



Music Extension Quick Reference Guide 2025

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [Music Extension Stage 6 Syllabus](#) requires students to specialise in Performance or Composition or Musicology and follow an individual program of study over 60 hours of course time.
- Music Extension Stage 6 specific course requirements are outlined in the [Music Extension Stage 6 Syllabus](#) which include the specialised area and concepts and contexts content requirements.
- Schools are required to develop an assessment program for each Year 12 course. School-based assessment requirements are outlined at [Assessment and reporting in Music Extension Stage 6](#).

HSC Examinations

- Details on the HSC Music Extension examination can be found at [Assessment and reporting in Music Extension Stage 6](#). The HSC Music Extension examination consists of a performance practical examination or the submission of a composition or musicology essay, worth 50 marks.
- Past HSC feedback by NESA is a useful resource to guide students in their preparation for the HSC examination. Past HSC feedback for Music Extension can be found at [HSC exam papers](#).
- HSC standards materials by NESA provide a collection of resources of sample responses typical of work at the boundaries between HSC bands. The [Music Extension Stage 6 standards materials](#) can be found on the NESA webpages.

Support materials

The Creative arts curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Music Extension Stage 6 Syllabus and can be located on:

- the Department of Education [Music Extension](#) webpage. Here you will find sample assessment tasks and a range of teaching resources, including [Assessment in the HSC](#).
- the [Creative arts statewide staffroom](#). There is a specific channel for Music and a range of teaching and learning resources are available in the files section.

NESA also has a range of support materials on the [Music Extension Stage 6 Syllabus](#) webpage.

Professional learning

There are a range of 'on demand' professional learning resources to support the implementation of the Music Extension syllabus including:

- MyPL [Stage 6 Music Extension self-paced professional learning](#)
- the Statewide Staffroom [music channel](#) which contains files and recordings of Music Extension Stage 6 professional learning.

The department also offers a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. To view any upcoming events, go to the [Creative arts statewide staffroom](#) to stay up to date.

General HSC information

- The [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) oversees the Higher School Certificate (HSC), offering resources for students on exam preparation, course selection, and academic integrity.
- The [NESA HSC glossary](#) provides teachers with guidance on how to use key terms consistently, ensuring students understand their meanings and apply them appropriately across various subjects for effective exam preparation.
- The NESA [HSC assessment moderation](#) process ensures fairness by adjusting school assessment marks based on exam results, making them comparable across schools.
- The [ACE rules](#) outline HSC school-based assessment integrity, task development, marking, appeals, and record-keeping. They cover malpractice policies, illness/misadventure procedures, task notifications, ranking, and restrictions on reporting final marks, ensuring compliance with NESA's assessment standards.
- HSC monitoring advice, Section 1.6 outlines HSC record-keeping requirements, including teaching programs, assessment documentation, interventions and work samples. Visit [Stage 6 – monitoring implementation and support](#) for more information.
- School-based assessment for the HSC contributes to a student's final mark and is designed to evaluate students' understanding and skills based on syllabus outcomes.

Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email creativearts7-12@det.nsw.edu.au or reach out to our team via the [Creative arts Statewide Staffroom](#). You can also subscribe to our [Creative Arts Newsletter](#).

