

ASSESSMENT POLICY

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Pinjarra Senior High School

Senior School Assessment Policy

This policy is provided to all senior secondary students attending Pinjarra Senior High School. The policy is based on School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) requirements. <http://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/further-resources/wace-manual>

All students are enrolled in a combination of Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) courses. Some students are also gaining credit for the WACE by undertaking one Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification. The VET qualifications are delivered and assessed in partnership with a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). Some endorsed programs are delivered by school staff and the evidence of achievement is validated by the school.

Pinjarra Senior High School has high expectations of the Year 11 and 12 student body. The aim of this assessment policy is to encourage students to take responsibility for their learning and to achieve success. It is our aim for staff, students and parents to work together in order to allow students to maximise opportunities to successfully complete their assessment program.

Assessment procedures must be valid, fair and allow discrimination among students across the full range of ability levels.

This policy covers the assessment of all WACE courses at Foundation, General or Australian Tertiary Aggregate Ranking (ATAR), as well as endorsed courses and Units of Competency.

Definitions: The policy refers to WACE courses, endorsed programs and Units of Competency (UoC) within Certificate I, II, III and IV courses. Any statement using the term course will refer to all of the above.

WHAT WILL STUDENTS DO?

- Attempt all in-class assessment tasks on the scheduled date and submit all out-of-class assessment tasks by the due date.
- Maintain a good record of attendance (90%), conduct and progress (a student who is absent from a class for five lessons or more per term is deemed to be 'at risk' of not achieving the best possible result).
- Initiate contact with teachers concerning absence from class, missed in-class assessment tasks, requests for extension of the due date for out-of-class assessment tasks and other issues pertaining to assessment.

WHAT WILL TEACHERS DO?

- Develop a teaching/learning program and assessment schedule that adheres to current School Curriculum and Standards Authority - WACE curriculum. These need to be submitted to Heads of Learning Area (HoLA) early in Term One, before being disseminated to students.
- Every student enrolled in a senior school course will be provided with a course outline and an assessment schedule that adheres to current guidelines (eg. School Curriculum and Standards Authority – WACE Guidelines) at the commencement of the course. Assessment schedules will include information regarding all assessable tasks with approximate due dates.

- In all courses a significant majority (at least 75% for Year 11-12) of student work and assessments will be supervised and completed in class, and used to validate learning that occurs at both school and elsewhere.
- Ensure that assessments are an integral part of teaching and learning; educative; fair; designed to meet specific purpose/s; lead to informative reporting; lead to school-wide evaluation processes; provide significant data for improvement of teaching practices.
- Assessment tasks will have the following characteristics: validity; reliability; allow discrimination (clearly discriminate among students across the full range of ability levels).
- Maintain accurate records of student achievement and assessment in Reporting to Parents and meet school and external timeframes for assessment and reporting.
- Provide a WACE course grade at the end of each semester. Note that marks and grades given by teachers and the school, including those on Connect, are provisional, subject to change and must be accepted by SCSA before being considered finalised.
- Provide appropriate feedback at the end of each semester for endorsed programs and certificate courses.
- At the end of the year, provide a School Curriculum and Standards Authority mark, exam mark and grade at the end of each course, where required.
- Inform students and parents of academic progress as appropriate and in a timely manner, including failure to submit or complete a task on time. Initial contact to be made by letter or email and recorded on iScholaris; subsequent contact to be made by telephone and recorded on iScholaris.
- Inform parents, via Head of Learning Area, at least once a term of any student who is deemed unlikely to achieve a C grade or better.
- Liaise with Associate Principal (Curriculum) and Student Services, any student at risk, including for attendance, engagement in class, non-submission of work, performing below potential or below C grade standard.
- In consultation with their HoLA's , teachers will be flexible in the assessment requirements with students on alternative/flexible programs and provide modified programs and take prior work into consideration, if the student transfers part of the way into the course or required a modified assessment program.
- Provide ongoing and timely feedback to students, using marking and answer keys, as well as frequent feedback during class time.
- Provide the following information to students:
At the start of each unit (or pair of units) the teacher will provide a printed copy of the following to each student:
 - ❖ The syllabus for the course
 - ❖ A course outline that includes the following information:
 - The content
 - The sequence in which the content will be taught
 - The approximate time to teach each section of the unit/course
 - ❖ An assessment outline that includes the following information:
 - The assessment types
 - The weighting for each assessment task
 - A general description of each assessment task
 - A general indication of the content covered by each assessment task
 - An indication of the outcomes covered by each assessment task
 - The approximate timing of each assessment task (ie.the week in which each assessment task is planned or the due dates for significant stages of each extended task).

SECURITY OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

- Where there is more than one class studying the same unit, all of the assessment tasks will be the same. In such cases, to ensure no student is unfairly advantaged, the question papers/tasks used for in-class assessment will be collected at the end of the lesson. In their own interests, students must not discuss the nature of tasks with students from other classes until after all classes have completed the task.
- Discussion of tasks will be considered a breach and students will be penalised.
- Where schools use the same assessment task or exam as other schools or use externally prepared tasks, the task/exam and the student responses will be retained by the teacher until the task/exam has been completed by all schools.
- In some circumstances, for example externally set tasks, or assessment tasks which require considerable preparation and release of them would affect their security, tasks will not be released, but will be available to students during class time for revision and feedback purposes.

EXAMINATIONS AND EXTERNALLY SET TASKS (EST)

- All WACE ATAR courses will be examined in Semester 1 and 2. Externally Set Tasks will be conducted for each General and Foundation course in Year 12.
- Courses will be run as combined year long courses. End of year exams will assess content for the entire year.

Rules, Procedures and Penalties

- When attending examinations, students must adhere to the examination rules and procedures, which will be issued with the examination timetable each semester, and published on the school website. These rules and guidelines are based on the rules, procedures and penalties of SCSA WACE examinations.
- Breaches will result in an appropriate penalty, as detailed in the examination rules and procedures, based on SCSA consequences. (These can be found on page 81-82 of the WACE Manual 2017)

Sickness and Misadventure (Illness and Other Reasons)

- If a student does not attend an examination through sickness, a medical certificate must be provided and their school assessment mark will be based on the remaining completed work.
- A student who provides appropriate evidence, ie. medical certificate, may be given the opportunity, at the Associate Principal's (Curriculum) discretion to sit the examination or be awarded a grade calculated from previous assessments.
- Students and families are reminded that external WACE examinations do not allow for "re-sitting" and in the case of sickness and misadventure, students must apply to SCSA for Sickness and Misadventure consideration. It is the parents' and students' responsibility to submit this form to SCSA.
- If students do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course, the pair of units completed in that year will not contribute towards any of the WACE requirements. Students who do not sit the ATAR course examination will not have a course mark or grade recorded on their Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement, nor will they receive an ATAR course report.

Please note: a family holiday is not considered an appropriate reason for an examination to be missed and students will be awarded a zero for the examination.

Procedures to be implemented if assessment is affected by catastrophic event

- If an assessment is affected by a catastrophic event (for example: severe weather, fire, school closure due to plague or illness) which means the students and/or staff are unable to attend the school worksite, or planned assessments are disrupted, scheduled assessment tasks will be postponed to a later date, or amended. If the event leads to disruption over a period of time, schedules of assessment will be delayed.

Students with Special Learning Needs

- Students with a special education need will have assessments (written, practical and school examinations) modified. These modifications will be consistent with those provided by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. For WACE examination candidates, modifications, depending on the individual students' needs, can include special equipment, provision of a scribe or additional time. A formal application will be made by the parent and student, in partnership with the school, to SCSA, early in the year in which the student intends to sit the examination.
- Students who are unable to complete an assessment task because of their special education needs will be provided with alternative opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understandings.

Modification of the Assessment Outline

- When a students' specific education needs do not allow them to complete a particular assessment task, the teacher may modify the task in consultation with the Head of Learning Area. An individual education plan/documented plan will be developed showing any modifications to the assessment outline for the unit or pairs of units. The standard against which student achievement is assessed cannot be modified.
- When a students' personal circumstances limit his/her capacity to complete a particular assessment task, the teacher, in consultation with the student, parent/carer and HoLA, may negotiate variation to the submission date. The teacher will consider fairness for all students when making decisions about adjusting timelines for a particular student.
- If circumstances require change during the teaching of a course or pair of units, requiring the teacher to make adjustments to the scheduled assessment tasks, then an updated copy of the assessment outline will be provided to students clearly indicating the changes.
- Standards for student achievement will be applied in the same way as for all students. Students with special education needs will be assessed on what they know and can do and not on what they might do if they did not have their disability and/or specific learning disability.
- If it is considered likely that a student with special education needs may not be able to complete all of the content or assessment tasks for a unit, the student and the student's parents/guardians will be advised of this and its implications.

ASSESSING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- In each course (or pair of units) a number of assessment tasks occur during the semester/year (including end of semester exams in ATAR courses, and Externally Set Tasks in General and Foundation).
- Some tasks are completed in-class and others are completed out-of-class. Each task provides evidence of student achievement.

- The teacher uses the total weighted mark from all assessment tasks when assigning a grade at the completion of a course or pair of units.
- During every course or pair of units, the requirements for each assessment task will be clearly described in writing (ie. what the student needs to do, often indicating the steps involved for extended tasks). A marking key or answer key will also be provided.
- Some courses may include assessment tasks to be completed by a group of students. In such cases teachers will use strategies to enable them to assess the performance of each individual in the group. Typically this will be described in the task brief provided to the students at the commencement of the task.

Reporting of Student Achievement

- Pinjarra Senior High School reports achievement at the end of Semester 1 and 2 in Year 11, and Semester 1 in Year 12. The report provides a comment for each course or pair of units, and the following information:
 - A grade for the unit/s
 - A mark for the unit/s. for practical courses, there will be a separate mark for the practical, performance or portfolio component.
 - A mark for the semester exams, if applicable.
- Marks and grades are provisional, subject to moderation and change, until accepted by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.
- At the end of Year 12, students will receive a statement of results from the school. SCSA will provide official certification when all grades and marks have been accepted. This certification will be sent to a students' postal address.
- Courses in Year 12 which have WACE external exams will have a statistically adjusted school mark reported by SCSA, on the students' Statement of Results. Details of the process used by the Authority to adjust marks submitted by the school are available on the Authority website.

PROCEDURES FOR ABSENCE FROM CLASS/MISSED WORK

(a) General

Where a student can provide a medical certificate for extended absences it may be possible to modify the assessment program. Students and/or parents will discuss this with teacher/s or Year Coordinators as soon as possible, preferably before due dates.

(b) Scheduled Assessment tasks

- Absence from a scheduled assessment task (including tests and examinations) must be accompanied by an acceptable explanation (eg. Medical certificate) in order for the student to complete that assessment task or a similar task and gain credit.
- Students will complete all assessment tasks, with an appropriate penalty applied, at the first opportunity upon their return to school.
- Where possible, advance notification of absence is required.
- In exceptional cases where a student is unable to attend school to complete a scheduled assessment task, and where appropriate supervision can be provided and assured, the student may be given permission to complete that task in an alternative venue and time. This can only be done through the Associate Principal (Curriculum)

(c) Failure to Submit or Complete Work

- When an assessment task has not been submitted by the due date, the teacher will notify parents.
- In cases where work is not completed on time, teachers will make their judgement on the evidence available at the deadline.

- For students attempting Units of Competency and working towards a certificate course, they will be given two opportunities per assessment to demonstrate each competency. Any student who fails to demonstrate a competency twice must negotiate with their teacher/trainer, by providing a satisfactory reason, for any further opportunities. Failure to complete the competency will put that student at risk of not completing their full qualification.

CHANGING COURSE

- The assessment profile will be adjusted, where possible, for a student entering late into a course, so as not to disadvantage the student. Students cannot change courses after the due date without School Curriculum and Standards Authority approval.
- All course changes are dependent on the ability of the school to provide for the change and must have parental support. All applications to change courses must be submitted to the Associate Principal (Curriculum) in writing.
- Course changes must be completed by the **end of Week 4** of the course.
- Where a student changes school and/or course during a school year, credit for the completion of work in the same course will be negotiated upon the student and/or previous school supplying appropriate evidence.

EXTENSIONS/LATE WORK

- In cases where work is not submitted on time, teachers will make their judgement on the evidence that is already available by the deadline.
- If there is no evidence available a penalty of 10% per school day late, will be applied for non-valid reasons for late submission and 50% for 5 or more days late. This does not apply to students with a valid extension.
- Any student who does not complete an assessment will be required to complete the assessment in their own time, at the direction of the school and will receive a penalty of 10% per school day late up to 50% for 5 or more days late.
- A student may apply to the class teacher for an extension to the due date for an assignment. NB: This must be applied for prior to the due date.
- Any extension granted must be recorded in the iScholaris.
- Extensions may be given in consultation with the Head of Learning Area, at the discretion of a teacher in cases of valid reasons, eg. factors beyond the control of the student that have resulted in the late submission of work.
- Work submitted excessively late, as determined by the Head of Learning Area and teacher, may not be marked. The HoLA and teacher will consider School Curriculum and Standards Authority deadlines, school reporting deadlines and other matters when considering marking excessively late work.

USE OF NON-ORIGINAL MATERIAL FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES

- Students are not permitted to submit for marking, as original, any work which is:
 - Prepared or substantively contributed to by another person
 - Copied or downloaded from the internet without acknowledging the source
 - Paraphrases or summarises the work of others without acknowledgement.

- Ideas or images of others used in assessment tasks or ATAR practical examinations must be attributed (the original creator acknowledged).
- Images, ideas, or works of art can be appropriated (borrowed or re-used in the context of a new work, presented in a new way which gives it a new meaning) but must be acknowledged.
- Students enrolled in ATAR practical examinations will acknowledge these sources through the appropriate acknowledgement form or candidate statement

Authentication of Student Work (including cheating, collusion, plagiarism, appropriation)

- If a student is believed to have engaged in inappropriate behaviour (such as cheating, plagiarism or collusion) the school will inform the student and parent/caregiver.
- The teacher or Head of Learning Area will investigate whether this behaviour has occurred and if it constitutes cheating, collusion or plagiarism. The student will be provided with a right of reply in this investigation.
- Where it is established beyond reasonable doubt that behaviour constituting cheating, collusion or plagiarism has occurred, the school will inform the student and the parent/caregiver of the result of the investigation and penalty.
- The penalty will be a mark of zero applied for the task or part of the task in which the behaviour occurred.

Authentication of Out-of-Class Assessment

- To authenticate student achievement in out-of-class assessments, a combination of the following strategies will be used:
 - Teachers monitor ongoing progress of the task, for example monitoring a log-book documenting stages of the task.
 - Task is administered in-class with access to reference notes.
 - Validation of the out-of-class task by an in-class assessment task in test conditions after the submission of the out-of-class task.
 - Completion of task partially at home and partially at school.
 - Requirement of a student signed declaration stating that all unacknowledged work is the students' own.

ASSESSING INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE ON GROUP TASKS

- To ensure the marking of a group assessment task takes into account different achievement of individuals within a group, teachers will typically use the following strategies:
 - Teacher monitors individual and group progress
 - Use of teacher monitored log-book to document stages in the task
 - Peer evaluation.

ASSESSING STUDENTS TRANSFERRING BETWEEN COURSES AND/OR UNITS

- Students will be able to transfer between courses in limited circumstances. The following factors will be considered in determining whether or not a student is permitted to transfer:
 - Student numbers in other courses
 - Circumstances of the student, for example medical requirements
 - Capacity of the student to cover the content of the education program they have missed
 - Capacity of the school to provide support for the student to cover the education program they have missed
 - Impact on other students, for example creating the need for small group moderation groups in external WACE exam courses.

Transfer early in a program

- The student will be withdrawn from the original pair of units, no grade is allocated, and then enrolled into a pair of units. The school will then:
 - Provide extra work to cover the program they have missed
 - Provide missed assessment tasks for the student to complete
 - Have students complete similar tasks
 - Removed missed task/s and issue an amended course outline and weightings
 - Consider whether tasks from the original pair of units may be included in the new pair of units, and adjust to the same scale of the new course.

Late Transfers

- Will only be made in exceptional circumstances, such as serious illness or personal situations. The school will consider possible modified assessment outlines in these circumstances.

ASSESSING OF STUDENTS TRANSFERRING BETWEEN SCHOOLS

- On transfer into the school, the school will determine what course content has been completed and assessment tasks marked, and use this information to determine what additional content and assessment tasks will be provided. The school will determine whether the student will complete the full assessment program, including missed assessment tasks, or a modified assessment program will be developed. A modified assessment outline will meet the assessment requirements of the syllabus. Students transferring between schools are reminded it is essential they retain all written assessment tasks and folios.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF STUDENT WORK

- Pinjarra Senior High School requires teachers of all senior school courses to establish an assessment file for each student for each course in which all assessment tasks can be held. Student will have access to this file for revision purposes. The school retains the files until the marks have been accepted by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. The written assessment tasks and/or folios are available to students for collection after the marks have been accepted. Some task sheets and answer keys will not be made available for collection, for example where they have been created by another party and their distribution is restricted, or where distribution will affect the school's capacity to use the material in the future. All materials not collected by students at the end of a school year/term, and all non-written assessment tasks will be securely disposed of by the school.

ASSESSMENT REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCESSES

- At the end of the year, students are provided with the mark and grade submitted to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. A student may appeal these marks and grades, to determine the following:
 - The school's assessment outline conforms with syllabus requirements
 - The school's assessment policy conforms with the authority guidelines
 - The school's assessment procedure conforms to its own assessment policy
 - There are any procedural or computational errors in the determination of the school mark and/or grade.
- On receipt of a written request for a review from a student or their parent/caregiver, the school will conduct a written review.
- If the school's assessment review does not resolve the students' concerns, the student may appeal to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority against the school's assessment. This must be lodged, with the school's review, by the closing date in each

year, to the Authority. The closing date is published in the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Year 12 Information Handbook, available on the Authority website.

USEFUL LINKS:

<http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/>