



HOMework AND ASSESSMENT GUIDE

YEAR 8 – 2019

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

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YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

All students will study the core curriculum courses of English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History and PDHPE.

Students will also study six, semester-length subjects. This combination of subjects will include:

- Music
- Visual Art
- Two Technology subjects selected from:
 - Electronics
 - Fashion
 - Food
 - Metal
 - Timber
- Two free-choice electives

KEY YEAR 8 STAFF

Year Advisor	Ms Gibson
Deputy	Ms Dooley
Head Teacher Wellbeing	Ms Sager/ Ms Myers
Learning Support	Ms Durie
Counsellor	Ms Fodeades
Support Officer	Miss Amy King

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

Many parents seek to support their child's progress and achievement at school. We hope this information offers some guidance and suggestions to assist students to organise and prepare for school.

Our school has a key focus on Respect, Responsibility and Participation for all school members in all aspects of their schooling. Homework is a key aspect of participation.

All students are encouraged to be fully prepared for school each day, having organised:

- A copy of their current timetable (an extra copy at home as well)
- An appropriate bag and the necessary books/equipment for that day
- Writing materials
- Lunch, snacks, fruit and drink

To help students organise their day, it is vital that they build into their daily routine the packing and unpacking of their school bag. Assessment tasks, homework and communications from school should be kept and placed in an accessible location. Parent involvement in this step emphasises its importance and increases the chances of students completing homework tasks and communicating important information to parents. Where families are having financial difficulty in helping students prepare for the day, a confidential application for student welfare may be made after consulting the Head Teacher Wellbeing.

The Newcastle High School website <https://newcastle-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/> is regularly updated and contains information about upcoming events, activities and assessment information. It provides additional information which may help you support your child's education.

Students are also invited to access the Sentral Student Portal at <http://web1.newcastle-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/portal> and log in using their regular Department of Education username and password. Class teachers will guide students in the use of the Canvas and the Sentral Student Portal, which can provide ongoing support for learning beyond the classroom.

All students are provided with free access Microsoft Office 365 where they may store all their documents and files safely and securely in the cloud. This may be accessed at home or at school using the same DoE login. Access to the Office 365 account is easy via the Sentral Student Portal.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an opportunity for students to build on learning skills and reinforce concepts encountered at school. It may be formally set by class teachers or initiated by students in the form of revision and review of target areas. Tasks set for homework in individual subjects and by teachers vary throughout the year and between subject areas.

THERE IS NO DESIGNATED AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK FOR A PARTICULAR SUBJECT OR SCHOOL YEAR. It is advised that all students review their daily classwork after each school day. This helps identify areas of need for consolidation or assistance and students should seek teacher guidance to address any issues.

A priority for all students should be refining their literacy and numeracy skills. A program of thirty minutes reading at home is recommended to broaden comprehension and vocabulary. All students have been registered with Mathsonline which has a comprehensive range of tutorials and worksheets that students can use to review and practise their numeracy skills. We encourage parents to support these initiatives, particularly on occasions when students suggest they have no homework.

In addition to tasks set by class teachers, Canvas is the primary learning management system Newcastle High School will use to allow students to receive assignments and worksheets, submit work, access videos, quizzes, collaboration tools, discussions, etc... virtually anything delivered online.

The Canvas address for all staff and students is <https://nhs.instructure.com/> . Students are automatically enrolled into their respective Canvas courses from Sentral.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is the broad name for the collection and evaluation of evidence of a student's learning. It is integral to teaching and learning and has multiple purposes.

Assessment:

- provides opportunities for teachers to gather evidence about student achievement in relation to syllabus outcomes
- enables students to demonstrate what they know and can do
- clarifies student understanding of concepts and promotes deeper understanding
- provides evidence that current understanding and skills are a suitable basis for future learning.

Each assessment task should:

- be based on syllabus outcomes
- be a valid instrument for what they are designed to assess
- include criteria to clarify for students what aspects of learning are being assessed
- enable students to demonstrate their learning in a range of task types
- be reliable, measure what the task intends to assess, and provide accurate information on each student's achievement
- be free from bias and provide evidence that accurately represents a student's knowledge, understanding and skills
- enable students and teachers to use feedback effectively and reflect on the learning process
- be inclusive of and accessible for all students
- be part of an ongoing process where progress is monitored over time.

At Newcastle High School, students will undertake formal assessment of their performance in all Key Learning Areas throughout the school year. These assessment tasks will vary in nature, both within each course studied and between courses.

Student progress and achievement will be reported formally, in the written school reports distributed at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2, and informally, at the parent/teacher evenings in Term 1 and Term 3. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's class teachers to discuss aspects of their progress in particular subjects, or Year Advisors if they would like to organise feedback on current progress or specific areas of concern.

SUBMITTING YOUR OWN WORK

A number of assessment tasks completed by students will require research and the use of a variety of information sources. At Newcastle High School we promote responsible scholarship and strive to ensure that the work submitted can be directly attributable to the student who submits it. In all cases our school is working to eliminate plagiarism.

"Plagiarism is when you pretend that you have written or created a piece of work that someone else originated. It is cheating, it is dishonest, and it could jeopardise your results." (Board of Studies, Advice to Students, 2006).

Plagiarism is cheating, it is unethical and it is dishonest. It may stop you developing the skills and knowledge intended in the task and is unfair to the original authors who "own" their ideas. Common forms of plagiarism include:

- Copying another student's work
- Copying and pasting information from the internet
- Using the ideas of others as if they were your own

Students who are found plagiarising work, risk having zero marks awarded for the task. Further disciplinary action may also occur.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

This handbook has an outline of the assessment tasks for each course(see overview on pg 8).

Students will be given an orange Assessment Task Notification at least two weeks before the due date for each task (see template on pg 6). This notification should provide all relevant information regarding the task. If a student still has any questions regarding the task, they should speak with their teacher as soon as possible. When a students receive a Notification, they will sign an Assessment Task Register.

If a student is experiencing difficulty completing an assessment task:

- discuss with their teacher as soon as possible
- utilise the Learning Hub for assistance
- request an extension of time/reschedule of task.

If a student is absent on the due date of an assessment task:

- complete/submit task the next lesson (no penalty)

If a student does not submit the task, or makes a non-serious attempt on a task, without valid explanation:

- a letter of concern will be sent to parents
- a revised due date will be established (10% penalty)

If a student does not submit the task by the revised due date:

- a letter of concern will be sent to parents
- student will be referred to the Learning Support Team
- a 50% penalty will apply to the task

(Please refer to the flowchart on pg 7).

Newcastle High School



Stage 4 YEAR 8 Assessment Task Notification

COURSE: TEACHER:

Task Number:

Task Type: 'in-class task' or 'submitted'

Weighting:

Due Date:

Outcomes to be Assessed:

(from NESA documents)

Task Description:

(brief description about the nature of the task)

Resources / Reference suggestions:

To prepare for this task, you may wish to refer to:

(a list of resources and references to be used)

Assessment Criteria

(Explanation about how the task will be assessed. for example: Break down of marks; marking rubric; grade descriptions)

If you are experiencing difficulty completing or preparing for the task:

- Discuss with your teacher before the due date
- Utilise the Learning Hub

To Avoid a Penalty Mark:

In-class task

- If you know you in advance that you will not be able to attend on the date, discuss with your teacher prior to the due date.
- Complete task during the next lesson you attend.

Submitted task

- If you are unable to attend on the due date of submission:
 - hand it in prior to the date,
 - arrange for someone else to submit the task on your behalf, or
 - hand it in the next lesson you attend.

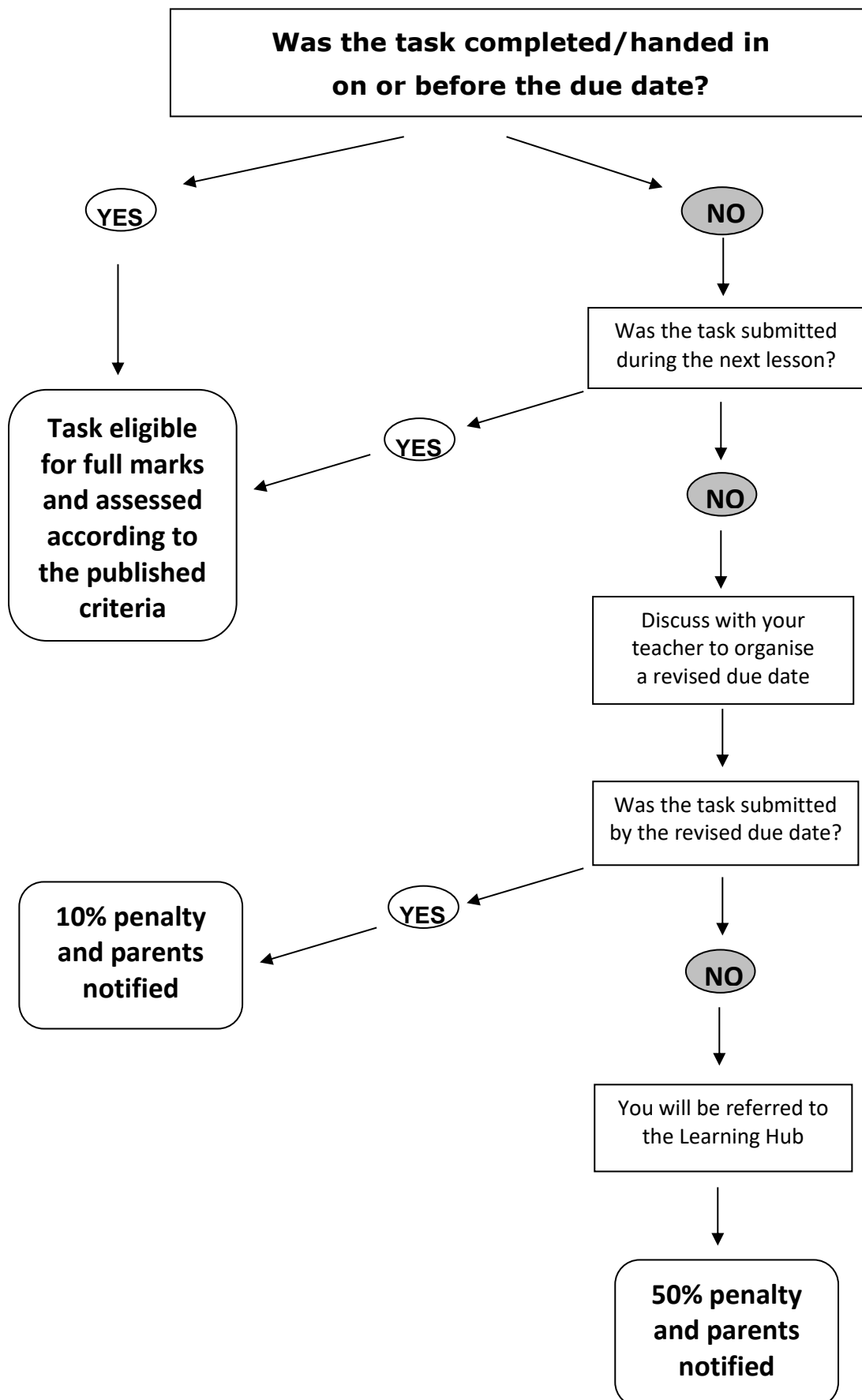
Student does not submit task / non-serious attempt on in-class task

- Letter of concern sent to parent
- Revised due date indicated, with 10% penalty applied

Student does not submit /complete by revised due date

- 50% penalty applied
- Student referred to the Learning Support Team

**SUBMITTING ASSESSMENTS AT NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
STAGE 4**



YEAR 8 ASSESSMENT CALENDAR - 2019

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
1				
2				HSIE
3		VISUAL ARTS		MATHS
4		MATHS SCIENCE		SCIENCE VISUAL ARTS
5	ENGLISH	ENGLISH HSIE MUSIC	ENGLISH MATHS	ENGLISH MUSIC
6	MUSIC		MUSIC PDHPE (weeks 6-8)	
7	MATHS		VISUAL ARTS	
8	MUSIC VISUAL ARTS	PDHPE (weeks 8-10)	MUSIC SCIENCE Wed, Sep 11 P/T Interviews Yr 7 – 12	
9	ENGLISH		ENGLISH HSIE MATHS	
10	HSIE Tue, Apr 2 P/T Interviews Yr 8, 9, 10	ENGLISH		ENGLISH
11				

Please refer to the following pages and class handouts for assessment dates related to semester-length electives.

ENGLISH YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1	5	Poetry: Test and Reflection	10%
1	9	Novel Study: Discursive Response	15%
2	5	Fairy Tales: Appropriation Task	10%
Semester 1		TOTAL	35%
2	10	Urban Legends: Imaginative Writing	15%
3	5 9	Area of Study: Survival Project Based Learning Part 1: Project Management Plan and Research Log Project Based Learning Part 2: Project Presentation	10% 25%
4	5	Short films: Judges' Evaluation	15%
4	10	Drama: Script Analysis	15%
Semester 2		TOTAL	65%
Total			100%

HUMAN SOCIETY & ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE) YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1	10	Water research task (take-home)	25%
2	5	Topic/skills test - Water in the World & Interconnections (topic test)	25%
3	9	Viking survival guide (take-home)	25%
4	2	Excursion (Term 3, Week 9) and source based skills test (topic test)	25%
TOTAL			100%

MATHEMATICS

YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1	7	Task 1 – Algebra and Indices test	20%
2	4	Task 2 – Writing task & project on Pythagoras' Theorem	20%
3	5	Task 3 – Percentages and Financial Mathematics test	20%
3	9	Task 4 – Rates and Ratios project	20%
4	3	Task 5 – Statistics project	20%
TOTAL			100%

SCIENCE

YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
In class on-going Assessment		Working Scientifically Skills (30), Values and Attitudes (10)	40%
2	4	Half Yearly Examination Knowledge and Understanding (40), Working Scientifically Skills (20)	60%
		Semester 1 TOTAL	100%
In class on-going Assessment		Working Scientifically Skills (30), Values and Attitudes (10)	40%
3	8	Guided Practical Project All working Scientifically areas assessed	30%
4	3	Yearly Examination Knowledge and Understanding (30), Working Scientifically Skills (10)	30%
		Semester 2 TOTAL	100%

PD/HEALTH/PE
YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK	THEORY	
2	8 - 10	In Class Assessment – Literacy task The Trouble with Smoking	20%
3	6 - 8	In Class Assessment - Growing and Changing	20%
4	TBA	Yearly Examination	20%
TERM	WEEK	PRACTICAL	
1	6 - 10	In Class Practical Assessment – Athletics	20%
2	1 - 5		
3	6- 10	In Class Practical Assessment – Dance	20%
TOTAL			100%

All students study one semester of Music and one semester of Visual Arts

MUSIC YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1 or 3	6	PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO Performance booklet	25%
1 or 3	8	MUSICOLOGY/AURAL Popular music	35%
2 or 4	5	PERFORMANCE/COMPOSITION PORTFOLIO Guitar/keyboard/vocal (ensemble)	40%
TOTAL			100%

VISUAL ARTS YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1	8	Critical/Historical	30%
2	3	Practical Portfolio	70%
		Semester 1 TOTAL	100%
3	7	Critical/Historical	30%
4	4	Practical Portfolio	70%
		Semester 2 TOTAL	100%

All students complete at least two semester-length courses in Technology from “Fashion”, “Food”, “Electronics, “Metal” and “Timber”.

TECHNOLOGY - FASHION				
YEAR 8				
DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS	
TERM	WEEK			
1/3	4	Joining and Finishing Task	10%	
1/3	9	Fabric Identification Research	20%	
2/4	3	Literacy Task	10%	
2/4	4	Practical – PJ Pants	60%	
Semester		TOTAL	100%	

TECHNOLOGY – FOOD				
YEAR 8				
DATE		UNIT OF WORK	TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK			
1/2	6	Folio work	A Taste of Life Folio	10%
Each Week		Practical	A Taste of Life – Weekly Practicals	20%
2/4	2	Package and Label	Snack Attack	10%
2/4	3	Folio	Snack Attack Folio	10%
2/4	3	Practical	Snack Attack Assessment Practical	20%
2/4	4	Extended Writing Task	Snack Attack Evaluation	10%
Each Week		Practical	Teenage Tucker – Weekly Practicals	20%
Semester			TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY - ELECTRONICS YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1 or 3	10	Practical Application	35%
2 or 4	3	Literacy Task	10%
2 or 4	4	Portfolio	20%
2 or 4	5	Practical Application	35%
Semester		TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY - METAL YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1 or 3	10	Practical Application	35%
2 or 4	3	Literacy Task	10%
2 or 4	4	Portfolio	20%
2 or 4	5	Practical Application	35%
Semester		TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY - TIMBER YEAR 8

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1 or 3	8	Research	10%
1 or 3	10	Practical Application	15%
2 or 4	3	Literacy Task	10%
2 or 4	4	Portfolio	30%
2 or 4	5	Practical Application	35%
Semester		TOTAL	100%



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