VCE PHYSICS STUDY REVIEW PLAN – updated October 2020

Background

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is the statutory authority responsible for the development, approval, monitoring, evaluation and review of curriculum and assessment for the VCE and its studies. The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) is the statutory authority responsible for the accreditation of the VCE and its studies, including periods of accreditation.

The current VCE Physics Study Design is due to expire in 2022.

In 2019, it was determined that VCE Physics would undergo a major review on 31 December 2020. To support teachers to focus on the continuity of learning in their schools, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the Board of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the CEO of the Victorian Regulations and Qualifications Authority have approved a 12 month extension to the accreditation periods for all accredited VCE study designs. The major review for VCE Physics will now continue into 2021.

A major review may involve consideration of:

* changes to the rationale for and focus of the study
* introduction of substantial new content and new skills arising from contemporary developments in the discipline: for example, with respect to new knowledge, techniques or approaches
* substantial reorganisation of knowledge and skills between units, areas of study or outcomes as a result of monitoring and evaluation during the accreditation period
* the number, type and weighting of school-based and/or external assessments.

Terms of Reference

The review is conducted according to the Terms of Reference and the [*Principles and procedures for the development and review of VCE studies*](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/2019_Principles_Procedures_VCE_review.docx)*.*

The Terms of Reference for the VCE Physics review can be found in **Attachment 1.**

Study Review Panel

A Study Review Panel for VCE Physics will meet regularly during 2020 and 2021 to develop a draft study design proposal.

The VCE Physics Study Review Panel consists of members from a range of sectors including: schools (government, Catholic and independent), tertiary, industry, training/TAFE and a representative from the Science Teachers Association of Victoria (STAV).

Study Review Timeline

The schedule for the review can be found in **Attachment 2.**

Consultation

Consultation is an important part of the VCAA’s curriculum and assessment development and review processes. Consultation informing a review process is broad, and consultation material is freely available to members of the public.

Consultation on the draft VCE Physics Study Design will be conducted from 1 June to 3 August 2021. The draft study design and consultation questionnaire will be available for consideration on the [VCE Physics](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/physics/Pages/Index.aspx) study webpage during that time.

To register your interest for the public consultation, please complete the [registration form](https://vcaa.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ZFxMsslUlYI6z3).

Further information

For further information, please contact the Curriculum Manager responsible for the review:

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VCE Curriculum Unit

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**Attachment 1:** Terms of reference

VCE PHYSICS REVIEW PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE   
(Major Review)

The VCE Physics Review Panel will undertake the review of the VCE Physics Study Design, and will develop a draft study design proposal in accordance with the VCAA’s *Principles and procedures for the development and review of VCE studies*. The role of the panel is advisory and the proposed study design will be subject to endorsement by the Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment Committee (SSCAC) and approval by the Board of the VCAA.

When reviewing VCE Physics, the Review Panel is required to consider the following in relation to the existing study:

* study-specific issues identified prior to commencing the review, including:
  + enrolments and enrolment trends by unit and year level (including gender, sector and location)
  + satisfactory completion rates by unit (including gender, sector and location)
  + reports from the State Reviewer, Examination Panel Chair and Chief Assessor
  + feedback from stakeholders including teachers and students
  + evidence of uptake of any optional components with the study
  + data from the School-based Assessment Audit
  + grade distributions for all graded assessments
  + relevant data from the external assessment program
  + data from monitoring and evaluation activities.
* any proposed changes to the study
* benchmarking against similar subject curriculum and assessments in other high performing national and global jurisdictions
* coherence with other VCE studies within the same discipline and related disciplines
* the relationship between the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and the VCE study
* the relationship between the study and post-schooling pathways including employment and further education
* the extent to which current research and developments in the discipline are appropriately reflected in the study
* overlap or duplication within the study, with other VCE studies, VCE VET programs or VCAL units
* the coherence of the overall structure of the study and consistency with its aims
* the appropriate relationship between the areas of study and outcomes, school-based assessment and external assessment
* the effectiveness of the assessment program in measuring student performance against the learning outcomes
* the implications of any proposed changes for the assessment program
* the appropriate use of ICT in school-based and external assessment
* the appropriateness of the weighting of school-based and external assessment
* how the study enables broad participation and the achievement of excellence
* teacher and student workload
* sources of gender, cultural or socioeconomic bias
* any specific facilities and resources required to deliver the study, including implications for the professional learning requirements for teachers.

Consultation

In the development of the proposal, the Review Panel will ensure that it consults with key interest groups including:

* teachers and other stakeholders on the VCE Study Register, interested in being consulted on VCE Physics
* the State Reviewer, Examination Panel Chair and Chief Assessor
* relevant VCAA personnel including the Examination Development Manager, the VCE Assessment Project Manager and the Principal Psychometrician
* Science Teachers Association of Victoria (STAV)
* industry groups including The Australian Synchrotron
* the university and TAFE sectors
* peak representative agencies in Victoria including CSIRO, Engineers Victoria, and Museum Victoria
* teacher networks including Vicphysics Teachers Network.

The consultation draft study design and questionnaire will be made available on the VCAA website during the consultation period.

**Attachment 2:** Timeline for the VCE Review

VCE PHYSICS REVIEW TIMELINE

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| Milestone | Date |
| VCE Physics approved by the VCAA Board to undergo a major review in 2020 | October 2019 |
| Schools notified in the *VCAA Bulletin* of the VCE Physics Review | November 2019 |
| Expressions of Interest sought for VCE Physics Review Panel | November 2019 |
| VCE Physics Review Panel selected | December 2019 |
| Benchmarking report completed | February 2020 |
| Study Review Panel commence work | February 2020 |
| VRQA approved the extension to the accreditation period of the current VCE Physics Study Design until 31 December 2022 due to support teachers to focus on remote and flexible learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. | April 2020 |
| Public consultation on the draft VCE Physics Study Design | 1 June to 3 Aug 2021 |
| Feedback from the public consultation and Independent Reviewer considered by the Review Panel | August – October 2021 |
| VCAA Board approval of revised study design | December 2021 |
| VRQA approval of the accreditation period of the revised study design | December 2021 – January 2022 |
| Study design published for 2023 implementation | Term 1, 2022 |
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