Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs)
The 49 CCEs are listed below with their respective number references. For more information about CCEs visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/qcs-test.

1. Recognising letters, words and other symbols
2. Finding material in an indexed collection
3. Recalling/remembering
4. Interpreting the meaning of words or other symbols
5. Interpreting the meaning of pictures/illustrations
6. Interpreting the meaning of tables or diagrams or maps or graphs
7. Translating from one form to another
8. Using correct spelling, punctuation, grammar
9. Using vocabulary appropriate to a context
10. Summarising/condensing written text
11. Compiling lists/statistics
12. Recording/noting data
13. Compiling results in a tabular form
14. Graphing
15. Calculating with or without calculators
16. Estimating numerical magnitude
17. Approximating a numerical value
18. Substituting in formulae
19. Setting out/presenting/arranging/displaying
20. Structuring/organising extended written text
21. Structuring/organising a mathematical argument
22. Explaining to others
23. Expounding a viewpoint
24. Empathising
25. Comparing, contrasting
26. Classifying
27. Interrelating ideas/themes/issues
28. Reaching a conclusion which is necessarily true provided a given set of assumptions is true
29. Reaching a conclusion which is consistent with a given set of assumptions
30. Inserting an intermediate between members of a series
31. Extrapolating
32. Applying strategies to trial and test ideas and procedures
33. Applying a progression of steps to achieve the required answer
34. Generalising from information
35. Hypothesising
36. Criticalising
37. Analysing
38. Synthesising
39. Justifying
40. Perceiving patterns
41. Visualising
42. Identifying shapes in two and three dimensions
43. Searching and locating items/information
44. Observing systematically
45. Gesturing
46. Manipulating/operating/using equipment
47. Sketching/drawing
What is the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test?
The QCS Test is:
• a common statewide test for Queensland Year 12 students
• an achievement test — not an intelligence or aptitude test
• grounded in the Queensland senior curriculum
• accessible to all Year 12 students, regardless of their subject selections
• compulsory for OP-eligible students.

What is the purpose of the test?
The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) uses QCS Test data to provide:
• group results, which are used for comparing student achievement across different subjects and different schools as part of the Overall Position (OP) and Field Position (FP) calculation processes
• individual results on an A to E scale.

What does it test?
It tests achievement in Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs) of the Queensland senior curriculum. The level of sophistication demanded by the test is appropriate to Year 12 students. Particular knowledge of specific senior subjects is not tested. However, the test assumes a knowledge of mathematical operations and concepts that could reasonably be expected of a student with a sound Year 10 education. It also assumes a reasonable level of general knowledge and vocabulary.

When is it held?
The QCS Test takes place over two days late in Term 3*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Paper 1 Writing Task</td>
<td>Paper 3 Short Response</td>
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<td>(2 hours)</td>
<td>(2 hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Paper 2 Multiple Choice I</td>
<td>Paper 4 Multiple Choice II</td>
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<td>(1 hour 30 minutes)</td>
<td>(1 hour 30 minutes)</td>
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* A student who is absent from one or more subtests cannot be awarded a result on the QCS Test unless exemption is applied for and approved.

For dates, check with schools or visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/qcs-test.

What is the format of the QCS Test?
The QCS Test consists of:
• a Writing Task testpaper
• two Multiple Choice testpapers
• a Short Response testpaper.

Four testpapers, one test
Students are expected to respond to various stimulus materials such as prose passages, poetry, graphs, tables, maps, mathematical and scientific data, cartoons and reproductions of works of art.

For the Writing Task, students are asked to compose an extended piece (about 600 words) of continuous prose in response to an overall concept and related stimulus material.

Items on the Short Response testpaper ask students to respond in various ways, such as writing a sentence or paragraph, drawing a diagram, performing a calculation or sketching.

For each item on the Multiple Choice testpapers, four possible responses are presented as options. Students are asked to select the best option.

What preparation is useful?
The CCEs are generic skills that students develop across their subjects, so they are preparing for the test all the time and in every subject. Students might also consider these preparation tips.

Students can:
• become familiar with the CCEs and how achievement in them might be assessed
• experiment with various forms or genres of writing to see which are their strongest
• develop skills in writing clearly, simply and economically
• become aware of how much space 600 words of their handwriting takes up
• review concepts such as percentage, ratio, angle, power of ten notation, and elementary algebraic procedures
• practise using an approved calculator
• find out the meanings of the key terms used in the testpapers, to help understand the most effective type of response to provide. Key terms are listed in the Student Information Bulletin, which is provided to all Year 12 students and is available on the QCAA website.

What equipment is required?
Students require writing equipment such as pens, pencils, a ruler and an eraser. A pen is required for the Writing Task and Short Response testpapers, except as instructed otherwise, and a 2B pencil for Multiple Choice responses.

Students may use an approved hand-held, solar or battery-operated, noiseless calculator. An approved calculator is one that does not have a spellchecker, dictionary, thesaurus, translator or computer algebra system (CAS) facility.

Students must not take equipment that is not permitted, such as mobile phones, into the test room. Supervisors may inspect a student’s equipment at any time during the test. The Student Information Bulletin lists equipment that is permitted and not permitted.

More information
Visit the QCAA website at www.qCAA.qld.edu.au/qcs-test for QCS Test information including available publications. For queries email qcs_admin@qCAA.qld.edu.au or telephone (07) 3864 0299.

Publications relating to the test are also available from schools.
For information about tertiary entrance, OPs and FPs, visit www.qCAA.qld.edu.au.

What if a student needs special provision?
If a student has a recognised impairment that could make it difficult or impossible to sit the test, the QCAA may be able to assist. Students should talk to their teachers or guidance officer if they think they will need some variation in the arrangements.

For more information about special provision, visit the QCAA website.