

2026-2027

## Short Guide to Senior Subject



Laidley State  
High School

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# Laidley SHS | 2025 | Short Guide to Senior Subject Selection

## Overview

This guide has been put together to provide Year 10 students with the information that they require to make informed decisions when choosing their subjects for years 11 and 12. This guide is a quick snapshot of what subjects are offered in the Senior School at Laidley SHS, along with the pathway opportunities, pre-requisites and study load.

More information can be found about Senior Schooling pathways at the link below.

<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior>

**NOTE:** Please use this short guide in conjunction with the Senior Subject Handbook to guide your subject selections.

## Key Terminology

There are a few key terms that students need to have a clear understanding of in order to choose their Senior Schooling pathway. These terms are outlined below.

## Senior Education and Training (SET) Planning

Your SET plan helps you:

- ❖ structure your learning around your abilities, interests and ambitions
- ❖ think about your education, training and career options after Year 12
- ❖ set and achieve your learning goals in Years 11 and 12, and beyond
- ❖ include flexible and coordinated pathway options in your course of senior study
- ❖ communicate with your parents/carers or teachers/careers counsellors about your post-school plans.
- ❖ put plans in place to be successful in Senior School and BEYOND

## Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

Queensland's senior school qualification is:

- internationally recognised
- achievement based
- flexible — letting you choose what, where and when you study.

To attain a QCE students need to satisfy the following requirements:

- Literacy requirement – pass at least one unit\* of an English subject.
- Numeracy requirement – pass at least one unit\* of a Maths subject.
- 12 points of completed core – earned by completing entire subjects at a pass. (Need to start and finish 3 subjects passing all 4 units).
  - Can also be done by completing Certificate II or III courses and accumulating points from them where a Certificate II is generally worth four points and a Certificate III is generally worth eight points.

Plus, a further eight points to make a total of  
**20 points**

\* Unit =  
Semester

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## QCE Examples

### Student 1

- Student A will receive a QCE
- Student A is ATAR Eligible (completed Unit 3 & 4 for 5 General subjects)

Subject	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3 & 4	QCE Credits
English	U (0)	S (1)	C (2)	3*
Mathematics Methods	S (1)	U (0)	-	1*
General Mathematics	-	-	C (2)	2*
Agricultural Science	S (1)	S (1)	C (2)	4*
Physical Education	S (1)	S (1)	A (2)	4*
Business	S (1)	S (1)	B (2)	4*
Ancient History	U (0)	-	-	0
Drama	-	S (1)	A (2)	3
			<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>21</b>

QCE Criteria	Met
20 pts	✓ (21)
12 pts Completed Core	✓ (18)
Max 4 pts from Preparatory	✓ (0)
Max 8 pts from Complimentary	✓ (0)
Literacy standard met	✓ (Unit 2 English)
Numeracy standard met	✓ (Unit 1 Maths Methods)
QCE ELIGIBLE	<b>YES</b>



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### Student 2

- Student A will NOT receive a QCE
- Student A is NOT ATAR Eligible

Subject	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3 & 4	QCE Credits
Essential English	S (1)	S (1)	A (2)	4*
Essential Mathematics	S (1)	U (0)	C (2)	3*
Industrial Graphics Skills	-	-	C (2)	2
Dance in Practice	S (1)	S (1)	-	2
Visual Arts in Practice	S (1)	S (1)	D (0)	2 (0)*
Certificate III in Business	75% Completed (6)			6
Certificate II in Hospitality	100% Completed (4)			4*
Short Course in Career Education	S			1
			<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>24</b>

QCE Criteria	Met
20 pts	✓ (24)
12 pts Completed Core	✗ (11)
Max 4 pts from Preparatory	✓ (0)
Max 8 pts from Complimentary	✓ (1)
Literacy standard met	✓ (Unit 1 English)
Numeracy standard met	✓ (Unit 1 Essential Maths)
QCE ELIGIBLE	<b>NO</b>



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## Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)

The Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) recognises the achievements of students who are on individualised learning programs.

The certificate is an official record that students have completed at least 12 years of education, and provides students with a summary of their skills and knowledge that they can present to employers and training providers.

## ATAR – Australian Tertiary Admission Rank

Queensland ATARs are based on a student's:

- ❖ best five General subject results, OR
- ❖ best results in four General subjects, plus one Applied subject, OR
- ❖ best results in four General subjects, plus one VET qualification at Certificate III or above.

Important to note

- ❖ To be eligible for an ATAR, students must successfully complete an English subject (General or Applied).

## Types of Subjects

### General Subjects

Suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead primarily to tertiary studies.

Examples of subjects include General Maths, General English, Ancient History, Chemistry, Visual Art, HPE

### Applied Subjects

Suited to students who are primarily interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to vocational education and training or work.

Examples of subjects include Essential English, Essential Maths, Sport and Recreation, Visual Art in Practice, Dance in Practice

### VET Subjects

Suited to students who are primarily interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to vocational education and training or work.

Examples of subjects include Cert II in Hospitality, Cert III in Business & Cert II in Tourism (dual certificate).

\*Applied Subjects are being redeveloped by the QCAA for implementation in 2025. Information included in this guide is subject to change based on the new syllabus\*

## Mathematics

### Essential Mathematics

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – PSMT, IA2 – Common Internal Assessment, IA3 – PSMT, IA4 - Exam

### General Mathematics

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** At least a C in Year 10 Mathematics

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – PSMT, IA2 – Exam, IA3 – Exam, EA4 – External Exam (50%)

### Mathematical Methods

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** At least a B in Year 10 Mathematics

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – PSMT, IA2 – Exam, IA3 – Exam, EA4 – External Exam (50%)

## English

### Essential English

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Extended Response (Spoken), IA2 – Common Internal Assessment (Exam), IA3 – Extended Response (Multimodal), IA4 – Extended Response (Written)

### General English

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Minimum C in Year 10 English. Recommended B in Year 10 English.

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Spoken Response (persuasive), IA2 – Extended Response (written response for public audience), IA3 – Exam (imaginative), External Exam (analytical)

### Literature

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Minimum C in Year 10 English. Recommended B in Year 10 English.

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 4 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Examination; IA2 – Imaginative response; IA3 – Imaginative Response; External Exam - examination

## Humanities

### Ancient History

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Recommended B in Year 10 English and a C in Year 10 History

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Exam, IA2 – Investigation, IA3 – Investigation, EA4 – Exam

### Business Studies

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Extended response, IA2 –Project IA3 – Extended Response, IA4 – Project

### Legal Studies

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Recommended B in Year 10 English

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Exam, IA2 –Inquiry Report, IA3 – Argumentative Essay, EA4 – Exam

### Social & Community

**Studies Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Report, IA2 – Extended Response, IA3 – Project, IA4 – Short Response Test



## Technologies

### Building and Construction Skills

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** 4 Projects and multimodal presentations

**Projected Costs:** \$110

### Furnishing Skills

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** 4 Projects and multimodal presentations

**Projected Costs:** \$110

### Industrial Graphics Skills

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** 4 Projects and multimodal presentations

### Hospitality Practices

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** Practical demonstration, project, investigation

**Projected Costs:** TBA

## Health and Physical Education

### Physical Education

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Minimum C in Year 10 English and B in Year 10 Health and Physical Education.

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Folio, IA2 – Report, IA3 – Folio, EA4 – External Exam (25%)

### Early Childhood Studies

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** 2 Projects, Extended Response and Investigation

### Sport and Recreation

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** Project, Performance Investigation and an Examination

## Science

### Biology

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Minimum of a C in Year 10 Science

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Data Test, IA2 – Student Experiment, IA3 – Research Investigation, EA4 – External Exam (50%)

**Projected Costs:** Approximately \$60 for compulsory excursion/camp

### Chemistry

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Minimum of a C in Year 10 Science

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Data Test, IA2 – Student Experiment, IA3 – Research Investigation, EA4 – External Exam (50%)

### Physics

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Minimum of a B in Year 10 Science and B in Year 10 Mathematics

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Data Test, IA2 – Student Experiment, IA3 – Research Investigation, EA4 – External Exam (50%)

### Psychology

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Minimum of a C in Year 10 Science

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Data Test, IA2 – Student Experiment, IA3 – Research Investigation, EA4 – External Exam (50%)

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### Agricultural Practices

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Recommended C in Science or Agricultural Studies

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** Project, Collection of Work, Extended Response and Exam.

## The Arts

### Drama

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Recommended C in Year 10 English and Year 10 Drama.

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Performance, IA2 – Dramatic Concept, IA3 – Project, EA4 – External Exam (25%)

**Projected Costs:** Approximately \$50 for attending compulsory live performance

### Film, Television and New Media

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Recommended C in Year 10 English and Year 10 Media.

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Case Study Investigation, IA2 – Multi-platform Project, IA3 – Stylistic Project, EA4 – External Exam (25%)

**Projected Costs:** \$40

### Music

**Pathway:** General

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** Recommended C in Year 10 English and Year 10 Music.

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 3 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** IA1 – Performance, IA2 – Composition, IA3 – Project, EA4 – External Exam (25%)

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### Dance in Practice

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** Project, Product or Performance

### Drama in Practice

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:**

4 **Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** Devising project, Directorial Project, Performance

### Media Arts in Practice

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** Project, Media Artwork

**Projected Costs:** \$40

### Music in Practice

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** Project, Performance, Composition

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### Visual Arts in Practice

**Pathway:** Applied

**Possible QCE points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Year 12 Assessment:** Project, Resolved Artwork

**Projected Costs:** \$40

### Vocational Education

Vocational Education and Training (VET) refers to education and training that focuses on delivering skills and knowledge required for specific industries. It is a learning option for young people in the senior phase of learning.

Laidley School is a registered RTO through the QCAA and may deliver VET to students in Years 11 and 12.

#### [CPC10120 Certificate I in Construction /CPC20220 Certificate II in Construction Pathways](#)

**Pathway:** VET

**Possible QCE**

**points:** 4

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Assessment:** 14 Units of Competency to complete across 2 years

**Additional Information:** When students complete, Cert I and Cert

II construction at LSHS, they get the option to complete Cert II

Engineering Pathways at no extra cost. Therefore, students get the

benefit of three qualifications under their VETIS funding (valued at

\$2400).

#### [Certificate II in Engineering Pathways \(MEM20422\)](#)

**Pathway:** VET

**Possible QCE points:**

**4 Prerequisite:** None.

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Assessment:** 12 Units of Competency to complete across 2 years

**Additional Information:** When students complete Cert II

Engineering Pathways, with Cert I and Cert II construction at

LSHS, they get three qualifications funded by their VETIS funding

(valued at

\$2400).



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Certificate III in Business (BSB30120) + Cert II in Tourism  
(SIT20122)

**Pathway:** VET

**Possible QCE points:** Maximum of 8

**Prerequisite:** Recommended a B in Year 10 English and C in Year 10 Mathematics

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home and participation in projects both within and outside of school hours.

**Assessment:** 12 Units of Competency to complete across 2 years

**Projected Cost:** \$265 (may be subject to change for the 2025 course)

Certificate III in Fitness (SIS30321)

**Pathway:** VET

**Possible QCE points:** Maximum of 8

**Prerequisite:** Recommended a C in Year 10 English

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home and participation in projects both within and outside of school hours.

**Assessment:** 16 Units of Competency to complete across 2 years

**Projected Cost:** \$365 (may be subject to change for the 2026 course)

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[Certificate III in Sport Coaching \(SIS30521\)](#)

**Pathway:** VET

**Possible QCE points:** Maximum of 8

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** Minimum of 2 hours per week at home

**Assessment:** 10 Units of Competency to complete across 2 years

**Projected Cost:** \$300 (may be subject to change for the 2026 course)

## QCIA Pathway Subjects

### Maths for Living

**Pathway:** QCIA

**Possible QCE points:** Nil

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** In class time to be used effectively.

**Year 12 Assessment:** Portfolio and Exam

### English for Living

**Pathway:** QCIA

**Possible QCE points:** Nil

**Prerequisite:** None

**Study load requirements:** In class time to be used effectively.

**Year 12 Assessment:** Portfolio and Exam