

Senior External Examinations

The following information is provided to assist domestic students who have completed or are undertaking Senior External Examination studies and intend to seek admission to undergraduate study at The University of Queensland (UQ).

ABOUT THE SENIOR EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

The Senior External Examination is a set of subject examinations administered by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA). Undertaking the Senior External Examination enables students to obtain Queensland Year 12 level qualifications without attending high school on an internal basis.

Assessment of achievement in a subject is based solely on demonstrated achievement in the final examination. Each subject examination is held annually, with year-long preparation studies offered by approved institutions, such as Centres for Continuing Secondary Education (CCSEs) and Secondary Colleges.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For entry to all undergraduate programs at UQ applicants must meet two basic entry requirements:

1. Eligibility (i.e. satisfy the subject prerequisites and other requirements)
2. Merit (i.e. possess a selection rank high enough for a place in the program[†])

[†] Selection ranks range from 1 to 99 (maximum). As admission is competitive the minimum selection thresholds for programs can fluctuate from year to year.

For detailed program information, including prerequisite requirements and minimum selection thresholds from previous admission periods, please refer to future-students.uq.edu.au.

SATISFYING SUBJECT PREREQUISITES

Successful completion (i.e. Sound Achievement or better) of the following Senior External Examination subjects will satisfy the corresponding subject prerequisites for admission to all UQ undergraduate programs:

Senior External Subjects	
English	Mathematics A
Biology	Mathematics B
Chemistry	Physics

GAINING A SELECTION RANK

The number of Senior External Examination subjects required to gain entry to a UQ program depends on the competitiveness of the desired program.

Please note that if an applicant has completed the equivalent of one full-time year or more of bachelor or higher level study, the selection rank derived from the cumulative grade point average (GPA) of this study will be used above all other qualifications for admission to undergraduate programs at UQ.

A selection rank can be allocated to a minimum of two subjects and a maximum of five subjects. If an applicant has completed more than five subjects, the University will derive a selection rank from the best five subjects. To obtain a selection rank as high as 99 with Senior External Examinations, students must complete at least five subjects.

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Senior External Examinations Maximum of best 5 Subjects ¹	
Selection Rank Examination	Selection Rank
(5 best subjects) ^{2,3,4}	
32.50	99
31.00	98
30.00	97
29.00	96
28.00	95
27.00	94
26.50	93
26.00	92
25.50	91
25.00	90
24.50	89
23.50	88
23.00	87
22.50	86
22.00	85
21.50	84
21.00	83
20.50	82
19.50	81
19.00	80
18.50	79
18.00	78
17.50	77
17.00	75
16.00	72
15.00	69
14.00	65
13.00	60

¹ This table is currently under review and subject to change.

² Applicants must have undertaken a minimum of 2 subjects. The subject *A Short Course in the Australian Constitution* cannot be used with these schedules.

³ Based on: VHA = 6.5; HA = 5; SA = 4; LA = 2; VLA = 1.

⁴ Where the same or an incompatible Senior External Examination subject has been completed on more than one occasion, only one attempt will be considered in the calculation of a rank and this shall be the best result achieved. *Maths in Society* and *Mathematics A* are treated as two different subjects with respect to this policy.

GRADING SCALE

Selection ranks are assigned to the aggregate scores calculated for Senior External Examination results. This aggregate is derived by converting results to numerical values where:

Very High Achievement (VHA) = 6.5
 High Achievement (HA) = 5
 Sound Achievement (SA) = 4
 Limited Achievement (LA) = 2
 Very Limited Achievement (VLA) = 1

CALCULATION EXAMPLES

If you have completed three subjects and received HA; VHA; and SA, this would derive an aggregate score of 15.5 and a selection rank of 69.

If you completed five subjects and received five VHA results, this would derive an aggregate score of 32.5 and a selection rank of 99.

FIND OUT MORE

Senior External Examinations are administered by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA). For further information, including details on approved institutions offering preparation studies, please contact:

QCAA: Senior External Examination
 Phone: (07) 3864 0475
 Email: externalexams@qcaa.qld.edu.au
 Website: qcaa.qld.edu.au

If you completed Senior External examination studies prior to 1987 under a different grading system please contact UQ Admissions for advice on how to calculate your senior external exam aggregate and selection rank.

UQ Admissions

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