

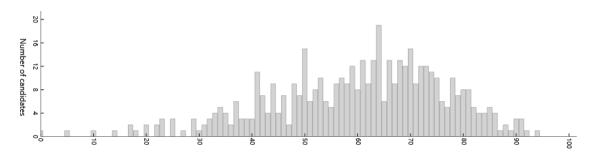


1

Summary report of the 2018 ATAR course examination: Computer Science

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2018	469	9
2017	389	6
2016	444	19

Examination score distribution-Written



Summary

The Computer Science examination paper contained two sections. Section One: Short answer and Section Two: Extended answer. A Source Booklet accompanied the paper and provided information required to answer Question 22.

Attempted by 469 candidates	Mean 60.05%	Max 93.75%	Min 4.59%
Section means were: Section One: Short answer	Mean 58.48%		
Attempted by 469 candidates	Mean 23.39(/40)	Max 38.94	Min 4.04
Section Two: Extended answer	Mean 61.09%		
Attempted by 469 candidates	Mean 36.66(/60)	Max 56.73	Min 0.55

General comments

More candidates sat this paper than last year. The difficulty of the examination was comparable to that of recent papers as evidenced by the mean and maximum scores. However, Section One was slightly higher than last year, indicating more candidates understand the depth required for higher order questions. This brought the mean for Section One closer to the examination mean. Section Two was slightly lower than last year although the full range of marks were awarded to candidates.

Overall, the examination provided top candidates with the opportunity to achieve high scores and discriminated well across the range of candidate performance.

Advice for candidates

- Read the question carefully and ensure you address the requirements of questions.
- Use the allocation of mark as a guide to the depth required in your responses.
- Be familiar with the verbs used in questions and answer accordingly.
- Ensure that you provide the necessary detail when a question requires you to 'describe',
 'justify' or 'explain' a concept. Avoid simply stating or listing.
- Engage with the marking key for past examination papers which will inform you regarding depth of responses required and how marks are allocated.

Advice for teachers

- Ensure that students are familiar with all aspects of the syllabus.
- Ensure candidates practise written responses to questions with different verbs. (For example using the following verbs: list, outline, justify, discuss, describe and explain).
- Provide candidates with many opportunities to apply the range of skills as required in the syllabus.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Short answer (94 Marks)

Overall, this section was done well by most candidates. Question 20 was completed extremely well, however Questions 4, 6 and 17 did challenge many candidates.

Section Two: Extended answer (110 Marks)

In this section a wide range of marks were allocated to candidates. While the more able candidates were able to give answers that they structured soundly, there were candidates who only provided superficial comments. Disappointingly, as highlighted in Question 23, some candidates did not attempt certain parts of some questions.