



## Key information for the Science Extension Stage 6 Syllabus (2017)

Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [Science Extension Stage 6 Syllabus \(2017\)](#) requires students to study 4 modules over 60 hours of course time.

Students are required to complete a Scientific Research Project which includes a Scientific Research Report and Portfolio. The [Teacher guide to the Scientific Research Report and](#)

[Scientific Research Portfolio \(PDF 108 KB\)](#) outlines the project requirements and provides advice for teachers.

Schools are required to develop an assessment program for each Year 11 and Year 12 course. School-based assessment requirements are outlined at [Assessment and reporting in Science Extension Stage 6](#). Schools may also follow the sample assessment schedules provided by NESAs.

## HSC examinations

Details on the HSC Science Extension examination and the uploading of student reports can be found at [Assessment and reporting in Science Extension Stage 6](#). The HSC Science Extension examination is completed online. The examination will be worth 50 marks and the time allowed is 2 hours plus 10 minutes reading time.

The examination has 2 sections:

- Section I primarily assesses students' knowledge, understanding and skills relating to processes involved in scientific investigations, including analysing data.
- Section II primarily assesses students' knowledge, understanding and skills relating to scientific inquiry and research.

Prior to the commencement of the HSC written examination period, schools will be required to upload each student's Scientific Research Report so that students may refer to their report, if required, in responding to questions during the examination.

Past HSC papers by NESAs are a useful resource to help students to become familiar with the examination format and structure. Past papers for Science Extension can be found at [HSC exam papers](#).

HSC standards materials by NESAs, provide a collection of resources of sample responses typical of work at the boundaries between HSC bands.

The Chemistry standards materials can be found on the NESAs [Science Extension Stage 6 HSC standards materials](#) webpage.

## Support materials

The Science curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Science Extension syllabus and can be located on the:

- [Science Extension](#) webpage – here you will find a variety of resources to support programming and assessment in Science Extension
- [Science Extension SharePoint](#) webpage within the Science Statewide Staffroom
- the [Supporting student research in Science Extension](#) webpage – develop your understanding of the stages in developing the Student Research Project and key challenges and strategies for supporting students by watching this video collection.

The [Journal of Science Extension Research](#) is our annual showcase of student work in Science Extension. This scientific journal is a celebration of students' achievements in scientific research in the Science Extension course. It illustrates the depth and quality of scientific output that our inspired high school science students can produce.

NESAs also has a range of support materials on the [Science Extension Stage 6 Syllabus \(2017\)](#) webpage.



## Professional learning

A collection of 'on demand' professional learning resources are also available to support the implementation of the Science Extension syllabus including:

- [Uploading scientific reports SWS Video Recording 02 September 2025](#)
- [Introduction to Science Extension 30 October 2025 \(PDF 3.42 MB\)](#)

## General HSC information

- The [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) oversees the Higher School Certificate (HSC), offering resources for students on exam preparation, course selection, and academic integrity.
- The [NESA HSC glossary](#) provides teachers with guidance on how to use key terms consistently, ensuring students understand their meanings and apply them appropriately across various subjects for effective exam preparation.
- The NESA [HSC assessment moderation](#) process ensures fairness by adjusting school assessment marks based on exam results, making them comparable across schools.
- The [ACE rules](#) outline HSC school-based assessment integrity, task development, marking, appeals, and record-keeping. They cover malpractice policies, illness/misadventure procedures, task notifications, ranking, and restrictions on reporting final marks, ensuring compliance with NESA's assessment standards.
- HSC monitoring advice, Section 1.6 outlines HSC record-keeping requirements, including teaching programs, assessment documentation, interventions and work samples. Visit [Stage 6 – monitoring implementation and support](#) for more information.
- School-based assessment for the HSC contributes to a student's final mark and is designed to evaluate students' understanding and skills based on syllabus outcomes.



## Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email [Science7-12@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Science7-12@det.nsw.edu.au) or reach out to our team via the [Science Statewide Staffroom](#).