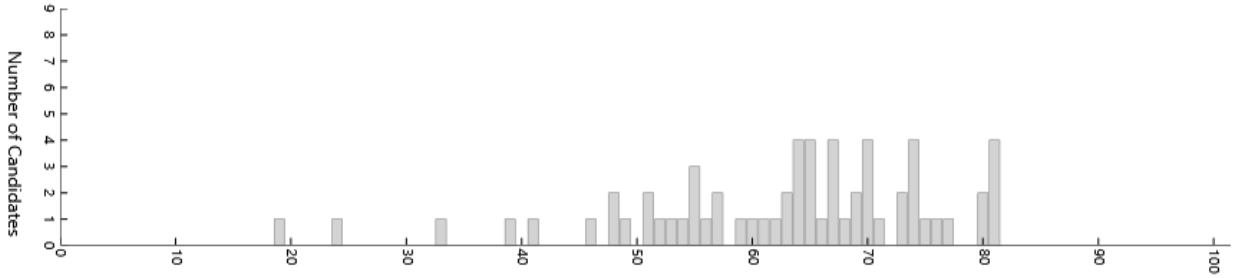
Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Summary report of the 2016 ATAR course examination:
Marine and Maritime Studies

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2016	62	0

Examination score distribution



Summary

In general this was a straightforward paper with all sections answered reasonably well by all candidates. There were very few questions unanswered; candidates appeared to complete all sections within the time.

In Section Three: Extended answer, there was a very clear favourite, namely Question 27. Question 28 was also favoured generally by candidates. Question 30 was less favoured.

There was no ambiguity in the marking key and the marking process went smoothly. Some candidates' answers showed some preparation beforehand; as they were almost scripted. This was most evident in responses where candidates had not understood the question and gave an irrelevant prepared answer, or answers that showed similarities in content and errors.

Attempted by 62 candidates	Mean 62.41%(/100)	Max 81.43%	Min 18.72%

Section means were:			
Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 11.32(/20)	Max 16.00	Min 7.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 29.10(/50)	Max 41.11	Min 9.72
Section Three: Extended answer	Mean 22.35(/30)	Max 28.12	Min 3.75

General comments

In general, candidates did well. Responses were well considered with structured responses. However, too many responses were weak, vague and/or lacked sufficient development of ideas.

Advice for candidates

- Link diagrams to the structure of the response. Mention the diagrams in the text of the answer. Use these to develop depth and breadth in your response.
- Study the specific terminology used in Marine and Maritime Studies. Misunderstood terminology leads to time spent on incorrect answers. Because the syllabus content is diverse and wide-ranging, a significant amount of time invested in coming to grips with the language will be rewarded.
- Use the number of marks allocated to each question as a guide to structuring your answer.

Advice for teachers

- Pay close attention to the syllabus to guide students as to exactly what is required and examinable.
- Consider the depth of content as well as the depth for students to be able to provide full answers. A broad content may not always require a deep understanding of all concepts.

Comments on specific sections and questions

This was a straightforward examination with many candidates achieving good marks in most sections. The majority of candidates attempted most questions across the paper. Generally a high quality of response was noted in many questions, especially in Section Two and even more so Section Three. The broad range of knowledge demonstrated by candidates was pleasing.

Section One: Multiple-choice

Attempted by 62 candidates Mean 11.32(/20) Max 16.00 Min 7.00

While most of the questions in Section One worked well, Questions 6, 11, 14 and 15 proved difficult for some candidates.

Section Two: Short answer

Attempted by 62 candidates Mean 29.10(/50) Max 41.11 Min 9.72

The range of candidates' results showed that the breadth of content challenged some while the depth challenged others. Many candidates demonstrated strengths in certain areas by writing strong answers to groups of questions (on topics such as investigation or snorkelling), but few could answer all questions well. Thus while the maximum possible marks for each question were achieved in almost all questions, no one candidate managed to score highly on all questions. Other candidates gave relatively shallow answers across the range of content. Overall, this section catered for a range of candidate.

Section Three: Extended answer

Attempted by 61 candidates Mean 22.35(/30) Max 28.12 Min 3.75

Nearly all candidates made a reasonable attempt at Section Three: Extended answer.