

Reasons For **Comprehensive State-Wide Senior Exams** (a Summary)

1. Most People Want this Standard Practice: Scaling by State Exams

- Every other state of Australia has comprehensive state-wide senior exams.¹
- 82% of parliamentary Inquiry submissions want comprehensive, state-wide exams.
- Voted for unanimously at public meetings and Queensland LNP State Conventions, 2012-14
- The Parliamentary Education and Innovation Committee in 2013 recommended that external exams count for 50% of student achievement, and be used to scale school-based assessment.

2. Much Healthier than Continuous Assessment

- In Queensland, students are more stressed than in other states.
- Queensland's continuous assignment-based assessment places constant year-long stress on students, making many drop out.
- Continuous assignments make teachers overworked, stressed, ill and quit the profession.

3. Much Fairer than Social Moderation

With state-wide exams ...

- there is a level playing field for all students, in all locations,
- grades awarded are consistent and reliable,
- teachers cannot give their class the answers the night before,
- students cannot have an adult write their assessment pieces for them,
- students' grades do not depend on their teacher's ability to negotiate with other teachers, and
- teachers are freed from micro-management and many hours of unpaid paperwork.

4. Best for Students' Learning

- With the full curriculum tested, the full curriculum is taught. (Contrast with the present option of only teaching selected topics, and only testing selected questions within those topics.)
- brings improved accountability to teaching and focus on learning real knowledge, rather than having students cut & paste miscellanea from the internet,
- Final exam preparation is synthesis and reinforcement of learning for the long-term.
- "Central exams are a key factor in student achievement" - Hanushek and Woessmann

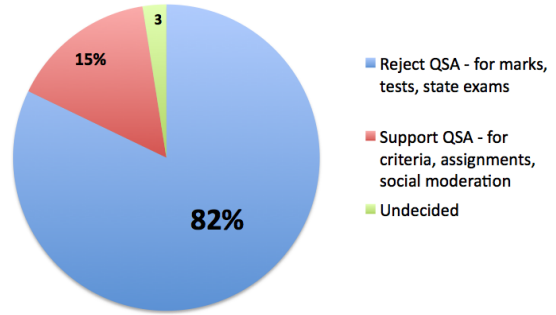
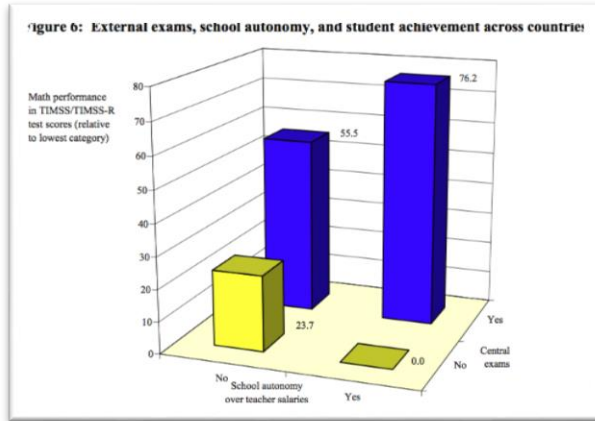
5. Best Government Practice

- Scaling by one set of senior exams is a minimal audit of schools; certifying their quality with minimal disruption. (Contrast with volumes of paperwork required by QSA's year-round micro-management of all schools, both public and private.)
- Allows schools to try their methods as they best see fit, while retaining some accountability.
- In the light of state exam results being public knowledge, misguided education fads are easily identified and abandoned. (The Blob retreats to the shadows.)
- Teachers and schools need not live in fear of QSA.

Beware of Expensive, Inferior Imitations

- Only scaling by comprehensive state-wide exams, as used in all other states, has all of these advantages.
- The Blob may try to sell Queensland "a new species of external assessment" with "revamped social moderation". But just ask "Is this method already working in any other location?
- - - or is it yet another, unproven, social experiment? "

¹ For explanations and evidence for all listed items, see Weeks 1 to 7 at http://www.platoqld.com/?page_id=2716



Since you asked, I think ... that I have ... world's best practice!

