

## Minister Susan Close

Minister for Education and Child Development

Monday, 2 November, 2015

### Pens poised as main Year 12 exams get underway

The first two major Year 12 exams begin today with about 2200 students sitting their English Studies and English as Second Language exams as part of the South Australian Certificate of Education.

Other subjects being examined this week include physics, psychology, mathematical applications, mathematical studies and legal studies.

Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Susan Close says more than 13,000 students will sit at least one SACE examination over the coming weeks.

Dr Close wished students well, saying the SACE is a high quality, rigorous and globally recognised qualification that meets the diverse needs of students.

“Whichever combination of subjects, vocational courses, and other study options students choose, they can be assured they are developing the capabilities to empower them to be successful in their chosen pathways,” Dr Close said.

“I wish all students every success as they entered the important final assessment period.”

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, says while final examinations can be an anxious time, students can take heart that a large amount of the hard work has already been completed, with 70 per cent of each Stage 2 subject being school assessed.

“For students undertaking written exams, it is important to stay focused and positive to achieve your personal goals, and use the exam time effectively to demonstrate as much of your learning as possible,” Dr McGoran said.

“Importantly, students need to pay close attention to their health and use their support networks, such as family, friends and teachers, to help them navigate their way through the final assessment period.

He says the ‘Class of 2015’ is the fifth cohort of students to undertake the updated SACE introduced in 2011.

“The updated SACE has been highly successful in improving student retention and learning outcomes for young people throughout South Australia,” he said.

“Improvements introduced to the qualification include increased recognition for high-level vocational studies, and a greater focus on literacy, numeracy and General Capabilities.

“In addition, the introduction of the Research Project has given students an opportunity to pursue an area of their own interest and develop their creative thinking, problem-solving, project management and communications skills – all attributes highly valued by employers, universities and the broader community.”

According to SACE Board data, the most popular full-year Stage 2 subject combinations are:

1	Chemistry	Mathematical Studies	Specialist Mathematics	Physics
2	Chemistry	English Communications	Mathematical Studies	Physics
3	Biology	Chemistry	Mathematical Studies	Physics
4	Biology	Chemistry	English Communications	Mathematical Studies
5	English Communications	Mathematical Studies	Specialist Mathematics	Physics

The full exam timetable and useful study tips can be found at: [www.sace.sa.edu.au](http://www.sace.sa.edu.au)