

From: [Andrew Jackson](#)
To: [Education and Innovation Committee](#)
Subject: Parliamentary Inquiry into Assessment Methods for Senior Math's, Chemistry & Physics
Date: Tuesday, 7 May 2013 9:01:06 PM

Dear Committee Members,

The Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) methods for assessing Senior Mathematics (Math's A, B & C), Chemistry and Physics result in invalid assessments and consequently will lead to lowering of the esteem with which High School Graduates are viewed by the Community at large.

The Assessment methodology used by QSA for Year 11-12 Math's Science courses is invalid for the following reasons:

- a. Assignment Assessments are very prone to plagiarism. I myself when tutoring a Malaysian Student was requested to complete Year 11 Assignments. I know of University Assignments being faxed to Central Queensland University from Malaysia. If Asian students are cheating there is no reason to believe that Australian students are not doing likewise. I recall a Year 8 Student who was near illiterate submitting a near perfect assignment on the Queensland Sugar Industry. Whilst this plagiarism was possible to detect other's will avoid detection. Cheating with assignments is now rampant. IF you want to see how easy it is to get a physics paper completed see <http://www.assignmentexpert.com/physics/>. This plagiarism assistance means that Assignments will have to become a thing of past.
An Assignment completed properly is the best way for a child to learn but cut and paste is a waste of my taxes marking.
- b. Internal Assessed Assignments and Examinations result in teachers teaching to the test because they have viewed the test.
- c. I cannot understand why numerical marking has been replaced with A-E letter grades. The fact that the Education Department failed to supply Mark Books in 2013 may make numerical marking more difficult to record but this is not a valid reason to stray from the true path.

The QSA system is unfair and time-consuming for teachers and is not comprehensible to parents.

Why is it that Queensland is generally behind the other States in math's and science achievement. Possibly the failure to supply schools with adequate Science Resources. NSW schools had access to Digital Data Recorders many years before Queensland did. The last time Queensland Education reviewed the resources required in a Science Classroom was in 1974. Many schools are now teaching kids with Chinese Crap science equipment whilst Australian Manufacturers such as IEC are struggling to compete. In part this is because all quality control of Science Requisite purchasing went out the window with the closure of the Centralized Education Stores EdMart and SDS.

Please adopt the following recommendations:

1. Numerical marks should be used for all assessment out of 100% and our marks and percentages shown on assessment tasks and School Reports.
2. Assignments in Math's should be minimized and Physics and Chemistry assignments should be –
 - a. Compulsory tasks required to complete the course but which do not contribute towards assessable marks.
 - b. Capped at 600 words;
 - c. Predominantly supervised during class time;
 - d. counted towards a maximum of 10% of senior assessment for the subject.
3. Syllabuses should be re-written to limit calculator use and irrelevant assessment criteria, so students are properly assessed on the basics in these subjects.
4. Syllabuses should be re-written to place emphasis on repetition and rote learning of times tables and other basic processes from Prep-Year 10. This would increase student confidence, ability and participation in these subjects in Years 11 and 12.
5. External exams must be introduced in senior math's and science subjects, to be sat in the final semester of Year 12, commencing in 2015.

You are welcome to publish this submission and I am available to answer questions on Science Procurement if you desire my input. Whilst I do not have a great knowledge about Science Theory I have great experience in procurement to meet School Science Curriculum Requirements. I have been responsible for sourcing and procurement for the great majority of Science requisites (other than Chemicals) currently in Queensland Schools both Primary and Secondary.

Yours sincerely.

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