

In support of the Submission by AFA (QLD)

"Qld must fast-track external pen-and-paper exams like the other States."

I too submit that it is imperative that the Qld Government:-

adopts the recommendations as made by AFA (Qld) in response to your Focus Questions and "put an end to this state's 40-year experiment with unproven assessment and tertiary entrance methods."

The following are my personal views and not necessarily those of AFA (Qld) regarding comments on the ACER review:-

1. are **not** considering external exams for Qld (like all other states have)

I believe that a student and parents as well as prospective tertiary educator have the need, and right, to know by way of an external examination, the % grading in subjects taken by the student so as to assess more informatively the future direction needed for the student's higher education.

2. are **not** considering scaling school assessment according to external exam results;

I am not sure how a school assessment can be thoroughly judged without the knowledge of the external exam results of each student rather than a less informative OP system.

3. **are** considering continuing social moderation (where government teacher panels in effect "guess" how school results compare).

I don't even profess to understand the covert meaning of "social moderation" let alone understand its effectiveness in the comparison of schools' educational standards.

In closing I attach a brilliant example of math solving by way of computer or the more modern i-pad "ap." Where a student is allowed to take a calculator into the examination room, it matters little that they obtain a correct answer, if they do not know how the answer can be obtained by mental calculation. A student must not only know how to use a calculator but must also know by rote that $8 \times 8 = 64$.

When I was a supervisor in a financial institution in another life, I used to be amazed that my co-workers just needed to know how to do a given task, and not want to know the facts behind the reason why they were doing it.

$$\sqrt[3]{1745337664} = 1204$$

The method of mental calculation for the cube root displayed was notated by C. Frusher in "Howard's Art of Reckoning" published in 1896. I have no doubt that scholars in ancient times also knew how to calculate the answer mentally whereas the ancient probably used an abacus. There would not be too many students today, I may incorrectly assume, would have difficulty in knowing where to start. I hope I am wrong in my assumption.

And - from the movie - "Emperor's Club."

William Hundert, the senior boys' school's ancient history teacher informed his students:-

"Aristophanes once wrote, roughly translated; "Youth ages, immaturity is outgrown, ignorance can be educated, and drunkenness sobered, but STUPID lasts forever."

STUPID in many cases means doing how you know to but not knowing what you are doing.

Alan Phillips Macgregor