



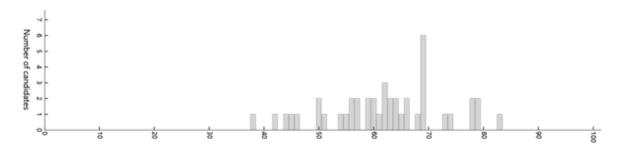
1

Summary report of the 2020 ATAR course examination: Plant Production Systems

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2020	43	0
2019	39	0
2018	54	1
2017	53	0

The number of candidates sitting and the number attempting each section of the examination can differ as a result of non-attempts across sections of the examination.

Examination score distribution-Written



Summarv

Attempted by 43 candidates	Mean 61.88%	Max 83.45%	% Min 37.70%
Section means were:			
Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 78.37%		
Attempted by 43 candidates	Mean 15.67(/20)	Max 19.00	Min 12.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 60.09%		
Attempted by 43 candidates	Mean 30.04(/50)	Max 42.57	Min 17.08
Section Three: Extended answer	Mean 53.87%		
Attempted by 43 candidates	Mean 16.16(/30)	Max 26.25	Min 2.62

General comments

In general the examination mean was close to previous years, but the extended answer section was done poorly with candidates demonstrating only a limited understanding of how an enterprise operates. It is explicit in the examination design brief in the syllabus that there will be a compulsory extended answer question that 'focuses on the practical application of knowledge, skills and understandings directly related to a plant production enterprise studied by the candidate.'

Advice for candidates

- An extended answer needs to be planned. Take some time before writing to ensure all parts of the question are dealt with.
- Technical terms demonstrate a greater level of understanding, provided they are used in context and are relevant. Candidates need to practise using technical terms when writing under test conditions.
- Read the whole question before attempting an answer to avoid missing or losing sight of the purpose of the question.

Advice for teachers

- The plant production enterprise selected for your students' needs to be incorporated into your coverage of every part of the syllabus, rather than teaching it in isolation.
- Ensure your students can respond appropriately to imperatives, that is, the instructional words given to answer questions. Words such as *clarify*, *propose*, *consider*, and *evaluate* were used in the examination but such instructions were not followed.
- Students generally need more practice in answering extended answer questions.

Comments on specific sections and questions Section One: Multiple-choice (20 Marks)

All 43 candidates attempted every one of the 20 questions and the section was done well, with only one question creating confusion. The word 'production' in Question 13 was misinterpreted by over 75 per cent of candidates.

Section Two: Short answer (101 Marks)

All 43 candidates attempted the six questions given in this section. Candidates struggled with the interpretation of the graphs and diagrams. The technical terms of the syllabus were generally misinterpreted. Question 21 was the strongest response from candidates with most being able to demonstrate sound graphing skills.

Section Three: Extended answer (40 Marks)

Most answers in this section showed a lack of planning and logical sequence. This section was the lowest mean (53.87%). Question 28 was the weakest mean (44.35%) yet the most popular question and generally candidates demonstrated a poor understanding of the impact of plant production systems on climate change.