

HSC Assessment Planner

How HSC assessment builds across the year, a term-by-term map of what typically happens when, and a blank grid to fill in with your own subjects and dates.

CERTIFICATE	Higher School Certificate	TERMS COVERED	5	FORMAT	Print friendly
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How HSC assessment builds

HSC assessment for most subjects begins in Term 4 of Year 11, once Preliminary results are finalised, and continues through Year 12. Each subject's final HSC mark averages a moderated school assessment mark with the mark from the external written examination.

Moderation means your rank within your own school cohort matters more than the raw percentage on any single task, because NESA adjusts each school's assessment marks to align with that school's overall examination performance. Trial examinations in Term 3 are the closest rehearsal you get before the real thing.

HSC year at a glance

TERM	WHAT'S TYPICALLY HAPPENING	WHAT TO PLAN FOR
Term 4, Yr 11	Preliminary results are finalised; HSC assessment period 1 often begins for some subjects.	Start tracking every HSC task from this point onward — it already counts.
Term 1, Yr 12	Coursework and assessment tasks continue across most subjects.	Keep an error log from every returned task, not only the ones that go badly.
Term 2, Yr 12	Further assessment tasks land; many schools issue a mid-year report.	Review the mid-year report honestly and identify one subject that needs a plan change.
Term 3, Yr 12	Trial HSC examinations run – the major rehearsal for the real thing.	Treat trials as diagnostic: build a topic-by-topic error log from every trial paper.
Term 4, Yr 12	Written HSC examinations run from mid-October into November.	Move to full past-paper practice under real timing for every examined subject.

Dates shift between schools and years — this maps the typical rhythm, not a fixed calendar. Confirm exact dates with your school and the official authority for your state.

Assessment types explained

TYPE	WHAT IT INVOLVES	HOW IT COUNTS
School assessment	Tasks completed in class across the year, marked by your own teachers.	Moderated against the cohort's exam performance, then averaged with the exam mark.
Trial HSC	A full mock examination run by your school in Term 3.	Does not count towards your final HSC mark, but is the best rehearsal available.

TYPE	WHAT IT INVOLVES	HOW IT COUNTS
HSC examination	NESA's external written examination for each subject.	Averaged with your moderated school assessment mark to produce your final result.

My planner

Fill this in with your own subjects, tasks and dates as your school confirms them.

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Notes and tutor hand-off

Bring this page to your next session so the tutor can start from what actually blocked you.

Which subject's task calendar is least clear to you right now?

One thing to confirm with your teacher this week:

The task you are most behind on:

What you want a tutor to focus on first:

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