Moderation of School Assessed Coursework
Units 3 & 4

In 2013 students will be awarded a coursework mark, by their teacher, based on the results of a number of assessment tasks in each subject. The assessment tasks will be carried out during school hours. Absences from an assessment task will be treated in the same way as absence from an external examination; students must have a Medical Certificate from their doctor if they wish to sit the assessment task at another time.

In order to ensure that the same standards are applied in every school the coursework marks awarded by the teacher will be statistically moderated. The VCAA will use the external examination(s) in each subject and, in some subjects, the GAT, in the moderation process. An external score is calculated for each student in a particular subject. The external score is based on the examination results, and in some studies, the GAT.

Statistical moderation is applied to all students in a moderation group; that is, the group of students in a school studying that subject. (This may be one class of students in some subjects or many classes in subjects such as EAL and Maths Methods.) The external scores of the moderation group are used to adjust the school coursework scores for this group and create moderated scores such that:

- The highest moderated score is made equal to the top external score;
- The average moderated score is made equal to the average of the external scores; and
- The lowest moderated score is made equal or very close to the lowest external score.

Some students have results that need special treatment. The results for these students are initially left out of the moderation process, and the moderated scores for these students are calculated later, in line with the rest of the group. Results are removed for students who do not have complete coursework assessments, examination scores or GAT scores (in studies where the GAT scores are used in the moderation process).

There is no change to the rank order of students given by the teacher for school assessed coursework and the rank order of the moderated scores. The relative difference in scores awarded by teachers and the moderated scores will be similar. However the absolute value of the score will differ and will be determined by the performance on examinations.

More detailed information can be found in the VCE section of the VCAA website. www.vcaa.vic.edu.au