



Our Ref: CS/0267

To the Principal

Dear colleague

WACE requirements, examinations, teacher juries, English course

I am writing to you to clarify policy resolutions made by Council following the recent announcement made in January about changes to the senior school reform.

I wish to apologise for the deluge of information that has been sent from the Council over past weeks. I understand from my previous role as a school principal that information overload can be very frustrating.

This letter outlines resolutions made by Council following further advice from sector/systems following the January announcements about changes. It also describes the process that is being put in place for the teacher juries.

It would be appreciated if you could advise your teachers of these changes, especially the teachers of the eight new courses: Applied Information Technology, Aviation, Earth and Environmental Science, Engineering, English, English as an Additional Language/Dialect, Media Production and Analysis and Physical Education.

WACE for 2007 and 2008

There are minor modifications to the WACE for 2007. These are outlined in Attachment 1.

Schools will be advised about changes for 2008 following the March Council meeting. Further consultation is required about English language competence, workplace learning and vocational education and training (VET) aspects of the requirements to ensure that no students are disadvantaged.

Examinations for 2007 and 2008

Council resolved the following on 15 February:

1. In 2007 there will be a single examination covering stage 2 and 3 units in Aviation, English, Media Production and Analysis and Engineering.
2. In 2008 there will be a single examination covering stage 2 and 3 in Aviation, English, Media Production and Analysis, Engineering, Physical Education Studies, EAL/D, Earth and Environmental Science and Applied Information Technology.

The examinations in both 2007 and 2008 will be of similar format to the current sample examinations and are primarily for students seeking university entrance.

3. There will be no exam in 2008 for students who are studying 1A and 1B units in TEE-aligned courses in Year 11 in 2007 even though they might be progressing to stage 2 units in Year 12.
4. Schools will be informed about examinations for 2009 and beyond in mid March. It is likely that this will be the year that exams for all stage 2 and stage 3 students will commence. Separate examinations will be set for stage 2 and stage 3 units. Council is currently considering the possibilities of providing exemption for some students sitting the examination. Schools will be informed of the outcome as soon as possible.

Teacher Juries

Teacher juries are being established to provide independent advice to Council on the readiness of courses for implementation.

The Western Australian Electoral Commission has agreed to independently select the teacher juries for each course. The electoral commission will require a list of the names of teachers who will be potentially teaching each new course, or who are currently teaching one of the new courses.

To facilitate this process could you please complete attachment 2 and return it to the Council as soon as possible. Schools could also generate a list of current teachers using their SIS or Maze systems.

The information will be used in the following ways.

1. Course teacher lists will be used by the Electoral Commission to select names for each jury.
2. Teacher distribution lists will be created so that the Council can improve its communication with teachers directly, (through the principal).

Please fax Attachment 2 to 9273 6371 by Tuesday 6 March.

In your response, please advise whether you wish the teacher information to be used for dot point 1 above only.

Jury operations

- From the list for each course the Western Australian Electoral Commission will nominate teacher names for up to 10 jury positions.
- An external consultant will write to those nominated and
 - offer a contract (equivalent to one day's pay to be involved)
 - give details of what is required. A juror will be required to read courses and associated materials, consider key questions about the course and its readiness for implementation, attends three-hour 'trial', where jurors provide advice to an independent facilitator

- document and summarise the juries deliberations by using a recorder and facilitator
- send the report to jurors for confirmation, and
- arrange for 'trial' meetings to be held from 3.30 – 6.30pm.
- Report will be sent to Council for consideration.

In a case in which a jury considers that further work is required on a particular course before it is ready for implementation:

- minor adjustments/refinements will be referred by Council back to the assessment, review and moderation panels for each course, and
- Council will decide whether the implementation of the course should be delayed another year to give time to revise it in the light of feedback from the jury.

Juries are now a critical step in course implementation. In developing the idea of teacher juries, the Council was very clear that these will not be 'Claytons' juries. The independence of the advice will be carefully monitored, reports from each jury will be made public as soon as they are considered by Council and Council's decisions and actions will be made public.

I hope that what is proposed is seen as a very positive step in the extensive quality processes that Council has in place to provide assurance to the community and teachers about the new courses.

Please call me on 9273 6373 if you have any questions concerning this request.

English course information

Attachment 3 provides information about arrangements for English for 2007 for years 11 and 12.

Yours sincerely



DAVID WOOD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

23 February 2007

WACE guidelines for 2007

To qualify for a Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), a student must:

- *Complete at least 10 full-year (or equivalent) Curriculum Council subjects*
 - Up to 40% (four out of 10) of full-year subjects may comprise endorsed programs, including stand-alone VET subject equivalents.
 - A single course unit will count as a half-subject equivalent.
- *Achieve an average of at least 'C' grade in at least eight full-year (or equivalent) Curriculum Council subjects*
 - At least four of these subjects must be at Year 12 level.
 - Up to 25% (two out of eight) of full-year subjects may comprise stand-alone VET subject equivalents.
 - Two course units completed will count as an equivalent of one of the eight subjects based upon a credit system.
 - Course units completed during Year 12 can be counted towards the four subjects at Year 12 level.
- *Achieve Curriculum Council English language competence*
 - At least an average of Level 4 or better across two units completed in Year 12 in the English course; or a 'C' grade or better across two units completed in Year 12 in the English as an Additional Language/Dialect*; or a 'C' grade or better in one of the following Year 12 Curriculum Council subjects: English, English as a Second Language, English Literature, Senior English, Vocational English or a pass in the Curriculum Council English language competence test.

*Students must meet the eligibility criteria.

A special provisions committee will review situations where a student has not achieved a WACE. Schools will apply to this committee if they perceive a student has been disadvantaged by these transitional WACE requirements. The committee could recommend to the chief executive officer that a WACE be granted.

If schools have any Year 12 students who they believe may not meet the above requirements for secondary graduation due to the introduction of the new courses or endorsed programs please write to Jenny Morup, Manager Certification and Examinations.

The WACE guidelines for 2008 are under review and will be communicated to schools during March.



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COURSE	CODE	COURSE	CODE
Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies	AIS	History: Ancient and Modern	HIS
Aboriginal Languages of Western Australia	ABL	Human Biological Science	HBS
Accounting and Finance	ACF	Integrated Science	ISC
Animal Production Systems	APS	Literature	LIT
Applied Information Technology	AIT	LOTE: Second Language: Chinese	CSL
Automotive Engineering and Technology	AET	LOTE: Second Language: French	FRE
Aviation	AVN	LOTE: Second Language: German	GER
Biological Sciences	BIO	LOTE: Second Language: Indonesian	IND
Building and Construction	BCN	LOTE: Second Language: Italian	ITA
Business Management and Enterprise	BME	LOTE: Second Language: Japanese	JSL
Career and Enterprise	CAE	Marine and Maritime Technology	MMT
Chemistry	CHE	Materials Design and Technology	MDT
Children, Family and the Community	CFC	Mathematics	MAT
Computer Science	CSC	Media Production and Analysis	MPA
Design	DES	Music	MUS
Dance	DAN	Outdoor Education	OED
Drama	DRA	Philosophy and Ethics	PAE
Earth and Environmental Science	EES	Physical Education Studies	PES
Economics	ECO	Physics	PHS
Engineering Studies	EST	Plant Production Systems	PPS
English	ENG	Politics and Law	PAL
English as an Additional Language/Dialect	ELD	Psychology	PSY
Food Science and Technology	FST	Religion and Life	REL
Geography	GEO	Visual Arts	VAR
Health Studies	HEA		

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ENGLISH COURSE IN 2007 FOR YEARS 11 AND 12

English teachers are advised that the following documents provide information updating and clarifying requirements for the English course this year.

Information sent to schools

The following information has been sent to schools following the changes made to the senior school reform in January this year:

- Letter to teachers of English, Engineering, Media and Aviation, 25 January 2007 (http://newwace.curriculum.wa.edu.au/docs/176980_3.pdf)
- Memorandum to schools: WACE update, 24 January 2007 (http://newwace.curriculum.wa.edu.au/docs/176859_1.pdf)

Past information that has been sent to schools is available on the Council's website at http://newwace.curriculum.wa.edu.au/pages/wace_refinement_process.asp.

Frequently asked questions

The Council has compiled answers to commonly asked questions about the arrangements for the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) and new courses. The latest version of FAQs are available at http://newwace.curriculum.wa.edu.au/docs/FAQs_Feb_2007.pdf and will be distributed to schools in the next Curriculum Council Circular.

Curriculum Council Circular

The Council will send copies of the March edition of the Circular to schools for each teacher. This edition of the Circular will contain important advice on assessment, text types and examinations.



**DAVID WOOD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

23 February 2007