

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000570**

Senator O'Neill, Deborah provided in writing

***Compulsory Maths and Science exemptions***

**Question**

Referring to the Minister for Education's transcript from May 29 after the Education Council Meeting, in which he said:

“There would always be exceptions for those students who aren't interested or capable of doing science or maths for whatever reason.”

1. How would the exceptions work?
2. The Minister says that those students who aren't “interested” would be exempt from studying science or maths. Isn't this the case currently?
3. If students are exempt from studying science or maths due to not being interested, doesn't this mean that these subjects would not be compulsory at all?

**Answer**

Approaches to exemptions would be a matter for states and territories to determine.

Some jurisdictions require students to study a science subject or mathematics in senior secondary years.