



Key information for the Visual Arts Stage 6 syllabus (2016)

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [Visual Arts Stage 6 Syllabus \(2016\)](#) requires students to investigate Artmaking 50% and Art Criticism and Art History 50% over 240 hours.
- Visual Arts Stage 6 specific course requirements are outlined in the [Visual Arts Stage 6 Syllabus \(2016\)](#) including Preliminary and HSC course components.
- Schools are required to develop school-based assessment programs for each of the Preliminary and HSC courses. School-based assessment requirements are outlined at [Assessment and Reporting in Visual Arts in Stage 6](#).

Professional learning

There are a range of 'on demand' professional learning resources to support the implementation of the Visual Arts Stage 6 syllabus including:

- [Writing in Stage 6 Visual Arts](#)
- [Visual Arts Stage 6 and the body of work](#)
- [Joining the dots preparing for the HSC examination](#)
- [Assessing Visual Arts Bodies of Work](#)
- [Advice for developing the Body of Work and use of the VAPD](#)

The Creative arts curriculum team also offer 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](#).

HSC Examinations

- The HSC Visual Arts examination involves both a written exam and submitted artwork. Details on the HSC Visual Arts examination can be found at [Assessment and Reporting in Visual Arts in Stage 6](#). The written examination is a 1 hour and 30 minutes examination paper, consisting of 2 sections (totalling 50 marks / weighting 50%).
- The Body of Work (50 marks/ weighting 50%) student submission should demonstrate the understanding of artmaking as a practice representing students' ideas and interests. Body of work examination criteria reflects on conceptual strength and meaning, and resolution. See [HSC Visual Arts Marking Guidelines – Artmaking – Body of work](#).
- The body of work must comply with the prescribed dimensions for HSC submitted artworks as set out in NESA advice regarding content and certifying works in [Practical exam rules](#) and [Certifying HSC practical component](#).
- Past HSC papers by NESA help students to become familiar with the examination format and structure. Past papers for Stage 6 Visual Arts can be found at [Visual Arts 2024 exam pack](#) and include marking centre notes for Body of Work submissions and written examinations.
- HSC standards materials by NESA provide a collection of resources of sample responses typical of work at the boundaries between HSC bands. The [Visual Arts Stage 6 standards material](#) can be found on the NESA webpages.

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.

Support materials

The Creative arts curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Visual Arts Stage 6 syllabus and can be located on the [planning, programming and assessing visual arts 11-12](#) webpage. You will find sample scopes and sequences, assessment schedules and tasks, teaching and learning resources for Preliminary and HSC Visual Arts, including [Assessing Visual Arts Bodies of Work](#).

NESA also has a range of support materials on the Visual Arts Stage 6 Syllabus (2016) webpage, Artexpress and [Artexpress Virtual](#).

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](#).

