



Building & Construction Skills

Applied Subject

Essential and Applied Subjects

- Applied subjects are suited to students who are primarily interested in pathways beyond senior secondary schooling that lead to vocational education and training or work.
- Results in Applied subjects contribute to the award of a QCE and one Applied subject result may contribute to an ATAR.
- At Lowood SHS we do not recommend students wishing to undertake an ATAR enter an Applied subject.
- Students will need solid foundational skills in literacy, numeracy, applied learning, community connections and core skills for work from which to work in an Applied subject.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What would I learn about in this subject?

- A. The Building and Construction Skills subject focuses on the underpinning industry practices and construction processes required to create, maintain and repair the built environment. It provides a unique opportunity for students to experience the challenge and personal satisfaction of undertaking practical work while developing beneficial vocational and life skills.
- The subject includes two core topics — ‘Industry practices’ and ‘Construction processes’. Students explore the knowledge, understanding and skills of the core topics through the electives of Carpentry, Bricklaying, and Landscaping which can cover a broad range of tasks that includes concreting, paving, fencing etc.
- Through both individual and collaborative learning experiences, students learn to meet customer expectations of quality at a specific price and time. The majority of learning is done through construction tasks that relate to business and industry, and that promote adaptable, competent, self-motivated and safe individuals who can work with colleagues to solve problems and complete practical work.
- By doing construction tasks, students develop transferable skills relevant to a range of industry-based electives and future employment opportunities. They understand industry practices, interpret specifications, including information and drawings, safely demonstrate fundamental construction skills and apply skills and procedures with hand/power tools and equipment, communicate using oral, written and graphical modes, organise, calculate and plan construction processes and evaluate the structures they create using predefined specifications.
- A course of study in Building and Construction Skills can establish a basis for further education and employment in civil, residential or commercial building and construction fields. These include roles such as bricklayer, plasterer, concreter, painter and decorator, carpenter, joiner, roof tiler, plumber, steel fixer, landscaper and electrician.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What will I build in this subject ?

- A timber carry-
- A small child's outdoor table
- A brick BBQ
- Landscaping project – school-based project determined by current needs.
- A Brick-veneered mini-house.
- A brick pier
- Landscaping project – Either a school-based project (based on identified needs) or a Chook Tractor.
- For more information see the project pictures and descriptions that appear later in this slide show.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Does this subject have much theory work?
- We do 1 Journal each Semester. A journal includes multiple tasks.
- Annotate a picture of your product to identify and describe all of the features and how it is intended to be constructed.
- Prepare a list of all of the materials, tools & equipment, and machines that are required to construct the product.
- Describe the industry practices and construction processes involved in the construction of your product.
- Evaluate your product quality as well the construction processes and practices you used and then offer suggestions for how these could be improved.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is there a benefit for me to do this subject if I don't intend working as a Carpenter, bricklayer or landscaper?

Yes, the knowledge, skills, and ways of thinking and working that this subject teaches are transferable across all areas of the construction industry as well as the workforce more generally. You will have the opportunity to develop a work ethic and attitude which will make you highly valuable to potential employers.

Student Work Samples



- Your first project is a timber Carry-all. This project is designed to introduce students to concept of industry standards. You will develop your attention to detail and concentration on tasks.

Student Work Samples



Your second term of year 11 you begin working outside in teams to construct a brick BBQ. This project will introduce you to the concept of efficiency as you develop your ability to work in a team. This project will also embed the need for ongoing quality control.

Student Work Samples



The small children's picnic table is the next project that you will work in groups build. This module is intended to introduce the concept of durability. Materials are chosen and combined in ways to maximise their lifespan. This includes meeting structural requirements as well as resisting environmental factors.

Student Work Samples



Student Work Samples



Yr 12 Semester 1 in teams you will construct a mini-house. This involves carpentry and bricklaying. We will learn more about how structures are built to resist wind forces and to conform to the standards of the Australian Building Code for habitable dwellings. You will further develop your focus on quality control and efficient work practices as well as workplace communication.

Student Work Samples

- Your final work unit in yr 12 is a landscaping task. The project we do can change. In past years we have built a chook tractor and currently the students are working on a paving project. Here the focus is identifying and working to project specifications and also cooperation and coordination with multiple workteams.



Contact Details

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