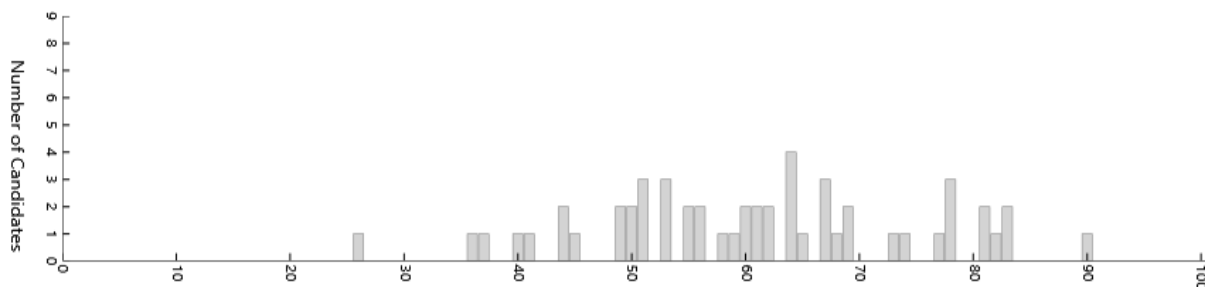




## Summary report of the 2016 ATAR course examination: Animal Production Systems

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2016	53	0

### Examination score distribution



### Summary

This was the first year that candidates undertook the Animal Production Systems ATAR course. The examination consisted of three sections. The candidates were required to complete all the questions in sections one and two and two questions from section three, one compulsory and a choice from the other two. The paper was straightforward, pitched at an appropriate level of difficulty and the questions reflected a good spread of the syllabus. The examination mean was 60.54% and a standard deviation of 13.83%. The scores ranged from 25.93% to 89.88%.

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 13.38(/20)	Max 19.00	Min 7.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 30.61(/50)	Max 45.38	Min 10.05
Section Three: Extended answer	Mean 16.55(/30)	Max 25.50	Min 1.88

### General comments

The questions covered an appropriate spread of the syllabus and a similar weighting was given to both Units 3 and 4 of the course. Candidates appeared to have no problems with the time; those who made a genuine attempt to answer the questions were able to complete the paper in the time allowed. Those candidates who did not attempt questions appeared not to know the content, as opposed to being rushed to complete the paper.

### Advice for candidates

- You need to be conversant with the terms used in the syllabus, e.g. experimental design, microbial systems, metabolism, comparing effectiveness, triple bottom line, proposed adaptations, new technologies.
- You need to read, interpret and apply data from graphs and tables.
- You need to provide relevant and plausible examples of industry practice.
- You need to answer questions with specific reference to what the question demands rather than as a generalisation.
- When responding to the compulsory extended answer question give specific examples that relate to the operation/management of the enterprise you have chosen.

### *Advice for teachers*

- The topic areas that candidates had difficulty in answering were microbial systems, metabolism, comparing effectiveness, triple bottom line, proposed adaptations and new technologies
- Candidates need practice on how to read, interpret and apply data from graphs and tables.
- Candidates need practice on answering questions that ask them to discuss or explain.
- Candidates need to practice writing clear, concise and coherent extended answers and incorporating relevant industry specific examples.

### **Comments on specific sections and questions**

#### **Section One: Multiple-choice**

Attempted by 53 candidates                                      Mean 13.38(/20)            Max 19.00            Min 7.00

This section was well answered generally with a mean of 66.89%. The most difficult questions being 4, 5 and 10 (means below 0.5) and the easiest being questions 7, 8, 14 and 19 with means of 0.86 or above. In question 4 candidate responses indicated a poor understanding of heritability. In question 5 candidate's responses were evenly distributed between distractors (b) and (d). This can be contributed to a poor understanding of what is a tariff and how it impacts on animal production systems. For question 10 candidates needed to read the question carefully. Whilst one could argue that distractor (b) could contribute to an oversupply on the domestic market place the **main** factor was distractor(c).

#### **Section Two: Short answer**

Attempted by 53 candidates                                      Mean 30.61(/50)            Max 45.38            Min 10.05

This section was well answered with the overall mean being 61.22%. Question 26 was answered well indicating that many candidates had a good understanding of climate change and the implications to animal production systems. The most difficult was Question 24 which highlighted the limited understandings of many candidates on the topics of metabolism and microbial system. In many questions it was clear that candidates who could express more depth of understandings with relevant industry exemplars in their responses performed considerably better.

#### **Section Three: Extended answer**

Attempted by 53 candidates                                      Mean 16.55(/30)            Max 25.50            Min 1.88

The quality of candidates' responses to the extended answers was of a reasonable standard with the overall mean being 55.17%. Question 27 was compulsory and candidates could demonstrate their knowledge of a selected enterprise they had studied during the year. Candidates did have choice between Question 28 and Question 29 of which 46 candidates selected Question 28 and only six candidates selected Question 29. This is a reflection of the candidate's comfort with the subject matter rather than the difficulty level of the two questions.