Software Engineering 11–12 Syllabus (2022)
Quick Reference Guide 2025

Key information for the Software Engineering 11–12 Syllabus

- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The Software Engineering 11–12 Syllabus requires students to study 7 topics over 240 hours of course time.
- The new Software Engineering 11–12 syllabus is digital and formatted in the manner of all reform syllabuses. The digital format is interactive and allows for easy navigation. You can filter, search for specific topics, and explore resources directly. Categories include overview; rationale; aim; outcomes; content; assessment; glossary and teaching and learning support.
- School-based assessment specifications require schools to develop an assessment program for each Year 11 and Year 12 course. For school-based assessment requirements refer to Assessment webpage.
- The subject specific terms that are important to know can be found on the Glossary webpage.

HSC examinations

- For details on the HSC Software Engineering examination, refer to the Assessment webpage. The HSC Software Engineering examination consists of an online examination worth 80 marks and will be undertaken by students using a computer and wired headphones. The time allowed is 2 hours and 30 minutes including 10 minutes reading time.
- HSC Software Engineering Familiarisation Questions published by NESA, are a useful resource to help students become familiar with the examination format and structure.
- An online sample exam for Software Engineering 11–12 is available. Schools can enrol students in the sample exam via Schools Online. A guide on how to enrol students and conduct the exams is available in Schools Online > Downloads > Memos and Documents > HSC Online Exam Resources. Schools can determine the most appropriate time to enrol students and for the students to sit the sample exams.

Support materials

The TAS Curriculum Team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the Software Engineer 11–12 Syllabus.

- The TAS resources 11–12 webpage contains sample scope and sequences, assessment schedules and suites of resources for Programming fundamentals, The object-oriented paradigm, Programming mechatronics, Secure software architecture, Programming for the web, Software automation and the Software engineering project.
- Resources can also be found on the TAS Statewide Staffroom.

NESA also has a range of support materials on the Teaching and learning support webpage including sample scope and sequences, sample units and sample assessment schedules.

Professional learning

There are a range of 'on demand' professional learning resources to support the implementation of the Software Engineering 11–12 Syllabus including:

- The Software Engineering 11–12 Syllabus and the Computing Technology 11–12 Life Skills Syllabus professional learning course
- Microlearning
- TAS Professional Learning Library
- Events and workshops

The TAS Curriculum Team also provides a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. To view any upcoming events, go to the TAS Statewide Staffroom Professional Learning channel 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 TAS@det.nsw.edu.au or contact our team via the TAS Statewide Staffroom. You can also subscribe to our TAS Newsletter.