Latin, Vietnamese First Language*</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Environmental Science*</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
<td>Physics</td>
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<td>Art</td>
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<td>Religion and Society</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Studio Arts</td>
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<td>Chinese Language, Culture and Society</td>
<td>Texts and Traditions</td>
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<td>Economics</td>
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<td>Food Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Indigenous Languages of Victoria: Revival and Reclamation</td>
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<td>Literature</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accreditation period expires</th>
<th>Algorithmics (HESS)</th>
<th>Mathematics: Foundation Mathematics, General Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2021</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Studio Arts</td>
</tr>
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<td>Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accreditation period expires</th>
<th>Australian and Global Politics</th>
<th>Legal Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2022</td>
<td>English Language*</td>
<td>Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health and Human Development</td>
<td>Outdoor and Environmental Studies</td>
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<td>Languages Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages (CCAFL) – Units 1 and 2: Armenian, Auslan, Bosnian, Chin Hakha, Croatian, Dutch, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Karen, Khmer, Macedonian, Maltese, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala, Swedish, Tamil, Turkish, Yiddish</td>
<td>Physical Education*</td>
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<th>Accreditation period expires</th>
<th>Accounting</th>
<th>Languages CCAFL – Units 3 and 4: Armenian, Auslan, Bosnian, Chin Hakha, Croatian, Dutch, Filipino, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Karen, Khmer, Macedonian, Maltese, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala, Swedish, Tamil, Turkish, Yiddish</th>
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<td>December 2023</td>
<td>Applied Computing</td>
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<td>Extended Investigation*</td>
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<td>Industry and Enterprise</td>
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| Accreditation period expires | Agricultural and Horticultural Studies | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 2024               | Foundation English | |

* The accreditation periods for VCE Biology, VCE Environmental Science and VCE Vietnamese First Language have been reduced by one year to 31 December 2020.

* The accreditation periods for VCE English Language and VCE Physical Education have been extended by one year to 31 December 2022, and the accreditation period for VCE Extended Investigation has been extended by two years to 31 December 2023.
VCE study design wall chart

All schools will be sent a study design wall chart in Term 1. This chart provides VCE coordinators, teachers and librarians with a quick visual reference to the entire collection of accredited VCE study designs for 2020.

Each accredited study design is available on the VCAA website from the relevant study webpage. It is essential that teachers use the current accredited study design as the basis for all course development and assessment of VCE studies.

The VCAA remains the official source of advice for all VCE studies.

Reaccredited study designs for implementation in 2020

Various VCE studies have updated study designs for implementation in 2020, including Agricultural and Horticultural Studies, Applied Computing, Foundation English (Units 1 and 2) and Second Languages (Units 3 and 4).

Refer to Notice to Schools 10/2020.

Reaccredited study designs for implementation in 2021

The reaccredited study designs for the following VCE studies will be made available during Term 1, 2020:

- Biology
- Bridging English as an Additional Language
- Classical Greek
- Environmental Science
- First Languages: Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese
- Geography
- History
- Latin.

These updated study designs are published online in the year before implementation on the relevant VCE study webpage. This is done to assist teachers in preparing for the implementation of the reaccredited studies in 2021 and must not be used for the 2020 academic year.

Updates and amendments to study designs are announced in the VCAA Bulletin and published on individual study webpages.

Implementation support program briefings for reaccredited VCE studies

In 2020, the VCAA will conduct statewide implementation briefings for teachers for the following reaccredited studies:

- Biology
- Classical Greek
- Environmental Science
- First Languages: Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese
- History
- Latin.

Online sessions will be held for VCE Bridging English as an Additional Language and VCE Geography.

Full details of the briefings will be provided in the VCAA Bulletin and Notices to Schools during Term 1.

For further information, contact Robyn Douglass, Curriculum Program Manager: douglass.robyn.f@edumail.vic.gov.au or (03) 9032 1720.
Amendments to VCE study designs

Amendments have been made to the following VCE studies, effective immediately:

- Accounting
- Extended Investigation

The updated study designs and a list of amendments are now available on the relevant VCE study webpages.

For further information, contact the VCE Curriculum Unit: vcaa.vce.curriculum@edumail.vic.gov.au.

2020 VCAA Consultation Register now open

Consultation is an important part of the review and accreditation process for VCE studies. The consultation process is conducted electronically. Teachers and stakeholders are invited to participate by joining the VCAA Consultation Register for the following VCE studies:

- Algorithmics (HESS)
- Art
- Business Management
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language, Culture and Society
- Economics
- English and English as an Additional Language
- Food Studies
- Indigenous Languages of Victoria: Revival and Reclamation
- Literature
- Mathematics: Foundation Mathematics, General Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, Specialist Mathematics
- Music
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religion and Society
- Studio Arts
- Texts and Traditions.

Teachers and stakeholders registered for consultation will receive email notification once the draft of the relevant VCE study design is available online and will be invited to respond via an online questionnaire. Teachers and stakeholders will be given the option of allowing the VCAA to use their registration details to receive email notification of the implementation briefings for the reaccredited studies in 2021.

Consultation draft study designs of the listed studies will be available for consideration throughout 2020. Each study or group of studies will have a four-week consultation period. The draft study design and consultation questionnaire will be available on the VCAA website from the relevant VCE study webpage.
Launch of School-based Assessment Audit

Information about the 2020 School-based Assessment Audit of all VCE Units 3 and 4 studies is available on the VCE General Advice and Policy webpage and the School-based Assessment Audit webpage.

Notification dates

Notification of studies selected for the Unit 3 School-based Assessment Audit will be released on Monday 24 February 2020 on VASS (go to School Program > VCE > School-based Assessment Audit).

Schools should also take note of the following key dates for the School-based Assessment Audit:

- Monday 24 February – notification of studies being audited in Unit 3
- Friday 13 March – Unit 3 audit questionnaire responses due
- Monday 11 May – outcome of Unit 3 audit questionnaire delivered
- Friday 29 May – Unit 3 further evidence due (if applicable)
- Monday 20 July – outcome of Unit 3 further evidence delivered
- Monday 20 July – notification of studies being audited in Unit 4
- Friday 7 August – Unit 4 audit questionnaire responses due
- Monday 5 October – outcome of Unit 4 audit questionnaire delivered
- Monday 19 October – Unit 4 further evidence due (if applicable)
- Monday 30 November – outcome of Unit 4 further evidence delivered.

Further information on the School-based Assessment Audit can be obtained from Samantha Anderson: school.assessment.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au or (03) 9651 3957.

School-based Assessment resources

Administrative Information for School-based Assessment now available

The Administrative Information for School-based Assessment for the following VCE studies is now available on the relevant study webpages:

- Algorithms (HESS)
- Applied Computing
- Art
- Media
- Product Design and Technology
- Studio Arts
- Systems Engineering
- Visual Communication Design.

School-based Assessment reports now available

School-based Assessment reports for the following studies are now available on the relevant VCE study webpages:

- Accounting
- Classical Studies
- Dance
- Drama
- Extended Investigation
- Industry and Enterprise
- Philosophy
- Systems Engineering
- Theatre Studies

School-based Assessment reports provide feedback to teachers following the first year of implementation of a new or newly accredited study design.

The reports are based on results from the School-based Assessment Audit. They outline issues raised through the audit process, common themes and the use of commercially produced tasks. The reports refer to Advice for Teachers and other resources for setting and assessing School-based Assessment.
VCE prescribed lists

Amendment to 2020 VCE Drama and Theatre Studies playlist

VCE coordinators and teachers should note that an amendment has been made to the 2020 VCE Drama and Theatre Studies playlist. An additional play, *Hell’s Canyon* by Emily Sheehan, has been added to the list for VCE Theatre Studies Unit 3. Amendments have also been made to the venue and performance times for *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* by Ray Lawler (VCE Theatre Studies Unit 3) and *SLAP. BANG. KISS* by Dan Giovannouli (VCE Drama Unit 3).

The updated playlist is now available on the VCE Drama and VCE Theatre Studies study webpages.

VCE Agricultural and Horticultural Studies

The reaccredited VCE Agricultural and Horticultural Studies Study Design (2020–2024) includes the specific pests, diseases and weeds to be studied.

There will no longer be an annual prescribed list of pests, diseases and weeds.

VCE English and English as an Additional Language and VCE Literature text lists

The text lists for VCE English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) and VCE Literature for 2021 are now available on the VCAA website on the relevant VCE study webpages. The lists are to be used with the study designs for Units 3 and 4:

- VCE English and EAL
- VCE Literature.

Teachers should consider the lists in conjunction with the relevant text selection advice published on page 17 of the VCE English and EAL Study Design and page 15 of the VCE Literature Study Design.

VCE Music Investigation and VCE Music Performance

The 2020 solo and group lists of works are now available on the VCE Music Investigation and the VCE Music Performance study webpages. The same lists are used for Units 3 and 4 of both Music Investigation and Music Performance. Information about study-specific requirements is provided in the lists. In 2020, some music publication details have been clarified, new works have been added, and works have been identified as due for deletion in 2021. The list for Guitar – Contemporary Popular has been the most substantially reviewed.

For the majority of listed works, the cited editions are only recommended and equivalent editions may be used without seeking VCAA approval. Where a work is a specific arrangement or a transcription, it will have been generally published only in the cited edition. It is the responsibility of schools to ensure students perform only listed works or approved alternative works.

VCE Music Investigation and VCE Music Performance alternative works and instruments

Guidelines and application forms for approval of alternative works and instruments for solo performance are available on the VCE Music Investigation and VCE Music Performance study webpages.

Separate guidelines and application forms are provided for Music Investigation and for Music Performance. These forms must be submitted to the VCAA by 5pm, Wednesday 26 February 2020.

VCE Music review of lists

Each VCE Music list includes information regarding the ongoing review process and how to submit suggestions of new works.

For further information, contact Margaret Arnold, Curriculum Manager, Performing Arts: arnold.margaret.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or (03) 9032 1681.
VCE prescribed lists (continued)

**VCE Music Investigation: Topic approval**

Students enrolled in VCE Music Investigation Units 3 and 4 must complete an Investigation Topic Approval form, available from the VCE Music Investigation study webpage. Schools must submit the completed form via VASS (go to Student Program > VCE > Approved Focus Area) by 5pm, Wednesday 26 February 2020.

It is the school’s responsibility to:

- ensure each student is correctly enrolled in the study (VASS code MC05 3-4)
- enter the correct focus (instrument) code (a list of codes is available as a VASS download)
- submit a separate application for an alternative instrument, if applicable
- submit a separate application for an alternative work, if applicable.

Schools are not required to submit sheet music or audio files at this stage. The VCAA will reply ‘approved’ or ‘not approved’ during March to the person identified on VASS as the Music Investigation school contact person. During the approval process, the VCAA may contact schools and request copies of sheet music and audio recordings of prescribed works.

Enquiries regarding this process should be directed to Margaret Arnold, Curriculum Manager, Performing Arts: arnold.margaret.1@edumail.vic.gov.au or (03) 9032 1681.

**VCE Visual Communication Design Revised Technical Drawing Specifications**

The Technical Drawing Specifications to support VCE Visual Communication Design have been updated for 2020. 

Refer to [Notice to Schools 12/2020](#).

**Higher Education Studies in the VCE program**

Information about the Higher Education Studies (HES) in the VCE program for 2020, including a complete list of participating universities and studies offered, is now available on the [Higher Education Studies in the VCE](#) webpage.

Schools must finalise VCE enrolments for students interested in applying for a HES in the VCE before Monday 27 April 2020. A finalised school enrolment is required for universities to confirm a student’s eligibility for their HES course.

Schools are also responsible for ensuring that students have met the pre- and co-requisite requirements for their selected HES.

Please refer to the [Higher Education in the VCE recommendations](#) for students, schools and participating universities.
VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable: Applications for authorisation to deliver

The VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable (NHT) timetable operates from July to June and is available for a limited number of VCE studies. This alternative academic timetable may provide options for VCE providers/schools – both offshore and in Victoria – to create more flexible programs for VCE delivery.

The NHT need not replace the traditional calendar-year timetable. Authorised providers/schools may offer VCE studies on both timetables. Offering studies on both timetables may provide greater opportunities, where students may complete some studies on one timetable and some on the other.

All studies offered on the NHT are subject to the curriculum and assessment requirements that applied in the VCE calendar year before the NHT academic year.

The external assessment results of the NHT cohort will be subject to equating to ensure comparability with the results of the larger Victorian cohort assessed in the previous calendar year.

Providers/schools wanting to offer the NHT to students in Victoria are required to apply for authorisation to deliver on the NHT. Access to VASS enrolments for NHT students will be available only to authorised providers/schools.

Authorisation application forms will be available in February 2020 for VCE providers wishing to offer:

- classes in approved VCE Unit 1 and 2 studies on the NHT in 2020–21
- classes in approved VCE Unit 3 and 4 studies on the NHT in 2020–21 and/or 2021–22.

Prospective providers are required to attend a briefing for VCE and VASS coordinators. The briefing will be held on Wednesday 18 March 2020. Details of the briefing, including the registration process, can be obtained by emailing the Student Records and Results Unit at student.records@edumail.vic.gov.au.

The deadline for receipt of authorisation applications is Friday 17 April 2020.

General information about the NHT, details of the VCE studies available on the NHT, and the authorisation process are published on the VCAA website.
Assessment

2020 VCE examination periods

The VCAA Board approved the 2020 VCE examination periods on 26 June 2019. The corresponding 2020 VCE written examination timetable will be published in May 2020.

2019–2020 VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable examination periods

The 2019–2020 VCE on a Northern Hemisphere Timetable examination periods are now available. The corresponding 2019–2020 timetable will be published in March 2020.

VCE examination specifications now available

New examination specifications for the following VCE end-of-year examinations have been published on the VCAA website:

- Agricultural and Horticultural Studies 2020–2024
- Applied Computing: Data Analytics 2020–2023

The following Victorian Second Languages oral and written examination specifications have also been published on the VCAA website:

- Arabic 2020–2023
- Chinese Second Language 2020–2023
- Chinese Second Language Advanced 2020–2023
- French 2020–2023
- German 2020–2023
- Greek 2020–2023
- Indonesian Second Language 2020–2023
- Italian 2020–2023
- Japanese Second Language 2020–2023
- Korean Second Language 2020–2023
- Spanish 2020–2023

These examination specifications can be accessed from the Examination Specifications, Past Examinations and Examination Reports webpage.

Revised assessment criteria for VCE English and VCE English as an Additional Language examinations

The assessment criteria for the VCE English examination and the VCE English as an Additional language examination have been updated.

Refer to Notice to Schools 2/2020.
VCAL Briefing webinar 2020

The VCAA will conduct a repeat VCAL Briefing webinar in February 2020. Refer to Notice to Schools 3/2020.

2020 VCAL Quality Assurance arrangements and webinar

Information on the 2020 VCAL Quality Assurance process, including a February webinar, is now available. Refer to Notice to Schools 7/2020.

Vocational Education and Training

VCE VET programs for 2020

There have been a number of changes to the qualifications that make up VCE VET programs. These include programs that have been redeveloped for implementation in 2020. All VCE VET program webpages have been updated for 2020 to reflect any changes. It is important for teachers to refer to the 2020 versions of program booklets.

The VCE VET program changes for 2020 document provides individual program details for programs where:

- continuous improvement has resulted in unit of competency and/or program structure changes
- redevelopment has been undertaken and revised programs are to be implemented from 2020
- a revised scored Unit 3–4 sequence is available for the first time in 2020
- a new VCE VET program has been developed.

Changes to VCE VET programs are reflected in the program booklets available on individual VCE VET program webpages on the VCAA website.

The following VCE VET programs have been revised:

- Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation Land Management
- Animal Studies
- Applied Fashion Design and Technology
- Business
- Creative and Digital Media
- Electrical Industry
- Engineering
- Equine Studies
- Health
- Hospitality
- Information, Digital Media and Technology
- Music Industry
- Sport and Recreation (new Units 3 and 4).

Teachers need to ensure that they are aware of the changes and deliver the correct units as published on the VCE VET Programs webpage.
VCE VET coursework audit 2019

Results and feedback from 2019 VCE VET coursework audits will be sent to principals and managers of the Assessing Group of the VCE VET program and registered training organisation partners in February 2020. Teachers of VCE VET programs in schools that were audited should ensure they receive the outcome of their audit from their principal. If audit results indicate that improvement in task design is required, teachers should attend the relevant VCE VET scored assessment workshop in March 2020.

Material to support VCE VET scored assessment

For trainers and teachers wishing to update or review their VCE VET Scored Coursework Tasks, refer to the VCE VET Programs Scored Assessment webpage on the VCAA website. Updated Assessment Plans for 2020 are available for all scored VCE VET programs on the program-specific webpages.

VCE VET State Reviewer positions

Expressions of interest are invited for the vacant VCE VET State Reviewer positions for 2020 in the following program areas:

- Community Services
- Furnishing
- Integrated Technologies.

Teachers of these programs at the Units 3 and 4 level are encouraged to apply for the State Reviewer positions.

The VCE VET State Reviewer is required to undertake a range of activities, including participating in VCAA professional development activities, assisting in VCE VET program reviews (where appropriate), providing feedback and advice to schools/registered training organisations, assisting in the preparation of published advice regarding scored assessment, conducting coursework audits and preparing feedback as a result of the coursework audits.

For more information and details on how to apply, contact the VET Unit: vet.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au.

VCE VET Sport and Recreation program advice

Due to changes from the Sport, Coaching and Officiating electives units in the SIS Training Package, the Unit 3–4 sequence for the VCE VET Sport and Recreation program for 2020 has been revised. There have also been changes to elective units for Units 1 and 2. Teachers should refer to the VCE VET program booklet on the VCE VET Sport and Recreation webpage on the VCAA website for additional information.

The Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation has also been updated; however, the teach out date has been extended until 2021 so both SIS20213 and its replacement SIS20419 are available for delivery in 2020. Discuss the appropriateness of these options with your registered training organisation.

Review of VET Creative Arts and Culture training package

Skills Service Organisation PwC is reviewing the VET Creative Arts and Culture training package.

The project has been underway since 2018 when the skills forecast was done and industry consultation commenced. Draft 1 was released in November 2019 and is open for consultation until February 2020. If you would like to see what is being proposed and/or provide feedback, see the PwC website.

High-level qualifications enrolments and credit

Schools wishing to enrol students into qualifications at Certificate IV or above must apply to the VET Unit before the students commence the training. For providers/schools who have not already done so, refer to the application form and instructions which can be obtained from the VET Unit: vet.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au.
Structured workplace learning recognition

Structured workplace learning (SWL) recognition provides the formal framework and processes to enable students to integrate their on-the-job experience and learning in a workplace, with nationally recognised VET undertaken as part of either the VCE or the VCAL. All schools can access SWL recognition on VASS.

For details about implementing SWL recognition and fact sheets, visit the SWL Recognition webpage.

Information about the SWL recognition workshop/webinar for Term 1 will be available on the VCAA Professional Learning webpage.

‘VE3-2018’ suffix qualifications removed from VASS

Qualifications with a ‘-2018’ code set up in 2019 to accommodate students affected by the new block credit rules have now been removed from VASS. Schools will be required to enrol students into the VE3 qualification that is available on VASS from 2020.

VCAA to showcase new VCE VET programs for VCE Season of Excellence 2021

The 2021 Season of Excellence Top Designs will feature the following new VCE VET programs:

- VCE VET Furnishing
- VCE VET Engineering Studies
- VCE VET Integrated Technologies
- VCE VET Music Industry (Sound Production).

High-quality works created by students who complete the above VCE VET programs (Units 3 and 4) in 2020 will be eligible to apply for the Season of Excellence in 2021. This is in addition to VCE VET Creative and Digital Media.

Updated Get VET resources

Go to the Get VET webpage for all the latest resources, videos and success stories.
New collection notice to be provided to VCE and VCAL students enrolled on VASS

Schools can now access a new collection notice from VASS that accompanied the VCE and VCAL Student Personal Details form. Refer to Notice to Schools 1/2020.

Professional development

Analysing your school’s VCE results: Training sessions

Registration for professional development on analysing your school’s VCE results is now open. The sessions will begin on Monday 10 February and run until Tuesday 25 March 2020. A number of regional areas will be included, among them Wangaratta, Shepparton, Warrnambool, Geelong, Horsham, Ballarat, Traralgon, Warragul, Bendigo and Mildura. Download the list of dates and locations from the VCAA website.

For more information, contact the Data Analysis, Measurement and Reporting Unit: (03) 9603 7937.

Professional learning sessions for VCE studies: Regional Victoria

In conjunction with the VCE Briefings, the VCAA is offering professional learning sessions for teachers in regional Victoria. Refer to Notice to Schools 4/2020.
VCE School-based Assessment professional learning

**Workshops for Units 3 and 4 VCE Mathematics**

The VCAA will run three School-based Assessment workshops for teachers of Units 3 and 4 VCE Further Mathematics, VCE Mathematical Methods and VCE Specialist Mathematics in February and March 2020.

The workshops will cover the nature, purpose and scope of VCE School-based Assessment, and the development and assessment of suitable application tasks and modelling or problem-solving tasks for School-assessed Coursework.

Schools are advised that only one teacher from the school can attend per study.

All sessions will be held at VCAA Coburg from 10am to 3pm:

- Workshop 1: Monday 24 February 2020 – VCE Further Mathematics
- Workshop 2: Monday 2 March 2020 – VCE Mathematical Methods
- Workshop 3: Wednesday 4 March 2020 – VCE Specialist Mathematics

A light lunch will be provided. Register now for a session. Registrations will close one week before each session.

**Webinars for VCE studies**

Professional learning sessions with a focus on School-based Assessment have been organised during Term 1 for the VCE Sciences, VCE Second Languages and VCE Technologies studies.


**VCE School-based Assessment and School-assessed Tasks professional learning sessions**

As advertised in the VCAA Bulletin No. 54 November 2019, from February 2020 the VCAA will be conducting professional learning sessions, face-to-face and via webinar, for VCE studies with a School-assessed Task (SAT). There will also be sessions that focus on School-assessed Coursework (SAC) task development.

Stakeholders are advised that additional sessions have been added. Visit the registration page to view the new sessions and to register.

Refer to Notice to Schools 11/2020.

**VCE Extended Investigation professional learning day**

The VCAA is conducting a professional learning day on Friday 21 February 2020 for schools delivering VCE Extended Investigation this year.

Refer to Notice to Schools 5/2020.
VCE VET scored assessment workshops 2020

The VCAA will run a series of VCE VET scored assessment workshops in March.

These professional development workshops are for school and registered training organisation (RTO)-based teachers, trainers and assessors of scored programs. They will comprise activities relating to the design and development of scored assessment tasks in each scored VCE VET program. This year’s workshops will focus on implementing the new requirements for task types for scored assessment in each of the 14 VCE VET programs. Note that these workshops will cover much greater detail than the overview of new scored assessment workshops held in December 2019.

Workshops will be held at the Moonee Valley Racecourse (note the venue change from recent years) for the 14 VCE VET programs with a study score.

These scored assessment workshops provide valuable opportunities for sharing and networking while preparing tasks for 2020. All teachers, trainers and assessors of the scored VCE VET programs are strongly encouraged to attend.

Further information, including the workshop schedule and a registration link, is available on the VCAA Professional Learning webpage. Questions about the workshops may be directed to the VCAA at vcaavet.pdreg@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Schools are urged to share this information with their RTO partners.

VCE Physical Education: Unit 2 webinar series

The VCAA has developed a webinar series to support teachers in the delivery and assessment of VCE Physical Education, Unit 2.

Refer to Notice to Schools 6/2020.
Teaching young people resilience during disaster

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience Education for Young People program promotes disaster resilience education for all young Australians, in schools and other educational settings. The program supports initiatives that enable young people to participate in resilient communities, applying knowledge and skills to reduce risk and take protective action before, during and after an emergency or disaster. It endorses a collaborative approach to disaster resilience education, with young people and educators working in partnership with experts from emergency services and related organisations to investigate natural hazards and understand risks in the local environment.

To find out more, see the Education for Young People website.

Science Teachers’ Association of Victoria VCE conferences

The Science Teachers’ Association of Victoria (STAV) will run a series of conferences for VCE Biology, VCE Chemistry and VCE Physics during February 2020.

For further information and to book, see the STAV website.

Opportunity for students to actively experience parliament

Planning for the Victorian Students’ Parliamentary Program (VSPP) conventions is underway. The VSPP provides students in Years 5, 6, 10 and 11 the opportunity to participate in local conventions, a Parliament of Victoria school convention and the National Convention in Canberra.

The initiative supports more students to engage in the civics and citizenship curriculum, achieve excellence in critical and creative thinking, and be inspired to be active participants in democratic processes.

For more information about the program, including how your school can participate, see the Department of Education's Civics and Citizenship webpage.

VCE History conference and examination reports

This History Teachers Association of Victoria (HTAV) professional learning conference will be held on Friday 21 February 2020. The conference is structured to support VCE History teachers to expand their content knowledge, gain valuable advice from the VCAA Chief Assessors presenting the 2019 examination reports, and catch up with peers and mentors from across Victoria.

Early bird rates are available until Friday 7 February 2020 and registrations close Thursday 13 February 2020. To view the full program and to register, see the HTAV website.

Swimming and water safety resources

Life Saving Victoria has recently redesigned its Swimming and Water Safety Online Toolkit. The toolkit contains information about the importance of swimming and water safety, funding available for school swimming and water safety programs, and access to free resources to support your school’s swimming program.

In collaboration with the VCAA, resources have been developed that highlight the progression of swimming and water safety skills through the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and the National Swimming and Water Safety Framework. Life Saving Victoria has also developed informative resources and step-by-step guides to explain how to successfully incorporate the Victorian Water Safety Certificate into your school swimming program and how to order the certificates online.