

One VCE: Answers to sample questions

This document provides answers to questions about the changes to senior secondary education.

Guidance resource for schools and stakeholders

Parents and students asked similar questions during the Department of Education and Training and the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority's One VCE online events in Term 3 2022.

These sample questions and answers will help to:

- understand the topics of interest to parents and students
- prepare for and answer real questions from parents or students.

The sample questions and answers in this document are a snapshot only of the questions asked. Please note this is not a comprehensive Question and Answer document.

Changes to choices

How is the VCE Vocational Major different to VCAL?

Three key differences between them are that the VCE Vocational Major:

- has an improved curriculum that builds on the strengths of the VCAL curriculum
- is a 2-year program, while VCAL could be completed in one year
- will support more consistent higher quality teaching, better preparing students for work or further study.

Will there be any changes to the VCE or VCE VET?

No. The introduction of the VCE Vocational Major and Victorian Pathways Certificate provides new choices for students and does not make any changes to existing VCE or VCE VET programs.

Choosing a program and support

Will the VCE Vocational Major be selective or open to everyone?

There are no entry requirements for the VCE Vocational Major. Any student can enrol in the program if their school offers it.

Your school will help you decide if the VCE Vocational Major is suitable for you.

How and when do students choose to do the VCE Vocational Major?

The process and timeline for selecting programs and studies will be different at each school. Your school will tell you about their process, including any deadlines.

How can students explain their interest in the VCE Vocational Major to their parents?

Some parents completed the VCE or equivalent when they were in school and do not know about vocational or applied learning pathways like the VCE Vocational Major.

If you think that the VCE Vocational Major is the right pathway for you, work with your school and parents to understand what you enjoy at school, what you care about, and what you're good at. These things might line up with choosing the VCE Vocational Major.

If you're not sure about those things, the VCE Vocational Major might still be right for you. Some students will choose the VCE Vocational Major because it's a flexible option that gives you time to decide what you want to do after school, whether it's further study, training at TAFE or work.

The VCE Vocational Major gives you on the skills and experience that employers want in people they hire. This might be helpful if you want to take a break between school and more education to work.

Your parents may want to find more out themselves. They can find more information on the [Many Talents One VCE](#) website.

Why doesn't every school offer every course?

Nearly all government schools will offer the VCE Vocational Major from 2023. This means all students can choose a pathway that best aligns with their strengths, interests and aspirations at their local government school.

There are more than 90 subjects and 26 VET programs available in the VCE and VCE Vocational Major. This is too many for one school to offer.

Schools decide what courses they provide based on their resources, priorities, and student interest. If there is a specific course you would like to complete, ask your school about it. They may be able to offer it, provide a related course, or find another option that helps you pursue your goals.

The Victorian Government is supporting more schools to offer [priority and flexible VET pathways](#) that are linked to areas of high jobs growth and greater student interest. These pathways will put you on a path towards success after school – in training, university or employment.

Are the VCE Vocational Major or Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) more suitable for students with disability or additional learning needs?

Students with disability or additional learning needs can complete the VCE, VCE Vocational Major or VPC.

If you're a student with disability or additional learning needs and you want to complete the VCE or VCE Vocational Major, talk to your school about special provision. You may be eligible for special provision if you are adversely affected in a significant way by an impairment or disability, including learning disorders. For more information, [read about special provision](#) on the VCAA website.

The VPC is designed to be an individualised and flexible program for students who aren't ready or able to complete the VCE or VCE Vocational Major.

The VPC can help you move on to the VCE or VCE Vocational Major, an entry-level VET course or straight into a job. The coursework is designed and delivered at a more accessible level than the VCE and VCE Vocational Major. You can study the VPC at your own pace and your teachers will assess your progress through a range of classroom learning activities.

Program flexibility

Can students complete the VCE Vocational Major after starting a general VCE program?

Yes. The Vocational Major is a program within the VCE, and non-VM units will contribute to the requirements for completion of the Vocational Major.

Please talk to your careers educator about your options and what's required to complete the VCE Vocational Major.

Can students complete a general VCE after starting the VCE Vocational Major program?

Yes. Because the Vocational Major is a program within the VCE, Vocational Major units will contribute to the requirements for completion of the VCE. Please talk to your careers educator about your options.

Please note that only applicants who have at least 4 VCE study scores, with at least one from the VCE English group, will have an ATAR calculated. VCE Vocational Major units do not provide a study score.

Choosing studies

Do students need to be enrolled in the VCE Vocational Major to enrol in VCE VM units?

Yes. In 2023 and 2024, VCE VM units are not available to VCE students not enrolled in the Vocational Major program. VCE students who are not completing the Vocational Major can include vocational and applied learning in their VCE by completing a VCE VET program.

Do students need to be enrolled in the VPC to enrol in VPC units?

No but VPC units will not provide any credit into the VCE, including the VCE VM.

Will Maths and English be compulsory in the VCE Vocational Major?

VCE Vocational Major students must finish 2 VCE VM Numeracy or VCE Mathematics units.

VCE Vocational Major students must finish 3 VCE VM Literacy or VCE English units (including a Unit 3–4 sequence).

What's the difference between VCE Vocational Major Numeracy and VCE Mathematics?

VCE Vocational Major Numeracy focuses on enabling students to develop and enhance their numeracy skills to make sense of their personal, public and vocational lives. Students develop mathematical skills with consideration of their local, national and global environments and contexts, and an awareness and use of appropriate technologies.

VCE Mathematics units are designed to provide worthwhile and challenging mathematical learning in a way that considers the interests, needs, dispositions and aspirations of a wide range of students, and introduce them to key aspects of the discipline and its applications. They are also designed to promote students' awareness of the importance of mathematics in everyday life in a technological society and globalised world. VCE Mathematics units help students to develop confidence to make effective use of mathematical concepts, processes and skills in practical and theoretical contexts.

Schools will be able to help students and parents with choosing the most appropriate studies.

For more information, see the [VCE Study Designs](#) (VCE VM Numeracy, Foundation Mathematics, General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics) on the VCAA website.

What's the difference between VCE Vocational Major Literacy and VCE English?

VCE Vocational Major Literacy focuses on the development of the knowledge and skills required to be literate in Australia today. The key knowledge and key skills encompass a student's ability to

interpret and create texts that have purpose, and are accurate and effective, with confidence and fluency.

VCE English focuses on how English language is used to create meaning in written, spoken and multimodal texts. The study of English contributes to the development of literate individuals capable of critical and creative thinking, aesthetic appreciation and creativity. This study also develops a student's ability to create and analyse texts, moving from interpretation to reflection and critical analysis.

Schools will be able to help students and parents with choosing the most appropriate studies.

For more information, see the [VCE Study Designs](#) (VCE VM Literacy and VCE English and English as an Additional Language) on the VCAA website.

VET subjects

Where can a list of VET subjects be found?

There is no comprehensive list of all VET options that can be completed in the VCE, VCE Vocational Major or VPC. This is because the options will vary depending on your school and local employers and training organisations.

Students can complete VET through:

- VCE VET programs that have been developed by the VCAA in consultation with stakeholders including industry
- approved school-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SBATs)
- other VET qualifications, which provide credit into the VCE through [block credit recognition](#).

To find options for VET in the VCE, VCE Vocational Major or VCAL:

- read about all [VCE VET Programs](#) on the VCAA website
- check the [2022 VCE VET program chart](#) to see all your options at a glance
- talk to your school about finding a VET course that suits your aspirations
- read about the [priority and flexible VET pathways](#) that are linked to areas of high jobs growth and greater student interest
- read about [school-based apprenticeships and traineeships](#) on the Apprenticeships Victoria website
- [search for a school or study](#) to find schools that have students enrolled in specific VET certificates.

Are students limited to only VET subjects that are offered by their own school, or can students complete a VET subject elsewhere, like an RTO or TAFE?

Schools may allow students to complete VET outside their school through arrangements with schools from a cluster or TAFE. Some private registered training organisations (RTOs) also deliver training to school students.

Students may receive structured workplace learning (SWL) recognition credit where they undertake SWL in an industry aligned to their VET whilst undertaking the VCE, VCE Vocational Major or VPC.

Before commencing VET outside of school, students should talk to their school about the VET programs related to their career aspirations that their school can offer.

VET courses provide transferrable skills that are useful across many career pathways.

If a preferred program is unavailable, a related program may be worthwhile. For example, if a student wished to pursue carpentry but the VCE VET Building and Construction program was unavailable, the VCE VET Small Business course may provide skills for operating a small business that support the student's desired pathway.

To be eligible to receive the VCE Vocational Major, students must complete 2 VET credits at Certificate II level or above (180 nominal hours).

VPC students can receive VET credit for 90 nominal hours at the Certificate I or above level.

For more information, see [VET in the VCE, VCE VM, VPC or VCAL](#).

Do students have to complete an apprenticeship or traineeship in the VCE Vocational Major?

No. School-based apprenticeships and traineeships are optional ways to complete VET. To complete the VCE Vocational Major, students must have 2 VET credits at Certificate II level or above (180 nominal hours).

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships give students relevant, paid, on-the-job training and allow them to start their career while at school. In government schools, this could be through the [Head Start program](#).

Support available

Who can help students choose their program and subjects?

Your school's careers practitioner or your teachers are the best-equipped to help you choose a pathway that suits your talents and goals.

Are there dedicated career teachers in all schools?

All government schools in Victoria have a career practitioner.

Will schools arrange a workplace for the structured workplace learning (SWL) part of a VET subject?

Your school can tell you about your options for SWL.

Assessment and completion

Will VCE Vocational Major students sit the General Achievement Test (GAT)? If they do, is it the same GAT that general VCE students do?

Yes. All students studying at least one Unit 3 and 4 VCE subject (including a VCE VM Unit 3 and 4 subject) or a scored VCE VET subject are expected to sit all or a section of the GAT.

The GAT is the same for all students, but many VCE Vocational Major students will only have to complete Section A: Literacy and Numeracy.

VCE Vocational Major students enrolled in one or more VCE or scored VCE VET Unit 3–4 sequences will also have to complete Section B: General Knowledge and Skills.

Read more about the [General Achievement Test](#) on the VCAA website.

Will the VCE Vocational Major include exams or other external assessments?

No, unless the student completes a non-VM VCE study or a scored VCE VET subject.

Unlike other VCE studies there are no external assessments of VCE VM Unit 3–4 sequences.

The VCE Vocational Major studies are standards-based. All assessments for the achievement of learning outcomes, and therefore the units, are school-based and assessed through a range of learning activities and tasks.