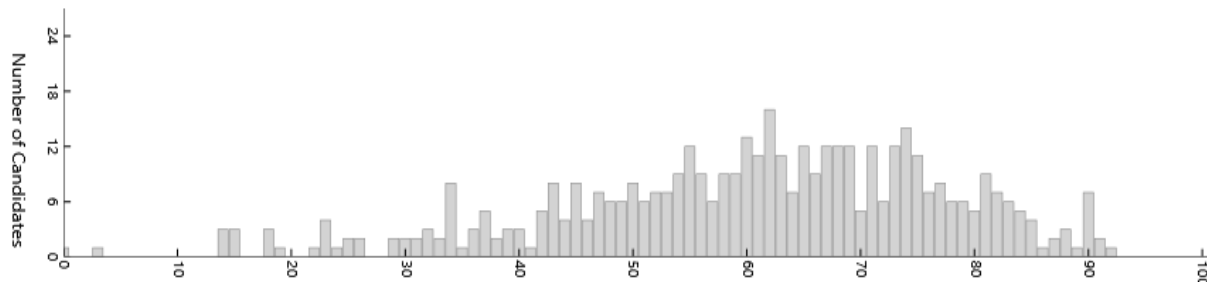




Summary report of the 2016 ATAR course examination: Computer Science

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2016	444	19

Examination score distribution



Summary

Attempted by 444 candidates Mean 60.15%(/100) Max 92.15% Min 0.00%

Section means were:

Section One: Short answer Mean 22.51(/40) Max 38.63 Min 0.00
Section Two: Extended answer Mean 37.72(/60) Max 55.71 Min 3.14

General comments

More candidates sat this paper than in previous years. The difficulty of the examination was comparable to that of past papers, as evidenced by the mean and maximum scores. The mean scores in the two sections of the examination paper were approximately equivalent. Overall, the examination provided strong candidates with the opportunity to achieve high scores and discriminated well across the performance range.

Advice for candidates

- Read questions carefully to pick up 'clues' in the examination paper.
- Check the mark allocation for each question, as this is a strong indication as to what may be required when answering a question.

Advice for teachers

- Provide students with many opportunities to practise writing algorithms.
- Ensure students practise converting flat files to 3NF.
- Demonstrate how to create network diagrams from problem statements.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Short answer

Attempted by 444 candidates Mean 22.51(/40) Max 38.63 Min 0.00

The mean score for this section may be attributed to some candidates electing not to complete some questions. Better than average marks were attained in most questions, with the exception being Questions 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 16 and 18.

Section Two: Extended Answer

Attempted by 443 candidates

Mean 37.72(/60)

Max 55.71

Min 3.14

The mean score for this section was identical to the 2015 Computer Science paper. Candidates attempted most of the questions, with question 24(c) having the lowest attempt rate. This programming question required candidates to write pseudocode.