

HSC maths trial paper shell

A secure blueprint, question shell and technical-check workflow

curriq | Secure faculty master for paper design and quality assurance

Verified 3 August 2026. The 2026 HSC uses the applicable 2017 mathematics syllabus; the 2024 syllabuses are first examined in the 2027 HSC. Verify current sources and local requirements before use.

Cover page

Field	Entry
Course	[Mathematics Standard 2 / Advanced / Extension 1 / Extension 2]
Syllabus version	[2017 for the 2026 HSC / 2024 for first HSC 2027]
Examination title	[School] Trial HSC Examination [Year]
General instructions	[Reading time, working time, approved calculator, write in blue/black pen, show relevant working]
Total marks	[]
Sections	[Section I / Section II or course-appropriate structure]

Paper blueprint

Item	Outcome / content	Item type	Marks	Demand	Estimated minutes
1	[Code / focus]	[MC / short / extended]	[]	[Routine / connected / unfamiliar]	[]
2	[Code / focus]	[Type]	[]	[Demand]	[]
3	[Code / focus]	[Type]	[]	[Demand]	[]
4	[Code / focus]	[Type]	[]	[Demand]	[]
...	[Add rows]	[Type]	[]	[Demand]	[]
TOTAL	[Coverage check]		[]		[]

Blueprint check: compare format, total marks, reading/working time, common items and permitted equipment with the current NESA course specifications. Do not copy a previous year without checking current notices.

Question shell - repeat for each item

Question [number] ([marks] marks)

[Write the stimulus and task. Use direct language. Include units, domains, diagrams, tables and required precision.]

Space / response mode: [working space, answer booklet, multiple-choice grid, digital field].

Setter notes (remove from student paper): [intent, solution path, anticipated alternatives, source/licence].

Marking guideline shell

Question	Marks / range	Characteristics	Sample answer / alternative method
[Q]	[]	[Quality of demonstrated knowledge and skill]	[Checked solution and alternatives]
[Q]	[]	[Quality of demonstrated knowledge and skill]	[Checked solution and alternatives]
[Q]	[]	[Quality of demonstrated knowledge and skill]	[Checked solution and alternatives]

Independent technical check

- A second mathematics teacher completes every item without the setter's solution.
- Reconcile discrepancies and confirm exact answers, acceptable forms and rounding.
- Verify diagrams, tables, scales, symbols, page references and answer spaces.
- Confirm all items map to intended outcomes and no unassessed content is required.
- Check the paper can be completed in the available time.

Security and production checklist

Check	Owner	Status / evidence
Controlled source file and version	[]	[]
Copyright / permission for adapted material	[]	[]
Accessibility and adjustments reviewed	[]	[]
Proof print and page count	[]	[]
Secure distribution and collection	[]	[]
Marking briefing and common scripts planned	[]	[]

Official sources

NESA - how exams are developed:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/nesa/hsc/exams-and-marking/developing-exams>

NESA marking guideline principles:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/nesa/hsc/exams-and-marking/marking-guideline-principles>

NESA mathematics curriculum and current notices:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/nesa/curriculum/mathematics>

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