

Cabramatta High School

Excellence | Innovation | Opportunity | Success



HSC Minimum Standard Tests

A RESOURCE FOR PARENTS

HSC Minimum Standard

(Facts)

What is the HSC minimum standard test?

HSC minimum standard is an exam that you take to demonstrate literacy and numeracy skills that you need to be successful in everyday life after school. You are required to show a minimum standard of these skills to receive the Higher School Certificate (HSC).



What is in the test?

The test is comprised of three short online tests of reading, writing and maths for everyday life.

When do you take the test?

You get three attempts a year to pass each of the tests from Year 10. Your school will help you decide when you are ready to take each test. To show that you have met the HSC minimum standard, you will need to achieve a level 3 or 4 in the three online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills.

When will you be exempted from taking the HSC minimum standard test?

Students do not need to sit the reading, writing or numeracy test(s) if they achieved Band 8 or above in the respective 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN test(s)

Note - From 2020, only students who meet the HSC minimum standards will receive a HSC credential. Students do not need to meet the HSC minimum standard to:

- Study HSC courses
- Sit HSC exams
- Receive a HSC Minimum Standard Report
- Receive an ATAR
- Receive a Record of School Achievement (ROSA)
- Be accepted into tertiary education
- Seek employment opportunities

HSC Minimum Standard

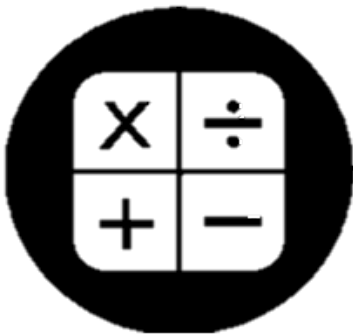
(Test Components)

There are three separate 45 minute online tests. Students can only attempt each test twice in a calendar year in years 10, 11 and 12.



Minimum Standards – READING

- 45 multiple-choice questions
- Questions are adaptive (become harder or easier depending on student's ability)



Minimum Standards – NUMERACY

- 45 multiple-choice questions
- Questions are adaptive (become harder or easier depending on student's ability)
- Onscreen calculator can be used for questions with a calculator picture



Minimum Standards – WRITING

- One response based on a visual or text prompt
- Response of up to 500 words
- Marked by NESA examiners

HSC Minimum Standard (*Practice Tests*)

There are three separate 15-minute online practice tests

Practice tests can be taken at any time throughout the year at school.

They can be taken as many times as needed to help get you ready for the minimum standard tests. The **literacy coordinator** at your school can help you schedule a date for these practice tests.

There are also demonstration tests on the NESA website that you can access from home.

Did you know? There is a Literacy Steering Committee at your school.
You can see any of the teachers' below if you have any questions regarding the minimum standards tests.

- **Mrs. Walton** – Chair of Committee
- **Ms. Yang** – Literacy Coordinator
- **Mrs. Nguyen** – Year 9 Literacy
- **Mr. Simpson** – Year 10 Literacy
- **Mr. Ward** – IEC Head Teacher
- **Mr. Pillay** – Industrial Arts Head Teacher
- **Ms. Marasinghe** – HSIE Teacher
- **Ms. Huynh.26** – HSIE Teacher
- **Ms. Singh** – IEC Teacher
- **Ms. Nguyen** – English Teacher
- **Mr. Jorgensen** – PD Teacher

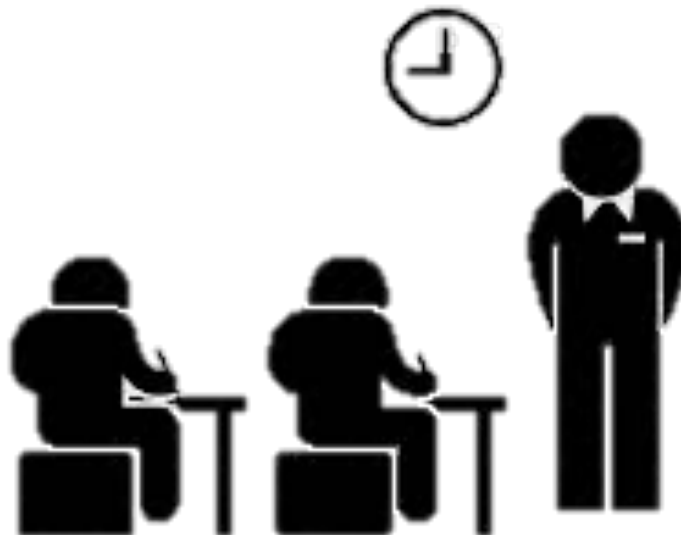


HSC Minimum Standard *(Test Provisions)*

Some students might be eligible for test provisions, such as:

- Breaks in the test
- Extra time, or
- Separate supervision


Talk to your school's Literacy Coordinator or your Year Advisor if you think you might be eligible for test provisions.



HSC Minimum Standard (Certification)

Once you have achieved the minimum standards tests, you will receive a two-page report.

Minimum Standard Test Report



**Minimum Standard Reading
Test3 Test
of
Clarence High School (NOT REAL SCHOOL)**

sat the Minimum Standard Reading test on 8 March 2018 and demonstrated achievement at
Level 3

Individuals performing at this level typically:

- comprehend everyday texts in familiar and some less familiar contexts
- recognise the distinguishing features of common types of texts
- locate, integrate and interpret information in detailed written material, charts, diagrams and tables
- identify some implied meanings and make simple inferences
- recognise common expressions, and understand that words may have different meanings in different contexts
- compare information from different sources, and use strategies to predict the meaning of unknown words
- use punctuation such as apostrophes and quotation marks as an aid to understanding

Level 3 is the minimum standard required for a student to be eligible for the NSW Higher School Certificate

Student Number: 32515932

Issued by NSW Education Standards Authority without alteration or erasure on
8 March 2018 at Sydney, NSW, Australia

Minimum Standard Reading Test Report

Test3 Test
of
Clarence High School (NOT REAL SCHOOL)

sat the Minimum Standard Reading test on 8 March 2018, and demonstrated achievement at
Level 3

Individuals performing at this level typically comprehend written texts of relative complexity including those incorporating visual information. They understand distinguishing features of different types of texts, and use inference and an understanding of symbolism to interpret texts. They identify ways in which a writer uses structure, language and tone to create a particular message. They extract, analyse, compare and synthesise information from a variety of sources including tables and charts. They use punctuation effectively as an aid to understanding.

Level 4

Individuals performing at this level typically comprehend everyday texts in familiar and some less familiar contexts. They recognise the distinguishing features of common types of texts. They locate, integrate and interpret information in detailed written material, charts, diagrams and tables. They identify some implied meanings and make simple inferences. They recognise common expressions, and understand that words may have different meanings in different contexts. They compare information from different sources, and use strategies to predict the meaning of unknown words. They use punctuation such as apostrophes and quotation marks as an aid to understanding.

Level 3 (Minimum standard)

Individuals performing at this level typically comprehend simple texts in predictable contexts. They locate specific information and identify the main idea in short, clear written material. They compare information from different sources, and provide simple interpretations. They recognise the difference between formal and informal language in familiar texts, and understand that the meaning of words and phrases may change in different contexts. They understand instructions in words and diagrams. They use strategies to identify unknown words and predict their meaning in simple sentences. They use familiar vocabulary and basic punctuation, such as capital letters and commas, as an aid to understanding.

Level 2

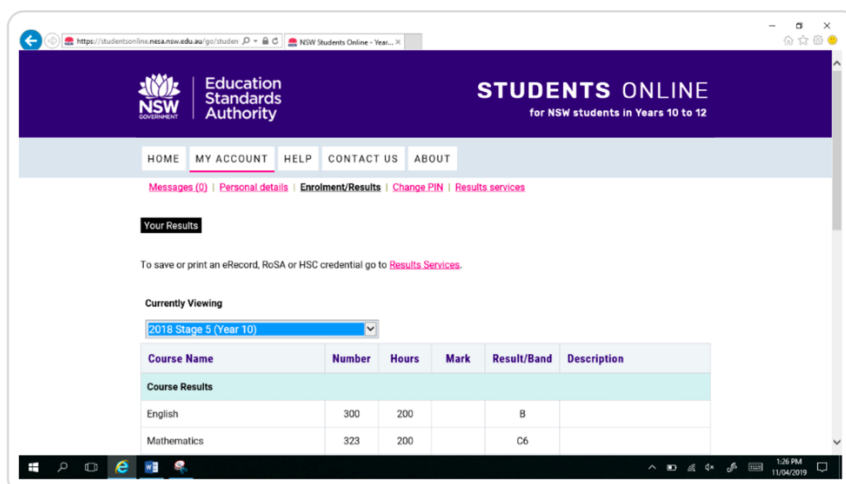
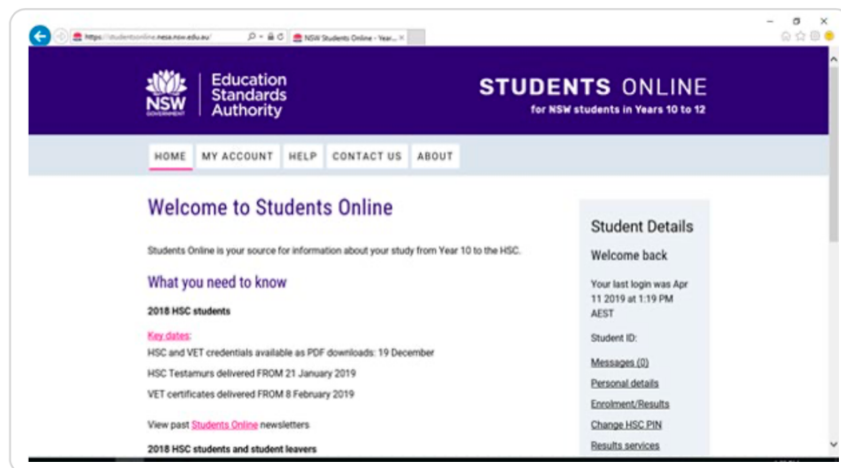
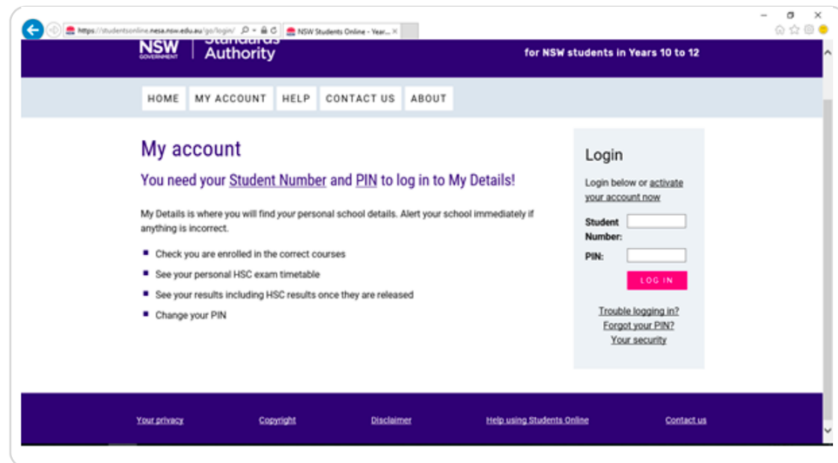
Individuals performing at this level typically comprehend simple, brief texts in highly familiar contexts. They locate specific information in simple diagrams, tables or maps, and interpret visual information in written material. They make links between pieces of information, and follow simple written or pictorial instructions. They recognise common signs, symbols and abbreviations. They recognise high frequency words and use a limited range of strategies to understand unfamiliar words. They use basic punctuation as an aid to understanding.

Level 1

These certificates can be downloaded from **Students Online**.

HSC Minimum Standard (Students Online)

You can access **Students Online** via this link: <https://studentsonline.nesa.new.edu.au>



HSC Minimum Standard

(HSC 2021 and Beyond)

Student	Actions Required	Eligible for Credential
Achieves Level 3 in the HSC minimum standard tests (reading, writing, numeracy) before end of Year 12.	Students only have to demonstrate they have met the standard once. Students can choose an ATAR or non ATAR pattern of study in the HSC.	HSC ROSA Minimum Standard Report
Achieves Level 3 in one or two HSC minimum standard tests before the end of Year 12.	Students can have up to 5 years from the start of the HSC to sit the 3 HSC minimum standard online tests to achieve Level 3.	ROSA Minimum Standard Report If studying an ATAR pattern of study, students can still receive ATAR and offer to university.
Does not qualify for HSC due to 'N' determination or ineligible pattern of study.	Sits the 3 HSC minimum standard online tests to attain a Minimum Standard Report.	ROSA Minimum Standard Report
Leaves school when 17, before the end of Year 12.	Sits the 3 HSC minimum standard online tests to attain a Minimum Standard Report.	ROSA Minimum Standard Report
Leaves school when 17.	Does not sit any of the HSC minimum standard tests.	ROSA

Note: *If you have any questions about future pathways, see your school's Careers Advisor Mr.Pulham. You can find him in the Library.*



HSC Minimum Standard

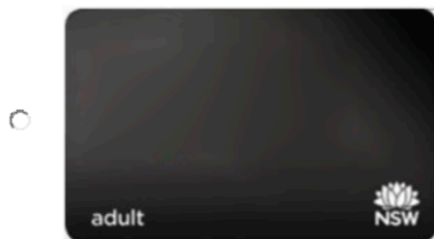
(Sample Reading Questions)

1. Which is the correct punctuation to complete the sentence to show surprise?

That's amazing

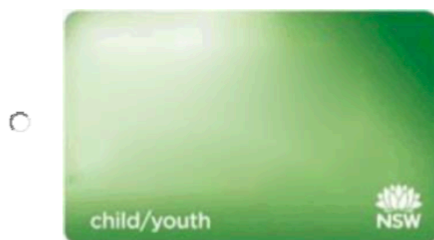
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- ?
- :
- ,

2. Which travel card should a 12-year-old use?



Adult

if you're 16 years of age, or older, and normally pay full fare



Child/Youth

if you're aged 4-15 years old, or a full time NSW/ACT school student aged 16 years or older



Senior/Pensioner

for eligible NSW seniors, interstate seniors, pensioners and asylum seekers



Concession

for eligible tertiary students, apprentices and trainees, job seekers and Centrelink customers

HSC Minimum Standard

(Sample Reading Questions)

3. *Did you know he _____ won the award for best player three times?*

Which word correctly completes the sentence?

- did
- has
- have
- will

4. There is an extra word in this sentence. Which word is not needed?

A towbar is used to attach together a trailer to a car.

- used
- attach
- together
- to

6. *After following the path for quite a while, we wondered _____ we would end up.*

Which word would complete this sentence accurately?

- wear
- were
- where
- we're

5. The following sentences are missing the punctuation mark at the end.

Which sentence is a question?

- Sam questioned his best friend
- Sam, are you still my best friend
- Sam asked me if he is my best friend
- Sam requested Joe to step off his foot

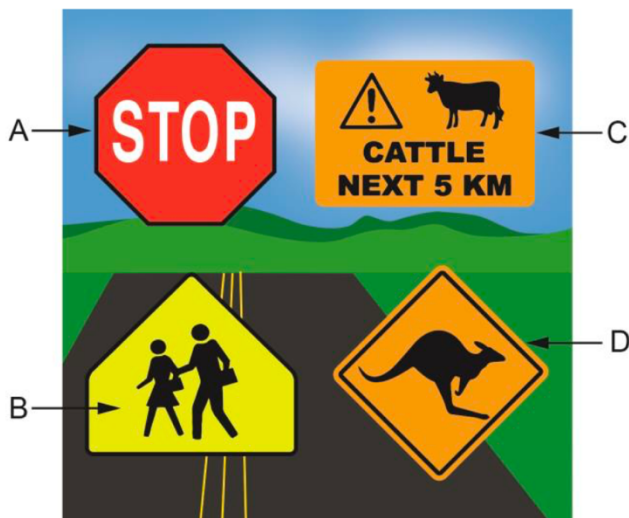
HSC Minimum Standard (Sample Numeracy Questions)

1. Four friends are playing a video game. Their final scores are shown below.

Name	Score
Dan	87 778
Sue	78 877
Marie	87 088
Peter	78 788

Who has the highest score?

- Dan
 - Sue
 - Marie
 - Peter
2. Some common signs are shown.



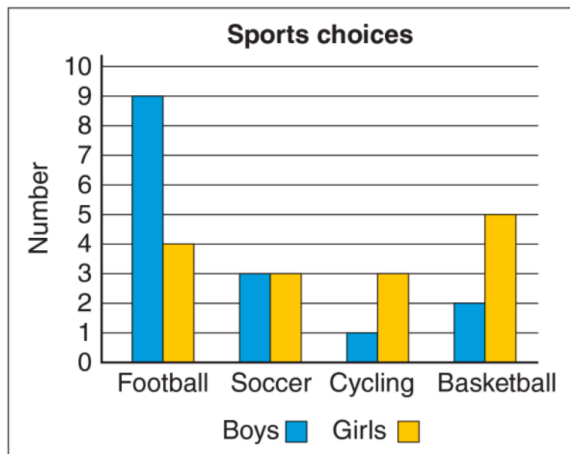
Which sign has the shape of an octagon?

- A
- B
- C
- D

HSC Minimum Standard

(Sample Numeracy Questions)

3. The graph shows the results of a survey conducted to find the favourite sports of boys and girls.



Which sport was equally favoured by boys and girls?

- Football
 - Soccer
 - Cycling
 - Basketball
4. What is 20% of \$25.00?
- \$5.00
 - \$20.00
 - \$30.00
 - \$50.00
5. A student leaves home at 7:40 am and arrives at school at 8:15 am.
- How long does he take to go to school?
- 25 min
 - 35 min
 - 55 min
 - 75 min

HSC Minimum Standard

(Text Types)

There are many different text types that you may encounter and compose in the HSC minimum standard tests. While all of these forms of text have the written word in common, each text type has its unique features and conventions. In general, it is helpful to think of the text types in terms of three categories: **informative**, **persuasive** and **imaginative**.



Informative texts: The main purpose of informative texts is to provide information.

Examples of informative texts: Explanations, information reports, procedures, recounts, descriptions, biographies, maps, and websites.



Persuasive texts: The main purpose of persuasive texts is to put forward a point of view and persuade the reader, viewer or listener.

Examples of persuasive texts: advertising, debates, arguments, discussions, polemics and influential essays and articles.



Imaginative texts: The main purpose of imaginative texts is to entertain readers, viewers or listeners through their imaginative use of literary elements.

Examples of imaginative texts: novels, traditional tales, poetry, stories, plays, fiction for young adults and children including picture books and multimodal texts such as film.

HSC Minimum Standard

(Writing Sample Question)

NSW Education Standards Authority



Minimum Standard Writing Test

Sample question

Your answer will be assessed on:

- relevance of writing to the topic
- structure and sequence of ideas
- control of language

Compose a piece of writing on ONE of the following topics.

Look at the photograph below.



Compose a piece of writing about when you dared to be different.

Smartphones have taken over our lives.

Write a response of approximately 500 words. You have 45 minutes.

HSC Minimum Standard (*Understanding Writing Prompts*)



Task: Discuss and annotate the layout of the writing section.

Your answer will be assessed on:

- relevance of writing to the topic
- structure and sequence of ideas
- control of language

Compose a piece of writing on ONE of the following topics.

Look at the photograph below.



Compose a piece of writing about when you dared to be different.

Smartphones have taken over our lives.

Write a response of approximately 500 words. You have 45 minutes.

HSC Minimum Standard

(Identifying the Question Type)



Task: Complete all questions below (short answers).

Look at the photograph below.



Compose a piece of writing about when you dared to be different.

1. Highlight all the key words in the question.
2. What is the main topic of the question?

3. Which type of **writing style** should you use to respond to this question?

(a) Creative writing (b) Factual writing
4. Which **text type** should you use to respond to this question?

Smartphones have taken over our lives.

1. Highlight all the key words in the question.
2. What is the main topic of the question?

3. Which type of **writing style** should you use to respond to this question?

(b) Creative writing (b) Factual writing
4. Which **text type** should you use to respond to this question?

HSC Minimum Standard

(Selecting the RIGHT Question for Yourself)



Reflection

1. After discussing and annotating the sample questions, which *one* would you choose to respond to and why?



2. What type of writing and text type would you use to compose your response for the question you chose?



HSC Minimum Standard

(Using PEEL in your writing)

PEEL PARAGRAPHS



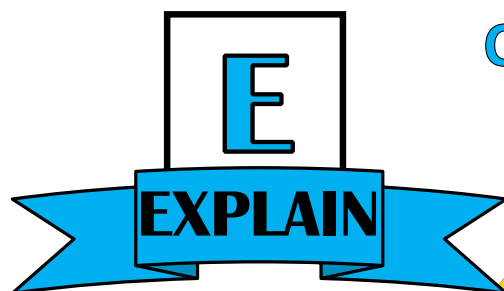
WHAT'S THE POINT?

- ♦ Write a topic sentence that introduces the main idea of the paragraph. You should have ONE point per paragraph.



BACK UP YOUR POINT WITH EVIDENCE

- ♦ It is important to give evidence (examples) to support your point. This can be in the form of a direct quote, historical reference, or statistics.



CONVINCE YOUR READER

- ♦ Explain how the evidence supports your point or claim by elaborating (giving details), stating how the evidence supports your idea or explaining the effects of the evidence.



LINK IT UP!

- ♦ The last sentence should strengthen (reinforce) your point. Write what you want your reader to remember. This is also where you can introduce your next point.

Literacy Steering Committee 2021

HSC Minimum Standard

(PEEL Keyring)

P **POINT**

WHAT'S THE POINT?
Write a topic sentence that introduces the main idea of the paragraph. You should have **ONE** point per paragraph.

- Is there an important point of view?
- Are you defining a term?
- Is there an important concept that you need to share?

SENTENCE STARTERS

- To begin with...
- I strongly believe...
- One argument is that....
- It is suggested that...
- Many people believe that...

E **EVIDENCE**

BACK UP YOUR POINT WITH EVIDENCE!
It is important to give evidence (examples) to support your point. Your evidence can be:

- a direct quote from an authority
- a historical reference
- cited from reliable written sources and statistics

SENTENCE STARTERS

- For example...
- For instance...
- This is shown in...
- The evidence clearly shows...
- Early in the text, the author...

E **EXPLANATION**

CONVINCE YOUR READER BY EXPLAINING YOUR EVIDENCE!
Explain how the evidence supports your point or claim. You should:

- Elaborate - give details about each piece of evidence
- State how the evidence supports your point
- Explain the effects of the evidence

SENTENCE STARTERS

- This shows...
- This reveals...
- This illustrates...
- This highlights...
- This supports the argument by...

L **LINK**

LINK IT UP!
The last sentence should strengthen (reinforce) your point. This is also where you can introduce your next point.

Remember...

WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR READER/S TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR POINT?

SENTENCE STARTERS

- In conclusion, the evidence shows...
- In summary, the evidence shows...
- Therefore, it is evident that...
- With this in mind, it is evident that...

HSC Minimum Standard

(Selecting the RIGHT Question for Yourself)



PRACTICE QUESTION – Use the template below to plan your response to the following writing prompt.

Writing prompt: In year 7, students should be expected to complete at least two hours of set homework each day.

Write an argument for or against this position. This essay may be read by the school principal to the Parents and Citizens' Association to represent an opinion of a year 7 student.

Exposition (Argument) Template

Topic/issue: _____

Your Position: _____

Introduction: _____

Argument (1) – Point: _____

Example (evidence): _____

Explanation: _____



Link: _____

Argument (2) – Point: _____

Example (evidence): _____

Explanation: _____



Link: _____

Argument (3) – Point: _____

Example (evidence): _____

Explanation: _____



Link: _____

Conclusion: _____

HSC Minimum Standard

(Writing Levels)

Level 4

Individuals performing at this level typically produce a broad range of texts using appropriate writing conventions, features and grammatical structures. They write appropriately for the audience and purpose using logically constructed and coherently linked paragraphs. They select the appropriate formal or informal language for the context, and use vocabulary appropriately. They use tenses and complex sentences which match the purpose of the writing. They use punctuation accurately and effectively to ensure meaning is clear. They accurately spell frequently used words and use strategies to spell less familiar words.

Level 3 – HSC minimum standard

Individuals performing at this level typically produce a range of familiar texts with appropriate grammatical structures and writing conventions. They sequence writing to produce cohesive texts and vary language to suit the audience and purpose. They use a range of formal and informal language, and appropriate vocabulary with increasing precision for the audience and context. They use tense appropriately, and simple, compound and some complex sentences. They use punctuation to aid understanding. They spell frequently used words with reasonable accuracy, and use strategies to spell unfamiliar words.

Level 2

Individuals performing at this level typically produce familiar texts using simple vocabulary, grammar and writing conventions. They recognise that texts have a structure, and begin to sequence their writing. They recognise some differences between formal and informal language, and understand that words and grammatical choices may change according to the audience and purpose. They write using simple joining techniques, and words that indicate time and place. They use action words and simple tenses in simple and compound sentences. They generally use simple adjectives, pronouns and prepositions accurately, and extend key vocabulary to include familiar words that have personal relevance. They use basic punctuation such as capital letters, full stops and commas. They spell words with some variation that does not affect the overall meaning.

Level 1

Individuals performing at this level typically produce brief texts that convey simple ideas, opinions or factual information in very familiar contexts. They recognise that texts have different purposes. They demonstrate limited understanding of writing conventions and very limited understanding of sequencing. They use basic structures and simple verbs or verb groups with limited grammatical accuracy. They use a small bank of words and phrases. They use basic punctuation such as capital letters and full stops, though not always consistently. They approximate spelling with some inconsistency and variation.

HSC Minimum Standard

(Parent Acknowledgement Form)

I acknowledge:

- that I have read and understood the purpose of completing the HSC Minimum Standard Test.
- that my child must sit the test and that if any modifications are needed due to a learning disability must notify the school, with an official medical diagnosis as early as possible.
- that if my child is absent during the day of the test, the school will reorganise another session for your child to partake in the HSC Minimum Standard test.
- that depending on my child's circumstances, test provisions are provided for those who are eligible.
- that if my child does not pass the HSC Minimum Standard Test, he/she will not receive the HSC certificate at the end of year 12 but a ROSA. However, this will not prevent my child from gaining access to a University course. I must bear in mind that most employees and tertiary education will require achievement of the HSC Minimum Standard test.
- that there are three components to the HSC Minimum Standard Test: Reading, writing and numeracy.
- that my child will be given opportunities to complete practice tests for all three components, which can also be accessed through the online NESA home page at home.
- that my child must achieve a level 3 or 4 to all three components to pass the HSC Minimum Standard Test.
- that my child will have three attempts for each component per year, until the end of Year 12.
- that my child will be given 45 minutes to attempt each component.
- that my child will not be able to bring in their own calculator and that they **MUST** use the on-screen calculator provided during the test.
- that my child will be held responsible if he/she is caught cheating during the test.

Student

I have read the information booklet on the HSC Minimum Standard Testing and agree to comply with the information provided

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

I have read the information booklet on the HSC Minimum Standard Testing and understand that my child will partake and comply with the information provided.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____