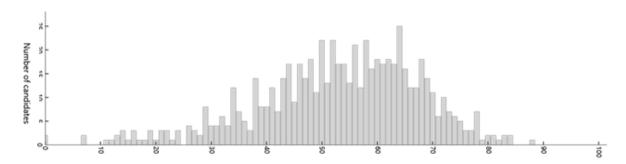




Summary report of the 2019 ATAR course examination: Health Studies

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2019	653	12
2018	669	12
2017	644	12

Examination score distribution-Written



Summary

The examination consisted of three sections. Candidates were required to answer all questions in Sections One and Two and choose two questions from four in Section Three. The examination acted as a good discriminator, producing scores ranging from 0% to 88%.

Attempted by 653 candidates	Mean 52.75%	Max 87.73% Min 0.00	
Section means were:			
Section One: Multiple-choice	Mean 51.58%		
Attempted by 653 candidates	Mean 10.32(/20)	Max 17.00	Min 0.00
Section Two: Short answer	Mean 50.75%		
Attempted by 650 candidates	Mean 25.38(/50)	Max 44.35	Min 0.00
Section Three: Extended answer	Mean 57.95%		
Attempted by 645 candidates	Mean 17.39(/30)	Max 30.00	Min 0.00

General comments

The Multiple-choice section resulted in a mean of 51.58%. The Short answer section attracted a mean of 50.75% and the mean of the Extended answer section was 57.75%. The means for these two sections were similar to the 2018 examination results (51.43% and 58.07% respectively).

Advice for candidates

- It is recommended that candidates spend sufficient time working through each question of the Multiple-choice section.
- Where a question includes a stimulus (or scenario), spend time reading and analysing all information provided, and consider how it can be applied to your response. Careful planning is recommended prior to responding.
- Read and re-read every question before attempting a response. Isolate the verb in the question, and plan your answer accordingly. Plan each response carefully to ensure you have understood what is being asked in the question.
- Make full use of the allocated examination time.
- Using mnemonics is a good retention strategy, however understanding the content is the most important part of any revision program.

- Avoid the use of generalised comments or personal opinions. Responses should be phrased clearly and concisely, and be written in objective terms, using accurate and relevant terminology.
- Keep a glossary of key terms throughout your studies and revision program. Use examples to illustrate your understanding.
- Predict/anticipate questions that could be included in the examination as part of your revision program and practise these under timed conditions.

Advice for teachers

- Multiple-choice questions are not easy. Provide sufficient exposure and practise to this type of question.
- Reinforce the use of correct terminology. Continue to promote students' understanding of the language of the course using glossaries and other strategies.
- Address all content areas with sufficient interrogation to ensure that students are able to demonstrate depth of understanding.
- Use previous ATAR papers and marking keys as part of revision programs. Analyse
 marking keys and dissect how answers attract marks. Support students in drafting their
 own questions for revision purposes, along with marking keys.
- Refer to multiple resources to source content information. Do not rely solely on text books or assume they correctly interpret syllabus content.
- Incorporate current public health issues in teaching and learning programs to support student learning. Use current health issues to create scenarios which demonstrate how content areas can be connected. Current issues make excellent stimulus material and provide opportunities to apply concepts and make learning more meaningful.

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

Attempted by 653 candidates Mean 10.32(/20) Max 17.00 Min 0.00 The section had a low mean of 51.58%. Overall, candidates found the Multiple-choice questions more difficult than in 2018. Candidates performed well on questions 1, 6, 8 and 15. Candidates did not perform well on questions 2, 4, 5 and 13.

Section Two: Short answer (62 Marks)

Attempted by 650 candidates Mean 25.38(/50) Max 44.35 Min 0.00 The Short answer questions generally worked well to discriminate between candidates. The most difficult were Question 21 part (a) (needs assessment terminology) and Question 25 part (b) (impact of Government policy).

Section Three: Extended answer (30 Marks)

Attempted by 645 candidates Mean 17.39(/30) Max 30.00 Min 0.00 The mean for this section was 57.95%. The Extended answer questions worked well to discriminate between candidates, with full marks being allocated on three of the four questions. The most difficult was Question 28, which was based on the content area 'principles of the National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions'.