

# St. Andrew's Anglican College

The Queensland Core Skills Test

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## General information

- All Y12 students who want to achieve an OP must sit the QCS test (or have obtained exemption)
- It does not test the content knowledge, but the skills (or “curriculum competencies”) a student possesses.
- These skills are determined by the Queensland Studies Authority and are called the 49 Common Curriculum Elements:

Recognising letters, words and other symbols, Classifying, Finding material in an indexed collection, Interrelating ideas/themes/issues, Recalling/remembering, Reaching a conclusion which is necessarily true provided a given set of assumptions is true, Interpreting the meaning of words or other symbols, Reaching a conclusion which is consistent with a given set of assumptions, Interpreting the meaning of pictures/illustrations, Inserting an intermediate between members of a series, Interpreting the meaning of tables or diagrams or maps or graphs, Extrapolating, Translating from one form to another, Applying strategies to trial and test ideas and procedures, Using correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, Applying a progression of steps to achieve the required answer, Using vocabulary appropriate to a context, Generalising from information, Summarising/condensing written text, Hypothesising, Compiling lists/statistics, Criticising, Recording/noting data, Analysing, Compiling results in a tabular form, Synthesising, Graphing, Judging/evaluating, Calculating with or without calculator, Creating/composing/devising, Estimating numerical magnitude, Justifying, Approximating a numerical value, Perceiving patterns, Substituting in formulae, Visualising, Setting out/presenting/arranging/displaying, Identifying shapes in two and three dimensions, Structuring/organising extended written text, Searching and locating items/information, Structuring/organising a mathematical argument, Observing systematically, Explaining to others, Gesturing, Expounding a viewpoint, Manipulating/operating/using equipment, Empathising, Sketching/drawing, Comparing, contrasting

- Students sit 4 timed tests under strict examination conditions in Semester 2 of their Year 12 (this year it is August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>). There are 2 Multiple Choice papers (each of 1½ hour duration and 50 questions each), a Short Response Task (2 hours) and a Writing Task (2 hours).

- The 4 tests are combined to give you a grade (A – E). A student's overall score is made up of around 232 marks:
- WT = 68,
- SRT = 64,
- MC (\*2) = 100
- This grade (A – E) is displayed on your Senior Statement.

- The key to success in the QCS Test is preparation. Our students are allocated 2 lessons per week for Years 11 and 12 for QCS preparation. The test is designed to be content neutral, so that it doesn't matter which subjects are studied in Years 11 and 12. Any content requirement is set at "that which a typical student would possess at the completion of Year 10". However, the test is basically testing advanced Literacy and Numeracy skills.

- Consequently, St. Andrew's Anglican College requires all students intending to obtain an OP to study an authority Mathematics subject through Years 11 and 12 (unless extraordinary circumstances dictate otherwise). This means all of our OP eligible students possess well polished Numeracy skills. Students will do a number of practice tasks before they sit the actual suite of tests. They will also spend time breaking down typical questions in the MC and SRT tests.

## Some preparation strategies that we use

- Know what is being tested ( the 49 CCEs)
- Which area of learning is each CCE most relevant? Each senior teacher and student will be provided with a CCE matrix so we don't miss every opportunity to fine tune our students
- What knowledge are you assumed to possess? (reasonable general knowledge, knowledge of vocabulary and mathematics up to Year 10)

- Understand the key assessment elements that are used in the test items – this is gone through in great detail in the QCS preparation classes
- Know the test procedures in advance
- Refine your test taking strategies
- Sit some sample tests
- Use higher-order thinking processes whenever possible

# Our students will be “test wise”

- Use the perusal time effectively – scan the questions, plan your approach
- Manage your time – pace yourself, set deadlines and stick to them
- Think and plan before you respond – make sure you are answering what is being asked
- Review what you have done – allocate some time to check that you have filled out the answer sheet correctly
- Know what you can/can't bring into the test room
- Teach our students the necessary skills they need to utilize the power of their graphics calculators.