

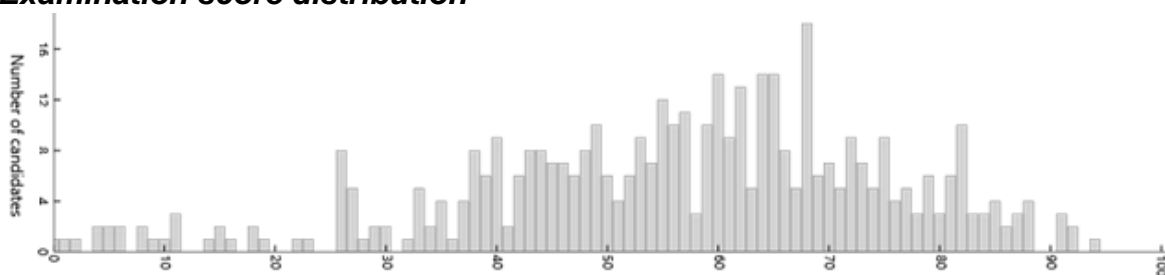


Summary report of the 2023 ATAR course examination report: Computer Science

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2023	433	5
2022	449	22
2021	420	13
2020	428	10

The number of candidates sitting and the number attempting each section of the examination can differ due to non-attempts across sections of the examination.

Examination score distribution



Summary

The examination paper consisted of two sections: Section One: Short answer and Section Two: Extended answer. The overall mean was 56.17%, slightly lower than in 2022. The syllabus was broadly examined and provided an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their application of both knowledge and skills.

Attempted by 432 candidates Mean 56.17% Max 94.30% Min 0.00%

Section means were:

Section One: Short answer	Mean 57.94%		
Attempted by 432 candidates	Mean 23.18(/40)	Max 38.35	Min 0.00
Section Two: Extended answer	Mean 54.99%		
Attempted by 427 candidates	Mean 32.99(/60)	Max 55.95	Min 0.00

General comments

The examination provided several challenging questions that enabled a broad level of differentiation between candidates and required demonstration of in-depth knowledge and the application of skills. The majority of candidates were able to complete the examination in the allotted time. Overall, feedback indicated it was a well-written and well-balanced examination.

Advice for candidates

- Read each question carefully and focus your response to address the requirements the question posed.
- Use the allocated marks in questions as a guide to the breadth and depth of your response.
- Become familiar with the syllabus content.
- Ensure that all parts of a question are addressed in your response, and where required, provide full justifications.

- Engage with the examination materials of previous years to understand the mark allocation of questions; practise answering questions to become familiar with the suggested answers and criteria in the marking keys.
- Become familiar with the verbs used in questions and answer accordingly, as many questions require in-depth answers.
- Read the case study/s carefully in the Source booklet to ensure that you identify the requirements in questions for Section Two.

Advice for teachers

- Ensure that students are given the opportunity to become familiar with all aspects of the syllabus, including the application of knowledge and skills in foreign scenarios.
- Provide students with multiple opportunities to apply the range of skills required in the syllabus. This includes practise of drawing network diagrams and entity relationship (ER) diagrams.
- Ensure that students recognise a range of verbs such as, list, outline, describe, explain, discuss, and annotate and that they practise writing relevant responses to questions containing these verbs. Refer to the *Glossary of keywords in the formulation of questions* on the course page.
- Discuss the mark allocation of questions. Provide students with guidance on how to respond to different types of questions and advise them of how the marking keys apply so they become familiar with marking expectations.
- Provide extensive opportunities for students to practise various concepts, particularly programming, including arrays.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Short answer (97 Marks)

This section proved challenging for the candidates with a mean of 57.94%, slightly lower than in 2022. There were several questions answered poorly that were asking for in-depth answers in both knowledge and application of skills. The full range of marks was awarded for all questions.

Section Two: Extended answer (148 Marks)

The mean score of this section was lower than for the 2022 examination paper. The context diagram (CD) and data flow diagrams (DFD) were answered well. However, candidates found networking and advanced programming concepts challenging.