

12 October 2015

Numbers add up for mathematical subjects as written examinations get under way

Maths and sciences are the most popular written examination subjects chosen by Year 12s this year, as more than 13,000 students across South Australia prepare for their final Stage 2 SACE exams.

Students studying Japanese (beginners) will be the first to be tested as part of externally assessed written examinations on Monday (12 October). Other language examinations will continue during October and November.

The main phase of written exams will begin on Monday 2 November with English Studies and will end on Wednesday 18 November with Australian History and Musical Styles.

According to provisional SACE data, seven out of the top 10 most chosen Stage 2 written examination subjects in 2015 relate to either maths or sciences:

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| 1 - Mathematical Applications | 6 - Psychology |
| 2 - Biology | 7 - Physics |
| 3 - Mathematical Studies | 8 - English Studies |
| 4 - Physical Education | 9 - Modern History |
| 5 - Chemistry | 10 - Mathematical Methods |

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, said the “Class of 2015” was the fifth cohort of students to undertake the current SACE, with the first students completing the updated Certificate in 2011.

“Since that time, more than 53,000 students have completed the improved Certificate. These enhancements include the option of undertaking comprehensive Vocational Education and Training, a greater focus on literacy, numeracy and General Capabilities, and the introduction of the Research Project,” Dr McGoran said.

“The SACE Board will continue to work closely with school communities to maximise student success and equip them for training, university and the workplace. All students are entitled to the opportunity to achieve this high quality, rigorous and internationally recognised qualification.”

When it came to preparing for this year’s exams, Dr McGoran said it was important for students to remain positive and focused and to continue with the study habits that have worked best for them during the year.

“Everyone is different, so when undertaking revision and exam preparation, whether you prefer writing summaries, using dot points or talking aloud to parents and friends – stick with what works best for you,” Dr McGoran said.

“It can also be helpful to visit the SACE website - www.sace.sa.edu.au - to access past exam papers, exam timetables, and further study tips.

“Importantly, students need to pay close attention to their health, including maintaining adequate sleep and a healthy diet, and utilise their network of family, friends and teachers to help support and guide them,” he said.

Dr McGoran said the external assessments, including written examinations, represent 30 per cent of the final grade for each student completing any Stage 2 SACE subject.

“The good news for students is that at this time of year they have already completed a significant amount of the work required to succeed with their SACE, as 70 per cent of every Stage 2 SACE subject is school assessed.”

He said students would be able to access their final results from **8.30am Tuesday 15 December** – two days earlier than last year – through the SACE website.

“This year, for the first time, the Board is separating the electronic release of results from the delivery of printed certificates and other documentation,” Dr McGoran said.

“This improvement will ensure students throughout South Australia receive their results as early as possible, providing more time for them, their families, and schools to access any necessary support and clarification prior to Christmas,” he added.