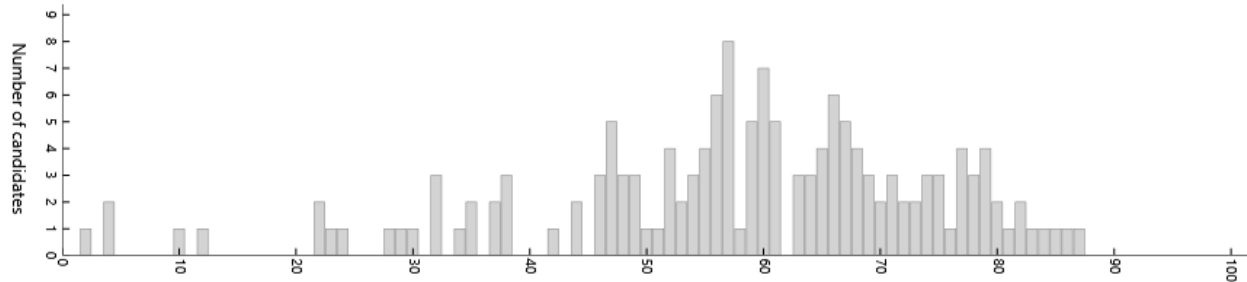




Summary report of the 2017 ATAR course examination: Ancient History

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2017	152	7
2016	184	6

Examination score distribution – Written



Summary

Attempted by 152 candidates Mean 57.38% Max 85.50% Min 1.50%

The structure of the 2017 Ancient History examination, which covers three distinct electives (Egypt, Athens, Rome), was unchanged from 2016. Individual candidates answered questions in the one elective of their choice. For any given elective, in Section One (Short Answer, Unit 3 material), candidates were required to attempt three out of four options in Part A, and one from two options in Part B; in Section Three (Essay), candidates were required to attempt one question from three options for Unit 3 material, and one from three options for Unit 4 material. In Section Two (Source analysis), candidates were required to attempt all parts of a single question; the formulation of that question was the same for the material on Athens and Rome, but slightly different for the material on Egypt (a difference driven by the nature of the source material for Egypt). The overall mean was 57.38% and the spread of marks ranged from 1.50% to 85.50%.

Unit 3 Part A	Mean 62.89%		
Attempted by 152 candidates	Mean 9.43(/15)	Max 14.50	Min 0.00
Unit 3 Part B	Mean 57.34%		
Attempted by 145 candidates	Mean 5.73(/10)	Max 10.00	Min 0.50
Unit 4 Source analysis	Mean 56.46%		
Attempted by 152 candidates	Mean 14.12(/25)	Max 22.50	Min 0.50
Section Three: Essay - Units 3 and 4	Mean 57.90%		
Attempted by 149 candidates	Mean 28.95(/50)	Max 43.50	Min 1.00

Section means were:

Egypt - Short answer Part A	Mean 62.53%		
Attempted by 33 candidates	Mean 9.38(/15)	Max 14.00	Min 0.00
Athens - Short answer Part A	Mean 65.61%		
Attempted by 82 candidates	Mean 9.84(/15)	Max 14.50	Min 1.50
Rome - Short answer Part A	Mean 57.21%		
Attempted by 37 candidates	Mean 8.58(/15)	Max 13.50	Min 0.50
Egypt - Short answer Part B	Mean 49.69%		
Attempted by 32 candidates	Mean 4.97(/10)	Max 9.50	Min 1.00

Athens - Short answer Part B Attempted by 77 candidates	Mean 62.47% Mean 6.25(/10)	Max 10.00	Min 1.00
Rome - Short answer Part B Attempted by 36 candidates	Mean 53.19% Mean 5.32(/10)	Max 10.00	Min 0.50
Egypt - Source analysis Attempted by 33 candidates	Mean 54.79% Mean 13.70(/25)	Max 20.50	Min 4.00
Athens - Source analysis Attempted by 82 candidates	Mean 58.80% Mean 14.70(/25)	Max 22.50	Min 2.00
Rome - Source analysis Attempted by 37 candidates	Mean 52.76% Mean 13.19(/25)	Max 21.50	Min 0.50
Essay - Part A - Unit 3 Attempted by 148 candidates	Mean 59.65% Mean 14.91(/25)	Max 23.50	Min 1.00
Essay - Part B - Unit 4 Attempted by 149 candidates	Mean 56.55% Mean 14.14(/25)	Max 22.00	Min 0.00

General comments

The increased familiarity in 2017 with the Short answer section was manifest in the good handling of this section (as reflected in the mean, especially for part A); the Short answer should be a section in which candidates can be given due credit for their knowledge of key data that are central to the syllabus material, without the need for higher order synthesis and argumentation. The Source analysis section continues to be the most problematic, in terms both of the challenges posed in isolating suitable material and of the difficulties experienced by the candidates themselves in differentiating between the different sub-parts of the question.

Advice for candidates

- Pay attention to the specifications of questions, particularly in the Short answer section. For example, if you are asked to identify and to explain two instances of something, you must aim to identify two instances and to offer explanations for both. Markers are unable to transfer credit for a particularly good explanation of one to cover for a lack of explanation of the second.

Advice for teachers

- Encourage an awareness (particularly among very competent students) of the ancient sources that underpin the historical narratives as reconstructed in the textbooks. Students who demonstrate an engagement with the ancient sources distinguish themselves from the rank and file.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Short answer – Unit 3

Part A (15 marks)

Attempted by 152 candidates Mean 9.43(/15) Max 14.50 Min 0.00

Candidates performed well in this section, with a good degree of attention paid to the specific requirements of the individual questions. Full marks for each of the options in Section One Part A were certainly possible, and were attained in a number of these questions.

Egypt - Short answer Part A

Attempted by 33 candidates Mean 9.38(/15) Max 14.00 Min 0.00

Candidates in general performed strongly, with means for three of the four question options in Short Answer Part A in excess of 60%.

Athens - Short answer Part A

Attempted by 82 candidates Mean 9.84(15) Max 14.50 Min 1.50

