QCAA external assessment timetable 2026

About the timetable

The QCAA external assessment timetable 2026 includes the external assessments for General and General (Extension) subjects.

The timetable will be updated in Term 3 to include language and non-language Senior External Examinations (SEEs). SEEs are 100% external examinations and are different from the mainstream General subjects.

The timetable has been designed to:

- minimise clashes for students across the examination period. Where there is a clash within a morning or afternoon session, students will be allocated to the alternative session on the same day
- ensure most students sit no more than two external assessments on one day
- provide sufficient breaks between external assessments for popular courses and frequently combined courses
- enable all external assessments to be marked in time for students to receive their final Year 12 results.

English and Literature prescribed text lists and Ancient and Modern History topics 2026

Schools have nominated topic/text selections as required for the following external assessments:

- English
- English as an Additional Language
- Literature
- Ancient History
- Modern History.

Note:

- From 2026, Drama no longer requires a text selection.
- Topic/text confirmations for your school are available in the QCAA Portal and QCAA Student Portal.
- Information about topics/texts is available in the QCAA memos with the senior syllabuses.

260759

English and Literature prescribed text lists and Ancient and Modern History topics 2026

The prescribed text list options for English subjects and topic options for History subjects are listed below. Your school has selected the text or topic you will study for the external assessment at the end of this year. Topic/text confirmations for your school are available on the QCAA Student Portal and QCAA School Portal.

English and Literature prescribed text lists

English and English as an Additional Language	Literature
• ***All the Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr • ***Never Let Me Go*** by Kazuo Ishiguro • ***Othello*** by William Shakespeare • ***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen • ***The Dry*** by Jane Harper • ***The Namesake*** by Jhumpa Lahiri • ***The Yield*** by Tara June Winch • ***Twelfth Night*** by William Shakespeare	• ***Antony and Cleopatra*** by William Shakespeare • ***Beloved*** by Toni Morrison • ***Catch-22*** by Joseph Heller • ***Hamlet*** by William Shakespeare • ***Stasiland*** by Anna Funder • ***Terra Nullius*** by Claire G Coleman • ***The Picture of Dorian Gray*** by Oscar Wilde • ***Wuthering Heights*** by Emily Brontë

History topics

Ancient History	Modern History
• **Julius Caesar** • **Cleopatra VII**	• **Cold War and its aftermath, 1945–2014** (Yalta Conference begins — Russo-Ukrainian War begins) • **Mass migrations since 1848** (California Gold Rush begins)

QCAA external assessment timetable for General and General (Extension) subjects 2026

Session		Monday 26 October		Tuesday 27 October		Wednesday 28 October		Thursday 29 October		Friday 30 October	
Week 1	AM	Economics	2hrs + 15mins	English	2hrs + 15mins	Chinese	2hrs + 5mins	Literature	2hrs + 15mins	Chemistry (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins
				English as an Additional Language	2hrs + 15mins	Philosophy & Reason	2hrs + 15mins				
						Physical Education	2hrs + 5mins				
	PM	Aerospace Systems	2hrs + 5mins	Ancient History	2hrs + 15mins	Spanish	2hrs + 5mins	Legal Studies	2hrs + 15mins	Chemistry (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins
		Health	2hrs + 15mins			Visual Art	2hrs + 20mins				
		Music	2hrs + 20mins								

Session		Monday 2 November		Tuesday 3 November		Wednesday 4 November		Thursday 5 November		Friday 6 November	
Week 2	AM	Biology (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies	2hrs + 15mins	Film, Television & New Media	2hrs + 20mins	Modern History	2hrs + 15mins	General Mathematics (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins
				German	2hrs + 5mins	Chinese Extension French Extension German Extension	2hrs + 20mins			Specialist Mathematics (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins
				Study of Religion	2hrs + 15mins						
	PM	Biology (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins	Business	2hrs + 15mins	Accounting	2hrs + 15mins	General Mathematics (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Design	2hrs + 15mins
				Music Extension	2hrs + 20mins	Drama	2hrs + 20mins	Specialist Mathematics (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins		
						Italian	2hrs + 5mins				

QCAA external assessment timetable for General and General (Extension) subjects 2026

Session		Monday 9 November		Tuesday 10 November		Wednesday 11 November		Thursday 12 November		Friday 13 November	
Week 3	AM	Physics (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Dance Digital Solutions English & Literature Extension	2hrs + 20mins 2hrs + 5mins 2hrs + 30mins	Psychology (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins	Earth & Environmental Science (Paper 2) Geography	90mins + 5mins 2hrs + 15mins	Mathematical Methods (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins
	PM	Physics (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins	Psychology (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Earth & Environmental Science (Paper 1) Engineering Food & Nutrition	90mins + 5mins 2hrs + 5mins 2hrs + 5mins	French Japanese	2hrs + 5mins 2hrs + 5mins	Mathematical Methods (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins

Session		Monday 16 November		Tuesday 17 November		Wednesday 18 November		Thursday 19 November		Friday 20 November	
Week 4	AM	Marine Science (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins	Agricultural Science (Paper 1)	90mins + 5mins						
	PM	Marine Science (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins	Agricultural Science (Paper 2)	90mins + 5mins						

© State of Queensland (QCAA) 2026

Licence: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0 | **Copyright notice:** www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/copyright — lists the full terms and conditions, which specify certain exceptions to the licence. | **Attribution:** © State of Queensland (QCAA) 2026 www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/copyright.