

Dear HSC students, parents and carers,

I would like to acknowledge the impact of the ongoing uncertainty has had on the students and their families. For all of us, this is a time of fluctuating emotions as we face each day not knowing what will be announced. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with as much information as we have, which will hopefully reduce some anxiety.

The following information was provided to the students verbally on Monday following on from the email of last week. I will add in extra information that has been published on the NSW Department of Education website and NESA website. Also included will be the timetable for tasks starting from 23th August 2021 and an outline of what the remaining weeks will look like for HSC students.

- HSC Trial examinations cannot take place onsite.
 - *School assessments and completion of HSC exam preparation or trial exams are to be completed at home for all schools operating under Level 4 restrictions, unless in exceptional circumstances such as performing arts.*
(NSW Department of Education accessed 11/08/2021)
- The Premier has announced that all students will receive their HSC. This is of course is reliant on the student meeting the course requirements that allows them to sit for the HSC examination.
 - *Planning continues for HSC exams to proceed from 19 October in a COVID-safe way, in line with Health advice.*
 - *NESA is responsible for the safe conduct of the HSC examination process. Refer to NESA's latest [COVID-19 advice](#).*
(NSW Department of Education accessed 11/08/2021)
- Guidance was provided regarding HSC students being onsite from 16th August 2021.
 - *Year 12 students and those sitting HSC exams will not be able to return to full time learning on school site. Students will be limited in their access to schools for essential curriculum and wellbeing activity, where it is essential for the student to engage with the teaching or wellbeing staff or school facilities, and only individually or in small groups. Students will not be permitted to attend school for more than one session per day (2 hours) and not 5 days per week.*
(NSW Department of Education accessed 11/08/2021)
- HSC students will be undertaking alternate tasks for some subjects as outlined in the published timetable. For all subjects, there will be adjustments to the way that their final school assessment mark is calculated. The following is advice from the NESA website.

Contingencies for HSC trial exams

Schools that had trial exams as part of their school-based assessment program can conduct them from home or provide an alternative assessment task suitable for the learning from home context.

1. Modifying exams

Schools can change the duration, outcomes assessed, or nature or structure of trial exams.

Examples include:

- *splitting the exam into parts, which are assessed remotely in-class over several days (eg split the oral, listening and written components of a language exam, or the three English Modules).*
- *shortening the exam by removing some questions (eg examine only one of the three English Modules).*

Schools should consider running at-home trial exams, as long as security protocols can be implemented to ensure the integrity of the tasks.

(NESA website accessed 11th August 2021)

The table below shows the alternate task timetable that has been distributed to students.

Monday 23 August 2021	Drama Performance 9.00am - 3.00pm	
Tuesday 24 August 2021	Music Performance 9.00am - 3.00pm	
Wednesday 25 August 2021	Music 2 10.00am - 11.00 am Visual Arts 10.00am - 11.00 am	English Extension 1.00pm - 2.00pm Drama 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Thursday 26 August 2021	History Extension 10.00am - 11.00 am Food Technology 10.00am - 11.00 am	Information, Processes and Technology 1.00pm - 2.00pm
Friday 27 August 2021	English EAL/D 10.00am - 12.00 pm English Advanced 10.00am - 12.00 pm English Standard 10.00am - 12.00 pm English Studies 10.00am - 12.00 pm	EAL/D Listening 1.00pm - 1.30pm

- Subjects holding an alternate task have been asked to provide the students with a new assessment task notification.
- An example of the assessment schedule is shown below for Modern History. This has been taken from the school's published assessment booklet.
- The outcomes that were going to be assessed in the trial have already been assessed in previous assessment tasks.

Modern History - Syllabus Outcomes

A student:

MH12-1 accounts for the nature of continuity and change in the modern world

MH12-2 proposes arguments about the varying causes and effects of events and developments

MH12-3 evaluates the role of historical features, individuals, groups and ideas in shaping the past

MH12-4 analyses the different perspectives of individuals and groups in their historical context

MH12-5 assesses the significance of historical features, people, ideas, movements, events and developments of the modern world

MH12-6 analyses and interprets different types of sources for evidence to support an historical account or argument

MH12-7 discusses and evaluates differing interpretations and representations of the past

MH12-8 plans and conducts historical investigations and presents reasoned conclusions, using relevant evidence from a range of sources

MH12-9 communicates historical understanding, using historical knowledge, concepts and terms, in appropriate and well-structured forms

Assessment Program

Component	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Weighting
Timing	Term 4 Week 7	Term 1 Week 8	Term 2 Week 5	Term 3 Weeks 3-5	
Nature of Task	Source Analysis Task In-class task	Research and Essay task In-class task	Historical Analysis Oral Task In-class task	Trial HSC Examination	
Outcomes Assessed	MH12-4 MH12-6 MH12-7 MH12-9	MH12-1 MH12-5 MH12-8 MH12-9	MH12-2 MH12-3 MH12-8 MH12-9	MH12-1 MH12-2 MH12-5 MH12-6 MH12-9	
Knowledge and understanding of course content	5	10	10	15	40
Historical skills in the analysis and evaluation of sources and interpretations	10			10	20
Historical inquiry and research		10	10		20
Communication of historical understanding in appropriate forms	5	5	5	5	20
Total %	20	25	25	30	100

How is a Trial HSC mark awarded for a subject that is not holding a Trial HSC or alternative task?

- If a course has assessed outcomes in earlier tasks these can be used to generate an estimate. This has been the rationale for a large number of subjects.
- Under NESA guidelines an estimate mark can be used for the Trial HSC as outlined by NESA. The information below relates to the process of estimating marks if a Trial HSC is not held.

Estimating marks

The principal must authorise the use of estimated marks, which should be based on other appropriate evidence and calculated according to the school's published assessment policy.

Estimates are based on student performance in a recent, like task that has similar:

- *outcomes being assessed*
- *conditions*
- *task design.*

A trial HSC exam estimate:

- *can be based on in-class test/s.*
- *cannot be based on a major work.*

(NESA website accessed 11th August 2021)

Using these guidelines from NESA we will be estimating the Trial HSC mark for the subjects that are not running an alternative tasks.

English Courses

English Advanced and English Standard have not had the opportunity throughout the course to assess Module B, outcomes EN12-3 and EN12-7. English Studies have not had the opportunity throughout the course to assess outcomes ES12-6 and ES12-9. English EAL/D have not had the opportunity throughout the course to assess Module C, EAL12-3 and EAL12-7.

Without these outcomes being assessed I am unable to estimate a mark for their trials. This is also a very real opportunity for students to demonstrate their growth.

I have had a number of questions relating to how we will control cheating in this task. The following is in place.

- The task requires students to respond to a previously unseen stimulus.
- The English Trial Examinations will be open book.
- *Plagiarism will not be tolerated. English have implemented additional plagiarism checking measures for their 2021 Trial Examination.*
- Students will type their responses directly into the Google doc for each item. Teachers will be actively and closely monitoring papers as they are being composed.
- Teachers will be using plagiarism software - including cross-paper checking.
- There is a strict time that the students will have to complete their submission and upload it.

The advice from NESA regarding online tasks for English subjects can be found below.

English - Modified exam suggestions

Extended responses

- Questions could target modules that have not already been assessed.
- Provide an unseen question for a module and allow students to use support notes. Allow students extra time to revise their notes after they have viewed the question.

English Advanced

Syllabus Outcomes

A student:

EA12-1 independently responds to, composes and evaluates a range of complex texts for understanding, interpretation, critical analysis, imaginative expression and pleasure

EA12-2 uses, evaluates and justifies processes, skills and knowledge required to effectively respond to and compose texts in different modes, media and technologies

EA12-3 critically analyses and uses language forms, features and structures of texts justifying appropriateness for specific purposes, audiences and contexts and evaluates their effects on meaning

EA12-4 strategically adapts and applies knowledge, skills and understanding of language concepts and literary devices in new and different contexts

EA12-5 thinks imaginatively, creatively, interpretively, critically and discerningly to respond to, evaluate and compose texts that synthesise complex information, ideas and arguments

EA12-6 investigates and evaluates the relationships between texts

EA12-7 evaluates the diverse ways texts can represent personal and public worlds and recognises how they are valued

EA12-8 explains and evaluates nuanced cultural assumptions and values in texts and their effects on meaning

EA12-9 reflects on, evaluates and monitors own learning and refines individual and collaborative processes as an independent learner

Assessment Program

Component	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Weighting
Timing	Term 4 Week 8	Term 2 Week 2	Term 2 Week 10	Term 3 Weeks 3–5	
Nature of Task	Prescribed & Related Text In-class task	Multimodal Online submission	Imaginative response and reflection Hand-in task	Trial HSC Examination Common Module	
Outcomes Assessed	EA12- 1, EA12-6	EA12-2, EA12-4, EA12-8	EA12-5, EA12-9	EA12-3, EA12- 7	
Knowledge and understanding of course content	15	10	10	15	50
Skills in responding to texts and communication of ideas appropriate to audience, purpose and context across all modes	10	15	10	15	50
Total %	25	25	20	30	100

English Standard

Syllabus Outcomes

A student:

EN12-1 independently responds to and composes complex texts for understanding, interpretation, critical analysis, imaginative expression and pleasure

EN12-2 uses, evaluates and justifies processes, skills and knowledge required to effectively respond to and compose texts in different modes, media and technologies

EN12-3 analyses and uses language forms, features and structures of texts and justifies their appropriateness for purpose, audience and context and explains effects on meaning

EN12-4 adapts and applies knowledge, skills and understanding of language concepts and literary devices into new and different contexts

EN12-5 thinks imaginatively, creatively, interpretively, analytically and discerningly to respond to and compose texts that include considered and detailed information, ideas and arguments

EN12-6 investigates and explains the relationships between texts

EN12-7 explains and evaluates the diverse ways texts can represent personal and public worlds

EN12-8 explains and assesses cultural assumptions in texts and their effects on meaning

EN12-9 reflects on, assesses and monitors own learning and refines individual and collaborative processes as an independent learner

Assessment Program

Component	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Weighting
Timing	Term 4 Week 8	Term 2 Week 2	Term 2 Week 10	Term 3 Weeks 3–5	
Nature of Task	Prescribed and related text In-class task	Multimodal Online submission	Imaginative response and reflection Hand-in task	Trial HSC Examination Common Module	
Outcomes Assessed	EN12-1, EN12-6	EN12-2, EN12-4, EN12-8	EN12-5, EN12-9	EN12-3, EN12-7	
Knowledge and understanding of course content	15	10	10	15	50
Skills in responding to texts and communication of ideas appropriate to audience, purpose and context across all modes	10	15	10	15	50
Total %	25	25	20	30	100

English EAL/D

Syllabus Outcomes

A student:

EAL12-1A responds to, composes and evaluates a range of complex and sustained texts for understanding, interpretation, critical analysis, imaginative expression and pleasure

EAL12-1B communicates information, ideas and opinions in a range of familiar and unfamiliar personal, social and academic contexts

EAL12-2 uses, evaluates and justifies processes, skills and knowledge necessary for responding to and composing a wide range of texts in different media and technologies

EAL12-3 identifies, selects and uses language forms, features and structures of texts appropriate to a range of purposes, audiences and contexts, and analyses and evaluates their effects on meaning

EAL12-4 applies and adapts knowledge, skills and understanding of literary devices, language concepts and mechanics into new and different contexts

EAL12-5 thinks imaginatively, creatively, interpretively and critically to respond to, represent and evaluate complex ideas, information and arguments in a wide range of texts

EAL12-6 investigates and evaluates the relationships between texts

EAL12-7 integrates understanding of the diverse ways texts can represent personal and public worlds

EAL12-8 analyses and evaluates cultural references and perspectives in texts and examines their effects on meaning

EAL12-9 reflects on, assesses and monitors own learning and refines individual and collaborative processes as an independent learner

Assessment Program

Component	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Weighting
Timing	Term 4 Week 8	Term 1 Week 11	Term 2 Week 10	Term 3 Week 3-5	
Nature of Task	Unseen texts and prescribed texts In-class task	Multimodal & Listening Task Online submission and in-class task	Written response and reflection Hand-in task	Trial HSC Examination Common Module	
Outcomes Assessed	EAL12-1A, EAL12-1B EAL12-6	EAL12-2, EAL12-4 EAL12-8	EAL12-5, EAL12-9	EAL12-3, EAL12-7	
Knowledge and understanding of course content	10	15	10	15	50
Skills in responding to texts and communication of ideas appropriate to audience, purpose and context across all modes	15	10	15	10	50
Total %	25	25	25	25	100

English Studies

Syllabus Outcomes

A student:

ES12-1 comprehends and responds analytically and imaginatively to a range of texts, including short and extended texts, literary texts and texts from academic, community, workplace and social contexts for a variety of purposes

ES12-2 identifies, uses and assesses strategies to comprehend increasingly complex and sustained written, spoken, visual, multimodal and digital texts that have been composed for different purposes and contexts

ES12-3 accesses, comprehends and uses information to communicate in a variety of ways

ES12-4 composes proficient texts in different forms

ES12-5 develops knowledge, understanding and appreciation of how language is used, identifying and explaining specific language forms and features in texts that convey meaning to different audiences

ES12-6 uses appropriate strategies to compose texts for different modes, media, audiences, contexts and purposes

ES12-7 represents own ideas in critical, interpretive and imaginative texts

ES12-8 understands and explains the relationships between texts

ES12-9 identifies and explores ideas, values, points of view and attitudes expressed in texts, and explains ways in which texts may influence, engage and persuade different audiences

ES12-10 monitors and reflects on own learning and adjusts individual and collaborative processes to develop as a more independent learner

Assessment Program

Component	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Weighting
Timing	Term 4 Week 8	Term 2 Week 2	Term 2 Week 10	Term 3 Weeks 3–5	
Nature of Task	Prescribed and related text In-class task	Presentation In-class task	Writing portfolio Hand-in task	Trial HSC Examination Common Module	
Outcomes Assessed	ES12-1, ES12-5, ES12-8	ES12-4, ES12-7, ES12-10	ES12-2, ES12-3	ES12-6, ES12-9	
Knowledge and understanding of course content	15	10	15	10	50
Skills in responding to texts and communication of ideas appropriate to audience, purpose and context across all modes	10	15	15	10	50
Total %	25	25	20	30	100

Appeals

For all assessment tasks students have the opportunity to submit an illness misadventure appeal as outlined in the Yr 12 2021 Guidelines and Assessment Schedule.

Weeks 6 -10

The remaining weeks of Term 3 will have the following organisation in place. Ms Manson has provided the following information directly to the students.

Week 6: Yr 12 students are allowed on site to complete their major works if necessary or rehearse for Music + Drama. Your teachers are working through a COVID safe plan for you. If this means you will miss normal scheduled lessons, please let your teachers know. They will understand.

Week 7: we have scheduled **some assessment tasks** instead of the Trials. There will be no normal classes during this week for any subjects. This is time for you to study, revise, practise.

Week 8: back to normal classes.

Weeks 9 and 10: normal classes suspended so that you can study, revise, practise, particularly timing yourselves doing full HSC practice papers so you can get a good feel for time management.

Performance and language oral examinations

The information below has been released by NESAs regarding performance and language oral examinations.

*To limit the movement of NESAs performance and language oral markers between schools within or outside Greater Sydney, the NESAs COVID-19 Response Committee has extended COVID special consideration to all HSC **performance and language oral exams** across the state.*

This means teachers will provide marks for their 2021 HSC students' performance and language oral exam components. As part of the process, teachers will also be able to take into consideration any impact of COVID-19 on a student's preparation for or development of the exam component.

The decision was made following updated advice from NSW Health that NESA markers should not travel within or outside Greater Sydney to mark HSC performance or language oral exams. This advice is in line with the aim of reducing mobility across NSW.

Schools do not need to apply for the COVID-19 Special Consideration Program for the performance and language oral exams.

To ensure equity, teacher provided marks will be moderated by NESA against the externally marked components of the course.

Exam components to be assessed by teachers

- *Drama Group Performance*
- *Drama Individual Project: performance*
- *Music Performance (all courses)*
- *Sight singing (Music 2)*

Submitted works will continue to be marked by NESA*

- *Drama Individual Project:*
 - Critical analysis*
 - Design*
 - Scriptwriting*
- *-Video drama*

- *Music:*
 - Composition (all courses)*
 - Musicology (Music 2 and Music Extension)*

(from NESA website accessed 11th August 2021)

NESA has the following list of dates for submission of work. This is accurate as of 4:00PM 11th August 2021. Always confirm dates on the NESA live website, <https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/covid-19/coronavirus-advice>

2021 HSC IMPORTANT DATES FOR PRACTICAL AND PERFORMANCE EXAMINATIONS

Performance exams

Performance exams will be organised by individual schools, and conducted online or at school (where permitted) at a time that suits their local needs.

We will provide schools with guidelines and marking support packs to help teachers mark the exams.

Major projects

Design and Technology Major Projects

Completion and hand-in date

Thursday 2 September 2021 ^[1]

Drama Projects

Completion and hand-in date

Monday 30 August 2021 ^[1]

Submission date to NESA

Friday 10 September 2021

English Extension 2 Major Works

Completion and hand-in date

Friday 27 August 2021 ^[1]

Submission date to NESA

Wednesday 1 September 2021

Industrial Technology Major Projects

Completion and hand-in date

Thursday 2 September 2021 ^[1]

Music Submitted Works

Completion and hand-in date

Monday 13 September 2021 ^[1]

Submission date to NESA

Friday 17 September 2021

Science Extension Scientific Research Report

Submission date to NESA, and student acknowledgement date ^[2]

Friday 17 September 2021

Visual Arts Bodies of Work

Completion and hand-in date

Monday 6 September 2021

David Osland

Principal

12th August 2021