

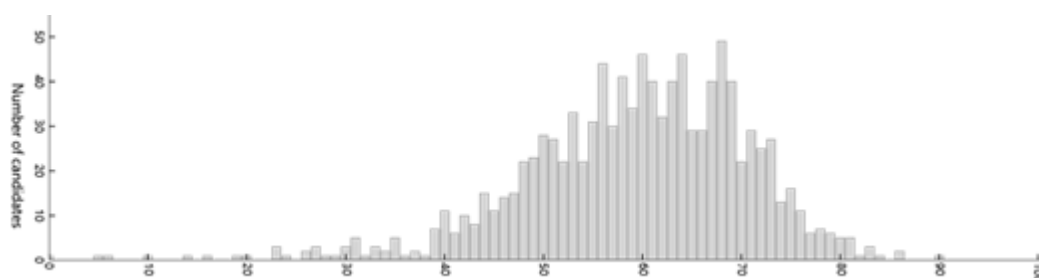


Summary report of the 2021 ATAR course examination report: Religion and Life

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2021	1068	12
2020	1159	16
2019	1339	12
2018	1352	11

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



Summary

This examination consisted of three sections. Sections One and Two required all candidates to complete all questions. In Section Three, candidates were expected to select one of two essay questions. The spread of marks for the examination ranged from 0% to 88.27% with a mean of 59.25%.

Attempted by 1068 candidates Mean 59.25% Max 88.27% Min 0.00%

Section means were:

Section One: Source analysis	Mean 57.75%		
Attempted by 1067 candidates	Mean 23.10(/40)	Max 35.91	Min 0.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 63.86%		
Attempted by 1065 candidates	Mean 19.16(/30)	Max 28.60	Min 0.00
Section Three: Essay	Mean 56.63%		
Attempted by 1055 candidates	Mean 16.99(/30)	Max 27.00	Min 0.00

General comments

The examination paper was effective in providing candidates with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge across the three sections of the paper. The paper allowed for a fair assessment of the ability of candidates with a good level of discrimination. Most candidates completed the paper, with few questions incomplete.

The examination mean was 59.25% which was higher than the mean of 57.84% in 2020. Candidates appeared to have a sound grasp of the syllabus and were able to apply this in an appropriate way. Section One was completed to a good standard, with candidates able to show their competence in source analysis and their ability to demonstrate both an understanding of the sources and its application to the syllabus content. Section Two had a

mean of 63.86%, which was significantly higher than the 2020 mean of 53.99%. Candidates showed a good understanding of the content of questions and provided responses which were succinct and qualified. Section Three appeared to be the most challenging for candidates with a mean of 56.63%. There was a tendency for candidates to 'chunk' information together in their essay, rather than create meaningful paragraphs that helped develop their arguments and create discussion.

Advice for candidates

- Use the *Glossary of key words in the formulation of questions* to ensure an appropriate response to an examination question. This glossary is available on the ATAR course page.
- Read the questions carefully to ensure you answer all aspects of the question.
- Ensure responses include the specific requirements of each question attempted. Identify and address all the key words of each question.
- Avoid unnecessary information when responding to questions, responses need to be clear and succinct.
- Provide appropriate evidence and detail to support answers.
- Make yourself aware of appropriate structure for an essay, and practise a variety of questions using the appropriate structure.

Advice for teachers

- Ensure students use the *Glossary of key words in the formulation of questions* to provide them with an understanding of what a question is asking
- Ensure that students have a very clear understanding of the syllabus content points and what they entail, so as to avoid students confusing similar content points.
- Ensure students have a reasonable grasp on essay writing and structure, specifically the use of logically sequenced paragraphs that develop their arguments. Provide opportunities to practise these skills.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Source analysis (44 Marks)

Overall, candidates demonstrated a sound understanding of Section One. The mean showed that candidates appeared to find Question 4 more challenging than the other questions. There was a tendency for candidates to provide lengthy responses that skirted around the question, rather than providing targeted and succinct responses.

Section Two: Short answer (43 Marks)

Candidates performed well in Section Two with a mean of 63.86%. Candidates showed they paid attention to the content of each question, and provided succinct and to the point responses.

Section Three: Essay (20 Marks)

There was a small increase in the overall mean for Section Three with 56.63%, compared to 56.07% in 2020. Some candidates showed good essay structure that developed ideas with evidence in logically and well-structured paragraphs. Some candidates showed a tendency to 'chunk' information together, rather than develop their ideas in a sequential manner.