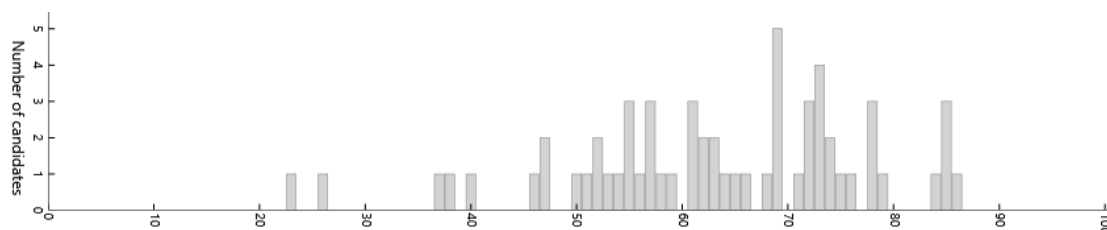




## Summary report of the 2018 ATAR course examination: Animal Production Systems

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2018	60	0
2017	49	2
2016	53	0

### Examination score distribution–Written



### Summary

Attempted by 60 candidates                      Mean 63.05%                      Max 86.35%                      Min 22.83%

Section means were:

Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 70.67%		
Attempted by 60 candidates	Mean 14.13(/20)	Max 19.00	Min 4.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 64.50%		
Attempted by 60 candidates	Mean 32.25(/50)	Max 45.22	Min 11.24
Section Three: Extended answer	Mean 55.56%		
Attempted by 60 candidates	Mean 16.67(/30)	Max 28.88	Min 0.75

### General comments

In general, the feedback indicates that the paper was pitched at an appropriate level of difficulty and the questions reflected the syllabus. The statistical reports appear to support these perceptions with the examination mean being 63.05%. The paper functioned well to discriminate between the ability of candidates with scores ranging from 22.83% to 86.35%. Candidates appeared to have no problems with the allocated time.

### Advice for candidates

- Highlight key words that will assist you in responding to a question.
- Have a clear understanding of what level of response is required when a question asks you to list, outline, discuss or explain.
- There is no need to rewrite the question in your response.
- When responding to the compulsory extended answer question you should provide specific examples that can be directly related to an enterprise that you have studied.
- When appropriate, provide relevant industry examples in preference to simplified generalisations.

### *Advice for teachers*

- Ensure candidates practice writing clear, concise and coherent answers that are to a depth that correlates to the marks allocated.
- When explaining key concepts, ensure that candidates can use feasible and relevant industry examples.

### ***Comments on specific sections and questions***

#### **Section One: Multiple-choice (20 Marks)**

This section was answered well generally with the mean being 70.67%. The easiest items were Questions 6, 9, 11, 13 and 19. For Question 5, post examination statistical processes indicated that the wording of the question made all distractors probable, hence all alternatives were accepted. The most difficult items were Questions 7, 10, and 17. In Question 7 candidates' responses indicated that there may have been a misinterpretation of the concept of supply and demand. In Question 10, candidates had difficulty determining the most cost effective option for conserving biodiversity. Question 17 on tariffs, while difficult, does appear to demonstrate a general lack of understanding of this concept.

#### **Section Two: Short answer (89 Marks)**

This section was well answered with a mean of 64.50%. Candidates had an excellent understanding of current animal welfare issues and their relationship to animal production systems. While there was a commendable ability to graph data accurately, the corresponding interpretation was not of a high standard generally.

#### **Section Three: Extended answer (40 Marks)**

The quality of candidate responses to the extended answers was sound with the mean being 55.56%. While the mean is similar to that of 2016 (55.17%) and slightly higher than 2017 (52.53%) the markers noted that there had been a significant improvement in the best candidate responses. There were 52 candidates that selected Question 28 while only six candidates selected Question 29. This may be a reflection of the candidates' comfort with the subject matter rather than the difficulty level of the two questions.