
Heathcote High School

Year 8 2019

Assessment and Major Assignments



Excellence, opportunity and success for all our students

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Information for Students and Parents/Caregivers

Year 7 will need to adjust themselves to some changes in the learning demands between primary and high school – a wider range of subjects and teachers; and regular changes of periods and learning environments, over the space of the day. These differences can initially be very challenging for them. Each subject has its own set of requirements for the students – in the ways they work in the classroom, and on what they have to do at home.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the learning process and in fact its main purpose is the improvement of learning. It is used to report the student's progress in a course of study and provides a fair and structured method of measuring student achievement.

Each subject has its own set of specific assessment requirements for the students that individual subject teachers will communicate with their classes. Topics and outcomes to be examined will be advised prior to the assessment period and class teachers will make the due dates clear at the time that the assignments are set. Most assessment tasks will have a **Literacy component**, recognising the importance of literacy skills such as vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, paragraphing and sentence structure.

Assessment for Years 7 and 8 will generally take the form of:

Formal Examinations in some subjects will occur during the year. The dates are determined by the school with Semester One Assessments in Term 2 and Semester Two Assessments in Term 4.

and/or

Major Assignments such as research assignments, major design projects etc.

and/or

Class marks as determined by the class teacher - can be comprised of formal and informal assessment.

For example:

- **Formal** – short class tests, topic tests, assignments, field work, research projects, talks, presentations, performance tasks, homework.
- **Informal** – bookwork, group work, class participation.

Major Projects and Assignments

In an effort to make some of the homework requirements clearer for the students (and their parents), we have put together a calendar of the major projects and assignments, which all Year 8 will complete this year.

In preparing this for you, some points need to be made:

- It is very difficult to predict with accuracy the exact due dates for assignments. Students need to allow for some variation in the timing. Class teachers will make the due dates clear at the time that the assignments are set.
- The schedule of assignments and projects is not exhaustive. Some classes may be required to complete other additional tasks and assignments. Grades will be based on both formal and informal assessments.
- The calendar does not include incidental and regular nightly homework, which may be set during the year. This type of homework is a feature of some subjects, including **Mathematics** and **English**.
- **ICT** refers to Information and Communication Technologies – several subjects require use of internet and other technologies to complete assignment tasks.
- **Technology – Mandatory** – Students will rotate between Home Economics (Food Technology and Textiles) and Industrial Arts (Timber/Graphics/Metalwork) and will complete tasks in the term in which they are studied. Assessment tasks will be due at the end of each term. Teacher will advise due dates to students.

School Diary

Students should use their school diary to help organise their assessment requirements for each subject. They should record homework, assignments and projects on the day given, and the day due. The Term Planner should be used to organise their approach to assignments, projects and tests.

Penalties for Lateness

Every effort must be made to attempt all assessment activities for all subjects studied. Assignments must be handed in or completed on the due date. Assignments that are one school day late will incur a penalty of 20%, two school days late a penalty of 50% and three school days late will score zero but must be submitted to satisfy course requirements. Weekends count as one day.

Extensions

A student who fails to submit an assessment task or sit for a task at the designated time, must produce an acceptable excuse in writing (a doctor's certificate, in general, for sickness) from the parent or guardian on the next day of school attendance. This should be given to the class teacher or the appropriate Head Teacher. In negotiation with the Head Teacher, an extension may be granted, an alternative task completed, or an estimate given, guided by the result achieved when the student attempts an equivalent task.

Examinations

If a student misses an exam during the half-yearly or yearly exam period they are to see the relevant Head Teacher, the day they return to school, in order to reschedule the examination (if possible).

Technology Failure

If a student is presenting work produced via a computer, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure adequate backups have been made of the information. Technology failure, including printers, is not an acceptable excuse for failing to submit tasks on the due date.

Exclusion from extra-curricular activities

A student will be excluded from attending all extra-curricular activities including knockout sporting teams if:

- they have an assessment task that has not been submitted or
- they have not responded to a Faculty Letter of Concern (ie, made the necessary improvements)

Once the task has been submitted, resolved or improvements made it will no longer prevent the student's attendance at extra-curricular activities.

A register will be maintained by the school and updated by the faculty Head Teacher when a warning letter has been sent or resolved.

The student will be ineligible to attend if their name is on the register on the last day nominated for payment of an excursion, activity or sporting event.

If the excursion/activity/sporting event does not have a specified payment date, the student will be excluded if the matter has not been resolved at least 2 days prior to the event.

English

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Term 1 Week 9	Art of Persuasion – Advertising and Media Matters	20
2	Term 2 Week 9	Close study of novel – The Hero's Journey - Critical essay	25
3	Term 3 Week 8	Difference and Diversity – Film Study - Creative writing task	20
4	Terms 1-4	Wide reading program - To be completed and submitted throughout the year. Final submission is at the end of Week 3, Term 4	10
5	Terms 1-4	Word flyers - To be completed for homework throughout the year. Final grade to be determined at the end of Week 3, Term 4	10
6	Term 4 Week 6	Yearly Examination: Poetry and Picture Books – Sustainability Persuasive Speech	15
TOTAL			100

Mathematics

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Term 2 Week 4	Half Yearly Examination	20
2	Terms 1-4	Class mark – includes at least 6 topic tests in class	40
3	Term 4 Week 6	Yearly Examination	40
TOTAL			100
<p>The Half Yearly Assessment will use tasks 1 and 3 with a 3:2 weighting The final grade will be determined using all tasks.</p>			
<p>There are four areas for assessing students' knowledge, skills and understanding. These are <i>Working Mathematically</i>, <i>Number and Algebra</i>, <i>Measurement and Geometry</i> and <i>Statistics and Probability</i>. The Class Mark listed as Task 3 will be assessed throughout the year. It involves both formal and informal assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal: class based assessment of knowledge, skills and understanding - eg class tests, homework and assignments. • Informal: teacher's judgement and observation - eg, bookwork, participation <p>All set tasks must be completed to the standard required by the class teacher.</p>			

Science

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Terms 1-4	Topic knowledge tests – five short tests held at the end of each topic	25
2	Term 2 Week 2	Student research project - individual practical project	25
3	Term 2 Week 4	Half Yearly Examination – knowledge test	25
4	Term 3 Week 6	Yearly Examination – knowledge test	25
TOTAL			100

History

The **Stage 4 History** course will be completed across the year with **Stage 4 Geography** completed the previous year in Year 7.

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Term 1 Week 8	Source Study	25
2	Term 2 Week 5	Research Task	25
3	Term 3 Week 7	Source Study	25
4	Term 4 Week 6	Yearly Examination	25
TOTAL			100

Personal Development Health Physical Education

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Term 1 Week 7	In class task - Change and Challenge	15
2	Term 1 Week 7	Basketball	10
3	Term 2 Week 4	Risky Business – ALARM in class examination	15
4	Term 2 Week 8	Gymnastics	10
5	Term 3 Week 6	Case Study – My Body is My Temple	15
6	Term 3 Week 9	Dance	15
7	Term 4 Week 6	Yearly Examination	20
TOTAL			100
Please note special circumstances – Students who have special circumstances which affect their ability to complete a task should see the Head Teacher PDHPE. For example, students who are unable to complete practical tasks due to injury etc, will be given alternative written tasks relating to the unit of work.			

Technology – Home Economics

Food Technology – International Flavour

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Ongoing	Practical skills – weekly practical lessons	20
2	Week 9/10	Research and workbook activities – knowledge of design process	20
3	Week 9/10	Creative design activity	20
4	Week 9/10	Design project – Menu and two promotional items	30
5	Week 9/10	Project evaluation	10
TOTAL			100

Textiles – In the Bag

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Ongoing	Practical skills – Constructive and decorative samples	20
2	Week 9/10	Research and workbook activities – knowledge of design process	20
3	Week 9/10	Creative design activity	20
4	Week 9/10	Design project – Dyed calico bag	30
5	Week 9/10	Project evaluation	10
TOTAL			100

Technology – Industrial Arts

Project 1 – In unit studied

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Ongoing	Practical skills – weekly practical lessons	20
2	Week 9/10	Knowledge - workbook activities	20
3	Week 9/10	Creative design folio	20
4	Week 9/10	Design project	40
TOTAL			100

Project 2 – In unit studied

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Ongoing	Practical skills – Construction and decorative samples	20
2	Week 9/10	Knowledge - workbook activities	20
3	Week 9/10	Creative design activity	20
4	Week 9/10	Design project – Materials Project	20
5	Week 9/10	Investigation – Research and writing task	20
TOTAL			100

Music

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Terms 1 – 4	Performing	25
2	Term 1 and 3	Composing	25
3	Term 2 and 3	Listening	25
4	Terms 1-4	Notation	25
TOTAL			100
<p>There are four areas for assessing students' knowledge, skills and understanding. These are Instrumental Performance Practice, Listening Analysis and Ear Training, Creating Musical Compositions and Reading/Writing Musical Notation.</p> <p>The Class Mark listed as Tasks 2 and 4 will be assessed throughout the year. This involves formal and informal class based assessment of knowledge, skills and understanding - eg class tests, homework and short assignments.</p>			

Language

Student assessment in Year 8 will reflect the extent to which each student has achieved syllabus outcomes in the skill areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking in the target language as well as in the Moving Between Cultures section of the current syllabus. Language students will complete one home assignment per semester. Formal half yearly and yearly examinations are not held in Stage 4 Language. Report grades are upon continuous assessment throughout the year.

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Term 1 Week 8-10	Assignment - Moving Between Cultures	10
2	Term 2 Week 2-3	Speaking Assessment	20
3	Term 3 Week 6-8	Assignment - Moving Between Cultures	20
4	Terms 1-4	Class mark – includes at least 4 topic tests in class	50
TOTAL			100
The class mark will be assessed throughout the year. It involves both formal and informal assessment. Formal – class topic tests Informal – Teacher’s judgement and observation eg bookwork, participation			

Visual Arts

Task	To be held	Task Type/Details	Weighting
1	Term 1 Week 10	Artist Case Study	15
2	Term 2 Week 2	Practical task	35
3	Term 3 Week 3-4	Artist Case Study	15
4	Term 4 Week 6	Practical task	35
TOTAL			100