

Testing times for our teachers and students

THE Courier-Mail is to be credited for exposing our subjective school system (Aug 7).

The point about Queensland assignments and tests is that none is set to a common benchmark, so they can never be truly accountable. Comparing the different tests and projects is like comparing apples with oranges.

The teachers are not at fault. They have to help students complete their assignments where possible because the tasks required to be set, particularly for the sciences, are vague if not impossible.

Parents need to ask for external exams. They are far less daunting than the unfair assignments that favour students with educated backgrounds or better tutors.

Marie Williams, Stafford

I AM a mathematics teacher and I am fed up with the complicated nature of our syllabus documents and the assessment requirements. The stress and inefficient use of teacher time and resources which stems from trying to understand and implement the system is unacceptable.

Brian Joye, South Brisbane

IT was great to see *The Courier-Mail* reporting on an issue which is silently doing harm to the quality of life of young Queenslanders. This unfair situation where students at different schools have different workloads and chances of success in a subject is a direct result of the poor syllabus design of the QSA. It saddens me to see young people buckling under the strain of lengthy, irrelevant assignments. We parents need to get this system changed.

Keith Smith, North Ward

WHAT has been going on in our schools has been under the radar until the Federal Government introduced national testing. Suddenly the weaknesses of Queensland's schools in literacy and numeracy have been exposed for all to see.

So how have we descended to the bottom of the ladder in achievement in critical aspects of our schooling? The QSA must be held to account for this disastrous state of affairs.

There needs to be an inquiry into this statutory authority and how it has become the powerful monolith it is today.

Robyn Quick, Fishery Falls