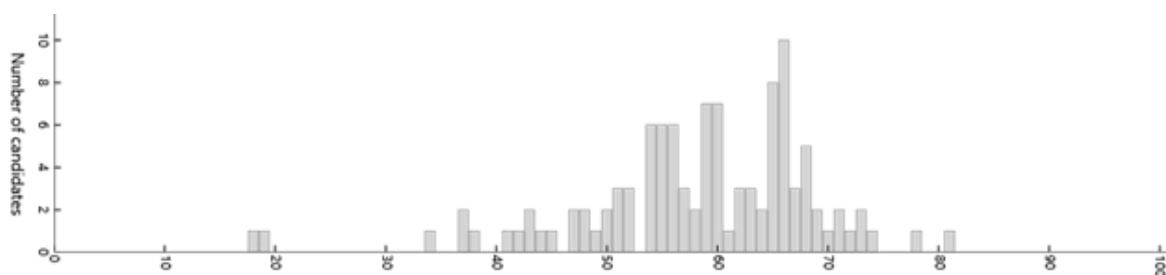




Summary report of the 2019 ATAR course examination: Marine and Maritime Studies

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2019	108	2
2018	125	5
2017	98	2
2016	62	0

Examination score distribution–Written



Summary

Attempted by 108 candidates Mean 58.21% Max 80.82% Min 18.40%
The examination had three sections. Sections One and Two required all questions to be answered while Section Three required two of four questions be answered. In Sections Two and Three candidates showed varying degrees of understanding resulting in discrimination between stronger and weaker candidates. A number of candidates did not answer the question, but went off on a tangent and consequently did not score full marks.

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 60.83%	
Attempted by 108 candidates	Mean 12.17(/20)	Max 18.00 Min 5.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 59.33%	
Attempted by 108 candidates	Mean 29.66(/50)	Max 42.35 Min 7.40
Section Three: Extended answer	Mean 55.11%	
Attempted by 107 candidates	Mean 16.53(/30)	Max 24.75 Min 2.25

General comments

The majority of candidates appeared to complete all sections in adequate time. Candidates had difficulty in interpreting and achieving high marks in the Extended answer questions compared to the Short answer and Multiple-choice questions. A mean of 55.11% for the extended answer section is an improvement compared to previous years.

Questions requiring diagrams were attempted poorly. Responses to questions on snorkelling/diving suggest that many candidates had never practiced the skills involved in the question.

Advice for candidates

- Answer the question asked. Look at what is asked for and how many marks are awarded for that question. Include that particular number of specific points in your answer.
- In Section Three, start each part of a question on a new line and label each question part so it is easy to see where one-part ends and the next starts.

- Read the questions during reading time from the last question to the first. This gives you an idea of what is in the paper and, as you progress through, something may come to mind that is in a later question and you can remember that point. If you read the paper from Question 1 to the end you may miss these things.

Advice for teachers

- Teach students to answer the question as it is asked. Additional irrelevant information will not be rewarded.
- Cover the syllabus to the depth shown by previous examinations. Many candidates were inclined to find a related topic, for example, coral bleaching and Leeuwin Current, and included detail in their answers when it was not required except as a point.
- Provide students with ample opportunities to write extended answers.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Means for each section were reasonably close. The Extended answer section had the lowest mean and candidates found it hard to interpret and answer these questions.

Section One: Multiple-choice (20 Marks)

This section was more difficult than expected for a number of candidates. The questions where the majority of candidates (greater than 70%) selected the correct answer were Questions 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16 and 19. Questions 2, 3, 4, 8 and 20 proved difficult where less than 40% of candidates got the correct answer. Section One did not show any specific weaknesses in the candidates' coverage of the course. Questions which required selection of 'most' and 'least' did create some problems.

Section Two: Short answer (98 Marks)

Candidates could get maximum marks for some questions, but not for all of them. Candidates showed areas of strengths and weaknesses, while some showed strengths in topics unrelated to the actual question or of a peripheral nature, for example, coral bleaching and the Leeuwin Current. Questions 25 and 27 were particularly difficult for candidates. Overall, this section catered for a range of candidate expertise.

Section Three: Extended answer (40 Marks)

Nearly all candidates made a reasonable attempt at Section Three: Extended answer section. Question 29 was the most favoured, while Question 28 and Question 31 were chosen equally. Few candidates selected Question 30.