

TASC CALCULATOR POLICY

Scope

This policy guides the use of calculators in the external assessment of **some** senior secondary courses accredited by the Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (TASC) (see [Appendix I](#)).

Under the *Office of Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Act (2003) s10(1)(e)*, TASC is responsible for the assessment and certification of student achievement in senior secondary schooling across all educational sectors in Tasmania.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the use of calculators by students in the external assessment processes managed by TASC are:

- fair, valid and reliable
- applied consistently across all classes and schools
- aligned with current technology available in calculators.

Policy Statement

This policy aligns with Goal 3 in TASC's Strategic Plan 2022 – 2023 to continuously improve the delivery and assessment of contemporary senior secondary learning. TASC has as its core function the responsibility to set standards for the provision and assessment of senior secondary courses in Tasmania. This means that TASC:

- determines assessment requirements for the senior secondary courses it accredits
- manages external assessments for courses at Levels 3 and 4 and sets the requirements and procedures relating to these.

TASC accredited senior secondary courses at Levels 3 and 4 have both internal and external assessment components. Internal assessments are school-based and the external assessments are managed by TASC.

To ensure assessment is fair and valid for all students, TASC expects schools to meet the requirements of registration including meeting the standards for academic integrity and the internal moderation of assessments.

Calculator Use Policy

1. Calculators may be taken into **some** examinations as noted in [Appendix I](#).
 - a) Calculators shall not be used in any way which would be against the rules of the exam, including as a means of introducing subject notes or prepared answers.
 - b) No instructions, magnetic cards or other associated materials for use with calculators will be permitted.
 - c) Calculators may be used for their full capacity in the exams in which they have been approved.
2. Calculators must conform to the following specifications:
 - a) handheld
 - b) self-contained power source and may not be connected to an external source of power in the examination room or during the exam
 - c) silent in operation
 - d) unable to communicate wirelessly. Wireless and Bluetooth connectivity must be turned off.

Note: documents cannot be added to a calculator that subsequently allows students to input the information from a question and it gives them the working they need to get a full answer. This would be classed as prepared answers and is not permissible.

3. It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure that calculators they wish to use are of acceptable types.
4. It is the responsibility of candidates to ensure that calculators work correctly. Calculators may not be borrowed within the exam room. Their failure to work correctly (or at all), and their running out of power, will not be taken into consideration by TASC.
5. Calculator memories do not have to be cleared before entry into an exam.
6. Breaches of items 1, 2 and 3 above will be treated by TASC in the same way as attempts to bring unauthorised written material into the exam room. Please consider the TASC External Assessment Rules for more information.

Calculator Classifications

For the purposes of this policy, calculators are classified depending on their functionality. Different TASC accredited senior secondary courses may allow different classification of calculators into the external assessment.

Basic calculator

A calculator with basic functions, e.g. addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. These calculators do not have the capacity to create or store programs or text.



Scientific calculator

A calculator with basic functions as well as dedicated buttons (e.g. e and pi) and other functionality such as calculating square roots, exponents, and logarithmic and trigonometric functions.

Features allowed:

- calculate in scientific notation
- calculate powers and roots
- calculate reciprocals
- evaluate logarithms and exponentials
- calculate trigonometric and inverse trigonometric values
- calculate permutations and combinations
- convert between polar and Cartesian form
- perform basic statistical operation to obtain measures such as mean, median lower and upper quartiles and standard deviation
- perform linear regression.

Features not allowed:

- programmable – by having the ability to allow users to input a set of instructions and then save them for future execution
- the ability to graph, or capabilities of plotting data or storing, manipulating, and displaying functions graphically
- computer algebraic system (CAS) functionality and capabilities of performing symbolic mathematical operations, such as solving equations, simplifying expressions, and manipulating mathematical functions
- built-in financial features like computing depreciation, annuities, both simple and compound interest, and determining the break-even point.

Graphics or Computer Algebraic System (CAS) calculator

A graphics calculator provides functions for complex concepts (e.g. calculus and statistics) and allows you to work through algebraic equations and quadratics.

Features allowed:

- calculate in scientific notation
- calculate powers and roots
- calculate reciprocals
- evaluate logarithms and exponentials
- calculate trigonometric and inverse trigonometric values
- calculate permutations and combinations
- convert between polar and Cartesian form
- perform basic statistical operation to obtain measures such as mean, median lower and upper quartiles and standard deviation

- perform linear regression
- differentiation and integration, and the solution of equations
- symbolic manipulation such as addition of algebraic expressions and binomial expansion
- built-in financial features like computing depreciation, annuities, both simple and compound interest, and determining the break-even point.

Features not allowed:

- language translation
- communication with other machines, students or the internet
- retrievable information, including databanks, dictionaries, mathematical formulas and text.

Responsibilities

TASC Responsibilities

- TASC is required to provide clear guidance and information about the use of calculators in external assessment to relevant stakeholders.
- TASC is required to ensure that Exam Supervisors and Supervisor Coordinators are supported in the implementation of all external assessment rules, including the use of calculators.
- TASC is responsible to ensure that Marking Coordinators of TASC accredited courses that have approval for calculators in external assessment are supported in the appropriate use of calculators by students when undertaking external assessment in these courses.
- TASC is responsible for determining alleged breaches of exam rules, on a case-by-case basis.
- TASC is responsible for ensuring there is a clear and transparent appeals process.

School Responsibilities

- Schools are responsible for providing students with the calculator use policy and expectations.
- Schools may provide some spare batteries.

Student Responsibilities

- Students are required to familiarise themselves with the calculator use policy.
- Students are required to follow the external assessment rules, including the approved materials allowed to be brought into an external assessment.
- Students are required to ensure that they are bringing the permitted calculator into an exam, and that it is charged and functional. Spare batteries are permitted to be brought into the exam room by the student.

Related policies and documents

1. TASC External Assessment Rules
2. TASC External Assessment Policy
3. [TASC - Your results](#)
4. [TASC Conduct Review Committee](#)

Definitions

education providers means any school or institution providing educational courses

external assessment means those components of senior secondary assessment that are determined, set and managed by TASC

external ratings means the determined student achievement in relation to a criteria that is externally assessed and determined by TASC

internal assessment means those components of senior secondary assessment that are the responsibility of teachers

internal ratings means the student achievement determined by the class teacher in relation to all criterion in a course

ratings refers to the broad subdivisions of the continuum of student performance/achievement in relation to a criteria within a course. In decreasing order of quality, these are: A, B, C, D, t and Z.

a **senior secondary course** is one that is usually undertaken in Years 11 and 12 at complexity level 1 and higher

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Appendix I

The below list details for each course where calculators have or have not been approved for use in the external exams.

Course Name	Calculator Approval	Type of Calculator Permitted
Accounting	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Ancient History	✗	
Australia in Asia and the Pacific	✗	
Biology	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Business Studies	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Chemistry	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Chinese	✗	
Computer Graphics and Design	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Computer Science	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Drama	✗	
Economics	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Electronics	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
English	✗	
English Literature	✗	
English as an Additional Language or Dialect	✗	
Environmental Science	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Food and Nutrition	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
French	✗	
General Mathematics	✓	Any of the approved calculators
Geography	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
German	✗	
Health Studies	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Housing and Design	✓	Basic and/or Scientific

Course Name	Calculator Approval	Type of Calculator Permitted
Information Systems and Digital Technologies	✗	
Italian	✗	
Japanese	✗	
Legal Studies	✗	
Mathematics Methods Foundation – Part 1 of the exam	✗	
Mathematics Methods Foundation – Part 2 of the exam	✓	Any of the approved calculators
Mathematics Methods – Part 1 of the exam	✗	
Mathematics Methods – Part 2 of the exam	✓	Any of the approved calculators
Mathematics Specialised	✓	Any of the approved calculators
Media Production	✗	
Modern History	✗	
Music	✗	
Outdoor Leadership	✗	
Philosophy	✗	
Physical Sciences	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Physics	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Psychology	✗	
Sociology	✗	
Sport Science	✓	Basic and/or Scientific
Studies of Religion	✗	