



Materials Design and Technology ATAR course practical (portfolio) examination requirements

2026

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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Disclaimer

Any resources such as texts, websites and so on that may be referred to in this document are provided as examples of resources that teachers can use to support their learning programs. Their inclusion does not imply that they are mandatory or that they are the only resources relevant to the course. Teachers must exercise their professional judgement as to the appropriateness of any they may wish to use.

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Materials Design and Technology ATAR course practical (portfolio) examination

This document provides general advice to teachers, candidates and parents/carers/guardians about the Materials Design and Technology ATAR course practical (portfolio) examination.

Where a Year 12 ATAR course has both a written and a practical examination, students are required to sit for both of these examinations. Students who do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course will not have the grades for the pair of units completed in that year contribute to the calculation of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

Schools must submit their candidates' practical (portfolio) examination submissions to the designated venue between **8.30 am** and **4.00 pm** on **Tuesday, 22 September 2026**.

Delivery instructions for the portfolios will be sent to schools during Term 3.

For the Materials Design and Technology ATAR course examination, the weightings are:

- Written examination 50%
- Practical (portfolio) examination 50%

Note: practical (portfolio) examination submissions received after the published time and date cannot be accepted.

1. Reporting achievement

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the practical (portfolio) examination requirements are met and candidates are adequately prepared. Teachers must ensure they are using the current syllabus. Any further advice on matters related to the syllabus or assessment will be published in the [7to12 Circulars \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars/7to12-circulars\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars/7to12-circulars) on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) website.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the [WACE Manual \(http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual\)](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual) on the Authority website.

For all ATAR courses with a practical examination, for the pair of units, schools are required to submit to the Authority a:

- school mark out of 100 (weighted for each component)
- school mark out of 100 for the written component
- school mark out of 100 for the practical component
- grade for the completed pair of units.

2. Forms

The following forms must be used for the practical (portfolio) examination submission and have been provided in this document as sample appendices only.

- *Declaration of authenticity* (Appendix 1)
- *Predicted scores data entry form* (Appendix 2)

Note: copies of these forms are available for download from the Materials Design and Technology course page on the Authority website.

3. Candidates with an injury, illness or disability

Candidates who have a permanent disability or condition that could prevent them demonstrating their knowledge, understanding or skills under standard examination conditions may apply to be assessed with equitable access adjustments.

Application is made through the school on the form available from the [Applications and Order Forms page \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website. Adjustments requested for the written examinations do not apply to the practical examinations. Requests for adjustments in the practical examinations must be stated separately in the application and relate directly to the nature and duration of the practical examination. Applications should be received by the Authority by **Thursday, 26 March 2026**.

4. Provisions for sickness or misadventure

Consideration may be given to candidates (with the exception of non-school candidates) suffering from a temporary sickness or misadventure close to or during the examinations. The candidate may submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application* if they believe their performance in an examination has been affected by the sickness or misadventure.

Applications for misadventure must relate to circumstances beyond the usual control of the candidate; for example, damage to a portfolio piece during delivery. If a candidate cannot complete an examination portfolio for health reasons, it is important that medical evidence be provided to verify the nature and severity of the illness/injury. In most cases, that will mean producing evidence from a medical professional who was consulted on the day of the examination or the day before.

Applications will be considered only if made on the correct form, available from the [Application and Order Forms page \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website from September. Applications that relate to the practical component must be submitted immediately following the practical examination.

Only one form should be used to cover all practical examinations for which the application is being made. The completed form and all supporting evidence must be received at the Authority by

4.00 pm Thursday, 29 October 2026.

5. Late submissions

Late practical (portfolio) examination submissions cannot be accepted. Candidates who do not submit a portfolio and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure claim will not receive a mark for the course and it will not contribute to any of the WACE requirements.

6. Principles of external assessment

The marking process preserves the anonymity of the candidate and their school. This requires that candidates and their work are identified only by their Western Australian student number (WASN).

6.1. Authenticity of the candidate's work

The authenticity of the candidate's practical (portfolio) work must be guaranteed. It is essential that:

- the main development of work takes place in school time
- work completed away from school is regularly monitored by the teacher
- each candidate signs a *Declaration of authenticity* (Appendix 1), a legal document witnessed by the supervising teacher and the school principal, to endorse the originality/authenticity of the submitted practical portfolio
- a copy of the signed *Declaration of authenticity* is kept by the teacher on record at the school
- no other person works on any part of the candidate's practical (portfolio) examination submission
- the work is not submitted by the candidate for any other ATAR course examination
- the teacher/supervisor has a significant role in monitoring candidate progress and in providing ongoing feedback and assessment throughout the process.

Note: only materials received by the Authority by the specified time on the due date are permitted to be presented to the markers.

Teachers should monitor the candidate's work from the beginning to ensure there is no plagiarism in the work that is to be submitted for marking. If the teacher has been unsuccessful in working with the candidate to avoid plagiarism while monitoring the process of work, then the teacher **must** sign the *Declaration of authenticity* and attach a note to this effect to the declaration at submission time.

Non-school candidates are to complete the *Declaration of authenticity* in the presence of an authorised witness. A list of authorised witnesses can be found on the [Authorised Witnesses for Statutory Declarations page \(https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/authorised-witnesses-statutory-declarations\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/authorised-witnesses-statutory-declarations) on the WA.gov.au website.

6.2. Applying a consistent standard

Markers apply a consistent standard to assess the candidate's work. This requires:

- a marking key for the practical (portfolio) examination
- attendance at a marker training meeting prior to the commencement of marking
- trial marking of work to ensure a common understanding of the marking key
- that exemplar materials are selected by the Chief Marker and used to exemplify the standards
- the practical (portfolio) examination submission to be marked independently by at least two markers who then reconcile any differences between them
- the Chief Marker to ensure consistency throughout the marking by monitoring the marking process and reconciling significant differences where necessary
- the Chief Marker to refer the candidate to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee if they consider that the practical (portfolio) examination submitted is not the candidate's work completed through the duration of the units being examined
- that each practical (portfolio) examination submission does not incorporate marks or teacher comments

- that each practical (portfolio) examination submission be marked by specialists in the designated contexts
- markers to **not** adjust marks according to alleged plagiarism
- markers to assess the candidate's work against the criteria in the practical (portfolio) examination marking key.

7. Criteria for marking

The Chief Marker sets the standards based strictly on the criteria set down in the practical (portfolio) examination marking key.

A numerical scale is used to assess the candidate's practical (portfolio) examination submission against the following criteria:

- statement of intent
- evidence of research
- development of concepts and ideas
- production documents
- visual evidence of production
- evaluation.

8. Plagiarism, appropriation and attribution

Plagiarism means:

- submitting work that another person has completed as one's own work
- downloading work, graphics or other material from the internet and presenting it as one's own without acknowledgement, e.g. using generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools
- submitting work that another person, such as a parent, teacher or professional expert, has contributed to substantially. While the practice of having others significantly assist in the preparation of submitted work may be a form of plagiarism, it may also be a form of fraud when it involves significant and/or improper third-party assistance.

Candidates may use appropriation provided that they have appropriately referenced and acknowledged the source and designer below the image as they appear within the portfolio.

Candidates whose work uses appropriated or reworked designs must attribute all borrowed ideas and images, including those that have been generated using AI tools. The name of the work, designer and/or AI tool must be clearly cited to identify the source, below the existing design, image or product that has been presented as the candidate's work within the portfolio.

Appropriation means:

[T]o take possession of something. Appropriation artists deliberately copy images to take possession of them in their art and re-present the significance of the image or images to achieve a new level of meaning and innuendo, including irony.

These artists are not stealing or plagiarising. They are not passing off the appropriated images as their own. The appropriation artist recontextualises (puts into a new context) these particular images in order to create a completely new work, independent of the original source.

Appropriation artists hope the viewer will immediately recognise the images they have copied, and depend on the viewer's ability to bring all of their original associations with the image to the

artist's new context in order to enhance the meaning of the work. Irrespective of the work, this deliberate 'borrowing' of an image for this new context helps the artist comment on the image's/images' original meaning and the viewer's association with the original image/s or the real thing.

[By kind permission Beth S. Gersh-Nešić, Ph.D., Director, New York Arts Exchange]

Attribution means:

[S]omething that is related to a particular possessor, such as a quality or characteristic; an attribute; the act of attributing, especially the act of establishing a particular person as the creator of a work of art.

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The Authority has a specific process for dealing with alleged plagiarism in an examination. See Section 6 of the [WACE Manual \(http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual\)](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual) on the Authority website.

9. Breach of examination rules

A breach of examination rules referral will be issued if the practical (portfolio) examination submitted by the candidate:

- is not in accordance with the signed *Declaration of authenticity*
- incorporates marks or teacher comments
- identifies the candidate's name or any school and/or teacher
- is plagiarised
- was created using generative AI tools which are **not** acknowledged and/or referenced
- does not include a signed *Declaration of authenticity*.

A breach of one of these rules can result in cancellation of part or all of the practical raw examination mark.

An alleged breach of examination rules will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. Further information related to examination breaches can be found on the [Rules of conduct for Year 12 ATAR course examinations page \(https://seniorsecondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations\)](https://seniorsecondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations) on the Authority website and in Part II of the *Year 12 Information Handbook*, published in July.

10. Predicted marks

At the time of submitting the portfolios, schools are required to submit a predicted mark out of 100 for the practical (portfolio) examination submission. If there is a large difference between the predicted mark and the examination mark, the practical (portfolio) examination submission will be reviewed by the Chief Marker. This process assists in ensuring the integrity of the practical (portfolio) examination submission marks.

The predicted mark is the school's mark assigned to the practical (portfolio) examination submission only. The teacher will provide the predicted school mark on the *Predicted scores data entry form* (Appendix 2).

11. Submission requirements

The practical (portfolio) examination submission **must** document the development of a completed design process from the initial design brief through to the finished product and show the quality of the finished product.

Candidates **must** submit their practical (portfolio) examination through the school. A candidate's practical (portfolio) examination submission **must**:

- be on a USB drive
- use the A5 clear plastic document wallet, with the student's Western Australian student number (WASN) label attached in the right-hand front corner, both provided by the Authority, to enclose the USB drive
- have the candidate's WASN label attached to the USB drive or have the candidate's WASN written in permanent marker on the USB drive
- include a folder on the USB drive labelled with the candidate's WASN and context. That folder must contain only **one** portable document format (PDF) file (**not** Microsoft® Word or PowerPoint®), saved as [WASN]-context.pdf
- have only **one** practical (portfolio) examination submission per USB drive for each candidate
- have the candidate's WASN on the first/cover page of the PDF file when opened on the USB drive
- have a contents page after the first page
- have all pages numbered sequentially
- have the WASN on each page in the bottom right-hand corner
- have the WASN on pages that are scanned
- be no more than **40 pages**
- have the correct orientation of each page when viewed on-screen for ease of marking
- use black text and at least 11-point font size for all writing and annotations with minimal use of italics
- be presented on a white or light-coloured background
- comprise original drawings and/or composites using scanned images, photographs or digital copies
- have 300 dpi resolution images for best quality
- have three-dimensional objects photographed or otherwise represented to clearly demonstrate the details and contribution to the design.

A candidate's practical (portfolio) examination submission must **not** contain any:

- information that identifies the candidate (by name and/or photograph) or the candidate's school. This includes names of persons associated with the candidate or the candidate's school
- evidence of previous marking or teacher annotations/comments.

11.1. USB drive requirements

The practical (portfolio) submission on the USB drive submission **must**:

- be a PDF file capable of being opened in a web browser, e.g. Internet Explorer®, Microsoft Edge®, Google Chrome® or Safari®
- be compressed if the files are large, to make opening them easier for the markers.

Good quality USB drives **must** be used for the practical (portfolio) examination submissions. All USB drives must be formatted as **exFAT** (Extended File Allocation Table). The USB drive must be formatted before uploading the practical (portfolio) examination submission onto it. Ensuring the USB drive is formatted as **exFAT** will assist the marking process if there is a problem with the USB drive, and with locating the submission if it becomes fragmented. Further information can be found on the [How-To Geek website \(https://www.howtogeek.com/235596/whats-the-difference-between-fat32-exfat-and-ntfs/\)](https://www.howtogeek.com/235596/whats-the-difference-between-fat32-exfat-and-ntfs/).

It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that the USB drive works, is formatted correctly as **exFAT**, has been checked for viruses before submitting, and does not contain any other material except the practical (portfolio) examination submission. Markers will **not** view or mark any additional material on the USB drive.

Note: candidates are encouraged to provide a second, backup USB drive with a copy of their portfolio. If this option is chosen, then the second USB drive **must** be clearly labelled 'backup copy' and have the student's WASN clearly visible. This backup copy will only be accessed should the original be faulty.

11.2. Contents of the practical (portfolio) examination submission

The practical (portfolio) examination submission should contain:

1. A cover page (one page maximum)
2. A contents page (one page maximum)
3. A statement of intent (recommended maximum of two pages)

The statement of intent should identify a problem or situation to be solved and include:

- an analysis of the design problem/situation to be solved
- client requirements
- considerations and constraints
- design fundamentals
 - aesthetics
 - environmental impact and considerations
 - function
 - sustainability issues
 - safety
 - ergonomics
 - cost
 - anthropometric data
- performance criteria.

4. Evidence of research (recommended maximum of four pages)

The evidence of research is an analysis of all research relevant to the client's needs, undertaken to develop a solution to the problem/situation.

Images to solve the problem/situation may be included.

5. Development of concepts and ideas (recommended maximum of ten pages)

The development of concepts and ideas should include:

- rapid concept sketches (i.e. 2D and/or 3D illustrations) exploring whole and parts of products, annotated using technical terminology to demonstrate
 - a clear relationship between research and concept development, linked to the statement of intent
 - ongoing client consultation
- design development, i.e. the generation of four design ideas (using 2D and/or 3D illustrations) to build upon the rapid concept sketches, to show
 - progress towards a solution
 - evidence of ongoing client consultation with justification of ideas using the statement of intent
- justification of the final design, using the statement of intent and client consultation
 - justification of the selection of materials against comprehensive design needs as well as the functional and aesthetic properties of materials.

6. Production documents (recommended maximum of seven pages)

The production documents should include:

- drawings for the final product
 - 3D rendered presentation drawing/s (recommended maximum of one page)
 - 2D working drawings with relevant annotation, technical information and dimensions/measurements (recommended maximum of three pages)
 - Metal/Wood: a complete 2D dimensioned drawing (third-angle projection) and construction details, e.g. joint details
 - Textiles: a design specification sheet, including 2D working drawings with measurements and construction details, e.g. seam types
- materials
 - detailed and accurate materials list/s for the product, including all components and consumables with cost calculations (recommended maximum of one page)
- planning
 - sequential, logical and appropriate production plan (recommended maximum of two pages) that is accurately timed and includes details of equipment and safety procedures.

7. Visual evidence of production (recommended maximum of three pages)

The evidence of production should include annotated photographic evidence detailing the production process and showing all views and features of the final product, e.g. embellishments, inlays, decorative technique, joining methods.

8. Evaluation (recommended maximum of two pages)

The evaluation should include an:

- evaluation of the design and production processes
- explanation of the problems identified and the solutions proposed or applied
- evaluation of the product against the statement of intent and performance criteria.

Note: any references to and extracts from another person's ideas, works or images in the practical examination submission are to be clearly cited below the reference/extract, as they appear within the portfolio, to identify the source.

12. Documentation of thinking and working practices

Records of the thinking and working practices that led to the development of a candidate's practical (portfolio) examination submission must be kept by the school. The Authority may, after the examination process, call upon the documentation to substantiate the authenticity of a candidate's submitted work. Copies of all documents included with the submission, e.g. the *Declaration of authenticity*, must also be kept by the school.

13. Declaration of authenticity

Every candidate is required to complete and sign a *Declaration of authenticity* and submit it with the Materials Design and Technology practical (portfolio) examination submission.

The completed *Declaration of authenticity* must:

- **not** be attached to the USB drive with the practical (portfolio) examination submission
- be placed in the folder provided in the practical ATAR course submission information sent to schools/providers during Term 3.

14. Return/collection of practical (portfolio) examination submissions

Practical (portfolio) examination submissions can be collected from the designated venue by metropolitan schools between **8.30 am** and **4.00 pm** on **Wednesday, 14 October 2026**. Submissions not collected by metropolitan schools will be destroyed in accordance with the Western Australian Department of Education's retention and disposal schedule.

Country schools' practical (portfolio) examination submissions will be returned by the Authority.

15. Key dates

Thursday, 23 July 2026

Last date for withdrawal of enrolment from ATAR courses with a practical examination component

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

Practical (portfolio) examination submissions information received by schools/providers

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

Practical (portfolio) examination submissions delivered to the designated venue between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm.

Note: practical (portfolio) examination submissions received after the published time and date cannot be accepted.

Wednesday, 14 October 2026

Practical (portfolio) examination submissions collected by schools from the designated venue between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm

Appendix 1: Declaration of authenticity



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



ATAR course practical (performance/portfolio/production) examinations 2026 Declaration of authenticity

ATAR course: (circle one course)

DAN	DES	DRA	MDT	MPA	VAR	MUS (Composition Portfolio examination only)
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This form must be completed by candidates enrolled to sit an examination for the above courses only. Failure to submit a completed *Declaration of authenticity* could result in a referral to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

Candidate declaration

Name: _____ School code: _____

WA student number:

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As a candidate for the practical (performance/portfolio/production) examination, I declare that:

- I have completed all the work contained in this submission throughout the duration of the ATAR course being examined
- none of the work performed or submitted was worked on directly by a teacher or any other person or company except those acknowledged, if appropriate, in the references or acknowledgements section or form. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools
- none of the work in this examination was submitted for external assessment in any other ATAR course examination
- all documentation submitted is accurate
- I will submit this declaration in accordance with the instructions in the course practical examination requirements document.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal and teacher declarations

This section is to be signed by the school principal and the candidate's teacher.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the work performed or submitted:

- has been completed by the candidate throughout the duration of the ATAR course being examined
- has been developed mainly in school time, and any work away from school was regularly monitored by the teacher
- has not been worked on directly by a teacher or any other person or company and, if applicable, work has been formally referenced or acknowledged (including the use of generative artificial intelligence [AI] tools)
- has not been submitted for external assessment in any other course or program
- has been checked and meets the practical examination requirements, and a copy of this form has been kept as an official school record
- is in working order, i.e. appropriate USB drives, DVDs and CDs are formatted correctly.

	Teacher	Principal
Name		
Signature		
Date		

Appendix 2: Predicted scores data entry form

School Curriculum and Standards Authority
Materials Design and Technology practical (portfolio) examination 2026 – Predicted scores data entry form

School name School code Page

Portfolio not submitted	DoA submitted	Context	Family name	Given name	WA student number	Predicted score (/100)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 20px;" type="text"/>
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INSTRUCTIONS: Total number of candidates enrolled in examination Number of portfolios submitted Number of portfolios not submitted
 Number of DoAs submitted Number of DoAs not submitted

1. This form will be scanned. Do **not** fold or write outside the boxes. Use blue or black pen.
2. Shade the Portfolio **not** submitted box for each candidate who has **not** submitted a portfolio. Leave the box blank if the candidate has submitted a portfolio.
3. All candidates must submit a completed *Declaration of Authenticity* (DoA) form. After checking that each candidate has correctly completed their DoA form, shade the DoA submitted box.
4. Place a predicted score out of 100 for each candidate in the column provided.
5. Portfolios must be delivered by the school to the designated location between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm on **Tuesday, 22 September 2026**.
6. This form must be placed in the folder provided and submitted with the practical portfolios.

Teacher details

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Signature: _____

5383531503 Shade boxes like this:

Appendix 3: Submission checklist



Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



Materials Design and Technology ATAR course practical (portfolio) examination submission checklist

WA student number:

This checklist must be completed by the candidate and teacher, then placed in the A5 clear plastic document wallet. Each box must be ticked to confirm this submission conforms with the following.

Candidate to complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The submission has been placed in the A5 clear plastic document wallet provided.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The candidate's WA student number (WASN) label has been placed on the USB drive, and on the flap of the A5 document wallet.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submitted materials (printed and digital) do not contain anything that identifies the candidate or any person, school, club or achievements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The submission includes a folder named with the candidate's WA student number (WASN) and context.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The submitted file is in a portable document format (PDF), saved as [WASN]-context.pdf.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The submission is not plagiarised.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools in this submission is acknowledged and/or referenced.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A completed, signed and dated copy of the <i>Declaration of authenticity</i> has been submitted to the teacher for inclusion in the folder provided by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. It is not attached to or included in the portfolio.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The submission is in accordance with the signed <i>Declaration of authenticity</i> form.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The submission does not contain any evidence of previous marking or teacher annotations/comments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The submission has been delivered to the teacher by the date and time they specified.
Teacher to complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A <i>Declaration of authenticity</i> form is completed, signed and submitted for this candidate and placed in the folder provided for this purpose.
<input type="checkbox"/>	A predicted score has been entered on the <i>Predicted scores data entry form</i> for this candidate and this form has been placed in the folder provided for this purpose.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This submission has been delivered to the teacher by the date and time they specified.