

Languages



CS Course structure for languages in the new HSC

The Stage 6 course arrangements for languages vary from language to language. The table below describes the courses approved for implementation in 2000. For some languages these are the same course types that have applied for several years.

<i>Language</i>	<i>Beginners</i>	<i>Continuers</i>	<i>Extension</i>	<i>Background speakers</i>	<i>NAFLaSSL level to be determined</i>
Arabic	✓	✓	✓		
Armenian					✓
Chinese	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Classical Greek		✓	✓		
Classical Hebrew		✓	✓		
Croatian					✓
Czech					✓
Dutch					✓
Estonian					✓
Filipino					✓
French	✓	✓	✓		
German	✓	✓	✓		
Hindi					✓
Hungarian					✓
Indonesian	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Italian	✓	✓	✓		
Japanese	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Khmer					✓
Korean	✓	✓		✓	
Latin		✓	✓		
Latvian					✓



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Language	Beginners	Continuers	Extension	Background speakers	NAFLaSSL level to be determined
Lithuanian					✓
Macedonian					✓
Malay				✓	
Maltese					✓
Modern Greek	✓	✓	✓		
Modern Hebrew		✓			
Persian					✓
Polish					✓
Portuguese					✓
Russian					✓
Serbian					✓
Slovenian					✓
Spanish	✓	✓	✓		
Swedish					✓
Turkish					✓
Ukrainian					✓
Vietnamese		✓			

Beginners level syllabuses

There are ten languages syllabuses at beginners level: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek and Spanish. Because of the recency of some of the existing beginners courses, and to minimise the extent of change for teachers of languages, the revision of these syllabuses will be limited to amendments that will allow the courses to be reported against performance scales and to incorporate outcomes. These courses will be reviewed in future years, with the revisions to be based on a beginners level framework that will be developed after consultation with teachers.

Continuers level syllabuses

Continuers level syllabuses are being developed for Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Spanish and Vietnamese. The new syllabuses are being developed using a generic syllabus framework. Extensive consultation, with all teachers being invited to respond to the draft documents, was undertaken for the development of the generic framework as well as for the first draft of the syllabuses. Significant amendments have been included at each stage of the consultation process. The syllabuses for these languages are to be finalised for distribution to schools in July.

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Classical languages

A framework for classical languages was distributed to schools for consultation in February. Following amendments based on consultation responses, draft syllabus documents in Classical Greek, Classical Hebrew and Latin were developed and sent to schools for consultation in May. These syllabuses will be finalised and dispatched to schools in July.

Extension courses

Twelve languages courses will have an extension course: Arabic, Chinese, Classical Greek, Classical Hebrew, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Modern Greek and Spanish. The framework for extension courses is currently under development.

Background speakers level

A generic framework for the background speakers level was developed and sent to schools for

consultation in March, with draft language syllabuses being distributed for comment in May. Following consultation, the syllabuses will be finalised and distributed to schools in July.

NAFLaSSL courses

The Board has endorsed the recommendation that the current NAFLaSSL syllabuses and assessment procedures, apart from Arabic and Korean, remain in place for the 2001 Higher School Certificate. These syllabuses will be amended to include performance scales for reporting student achievement.

So what's in the new Stage 6 syllabuses?

The following table illustrates the common features of the draft Stage 6 syllabuses across three categories.

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Classical languages</i>	<i>Continuers level</i>	<i>Background speakers level</i>
Aims, objectives and outcomes	✓	✓	✓
Themes and topics		✓	✓
Options: • Study of texts • VET module		✓	
Texts and text types		✓	✓
Detailed grammar guide and examples	✓	✓	
Prescribed texts	✓		✓
Use of dictionaries in examinations		✓	✓
Assessment advice and course weighting	✓	✓	✓
Summary of examination specifications	✓	✓	✓
Criteria for judging performance	✓	✓	✓
Recommended resources	✓	✓	✓



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HSC implementation: Support for languages teachers

The Department of Education and Training is planning a multi-faceted approach to provide teachers of languages with a range of opportunities to develop understandings of the changes to HSC courses, appropriate programming and examination expectations. Personnel from the Curriculum Support Directorate will develop generic and language-specific support materials.

One-day cross-district workshops to support teachers in implementing the new syllabuses in Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and classical languages are planned for October and November. Professional development activities delivered through the Saturday School of Community Languages will support teachers of Arabic, Japanese (BS), Korean (BS), Modern Greek, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese (BS). These activities are also scheduled for October and November. The Saturday School workshops will consist of two half-day sessions held over two consecutive Saturday afternoons. Proposed sites are listed below.

Language-specific bulletins developed and distributed by the Curriculum Support Directorate will also support teachers in the implementation of the new syllabuses. Further support for French, German, Indonesian and Japanese will be provided through a redeveloped NSW HSC On-Line. This will be expanded for the new Higher School Certificate to include other languages.

Proposed subject-specific workshops

<i>Background speakers level and other courses provided through the SSCL</i>	<i>Sites</i>
Arabic	Kogarah
Chinese (BS)	Ryde
Indonesian (BS)	Sydney
Japanese (BS)	Chatswood
Korean (BS)	Chatswood
Modern Greek	Kogarah
Spanish	Liverpool
Vietnamese	Liverpool

<i>Continuers level courses</i>	<i>Sites</i>
Chinese	Ryde
Italian	Leichhardt, Queanbeyan, Nowra
Indonesian	Ryde, Nowra, Lismore
German	Ryde, Newcastle, Queanbeyan, Orange, Armidale
French	Randwick, Newcastle, Dubbo, Orange, Port Macquarie, Ryde, Armidale
Japanese	Sutherland, Newcastle, Dubbo, Orange, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Lismore, Ryde

<i>Classical languages</i>	<i>Site</i>
Classical Greek/ Hebrew and Latin	Sydney

Further details about these workshops will be made available in the Term 3 issue of **CURRICULUM SUPPORT** and on the new HSC web site (<http://www.newhsc.edu.au>).