



HOMework AND ASSESSMENT GUIDE YEAR 8 - 2021

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.

Over the course of Year 8, each student will also experience:

- one semester of Music
- one semester of Visual Art
- one semester of Material Technology – Textiles or Metal/Timber
- one term of Agriculture & Food Technologies
- one term of Engineered Systems
- Two free-choice Passion electives (one semester each)

KEY YEAR 8 STAFF

Year Advisor	Ms Deb Ellis (relieving)
Deputy	Mr Joel Anderson
Head Teacher Wellbeing	Ms Jodie Woolley
Learning Support	Ms Nichole Dean
Counsellor	Mr Richard Stanley
Support Officer	Ms Amy King

EXTRA LEARNING SUPPORT

Newcastle High School offers two initiatives, in addition to the curriculum, to support student learning:

Maths Breakfast Club – every Wednesday morning between 7:45am and 8:45am. Bring along any mathematic work with which you need assistance.

The Learning Hub – every Tuesday and Thursday, Periods 1 and 2. Bring along any tasks with which you need assistance.

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 <https://newcastle-h.sentral.com.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 to Google Workspace 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 Google Workspace account is available via the Sentral Student Portal and Canvas.

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, the Newcastle High School Canvas learning management system is an online learning platform which contains support materials, internet links, quizzes, assessments, activities and resources to assist students.

The Canvas link for 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).

PASSION ELECTIVES

The assessment for Passion Electives is a Major Work conducted over the course of two terms. On completion, students will showcase what they have achieved and provide a forum to share what they have learned. Students will be guided and given feedback based on project based learning criteria and will be assessed through regular reviews, presentations and exhibition.

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.

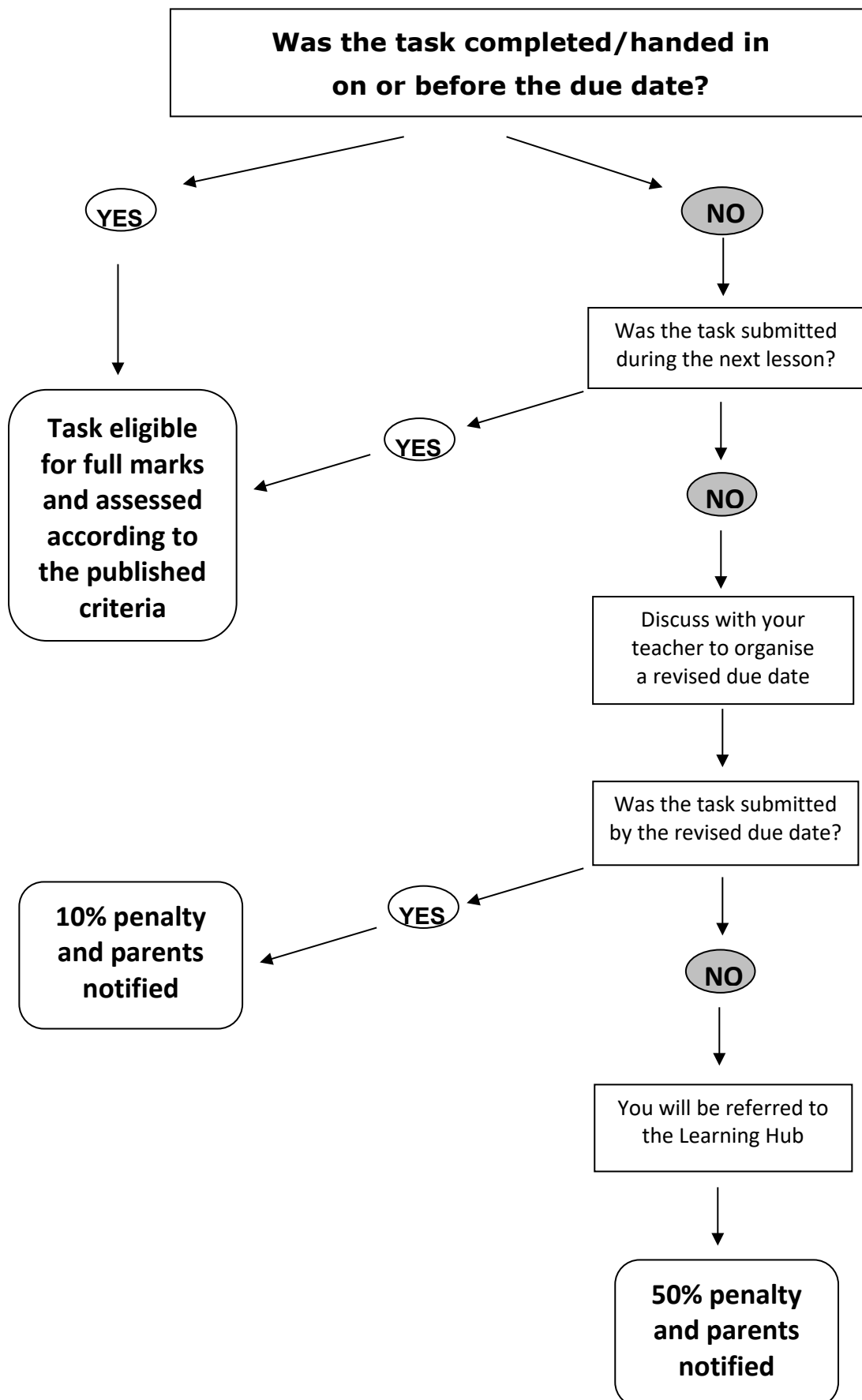
Student does not submit task / non-serious attempt on in-class task

- 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 - 2021

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
1	PE (weeks 1-5)		PE (weeks 1-2)	
2				
3		SCIENCE VISUAL ARTS	MATHEMATICS SCIENCE	VISUAL ARTS
4		MUSIC	MATHEMATICS	HSIE MUSIC
5		HSIE MATHEMATICS	ENGLISH	ENGLISH
6	MATHEMATICS			
7			VISUAL ARTS	
8	MUSIC PDH VISUAL ARTS		MUSIC PDH	
9	ENGLISH HSIE		ENGLISH HSIE SCIENCE	
10				
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	9	Our world in words: Visual Representation and written justification	25%
1	9	Telling Tales: Imaginative Writing and STEEL reflection	25%
Semester 1		TOTAL	50%
3	5	Area of Study: Survival Project Based Learning Part 1: Research, project planning and design	10%
	9	Project Based Learning Part 2: Project Presentation Discursive Research Based Presentation	15%
4	5	Creating Reality Judge's Review	25%
Semester 2		TOTAL	50%
Total			100%

HUMAN SOCIETY & ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE) YEAR 8			
DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
SEMESTER 1		GEOGRAPHY	
1	9	Water in the world website (take-home)	25%
2	5	Water in the World & Interconnections (Online topic test)	25%
SEMESTER 2		HISTORY	
3	9	Viking survival guide (take-home)	25%
4	4	Source based skills test (topic test)	25%
TOTAL			100%

MATHEMATICS YEAR 8			
DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1	6	Topic Test	20%
2	5	Assignment/Project	25%
3	4	Topic Test	25%
3	3	Yearly Exam	30%
TOTAL			100%

PD/HEALTH/PE YEAR 8 2020			
DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK	THEORY (PDH)	
1	8	In Class Assessment – <i>Task 2 - Treasuring Relationships</i>	25%
3	8	In Class Assessment – Literacy task <i>Task 4 - Dive Into Diversity</i>	25%
TERM	WEEK	PRACTICAL (PE)	
1	1 - 5	In Class Practical Assessment – <i>Task 1 - Hitting Skills</i>	25%
3	1 - 2	In Class Practical Assessment – <i>Task 3 - Dance</i>	25%
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	3	Half Yearly Examination Knowledge and Understanding (40) Working Scientifically Skills (20)	60%
Semester 1		TOTAL	100%
In class on-going Assessment		Extended Response PEEL Writing task. Working Scientifically Skills (30) Values and Attitudes (10)	40%
3	3	Guided Practical Project All Working Scientifically areas assessed	30%
3	9	Yearly Examination Knowledge and Understanding (20) Working Scientifically Skills (10)	30%
Semester 2		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	8	PERFORMANCE TASK	20%
2 or 4	4	MUSICOLOGY/AURAL Popular music	30%
2 or 4	4	PERFORMANCE/COMPOSITION TASK Composition (30%) Performance (20%)	50%
TOTAL			100%

VISUAL ARTS YEAR 8			
DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1	8	Critical/Historical	30%
2	3	VAPD	30%
2	3	Practical Portfolio	40%
		Semester 1 TOTAL	100%
3	7	Critical/Historical	30%
4	3	VAPD	30%
4	3	Practical Portfolio	40%
		Semester 2 TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY MANDATORY– AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1, 2 ,3 or 4	7	Portfolio/Literacy task	30%
1, 2 ,3 or 4	9	Research/Student booklet	30%
1, 2 ,3 or 4	9	Practical application	40%
Term		TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY MANDATORY – ENGINEERED SYSTEMS

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1, 2 ,3 or 4	9	Research, Folio and literacy task	40%
1, 2 ,3 or 4	9	Practical Skills/Testing	60%
		TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY MANDATORY - WOOD AND METAL

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
2 or 4	3	Portfolio/Literacy Task	20%
2 or 4	4	Student booklet	20%
2 or 4	5	Practical Application	60%
Semester		TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY MANDATORY - TEXTILES

DATE		TASK	WEIGHTINGS
TERM	WEEK		
1 or 3	10	Bookwork	20%
2 or 4	4	Portfolio/Literacy task	20%
2 or 4	5	Practical Application	60%
Semester		TOTAL	100%



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