

Senior Secondary Australian Curriculum

In 2010 the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) developed and consulted on draft content for the senior secondary English, Mathematics, Science and History learning areas, as listed below:

Foundation to Year 10	Years 11 and 12
English	Essential English English as an Additional Language English Literature
Mathematics	Essential Mathematics General Mathematics Mathematical Methods Specialist Mathematics
Science	Physics Chemistry Biology Earth and Environmental Science
History	Ancient History Modern History

While ACARA will develop Australian Curriculum for the senior secondary years across a range of learning areas, states and territories will continue to offer their own subjects and courses that do not overlap significantly with the Australian Curriculum. They will also determine assessment, certification and quality assurance requirements of Australian Curriculum subjects within the contexts of their senior secondary certificates.

ACARA is working with state and territory curriculum, assessment and certification authorities on the development of senior secondary subjects.

In response to the initial consultation feedback, the curriculum content for English, Mathematics, Science and History has been revised. Experts in each area

have been providing advice on how to best address issues raised. The development of subject-specific achievement standards is also occurring. These describe expected learning at each unit and a range of levels of achievement expected of students studying for each of Year 11 and Year 12 (units 1 and 2; and units 3 and 4). They make no assumptions about methods of assessment and will allow flexibility for teachers, schools and jurisdictions to determine the particular assessment methods to be used for informing judgments about student learning.

The revision work will take place during the remainder of 2011. A second round of consultation is planned in 2012, including curriculum content and achievement standards, focusing on:

- the structure of each course including its aims
- rationale and organisation
- the appropriateness and coherence of the units for each course
- the appropriateness and clarity of the draft senior secondary content
- the appropriateness and clarity of the draft achievement standards.

The senior secondary timelines for English, Mathematics, Science and History are based on the assumption that the Australian Curriculum in these areas should be ready for Ministerial endorsement by late 2012 and available for implementation from 2014, building on the implementation of and learning from the Foundation to Year 10 curriculum in these areas. This timeline provides for the curriculum to be available for one year prior to implementation to allow for implementation preparation and professional learning, planning and support.