Stage 3 Stage Statements

ENGLISH

By the end of Stage 3 students communicate effectively, using considered language to entertain, inform and persuade audiences for an increasing range of purposes. They work productively and independently in pairs or groups to deliver effective presentations using various skills and strategies. Students collaborate with others to share and evaluate ideas and opinions and to develop different points of view. They express well-developed and well-organised ideas about literary texts and respond constructively to different opinions. They demonstrate active listening behaviours in order to gather specific information and ideas, recognising and exploring how spoken and written language differ and how spoken language varies according to context. Students evaluate characteristic language features and organisational patterns of challenging spoken texts.

Students independently read and view an extensive range of complex texts and visual images using a comprehensive range of skills and strategies. They respond to themes and issues within texts, recognise point of view and justify interpretations by referring to their own knowledge, values and experiences. They identify, critically analyse and respond to techniques, literary devices and language features used by writers to influence readers. Students compare and accurately summarise information on a particular topic from different texts and make well-supported generalisations about the topic. Students identify text structure of a range of complex texts and explore how grammatical features work to influence an audience’s understanding of written, visual, media and multimodal texts.

Students create well-structured and well-presented written and multimodal imaginative, informative and persuasive texts for a wide range of purposes and audiences. They deal with complex topics, issues and language features. Students select information and ideas from personal, literary and researched resources, and adapt imaginative ideas and situations from literature. They make considered choices in written texts from an expanding vocabulary and from growing knowledge of grammatical patterns, complex sentence structures, cohesive links and literary devices. Students write well-structured sentences and paragraphs on particular aspects of the topic, clarifying and explaining how choices of language and literary features were designed to influence the meaning communicated in their texts. They spell most common words accurately and use a variety of strategies to spell less common words. They develop a fluent writing style and employ digital technology to present written texts effectively in a variety of ways for different purposes and audiences. Students evaluate the effectiveness of their writing by drafting, proofreading, editing, reviewing and publishing, focusing on grammatical features and the conventions of writing.

MATHEMATICS

By the end of Stage 3, students ask questions and undertake investigations, selecting appropriate technological applications and problem-solving strategies to demonstrate fluency in mathematical techniques. They use mathematical terminology and some conventions, and they give valid reasons when comparing and selecting from possible solutions, making connections with existing knowledge and understanding.

Students select and apply appropriate mental, written or calculator strategies for the four operations and check the reasonableness of answers using estimation. They solve word problems and apply the order of operations to number sentences where required. Students identify factors and multiples and recognise the properties of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers. They connect fractions, decimals and percentages as different representations of the same value. Students compare, order and perform calculations with simple fractions, decimals and percentages and apply the four operations to money in real-life situations. Students record, describe and continue geometric and number patterns, and they find missing numbers in number sentences. They locate an ordered pair in any one of the four quadrants on the Cartesian plane.

Students select and use the appropriate unit to estimate, measure and calculate length, area, volume, capacity and mass. They make connections between capacity and volume, and solve problems involving length and area. Students use 24-hour time in real-life situations, construct and interpret timelines and use timetables. They convert between units of length, units of capacity and units of mass. They construct and classify three-dimensional objects and two-dimensional shapes, and compare and describe their features, including line and rotational symmetries. Students measure and construct angles, and find unknown angles in diagrams using known angle results. They use a grid-reference system to locate landmarks and describe routes using landmarks and directional language.

Students use appropriate data collection methods to interpret and analyse sets of data and construct a range of data displays. They assign probabilities as fractions, decimals or percentages in simple chance experiments.
SCIENCE

By the end of Stage 3 students show informed attitudes to issues related to the current and future use and influence of science and technology. They are interested and willing to engage in local, national and global issues that are relevant to their lives and the maintenance of a sustainable future. They are able to discuss how science and technology directly affect people's lives and are used to solve problems.

Students initiate, use and apply the processes of Working Scientifically and Working Technologically with a greater level of independence. They are more self-reliant in undertaking a range of scientific investigations and design projects, and in collaboratively completing the tasks. Students select and safely use a variety of equipment, materials and resources identifying potential risks. They identify where improvements to their methods, techniques or research could enhance the quality of the information gathered. Students use a range of representations to present, document and communicate methods, findings and ideas, including tables, graphs, diagrams and multi-modal texts, using digital technologies where relevant.

When Working Scientifically, students follow instructions, pose questions for investigations, predict likely outcomes and demonstrate honesty and accuracy in collecting, recording and analysing data and information. In planning and conducting fair tests they are able to identify variables to be changed and measured, and check results by repeating observations and measurements. They construct tables and graphs to organise data and identify patterns. They use evidence to draw conclusions and develop explanations.

When Working Technologically, students plan and implement a design process to meet the needs and wants of users/audiences. They explore and define the design task, establishing design criteria and considering constraints when planning the process. Students select and apply appropriate methods to develop and generate ideas and apply established criteria to evaluate and modify them. They develop plans, specifications and production sequences to produce solutions for built environments, information and products. They evaluate their solutions using self and peer assessment, and identify the strengths and limitations of the process used.

As students continue to observe and investigate aspects of the Natural Environment, they explain how natural events cause rapid changes to the Earth’s surface. They describe key features of the solar system and the contribution of people from a range of cultures over time to the advancement of science. Students explain everyday phenomena associated with the transfer of light and requirements for the transfer and transformation of electricity. They identify how energy from a variety of sources can be used to generate electricity and how science knowledge is used to inform personal and community decisions. Students describe how features of living things help them to survive in their environment and how the growth and survival of living things is affected by changes in the physical conditions of their environment.

Students identify the observable properties of solids, liquids and gases. They compare and classify different types of observable changes to materials, considering how their properties determine their use.

Within the Made Environment students explain how production systems are used to manufacture products. They explore changes that have occurred in the design of products over time and the social and environmental factors that influence the design of products. Students investigate how systems in built environments are designed to meet the needs of people, in response to social and environmental influences. They explain how systems can be used to transfer information and support communication, and how social influences impact on the design of a range of emerging information products.

HISTORY

By the end of Stage 3, students describe and explain the significance of people, groups, places and events to the development of the Australian colonies and then Australia as a nation. They describe and explain different experiences of people living in the Australian colonies and then in Australia as a nation. Students identify change and continuity and describe the causes and effects of change in Australian society. Students explore the factors that led to Federation and trace experiences of democracy and citizenship over time, including the struggles of various groups for rights and freedoms including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Students engage with global connections through stories of various migrant groups and their contribution to Australia's economic and social development.

Students sequence events and people in chronological order, and represent time by creating timelines. When researching, students develop questions to frame an historical inquiry. They locate, identify and use a range of sources to record relevant historical information to answer inquiry questions. They examine sources to identify and describe points of view. Students develop texts, particularly narratives and descriptions. In developing these texts,
and organising and presenting their information, they use historical terms and concepts and incorporate relevant sources.