

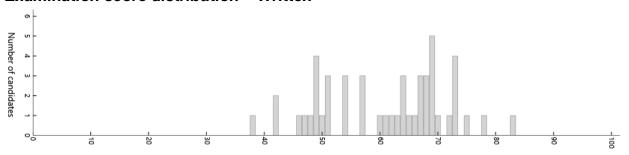


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Summary report of the 2017 ATAR course examination: Animal Production Systems

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2017	49	2
2016	53	0

Examination score distribution - Written



Summary

Attempted by 49 candidates	Mean 60.92%	Max 83.37%	Min 37.64%	
Section means were: Section One: Multiple-choice Attempted by 49 candidates	Mean 72.04% Mean 14.41(/20)	Max 19.00	Min 8.00	
Section Two: Short answer Attempted by 49 candidates	Mean 61.51% Mean 30.75(/50)	Max 44.62	Min 18.55	
Section Three: Extended answer Attempted by 49 candidates	Mean 52.53% Mean 15.76(/30)	Max 23.25	Min 5.25	

The Animal Production Systems ATAR course is now in its second year of being examined. The examination consists of three sections, with all questions in Sections One and Two to be completed. Section Three has a compulsory question and a choice between two extended answer questions. The examination allowed for discrimination between candidate responses and all questions were attempted.

General comments

All candidates appeared to make a genuine attempt at this examination and did not appear to run out of time. Many parts of the syllabus were covered by the examination.

Advice for candidates

- For the written section, plan your answer based upon what the question asks you to do (e.g. explain or discuss). Your plan should begin by dissecting the question and making sure you know what is being asked. Candidates should write notes related to the content before constructing an answer. Candidates should refrain from using the question as an opening statement.
- Candidates must have an in-depth understanding of one enterprise and its product, from conception to consumption.
- Candidates need to provide relevant and plausible examples of industry best practice.

Advice for teachers

- Ensure students practise the areas of the syllabus relating to the use of Pearson square, trial data analysis, heritability calculations, digestive systems, market requirements, changing circumstances, short and long-term strategies to respond to impacts of climate change and advantages and disadvantages of tariffs.
- Cover one enterprise and its marketable product in depth so that students have a solid example to use in the examination.
- Ensure students practise extended answers where they must plan their response.
- Ensure students understand climate change and the strategies that can be used to mitigate the problems that will befall livestock productivity.
- Ensure that students have adequate practise in analysing data from graphs and tables.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Multiple-choice (20 Marks)

This section was well done with a mean of 72.04%. The easiest Questions were 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13 and 19. The most difficult questions were 2, 9, 12 and 18. In Question 2, most candidates chose either pedigrees or estimated breeding values (EBV's) whereas product variation can be quantified by objective measurement. In Question 9, fat score is mostly affected by energy in the ration not protein. In Question 12, the responses were spread indicating many candidates guessed. In Question 18, there was a lack of understanding between avoidance and mitigation.

Section Two: Short answer (93 Marks)

Candidates handled pesticide resistance, graphing, setting up a trial and the role of hormones in breeding programs well. There were gaps in candidate knowledge and this had an effect on the mean.

Section Three: Extended answer (40 Marks)

Question 28 was a compulsory question with a majority of candidates selecting Question 29 as their optional question. The extended answer section had the lowest mean of the three sections of the examination. Candidates appeared to lack depth or understanding of basic market requirements for their nominated animal enterprise and marketable product, how an identified animal enterprise could alter operations based upon changing circumstances, explaining strategies to respond to climate change in the short and long-term for sustainability of an animal enterprise and the advantages and disadvantages of tariffs to protect markets.