Memo

Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority

2015 Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test: Approved calculators

Purpose

To inform chief supervisors and relevant teachers of the types of calculators that may and may **not** be used by students sitting the QCS Test.

Background

QCS Test items are developed on the basis that the type of calculator used should not constitute an advantage or disadvantage for a student.

Calculators with computer algebra system (CAS), spellchecker, dictionary, thesaurus or translator function could provide an advantage to students using them, or prohibit the proper testing of some common curriculum elements (CCEs).

Approved calculators

The calculator to be used by students when sitting the QCS Test should be able to perform the basic functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots and powers. Graphing calculators **without** CAS functionality are permitted. The calculator is to be hand-held, solar or battery-operated, noiseless and not attached to a printer.

Non-approved calculators

Calculators with any of the following functions — whether inbuilt or downloaded — are not approved for use during the QCS Test:

- computer algebra system (CAS)
- spellchecker
- dictionary
- thesaurus
- translator.

Other electronic devices

All other electronic devices — including mobile phones, laptops, notebooks, tablets, wearable devices, hand-held organisers and pocket PCs — are not permitted in the QCS Test unless express permission has been granted under special provision arrangements.

Therefore, students cannot rely on using the calculator function in any such device (including mobile phones) during the test.

Student declaration requirement

Before sitting the QCS Test, each student must sign a *Form QCS 10: Calculator declaration* to certify that the calculator used in the test meets the requirements of an approved calculator. (Copy included for reference.) Calculators are checked before the test.

What you need to do

Distribute this memo to teachers of Senior Mathematics and to the teachers in charge of preparation for the QCS Test.

Ask them to provide students with this information as soon as possible so that the students will:

- know well in advance the types of calculators that are approved for use during the test
- have ample time to source and familiarise themselves with an approved calculator before sitting the test
- understand they will need to make a written declaration that the calculator they will use during the QCS Test is an approved calculator.

Finding out more

Please email Maryanne Gurieff at qcs.admin@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone (07) 3864 0338.

Claude Jones
Director, Assessment and Reporting Division

Calculator declaration

2015 Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test

Test centre		
	Centre code:	

Approved calculators

QCS Test items are developed on the basis that the type of calculator used should not constitute an advantage or a disadvantage for a student. The calculator should be able to perform the basic functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots and powers. Mobile phones are not permitted; therefore, you will not be able to depend on using the calculator facility of a mobile phone during the test. The calculator you use is to be hand-held, solar or battery operated, noiseless and not attached to a printer.

The calculator must NOT have a spellchecker, dictionary, thesaurus or translator. The calculator must NOT have a computer algebra system (CAS) — whether inbuilt or downloaded. Graphing calculators without CAS may be used. These restrictions apply since these capabilities could prevent the proper testing of some common curriculum elements (CCEs).

You must sign the *Calculator declaration* to certify that the calculator you will use in the test meets the requirements for approval and to acknowledge that the use of any other calculator is an act of academic misconduct in terms of sitting the QCS Test. Your calculator will be checked before the test.

Chief supervisor declaration		
I certify that: • the calculator of each student whose name appears on the following sheets has been checked and meets the criteria listed on this form for an approved calculator • each signature is that of the student whose name appears to the left of the signature.		
Signature:		Date: / / 2015
Full name:		

Sheet		of	

Declaration by each student

Read the declaration carefully, then write your name and sign this form in the spaces provided.

- I certify that the calculator I will use in the test meets the criteria listed on page 1 of this form for an approved calculator.
- I understand that if I use a calculator that is not an approved calculator I have committed an act of academic misconduct in terms of sitting the QCS Test and as such will not receive a QCS Test result.

Name	Signature

The information you provide on this form will be used for managing the administration of the QCS Test as part of legislative functions described in *Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014* (s.13). Personal information will be accessed by authorised QCAA staff, and handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*. Your name and signature will be provided to the appointed Chief Supervisor of the QCS test centre.