



Australian Curriculum

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The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is an independent authority responsible for the development of national curriculum. States, however are responsible for determining the implementation of the curriculum at a system level.

In Queensland, the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) provides advice to DETE about how this implementation should occur. DETE is then responsible for ensuring that the roll-out of the new curriculum meets the requirements and complies with the overall implementation schedule (see next page).

Australian Curriculum explained

The Australian Curriculum is comprised of three elements:

1. general capabilities
2. cross-curriculum priorities
3. learning areas.

The general capabilities

These are literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology (ICT) competence, critical and creative thinking, personal and social competence, ethical behaviour and intercultural understanding.

The general capabilities are to be incorporated into all learning areas. A learning continuum has been developed for the end of years 2, 6 and 10, along with illustrative examples across learning areas at different stages of schooling. The learning continuum appears in the *General Capabilities in the Australian Curriculum* document and in each of the specific learning area curriculum documents.

Teachers are expected to teach and assess general capabilities to the extent that they are incorporated within each learning area.

Cross-curriculum priorities

Incorporated within each of the four key subjects and the seven general capabilities, are the three cross-curriculum priorities.

Students learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and culture, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia and sustainability.

State and territory school authorities will determine whether and how student learning of the general capabilities will be further assessed and reported. Queensland Studies Authority has no current plan to assess and report on these seven general capabilities.

Australian Curriculum learning areas

Phases one to three of the Australian Curriculum in prep to year 10 include the following learning areas:

- english
- mathematics
- science
- humanities and social science (history, geography, civics and citizenship and business and economics)
- the arts (comprising dance, drama, media arts, music and visual arts)
- languages
- health and physical education
- technologies (ICT and design and technology).

The QTU has representatives on a number of QSA Learning Area Reference Committees (LARCs) as well as a representative on the QSA Governing Body.

Contact the QTU for further advice.

Senior secondary courses

Consultation continues regarding the staged implementation of the 16 senior secondary Australian Curriculum courses. Queensland is yet to determine a date for implementation.

- four English courses (essential English, English, English as an additional language or dialect EALD, literature)
- four mathematics courses (essential mathematics, general mathematics, mathematical methods and specialist mathematics)

- four science courses (biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics)
- two history courses (modern history and ancient history).
- geography
- languages

DETE implementation schedule

The QTU supports the position that no curriculum should be mandated for 2015, when year 7 students are moved to secondary schools in the Getting Ready for State Schools initiative.

The Minister for Education, Training and Employment has endorsed the following implementation schedule for phases two to three of the Australian Curriculum as follows:

2012	2013	2014	2015-2016
english maths science	history	geography	health and physical education civics and citizenship the arts technologies economics and business languages

The schedule, which is based on ACARA’s planned release dates, implements all subjects within the humanities and social science learning area by 2016. Schools may implement Phase 2 learning areas sooner if they are ready and able. The schedule allows for at least one full year of familiarisation activities including professional development after the publication of approved curriculum prior to its implementation.

Schools must put processes in place to review staffing needs and ensure teachers have access to professional development to familiarise themselves with the Australian Curriculum to be implemented the following year. Familiarisation can be undertaken over more than one year so that different phases of schooling can be implemented in a sequential way.

Implementation involves schools teaching, assessing and reporting using the Australian Curriculum.

Providing the humanities curriculum in 2014

In 2014 state schools will continue to implement Australian Curriculum: History and commence implementation of Australian Curriculum: Geography in P-10. The Queensland Studies Authority is developing advice to support schools implementing the remaining SOSE content in 2014, either as a stand-alone unit or as a unit within Australian Curriculum: History or Geography. These resources will be available in Term 4, 2013.

Further references

QSA advice on minimum curriculum time allocations
www.qsa.qld.edu.au/9188.html

QSA Learning P-12
<http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au>

QSA phone contact: (07) 3864 0299

ACARA www.acara.edu.au/home_page.html

ACARA phone contact : (02) 8098 3100

Policy statement: EQ implementation of phases 2 & 3 Australian Curriculum F (Prep) – 10
<http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/framework/p-12/docs/policy-implementation.pdf>