

# NESA UPDATE FOR 2020 HSC

(<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/news/novel-coronavirus>)

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Last updated: 24 April 2020

### Our response to COVID-19

A [COVID-19 Response Committee](#) is making decisions about the NSW HSC with the aim of protecting the health and safety of students, parents and teachers.

It will update the community as soon as decisions are made.

A Technical Advisory Committee of assessment experts and stakeholders is working on a fair and equitable way to calculate a mark for cancelled components of the HSC.

### Higher School Certificate

The [Higher School Certificate \(HSC\) exams are going ahead](#) in 2020.

NESA will release the HSC written exam timetable by 15 May (Week 3, Term 2).

Students will receive their HSC results in mid-December.

Key dates and deadlines currently listed on the NESA website are subject to change due to the COVID-19 outbreak. NESA will continue to update you with exceptions and changes to relevant deadlines.

### Advice to students

These tips will help you, whatever further changes may be made to the HSC:

- Focus on right now
- Keep learning, keep submitting your assessments and listen to your teachers.
- Look after yourself, whether you are at school or at home.
- Reach out to family, friends and your teachers if you need to.
- Go to [UAC COVID-19 updates](#) for information about entering university in 2021.

## School-based HSC assessment

Schools must follow [social distancing requirements](#) when planning or undertaking school-based assessment tasks.

NESA has given principals and system authorities the power to determine the number, type and weighting of tasks for **HSC and Year 11 school-based assessment**.

This includes making determinations about all mandated tasks that are internally assessed in the following courses:

- Aboriginal Studies
- Ancient History
- Community and Family Studies
- Design and Technology
- English (English Studies, English Standard, English Advanced, English EAL/D, English Extension 1 and English Extension 2)
- Engineering Studies
- Geography
- History Extension
- Language in Context Stage 6 (Chinese, Japanese and Korean)
- Mathematics: Mathematics Standard, Advanced, Extension 1 and Extension 2
- Modern History
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Environmental Science, Investigating Science – depth studies, and Science Extension)

NESA's [principles of assessment](#) continue to apply. Wherever possible, school-based assessment should continue to be:

- based on a range of syllabus outcomes
- based on measures made throughout the HSC course
- informed by the components identified in the assessment and reporting documents for each of the syllabuses
- inclusive of and accessible for all students.

### Authenticity of student work

Schools are responsible for taking measures to ensure tasks submitted online are the student's own work.

Remind students of their obligation to maintain honesty and integrity when:

- completing assessment tasks, exams and submitted works
- acknowledging any part of work that was written, created or developed by someone else, such as any material from other sources and work undertaken by others.

This section of the [HSC Rules and Procedures Guide](#) provides a summary on maintaining honesty and integrity, and understanding malpractice.

## Performance exams

The mandatory group performance exam in Drama and the mandatory ensemble performance exam in Music Extension have been **cancelled for 2020**.

Other performance exams will be modified if they breach mandatory social distancing requirements.

Detailed [advice about these components](#) is now available (below).

### Music 1, Music 2 and Music Extension

The components affected by social distancing requirements are:

Performances in all courses

Music Extension: Performance Ensemble

Music 1: Viva voce

### Performances

Students must not perform in an ensemble (ie. more than two musicians). Students may use a single accompanist if social distancing requirements are strictly applied during rehearsals and performances.

Students can use pre-recorded accompaniment or modify their repertoire.

The requirement that a performance must be accompanied unless a work was composed to be performed unaccompanied has been lifted.

### Music Extension – ensemble

The external HSC examinations for Performance Ensemble are cancelled. The marks will be redistributed between the two contrasting solo pieces.

The maximum total performance time is 15 minutes.

### Music 1 – viva voce

The viva voce in rehearsal and assessment is to be conducted in line with social distancing requirements.

## Language oral exams

Students should continue studying for the language oral exams and completing school-based assessments.

## Practical exams

The due dates have been extended and teachers will provide the final mark for the following components of the 2020 HSC practical exams:

- Design and Technology: Major Design Project (Product)
- Industrial Technology: Major Project (Product)
- Textiles and Design: Major Textiles Project (Product)
- Visual Arts: Body of Work.

Detailed advice about [practical examinations](#) is now available (below).

### **PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS**

Technologies and Visual Arts

Dance, Drama, English Extension 2 and Society and Culture

#### **Technologies and Visual Arts**

Many students have had work on their HSC projects in the Technologies, and their body of work in Visual Arts, disrupted due to circumstances associated with COVID-19. The impact varies within each class group and across schools, with some students affected more than others. Some students may continue to be affected after schools re-open.

To ensure all students receive an equitable mark, NESAs has moved the marking of some components of the 2020 HSC practical examinations from an external mark provided by HSC markers to a mark provided by the teacher. Teachers are best placed to provide a mark as they have been monitoring each student's progress on their projects and body of work since the beginning of the HSC year.

The effected exam components are:

Design and Technology: Major Design Project (Product)

Industrial Technology: Major Project (Product)

Textiles and Design: Major Textiles Project (Product)

Visual Arts: Body of Work

The folios in Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design will continue to be marked externally.

## Extended hand-in dates

The hand-in dates for the teacher marked components and the externally-marked folios have been extended by two weeks.

Design and Technology: Thursday 10 September 2020

Industrial Technology: Thursday 27 August 2020

Textiles and Design: Monday 31 August 2020

Visual Arts: Monday 14 September 2020

## Teacher - provided marks

Teachers are well placed to fairly mark these components as they have been monitoring each student's progress on their projects and body of work since the start of Term 4 last year.

The teacher marked components have the following values:

Design and Technology: 20 (the 15 marks for development and realisation will continue to be externally marked as part of the folio)

Industrial Technology: 40

Textiles and Design: 25

Visual Arts: 50

Teachers will use the HSC marking guidelines and annotated benchmarks to mark each student's product or body of work. The guidelines will be available in Schools Online later in Term 2, along with other supporting material.

For students unable to complete their work, or whose work has been disrupted due to the impact of COVID-19, the teacher may estimate a mark. The estimated mark will be based on their teachers' professional judgement about what a student is likely to have achieved if 2020 had proceeded without COVID-19. NESAs will provide advice to teachers on accurately estimating a mark.

Marks awarded by teachers are confidential and are not to be revealed to students.

## Submitting marks

18 September 2020 is the deadline for schools to submit marks to NESA.

Information on how to submit marks will be available in Schools Online later in Term 2.

NESA will monitor marks provided by teachers to ensure fairness and integrity. Schools may be required to provide NESA with work samples.

## Dance, Drama, English Extension 2 and Society and Culture

The following practical examinations will be externally marked and the due dates are unchanged.

Dance Major Study – Dance and Technology Option 1: Choreographing the Virtual Body

Drama Individual Projects

English Extension 2 Major Works

Music submitted works

Society and Culture Personal Interest Projects

## Mandatory work placement in VET

Students are no longer required to undertake NESA-mandated VET work placements. Learn more about [VET work placement in 2020](#).

## Students with disability

Schools still need to provide reasonable adjustments to learning and assessment activities for students with disability who are learning from home.

A substitute task assessing the same outcomes may be set if adjustments are not possible due to the student learning from home.

## Applying for HSC disability provisions

NESA advises schools to continue submitting disability provisions applications for the 2020 HSC exams.

The coronavirus outbreak might make it difficult to collect evidence in some cases.

To fast track the process, schools should apply for the provisions for which they can get evidence, with a view to updating the application when more evidence is available. For example, if applying for a reader and a writer, a school may already have reading results and medical evidence. Submit an application for a reader first. When writing samples become available, submit a 'variation request' for a writer.

Disability provisions for school-based assessments and exams remain school decisions.

If you have any questions about HSC Disability Provisions, please contact Student Support:

- Call: 9367 8117
- Email: [studentsupport@nesa.nsw.edu.au](mailto:studentsupport@nesa.nsw.edu.au)

## Replacement certificates

NESA is mailing all replacement certificates, unless specific arrangements have been made with NESA staff.

Urgent and priority services have been temporarily suspended. Standard service only is available.

## Home schooling Learning from home

NSW schools are continuing to support your child's learning whether at school or [at home](#).

Parents do not need to apply to register for home schooling to keep students at home during the outbreak of coronavirus.

As NSW school students gradually [transition back to the classroom](#) during Term 2, parents who are unsure when to send their child should contact their school.

## Registering for home schooling

Home schooling is a long-term schooling option and requires considerable planning to satisfy NESA's requirements for registration.

NESA will continue to assess [applications for home schooling](#) on a case-by-case basis.

### Home visits

NESA has temporarily stopped home visits to assess home schooling registration applications in line with mandatory social distancing requirements.

NESA has adapted its application assessment process accordingly. It will involve:

- reviewing documentation
- using audio and video technology
- granting shorter periods of registration in the absence of a home visit
- for some experienced home schooling parents, granting a six-month period of renewed registration.

NESA is directly communicating with parents who have applied (or are expected to apply in the coming months) for home schooling registration to advise of them of the temporary process.

Home visits will recommence as soon as possible, in line with government advice about health risks.

Email [homeschooling@nesa.nsw.edu.au](mailto:homeschooling@nesa.nsw.edu.au) if you have questions about home schooling registration.

## NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing is not proceeding in 2020 to help principals, teachers and school staff focus on student learning during the outbreak of COVID-19.

The decision by the nation's education Ministers includes cancellation of:

- NAPLAN Online practice testing, 23 March – 9 April 2020
- NAPLAN Online tests, 12 May – 22 May 2020
- NAPLAN paper tests, 12 May – 15 May 2020.



## Contact our NAPLAN team

- Email: [Naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au)
- Call: 1300 119 556

## Who to contact

For any questions about how your school is implementing NSW Government advice and guidelines due to COVID-19, please contact your school in the first instance. This may include questions on attendance at school, school facilities and cleanliness, or implementation of curriculum and assessment.

If you are unable to contact your school, or wish to raise an issue, please contact your relevant sector authority (NSW Department of Education, Association of Independent Schools of NSW, Catholic system authority or Catholic Schools NSW).