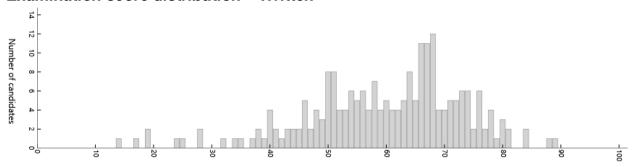


Summary report of the 2017 ATAR course examination: Food Science and Technology

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2017	217	4
2016	196	6

Examination score distribution - Written



Summary

Attempted by 217 candidates

Mean 59.65%

Max 89.28% Min 13.78%

The examination consisted of three sections. Section One was multiple-choice, Section Two was short answer and Section Three was extended answer. Candidates were required to attempt all questions in Sections One and Two and to choose two of the four questions in Section Three to answer. It would appear that candidates had time to complete the paper and felt confident in their ability to respond because there were very few instances of questions not being attempted. However, the responses provided did not always attract marks.

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 75.30%		
Attempted by 217 candidates	Mean 11.29(/15)	Max 15.00	Min 4.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 53.93%		
Attempted by 217 candidates	Mean 29.66(/55)	Max 48.68	Min 5.06
Section Three: Extended answer	Mean 62.59%		
Attempted by 216 candidates	Mean 18.78(/30)	Max 29.25	Min 0.75

General comments

Candidates performed very well in the multiple-choice section of this examination. However, they did not perform as well in the short and extended answer sections of the paper. They did not demonstrate the knowledge required to extend their answers in order to attract full marks. Candidates could state or identify issues but typically they were unable to clearly communicate discussions and explanations in their responses. Some candidates made their responses clear by using dot points, new lines or highlighting to distinguish different parts of their responses. Many candidates unnecessarily provided lengthy introductions to questions or rewrote the questions, neither of which attracted marks.

Advice for candidates

- Take all equipment required into the examination, such as calculators.
- Use correct and specific terminology.
- Write legibly.
- Explanations and descriptions need to be more than a few words.
- Do not rewrite the question as an introduction to the answer; this attracts no marks.

Advice for teachers

- Encourage students to use the correct terminology.
- Provide students with frequent opportunities to practise written responses to examination questions and explain the marking keys.
- Use the terminology used in the examination questions when teaching.

Comments on specific sections and questions Section One: Multiple-choice (15 Marks)

This section was answered well. Candidates found Questions 1, 7 and 14 to be the easiest and Questions 9, 10 and 13 to be the most difficult. In Question 9 candidates needed to read the distractors carefully to find a suitable definition of the technology process. In Question 10 many candidates found it difficult to identify two factors that directly impact food imports. In Question 13 many candidates were challenged by selecting the best basis for a product proposal for a new food product.

Section Two: Short answer (87 Marks)

The majority of candidates attempted all of the short answer questions. Candidates' responses often lacked the detail required to gain full marks. Answers were often shallow with a lack of specific Food Science and Technology terminology.

Section Three: Extended answer (40 Marks)

Candidates were required to answer two of the three questions provided in this section of the paper. Question 26 was the most favoured question, followed by Question 24, then Question 25. The performance of candidates in writing extended answers in Food Science and Technology examinations continues to improve. There were fewer instances of extended introductions and question rewrites being included in answers than in past years. The majority of candidates provided answers that were relevant to the questions but some gave lengthy, repetitive information.