

Q&As – COVID-19 safe arrangements for students undertaking VCE Performance and Languages oral examinations and Extended investigation oral presentations

1. How will I know when my VCE Performance, Language oral examination or Extended Investigation oral presentation will be held?

Your school should have notified you of the time, date and location of your assessment. VCE Performance, Language oral examinations and Extended Investigation oral presentations will be held between Monday 4 October and Sunday 31 October 2021.

2. Who is allowed into the examination venue during my assessment?

Only the following people will be allowed into the examination venue:

- Venue co-ordinators and assessors
- Students scheduled to be assessed at the examination venue on the day
- Accompanists
- Non-assessed performers
- Personnel required to assist with setting up or putting on a costume
- Personnel providing assistance approved under Special Examination arrangements.

3. Is anyone allowed entry to assist me with warming up?

No. Only students in Drama, Theatre Studies and Dance can have the costume person assist with a warm up.

4. Who is allowed to assist me with setting up for my assessment?

One person is permitted to assist for Drama, Theatre Studies and Music Solo performance (large instruments only) examinations.

One person is permitted to assist for Dance, VET Dance to assist with putting on a dance costume.

Three people are permitted to assist for Music Group performance examinations.

5. Can the people who helped with my set up remain during my assessment?

No. Anyone who helped with the set up for your assessment must leave as soon as the set up process has been completed. They may re-enter the venue to assist with pack up at the end of the assessment.

6. Who will operate the sound system?

Assessors will operate the sound system for all Dance performances. Other students will be not admitted to the examination venue to operate the sound system.

7. What do I need to bring to the assessment?

You should bring:

- Your Examination Advice Slip stating the date, time and venue of your assessment
- Suitable photo identification
- All relevant documents that must be handed to the assessors as part of your assessment
- Your mobile phone for registering your attendance at the venue using the Service Victoria QR code app
- Your own bottled water

8. Is there somewhere to safely store my bag or other belongings during my assessment?

No. There are no facilities for the safe storage of bags. If you bring a bag, you will be required to leave it outside of the examination room. Please leave valuables other than your mobile phone at home.

9. Will I need to check in at the examination venue?

Yes. You will be required to register your attendance when you enter a venue used for VCE examinations by:

- Using the Service Victoria QR code app on your own device; or
- Providing your contact details to the Venue Coordinator to ensure they can be entered into the QR code system

10. Will I need to declare when I arrive at the venue that I do not have any COVID-19 symptoms and I have not been directed to self-isolate?

Yes. You will be asked several questions when you arrive at the venue relating to whether you have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and if you have not been directed to isolate due to exposure to COVID-19.

11. What will happen if I answer yes to any of the declaration questions?

If you answer yes to any of the declaration questions, you will not be able to undertake your exam on the scheduled day. You will be asked to wait in a safe area away from other people while you await collection by a parent or carer, as per current health and safety advice for schools.

12. What will happen to my result if I am not able to undertake the assessment?

If you are not able to undertake the assessment on the scheduled day, the VCAA will contact your school and explore the possibility of rescheduling your assessment. If rescheduling isn't possible, you will be eligible to apply for a Derived Examination Score (DES).

13. Will examination venues put in place measures to make them COVIDSafe?

Yes. Examination venues will put in place safety measures to ensure a COVIDSafe environment, including:

- Setting up examination venues that support physical distancing
- Ensuring hygiene measures are in place, including providing and promoting regular use of hand sanitiser
- Ensuring that cleaning is conducted where practicable at least twice a day
- Requiring students, assessors and examination staff to wear a face mask in line with current guidance for Victorian schools
- Managing onsite attendance and the movement of people on site

14. What can I do to be COVIDSafe?

You must:

- Travel to and from the examination venue according to the health advice in place at the time of your assessment, eg. Physical distancing and face masks. Where possible avoid carpooling and limit their use of public transport

- Wear a face mask at all times, in line with current guidance for Victorian schools, except during your assessment if the face mask will inhibit your performance
- Maintain physical distancing – 1.5 metres away from others where practicable
- Perform regular hand hygiene, including before entering and when exiting the venue
- Leave the venue as soon as you have completed your assessment.

15. Do I need to wear a face mask during my assessment?

You can remove your face mask during your assessment if it will inhibit your performance. When your face mask is removed, you should make sure the distance between you and others is at least 2 metres, to the extent that this still allows the performance to take place.

16. What should I do if my assessment involves singing, or playing a woodwind or brass instrument?

If you are a singer, woodwind or brass instrument performer, you must stay at least 5 metres away from assessors and 2 metres away from other performers or accompanists (if possible) due to the risk for respiratory droplet spread. This distance is also required during rehearsals.

The VCAA will ensure examination rooms are appropriately marked to assist students and assessors to maintain appropriate physical distancing.

17. What should I do if I have a health condition, illness or disability that may present with similar symptoms to COVID-19?

If you have a known health condition that may present with symptoms compatible with COVID-19, this should be documented and managed in consultation with your treating medical practitioner and, if necessary, brought to the attention of your school and examination venue staff, providing appropriate supporting documentation, when you arrive for your assessment.

18. What should I do if I am unwell in the week of, or on the morning of my assessment?

You **must not attend** your assessment if you have any of COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, including:

- loss or change in sense of smell or taste
- fever, chills or sweats
- cough, sore throat or runny nose
- shortness of breath
- in certain circumstances headaches, muscle soreness, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea may also be considered as symptoms.

You should stay at home, contact your school and wait for further advice.

If you display any COVID-19 symptoms on arrival you will be asked to wait in a separate area and your parent or carer will be called to pick you up.

In this circumstance, you should contact your school who will explore the possibility of rescheduling your assessment with the VCAA.

19. Under what other circumstances should I not attend my assessment?

In addition to the above advice regarding if you are unwell, you **must not attend** your assessment if you:

- Are symptomatic and have completed a COVID-19 test and are awaiting your results
- are isolating prior to completing a COVID-19 test (e.g., because you have recently returned from overseas)
- have tested positive to COVID-19; or
- have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.

In these circumstances, you should contact your school who will explore the possibility of rescheduling your assessment with VCAA.

20. If I cannot attend my performance or oral examination because of coronavirus (COVID-19), how will my final results be calculated?

If you are unable to complete your assessment because of COVID-19, the VCAA will work with your school to attempt to reschedule your assessment.

If your assessment cannot be rescheduled, you will be eligible to apply for a Derived Examination Score (DES). Your final VCE results will be determined using your school-based assessments and examination results, as well as a range of additional data available to the VCAA, including the GAT. This will ensure your final results are fair and equitable.

21. Where can I find further information about arrangements for VCE performance and Language oral examinations and Extended Investigation oral presentations?

You can find further information about VCE Performance and Language oral examinations and Extended Investigation oral presentation here [Pages - VCE assessment \(vcaa.vic.edu.au\)](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/VCE-assessment.aspx)

22. Where can I find further information about COVID-19?

For further health advice you can contact the 24-hour COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398, your GP or visit the Department of Health website: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#what-are-the-symptoms-of-coronavirus-covid-19>