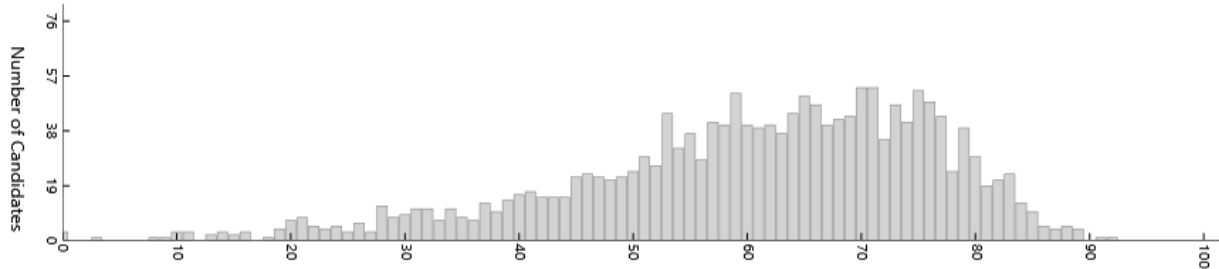




Summary report of the 2016 ATAR course examination: Psychology

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2016	1721	50

Examination score distribution



Summary

This was the first year of the Psychology ATAR course with the examination design brief being very similar to previous years. The mean of 60.46% for the examination was very pleasing. The scores ranging from 3.33% to 92.17% with a standard deviation of 15.84%.

Section means were:

Section One: Research methods	Mean 12.60(/20)	Max 20.00	Min 0.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 36.16(/55)	Max 53.17	Min 1.57
Section Three: Extended answer	Mean 12.05(/25)	Max 22.32	Min 0.00

General comments

Candidates who did well are congratulated on their demonstrated knowledge of the syllabus content and their ability to apply psychological knowledge to real-world behaviour. It was very pleasing that the maximum possible mark was achieved by at least one candidate for every question apart from Question 11. The length of the examination was appropriate and any non-responses appeared to be due to a lack of knowledge rather than insufficient time. As per previous years, it has been noted that in a number of instances some candidates wrote answers that appeared to be rote-learned responses to previous examination questions and did not address the current question. This was particularly the case where candidates were required to apply their knowledge to a given scenario.

Advice for candidates

- Be familiar with the content of all areas of the syllabus.
- Be able to explain concepts and apply knowledge, not just demonstrate rote recall of facts.
- Read questions carefully and answer the specific question rather than writing a prepared response. This is particularly important when you are asked to relate your response to a given scenario.
- Use the number of marks allocated to each question as a guide to the number of points required.
- Psychology is an evidence-based discipline and it is essential to have knowledge of a range of psychological theorists, theories, and research studies to provide as support for your statements in Section Three: Extended answer.

Advice for teachers

