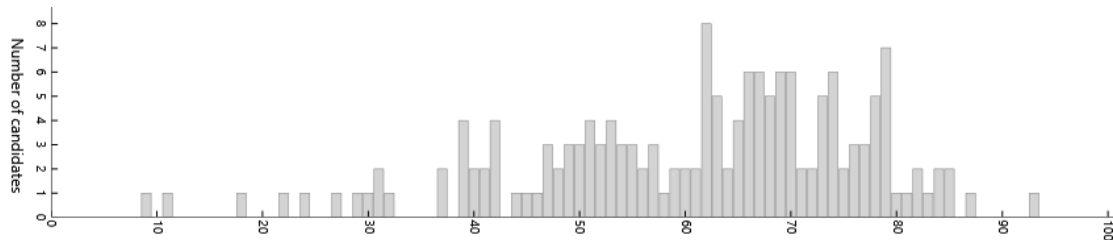




Summary report of the 2018 ATAR course examination: Career and Enterprise

Year	Number who sat	Number of absentees
2018	162	2
2017	142	1
2016	167	6

Examination score distribution–Written



Summary

Attempted by 162 candidates Mean 60.72% Max 92.89% Min 9.44%

Section means were:

Section One: Short answer Attempted by 162 candidates	Mean 65.59% Mean 39.36(/60)	Max 56.67	Min 9.44
Section Two: Extended answer Attempted by 160 candidates	Mean 54.08% Mean 21.63(/40)	Max 37.67	Min 0.67

General comments

The examination had an excellent mean of 60.72% and was well received based on the feedback from teachers. There was general satisfaction with the standard of the paper, syllabus content covered in the paper, marking key and the allocation of marks. The majority of the candidates attempted all sections of the paper, which meant that the length of the paper was appropriate. In Section One candidates were required to answer six questions. Section Two contained three questions of which the candidates were required to answer two.

The candidates seemed to find Section Two more difficult than Section One. There was no evidence of issues related to insufficient time as the vast majority of candidates completed the paper. Most questions were attempted, and where they were not, suggested a lack of knowledge rather than a lack of time.

In Section One: Short answer, Question 6(a)(i) appeared to be the most difficult with a mean of 46.14% as well as Question 5(a) with a mean of 54.17%. Questions 3(a)(i), 1(b) and (c) the easiest with means of 97.50%, 81.41% and 79.73% respectively.

In Section Two: Extended answer, Question 8(a) appeared to be the most difficult with a mean of 47.45%, but all other questions were satisfactorily answered with acceptable mean scores. Question 9 was answered by only 80 candidates and had a mean of 53.90%. The majority of candidates chose Questions 7 (131 candidates) and 8 (102 candidates) with means of 60.01% and 50.33% respectively.

The marking key was clear and concise. There were very few unanswered questions and the candidates appeared to have adequate time to answer the questions to the best of their ability. The length of the paper seemed just right with the appropriate number of short and extended answer questions. Some candidates did not allocate enough time to properly answer both extended answers equally with the first usually showing depth and breadth and the second extended question answered with less detail.

The marks for each question were appropriate, provided for discrimination between candidates and allowed sufficient scope to answer the questions in detail. Responses to questions aligned closely to the marking key. In Question 9(c) some candidates discussed how the flat and hierarchical organisational structures might impact on an individual's career development correctly. Functional and geographic organisational structures are part of the syllabus but the former structures mentioned were also correct.

In Section Two no particular questions appeared to be consistently confusing to candidates or generated unpredicted answers. All sections showed that candidates' answers reflected the increasing level of difficulty as they progressed through the examination paper.

Advice for candidates

- You are encouraged to read the extended answer questions carefully and note the mark allocation for each question and plan your time accordingly. You must make effective use of your reading time for planning.
- You need to ensure that you have revised all syllabus content and not limit your focus on certain content dot points.
- You must note the key verbs used in a question and respond to the question accordingly. For example, ensure you know the difference between a question requiring you to 'outline', 'describe', 'explain', 'analyse', 'discuss' or 'justify'.

Advice for teachers

- Candidates need to be given ample practice at answering extended answer questions as part of their school-based assessment program. They need substantial practice in the breaking down of a question and identifying what the question actually requires. The focus of an ATAR course is on the application of their knowledge rather than the rote learnt content.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Section One: Short answer (108 Marks)

Most candidates were able to answer all the questions in Section One. Question 3 which dealt with globalisation, was the easiest of all the questions in this section with a mean of 6.99(/10). In some questions, for example Question 4, candidates could not fully explain all aspects of the question so did not achieve the full marks allocated. Some candidates found Questions 5(a) and 6(a)(i) more difficult.

Section Two: Extended answer (40 Marks)

Most questions were answered satisfactorily and candidates chose Questions 7 and 8 as their choice in this section. Some answers were more general in nature and lacked the required depth to attract full marks.