

Senior Subject Selection

How should I choose my subjects?

- A realistic assessment of your own abilities, talents and interests
- Your future goals and career / job interests if you have any
- Subject you enjoy and can do well in

Do not choose subjects based on:

- What your friends are doing, your older siblings or parents did or who you think might be teaching the subject
- How you think a subject might scale

Get advice from:

- Your Careers Adviser, especially regarding university entry requirements
- Your current class teachers and other relevant staff such as Head Teachers, Deputy Principal
- Talk with current senior students, employers, parents and other contacts you may have

A broad range of subjects is a good idea to cover all options if you are unsure where you are headed after the HSC in terms of further education and training or employment.

Types of HSC Courses

Board Developed:

These are developed and examined by the Board of Studies and can count towards the calculation on an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) These are also known as Category A subjects or Category B subjects (the vocational courses).

Board Endorsed:

Can be school Developed or developed and Endorsed by the Board of Studies. These courses count towards the HSC, but are NOT examined externally and DO NOT count towards the ATAR.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

These can be Board Developed or Board Endorsed. They are designed by industry and are taught to industry standards. Students get accreditation towards the HSC, and industry accreditation as part of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) which is recognised Australia wide.

- Some courses have a mandatory work placement requirement.
- Some courses count towards HSC and ATAR
- Some courses count towards HSC but DO NOT count towards the ATAR
- These are also known as Category B subjects (as determined by the universities)

- No more than 1 VET course - max. 2 units (Board Developed Category B) can be included in the 10 units of study contributing to your ATAR (and you must sit the VET course HSC examination).

Life Skills

Life Skills courses are available for students following a special program of study. This needs to be discussed at an individual level with the person in your school responsible for HSC subject selection.

Requirements for the award of the HSC

To be awarded the HSC you must:

- Study a minimum of 12 units in the Preliminary course and 10 units in the HSC course
- Preliminary and HSC course must include:
 - 6 units from Board Developed Courses including 2 units of English
 - At least 3 courses of 2 units value or greater
 - At least 4 subjects
 - No more than 6 units of science
- Complete the practical, oral or project works required for specific courses and all assessment requirements for each course
- Sit for and make a serious attempt at the required HSC examinations

Requirements for an ATAR

Briefly: to be eligible for an ATAR, students must:

- Study a minimum of 10 units of Board Developed courses in the HSC course, including 2 units of English
- No more than 1 VET course - max. 2 units (Board Developed Category B) can be included in the 10 units of study contributing to your ATAR (and you must sit the VET course HSC examination).

Further Details and Information on HSC and ATAR

For detailed information on HSC requirements see:

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

For detailed information on ATAR requirements and how it is calculated see:

www.uac.edu.au

Also see UAC website above for information regarding university entry requirements, recommended subjects, assumed knowledge etc.

Activity.

My job / career goal at the moment is.....

List the subjects offered by your school that might be recommended studies or assumed knowledge for this job / career. You may need to see UAC Guide or Job Guide for this information or consult with your Careers Adviser.

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Year 10 subjects I enjoy and do well in are:

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(These might be good ones to pursue in Yr 11 and 12)

I want to do an ATAR pattern of study (only needed if you want to go to university straight after Yr 12) Yes No

I am interested in doing a VET course as part of my HSC Yes No

If yes, which course/s

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You must do a minimum of 2 units English as part of your HSC. What level do plan to do?

- **English Advanced** - for people who are very good at English, enjoy the subject, like Shakespeare or plan to go into a career such as journalism or law where a high level of English is recommended.
- **English Extension 1 and or English Extension 2** - for talented English students
- **English Standard** - course suitable for most students
- **English Studies** - a basic course suitable for students who are not as strong at English (counts towards your HSC units but not the ATAR).
- **ESL** - for people with a non-english speaking background
- **Life Skills** - for people on a special program of study

Mathematics is not a compulsory subject, but recommended for most jobs/careers. Which level would best suit your ability and needs?

- **2 Unit Mathematics** - for students who enjoy and are good at maths and complete Advanced Mathematics in Yr 10
- **Extension 1 and/or 2 Mathematics** - for talented maths students
- **Mathematics General 2** - suitable for most students
- **Mathematics General 1** - if you are needing a basic level of Maths (does not count towards your minimum 6 Board Developed units for the HSC)
- **Life Skills** - for people on a special program of study

List subjects offered by your school you are interested in studying.

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In the table below, list the subjects you are considering choosing for your HSC. Check with your teacher if you are unsure about HSC requirements, unit value or ATAR eligibility.

Subject	Unit Value	ATAR eligible?
	Total	Yes / No

You now need to discuss your thoughts and options at length with your family, class teachers, and Careers Adviser to make sure you have chosen subjects to meet all your needs, interests and ability.

Subject selection parent information evening is

You need to make your final choices and hand in subject selection for to.....by.....