

Guidelines

Find out about occupational pathways

It is helpful if you have a few career ideas in mind before choosing subjects. If you are uncertain about this at present, then select subjects that will keep several career options open to you. Your guidance officer will be able to help you get started.

You will also need to find out about the various pathways you can take to obtain qualifications you will need to get a job in the occupational areas in which you are interested. Once you know about the different pathways, you can select the most appropriate one for you.

The following resources are available in schools and give information on subjects and courses needed for careers:

- The [job guide](#) book provides information on occupations and subjects needed for particular occupations and courses.
- The [National career information system](#), called myfuture.
- Brochures from industry groups provide information on the various pathways to jobs within these industries.
- The QTAC Guide is useful for information on university courses and full-time diploma level TAFE courses.
- The tertiary prerequisites 2008 book, provided by QTAC to all year 10 students, provides information on subjects required for entry to university and full-time TAFE advanced diploma and diploma courses in the year 2008.
- Pathways to future education and training is a careers and guidance handout which provides general information about the Australian qualifications framework.
- Tertiary entrance: Senior students without OPs (available from QTAC) explains how students who are not eligible for an overall position (OP) can gain entry to tertiary courses, especially advanced diploma and diploma courses at TAFE and private colleges.
- [Queensland TAFE handbook](#)

Check out each subject fully

Take these steps to ensure you understand the content and requirements of each subject:

- Read subject descriptions and course outlines in booklets provided by your school.
- Talk to heads of departments and teachers of each subject.
- Look at books and materials used in the subject.
- Listen carefully at subject selection talks.
- Talk to students who are already studying the subject.

Choose a combination of subjects that suits your needs and abilities

Traps to avoid -

- Do not select subjects simply because someone has told you that they 'help you get good results and give you a better chance of getting into university or getting a better OP.
- Try not to be influenced by suggestions that you should or should not choose a particular subject because a friend/brother/sister either liked or disliked it or the teacher when they studied it.

Vocational education

Consider taking subjects with vocational education modules embedded in them if:

- You are interested in a particular subject because it relates to or could provide a pathway to a job that attracts you.
- Success in the subject may give you advanced standing (credit) in a higher level course in which you are interested.

Tertiary entrance

If you wish to study degree or diploma courses at university or TAFE after Year 12:

Ensure you select the prerequisite subjects required for your preferred courses. These are listed in Tertiary Prerequisites 2008.

- Most students gain entry to university on the basis of an Overall Position (OP). To be eligible for an OP, in the 4 semesters of Years 11 and 12 you must complete 20 semester units of Category A subjects (the equivalent of 5 Category A subjects). At least three subjects must remain unchanged throughout Years 11 and 12. You must also sit for the Queensland Core Skills Test.
- A small number of Year 12 students who are ineligible for an OP gain entry to tertiary courses on the basis of a Selection rank. Usually these students gain entry to diploma and advanced diploma courses.

Be prepared to ask for help

If you and your parents are still uncertain about the combination of subjects you have chosen, check again with some of the many people available to talk to - teachers, heads of departments, guidance officers, deputy principals and principal. Don't be afraid to seek their assistance. They are all prepared to help.

Useful Internet Sites

[National career information system](#)

[Queensland studies authority](#)

[Job guide](#)

[QTAC - Queensland tertiary admissions centre ltd](#)

[TAFE Queensland](#)

[Queensland government career information](#)

Authority subjects

- These subjects, approved by the Queensland studies authority (QSA), are offered statewide in Queensland secondary schools and colleges. Achievements in these subjects are recorded on the Senior Certificate and are used in the calculation of OPs. Some Authority subjects may have accredited vocational education modules embedded in them. These modules will also appear on your senior certificate.
- Students who do not achieve a Sound Achievement in a Year 10 subject may find related authority subjects in years 11 and 12 difficult.
- Your overall position (OP) is dependent on how well you achieve in your subjects. You need to choose subjects in which you have most chance of doing well.
- Many authority subjects may be taken in year 11 without prior study of similar subjects. It would be very difficult, however, to attempt subjects such as mathematics B or C, chemistry, physics, music and Italian without successful background study in related year 10 subjects.

Accounting

Accounting is the process in which individuals and businesses record and manage their financial and other affairs. Its aim is to help businesses to be profitable and competitive.

Agricultural science

Agricultural science explores the ways people manage natural resources such as plants, animals, climate, soil and water to meet their basic needs.

Ancient history

Ancient history is the period up to about 500 AD. It shows how ancient peoples solved the same problems we face – such as how to grow food, how to organise themselves and what to believe in.

Art

Art is a means of communication. Students explore a variety of art media to express ideas, thoughts and feelings. Skills in the use of art media are developed through research, exploration, experimentation, and evaluation.

Biological science

Biology is concerned with the study of the phenomenon of life in all its manifestations. It encompasses studies of the origin, development, functioning and evolution of living systems and the consequences of intervention of those systems.

Chemistry

Chemistry provides an understanding of everyday materials and their reactions. A knowledge of Chemistry helps us to understand and deal with our surroundings.

Drama

Through individual and group performance, students develop personal confidence and communication skills in a flexible classroom environment.

Economics

Economics studies how people cooperate so they can produce the goods and services they need to participate successfully in society. This includes how people create and distribute wealth.

English

Senior English is a natural extension of work completed in years 9 and 10, with increasing complexity of texts and concepts and increasing student independence required.

Geography

Geography deals with the relationship between people and their environment. It is about how people live and how they use the resources around them without destroying the environment.

Graphics

Graphics is a practically based, authority subject that allows the opportunity to be creative in design through the use of drawing techniques, rendering techniques and computer technologies. It develops the practice of sketching into the skill and art of graphical communication.

Home economics

Home economics combines the *fun* of a practical subject while learning the academic skills useful for any career pathway involving tertiary study. It focuses on the skills and knowledge of the individual, family and society.

Information processing and technology (IPT)

Information processing and technology (IPT) refers to the creation, manipulation, storage, retrieval and communication of information and to the range of technological devices and systems used to perform these functions.

Information technology systems (ITS)

Information technology systems (ITS) is a practical discipline which prepares students to respond to emerging technologies and information technology (IT) trends. Students develop the knowledge of, and skills in, the systems supporting IT.

Italian

Italian is the national language of over 60 million people living in Italy and it is spoken by millions who have migrated from Italy to all parts of the world. It is universally recognized as a language of culture, art, music, opera and cuisine.

Mathematics A

The study of mathematics A provides a basis for employment or for tertiary study in fields as diverse as economics, surveying, nursing, psychology, design and navigation.

Mathematics B

Mathematics is an integral part of a general education. It underpins science and technology, most industry, trade and commerce, social and economic planning and communication systems and is an essential part of effective participation in a rapidly changing society.

Mathematics C

Maths C is a highly desirable preparatory course for students who intend pursuing a career involving the study of mathematics at a tertiary level. The additional rigour and structure of the mathematics required in maths C will equip students with valuable skills which will serve them in more general contexts and provide an excellent preparation for the further study of mathematics.

Modern history

Modern history deals with events over the last 200 years. There is a special emphasis on people, ideas and events in the last 100 years that have shaped our world and helped decide how we live today.

Music

The arts in general are recognized as being powerful tools of education, which help the development of the individual. Senior Music assists students to enjoy and appreciate music in its many styles and encourage students to make their own music.

Physics

Physics involves learning how things work. It involves the mathematical analysis of problems and models, and is the basis of developments in technology. Physics is concerned with the discovery, understanding and application of the laws of nature.

Senior physical education

SPE is the in-depth study of four (4) practical activities with associated written themes over two (2) years. The themes involve how practical skills are learned, improving physical performance and how sport relates to society in general.

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Tourism

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Non-authority

Non-authority subjects are those devised from QSA developed study area specifications (SAs) or developed by the school.

Achievements in these subjects are recorded on the senior certificate. They are not used in the calculation of an OP. These subjects are designed for students wanting more direct entry to the workforce.

Non-authority subjects emphasise practical skills and knowledge relevant to specific industries.

Who should do these courses?

Any student can select one or more of these courses. They are specifically designed however for:

- students who do not wish to, or will not complete, a university degree in the next four or five years;
- students who want to gain vocational skills directly related to specific career pathways;
- students who will progress to a TAFE college, apprenticeship or traineeship or similar training after Year 12;
- students who want to reduce the time spent on such a course by completing their initial training while still at school.

Please refer to the [senior subject selection guide \(PDF, 921 KB\)](#) or collect from our school administration building in booklet form) for a comprehensive explanation of Non-authority subjects.

Agricultural studies

Agricultural studies is a subject in which students learn by doing to develop a range of practical skills related to animal husbandry, field crop production and agricultural mechanics.

Horticultural studies

Horticultural studies is a subject in which students learn by doing to develop a range of practical skills related to the fruit, vegetable, wine, nursery, turf and landscaping industries.

Business

The business course helps to develop a student's understanding of and ability to work within Australian businesses and is therefore equally suited to both male and female students.

Computer studies

Basic study of the hardware and software used with computers today.

English communication

The study area specification in English communication provides students with an effective and relevant alternative to senior English. It is appropriate for students who choose several vocational education subjects or those who intend to apply for a traineeship.

Hospitality practices

This is a practical course which develops skills that lead into careers in the hospitality industry.

Industrial skills - engineering

Engineering is a popular career prospect with the engineering industry being one of Australia's major employers of highly skilled workers. The Industry is active in training their employees to a high standard. In this course you will get an insight into some of the careers on offer in industry today.

Industrial skills - furnishing

The furnishing industry is one of Australia's major employers of highly skilled workers. The industry is active in training their employees to a high standard. In this course you will get an insight into some of the careers on offer in industry today. You will also get to develop many different skills through a range of interesting projects.

Tourism operations

Have fun while you learn the skills to take you to careers in the tourism industry.

For information about our school based apprenticeships & traineeships and the wine-tourism industry links program, please refer to the [senior subject selection guide \(PDF, 921 KB\)](#) or collect from our School Administration building in booklet form)