

Exemptions from sitting examinations – 2009 onwards

Contact:

Steve Donatti (08) 9273 6359

steve.donatti@curriculum.wa.edu.au

From and including 2009, all full-time students in their final year of compulsory schooling who are enrolled in at least one stage 2 or stage 3 unit pair (e.g. 2A/2B, 2C/2D or 3A/3B) in a course are required to sit the WACE examination in that course, unless they qualify for an exemption.

It is intended that schools encourage all eligible students to sit the external examinations.

At the time of enrolling in courses, it will be assumed that students will also be enrolling to sit the examination. Students will need to apply to be exempt from sitting an examination.

Exempt students may still choose to sit examinations.

Examinations will not be held for Stage 1 units. Students enrolled in Stage 1 units can sit Stage 2 or 3 unit examinations as private candidates.

- ***Clarification of vocational education and training needed for examination exemption***

Students who are working towards completion of an AQF VET Certificate I or higher in their final WACE year will be studying a combination of units of competency that will enable them to complete their certificate by the end of the year, provided they successfully complete these units of competency. These students are exempt from sitting examinations.

There may be some school-based traineeships or school-based apprenticeships where the full certificate will not be completed in that year. These instances should be outlined on the exemption application.

- ***Clarification of exemption for students required to sit six or seven examinations***

To encourage schools to continue to have students study six courses in Year 12, and in some instances seven (preserving breadth-of-study offerings), students will be required to sit a minimum of five examinations.

Schools will be asked to seek exemption for those students for the examinations in their sixth and, where applicable, seventh course if the student and/or their parents/guardian so choose.

This exemption does not allow students to randomly select which examination/s they will not attend on the basis of their anticipated score. That is, this exemption clause is not a mechanism for students to manipulate the system to optimise their tertiary entrance rank.

- ***Applying for exemption***

When applying for an exemption from sitting an examination, students will be required to complete a form which declares that they are:

- working towards the completion of an AQF VET Certificate I or higher in their final WACE year or
- studying six or seven courses.

The application will require the school, the parent/guardian and the student to sign a document that provides the list of units of competence that the student is studying in Year 12 towards the completion of an Australian Qualification Framework VET Certificate I or higher.

2009 arrangements when there is a mixture of WACE and TEE examinations

To be exempt, students must be working towards completion of an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) VET Certificate I or higher **and** be enrolled in three or fewer Stage 2 and/or Stage 3 unit pairs (for example 3A and 3B).

The examples in the table below will help clarify varying scenarios. In these examples, assume that the student is working towards the completion of an AQF VET Certificate 1 or higher.

Table: Exemption scenarios

Exempt	Not exempt
<p><i>Case 1: Exempt (three courses)</i> English (Stage 2) Applied Information Technology (Stage 2) Modelling with Mathematics Physical Education Studies (Stage 2) Senior Science <i>Exempt – there are only three subjects and/or courses where there is an external examination. Modelling with Mathematics and Senior Science are WSA subjects.</i></p>	<p><i>Case 5: Not exempt (four courses)</i> English (Stage 2) Applied Information Technology (Stage 2) Discrete Mathematics Physical Education Studies (Stage 2) Outdoor Education (Stage 2) <i>Not exempt – there are four courses which have an external examination. Discrete Mathematics is a TEE subject and sitting the examination is optional.</i></p>
<p><i>Case 2: Exempt (three courses)</i> English (Stage 2) Applied Information Technology (Stage 2) Discrete Mathematics Physical Education Studies (Stage 2) Senior Science <i>Exempt – three of the courses have an external examination. Senior Science is a WSA subject and Discrete Mathematics is a TEE subject and sitting the examination is optional.</i></p>	<p><i>Case 6: Not exempt (four subjects/courses)</i> English (Stage 2) Applied Information Technology (Stage 2) Modelling with Mathematics Physical Education Studies (Stage 2) Outdoor Education (Stage 2) <i>Not exempt – four of the subjects and courses have an external examination. Modelling with Mathematics is the only WSA subject.</i></p>
<p><i>Case 3: Exempt (two courses)</i> English (Stage 2) Computer Science (Stage 2) Accounting Modelling with Mathematics Structured Workplace Learning <i>Exempt – only two courses have an external examination. Modelling with Mathematics and Structured Workplace Learning are WSA subjects. Accounting is a TEE subject and sitting the examination is optional.</i></p>	
<p><i>Case 4: Exempt (two courses)</i> English (Stage 2) History Geography Discrete Mathematics Applied Information Technology (Stage 2) <i>Exempt – there are only two courses, the remainder comprise TEE subjects for which sitting the examination is optional.</i></p>	